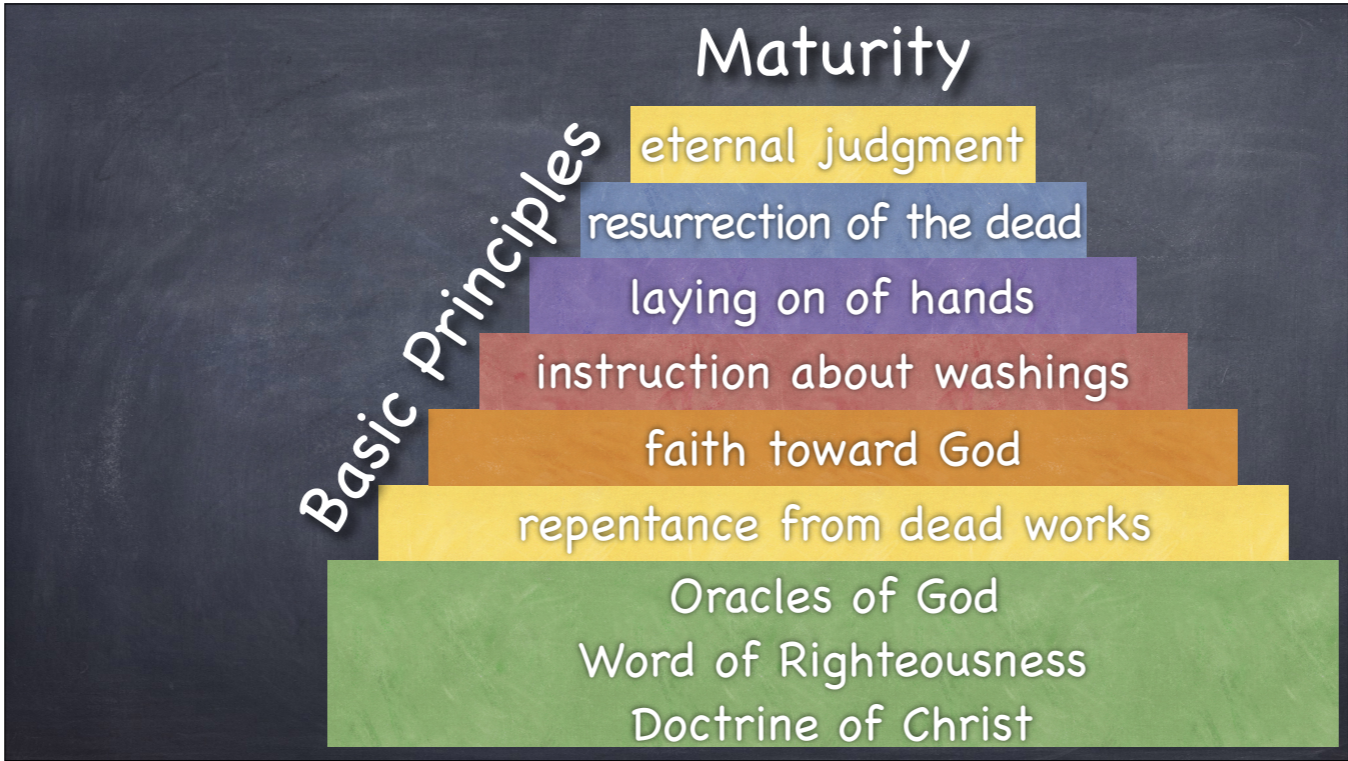




- Laying on of Hands



- Cooties
  - girls have cooties
  - don't let them touch you
  - if they do touch you, you have cooties too.



- text



- laying on of hands
  - All the others we're pretty comfortable with
  - This only comes up in very specific situations, seldom, and we rush over it quickly
- I've been dreading this lesson...
  - What am I supposed to say???
- Remember context of book: written to former Jews
  - Look at how OT uses laying on of hands

Four Examples of  
**Laying on of Hands**  
in the Old Testament

- 4 examples
- Even in the OT there's not much...



- Genesis 48:8-20 (ESV) 8 When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?" 9 Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." And he said, **"Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them."** 10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them. 11 And Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also." 12 Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. **13 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him. 14 And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn).** 15 And he blessed Joseph and said,
  - "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,
  - the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day,
  - 16 the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys;
  - and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac;
  - and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."
  - 17 When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, **it displeased him**, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. 18 And Joseph said to his father, **"Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head."** 19 But his father refused and said, **"I know, my son, I know.** He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations." 20 So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying, God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh." Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.
  - Hebrews 11:21 By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.



- 16: bless the boys
  - name carried on
  - grow into a multitude
- Manasseh (older)
  - shall become a great people (19)
  - great
- Ephraim (younger)
  - greater (19)
  - multitude of nations



- Why was Joseph care about the hands?
  - Why was he displeased? 17
  - Right hand on first born = greater blessing?





- It's not insignificant.
  - Joseph was displeased
  - Jacob knew what he was doing: "I know, my son, I know"
    - Hebrews 11:21 By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.



- Did something pass from Jacob to Ephraim? and to Manasseh?
- Did something different pass from right hand of Jacob than the left hand of Jacob?
- Did Jacob have some kind of stored "blessing" in his body that passed on to the children?



- Jacob, by faith and with knowledge of what was to come (from God!)
  - blessed both children
  - showed his favor toward them
  - showed God's favor toward them
- expectation that they would go out and do what they should do.



- Numbers 27:12-23 (ESV) 12 The Lord said to Moses, “Go up into this mountain of Abarim and see the land that I have given to the people of Israel. 13 When you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was, 14 because you rebelled against my word in the wilderness of Zin when the congregation quarreled, failing to uphold me as holy at the waters before their eyes.” (These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.) 15 Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, 16 “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation 17 who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.” 18 So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. 19 Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight. 20 You shall invest him with some of your authority, that all the congregation of the people of Israel may obey. 21 And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the Lord. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the people of Israel with him, the whole congregation.” 22 And Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and made him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation, 23 and he laid his hands on him and commissioned him as the Lord directed through Moses.



- 18 "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and **lay your hand** on him.
- 19 Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and
- you shall **commission him in their sight**.
- 20 You shall **invest him with some of your authority**,
- that all the congregation of the people of Israel may **obey**.



- 22 And Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and made him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation,
  - 23 and he **laid his hands on him** and **commissioned** him as the Lord directed through Moses.



- What is the point of the laying on of hands by Moses on Joshua?



- Did some of Moses' authority, physically and literally pass through his hands and into Joshua?





- Why did this need to be done before Eleazar?
- Why did this need to be done before all the congregation?
  - vs. 16: appoint man over congregation
  - vs. 17: lead them: congregation not be as sheep that have no shepherd
  - vs. 20: invest him with some of your authority
    - people of Israel may obey



- Wisdom
  - Deuteronomy 34:9 And Joshua the son of Nun was **full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him**. So the people of Israel **obeyed** him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.



- Significant!
- Laying on hands
  - demonstrated that Joshua was chosen by Jehovah and Moses (Eliezar)
  - demonstrated that Joshua had authority and wisdom like Moses
  - demonstrated that people should follow Joshua



- Numbers 8:5-22 (ESV) 5 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 6 “Take the Levites from among the people of Israel and cleanse them. 7 Thus you shall do to them to cleanse them: sprinkle the water of purification upon them, and let them go with a razor over all their body, and wash their clothes and cleanse themselves. 8 Then let them take a bull from the herd and its grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, and you shall take another bull from the herd for a sin offering. 9 And you shall bring the Levites before the tent of meeting and assemble the whole congregation of the people of Israel. 10 When you bring the Levites before the Lord, the people of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites, 11 and Aaron shall offer the Levites before the Lord as a wave offering from the people of Israel, that they may do the service of the Lord. 12 Then the Levites shall lay their hands on the heads of the bulls, and you shall offer the one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering to the Lord to make atonement for the Levites. 13 And you shall set the Levites before Aaron and his sons, and shall offer them as a wave offering to the Lord.
- 14 “Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the people of Israel, and the Levites shall be mine. 15 And after that the Levites shall go in to serve at the tent of meeting, when you have cleansed them and offered them as a wave offering. 16 For they are wholly given to me from among the people of Israel. Instead of all who open the womb, the firstborn of all the people of Israel, I have taken them for myself. 17 For all the firstborn among the people of Israel are mine, both of man and of beast. On the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I consecrated them for myself, 18 and I have taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the people of Israel. 19 And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the people of Israel, to do the service for the people of Israel at the tent of meeting and to make atonement for the people of Israel, that there may be no plague among the people of Israel when the people of Israel come near the sanctuary.”
- 20 Thus did Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the people of Israel to the Levites. According to all that the Lord commanded Moses concerning the Levites, the people of Israel did to them. 21 And the Levites purified themselves from sin and washed their clothes, and Aaron offered them as a wave offering before the Lord, and Aaron made atonement for them to cleanse them. 22 And after that the Levites went in to do their service in the tent of meeting before Aaron and his sons; as the Lord had commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so they did to them.



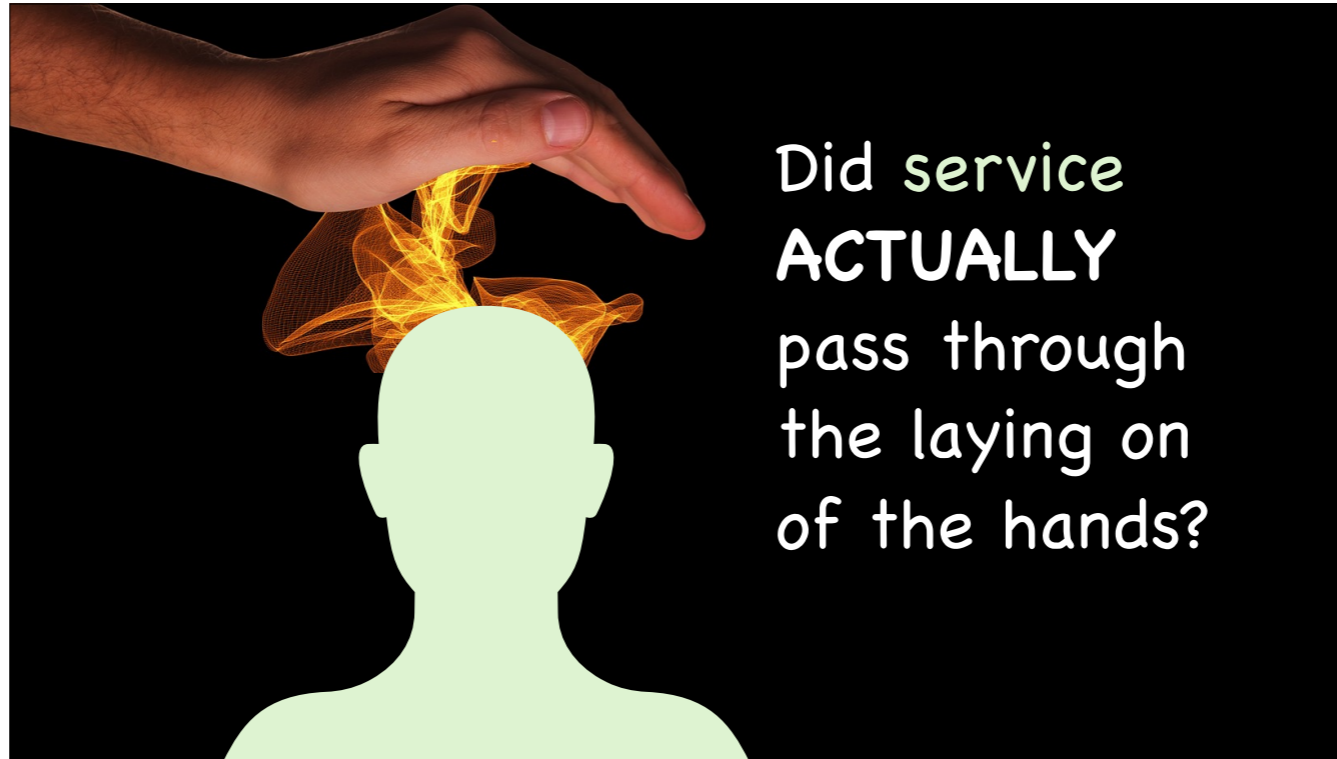
- People of Israel lay Their hands on the Levites
- Aaron **offer** Levites before Jehovah
  - A wave offering
  - **Do service** of Jehovah
- Levites lay their hands on the heads of the bulls
  - One for sin offering
  - One for burnt offering to make atonement for the Levites
- Levites set before Aaron and sons as wave offering



- 14: Thus you shall **separate** the Levites ... Levites shall be **mine**
  - **serve** at the tent of meeting
    - When cleansed and offered
  - **wholly given to me**
  - Instead of firstborn



- Why did the whole nation of Israel have to do this to the Levites?



- Was anything actually transferred from people to Levites so that they could do the service of Jehovah?
- Was anything actually transferred from the Levites to the bulls?





- If this is like the “sin”, then sin goes from people to Levites to bull?
- Was this significant?
  - Absolutely...
- The people needed to understand that the Levites where dedicated to the service of God
- They did this in lieu of their own firstborn children!
- This service was not menial, but vital.



- Leviticus 1:3-5 (ESV)
- Day of Atonement
  - Leviticus 16:5-22 (ESV) 5 And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.



- 1:4 He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be **accepted for him to make atonement** for him.



- Day of Atonement
  - Leviticus 16:5-22 (ESV) 5 And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.
  - 10 but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the Lord to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.



- 20 “And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat.
- 21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and
  - confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins.



- And he shall put them on the head of the goat and
- send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness.
- 22 The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.



- Was this important?
- Atonement and forgiveness
- So why lay hands on a goat?
  - In some ways this is why we see laying on of hands as being an odd thing.



Did sin  
**ACTUALLY**  
pass through  
the laying on  
of the hands?

- Did sins of people actually pass to the goat? How? Physical touch?
- How did goat bear sins?





- What do we know about sin?
  - Ezekiel 18:20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.



Did sin  
**ACTUALLY**  
pass through  
the laying on  
of the hands?

- The sins didn't actually transfer to the goat.
- The goat did not stand in place of the sinner.
- The goat did not die in the sinner's place.
- No where is the word "substitute" used of the goat!
- The goat is an sin offering.



- God demonstrated that sins were removed from us and sent away.
  - Not by actual transfer.
- Sinners are aware of sin and the cost of sin... death
- Sinners are aware that sin must be removed.



- Goat is devoted to God, surrendered to God, to be offered for atonement
  - Is this similar to the dedication of Levites wholly to God in His service?

# Laying on of Hands

## in the Old Testament

- Why Does it Matter?
  - It's really not a scary concept.



- Did anything actually, physically pass through the hands?
- No.



- What it does for the one who has hands laid on him?
  - 1. Dedication
    - It's MY job (not someone else's job)
    - If it is to be, it is up to me.
  - 2. Determination
    - importance of task/service
    - I MUST be busy at this work
  - 3. Confidence
    - approved by God (favor, blessing)
    - I'm doing what God wants me to do.



- What about goat?
- I'm not sure the goat got anything out of it.





- What it does for the one those who see it happen?
  - 1. Honor
    - importance of task/service/role
  - 2. Confidence in that one
    - approved by God
  - 3. Submission
    - they have a job to do: obey?
      - help or hinder?



- What about the goat?
  - 1. Honor
    - importance of task/service/role
  - 2. Confidence in that one
    - approved by God
  - 3. Gratitude?

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

Next Week: Laying Hands in the NT  
Jesus: Salvation

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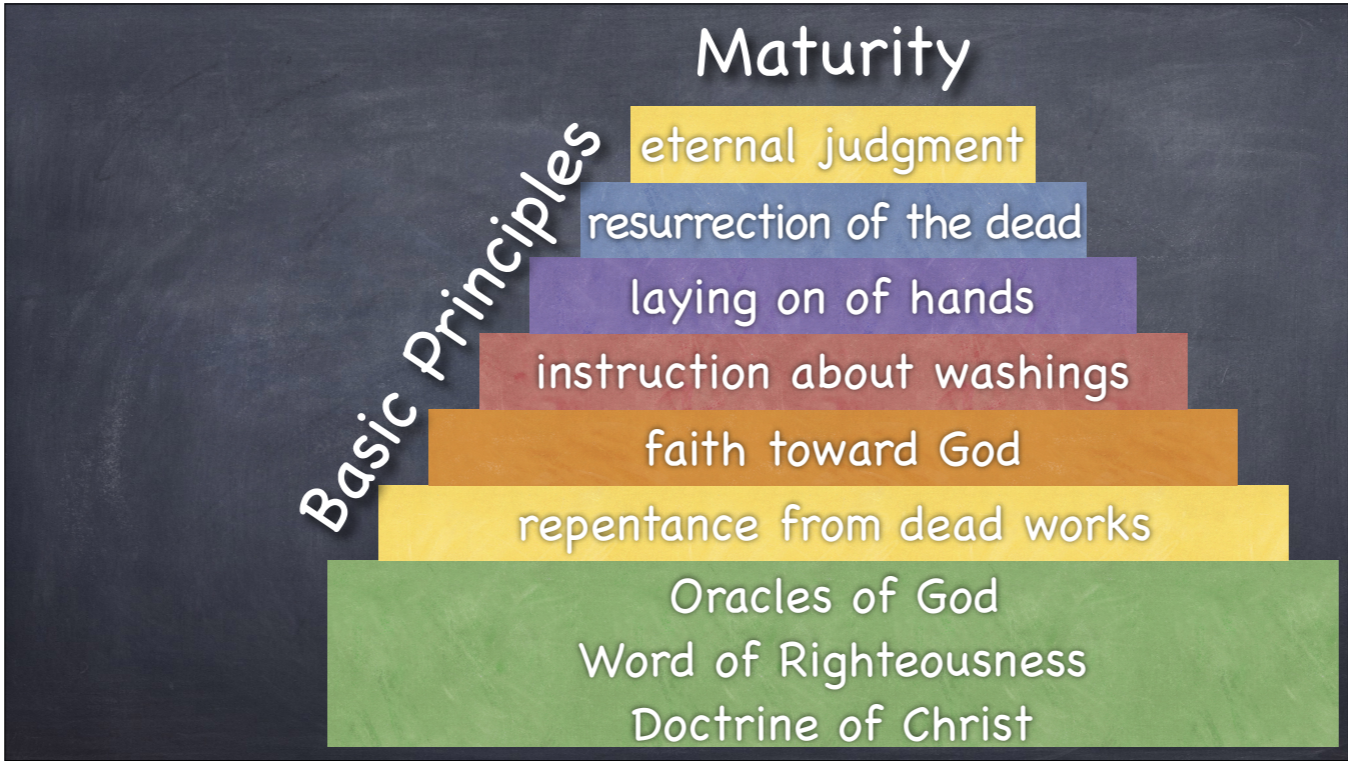
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## Laying on of Hands in the Old Testament

Hebrews 6:2

Synopsis: Of all the basics, we're the most uncomfortable and perhaps have some ignorance of laying on of hands. While the others are generally seen as being essential to our salvation and relationship with God, we wonder where laying on of hands fits in our salvation and lives. We'll begin exploring the history of laying on of hands in the Old Testament and see that it is a significant part of our faith (although nothing physically passes on in the laying on of the hands).

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**