

THE PRIESTHOODS OF AARON AND CHRIST

BIBLE TEXT : Exodus 28:1-5; Leviticus 8:1-36; 9:22-24; Hebrews 7:11-28; 8:1, 2

LESSON 84 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "For be testifieth. flou art a priest for ever after the order of Melehisedec" (Hebrews 7:17).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Exodus 28:1-5 (KJV)

¹ And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, *even* Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

² And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.

³ And thou shalt speak unto all *that are* wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

⁴ And these *are* the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a brodered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

⁵ And they shall take gold, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen.

Leviticus 8:1-36 (KJV)

¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

² Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, and the anointing oil, and a bullock for the sin offering, and two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread;

³ And gather thou all the congregation together unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

⁴ And Moses did as the LORD commanded him; and the assembly was gathered together unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

⁵ And Moses said unto the congregation, This *is* the thing which the LORD commanded to be done.

⁶ And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water.

⁷ And he put upon him the coat, and girded him with the girdle, and clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod upon him, and he girded him with the curious girdle of the ephod, and bound *it* unto him therewith.

⁸ And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

The Need for an Intercessor

Because of the holiness of God and the sinfulness of man, there has always been the need for someone to stand between God's holiness and our sinfulness to plead for us. God hates sin, and has made the law: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). But Jesus was willing to bear our blame and die in our stead: He shed His Blood that we might have eternal redemption. He is now in the presence of God to make intercession for everyone who asks forgiveness for his sins "And if any man sin we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (I John 2:1).

We shall never be able to face God in Heaven with sin in our hearts. We must have our sins forgiven before He will accept us. We must come to Jesus, ask Him to forgive our sins and wash them away. Then when God sees that Blood over our hearts, He can look upon us with love. There is no other way that we can come to God. Jesus said when He was on earth, "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). He meant that if Jesus did not cover our sins with His Blood, God would not receive us as His children. When we are forgiven, justified before God, we do not sin any more.

The Blood of Animals a Type of Jesus

People lived on earth thousands of years before Jesus came to die for sinners. How could they be saved? From the beginning God had a plan that people could kill animals and that blood would make atonement for them. The blood of bulls and goats was a type of the Blood of Jesus that would someday be shed to take away sin.

During the patriarchal period, before Israel became a nation, the heads of the families acted as priests, and offered the sacrifices for their own sins and the sins of their children. We notice that Job rose early and offered burnt offerings for his sons and daughters, in case they had sinned and deserved the wrath of God (**Job 1:5 (KJV)** ⁵ And it was so, when the days of *their* feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings *according* to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually).

Israel's Priests a Shadow of Jesus

It was hard for the Children of Israel in their day to understand the plan of redemption which Jesus was going to unfold when He came to earth, so God gave them the Law which included the Tabernacle and its forms and ceremonies of worship, and the priests who performed the holy rites. The entire service was a shadow of Jesus and prefigured what He would do when He came to earth to die on Calvary to pay the price of redemption and win favor with God for us.

When Jacob was about to die, after he had moved his family into Egypt, he called his twelve sons about him to bless them; and he prophesied that his eldest son would not be the head of the Israelites and offer the sacrifices for the rest of the family. Later, when Israel sinned by making the golden calf and

⁹ And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, *even* upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate, the holy crown; as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹⁰ And Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that *was* therein, and sanctified them.

¹¹ And he sprinkled thereof upon the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all his vessels, both the laver and his foot, to sanctify them.

¹² And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head, and anointed him, to sanctify him.

¹³ And Moses brought Aaron's sons, and put coats upon them, and girded them with girdles, and put bonnets upon them; as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹⁴ And he brought the bullock for the sin offering: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the bullock for the sin offering.

¹⁵ And he slew *it*; and Moses took the blood, and put *it* upon the horns of the altar round about with his finger, and purified the altar, and poured the blood at the bottom of the altar, and sanctified it, to make reconciliation upon it.

¹⁶ And he took all the fat that *was* upon the inwards, and the caul *above* the liver, and the two kidneys, and their fat, and Moses burned *it* upon the altar.

¹⁷ But the bullock, and his hide, his flesh, and his dung, he burnt with fire without the camp; as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹⁸ And he brought the ram for the burnt offering: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram.

¹⁹ And he killed *it*; and Moses sprinkled the blood upon the altar round about.

²⁰ And he cut the ram into pieces; and Moses burnt the head, and the pieces, and the fat.

²¹ And he washed the inwards and the legs in water; and Moses burnt the whole ram upon the altar: it *was* a burnt sacrifice for a sweet savour, *and* an offering made by fire unto the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses.

²² And he brought the other ram, the ram of consecration: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram.

²³ And he slew *it*; and Moses took of the blood of it, and put *it* upon the tip of Aaron's right ear, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot.

²⁴ And he brought Aaron's sons, and

bowing down to It, the tribe of Levi came over on the Lord's side; and it was from this tribe that Aaron was chosen to be the spiritual head of the nation and serve as high priest. Only his descendants were to minister in the priest's office.

Adorned for the Priesthood

Moses *was* instructed by God to have beautiful garments made for Aaron and his sons, to be worn when they performed their duties in the sanctuary. God Himself designed those robes, which were made of gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine linen, and were artistically embroidered. The clothes were to be for "glory and for beauty" and would adorn the priests for their duties before the Lord in the Tabernacle.

We today who are born again are priests unto God, and the beautiful garments which adorn the children of God are robes of righteousness: "He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels" (Isaiah 61: 10).

After the priests had put on their beautiful clothes, they had to be consecrated and sanctified before they could offer sacrifices for the people. All the congregation came to the Tabernacle to see the ceremony that would make Aaron and his sons holy. For seven days they stayed in the Tabernacle and did all that God told them to do. They washed with water, were anointed with holy oil, and made offerings unto the Lord. A bullock was killed for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering, and another ram for their consecration. Aaron and his sons placed their hands upon these animals to show that the animals were dying for them.

Our Consecrations

All these sacrifices were particularly instituted by God, and had to be offered exactly as God said, so that Aaron and his sons could do the duties of the priesthood. We would consider it strange indeed if we had to go through such ceremonies; but we have to do things, too, in order to be sanctified. We do not need to offer animals, but we must present our bodies "a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God," which is our reasonable service (Romans 12:1). We must be just as careful that we offer unto God the things that are pleasing to Him. He Is not pleased if we make careless consecrations. We must give Him our very best, and promise to do anything He wants us to do.

More than to be anointed with oil, the priests had to have blood put on their right ear, their right thumb, and the big toe of their right foot. This showed that they were covered with the blood. We learn by this that we must have the blood applied to our hearts again in sanctification, after we have become "priests," or have been saved.

Supernatural Fire

The priests were in the Tabernacle seven days during their consecration. On the eighth day they were ready to offer the sacrifices for the people. God showed them that their service and their consecrations were pleasing to Him when He sent the fire which burned the meat that was upon the altar. No man lighted the fire. God just made it burn suddenly. The people were so happy to see that God was with them that they fell on their faces and praised Him.

When for our sanctification, we make consecrations that please God, He lets His spiritual fire fall upon our sacrifice, and we know we are sanctified. Still greater blessings, however, await us in the baptism of the Holy Ghost, when the power for service is given to the sanctified person.

The fire that God had kindled was kept burning always

Moses put of the blood upon the tip of their right ear, and upon the thumbs of their right hands, and upon the great toes of their right feet: and Moses sprinkled the blood upon the altar round about.

²⁵ And he took the fat, and the rump, and all the fat that *was* upon the inwards, and the caul *above* the liver, and the two kidneys, and their fat, and the right shoulder:

²⁶ And out of the basket of unleavened bread, that *was* before the LORD, he took one unleavened cake, and a cake of oiled bread, and one wafer, and put *them* on the fat, and upon the right shoulder:

²⁷ And he put all upon Aaron's hands, and upon his sons' hands, and waved them *for* a wave offering before the LORD.

²⁸ And Moses took them from off their hands, and burnt *them* on the altar upon the burnt offering: they *were* consecrations for a sweet savour: it *is* an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

²⁹ And Moses took the breast, and waved it *for* a wave offering before the LORD: *for* of the ram of consecration it was Moses' part; as the LORD commanded Moses.

³⁰ And Moses took of the anointing oil, and of the blood which *was* upon the altar, and sprinkled *it* upon Aaron, *and* upon his garments, and upon his sons, and upon his sons' garments with him; and sanctified Aaron, *and* his garments, and his sons, and his sons' garments with him.

³¹ And Moses said unto Aaron and to his sons, Boil the flesh *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and there eat it with the bread that *is* in the basket of consecrations, as I commanded, saying, Aaron and his sons shall eat it.

³² And that which remaineth of the flesh and of the bread shall ye burn with fire.

³³ And ye shall not go out of the door of the tabernacle of the congregation *in* seven days, until the days of your consecration be at an end: for seven days shall he consecrate you.

³⁴ As he hath done this day, *so* the LORD hath commanded to do, to make an atonement for you.

³⁵ Therefore shall ye abide *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation day and night seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, that ye die not: for so I am commanded.

³⁶ So Aaron and his sons did all things which the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.

upon the altar. Every morning and night new offerings were put upon it, besides many special offerings. So we keep the fire of God's love burning in our hearts by offering daily sacrifices of love and willing service unto the Most High.

Our High Priest

The priests all had certain duties, and they worked together with the high priest, who was their leader. There were some things that the high priest alone could do. We are workers together with Christ, our High Priest, as we spread the Gospel. Jesus is the head of the Church, and He alone can save the lost.

We learned that Jesus came from the tribe of Judah, "of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood" (Hebrews 7:14). How could He be a priest if the priests were of the tribe of Levi?

There had once been a much greater priest than Aaron. He was a priest at the time of Abraham. (We remember that Abraham was the grandfather of Jacob; and through Jacob's son, Levi, came Aaron and his priesthood.) This priest was Melchisedec, and he was called the king of Salem. When Jesus came, He did not have to come from the descendants of Aaron, but was a priest like Melchisedec who was also a king. Jesus will be the King when He comes back to reign on earth during the Millennium.

Abraham was a great man, a man of God, called the father of faith. The scribes and Pharisees spoke of him as their father, and considered him the founder of their religion. But one day when he was returning from battle with much booty of war, he met Melchisedec; and considering him so much greater than himself, Abraham paid tithes to him. Melchisedec then blessed Abraham. Paul tells us that the lesser man pays tithes to the greater and is blessed by him; so we can easily see that Melchisedec was even greater than that wonderful man of God, Abraham.

Christ a Priest as Melchisedec

Melchisedec was a type of Jesus, so if Melchisedec was greater than Abraham, surely Jesus was much greater than Abraham. The scribes and Pharisees did not want to listen to Jesus, saying that they had Abraham for their father. But Jesus said, "Abraham rejoiced to see my day." All the Old Testament prophets looked forward with joy to the time when Jesus would come, and there would be no more need for priests like Aaron.

We remember in the study of the Tabernacle that God's presence rested between the cherubims over the Mercy Seat in the Holiest of All. Only the high priest could enter that room, and only once a year. But by the time Jesus came to earth the Israelites had backslidden so far from God that His Presence did not come into the Holiest of All any more. When Jesus died on the cross the veil that enclosed the Holiest of All was rent from the top to the bottom, and everyone could go in. The time of the tabernacle worship and the temple worship was past. Jesus was the new High Priest, and He did not have to offer sacrifices of animals in the Temple every day, because He offered up Himself once, and shed His Blood for an atonement that lasts forever; then with His Blood He entered Heaven.

Christ Anointed as Priest

Jesus did not become a priest just because He wanted to be one. God appointed Him, just as He had called Aaron (**Hebrews 5:4 (KJV)** ⁴ *And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron*). He was washed in water and anointed with oil (the Spirit) when He was baptized in Jordan and the Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove. The blood on the ear, thumb and toe of the

Leviticus 9:22-24 (KJV)

²² And Aaron lifted up his hand toward the people, and blessed them, and came down from offering of the sin offering, and the burnt offering, and peace offerings.

²³ And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people.

²⁴ And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: *which* when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.

Hebrews 7:11-28 (KJV)

¹¹ If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need *was there* that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

¹² For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.

¹³ For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.

¹⁴ For *it is* evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

¹⁵ And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,

¹⁶ Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

¹⁷ For he testifieth, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

¹⁸ For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.

¹⁹ For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope *did*; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

²⁰ And inasmuch as not without an oath *he was made priest*:

²¹ (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)

²² By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

²³ And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

²⁴ But this *man*, because he continueth

priests was fulfilled when Jesus wore the crown of thorns and His hands and feet were pierced by the nails at His crucifixion. Jesus fulfilled the type of the priesthood; but how much greater was He!

When Isaiah saw the vision of the Lord, he heard the cherubims cry: "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory" Isaiah answered: "Mine eyes have seen the King the LORD of Hosts" (Isaiah 6:3, 5). That was Jesus who has become our High Priest. And John, on the Isle of Patmos heard the angels singing: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing"; and every creature in Heaven and on earth and under the earth, and in the sea, answered: "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever" (Revelation 5:12, 13). Jesus, our High Priest, offered Himself as the Lamb of God, to give us eternal life. He is making intercession today before God for us. All who will Come repenting and asking pardon for their sins are justified before God through the Blood of Jesus, and have eternal life.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Why do we need a priest?
- 2 Who is our High Priest, and how is His Priesthood better than the Aaronic priesthood?
- 3 How did the tabernacle priests get their office?
- 4 Was Jesus a descendant of Aaron? After what order was He a priest?
- 5 How did Jesus atone for sin?

ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

²⁵ Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For such an high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

²⁷ Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

²⁸ For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, *maketh* the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

Hebrews 8:1-2 (KJV)

¹ Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

² A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.