December 15, 2021
Leviticus 8:1-9

Let’s Dig In Together
Acts of Ordination for Priests

- Cleansed for Service
- Clothed for Service
- Consecrated for Service
Aaron and his sons constitute the subject here, and yet Jesus and His people are the theme. The Way to Wholeness
The LORD commanded Moses first to wash Aaron and his sons with water.

After the bath, they were clothed with their beautifully designed clothes (Lev. 8:7).

After dressing up, the priests were then anointed with the anointing oil!
There were three prohibitions concerning the use of the anointing oil.

• First, it was only poured upon the head, but not “Upon man’s flesh” (Ex. 30:32). Works done in the flesh are a stench in the nostrils of God. This is clearly seen when Simon the sorcerer tried to purchase the anointing power of the Holy Spirit. He was severely condemned by Peter (Acts 8:9-21).

• Secondly, the anointing oil was not to be produced for the priest’s own use or secular purposes. Moses said, “. . . neither shall ye make any other like it, after the composition of it: it is holy, and it shall be holy unto you” (Ex. 30:32).
• Thirdly, the anointing oil was not to be put “upon a stranger” (i.e. one not of the priesthood) [Ex. 30:33].
• Paul tells us, “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Rom. 8:9b). The anointing of the Spirit cannot work through an unbeliever; this person is a stranger to the things of God.
Consecrated By Sacrifice

• The sacrifice of consecration followed the anointing service with Moses officiating as the priest (Ex. 29:10-34).

• Three animals were sacrificed:
  a young bullock for the **sin offering**,  
a ram for the **burnt offering** and  
a ram of **consecration offering**.

• The Sin Offering of Consecration (Ex. 29:10-14)
v.14 The ceremony began with the sin or purification offering, the regulations for which we have already read in chapter 4. We will find as we proceed through Leviticus that sin offerings often preceded burnt offerings and peace offerings

• Obviously, the priests were sinners too and likewise needed atonement.
v.18 After purifying and consecrating the priests and the altar, Aaron offered next a burnt offering, atonement for general sinfulfulness as well as a general expression of worship.
v.22 Finally came the offering specifically for the ordination of the priests, an offering that seems to be some form of the peace or fellowship offering. Peace offerings were often used to confirm or to renew or to celebrate a covenant and Yahweh had made a covenant with the house of Aaron to make them his priests.
23And 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.

24And he brought Aaron's sons, and 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.
• Blood is always a reminder to us that we have no value apart from the death of Christ on our behalf and our life again in him.

• That is all that God ever accepts as of any value whatsoever out of our time here on earth.

• And here the priest is to have a blood-stained ear, a blood-stained thumb, and a blood-stained toe.
The blood-stained EAR

• He is to hear God's word as someone who has already been redeemed, who listens to the Word of God with the recognition that he is not merely hearing some good ideas but is listening to that which can release him and relieve him of pressures and problems -- all because he has already been bought by that blood.

• In other words, we are to hear the Word of God not as mere philosophy but as that which teaches us instructively, deep within our hearts.
The blood-stained *THUMB*

• And then we are to *serve* man.

• That is what is always symbolized by the hand, the thumb, probably the most useful member of the human body.

• We are to serve as blood-stained people, recognizing that we have no righteousness in ourselves, that we are just like everybody else, no better than anyone else,
and we offer our help not with self-righteous judgmentalism, not "holier than thou," not as people who have achieved perfection, but as ones who, like those we help, are very much in need of the constant cleansing of the blood of Jesus Christ.
The blood-stained TOE

- Finally, there is the blood-stained foot, which represents walking through life with a reminder that the cleansing of God's grace is needed every day,
- that we never are perfect in this life,
- that though God has made provision for a life of service and of walking in the Spirit, nevertheless we all have failed to some extent every day in laying hold of it.
- God has understood that and has made provision for it, for cleansing us as we walk.
The Prayer

• Our heavenly Father, thank you for this look at Aaron and his sons.
• We ask you to open our spiritual eyes so that we can see beyond Aaron and his sons to Jesus Christ and his family, the great body of Christ of which we are a part.
• As you are calling us to this priesthood and asking us to be available on these terms in our daily life we ask you, Lord, to teach us how to do this.
• We pray that you will set before us circumstances which will give us opportunity. And may there be not one of us who knows the Lord Jesus who will say, "This doesn't apply to me."

• Help us to expect you to move in this way and to bring to us this week someone in need to whom we can be a priest through the strength and power of the One who has been a great priest to us, our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask in his name, Amen.