

- Remember that in Exodus 29 God had given very specific instructions about the priesthood. **Exodus 29:10-19** provides a sampling of how specific God was.
- This passage specifically calls out “Aaron and his sons” as the first priests. In fact, that exact phrase is used seven times in the chapter. (**Exodus 29**)
- God did this so that they would remember Him, but only Holy people would be allowed to touch the altar. (**Exodus 29:37-46**).
- What is an ephod? probably about 3 1/2 pounds or about 1.6 kilograms
- What is a quarter of a hin? probably about 1 quart or about 1 liter
- By the way, there were very strict penalties for non-Holy people touching the altar. (**Numbers 4:15**).
- Moses was the leader of the people, and he made sure that they were going to follow through with what God commanded. Notice that this was done publicly so everyone could see (**Leviticus 8: 1-5**). What isn't clear until the next chapter is that Moses is doing all this in order to confirm that Aaron and his sons were indeed priests. We know that because in the next chapter this whole process will start again, except it will be Aaron leading it and not Moses. In this way we understand that Leviticus 8 is about confirming that Aaron and his sons are in fact priests.
- Notice that the priests were washed with water (**Leviticus 8:6**). Those who draw near to God must be washed with pure water (**Hebrews 10:22**). We are washed today by the pure waters of baptism. That is how we draw close to God like the priests used to. Just like we no longer need to do an animal sacrifice each year, we no longer need to be baptized or washed once a year with pure waters either.
- He followed the specifics, too because he knew that was important. Just as we read a little bit of the specifics from **Exodus 29:10-19**, we read that he followed up on those. (**Leviticus 8: 14-21**).
- Everything was done exactly according to God's instruction. (**Leviticus 8:36**)
- Remember, we talked last week about how sacrifices on the altar are done away with by Christ's sacrifice. This is because God knew everyone sins, because we're human. God knew we needed something better than a yearly sacrifice for our sins. That is why instead of the blood of bulls and goats under the old law, the blood of Christ now redeems us under a new law. (**Romans 3:25-26**).
- In the next chapter the whole process starts all over with Aaron leading this time. Moses was present, but we don't read about him actively participating this time. Moses and Aaron did come out of the temple to see the people, and when they did, God took some specific actions to show that He was pleased. He showed the people his glory, and he consumed the offerings on the altar with fire (**Leviticus 9: 23-24**).
- We just read about how God participated with fire directly in sacrifices when they did it right, and then killed them when they did it wrong: (**Leviticus 10:1-3**). They even had to get replacements (**Leviticus 10:4**).
- Does God still consume people by fire? Not during this life, but in the afterlife that is what will happen to the people who disobey God's law. (**Matthew 25: 31-41**)
- Under the new covenant Christ established the stakes are higher, but they are different. The wages of sin are still death but through Christ's sacrifice we can have eternal life instead (**Romans 6:23**)

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Leviticus 8-10

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Questions:

1. Why does Moses keep referring to “Aaron and his sons?”
2. Who is allowed to touch the altar?
3. How were priests to cleanse themselves under the old law? What do we do to cleanse ourselves under the new law?
4. What is done according to God’s instruction?
5. Why were sacrifices on the altar done away with? What do we use instead today?
6. After Moses performed the intricate priestly rituals, who followed the pattern and did it the second time around?
7. What was the penalty for priests if they got the ritual wrong? Does God still do this to people today? What happens to us if we get it wrong?

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