

The list

Consecrating the Priesthood
Leviticus 8

The role of the priests was that of a mediator between God and man

Mediator

The chief role of priestly mediation was not between two aggrieved persons but with only one offended party. God alone had the right to be offended by the disobedience of his people Israel. God was faithful to his people, but they were not loyal to him. The people had no legitimate grievance to bring against their God. Also, the priestly mediator was not a dispassionate observer of the dispute. He himself was part of the problem.

Mathews, K. A. (2009). [*Leviticus: Holy God, Holy People*](#) (p. 73). Crossway Books.

Because the priests were also part of the problem they had to be consecrated by God for the task of mediation. They were publicly consecrated by God.

Community Ceremony

Leviticus 8:1–5 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments and the anointing oil and the bull of the sin offering and the two rams and the basket of unleavened bread. ³And assemble all the congregation at the entrance of the tent of meeting.” ⁴And Moses did as the LORD commanded him, and the congregation was assembled at the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁵And Moses said to the congregation, “This is the thing that the LORD has commanded to be done.”

Cleansing

Leviticus 8:6 And Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water. Cleansing preceded sanctifying

Dressing

The garments that were placed on Aaron were holy and made especially for the high priest.

Exodus 28:2 And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.

Leviticus 8:7–9 And he put the coat on him and tied the sash around his waist and clothed him with the robe and put the ephod on him and tied the skillfully woven band of the ephod around him, binding it to him with the band. ⁸And he placed the breastpiece on him, and in the breastpiece he put the Urim and the Thummim. ⁹And he set the turban on his head, and on the turban, in front, he set the golden plate, the holy crown, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Anointing

Tabernacle

Leviticus 8:10–11 Then Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it, and consecrated them. ¹¹And he sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all its utensils and the basin and its stand, to consecrate them.

Aaron

Leviticus 8:12 And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him to consecrate him.

Psalms 133:1–2 Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! ²It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!

Aaron's sons

Leviticus 8:13 And Moses brought Aaron's sons and clothed them with coats and tied sashes around their waists and bound caps on them, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Sin offering

Leviticus 8:14–17 Then he brought the bull of the sin offering, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the bull of the sin offering. ¹⁵And he killed it, and Moses took the blood, and with his finger put it on the horns of the altar around it and purified the altar and poured out the blood at the base of the altar and consecrated it to make atonement for it. ¹⁶And he took all the fat that was on the entrails and the long lobe of the liver and the two kidneys with their fat, and

Moses burned them on the altar. ¹⁷But the bull and its skin and its flesh and its dung he burned up with fire outside the camp, as the LORD commanded Moses.

There is only one difference with the sin offering of the priests and that of a regular person. The sprinkling of blood on the veil.

Leviticus 4:5–6 And the anointed priest shall take some of the blood of the bull and bring it into the tent of meeting, ⁶and the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle part of the blood seven times before the LORD in front of the veil of the sanctuary.

Why? No commentators talk about this that I could find. My guess is because they had Moses who was making atonement for them. Moses was their mediator between God and them. Moses was the one doing all the killing and placing of blood. Moses is a type of Christ.

Deuteronomy 18:18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

Burnt offering

Leviticus 8:18 Then he presented the ram of the burnt offering, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram.

Leviticus 8:19–21 And he killed it, and Moses threw the blood against the sides of the altar. ²⁰He cut the ram into pieces, and Moses burned the head and the pieces and the fat. ²¹He washed the entrails and the legs with water, and Moses burned the whole ram on the altar. It was a burnt offering with a pleasing aroma, a food offering for the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Ordination offering

Leviticus 8:22 Then he presented the other ram, the ram of ordination, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram.

Leviticus 8:23–24 And he killed it, and Moses took some of its blood and put it on the lobe of Aaron's right ear and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot. ²⁴Then he presented Aaron's sons, and Moses put some of the blood on the lobes of their right ears and on the thumbs of their right hands and on the big toes of their right feet. And Moses threw the blood against the sides of the altar.

A feature that must be stressed is the application of the blood to earlobe, thumb, and toe. The application of blood to these parts covered what they heard, what they handled, where they went; it meant that in all their activities they were supposed to be set apart by the blood. Being a priest involved total sanctification of life—a holy lifestyle. This is confirmed by the sprinkling of oil and blood (8:30). There was no separation between sacred and secular; the priest was never off duty.

Ross, A. P. (2002). [*Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus*](#) (p. 213). Baker Academic.

This same placing of blood on the right earlobe, thumb and big toe was also done to one who has been cleansed of leprosy.

Leviticus 14:14 The priest shall take some of the blood of the guilt offering, and the priest shall put it on the lobe of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot.

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Wave offering

Leviticus 8:25–27 Then he took the fat and the fat tail and all the fat that was on the entrails and the long lobe of the liver and the two kidneys with their fat and the right thigh, ²⁶ and out of the basket of unleavened bread that was before the LORD he took one unleavened loaf and one loaf of bread with oil and one wafer and placed them on the pieces of fat and on the right thigh. ²⁷ And he put all these in the hands of Aaron and in the hands of his sons and waved them as a wave offering before the LORD.

Leviticus 8:28–29 Then Moses took them from their hands and burned them on the altar with the burnt offering. This was an ordination offering with a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD. ²⁹ And Moses took the breast and waved it for a wave offering before the LORD. It was Moses' portion of the ram of ordination, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Leviticus 8:30 Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and of the blood that was on the altar and sprinkled it on Aaron and his garments, and also on his sons and his

sons' garments. So he consecrated Aaron and his garments, and his sons and his sons' garments with him.

Leviticus 8:31–36 And Moses said to Aaron and his sons, “Boil the flesh at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and there eat it and the bread that is in the basket of ordination offerings, as I commanded, saying, ‘Aaron and his sons shall eat it.’

³²And what remains of the flesh and the bread you shall burn up with fire. ³³And you shall not go outside the entrance of the tent of meeting for seven days, until the days of your ordination are completed, for it will take seven days to ordain you. ³⁴As has been done today, the LORD has commanded to be done to make atonement for you. ³⁵At the entrance of the tent of meeting you shall remain day and night for seven days, performing what the LORD has charged, so that you do not die, for so I have been commanded.” ³⁶And Aaron and his sons did all the things that the LORD commanded by Moses.

[This ritual was to be repeated for seven days. This points us to Jesus the ultimate high priest and mediator in the order of Melchizedek.](#)

Jesus was publicly washed and anointed at this baptism and was sanctified and identified with sinners at his crucifixion.

Hebrews 7:24–28 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

²⁸For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.