

# **Second Baptist Church of Doylestown**

## **Bible Study Notes**

**3-17-21**

### **Leviticus 8**

#### **The Ordination of Aaron and His Sons - Verses 1-4**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Bring Aaron and his sons, their garments, the anointing oil, the bull for the sin offering, the two rams and the basket containing bread made without yeast, <sup>3</sup> and gather the entire assembly at the entrance to the tent of meeting." <sup>4</sup> Moses did as the LORD commanded him, and the assembly gathered at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

**8:1** Why did Aaron and his sons need to be cleansed and set apart? Although all the men from 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 the sacrifices. These priests had to cleanse and dedicate themselves before they could help the people do the same.

The ceremony described in Leviticus 8 and 9 was their ordination ceremony. Aaron and his sons were washed with water (8:6), clothed with special garments (8:7-9, 13), and anointed with oil (8:12). They placed their hands on a young bull as it was killed (8:14-15), and on two rams as they were killed (8:18-19, 22-23). This showed that holiness came from God alone, not from the priestly role. Similarly, we are not spiritually cleansed because we have a religious position, reputation, or title. Spiritual cleansing comes only from God. No matter how high our position or how long we have held it, we must depend on God for spiritual vitality.

**8:2-3** Why were priests needed in Israel? In Exodus 19:6, the Israelites were instructed to be a kingdom of priests; ideally they would all be holy and relate to God. But from the time of Adam's fall, sin has separated humans and God, and people have needed mediators to help them find forgiveness. At first, the patriarchs—heads of households like Abraham and Job—were priests of the house or clan and made sacrifices for the family. When the Israelites left Egypt, the descendants of Aaron, from the tribe of Levi, were chosen to serve as priests for the nation. The priests stood in the gap between God and people. They were the full-time spiritual leaders and overseers of offerings. The priestly system was a concession to people's inability, because of sin, to confront and relate to God individually and corporately. In Christ, this imperfect system was transformed. Jesus Christ himself is our High Priest. Now all believers can approach God through him.

#### **The Ordination of Aaron and His Sons - Verses 5-9**

<sup>5</sup> Moses said to the assembly, "This is what the LORD has commanded to be done." <sup>6</sup> Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons forward and washed them with water. <sup>7</sup> He put the tunic on Aaron, tied the sash around him, clothed him with the robe and put the ephod on him. He also fastened the ephod with a decorative waistband, which he tied around him. <sup>8</sup> He

placed the breastpiece on him and put the Urim and Thummim in the breastpiece. <sup>9</sup> Then he placed the turban on Aaron's head and set the gold plate, the sacred emblem, on the front of it, as the LORD commanded Moses.

**8:8** What were the Urim and Thummim? Little is known about them, but they were probably precious stones or flat objects that God used to give guidance to his people. The high priest kept them in a pocket or pouch attached to his breastpiece. Some scholars think the Urim may have been the no answer and the Thummim the yes answer. After a time of prayer for guidance, the priest would shake one of the stones out of the pouch, and God would cause the proper one to fall out. Another view is that the Urim and Thummim were small flat objects, each with a yes side and a no side. The priest spilled both from his pouch. If both landed on the yes side, God's answer was positive. If both landed on the no side, the answer was negative. A yes and a no meant no reply. God had a specific purpose for using this method of guidance—he was teaching a nation the principles of following him. Our situation is not the same, however, so we must not invent ways like this for God to guide us.

### **The Ordination of Aaron and His Sons - Verses 10-13**

<sup>10</sup> Then Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and everything in it, and so consecrated them. <sup>11</sup> He sprinkled some of the oil on the altar seven times, anointing the altar and all its utensils and the basin with its stand, to consecrate them. <sup>12</sup> He poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him to consecrate him. <sup>13</sup> Then he brought Aaron's sons forward, put tunics on them, tied sashes around them and fastened caps on them, as the LORD commanded Moses.

**8:12** What was the significance of anointing Aaron as high priest? The high priest had special duties that no other priest had. He alone could enter the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle on the annual Day of Atonement to atone for the sins of the nation. Therefore, he was in charge of all the other priests. The high priest was a picture of Jesus Christ, who is our High Priest (Hebrews 7:26-28).

### **The Ordination of Aaron and His Sons - Verses 14-17**

<sup>14</sup> He then presented the bull for the sin offering, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on its head. <sup>15</sup> Moses slaughtered the bull and took some of the blood, and with his finger he put it on all the horns of the altar to purify the altar. He poured out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. So he consecrated it to make atonement for it. <sup>16</sup> Moses also took all the fat around the internal organs, the long lobe of the liver, and both kidneys and their fat, and burned it on the altar. <sup>17</sup> But the bull with its hide and its flesh and its intestines he burned up outside the camp, as the LORD commanded Moses.

**8:15** It is the shed blood which reconciles to God. The laying of the hands on the head of the animal, was symbolically transferring sin to the animal. No forgiveness was possible without the shedding of blood, and this animal becomes the substitute for Aaron and his sons. I will remind you that horns symbolize power. This animal is not only taking care of the sins of Aaron and his sons, but the blood is cleansing the altar. Remember in a previous lesson, the blood at the foot of

the altar, which was swallowed up by the earth, symbolized the blood of Jesus that was shed for all the earth. We mentioned in the last lesson that everything in the sanctuary, as well as the sanctuary itself, was set aside for God's purpose from this moment on, and would not be used for worldly events. Since this sanctuary symbolizes our church building today, this should tell us something.

### **The Ordination of Aaron and His Sons - Verses 18-21**

**18** He then presented the ram for the burnt offering, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on its head. **19** Then Moses slaughtered the ram and splashed the blood against the sides of the altar. **20** He cut the ram into pieces and burned the head, the pieces and the fat. **21** He washed the internal organs and the legs with water and burned the whole ram on the altar. It was a burnt offering, a pleasing aroma, a food offering presented to the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.

**8:21** We went into the washing of the inward parts and the legs in another lesson, but we will just touch on it here. God will not accept an unclean offering. The most important part of our coming to the LORD, is that we are cleansed inside. We have talked before about how God will not settle for anything less than a pure clean heart. Many people profess to be followers of God, and from the outside looking on they are, but God looks at the heart of man. God wants us to be clean from the inside out.

### **The Ordination of Aaron and His Sons - Verses 22-29**

**22** He then presented the other ram, the ram for the ordination, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on its head. **23** Moses slaughtered the ram and took some of its blood and put it on the lobe of Aaron's right ear, on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot. **24** Moses also brought Aaron's sons forward and put some of the blood on the lobes of their right ears, on the thumbs of their right hands and on the big toes of their right feet. Then he splashed blood against the sides of the altar. **25** After that, he took the fat, the fat tail, all the fat around the internal organs, the long lobe of the liver, both kidneys and their fat and the right thigh. **26** And from the basket of bread made without yeast, which was before the LORD, he took one thick loaf, one thick loaf with olive oil mixed in, and one thin loaf, and he put these on the fat portions and on the right thigh. **27** He put all these in the hands of Aaron and his sons, and they waved them before the LORD as a wave offering. **28** Then Moses took them from their hands and burned them on the altar on top of the burnt offering as an ordination offering, a pleasing aroma, a food offering presented to the LORD. **29** Moses also took the breast, which was his share of the ordination ram, and waved it before the LORD as a wave offering, as the LORD commanded Moses.

**8:23** This is one of the most vivid instructions in the Bible for people who are called of God to minister. Remember, from the statement above, that this is the offering of consecration to God. Notice the three things that were consecrated to God. Always, the right side was the spiritual blessing. The right ear being consecrated to the LORD would mean that the priest being consecrated would listen to clean things. His hearing would be cleansed by the blood. The thumb of his right hand being anointed with the blood, would indicate that everything he put his hand to

do would be clean through the blood. Then this priests work for the LORD would be a pure, holy work. This priest should not do anything except God's work. We see in this great toe of the right foot of this priest being anointed, that the walk of the priest anointed must be holy. This should be a good example for all those who are called to minister for God. We must not stay and listen to unholy conversation, everything we do should be a godly task, and our walk should be holy as well. Have we consecrated ourselves to this extent?

### **The Ordination of Aaron and His Sons - Verses 30-36**

<sup>30</sup> Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood from the altar and sprinkled them on Aaron and his garments and on his sons and their garments. So he consecrated Aaron and his garments and his sons and their garments. <sup>31</sup> Moses then said to Aaron and his sons, "Cook the meat at the entrance to the tent of meeting and eat it there with the bread from the basket of ordination offerings, as I was commanded: 'Aaron and his sons are to eat it.' <sup>32</sup> Then burn up the rest of the meat and the bread. <sup>33</sup> Do not leave the entrance to the tent of meeting for seven days, until the days of your ordination are completed, for your ordination will last seven days. <sup>34</sup> What has been done today was commanded by the LORD to make atonement for you. <sup>35</sup> You must stay at the entrance to the tent of meeting day and night for seven days and do what the LORD requires, so you will not die; for that is what I have been commanded." <sup>36</sup> So Aaron and his sons did everything the LORD commanded through Moses.

**8:35** Aaron represents the leaders of the church and his sons represent the believing congregation. We read in the last Scripture above from Leviticus, "Abide, that ye die not. What could cause them to die? They could die if they step back into the world or let the world come in at the door. I will not belabor this, but we see the world creeping into the church today. We see many of our leaders going in and out to the world, and then coming back into the church. The warning if we do that, is DEATH.

**8:36** Aaron and his sons did "everything the LORD commanded." Considering the many detailed lists of Leviticus, that was a remarkable feat. They knew what God wanted, how he wanted it done, and with what attitude it was to be carried out. This can serve as a model for how carefully we ought to obey God. God wants us to be thoroughly holy people, not a rough approximation of the way his followers should be.