

# LEVITICUS 8:1-36

## Chapter 8 Outline

- v. 1-5 – The Calling of the Assembly
- v. 6-13 – Washing and Anointing the Priests
- v. 14-29 – Offerings
- v. 30-36 – Consecration and Ordination

“As the consecration of Aaron and his sons to the priesthood which the Lord commanded Moses to effect ([Exodus 28:1-43](#)) was to be accompanied by different kinds of sacrifices ([Exodus 29:1-37](#)), it was first of all necessary to define the ritual of each sacrifice. This was therefore done in Leviticus 1-7, and the lawgiver now proceeds to record the communication which he received from the Lord respecting the appointment to the sacerdotal [priestly] office, thus resuming the narrative which was broken off at the end of Exodus.” ~ Ellicott

## SCRIPTURE

### The Calling of the Assembly

**8:1-5** *“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, the anointing oil, a bull as the sin offering, two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread; and **gather all the congregation together at the door** of the tabernacle of meeting.” So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. And the congregation was gathered together at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. And Moses said to the congregation, **“This is what the LORD commanded to be done.”**”*

- The ordination of Aaron and his sons was a public event. Every person could not fit in the courtyard of the tabernacle, so it was probably the elders and the leaders that assembled to represent the people. Every ordination should be done under the authority of God and witnessed by God’s people. ~ Wiersbe
- Moses was sure to tell people that what he was doing was ordered by God, and not because Aaron was his brother. We need to make sure everything we do is because God is directing us, through His word, and not due to some human feeling or inclination.
- “The ceremonies connected with the consecration were:
  1. washing (Leviticus 8:6),
  2. vesting (Leviticus 8:7-9; Leviticus 8:13),
  3. anointing (Leviticus 8:10-12),
  4. offering sacrifices, which were of three kinds;
    - a Sin-Offering (Leviticus 8:14-17),
    - a Burnt-Offering (Leviticus 8:18-21),
    - the ram of consecration (Leviticus 8:22-32), which was treated as a Peace-Offering, but with additional ritual appropriate to the special occasion.” ~ Cambridge Bible Commentary

## **Washing and Anointing the Priests**

v. 6-9 – “Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons and **washed them** with water. And he put the tunic <sup>1</sup> [and pants <sup>2</sup>] on him, girded him with the sash <sup>3</sup>, clothed him with the robe <sup>4</sup>, and put the **ephod** <sup>5</sup> on him; and he girded him with the intricately woven band of the ephod, and with it tied the ephod on him. Then he put the breastplate <sup>6</sup> on him, and he put the **Urim** and the **Thummim** in the breastplate. And he put the turban <sup>7</sup> on his head. Also on the turban, on its front, he put the golden plate, (the holy crown) <sup>8</sup>, as the Lord had commanded Moses.”

- The priests needed to be ceremonially bathed all over once, and from then on, they washed their hands and feet while serving at the tabernacle. (30:17-21) ~ Wiersbe
- Ordinary Priests wore (all in plain white linen):
  - Pants, Tunic, Sash, Turban
- High Priest added:
  - Crown, Breastplate, Ephod, Robe
  - **Crown:**
    - **Ex. 28:36-38** “You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet: **HOLINESS TO THE LORD**. And you shall put it on a blue cord, that it may be on the turban; it shall be on the front of the turban. So it shall be on Aaron’s forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD.”
  - **Breastplate:**
    - Ex. 28:17-21
      - Ruby - *Reuben* - Red
      - Jade - *Shimon* - Green
      - Agate - *Levi* - Red, White, and Black Striped
      - Carbuncle - *Judah* - Bluish-Green
      - Lapis-Lazuli - *Issachar* - Blue
      - Quartz Crystal - *Zevulun* - Clear
      - Turquoise - *Dan* - Blue
      - Amethyst - *Naftali* - Purple
      - Agate - *Gad* - Grey
      - Aquamarine - *Asher* - Blue-Green
      - Onyx - *Yosef* - Black
      - Opal - *Binyamin* - A Stone Possessing All the Colors
    - ~ Research by the Temple Institute
  - **Ephod:** Hebrew (ay-fode) – girdle, mantle, like an apron
    - **Ex. 28:6** “and they shall make the ephod of gold (divinity), blue (heaven), purple (royalty), and scarlet (sacrifice) thread, and fine woven linen, artistically worked.”
  - **Robe:**
    - “The robe was made exclusively of sky-blue dyed wool: *And you shall make the robe of the ephod completely of sky-blue wool*, (Ex. 28:31). Its threads were 12 ply.
    - The robe was decorated with pomegranates that were made from three materials: sky-blue, dark-red and crimson dyed wool: *On the bottom of the robe, you shall make pomegranates of sky-blue, dark-red and crimson dyed wool*, (Ex. 28:33). [Represented fruitfulness]
    - The bottom of the robe was also decorated with bells. These bells, and the High Priest's crown, were both made of pure gold exclusively: *A golden bell and (alternatively) a pomegranate... on the bottom of his robe, all around ...* (Ex. 28:34).” ~ Temple Institute
  - **Urim and Thummim:**
    - **Urim:** Hebrew (oo-reem): Light (White), **Thummim:** Hebrew (tome-meem): Perfection (Black)
    - Stones used to receive enlightenment of God’s perfect will.
      - Ex. 28:30 – “And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron’s heart when he goes in before the LORD. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually.”
      - Used in Ezra 2:63 and Neh. 7:65

v. 10-13 *Also Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it, and consecrated them. He sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times, anointed the altar and all its utensils, and the laver and its base, to consecrate them. And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him, to consecrate him. Then Moses brought Aaron's sons and put tunics on them, girded them with sashes, and put hats on them, as the LORD had commanded Moses.*

- “Having invested the high priest with the visible emblems of his office and holiness, Moses now, in accordance with the directions given in [Exodus 30:26-30](#); [Exodus 40:9-11](#), first anointed the tabernacle and all that was therein—that is, the ark of the covenant, the altar of incense, the candlestick, the table of shewbread, with all the utensils belonging unto them. For the ingredients of this oil, which is also called “oil of holy ointment” ([Exodus 30:25](#)). He sanctified them.—That is, by this unction Moses separated them from the laity, and dedicated them to the service of God, so that they were not to come in contact with any defilement. (See [Exodus 29:37](#); [Exodus 30:29-30](#).)” ~ Ellicott
- **Seven Times:** Possibly connected with the fact that 7 is considered the number of perfection or completion in Scripture.

## **The Offerings**

### **Sin Offering**

v.14-17 *“And he brought the bull for the sin offering. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the bull for the sin offering, and Moses killed it. Then he took the blood, and put some on the horns of the altar all around with his finger, and purified the altar. And he poured the blood at the base of the altar, and consecrated it, to make atonement for it. Then he took all the fat that was on the entrails, the fatty lobe attached to the liver, and the two kidneys with their fat, and Moses burned them on the altar. But the bull, its hide, its flesh, and its offal, he burned with fire outside the camp, as the LORD had commanded Moses.”*

### **Burnt Offering**

v. 18-21 *“Then he brought the ram as the burnt offering. And Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram, and Moses killed it. Then he sprinkled the blood all around on the altar. And he cut the ram into pieces; and Moses burned the head, the pieces, and the fat. Then he washed the entrails and the legs in water. And Moses burned the whole ram on the altar. It was a burnt sacrifice for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.”*

### **Installation Offering (like an Oblation of Initiation)**

v. 22-24 *“And he brought the second ram, the ram of consecration. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram, and Moses killed it. Also he took some of its blood and put it on the tip of Aaron's right ear, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot. Then he brought Aaron's sons. And Moses put some of the blood on the tips of their right ears, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. And Moses sprinkled the blood all around on the altar.”*

- **Consecration:** Hebrew *millu'* (mil-loo): to install, like a gem in its setting. From the root word *mālā'* (maw-lay) which means fulfilled, complete, satisfied.
- “This concluding sacrifice, which in form resembles the thank offering and the peace offering, was designed to express the gratitude which Aaron and his sons felt for having been chosen to the office of priests, and their peace and fellowship with God.” ~ Ellicott
- “After the sin offering and burnt offering had been presented on their behalf, this was their peace offering, by which they declared the pleasure which they felt in entering upon the service of God and being brought into close communion with Him as the ministers of His sanctuary, together with their confident reliance on His grace to help them in all their sacred duties.” ~ Jamieson, Fausset, Brown
- “The ram offered as a peace offering is called the ram of consecration, or literally, of filling, because one of the means by which the consecration was effected and exhibited was the filling the hands of those presented for consecration with the portion of the sacrifice destined for the altar...” ~ Pulpit Commentary

- Blood on the ear, hand, and foot: “The ear attentive to the commands of God, the hand ready to do His will, the foot prepared to walk in His ways are thus signified.” ~ Cambridge Bible Commentary
- “The same ceremony is to be used in the restoration of the leper (see chapter Leviticus 14:14).” ~ Pulpit Commentary
- Right side: dominant side, side of power.

### **Oblation of Initiation – Grain (6:19-23) and Peace Offering (7:28-36)**

**v. 25-29** *“Then he took the fat and the fat tail, all the fat that was on the entrails, the fatty lobe attached to the liver, the two kidneys and their fat, and the right thigh; and from the basket of unleavened bread that was before the LORD he took one unleavened cake, a cake of bread anointed with oil, and one wafer, and put them on the fat and on the right thigh; and he put all these in Aaron’s hands and in his sons’ hands, and waved them as a wave offering before the LORD. Then Moses took them from their hands and burned them on the altar, on the burnt offering. They were consecration offerings for a sweet aroma. That was an offering made by fire to the LORD. And Moses took the breast and waved it as a wave offering before the LORD. It was Moses’ part of the ram of consecration, as the LORD had commanded Moses.”*

### **Consecration and Ordination**

**v. 30-32** *“Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood which was on the altar, and sprinkled it on Aaron, on his garments, on his sons, and on the garments of his sons with him; and he consecrated Aaron, his garments, his sons, and the garments of his sons with him. And Moses said to Aaron and his sons, “Boil the flesh at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and eat it there with the bread that is in the basket of consecration offerings, as I commanded, saying, ‘Aaron and his sons shall eat it.’ What remains of the flesh and of the bread you shall burn with fire.”*

**v. 33-36** *“And you shall not go outside the door of the tabernacle of meeting for seven days, until the days of your consecration are ended. For seven days he shall consecrate you. As he has done this day, so the LORD has commanded to do, to make atonement for you. Therefore you shall stay at the door of the tabernacle of meeting day and night for seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, so that you may not die; for so I have been commanded.” So Aaron and his sons did all the things that the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses.”*

- Again the number seven, possibly symbolic of a completing or perfecting the ordination of the priests.

### **TAKEAWAYS**

- Under the Old Covenant, we HAD a priesthood.

Under the New Covenant, we ARE a priesthood. ~ Wiersbe

- 1 Peter 2:9-10
- Rev. 1:5-6
- OT Priests had to:
  - Submit to God’s Authority (ch. 8)
  - Reveal God’s glory (ch. 9)
  - Accept God’s Discipline (ch. 10)
- This is a good model for us for how we are to live!

### DISCUSSION:

In Psalm 110:4, Jesus is sworn in by God as a high priest. *“The LORD has sworn and will not relent, You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”* Make connections between the following ceremonies that took place to initiate the Levite High Priests and events in Jesus’ life:

1. The Gathering of all the Leaders of the Tribes:
2. Washing:
3. Elements of the clothing:
  - White linen:
  - Crown:
  - Thread Colors:
  - Urim and Thummim:
4. Anointing with oil:
5. Sin Offering:
6. Burnt Offering:
7. Installation Offering:
  - Right ear, hand, foot:
8. Oblation of Initiation (Priestly Grain and Peace Offering):
9. Waiting seven days to be fully consecrated:



1 The Ephod

■ The Garment of Service  
(Exodus 28: 6-14)

Holds the Breastplate and

- 1a two stones on the shoulders bear the names of Israel's 12 tribes.

2 The Breastplate of Justice

■ The Garment of Mission  
(Exodus 28:15-29)

Stones engraved with the Names of Israel's 12 tribes.

- 2a Carries the Urim and Thummim (Exodus 28:30) – The Instruments of Choice.

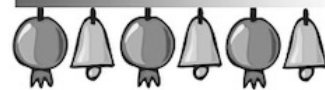
3 The Robe

■ The Royal Garment of Praise  
(Exodus 28:31-35)

Rich blue color.

Bells and pomegranates are on the hem.

3a



4 The Tunic

■ The Garment that Covers and Protects  
(Exodus 28:39)

5 The Turban

■ The Garment of Authority  
(Exodus 28:39)

6 The Plate on the Turban

■ The Garment of Consecration: "Holy to the Lord" (Exodus 28:36-38)

7 The Sash

■ The Garment of Dignity  
(Exodus 28:39)

8 The Undergarment

■ The Garment that Covers Shame  
(Exodus 28:42-43)