



# The Quarry Gospel Church

BIBLE STUDY - 10.03.21

## BIBLE STUDY - LEVITICUS - 7. THE MANUAL OF THE PRIESTHOOD (Leviticus 8-10)

### Part 1 - ANOINTED FOR SERVICE - Leviticus 8

- There are lessons here for all Christians - we are all "priests". (*1 Peter 2:4-10*)
- This chapter gives detailed instructions for the ordination of Aaron and his sons.
- Spiritual truths reflected in this chapter point ultimately to Christ. (*Hebrews 5:7-10*)
- *Leviticus 8:1-4* - God changes focus from "Sacrifice" to "Priesthood"

#### 1. "CALLED" TO BE PRIESTS

##### **A) People need to be called -**

It is for God to choose who He wishes to serve Him - we can't appoint ourselves;

##### **B) It was a gracious call**

Aaron had history (led people to build the golden calf);

After discipline and repentance God still chose Him to be the High Priest.

##### **C) It was an indirect call**

The call came through Moses. (Moses - an intermediary between God and man until priesthood established); a call comes with confirmation by others.

##### **D) It was a public call**

These events took place before all the people;

It gave his position authenticity;

Aaron's sons - "presented" to the Lord (in the same way sacrifices are "presented").

#### Application:

- This can be applied to those being called to ministry in the church:
  - the call will be confirmed by others if it is genuine;
  - the call should be acknowledged publicly;
  - God often chooses to use people who "have a history".
- It is also relevant to all believers:
  - each of us has "a history";
  - we have been called out of darkness into light to serve God in this world
  - We are sinful, but God deals with that sin;
  - Our response should be like Aaron, to humbly accept God's call and be obedient to it.

#### 2. "CLEANSED" - After calling - an immediate need for cleansing.

- No priest with any defect could present the food offerings to the Lord. (*Leviticus 21:16-23*) He must not come near the altar or curtain.
- The rules were very precise, with aim of not defiling the holy place;
- On important occasions the priests bathed in the laver as preparation.

### **Application:**

- Sins must be dealt with and put aside;
- Damage is done when hidden sins come to light and God's ministers are "found out".
- To serve God, we must be cleansed.

### **3. "CLOTHED"** - (not looking at detail of clothing - see *Exodus 28* for further study)

- No shoes - like Moses at the burning bush, "standing on holy ground" (*Exodus 3:5*)  
Similarly, the Tabernacle was God's holy place.
- Garments worn by priest speak about:
  - God equipping the priest for his job;
  - God's presence among Israel;
  - God's authority over Israel.
  - "Holy to the Lord" - words on turban spoke of care that the people needed to show in drawing near to God.
- Aside from the detail - overall message of garments is of God equipping the priest to draw near to Him and represent the people.

### **Application:**

- Clothing often used in the New Testament to speak about "virtues and characteristics" God's people should display.
- We need to set aside the garments of our own worthiness and reclothe ourselves:
  - as priests: with His righteousness;
  - as His people: with His salvation;
  - as His disciples: with His compassion, kindness, etc. (*Colossians 3:12*)
  - as His warriors: with His armour (*Romans 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:8*)
  - Above all - and in all - we need to be "clothed with Christ" (*Romans 13:14*)
- *Revelation 1:13-18* - Picture of Christ - our Great High Priest. The picture of Aaron is an anticipation of this vision of Christ.

### **4. "ANOINTED"/"EMPOWERED"** - the heart of the ceremony.

- Special blend of oil used solely for this purpose - to anoint the Tabernacle, its furniture and utensils and the High Priest.
- This was how Saul and David were dedicated to God's service.
- Christ was "anointed" for the task - *Isaiah 61:1-3* "The Lord has anointed me to... "

### **Application:**

- If Christ needed the anointing of the Holy Spirit for his ministry, then in whatever capacity we serve, we also need that anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- We serve with God's power, not in our own strength.

## **5. "DEDICATED"** - the anointing and dedication all part of the Consecration of the Priest

The dedication followed the anointing and consisted of 3 sacrifices that were made:

- A) The Sin Offering** - after outward washing - now an inward cleansing;
- B) The Burnt Offering** - a sign of dedication and obedience to their call, a response of love towards God who has called them to this task;
- C) The Peace Offering** - blood placed on right ear, thumb and toe - symbolised Aaron's readiness to be continually:
  - i) willing to listen to God's word;
  - ii) ready to do God's work; and
  - iii) ready to walk in God's ways.

God has taken possession of them entirely and they are totally dedicated to God's work.

### **Application:**

- God is looking for the attitude of heart that is expressed in this service;
- We now belong to God - we have been bought with a price;
- We are no longer our own - we are "set apart for God";
- Like Aaron, we should be attentive to God's word, ready to do His will and quick to walk in His paths.

## **6. "MOULDING"** - The time of waiting and preparation.

- The service took place on Day 1 - the Ordination lasted 7 days!
- Remaining 6 days spent in Tabernacle, deepening fellowship with God (offering sacrifices and keeping themselves holy)
- A time of preparation for the ministry ahead.

### **Application:**

- Part of our calling is a time of preparation for the work ahead of us.
- Examples of this in N.Testament: Christ in the wilderness; the disciples in the upper room waiting for the Holy Spirit; Paul's 3 years in Arabia.
- Do not be feel frustrated if God puts a "pause" on your service!

## **CONCLUSION**

We are all priests in God's kingdom and have been:

- called - we are a chosen people;
- cleansed;
- clothed in Christ's righteousness;
- anointed by the Holy Spirit;
- set apart;
- moulded and prepared to serve God.

**We serve a God who has "called us out of darkness into His glorious light"**