

AARON AND CHRIST

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

LESSON 84 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: '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" (Hebrews 7:25).

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 broidered 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:

I Aaron and His Sons Consecrated to the Priest's Office

1 The LORD commands holy garments to be made, typifying the spiritual qualifications of the priests, Exodus 28:1-5;

Revelation 19:8 (KJV)

⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

2 The sin offering typifies the sanctifying of Aaron and his sons for the priesthood, Leviticus 8:1-17;

2 Chronicles 5:11 (KJV)

¹¹ And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place: (for all the priests *that were* present were sanctified, *and did not then* wait by course:

Hebrews 13:11-13 (KJV)

¹¹ For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.

¹² Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

¹³ Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

3 The burnt offering typifies their being offered unto the Lord as *a* sweet savor, Leviticus 8:18-21;

Exodus 29:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ And thou shalt burn the whole ram upon the altar: *it is* a burnt offering unto the LORD: *it is* a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

4 The ram of consecration and their seven days in the Tabernacle typify their perfect consecration for service, Leviticus 8:22-38; Hebrews 7:28

II Aaron and His Sons' Entrance upon Their Duties as Priests

1 Aaron the high priest is commanded to make offerings for himself and offerings for the people, as an atonement, Leviticus 9:6, 7; Hebrews 7:26, 27

2 The offerings which he makes, as commanded, are a morning sacrifice, Leviticus 9:8-21 (verse 17); Hebrews 7:27

Exodus 29:38-39 (KJV)

³⁸ Now this *is that* which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually.

³⁹ The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even:

3 Aaron blesses the people; the LORD appears; the fire falls; and the people shout, Leviticus 9:6, 22-24

III Aaron's Priesthood Compared with Christ's Priesthood

1 Perfection came not by the Aaronic priesthood, but by a Priest after the order of Melchisedec, Hebrews 7:11;

Psalms 110:4 (KJV)

⁴ The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

2 A new order of priesthood arises through Christ who sprang from the tribe of Judah, Hebrews 7:12-14;

Romans 1:3-4 (KJV)

³ Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

⁴ And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

3 This Priest was made, not after a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life, Hebrews 7:15-17, 23, 24, 1-3

Hebrews 7:1-3 (KJV)

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

¹ For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

² To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

³ Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

4 The Law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did, Hebrews 7:18. 19, 25;

Romans 8:3-4 (KJV)

³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5 The new priesthood is confirmed by an oath on the part of God Himself, Hebrews 7:20-22;

Psalms 110:4 (KJV)

⁴ The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

NOTES:

Preparation of the Priests

The detailed instructions which were given Moses for the preparation of Aaron and his sons for the priesthood indicate the responsible office which the priests, who were ordained of God, filled. It was the duty of the priests to appear before God in behalf of the Children of Israel. The garments they wore were typical of the spiritual qualifications which the priests must possess in order to fill this office. The sacrifices and offerings which they presented at the brazen altar were typical of the Blood which must be shed and of the atonement which must be made for themselves and for the people; their offerings symbolized their justification, their sanctification, and their consecration to the Lord, for all of which God made ample provision even under the Law. While these things in themselves had no power to make the corners thereto perfect (**Hebrews 10:1 (KJV)** ¹ For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect). yet, because of what they foreshadowed, the entire tabernacle service was not only a perfect type but also a perfect plan for Israel's redemption and their walk before the LORD in holiness and righteousness all the days of their lives, that they might be a peculiar treasure unto Him, a kingdom of priests and an holy nation (**Exodus 19:5-6 (KJV)** ⁵ Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: ⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel).

Aaron Ordained the High Priest

Aaron himself was ordained of God to be the high priest; and a part of the apparel which he wore was the breastplate of judgment, a most beautiful work of gold, of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine twined linen, set with twelve precious stones, which were engraved with the names of the twelve tribes. And when Aaron went in before the LORD, he bore these names upon his shoulders (**Exodus 28:12 (KJV)** ¹² And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD upon his two shoulders for a memorial). But more was required of Aaron than just to wear this symbol. It is written, "And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the

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.

children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually" (Exodus 28:30).

The Failure of the Priests and the People

But many of the priests fell far short of their high calling, and the people miserably failed of what might have been theirs even under the Law. They were very diligent in observing outwardly all that was written in the law of Moses, but they were not at all concerned about truth in the inward parts (**Psalm 51:6 (KJV)** ⁶ Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom) and their religion became nothing but an empty form. And it was for this superficial form of worship that the LORD rebuked them by the mouth of the Prophet Isaiah, "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies. I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear your hands are full of blood" (Isaiah 1:11-15). The LORD in those days, even as in these days, was looking for something more than a pretended piety and mere forms. He commanded: "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes" (Isaiah 1:16).

The institution of the priests' service, the beautifully embroidered garments, the sacrifices offered upon the altar, the incense burning upon the golden altar, the Holiest of All behind the veil where went the high priest but once a year with the blood of the slain bullock in behalf of himself and the blood of a goat in behalf of the people — all these were commanded in the law of Moses; but they were only types and shadows of good things to come. And when the Children of Israel lost the vision of Him to whom the types and shadows pointed, they lost everything. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18).

The Priesthood of Christ

As everything which pertained to the tabernacle service pointed to Christ, so also the prophets pointed to Him. Moses was prophesying of Christ as the coming Prophet when he said to the Children of Israel, "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken" (Deuteronomy 18: 15) To Him as King upon the throne of David, the Prophet Jeremiah was pointing when he wrote, "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth" (Jeremiah 23:5). The Psalmist David also wrote of Him as a High Priest of entirely a different order: "The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek" (Psalm 110:4). Thus it was prophesied that Jesus should come as Prophet, Priest, and King. During His ministry of three and a half years, in which He taught the people, He was fulfilling His office as Prophet. Upon His ascension and entry into a Tabernacle not made with hands, He became the great High Priest, where He is now interceding in our behalf. And when He returns to judge the nations, "the LORD shall be king over all the earth" (Zechariah 14:9).

Leviticus 9:7-24 (KJV)

⁷ And Moses said unto Aaron, Go unto the altar, and offer thy sin offering, and thy burnt offering, and make an atonement for thyself, and for the people: and offer the offering of the people, and make an atonement for them; as the LORD commanded.

⁸ Aaron therefore went unto the altar, and slew the calf of the sin offering, which *was* for himself.

⁹ And the sons of Aaron brought the blood unto him: and he dipped his finger in the blood, and put *it* upon the horns of the altar, and poured out the blood at the bottom of the altar:

¹⁰ But the fat, and the kidneys, and the caul above the liver of the sin offering, he burnt upon the altar; as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹¹ And the flesh and the hide he burnt with fire without the camp.

¹² And he slew the burnt offering; and Aaron's sons presented unto him the blood, which he sprinkled round about upon the altar.

¹³ And they presented the burnt offering unto him, with the pieces thereof, and the head: and he burnt *them* upon the altar.

¹⁴ And he did wash the inwards and the legs, and burnt *them* upon the burnt offering on the altar.

¹⁵ And he brought the people's offering, and took the goat, which *was* the sin offering for the people, and slew it, and offered it for sin, as the first.

¹⁶ And he brought the burnt offering, and offered it according to the manner.

¹⁷ And he brought the meat offering, and took an handful thereof, and burnt *it* upon the altar, beside the burnt sacrifice of the morning.

¹⁸ He slew also the bullock and the ram *for* a sacrifice of peace offerings, which *was* for the people: and Aaron's sons presented unto him the blood, which he sprinkled upon the altar round about,

¹⁹ And the fat of the bullock and of the ram, the rump, and that which covereth *the inwards*, and the kidneys, and the caul *above* the liver:

²⁰ And they put the fat upon the breasts, and he burnt the fat upon the altar:

²¹ And the breasts and the right shoulder Aaron waved *for* a wave offering before the LORD; as Moses commanded.

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

A Priest After the Order of Melchisedec

The Apostle Paul has expounded for us the significance of Christ's appointment as High Priest "after the order of Melchisedec" (Hebrews 7: 1-28). Melchisedec, priest of the most high God having received tithes from Abraham, was therefore of a higher order than even the father of faith, and higher also than the Levitical priesthood which the descendants of Abraham filled. "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?" (Hebrews 7:11). The Aaronic priesthood was not perfect. Aaron and his descendants were men subject to death, and only shadows of the great High Priest "who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life" (Hebrews 7:16). With the coming in of the New Covenant and the passing away of the Old Covenant (**Hebrews 8:13 (KJV)** ¹³ In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old *is* ready to vanish away), our great High Priest has also superseded the entire Aaronic order, which, too, has passed away with the types and shadows. There is therefore no longer a place in any church for a priesthood after the order of mortal men. The churches which today are maintaining a priesthood after some carnal commandment are doing so in open violation of the plain teaching of the inspired Word of God. Christ is our High Priest, who "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; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Hebrews 9:11, 12). "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" (Hebrews 7:25).

Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest, with the blood of a goat, went into the Holiest of All in behalf of the people, who stood without, worshiping their God with bowed heads, while awaiting the high priest's return. And so our High Priest has entered once for all into the Holy of Holies, not with the blood of bulls or goats, but with His own precious Blood, to intercede for us; while we, who are His true disciples, are waiting without, with joyful expectation of His soon return. He is just about to leave His mediatorial throne and come back to earth to catch away His waiting Bride.

QUESTIONS.

- 1 For what purpose were the priests of the Old Testament ordained?
- 2 What were their duties in connection with the tabernacle service?
- 3 Was the slaying of a bullock for Aaron's sanctification only a ceremony. or was he sanctified?
- 4 Why did God reject the offering of sacrifices and the holding of meetings in Isaiah's time? (Isaiah 1:11-15).
- 5 What three offices was Christ ordained to fill? Explain how they are filled.
- 6 In what manner and when did He enter upon the office of High Priest?
- 7 In what way is Christ's priesthood different from Aaron's?
- 8 When Christ leaves His mediatorial throne what office will He assume?

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 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.