

this is the thing that the lord commanded be done

8:1 – 13 Leviticus

~ Our Spiritual Safari finally pulls into a new section of Levitical Scripture in this report; as we leave the offerings and sacrifices, and the priests have now been consecrated. During the Protestant Reformation, one of the principles of Scripture that was recovered by Martin Luther and other reformers was that of the priesthood of the believer. The problem that has arisen of late is: exactly what does it mean to be a priest in the Kingdom of God in our age of grace? Well, we will get a whole lot of light on this matter of consecration as this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God takes this issue up. In our churches and religious circles, the substitute we have manufactured and labeled "consecration" is one hideously cheap imitation of the real thing. No question about that.

So, we see the priests hanging around, and our attention is diverted to them. They are turning away from the brazen altar where God dealt with the sin question once for all; and the priests are all around the brazen laver now washing up. The saved sinner doesn't become perfect because he hasn't sinned in a while, friends. So, now the priests come to the laver where they must wash to stay clean, too - just like everyone else. Today, Christ is girded with the towel of service as He continually cleanses us from all unrighteousness. His blood is what flows today in that brazen laver and He takes us there and cleanses us from our sin.

Leviticus is written to the Levites, as opposed to addressing the entire nation Israel, my beloved. The church today is the priesthood with Christ as our Great High Priest. The individual believer is a priest, we should say. The original intent of Israel was to be a nation of priests. We specifically looked at this in Exodus. God said, "you shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation." The sin they committed with the Golden Calf prevented them from becoming a nation of Priests. After that, God chose one tribe; Aaron, of course, was the first high priest. When Christ returns to establish His

Kingdom, I believe the nation Israel will once again serve as a nation of priests and be God's witness to this world.

Hebrews 8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens ~

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light ~

Revelation 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth ~

Hebrews 13:10 We have an altar – in Heaven today, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle ~

Revelation 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen ~

Hebrews 5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: 2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity ~

I believe that re-enforces our point nicely and spells out exactly what a priest is. Present day priests bear no resemblance to Biblical priest in any form or fashion; it is altogether different today. Priests, Biblically, go to God for man. A priest is the opposite from a prophet. A prophet, of course, goes to man with a message from God. The Lord Jesus Christ is BOTH prophet and priest. We may be both but not at the same time so NOT in the same capacity or function as Christ at all. Christ came out from God to speak to us and He also prayed for those in the world that the Father had given Him. The Holy Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ revealed God to man and now He is our Great High Priest representing us in Heaven! In fact, we're IN Him and if we aren't in Him then we aren't anywhere! We could never get to Heaven on our own.

At this point, a correct understanding of the layout of the tabernacle is so critical to an overall understanding of Leviticus that if it's not absolutely clear in your mind you need to get it to that state. I have Notes and Outlines I can email you if you ask me for them. Upcoming, we have a certain typology in the priesthood that is so extremely rich and meaningful in detail that if we fail to balance each facet properly, we could easily end up with spiritual indigestion. Over-emphasizing one aspect over another can also give the wrong inference and impression of importance through here. The ramifications are manifold at this point in our safari and, naturally, truth also needs to be taught in a true perspective. That balance is very easy to upset in the Bible, by the way! The outer court represents the world - where we are - down here today; where Christ died. But the Holy Place where our Great High Priest has gone into is unseen.

Specifically, and spiritually speaking, when Jesus died and went back to Heaven, He took that horizontal, earthly tabernacle with Him and reestablished it as a perpendicular, spiritual tabernacle; except nothing changed - except location. It was just as if Israel had packed up to move on the wilderness march. Hebrews says, "... seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession." Hebrews also says, "... but Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;" Christ today is in the Holiest of Holies this very moment making Intercession for you and me and that is how we remain saved. It will be that way through eternity! Listen to the writer to the Hebrews again, "... 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; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man."

I wish I were capable of bringing you the fullness of reality in the Lord Jesus Christ through the Word of God as we study Holy Writ in faith, friends. If I honestly felt that I correctly conveyed the meanings of the things we are considering, then I would be happy with this ministry – but I'm not. Every single truth we come to and every great spiritual lesson I attempt to

develop on this safari just somehow ends up milky - and ends up seemingly falling dull and flat; being in desperate need of the Holy Spirit to breathe life into. The realities of our faith are just as difficult to remember on a day-to-day basis as they are to learn in the first place! The Lord Jesus Christ is there for you in reality right now and you can turn to Him for peace and comfort!

If you come the proper way – the way instructed in the tabernacle – you will meet with Jesus face to Face! How wonderful the Word of God is? We're told to come to Him boldly. I'm sure a lot of people who recite that phrase have no earthly idea what it really means. It is a frightful thing to fall into the hands of the True and Living God. Let's find out what this all means today, shall we? Let's commit ourselves to CONSIDERING HIM in a proper, correct and complete Bible study! Hebrews again, "... it was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:" "For us" means, you and me. Christ is available – He has time set aside on His schedule – for us....

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

~ Twelve times the Lord commands Moses, and the last one is the clincher! Consecration is not some benign and banal service like we have today. To burn a candle or throw some chip on a fire as if we're doing something is just plain stupid. Consecration is to be done only the way God says it is to be done. There are people who accept the Bible as the inspired and inerrant Word of God, but claim Leviticus is an invention of the priesthood. Well, this account records that they did as God commanded by the hand of Moses. To say you believe in the late dating of Leviticus and yet you say you believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God – that means you believe inspired lies, friends. Your argument is inconsistent; and if the Bible is not accepted AS IS then you don't believe in God – you believe in something else. Make a note.

Today, our safari observes Moses being commanded to appropriate the articles of service to be used by the priests; the congregation being called to the cleansing ritual; the calling of Aarons sons to serve; the clothing of the high priest; the consecration of the high priest; clothing of the priests; cleansing of the priests and Aaron by the blood of the offering! That may sound like a shopping list but it's so important to understand that which it speaks of. I'm sure this was a very spectacular ritual to watch as God set feeble men aside for His service! The writer to the Hebrews says, "... 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." Christ is so wonderful; He takes men with infirmities. If Christ demanded perfection I would be totally shut out – so would you! Well, Moses just does what he is told to do and brings the people together to see the service....

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.

~ You see, friends, this is the thing which the Lord hath commanded! Moses brings the whole priestly tribe in for a bath! This represents that they are to be holy, pure and clean if they are going to serve the Lord in the tabernacle. The burnt altar is behind us and we need cleansing now. If you think being "saved" justifies you or qualifies you to do any kind of service you're just plain wrong, friends; you will HAVE to be cleansed to be used of God. The washing is the renewing of our minds and the regeneration of the Holy Spirit. That is only performed by God through the Bible. The Holy Spirit must renew us as we move along. Draw near with a true heart and a full

assurance of faith having your hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. I cannot overemphasize it enough: that “pure water” is the Word of God....

Ephesians 5:26 “ That he might sanctify and cleanse you with the washing of water by the word” ~

~ If you want a good clean spiritual bath, I can tell you the only way; it’s right here! The Word of God will clean you up! John says, “.... saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.” The “not all” refers to Judas! Christ is faithful and just to forgive us ours sins when we confess them. It is the Lord Jesus Christ that cleanses us from all our sins and if you want to be used of God then go and confess your sins to Him, my friends. That is your first step and if you haven’t taken it you haven’t started your Spiritual Safari. Many people don’t like this talk – but that’s just too bad! This is the way God commanded; do it or don’t - there’s no other way....

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.

~ We have eight articles of clothing worn by the high priest. Four of them are the same as the garments worn by all the priest; but four are peculiar to him. These peculiar items are called garments of glory and beauty! These separate him from the common priests. The white linen speaks of righteousness and every believer is clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Being correctly clothed is essential to our service; and to wear these clothes it is necessary to have active obedience. We went over all of this in Exodus and I’ll not take up words and space repeating it all here. I would suggest a review of Exodus chapter twenty-eight if you have any questions in your mind about any of this section....

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

~ Urim and Thummim mean "lights and perfections" - and they were placed in the breastplate. We do not know exactly what these items were – we have no idea how they functioned. In Psalm chapter nineteen we have a reference "... the law of the LORD is perfection (Thummim), converting the soul (light / Urim): the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." I believe this is a correct spiritual application. This has something to do with determining the will of God! We need the Word of God and the leading of God to reveal to us the will of God! Whatever the Urim and Thummim means we aren't quite clear; except we know we need it spiritually today....

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.

~ HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD written on the mitre is the distinguishing item on the high priest. You'll have to get very close to him to read the inscription. We can come to God today and we can come as the soiled saints we are, but we must understand God is HOLY! God will not tolerate sin in our lives! If you are going to accept Him as your Savior, you will have to turn from your sins. If you are to serve Him today the sin in our lives MUST be dealt with!

Moses has sprinkled the blood on the tabernacle and now it is anointed with oil. This means we have cleansed articles redeemed by blood! The oil speaks of the cleansing of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is now free to work and accept service in the tabernacle. Today we worship in spirit and in truth!

We have the tabernacle set up and sanctified and ready for use. Notice the oil was **POURED** – not sprinkled – on Aaron. The Psalmist tells us the oil ran down Aaron’s beard. That means Aaron was covered with oil! The Spirit of God was poured on Christ at His baptism, and He distinctly stated that it was given to Him without measure! The oil was poured on the high priest before the blood was applied to the common priests, also. Our High Priest – the Lord Jesus Christ – needs no offering for sins. We do ~
