

LEVITICUS 9:1-24

Chapter 9 Outline

- v. 1-7 – Instructions Given
- v. 8-14 – Priestly Offerings
- v. 15-21 – Offerings for the People
- v. 22-24 – Benediction and Glory

SCRIPTURE

Instructions Given

9:1-4 *It came to pass on the eighth day that Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel. And he said to Aaron, “Take for yourself a young bull as a sin offering and a ram as a burnt offering, without blemish, and offer them before the Lord. And to the children of Israel you shall speak, saying, ‘Take a kid of the goats as a sin offering, and a calf and a lamb, both of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering, also a bull and a ram as peace offerings, to sacrifice before the Lord, and a grain offering mixed with oil; for today the Lord will appear to you.’”*

- In chapter 8, we see Moses acting as the High Priest because Aaron had not been ordained yet. In chapter 9, Moses steps into the background and Aaron begins his official role as High Priest and is now the one who offers the sacrifices.
- **The eighth day:** After a 7-day installation ceremony, we have the first worship service and an in-depth look at the daily ritual of the priests.
 - Newborns are also set apart for 7 days and enter into covenant privileges on the 8th day. (12:2-3)
- “Aaron and his sons had to offer a bull calf for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering; from then on, they would be offering a burnt offering on the altar every morning and evening... Being imperfect, the priests had to offer sacrifices for themselves first before they could offer sacrifices for the people.” ~ Wiersbe
- All of the offerings were offered except for the trespass, as no one had committed a trespass yet.

v. 5-7 *So they brought what Moses commanded before the tabernacle of meeting. And all the congregation drew near and stood before the LORD. Then Moses said, “This is the thing which the LORD commanded you to do, and the glory of the LORD will appear to you.” And Moses said to Aaron, “Go to the altar, offer your sin offering and your burnt offering, and make atonement for yourself and for the people. Offer the offering of the people, and make atonement for them, as the LORD commanded.”*

- **Tabernacle of Meeting** – not a gathering place like a city hall, but a tabernacle with a singular purpose: for the people to meet with God.
 - We need to be careful not to turn our churches into a place that is simply for fellowship and social activities, but that it is a place where people literally meet with God.

- It is a place to be sanctified. Geisler stated that it took one night to get the children of Israel out of Egypt, but it took 40 years to get Egypt out of them.
- Exodus: Act of Salvation
- Leviticus: Process of Sanctification

Priestly Offerings

Priestly Sin Offering

v. 8-11 *Aaron therefore went to the altar and killed the calf of the sin offering, which was for himself. Then the sons of Aaron brought the blood to him. And he dipped his finger in the blood, put it on the horns of the altar, and poured the blood at the base of the altar. But the fat, the kidneys, and the fatty lobe from the liver of the sin offering he burned on the altar, as the LORD had commanded Moses. The flesh and the hide he burned with fire outside the camp.*

Priestly Burnt Offering

v. 12-14 *And he killed the burnt offering; and Aaron's sons presented to him the blood, which he sprinkled all around on the altar. Then they presented the burnt offering to him, with its pieces and head, and he burned them on the altar. And he washed the entrails and the legs, and burned them with the burnt offering on the altar.*

Offerings for the People

Burnt & Grain Offerings

v. 15-17 *Then he brought the people's offering, and took the goat, which was the sin offering for the people, and killed it and offered it for sin, like the first one. And he brought the burnt offering and offered it according to the prescribed manner. Then he brought the grain offering, took a handful of it, and burned it on the altar, besides the burnt sacrifice of the morning.*

Peace Offering

v. 18-21 *He also killed the bull and the ram as sacrifices of peace offerings, which were for the people. And Aaron's sons presented to him the blood, which he sprinkled all around on the altar; and the fat from the bull and the ram—the fatty tail, what covers the entrails and the kidneys, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver; and they put the fat on the breasts. Then he burned the fat on the altar; but the breasts and the right thigh Aaron waved as a wave offering before the LORD, as Moses had commanded.*

Benediction & Glory

v. 22-24 *Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, **blessed them**, and came down from offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and peace offerings. And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people, and fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.*

- **Blessed them**: This is what we call a “benediction”. J.I. Packer says that benedictions are “a declaration of God’s favor because of His atonement.”
- This is the Aaronic Benediction recorded in Numbers 6:22-27

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

“So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.”

Insight from Numbers

Chapters 1-2

- Census is taken to see how big their army is, if needed. (1:1-18, 20-45)
- Total number of men 20 years or older: 603,550 (1:46). Estimates of the total nation of Israel is somewhere between 2-3 million people.
- Leaders are chosen from each tribe. (1:4-19)
- Levites are exempted and given the charge of taking care of the tabernacle (1:47-53) because Aaron and Moses are from the tribe of Levi (Ex. 6:14-27).
- Tribes are ordered to camp in specific locations around the tabernacle (2:1-34)
- We find out that only Aaron and his specific descendants are the priests, and the rest of the Levites simply serve the tabernacle in various capacities: assisting with the sacrificial service, caring for and cleaning the sanctuary, serving as doorkeepers and guards, acting as musicians and singers, and teaching the law to the people.

Numbers 1:47-53

But the Levites were not listed along with them by their ancestral tribe. For the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Only the tribe of Levi you shall not list, and you shall not take a census of them among the people of Israel. But appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings, and over all that belongs to it. They are to carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall take care of it and shall camp around the tabernacle. When the tabernacle is to set out, the Levites shall take it down, and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up. And if any outsider comes near, he shall be put to death. The people of Israel shall pitch their tents by their companies, each man in his own camp and each man by his own standard. But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, so that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the people of Israel. And the Levites shall keep guard over the tabernacle of the testimony.”

Chapter 3

- Sons of Aaron (v. 1-4) Aaron means “exalted, strong, high mountain”
 - Nadab: generous, voluntary gift
 - Abihu: He is my Father
 - Eleazar: God is my help/salvation
 - Ithamar: island of palms, service
- Eleazar given leadership over the chiefs of the Levites
- Tribe of Levi: all males from one month old and up: 22,000, which matches almost exactly the number of firstborn males from all the tribes (give or take 273), perfectly representing the nation of Israel.
- Moses collects money for Aaron and his sons to live on: 1365 shekels

Chapter 4

- Moses and Aaron take a census of all the Levite males who are from 30-50 years old, that can work in the tabernacle.
- Totaled: 8580 assistants for Aaron and his sons.

Chapter 7

- Lists the offerings of each tribe by their leaders on the day of dedication.
- God speaks to Moses from the mercy seat.
- Chapter 7:2-5

...the chiefs of Israel... approached and brought their offerings before the LORD, six wagons and twelve oxen, a wagon for every two of the chiefs, and for each one an ox. They brought them before the tabernacle. Then the LORD said to Moses, “Accept these from them, that they may be used in the service of the tent of meeting, and give them to the Levites, to each man according to his service...But to the sons of Kohath he gave none, because they were charged with the service of the holy things that had to be carried on the shoulder.”

- The Levites are given wagons and oxen to help carry the structure and fabrics of the tabernacle. The implements had to be carried by hand.
- Chapter 7: 84-88

This was the dedication offering for the altar on the day when it was anointed, from the chiefs of Israel: twelve silver plates, twelve silver basins, twelve golden dishes, each silver plate weighing 130 shekels and each basin 70, all the silver of the vessels 2,400 shekels according to the shekel of the sanctuary, the twelve golden dishes, full of incense, weighing 10 shekels apiece according to the shekel of the sanctuary, all the gold of the dishes being 120 shekels; all the cattle for the burnt offering twelve bulls, twelve rams, twelve male lambs a year old, with their grain offering; and twelve male goats for a sin offering; and all the cattle for the sacrifice of peace offerings twenty-four bulls, the rams sixty, the male goats sixty, the male lambs a year old sixty. This was the dedication offering for the altar after it was anointed.*

* A shekel was about 2/5 ounce or 11 grams

Chapter 8

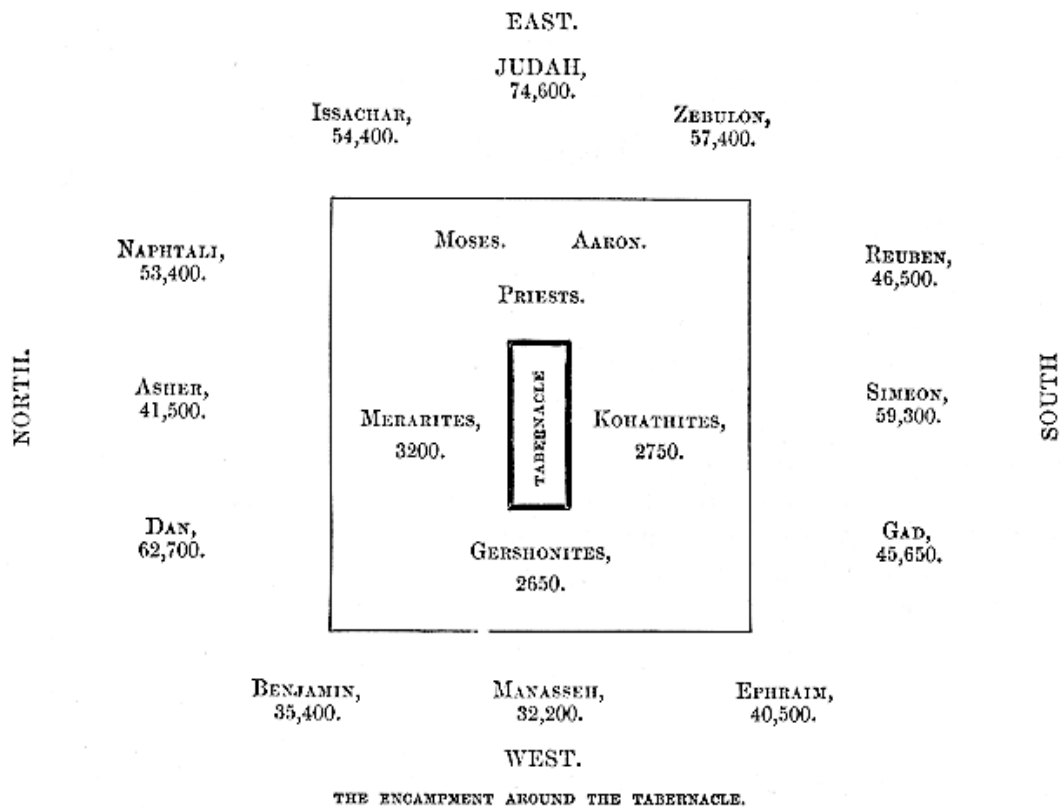
- God instructs Moses and Aaron on the lampstand.
- Cleansing of the Levites
- Sacrifices offered for the Levites
- Levites offered as a wave offering publicly (v. 14)
- Guidelines for age of service (v. 23-26)
 - Serve in the tabernacle from age 25-50

DISCUSSION:

A benediction is a priestly blessing given to declare all of the favor God displays toward us because of Christ. 1 Peter 2:9-10 says, *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”*

You are a modern-day “priest”, interceding to God for the world, and declaring His praises because you yourself have received His mercy. Imagine you had to write a benediction. What would yours look like? Aaron’s benediction included the fact that God keeps us, is gracious to us, and gives us peace. What promises are there in Scripture, that we can claim as our riches in Christ, that you would also wish for others? Make a list below and pray these over your loved ones throughout the week!

Tribe:	Leader:	Number of Men Counted:
<i>NUMBERS Chapter 1</i>	<i>Women, children, and men not fit to fight were not counted.</i>	<i>Total: 603,550</i>
Reuben	Elizur son of Shedeur	46,500
Simeon	Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai	59,300
Judah	Nahshon son of Amminadab	74,600
Issachar	Nethanel son of Zuar	54,400
Zebulun	Eliab son of Helon	57,400
Ephraim	Elishama son of Ammihud	40,500
Manasseh	Gamaliel son of Pedahzur	32,200
Benjamin	Abidan son of Gideoni	35,400
Dan	Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai	62,700
Asher	Pagiel son of Ocran;	41,500
Gad	Eliasaph son of Deuel	45,650
Naphtali	Ahira son of Enan	53,400



Sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari

<u>Tribe</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>
Gershonites	Eliasaph, the son of Lael	7500; 2750 served	Fabric: the tent with its covering, the screen for the entrance, the hangings of the court, the screen for the door of the court that is around the tabernacle and the altar, and its cords—all the service connected with these.
Kohathites	Elizaphan the son of Uzziel	8600; 2630 served	Implements: the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the vessels of the sanctuary with which the priests minister, and the screen; all the service connected with these
Merari	Zuriel the son of Abihail	6200; 3200 served	Structure: the frames of the tabernacle, the bars, the pillars, the bases, and all their accessories; all the service connected with these; also the pillars around the court, with their bases and pegs and cords.
			Total: 22,000; 8580 served in the tabernacle.

