Refreshed IN THE WORD
For thy word hath quickened me
PSALM 119:50

Torah Studies

Connecting the Torah and Jesus

STUDY 9

Set Apart to Serve God

Study Nine · Leviticus 8

Walk through Leviticus 8 one passage at a time. Discover how God prepared the priests, how Jesus brings us near, and how we can serve Him with our whole lives.

For personal reading and study with friends

King James Version · Complete Scripture passages

Read and share online

Read one section at a time. Take turns reading the verses aloud, discuss the questions, and choose one practical response. Every passage referenced in the teaching is included in full.

Let’s begin together

Let’s pray: Father, open our hearts to Your Word. Help us understand how You prepared Aaron and his sons to serve, and how Jesus brings us near to You. Teach us to listen, obey, and serve with love. In Jesus’ name, amen.

In Study 8, we learned about gratitude, worship, and a shared table. Leviticus 8 now takes us to the ceremony that prepared Aaron and his sons for their work as priests. Instead of collecting all the passages at the beginning, we will read each complete passage as we reach it in the teaching.

Torah means instruction. These events belonged to God's covenant with Israel, a relationship with promises and responsibilities. "Consecration" means being set apart for God's service. We will first understand what happened in Israel, then follow the New Testament's connections to Jesus and our lives.

Our main truth: God brings us near through Jesus and calls us to serve Him with our whole lives.

1. Serving God begins with listening to Him

Leviticus 8:1-5

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, and the anointing oil, and a bullock for the sin offering, and two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread;

3 And gather thou all the congregation together unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

4 And Moses did as the LORD commanded him; and the assembly was gathered together unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

5 And Moses said unto the congregation, This is the thing which the LORD commanded to be done.

God told Moses to gather Aaron, his sons, and the whole community at the tabernacle. The tabernacle was Israel’s sacred tent for worship. This ceremony happened in front of the people. Moses made it clear that he was following the Lord’s command.

Aaron did not appoint himself to this work. God called him and gave instructions for his service. The ceremony was about belonging to God and accepting a responsibility toward His people.

Hebrews 5:1-4

1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

A high priest represented the people before God. Hebrews reminds us that Aaron was called by God. It also says a priest needed compassion because he understood human weakness. Serving people required humility and care.

We can begin with a simple response: listen before rushing to lead. Learn what God says, accept wise correction, and notice the needs of others. A willing heart matters more than trying to look important.

2. God prepared the priests for their work

Leviticus 8:6-9

6 And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water.

7 And he put upon him the coat, and girded him with the girdle, and clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod upon him, and he girded him with the curious girdle of the ephod, and bound it unto him therewith.

8 And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim.

9 And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, even upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate, the holy crown; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Moses washed Aaron and his sons with water. Then he dressed Aaron in the clothing God had appointed. These actions were part of setting the priests apart for their work. They did not prepare themselves by inventing their own ceremony.

Some words may be unfamiliar. The “ephod” was a priestly garment. The “breastplate” was worn on the chest, and the “mitre” was a head covering. The Urim and Thummim were placed in the breastplate; this chapter does not describe what they looked like. The clear point is that Moses followed God’s instructions.

Leviticus 8:10-13

10 And Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was therein, and sanctified them.

11 And he sprinkled thereof upon the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all his vessels, both the laver and his foot, to sanctify them.

12 And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron’s head, and anointed him, to sanctify him.

13 And Moses brought Aaron’s sons, and put coats upon them, and girded them with girdles, and put bonnets upon them; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Moses used anointing oil to set apart the tabernacle, its furnishings, and Aaron. To “anoint” means to apply oil. To “sanctify” means to set apart for God. The “laver” was a washing basin. God was preparing both the place of worship and the people who would serve there.

Being set apart means belonging to God for His purposes. For us, that calls for a humble, teachable attitude. We can ask, “Lord, what do I need to learn before I take the next step?” Preparation is part of serving.

3. The priests needed cleansing too

Leviticus 8:14-17

14 And he brought the bullock for the sin offering: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the bullock for the sin offering.

15 And he slew it; and Moses took the blood, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about with his finger, and purified the altar, and poured the blood at the bottom of the altar, and sanctified it, to make reconciliation upon it.

16 And he took all the fat that was upon the inwards, and the caul above the liver, and the two kidneys, and their fat, and Moses burned it upon the altar.

17 But the bullock, and his hide, his flesh, and his dung, he burnt with fire without the camp; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Aaron and his sons placed their hands on the bull brought for the sin offering. Moses used its blood to purify the altar. The altar's "horns" were its projecting corners. Some parts were burned on the altar, and the rest of the bull was burned outside the camp.

The priests were not people who had no need of forgiveness. They needed God's provision for dealing with sin, just as the people they served did. A position of responsibility did not remove their need for His mercy.

Hebrews 7:26-28

26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

28 For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

Here we see an important difference. Jesus is holy and without sin. He did not need to offer a sacrifice for sins of His own. He offered Himself for us once. His priesthood and sacrifice give us a lasting reason to trust Him.

“Harmless” and “undefiled” describe Jesus as innocent and unstained by sin. Human leaders need God’s mercy. Jesus is the sinless Son who brings us to God. We can be honest about our failures and come to Him with trust.

4. Worship required a willing response

Leviticus 8:18-21

18 And he brought the ram for the burnt offering: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram.

19 And he killed it; and Moses sprinkled the blood upon the altar round about.

20 And he cut the ram into pieces; and Moses burnt the head, and the pieces, and the fat.

21 And he washed the inwards and the legs in water; and Moses burnt the whole ram upon the altar: it was a burnt sacrifice for a sweet savour, and an offering made by fire unto the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Next came a ram for the burnt offering. Aaron and his sons placed their hands on it, and Moses carried out the sacrifice as God commanded. The whole ram was burned on the altar after its parts were prepared.

A “burnt offering” is an offering burned on the altar. “Sweet savour” means a pleasing aroma. The passage describes worship offered according to God’s command. Again and again, the chapter returns to this simple point: Moses and the priests were to do what the Lord said.

We have already read that Jesus offered Himself once. Our response begins by trusting Him. As we continue, we will see how the New Testament invites us to offer our everyday lives to God.

5. Our whole lives belong to God

Leviticus 8:22-24

22 And he brought the other ram, the ram of consecration: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram.

23 And he slew it; and Moses took of the blood of it, and put it upon the tip of Aaron’s right ear, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot.

24 And he brought Aaron’s sons, and Moses put of the blood upon the tip of their right ear, and upon the thumbs of their right hands, and upon the great toes of their right feet: and Moses sprinkled the blood upon the altar round about.

The second ram was used for the priests' consecration. Moses placed some of its blood on Aaron's right ear, right thumb, and right big toe. He did the same for Aaron's sons. These were actions in the ceremony that set them apart for priestly service.

As an application for our own lives, the ear, hand, and foot can help us remember three questions: Am I listening to God? Are my actions honoring Him? Am I following His ways? These questions help us reflect on serving God with our whole selves.

Leviticus 8:25-27

25 And he took the fat, and the rump, and all the fat that was upon the inwards, and the caul above the liver, and the two kidneys, and their fat, and the right shoulder:

26 And out of the basket of unleavened bread, that was before the LORD, he took one unleavened cake, and a cake of oiled bread, and one wafer, and put them on the fat, and upon the right shoulder:

27 And he put all upon Aaron's hands, and upon his sons' hands, and waved them for a wave offering before the LORD.

Moses placed the appointed portions of the ram and the bread in the priests' hands and presented them before the Lord. A "wave offering" was an offering presented before God with a movement. "Unleavened" means made without the ingredient that makes dough rise.

Leviticus 8:28-30

28 And Moses took them from off their hands, and burnt them on the altar upon the burnt offering: they were consecrations for a sweet savour: it is an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

29 And Moses took the breast, and waved it for a wave offering before the LORD: for of the ram of consecration it was Moses' part; as the LORD commanded Moses.

30 And Moses took of the anointing oil, and of the blood which was upon the altar, and sprinkled it upon Aaron, and upon his garments, and upon his sons, and upon his sons' garments with him; and sanctified Aaron, and his garments, and his sons, and his sons' garments with him.

Those portions were then burned on the altar. Moses received the breast as his appointed portion. He also sprinkled oil and blood on the priests and their clothing. The repeated word "sanctified" reminds us what was happening: they and their garments were being set apart for God.

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Paul begins with God’s mercies. God’s kindness comes before our response. A “living sacrifice” means giving God our lives while we live: our thoughts, words, work, time, and choices. This is how worship reaches into an ordinary day.

A renewed mind learns to think in ways shaped by God's truth. For example, you can listen when someone needs help, use your hands to serve, and choose to walk away from a dishonest plan. These choices grow from trusting Jesus and learning His ways.

6. Faithfulness includes patience

Leviticus 8:31-33

31 And Moses said unto Aaron and to his sons, Boil the flesh at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and there eat it with the bread that is in the basket of consecrations, as I commanded, saying, Aaron and his sons shall eat it.

32 And that which remaineth of the flesh and of the bread shall ye burn with fire.

33 And ye shall not go out of the door of the tabernacle of the congregation in seven days, until the days of your consecration be at an end: for seven days shall he consecrate you.

Aaron and his sons ate the meal God appointed. Any remaining meat and bread had to be burned. They were also told to stay at the entrance of the tabernacle for seven days while their consecration was completed. They could not hurry the process.

Leviticus 8:34-36

34 As he hath done this day, so the LORD hath commanded to do, to make an atonement for you.

35 Therefore shall ye abide at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation day and night seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, that ye die not: for so I am commanded.

36 So Aaron and his sons did all things which the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.

“Atonement” describes God’s provision for dealing with sin and restoring the relationship with Him. “Keep the charge” means carry out the responsibility God gave. The warning about death shows how serious these instructions were for the priests. Aaron and his sons did what the Lord commanded.

Those seven days belonged to this particular ceremony. For us, a practical lesson is that preparation and patience matter. Learning to serve takes time. We can receive instruction, practice being dependable, and do today’s responsibility with care.

What responsibility has God placed in front of me that needs patient, faithful attention?

7. Through Jesus, we serve together

1 Peter 2:4-5

4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Peter describes Jesus as a living stone and believers as living stones being built into a spiritual house. He is speaking about people brought together around Jesus. He calls this community a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Christ.

Notice the words “by Jesus Christ.” He is the reason we can offer this worship to God. The New Testament gives all believers a place in serving Him together. Our service grows from belonging to Jesus, not from trying to earn a place with Him.

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

“Peculiar people” here means a people belonging especially to God. Peter says they have received mercy and are called to tell of God’s goodness. His mercy is the starting point. Being set apart is a reason to live gratefully and help others see who God is.

You can begin where you are. Pray sincerely, speak truthfully, help someone, and tell what Jesus has done for you. At home, at school, at work, or with friends, your daily life can become a willing response to His love.

Talk about it with friends

1. What does it mean to be consecrated, or set apart for God’s service?

2. Why did Aaron and his sons need preparation and sacrifices? How is Jesus different?

3. Using the ear, hand, and foot as a reminder, what is one way you can listen, serve, or follow God today?

4. Why does Paul begin his call to be a living sacrifice with God's mercies?

5. What do Peter's words teach us about belonging to Jesus and serving alongside other believers?

Put it into practice today

Listen: Read one passage from this study again. Ask God to help you understand it, and choose one truth to carry with you today.

Serve: Use your hands to help someone. Finish a task at home, prepare a meal, or help a person who is having a difficult day. Give your attention as well as your time.

Follow: Choose one honest and loving step. Keep a promise, admit a mistake, or make peace where you can. Thank Jesus that you belong to Him as you continue learning to serve.

A verse to remember

Romans 12:1

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Read this verse aloud. Begin with the words about God’s mercy. Then name one part of your day that you want to offer to Him.

Let’s pray together

Father, thank You for Your mercy and for bringing us near through Jesus. Thank You that His sacrifice is complete. Give us ears that listen, hands ready to serve, and feet willing to follow Your ways. Make us humble, patient, and dependable. Help us offer You our whole lives and care for the people around us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

I love you, my friends. You belong to Jesus. Let that truth shape the way you listen, love, and serve today.

Scripture and sources

Scripture text was checked against the King James Version published by eBible.org. The complete verses are reproduced with their historical wording. Verse numbers and layout are adapted for reading; editorial footnotes are omitted. Tap any Scripture reference to view its source.

Bible edition and text