

## The Ordination of the Priests

### Leviticus 8.1-13

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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#### Introduction:

- “According to Peter, all Christians belong to the priesthood. In the New Testament, the church does not *have* a priesthood—it *is* a priesthood. ... ministry is not only the right and privilege of every New Testament believer, it is a natural result of being a Christian. The New Testament church could not even imagine a Christian who was not involved in ministry. It was inherent in the theology of the first Christians. It was their right and privilege because of Christ’s death for them.”<sup>1</sup>

**Main Points:** We can serve God with confidence because we are...

#### 1. Covered

- The priests were to wear special clothes
- Clothing metaphors are frequently used therefore to describe these Christian virtues. “Put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation” (1 Thess. 5:8). “Put on then ... compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience” (Col. 3:12). The armor of God (Ephesians 6)

#### 2. Commissioned

- Anointing: washing /dressing/ anointing -- In further obedience to God’s commands (Exod. 40:9-11), Moses carries out various ceremonies with the special oil, anointing various items in the tabernacle and Aaron himself. We see this in the life of Christ. “*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.*” (Isaiah 61.1-2); 2Corinthians 1.21ff

#### 3. Connected

- Sacrifices: Everything was now in place to offer the ordination ceremony’s three main sacrifices: *the purification offering* (vv. 14-17), *the burnt offering* (vv. 18-21) and *the ordination offering* (vv. 22-29).<sup>2</sup>
- The blood was applied to altar, but it was also applied to the right ear, right thumb, and right toe of the inaugural priests. “The priest must have consecrated ears ever to listen to God’s holy voice; consecrated hands at all times to do holy deeds; and consecrated feet to walk evermore in holy ways.”<sup>3</sup>

#### Conclusion

We can serve God with confidence knowing that we are...

Covered with the character of Christ, “for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” (Gal.3.27)

Chosen by God to represent God to the world -- <sup>10</sup>For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph. 2.10)

Connected and consecrated to God and divine service by the blood of Jesus, “who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.” (Titus 2.14)

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<sup>2</sup> Sklar, J. (2013). *Leviticus: An Introduction and Commentary*. (D. G. Firth, Ed.) (Vol. 3, p. 145). Nottingham, England: Inter-Varsity Press.

<sup>3</sup> Wenham, G. J. (1979). *The Book of Leviticus* (p. 143). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. – cites A. Dillmann, *Exodus und Leviticus*<sup>2</sup> (Kurzgefasstes exegetisches Handbuch zum AT) (Leipzig: Hirzel, 1880). p. 465.

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<sup>1</sup> Gane, R. (2004). *Leviticus, Numbers* (pp. 171–172). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.