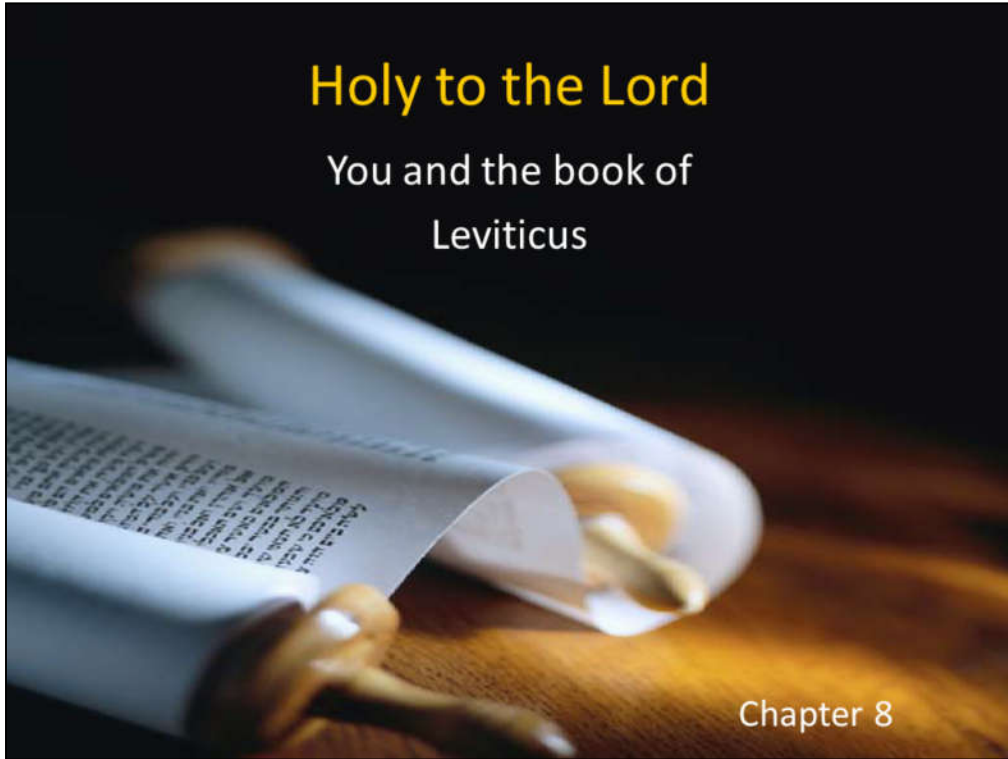


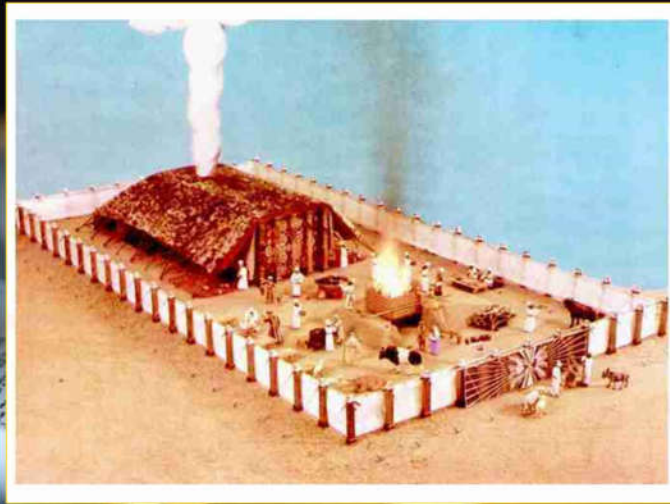
Holy to the Lord

You and the book of
Leviticus



Chapter 8

Lev 8:1-4



Read Lev 8:1-4 Where did this take place? (At the entrance to the tent of meeting.)

How is the congregation involved? (they witness.) Why? (so they know who has been set aside for these tasks)

Lev 8:5-9



What is the first thing Moses did? (Washed Aaron and his sons.) Why? Did they stink? (Cleansed them—baptized them—for their holy duties.)

Then what did Moses do? (Dressed Aaron.) Can't Aaron dress himself?

Why does Aaron play a passive role? (Ordination is something that is conferred upon you, not something you do.)

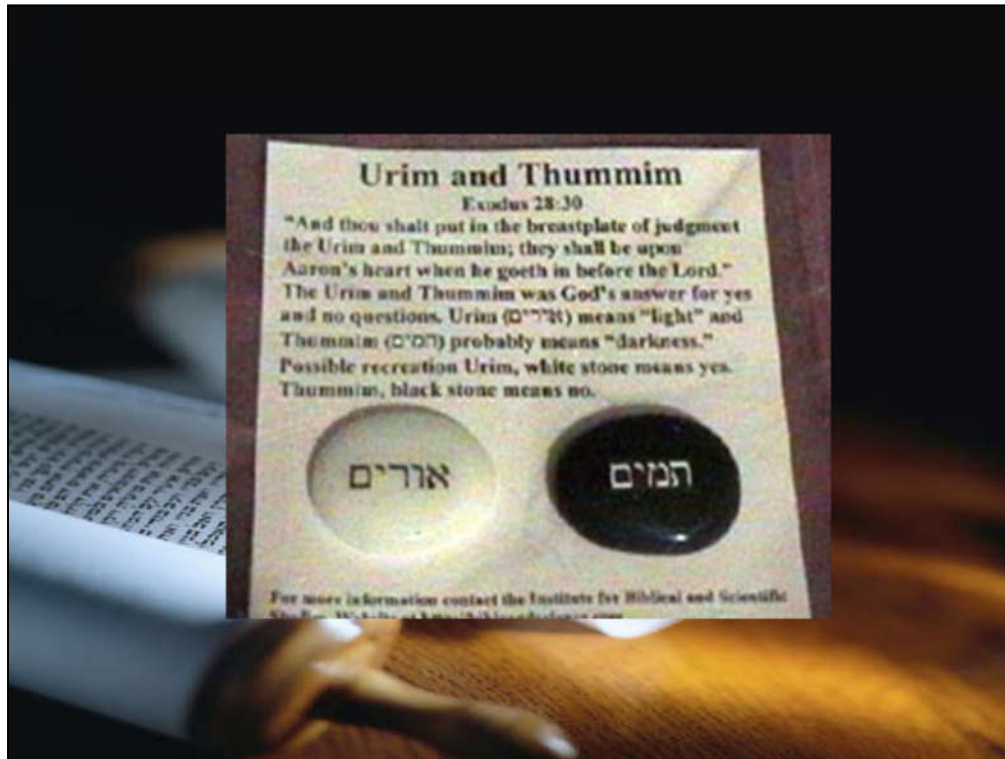
Why is Moses doing the ordination? After all, he is not a priest. (ordinarily other priest would ordain, but at this point there are no priests. Aaron and his sons are the first ones. Therefore since Moses has been God spokesman, it makes sense that he does the ordaining this one initial time.)



Moses was to dress the High Priest in a blue woollen robe, an ephod like an apron that went over the robe, a breastplate with 12 precious stones, and a turban with a golden headpiece. Each of these items held meaning and symbolism.



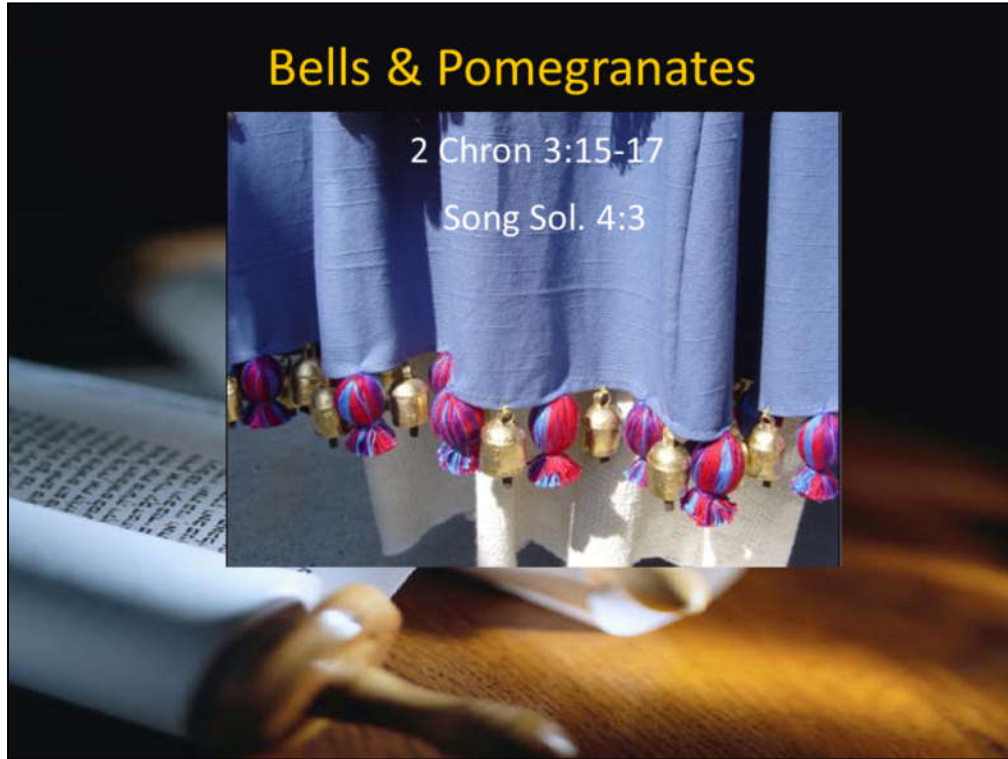
The ephod was an apron like garment which held the breastplate. It was made of gold thread, interwoven with fine linen and with woollen thread of blue, purple, and scarlet thread.



The ephod also contained a pocket for the Urim and Thummim, which were lots that were cast to get an answer from God. Likely one was dark and the other light, or each had a dark and a light side (urim means "light" in Hebrew). Possibly white meant yes and black meant no, or two white sides up meant yes, two black sides meant no and one white and one black meant God would not give an answer.

If you are interested you can buy your own Urim and Thummim online for \$4.99 US plus \$2.00 shipping and handling.

Bells & Pomegranates



Pomegranates are often associated with fertility. Why? (So many seeds.)

But it seems in the Bible that they also convey a sense of holiness. They not only adorn the High Priest but also later the temple (2 Chronicles)

In the Song of Solomon the groom uses them to describe his bride (which we understand to be the church, the bride of Christ)

Bells would invoke the sense of hearing during the various rituals that took place in the temple. (Much like we associate the jingle sound of bells with Santa or Christmas)

Breastplate



The breastplate had 12 different precious stones embedded into it. Each stone represented one of the 12 tribes of Israel.

What is the symbolism here? (they people are precious in God's eyes)

Why does the High Priest wear it over his chest? (He is to keep the people of God close to his heart.)

This is similar to when a pastor puts on a pectoral cross that has been given to him or passed on from another pastor. He thinks about who it came from as he is vesting.

Turban



The turban was made of fine linen and wrapped around the head. It was attached to the head with a gold band that had the phrase "Holy to the Lord" on it. He is declared to be holy by God and is therefore worthy of carrying out the holy sacrifices on behalf of the people.

When you combine the headpiece with the breast piece, you get a complete picture of the role of the high priest. He is "clothed" with God's holiness on his head and he "bears" the whole nation of Israel on His heart.

Lev. 8:10-13



Why does Moses anoint the tabernacle artefacts as well as Aaron? (They are also new and need to be consecrated for use.)

Priests



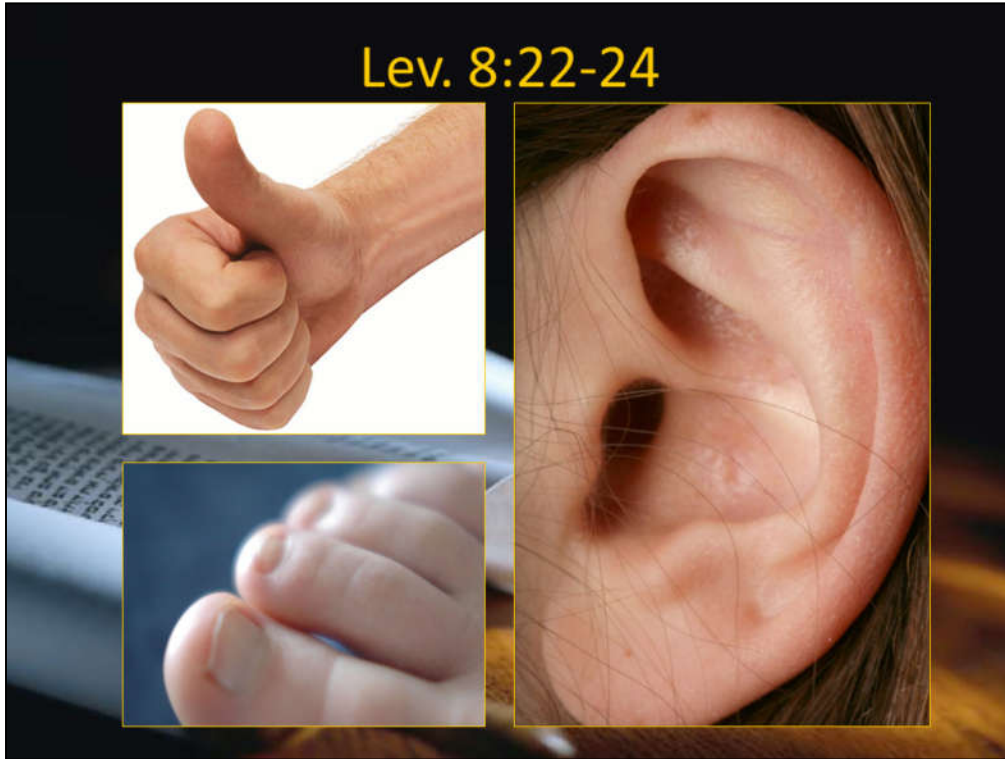
As mentioned in the last session, the priests had a fine linen robe tied with an embroidered sash, and a linen skullcap on their head.

Lev. 8:14-18



Why do the priests place their hands on the head of each of the sacrifice. (To claim it. It takes their place.)

Lev. 8:22-24

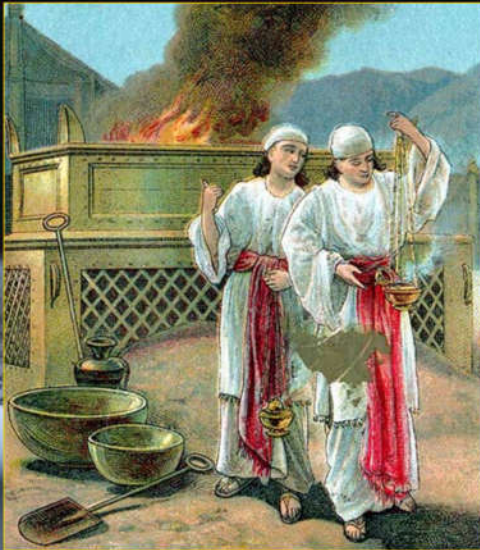


What does Moses do with the blood here? (Places it on the right earlobe, thumb and toe of Aaron and the priests.)

Why? (The ear was purified to hear and obey the Word of God. The thumb was purified to handle the holy things of God. The big toe was purified to walk on holy ground.)

Why only purify three body parts? (For the same reason we only baptize a baby's head. The power is in God's word, not in the physical element like water or blood.)

Lev. 8:30-36



Why sprinkle the garments. (To consecrate them as well.)

How long are they to stay in the entrance to the tent of meeting? (7 days. This is a holy number. Represents God)

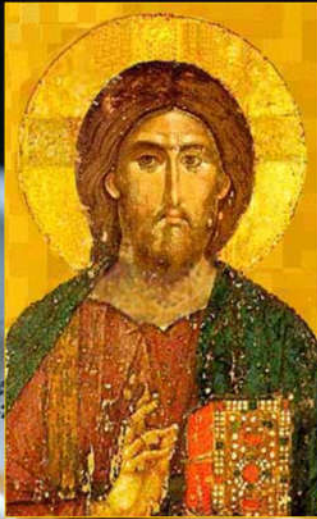
What about today?

2 Tim 1:6



Are there any similarities between what we have read about in Leviticus and our rite of ordination? (Vestments; stole; the new clergy is ordained by other “priests;” sometimes the service is long—not 7 days long, but long; it is done in front of the congregation who witnesses it; there is often a meal that follows;

Our High Priest



Heb 2:17

Heb 3:1-2

Heb 4:14-16

Each of these texts are comforting and give us a picture of how we benefit by having such a great High Priest. Take time to discuss each one.

*Note: this is just a small sample of the use of “high priest” in the book of Hebrews.

What about you?



The interesting thing about the term “priest” is that it doesn’t just apply to clergy in the new testament.

Read 1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

How are you like a priest? (reflect the holiness of God, bring God to others - represent Him)

Rev 7 speaks of a vesting in white robes of the saints of God. Read Rev. 7:9, 13-14 “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ...Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” [14] I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

-The OT priest robes were sprinkled with holy blood? What happens to these robes? (*washed* in the blood)

Where do we get these robes? Read Galatians 3:27 “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

How do we visualize this?



How do we visualize this? (Often children are outfitted in a baptismal gown which represents being clothed in Christ.)

Ideally this gown should be placed on them right after they are baptized. Why?

How do we visualize this?



How does the use of the funeral pall fit in with this? (A reminder that we are covered (clothed) in the grace of Christ in our baptism).

Next week:



Good priest,
Bad priest.

