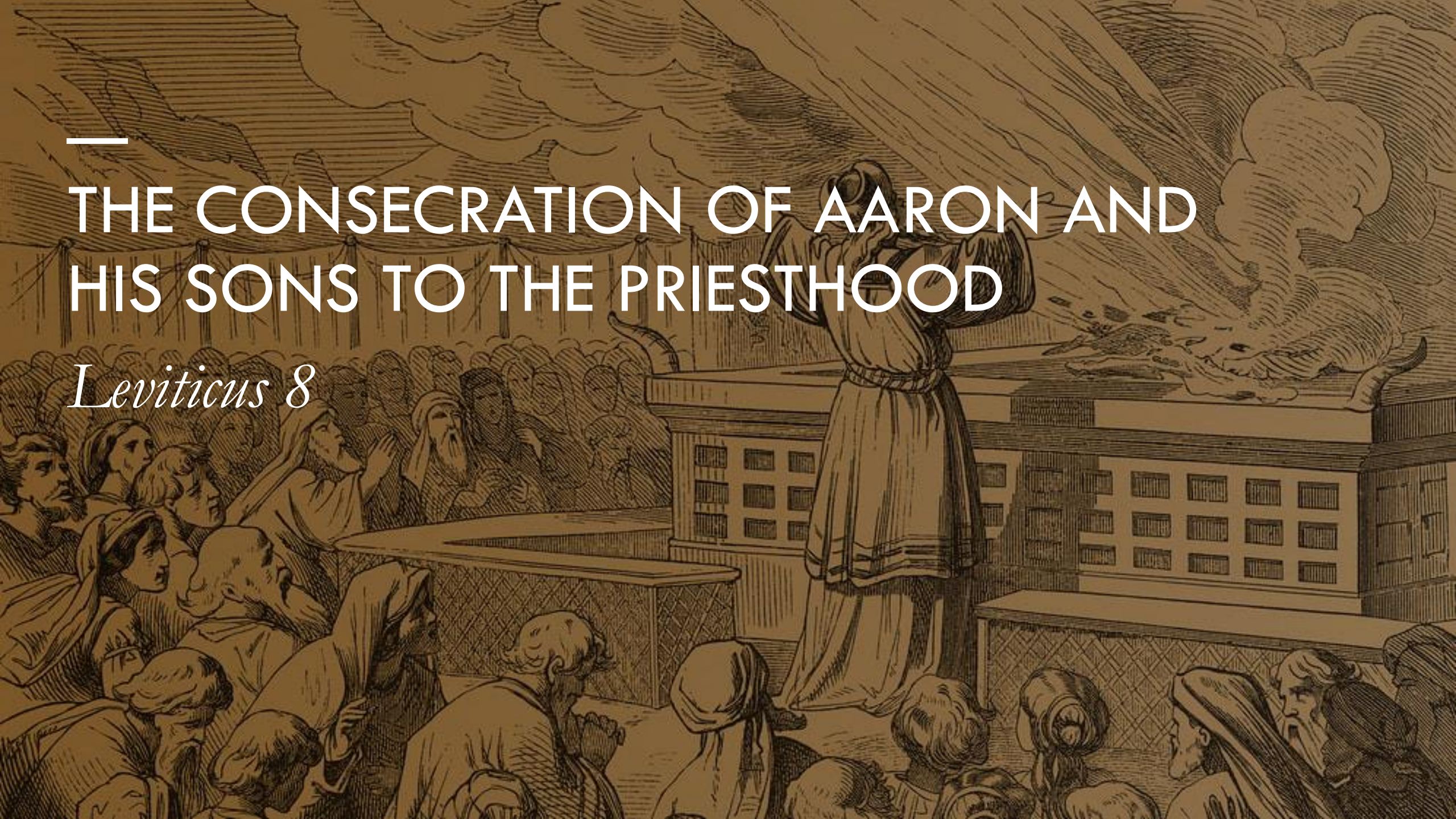


THE CONSECRATION OF AARON AND HIS SONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Leviticus 8



SERMON THEME FOR LEVITICUS 8

God orchestrates through Moses—by way of sacrifice—the consecration of Aaron and his sons to the priestly ministry, thus setting in motion the sacrificial system.

“In this chapter, the purpose of the ordination ceremony is to set Aaron and his sons apart as ritually holy priests, which is also done through a series of rites directly related to this purpose: giving them special clothing to set them apart as ritually distinct, having them undergo purification rites that move them into a higher level of ritual purity.”

JAY SKLAR, COMMENTARY ON LEVITICUS

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LEVITICUS 8

I. God Initiates the Consecration of the Priesthood (v. 1–5)

MAJOR OUTLINE FOR LEVITICUS

- I. The Institution of the Sacrificial System (1–7)
- II. The Ordination of the Priesthood (8–10)
- III. The Prescriptions for Cleanness/Purity (11–15)
- IV. The Instructions for the Day of Atonement (16)
- V. The Commands for Holy Living (17–27)

“If coming into the presence of the Lord calls for sanctification, then going into his presence on behalf of others requires a special sanctity and a distinct calling.”

ALLEN ROSS, COMMENTARY ON LEVITICUS

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LEVITICUS 8

- I. God Initiates the Consecration of the Priesthood (v. 1–5)
 - A. To gather Aaron and his sons and the proper supplies (1–2)
 - B. To assemble the nation of Israel in front of the tabernacle (3–5)

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- I. God Initiates the Consecration of the Priesthood (v. 1–5)
- II. Moses Anoints the Tabernacle & Clothes the Priests (v. 6–13)
 - A. Moses washes Aaron and his sons (6)
 - B. Moses clothes Aaron and his sons (7–9, 13)

“These beautiful vestments drew attention to the supreme dignity and holiness of the high-priestly office. He was the mediator between God and man. He secured atonement for the nation’s sin, and his costly garments symbolized the value of his ministry to the nation.”

GORDON WENHAM, COMMENTARY ON LEVITICUS

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 - B. Moses clothes Aaron and his sons (7–9, 13)
 - C. Moses anoints the tabernacle and Aaron (10–12)

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LEVITICUS 8

- I. God Initiates the Consecration of the Priesthood (v. 1–5)
- II. Moses Anoints the Tabernacle & Clothes the Priests (v. 6–13)
- III. Moses Sacrifices to the Lord on Behalf of the Priests (v. 14–29)
 - A. Sacrifice #1—a bull for the purification offering (14–17)
 - B. Sacrifice #2—a ram for the ascension offering (18–21)

“This does not mean that Israelites actually thought he ‘inhaled’ it or the like or that it was food for him as if he actually could get hungry. Rather it was a way of describing the fact that the rising smoke of the sacrifice as it burned up on the altar wafted up into the sky and therefore symbolically was given to God and to no one else ‘by fire.’”

DOUGLAS STUART, COMMENTARY ON LEVITICUS

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 - C. Sacrifice #3—a ram for the ordination (22–29)

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- III. Moses Sacrifices to the Lord on Behalf of the Priests (v. 14–29)
- IV. Moses Sprinkles Oil and Blood on the Priests (v. 30)
- V. Aaron and His Sons Eat the Sacrificial Meal (v. 31–36)

“By having the ordination ceremony take place before all the Israelites (v. 3), the Lord made clear to them that they needed ritually holy people to act as their representatives before him. And by providing such mediators, the Lord assured the Israelites that he desired them to enter his presence and enjoy covenant fellowship with him. This is the Lord’s heart for his entire creation, for ‘he desires all people to be saved’ and has now provided the ultimate mediator—Jesus Christ, the righteous one—to save us and bring us into covenant fellowship with himself.”

JAY SKLAR, COMMENTARY ON LEVITICUS

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