

1 **Priesthood of believers: Ordination**

1 Peter 2:9

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- *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:*
- Royal priesthood
 - Representing the king as a priest
 - Having kingly authority while serving as priest

3 **Other verses on Christians as priests**

- Hebrews 13:15-16 -- *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*
- Revelation 1:5-6 -- *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

4 **Romans 12:1**

- *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*
- A lot of priestly language in that verse:
 - Present = make an offering
 - Sacrifice = what the priest was to offer
 - Holy = set apart unto God
 - "Which is your reasonable worship" = a work of spiritual service to the Lord

5 **Matthew 18:18**

- *Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*
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- A great promise, right?
- Do we even know what it means to serve as a priest in the sense that Peter mentions it in 1 Peter 2:9?

6 **Peter's frame of reference**

- Peter saw priests on a near-daily basis
 - He saw them performing some of their duties
 - He saw their priestly garments
 - He knew that while all Levites were not priests, all priests were Levites
- But Peter also understood that the priests were still involved in rituals that had been fulfilled by Jesus Christ.

- Still, to Peter, the imagery and functions of the priest best described our duty as Christians.

7 **Should Christians care about the OT?**

- 1 Corinthians 10:1-6 -- *Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.*

8

9 **What was a priest in the OT?**

- Priests were the official ministers or worship leaders in the nation of Israel who represented the people before God and made atonement for their sins.
- This job was performed by the father of the house before the days of Moses and Aaron.
- The priests of Israel were always men who served in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple.

10 **Who could be a priest?**

1. Must be a descendant of Aaron
 - They were born into the priesthood by being the sons of Aaron and from the tribe of Levi.
2. Leviticus 21:16-24 says priest had to be free of certain defects. No blind, lame, disfigured, midgets, eye defects, or sores.
3. Priests could not shave their heads or trim beards, no lacerations, not allow hair to hang loose or go to places where dead were.

11 **Specific marriage laws for a priest**

- Ezekiel 44:22 -- *Neither shall they take for their wives a widow, nor her that is put away: but they shall take maidens of the seed of the house of Israel, or a widow that had a priest before.*
 - Could only marry an Israelite maiden (a virgin) OR
 - The widow of a priest (this provision added in Ezekiel 44:22)
 - Could not marry war-bride, widow, divorcee, or former prostitute.

12 **What were the duties of a priest?**

1. Take care of the Tabernacle / Temple
 - Tabernacle – dismantled and moved it with help of Levites
 - Temple – lived around it and opened it every morning (1 Chronicles 9:27)
2. To offer worthy sacrifices in a correct manner upon God's altar, and act as a mediator between the sinful people and God.

3. To consecrate people for service to the Lord.

13 **Duties of the priest (continued)**

4. Offer daily sacrifices:

- Each day 2 male lambs offered (one at 3rd hour and one at 9th hour (9 a.m. and 3 p.m.)
- Christ hung on the cross from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Mark 15:24-37)
- On the Sabbath these sacrifices doubled.

5. Offer special sacrifices at the beginning of each new month.

6. Offered sacrifices at 3 great annual feasts

14 **Duties of the priest (continued)**

7. Tended the fire on the Brazen Altar

- Fire could not go out and was used for burning incense. The incense symbolized prayers.
- The priest was to teach the people. Malachi 2:7 -- *For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction-because he is*

8. Read the whole Law every 7 years at Feast of Tabernacle. (Deuteronomy 31:10-13)

9. Bless the people (Numbers 6:22-27)

15 **Duties of the High Priest**

10. The High priest wore different clothes, had extra duties, and had to meet the particular requirements placed upon him.

- The most important service was to conduct the service of on the Day of Atonement, the tenth day of the seventh month each year.
- He alone entered the Holy Place from behind the veil before God.
- After making atonement for himself and the people he would take the blood and sprinkle it on the mercy seat or throne of God.

16

The Ordination of the Priests

17 **Three Prerequisites for the Priesthood**

- Cleansing
- Anointing
- Atonement

18 **Two Passages**

1 • Exodus 29:19-37

- Divine instructions for ordaining the priests.

2 • Leviticus 8

- Narrative of the ordination proceedings, which lasted 7 days

19 **Exodus 29:36-38**

- *And thou shalt offer every day a bullock for a sin offering for atonement: and thou shalt cleanse the altar, when thou hast made an atonement for it, and thou shalt anoint it, to sanctify it. ³⁷Seven days thou shalt make an atonement for the altar, and sanctify it; and it shall be an altar most holy: whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy. ³⁸Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually.*

20 **Exodus 29:39-41**

- *³⁹The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even: ⁴⁰And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering. ⁴¹And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savor, an offering made by fire unto the LORD.*

21 **Exodus 29:42-43**

- *⁴²This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee. ⁴³And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory.*

22 **The Ordination of the Priests (Lev. 8)**

- Done PUBLICLY with witnesses (Leviticus 8:1-4).
- Done PRECISELY by God's Instructions (Leviticus 8:5).
 - Cleansed (Leviticus 8:6-9, 13) – Moses washed them.
 - Dressed (Leviticus 8:6-9, 13) – Moses dressed them except for their "breeches."
 - Anointed -- The tabernacle and the utensils of it were anointed, and then the priests (Leviticus 8:10-12).

23 **The Ordination of the Priests (2)**

- Offered: Several offerings made for them:
 - Sin offering made for them (Leviticus 8:14-17).
 - A burnt-offering (Leviticus 8:18-21).
 - The ram of consecration (Leviticus 8:22-30).
- Continued -- The continuance of this solemnity for seven days (Leviticus 8:31, etc.).

24 **1. The Commencement**

- Aaron and his sons wore only their "breeches" to preserve their modesty.
- Whatever their state of cleanliness, it was not good enough for God. They would have to be cleansed again before they could serve God.
- Application:
 - We have no righteousness of our own that we can offer to God which will be acceptable to Him.
 - A lack of modesty – such as the many forms of nakedness on display in our society – always accompanies spiritual poverty.

25 **2. The Cleansing**

26 **2. The Cleansing (Leviticus 8:6)**

- Moses washes Aaron & sons with water
 - Ordinarily, full-grown men are capable of bathing themselves.
 - However, Moses represents Christ as the intercessor between God and man.
 - He personally made the Ark of the Covenant.
 - He bathes Aaron and his sons who are clothed only in their breeches.
- This cleansing took place in a public setting – which required great humility for the participants.

27 **The Cleansing (2)**

- Man is incapable of doing anything to wash away his own sin. No matter how hard he tries, he is still a sinner (Titus 3:5).
- All ministries begin with cleansing.
 - Those who minister without being cleansed have no effectiveness against the kingdom of darkness.
 - The cleansing given by Moses (by immersion – see 16:4) was a one-time event. Thereafter, the priest only needed to wash their hands and feet in the Laver.

28 **Acts 19:13-16**

- *Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*

29 **3. The Clothing**

30 **3. The Clothing (Leviticus 8:7-9, 13)**

- Moses dresses Aaron & sons in special clothing
 - High Priest -- Coat, girdle, robe, ephod, breastplate, Urim and Thummim, mitre (crown), golden plate.
 - Other priests – coats, girdles, bonnets.
 - Coat– the righteousness of Christ
 - Girdle—the reliance upon God’s Word to prepare one for spiritual warfare
 - Bonnet – the reverence for God’s authority which results in an increased ministry

31 **The Clothing (2)**

- Here, too, Moses must clothe Aaron and his sons. We are only equipped to serve God when we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ and only He can do that for us.
- Note, that these garments were provided for them. The priests had given:
 - No expense in buying them
 - No labor in weaving them

- No skill in making them
- They had simply to put on the garments.

32 **4. The Consecration**

33 **4. The Consecration (Lev. 8:10-12)**

- Moses anoints & consecrates the Tabernacle
 - The order is significant. The Tabernacle and all of its vessels are anointed by Moses before any human priest is anointed.
 - Everything in the Tabernacle represents Jesus Christ. His holiness precedes ours. We cannot be holy unless we appropriate His holiness.
 - When we are made holy by the blood of Christ, it is for the purpose of serving Him and glorifying Him in our lives.
- Things were "sprinkled" but oil was "poured out" upon people.

34 **Psalm 133**

- Moses pours the anointing oil on Aaron (8.12)
- This action receives a special mention by the Psalmist.
 - *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.*

35 **5. The Conducting of Sacrifices**

36 **5. The Conducting of Sacrifices**

- Moses offers 3 sacrifices (8.14-29)
- Moses sprinkles anointing oil and blood on Aaron & his clothing
- Moses sprinkles anointing oil and blood on Aaron's sons and clothing (8.30)

37 **The Four Offerings Of Priestly Ordination**

- Cleansing (JUSTIFICATION)– Exodus 29:10-14
- Confidence (APPROBATION) – Exodus 29:15-18
- Consecration (DEDICATION) – Exodus 29:19-22
- Christ-likeness (TRANSFORMATION) –Exodus 29:32-33

38 **The Offering for Cleansing**

- Exodus 29:10 -- *And thou shalt cause a bullock to be brought before the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the bullock. And thou shalt kill the bullock before the LORD, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And thou shalt take of the blood of the bullock, and put it upon the horns of the altar with thy finger, and pour all the blood beside the bottom of the altar. ... it is a sin offering.*

39 **The Offering for Cleansing (2)**

- The men put their hands on the bullock to symbolize the putting of their sins and their guilt upon another.
 - Verse 14 states that this is to be a sin offering.
 - The Hebrew word here indicates that the men pushed hard on the bullock's head – putting their burden of sin upon him.
- Thus, they IDENTIFIED with the sacrifice.
 - Only as we identify with Christ by receiving Him as our Savior, do we become JUSTIFIED before God.

40 **The Offering for Confidence**

- Exodus 29:15 -- *Thou shalt also take one ram; and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the ram. 16And thou shalt slay the ram, and thou shalt take his blood, and sprinkle it round about upon the altar. 17And thou shalt cut the ram in pieces, and wash the inwards of him, and his legs, and put them unto his pieces, and unto his head. 18And thou shalt burn the whole ram upon the altar: it is a burnt offering unto the LORD: it is a sweet savor, an offering made by fire unto the LORD.*

41 **The Offering of Confidence (2)**

- The "sweet savor" referred to in verse 18 indicates that after Aaron and his sons were cleansed by the blood of the bullock, they were made acceptable to God for service.
- Once we are JUSTIFIED by receiving Christ as our Savior, we stand approved and ACCEPTED before God because we are covered in the blood of our Savior.
- Our lives are to be a sweet smell to God.

42 **The Offering for Consecration**

- Exodus 29:19 -- *And thou shalt take the other ram; and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the ram. 20Then shalt thou kill the ram, and take of his blood, and put it upon the tip of the right ear of Aaron, and upon the tip of the right ear of his sons, and upon the thumb of their right hand, and upon the great toe of their right foot, and sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about. ... for it is a ram of consecration:*

43 **The Offering for Consecration (2)**

- Again, the Bible designates the purpose for this sacrifice by calling it a "ram of consecration" – which means holy living unto the Lord.
 - Once we are JUSTIFIED and have begun the process of being SANCTIFIED, we are to consecrate or dedicate ourselves to the service of the Lord.
 - We were not saved merely to sit; we were saved to serve. That is our "reasonable service" (Romans 12:1-2).

44 **The Offering for Consecration (3)**

- Blood from a slain ram was put on Aaron and his sons in 3 locations:
 - Right ear
 - Right thumb
 - Right foot

- This was a reminder that we are to be holy and wholly dedicated to God in:
 - What we hear
 - How and Whom we serve
 - How and where we walk

45 **The Offering for Consecration (4)**

- Consecrating something made it special.
 - The Tabernacle was no longer just a tent.
 - The Brazen Altar was no longer just a fire pit.
 - Aaron and his sons were no longer just ordinary people.
- Every believer has an anointing of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1 John 2:20--*But ye have an unction (anointing) from the Holy One, and ye know all things.*

46 **The Offering for Consecration (5)**

- It is significant that it was the blood of the ram – not his fat or his wool – that was placed on each of the men entering God's service.
- Leviticus 17:14 and numerous other passages declare that the life of an animal is in its blood.
- Our lives are to be marked by the life of the sacrificial Lamb of God – Jesus Christ.

47 **Charles Spurgeon:**

- "Yes, brethren, we need to know that double anointing, the blood of Jesus which cleanses, and the oil of the Holy Spirit which perfumes us. It is well to see how these two blend in one . . . It is a terrible blunder to set the blood and the oil in opposition, they must always go together."

48 **Meditation for Worship**

- *God be in our minds and in our understanding.*
- *God be in our eyes and in our seeing.*
- *God be in our mouths and in our speaking.*
- *God be in our hearts and in our living.*
- *God be in our ears and in our hearing.*
- *God be in our hands and in our doing.*
- *God be in our feet and in our walking.*
- *God be with us now in our departing.*

49 **The Offering for Communion**

- Exodus 29:32-33 --*And Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram, and the bread that is in the basket by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And they shall eat those things wherewith the atonement was made, to consecrate and to sanctify them: but a stranger shall not eat thereof, because they are holy.*
- The priests ate the flesh of the ram (which represented consecration) and the bread (which represents the Word of God).

- What made them holy must be inside them.

50 **The Offering for Communion (2)**

- You are what you eat. Our character is determined by what we feed our souls. Our soul gets input from:
 - Our body and from the physical world around it.
 - The Holy Spirit which lives within our spirit after we become Christians.
 - Fasting helps turn off input from the physical world so that our mind, will, and emotions (our soul) can listen more carefully to the leading of the Holy Spirit while we spend time in the Word of God.
 - What we become is determined with what or whom we spend time.

51 **The Offering for Communion (3)**

- Christ Is the Bread of Life. He is formed within us.
- Galatians 2:20 -- *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

52 **The Offering for Communion (4)**

- Eating is a beautiful picture of our communion with Christ.
 - Eating is personal– must do it for yourself.
 - Eating is inward– must be ingested, not merely rubbed on.
 - Eating is active – must be awake to eat.
 - Eating arises out of a sense of need and produces a sense of satisfaction.
- Leftovers were burned; God didn't want fellowship based on stale food!

53 **Charles Spurgeon quote:**

- *"Let not this distinction be forgotten; the eating of the sacrifice is not intended to give life, for no dead man can eat, but to sustain the life which is there already. A believing look at Christ makes you live, but spiritual life must be fed and sustained."*

54 **6. The Continued Habitation**

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- Aaron & sons remain in sanctuary for seven days (Leviticus 8:33-35).
 - This demonstrates the thoroughness of cleansing necessary to make one fit to serve the Lord.
- A time period of seven days was common for cleansing or consecration after certain events:
 - Birth of the child (Leviticus 12)– we have a spiritual birth
 - Death (Genesis 50:10) – we are to die to our flesh
 - A wedding feast (Genesis 29:27; Judges 14:12)– we will forever be united with Christ.

56 **The Continued Habitation (2)**

- In Peter's day, the priests lived in the area surrounding the Temple.

- Preparation for spiritual service is not a quick-fix idea or task.
- It involves a continued time of reflection, personal worship, cleansing, and a yielding of every part of our lives to the authority of God's Word.

57 **Charles Spurgeon quote:**

- *"I know some good people who are very busy indeed in the services of God, and I am very delighted that they should be, but I would caution them against working and never eating. They give up attending the means of grace as hearers, because they have so much to do as workers."*

58 **Psalm 84:1-2**

- *How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.*
- Do you long to spend time in the presence of God?
- How often do you make provision for that?

59 **7. The Conclusion of the Ordination**

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- OFFERING: Aaron offers a representative section of sacrifices.:
 - For himself (9:8-14)
 - For Israel (9:15-21)
- BLESSING: Aaron blesses the people by himself (9:22) and then with Moses (9:23)
- GLORY: The glory of Yahweh appears (9:23).
 - Fire from Yahweh consumes the sacrifice (9:24a).
- SHOUTING and BOWING: The People respond by shouting and prostration (9:24b).

61 **Meditation for Worship**

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- *God be in our feet and in our walking.*
- *God be with us now in our departing.*