

COMMISSIONING FOR SERVICE Sunday School- July 19, 2009

Unifying Topic: GOD CALLS PEOPLE TO SPECIAL SERVICE

Lesson Text

I. God Calls Aaron and His Sons (Leviticus 8:1-5)

II. Aaron and His Sons Are consecrated (Leviticus 8:6-13)

The Main Thought: And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head, and anointed him, to sanctify him. (Leviticus 8:12 KJV).

Unifying Principle: Some persons in a community are set aside for special service to the community. How do we discern, acknowledge, and affirms those people chosen for special service? God commanded that Aaron and his sons be recognized by consecrating them with water and holy garments.

Lesson Aim: Students are encouraged to be able to recount how Aaron and his sons were ordained and consecrated for priestly service to the Israelite community..

Life aim: God graciously calls individuals to special service to him and the community. Members of the faith community are to recognize persons called for service and to consecrate them.

-
- 8:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
8:2 Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, and the anointing oil, and a bullock for the sin offering, and two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread;
8:3 And gather thou all the congregation together unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.
8:4 And Moses did as the LORD commanded him; and the assembly was gathered together unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.
8:5 And Moses said unto the congregation, This is the thing which the LORD commanded to be done.
8:6 And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water.
8:7 And he put upon him the coat, and girded him with the girdle, and clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod upon him, and he girded him with the curious girdle of the ephod, and bound it unto him therewith.
8:8 And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim.
8:9 And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, even upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate, the holy crown; as the LORD commanded Moses.
8:10 And Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was therein, and sanctified them.
8:11 And he sprinkled thereof upon the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all his vessels, both the laver and his foot, to sanctify them.
8:12 And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head, and anointed him, to sanctify him.
8:13 And Moses brought Aaron's sons, and put coats upon them, and girded them with girdles, and put bonnets upon them; as the LORD commanded Moses.

HISTORY:

God always set things in place for His people. First, He chooses Moses as the leader, brought the people out of bondage supernaturally, gave them the commandments (Ten Commandments); and now we come to God's plan for the Priesthood (when it came time to worship and bring their offerings unto God), to stand in the gap, be the mediator between God and the Hebrew nation through the bringing of animal sacrifices (for they could not stand before a Holy God and live, nor go into the Holy of Holies). These same sacrifices were fulfilled in Christ, as He became our True Sacrifice, our Great High Priest, and our only Mediator between God and humanity (Heb.8-10)

God is so meticulous about building and what goes in His Tabernacle. It took but two chapters to portray the record of His work in creating this earth, fitting it for human habitation. By in comparison, some twelve chapters (Chapters 25-40, except 32 to 34) are needed to tell us about the Tabernacle. The Reason? - Everything about the Tabernacle pointed to Christ, and it was a "Type of Christ", a "copy and shadow" of heavenly things (Heb.8:5), a "pattern" of things to come (Heb.9-10).

Before the time of Moses, sacrifices were offered by heads of families. But now that the nation is organized, a place is set apart for sacrifice, a ritual is prescribed, and a hereditary priesthood is created in a solemn ceremony. Aaron commanded by God to be the high priest, bringing his sons with him, and to be succeeded by his

firstborn son. The priesthood was maintained by tithes (one tenth of a family's income, whether money, livestock, or produce) and parts of some sacrifices.

Every detail of the high priest garment had been specified by God (Exodus:28)

1. (vv.5-14) The Ephod.

- a. The ephod was essentially an ornate **apron-like garment**, made of gold, blue, purple and scarlet thread, the same as the four colors in the Tabernacle curtains.
 - b. On the shoulder straps, there was an onyx stone on each strap, with the inscription of six of the tribes on each stone, so the High Priest would **bear their names before the Lord on his two shoulders as a memorial**, also portraying strength, typifying Christ, who protected Israel at all times. In Revelation 21:19-20 speaks of the foundation of the wall of the city was garnished with all manners of precious stones which are known for their value, beauty, and enduring quality.
 - c. It is dignity and majestic. This was designed to be a colorful and beautiful garment.
- It was made of fine linen into which were woven golden threads.

The linen represents our Lord's sinless humanity and the gold represents His deity. He is the God-Man. The gold also symbolizes kingship, Deity of Christ, Divine kingdom glory, the power of Almighty God available to all Israel, and the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit in us! The blue stands for heaven and authority. The purple, the universal color of royalty. The scarlet represents the blood of Christ as our Passover Sacrifice. The High Priest, by the very definition of his role, dealt in blood, in the sacrifices offered to atone for sin.

POINT:

While the first ministry of a priest is always unto God Himself, a priest also is constantly connected to the people, bearing them on his shoulders constantly. The shoulders are a place of work; in the priest's ministry unto the Lord, he also was working for and with the people.

It was not enough that the High Priest work for the people (having them on his shoulders); he must also love the people - that is, bear them on his heart.

2. (8) The '**Curious Girdle**' was a **sash** tied around the waist made from the same material as the ephod. It speaks of preparation for service. ["He took a towel and girded Himself" Jn.13:4] (Jesus).
 - a. It speaks to us of maturity.
 - b. It represents the feast of Tabernacles when He habitats and fills His temple.
3. (vv.15-30) The **Breastplate**.
 - a. The breastplate was about 10 inches square, set in four rows of three each, **of gold, blue, purple, scarlet**, and fine linen, double, open at the top fastened with gold chains to the Ephod, adorned with 12 precious stones, each stone bearing the name of the one of the 12 tribes signifying the love of God.
 - b. On the breastplate were four rows of three gemstones, with each stone having one of the names of the twelve tribes inscribed on it. Purpose in wearing the breastplate, so the High Priest would **bear the names of the sons of Israel . . . over his heart**.

Stones of the Breastplate:

| | | | | |
|----|-----------|--------------|---------------|--|
| 1. | Carbuncle | Topaz | Sardius | |
| 2. | Zebulon | Issachar | Judah | |
| 3. | Fire-red | Golden tinge | Blood-red | |
| 4. | Diamond | Sapphire | Emerald | |
| 5. | Gad | Simeon | Reuben | |
| 6. | | Sky-blue | Shining-green | |
| 7. | Amethyst | Agate | Ligure | |
| 8. | Benjamin | Manasseh | Ephraim | |

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------|----------------|-------------|--|
| 9. | Violet-blue | Diverse colors | | |
| 10. | Jasper | Onyx | Beryl | |
| 11. | Naphtali | Dan | Asher | |
| 12. | Dark-red | Sea-green | Deep golden | |

c. Also attached to the breastplate of judgment contained the **Urim and Thummim**, (lights and reflections), which were used to learn the will of God, determining the judgment of God. Most think they were a pair of stones, one light and another dark, and each stone indicated a "yes" or "no" from God. The High Priest would ask God a question, reach into the breastplate, and pull out either a "yes" or a "no".

4. (vv.31-35) The Robe.

- a. This was the basic covering of the priest, made of all blue, and **seamless** and unteared for the head opening. John 19:23-24, Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.
- b. On its hem, between the ornate **pomegranates of blue and purple**, were bells, so the priest could be heard while ministering before God - if he were to die, the bells would stop ringing and he could be pulled out of the Most Holy Place.

5. (vv.36-38) The Mitre

- a. The **turban** was a simple wound linen headpiece; and its engraving on the head more important was its gold plate with the inscription **Holiness to the Lord** which speaks of the renewing of the mind and the sealing of the saints.
- b. **That they might be accepted before the Lord:** holiness - not as a legalistic list of rules, but in the power of a life separated to God - is essential for anyone who will appear before God: *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord* (Hebrews 12:14).

Garments for the sons of Aaron.

1. Though the "regular" priests were to wear special garments, they are simple clothes of fine linen. They were special garments, but they were nothing compared to the glory and beauty of the High Priest's garments.
 - a. This is because the "regular" priests, though important, had a far lesser office than the High Priest - and were appropriately clothed.
 - b. Even so, the High Priest's clothing, in total, speaks more of Jesus' glory and beauty; we are content with simple linen robes.
2. **Linen trousers to cover their nakedness:** the priests - all the priests - were to wear undergarments, so it would be impossible for their nakedness to be exposed while ministering.
 - a. This was probably a reaction to the nakedness of many pagan priests while performing their rituals.
 - b. Also, the trousers were to be made of cool **linen**, instead of warm wool; God doesn't want His servants to sweat!

Contrast between Jesus' clothing when He accomplished His great priestly work and the garments of the High Priest.

| |
|---|
| 1. Jesus wore no beautiful ephod - only a scarlet robe for mocking. |
|---|

| |
|--|
| 2. Had no precious gems were on His shoulders, only a cross that we deserved. |
| 3. Had no breastplate with "Israel on His heart", yet He died of a broken heart for Israel - and all of mankind. |
| 4. As the High Priest, Jesus had a seamless robe that was not torn, but it was stripped away at the cross. |
| 5. Jesus heard no delicate sound of bells proving that the High Priest was alive, only the sound of pounding nails insuring our High Priest's death. |
| 6. Jesus wore no fine linen turban, rather a painful crown of thorns. |
| 7. Jesus had no head-plate reading <i>HOLINESS TO THE Lord</i> , but a life and death showing nothing but holiness to the Lord! |
| 8. Jesus had no linen trousers to hide His nakedness, rather He bore our sins on the cross in a naked shame. |

So this means that we are to remember everything is secured by both the strength and love of Jesus' accomplishment, all anchored in the Cross (Jn3:16) (Ph.2:8).

Now that the tabernacle was built, it was time to perform the ceremony of consecration and dedication of the high Priest. This chapter takes up from the last part of Exodus where Moses finishes the tabernacle (see Exodus 40:33). It describes the anointing of Aaron as the first High Priest of Israel, to oversee the tabernacle. Exodus 29 records the command God gave to Moses to carry out this consecration ceremony with Aaron and his sons.

LESSON:

Leviticus 8:1-5: GOD CALLS AARON AND HIS SONS:

Moses' **first action** was to take Aaron and his sons with him, the garments, the anointing oil, a bullock for the sin offering, two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread. **Second**, gather all the congregation at the door of the tabernacle. **Third** Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water. This was a ceremonial washing and indicated the preliminary removal from Aaron and his sons of the taint of earthiness. They were coming into the presence of the Holy One, the One Who was not of this earth. Nothing earthy must cling to them. This great cleansing was a one-time thing.

POINT:

A High Priest is someone selected from among men (thus able to sympathize with us) who is appointed by God to represent us in matters relating to God and who serves as mediator, offering sacrifices in the Most Holy Place to atone for our sins....

As we study this Book of Leviticus, the major subject is "a Sacrifice, a Priest, and a place of Worship." Chapters 8-10 pertain to Priesthood, but Sacrifice is the foundation of it all. This speaks of the Cross of Christ. The sinner needs a Sacrifice, the worshipper needs a Priest. Christ is both. All of these things mentioned in v.2 point to Christ and Christ alone.

Leviticus 8:10-13: Aaron and His Sons are Consecrated:

Moses **anointed with oil** the tabernacle, the altar (seven times) and all its utensils, the laver and its base, and Aaron, to consecrate them (set them apart for service). While the tribe of Levi were dedicated for service to God, only Aaron's descendants could be priests - they alone had the honor and responsibility of performing sacrifices. These priests had to cleanse and dedicate themselves before they could help the people do the same.

The **oil** (a picture of the Holy Spirit) was **poured** over Aaron's head. Every believer has an anointing (1 John 2:20) that they may receive and walk in by faith.

There were only three groups of people who were commonly anointed in the Old Testament: **Priests, Prophets, and Kings**. Jesus filled each of these positions. And because He did, He is HaMeshiah - the "anointed One."

Clothed Aaron's sons, girded them with girdles, and put bonnets (headbands) upon them as the Lord commanded.

SUMMARY:

Leviticus 8 is the beginning of a time of celebration for the nation of Israel – God's people. Up to this point God has chosen them (Gen 12), freed them (Ex. 12), fought for them (Ex. 14), and taught them how to be His (Ex. 25-40, Lev 1-7). Here, God commanded Moses to ceremonially consecrate (set-apart) Aaron and his sons for the holy priesthood. Moses did so by having them washed, changed into new clothes, anointed with oil, blood sacrifices on the bronze altar – all for 7 days. On the 8th day, you could feel the excitement, the anticipation, the expectation. If they had done everything right, the glory of the Lord would fall and consume these final sacrifices made on the 8th day on behalf of the Priests, since they too were sinners before God. Sure enough, the glory of the Lord in the form of fire fell from heaven, consumed the sacrifices made on the altar, and the people responded, shouted, and fell on their faces

APPLICATION:

While Aaron is a picture of our great high priest, his sons represent every believer in Jesus Christ, assembled with Christ and serving also as priests. In other words, everyone who knows Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is constituted a priest to the other members of the human family, both to the world at large and to the rest of the body of Christ.

If we would consecrate ourselves unto the Lord we begin to set ourselves apart unto Him as we consecrate our babies in prayer when they are born. Is your all laid on the altar? This is a time to consecrate ourselves through prayer and fasting as to God's direction of service! Samuel was consecrated to the Lord, ministering before Him and from that consecration when he was obedient to God, then he was called to be a Prophet of God. Can you let go of the world for God?

Every morning we present ourselves afresh to the Lord and ask his blessing that we may discern His will for us; therefore, it is a constant surrender of self-will and a daily waving of our offering before the Lord. It is not a grievous matter with us, but rather our daily delight as we fall on our faces unto Him.