

Leviticus 6:8-13
The Priests and the Burnt Offering: Holy Fire and Holy Cloths
October 21, 2012
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

- A. Children's Sermon: "Our God is a consuming fire"
 - 1. God's Fire Purifies Us (Unblemished offering)
Or...
 - 2. God's Fire Destroys Us (Offering ourselves)

- B. The Law of the Burnt Offering
 - 1. The Continually Burning of God's Holy Presence

Leviticus 9:24

²⁴ And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

Isaiah 4:3-6

³ And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, ⁴ when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by **a spirit of burning**. ⁵ Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy. ⁶ There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

Zechariah 13:7-9

⁷ "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the Lord of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be

scattered; (Matthew 26:31) I will turn my hand against the little ones. ⁸ In the whole land, declares the Lord, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and *one third shall be left alive*. ⁹ And *I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested.* They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘They are my people’; and they will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’”

- a. Jesus is Our Burnt Offering
- b. We Offer Ourselves as “Living Sacrifices”

2. To Help Others Draw Near to the Fire of God’s Holy Presence the Priests had to Where the Cloths God Provided

Hebrews 12:18–29

¹⁸ For *you have not come to what may be touched*, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest...

²² *But you have come to Mount Zion* and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...

²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus *let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe*, ²⁹ **for our God is a consuming fire.**

Acts 2:2–4a

² And suddenly there came from heaven *a sound like a mighty rushing wind*, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And *divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them*. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...

II. Drawing Near to the Fire of God’s Presence

A. Aaron & His Sons are Chosen

Exodus 19:6

⁶ and you shall be to me a *kingdom of priests* and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

B. Cloths Represent Righteousness

1. Physical Purity

“priests had to wear pure linen garments when they were in the sacred precincts. Ezekiel 44:18 indicates that the reason for this was connected to the purity laws: ‘They must not wear anything that makes them perspire.’”¹

2. Sexual Purity

Leviticus 6:10a

¹⁰ And the priest shall put on his linen garment and put his linen *undergarment* on his body...

3. Righteousness

Zechariah 3:1–5a

¹ Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ² And the Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! *The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem* rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?” ³ Now Joshua was standing before the angel, *clothed with filthy garments*. ⁴ And the angel said to those who were standing before him, “*Remove the filthy garments from him.*” And to him he said, “***Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.***” ⁵ And I said, “***Let them put a clean turban on his head.***” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. ...

“The meaning behind this symbolism is that to function at the altar the priests had to be holy. No one was permitted to live in defilement of God’s holiness while helping others come near to God.”²

III. Application: We are a Royal Priesthood!

¹ Ross, A. P. (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (158). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

² Ross, A. P. (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (159). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

1 Peter 2:5, 9–12

⁵ you yourselves like *living stones* are being built up as a *spiritual house*, to be a *holy priesthood*, to offer *spiritual sacrifices* acceptable to God **through Jesus Christ**. ...

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*. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Key Idea

To help others draw near to God's holy presence we need God's holy cloths.