

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn to Exodus 29

Once again, Moses is on top of Mt. Sinai receiving instructions from God.

God is providing instruction on how he wants the Children of Israel to treat one another and He is also providing instructions on how they are supposed to worship Him.

This movable tent, this Tabernacle is where God was going to dwell among them.

Here is where they were going to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings

So for the past couple of weeks we have seen the instruction on the construction of the Tabernacle and the surrounding courtyard as well as all the furnishing that were in it.

And as we have seen in our studies, everything points to Jesus Christ.

Now, last week, we saw the instructions for the garments that the Aaron, the High Priests and his sons were supposed to wear while ministering to the Lord in the Tabernacle.

Now – look back at chapter 28:41

I want to revisit this verse because I didn't expound on it last week because it speaks of the instructions that are going to be given here in chapter 29.

**[Exo 28:41 NKJV] 41 "So you shall put them on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him. You shall anoint them, consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister to Me as priests.**

These three things make up the ceremony that we are going to see in chapter 29.

You see, being a priest went beyond simply putting on the garments that we saw last week.

There was a ceremony that had to take place –

And this ceremony was supposed to reinforce these three things to those that were ministering to the Lord.

It was supposed to reveal the spiritual truth that was taking place in the lives of the priests.

Why does it matter to us???

Because as believers, we are called to be priests (2 Peter 2:5,9) and in order to be used by Him, in order to minister to Him – we need these same spiritual truths in our lives.

**Let's pray...**

**[Exo 29:1-46 NKJV] 1 "And this is what you shall do to them to hallow them for ministering to Me as priests: Take one young bull and two rams without blemish, 2 "and unleavened bread, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil (you shall make them of wheat flour). 3 "You shall put them in one basket and bring them in the basket, with the bull and the two rams.**

The Hebrew word for hallow – is the word to consecrate or set apart – to dedicate

It consists of two words –

One meaning an open hand and the other meaning to fill up

The idea is to bring empty hands before God and have Him fill the hands.

It was God's intent that the priesthood would "fill" themselves with the work God set aside for them.

The animals and the breads and the cakes were needed because there couldn't be any consecration to God without the shedding of blood or without true fellowship with Him.

**4 "And Aaron and his sons you shall bring to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall wash them with water.**

The ceremony begins by God commanding Moses to bring Aaron and his sons to the door so that they can be cleansed.

There had to be a washing that occurred.

Notice Aaron and his sons did not bathe themselves, they were bathed by others.

In the same way that we cannot cleanse ourselves from sin; as sinners, we can only be declared righteous, and we are the moment we believe in Jesus Christ.

**5 "Then you shall take the garments, put the tunic on Aaron, and the robe of the ephod, the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the intricately woven band of the ephod. 6 "You shall put the turban on his head, and put the holy crown on the turban. 7 "And you shall take the anointing oil, pour [it] on his head, and anoint him.**

After putting on the garments of the High Priest, Aaron was supposed to be anointed with oil.

Now, I had you make a note of the word pour – because this doesn't mean that someone dipped their finger in oil and smeared it on Aaron's forehead –

David provides a better picture of this in scripture –

Turn with me to Psalm 133

**[Psa 133:1-2 NKJV] 1 A Song of Ascents. Of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant [it is] For brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 [It is] like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.**

Jesus interpreted this for us when He quoted from Isaiah 61:1, applying it to Himself, saying,

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound...”

Oil is a picture of the Holy Spirit.

So Aaron, after being cleansed and clothed, is now going to be led and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Church - God's desire for ministry is that it be done by the power of the Holy Spirit.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He told the apostles to stay put in Jerusalem.

They were not supposed to go anywhere or do anything until a certain event took place. They were supposed to “wait” for something to happen.

**(Acts 1:8 NKJV) "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**

This is what the apostles experienced on the day of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit was "poured out" on them. The Spirit came "upon" them.

Jesus wanted His followers to wait and not do any ministry until they had received the power of God.

This is exactly what is being picture in the "anointing" of the priests.

One of the most important things we can do as a priest is to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

If we have a desire to be used by God and to help others, we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

I like what AC Dickson , a Baptist preacher once said, "When we rely on an organization, we get what an organization can do. When we rely on education, we get what education can do. When we rely on eloquence, we get what eloquence can do. When we rely on the Holy Spirit, we get what God can do."

**8 "Then you shall bring his sons and put tunics on them. 9 "And you shall gird them with sashes, Aaron and his sons, and put the hats on them. The priesthood**

**shall be theirs for a perpetual statute. So you shall consecrate Aaron and his sons.**

Once again, Aaron's sons were given priestly garments as well – through no effort of their own.

It was only because of their link to Aaron – the High Priest.

In the same way that we are robed with the garments of salvation and righteousness through our link to our High Priest, Jesus Christ.

**10 "You shall also have the bull brought before the tabernacle of meeting, and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands on the head of the bull. 11 "Then you shall kill the bull before the LORD, [by] the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 12 "You shall take [some] of the blood of the bull and put [it] on the horns of the altar with your finger, and pour all the blood beside the base of the altar. 13 "And you shall take all the fat that covers the entrails, the fatty lobe [attached] to the liver, and the two kidneys and the fat that [is] on them, and burn [them] on the altar. 14 "But the flesh of the bull, with its skin and its offal, you shall burn with fire outside the camp. It [is] a sin offering.**

The first of three sacrifices was the sin offering –

**[Heb 9:22 NKJV] 22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.**

So Aaron and his sons needed a substitute to take their place.

The history of God allowing a substitute as a sacrifice began in the Garden of Eden with the slaying of animals to provide covering for Adam and Eve after they sinned. Every subsequent animal sacrificed was like a place holder pointing to the coming of the promised Savior to once-for-all be our Substitute and sacrifice.

Laying their hands on the animal's head symbolized the transfer of their sin onto the sacrifice.

The animal, as a substitute, would take the "punishment" for their sin, and Aaron and his sons would be temporarily ceremonially cleared to worship and serve the Lord in the Tabernacle.

**15 "You shall also take one ram, and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands on the head of the ram; 16 "and you shall kill the ram, and you shall take its blood and sprinkle [it] all around on the altar. 17 "Then you shall cut the ram in pieces, wash its entrails and its legs, and put [them] with its pieces and with its head. 18 "And you shall burn the whole ram on the altar. It [is] a **burnt offering** to the LORD; it [is] a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.**

The second sacrifice was the burnt offering –

This offering was different from than the sin offering in that the entire animal was consumed.



This offering spoke of complete consecration to the Lord.

It's a picture of the worshipper completely giving themselves to God – total “dedication”.

And as we read at the end of verse 18 – our complete dedication to the Lord is pleasing to Him.

Not 51%, not 60% but 100%

We don't stop being Christians once we leave here at 11:30 AM

God wants our full dedication to Him.

**19 "You shall also take the other ram, and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands on the head of the ram. 20 "Then you shall kill the ram, and take some of its blood and put [it] on the tip of the right ear of Aaron and on the tip of the right ear of his sons, on the thumb of their right hand and on the big toe of their right foot, and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar. 21 "And you shall take some of the blood that is on the altar, and some of the anointing oil, and sprinkle [it] on Aaron and on his garments, on his sons and on the garments of his sons with him; and he and his garments shall be hallowed, and his sons and his sons' garments with him.**

Blood was applied to their right ear because the priests needed consecrated ears in order to hear God's voice.

Blood was applied to their right thumb because the priests needed consecrated hands to be able to do the work that God had in store for them.

Blood was applied to the big toe on the right foot because the priests needed consecrated feet to walk in His will.

So not only were the priests supposed to be consecrated to God – everything they did was consecrated as well.

The question becomes why the right and not the left???

Because the right was looked upon as superior – therefore God wanted the best to be dedicated to Him.

**22 "Also you shall take the fat of the ram, the fat tail, the fat that covers the entrails, the fatty lobe [attached to] the liver, the two kidneys and the fat on them, the right thigh (for it [is] a ram of consecration), 23 "one loaf of bread, one cake [made with] oil, and one wafer from the basket of the unleavened bread that [is] before the LORD; 24 "and you shall put all these in the hands of Aaron and in the hands of his sons, and you shall wave them [as] a wave offering before the LORD. 25 "You shall receive them back from their hands and burn [them] on the altar as a burnt offering, as a sweet aroma before the LORD. It [is] an offering made by fire to the LORD. 26 "Then you shall take the breast of the ram of Aaron's consecration and wave it [as] a wave offering before the LORD; and it**

shall be your portion. 27 "And from the ram of the consecration you shall consecrate the breast of the wave offering which is waved, and the thigh of the heave offering which is raised, of [that] which [is] for Aaron and of [that] which is for his sons. 28 "It shall be from the children of Israel [for] Aaron and his sons by a statute forever. For it is a heave offering; it shall be a heave offering from the children of Israel from the sacrifices of their peace offerings, [that is], their heave offering to the LORD.

So here we have the same ram where the blood was put on the on the ear, hand and foot of the priests – it was used for the heave offering and wave offering.

The difference was on the way that they were presented on the altar –

The wave offering was moved side to side while the heave offering was apportion that was lifted up from the altar and then given to the priests to eat.

29 "And the holy garments of Aaron shall be his sons' after him, to be anointed in them and to be consecrated in them. 30 "That son who becomes priest in his place shall put them on for **seven days**, when he enters the tabernacle of meeting to minister in the holy [place].

So starting in verse 29, God provides Moses with the instruction on what to do when the transition occurs from one high priest to the next one.

The entire consecration ceremony would be repeated with them as well.

And as we see in verse 30, we see that the consecration process lasted for 7 days.

**31 "And you shall take the ram of the consecration and boil its flesh in the holy place. 32 "Then Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram, and the bread that [is] in the basket, [by] the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 33 "They shall eat those things with which the atonement was made, to consecrate [and] to sanctify them; but an outsider shall not eat [them], because they [are] holy.**

Only the priests – the descendants of Aaron would be able to partake of the ram and partake of the bread –

And I had you make a note that an outsider shall not eat of them.

Turn with me to Lev 22 -

**[Lev 22:10-11 NKJV] 10 'No outsider shall eat the holy [offering]; one who dwells with the priest, or a hired servant, shall not eat the holy thing. 11 'But if the priest buys a person with his money, he may eat it; and one who is born in his house may eat his food.**

Since Jesus, our High Priest, has purchased us with His own life, we may eat of the priestly portion.

And since we are born again as children of God – born in his house, the family of our High Priest – we also may eat his food and enjoy the priestly privileges of our High Priest.

**34 "And if any of the flesh of the consecration offerings, or of the bread, remains until the morning, then you shall burn the remainder with fire. It shall not be eaten, because it [is] holy. 35 "Thus you shall do to Aaron and his sons, according to all that I have commanded you. Seven days you shall consecrate them. 36 "And you shall offer a bull every day [as] a sin offering for atonement. You shall cleanse the altar when you make atonement for it, and you shall anoint it to sanctify it. 37 "Seven days you shall make atonement for the altar and sanctify it. And the altar shall be most holy. Whatever touches the altar must be holy.**

Every day there was another large animal to sacrifice and use its blood for atonement. This daily ritual – for seven days in a row – reminded Aaron and the priests that any animal sacrifice could **not** take away sin, only providing a temporary covering.

Now after the week of consecration – this was the day to day duties of the priests,

**38 "Now this [is] what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs of the first year, day by day continually. 39 "One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight. 40 "With the one lamb shall be one-tenth [of an ephah] of flour mixed with one-fourth of a hin of pressed oil, and one-fourth of a hin of wine [as] a drink offering. 41 "And the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; and you shall offer with it the grain offering and the drink offering, as in the morning, for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD. 42 "[This**

shall be] a continual burnt offering throughout your generations [at] the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet you to speak with you. 43 "And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and [the tabernacle] shall be sanctified by My glory.

The sacrifices were done every day. One in the morning and one in the evening –

By being devoted to the work that God had placed before them, it allowed the Children of Israel to come to the Tabernacle and worship.

Thus, they were bringing others to God.

They were making it possible for other Israelites to approach God.

Likewise, as we follow the leading of the Spirit, we are promoting fellowship with God - either through the evangelism of nonbelievers, or through the edification of believers.

44 "So I will consecrate the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. I will also consecrate both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me as priests. 45 "I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. 46 "And they shall know that I [am] the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I [am] the LORD their God.

At the end of the chapter, God makes a promise to show His glory through consecrated priests.

The consecration of the priests doesn't happen until Leviticus 8 –

In Leviticus 9,

**[Lev 9:22-24 NKJV] 22 Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, blessed them, and came down from offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and peace offerings. 23 And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people, 24 and fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw [it], they shouted and fell on their faces.**

The ceremony of consecration was long, bloody and required persistence to complete – yet the reward was far greater than the cost, as the glory of the Lord was revealed not only to the consecrated priests – but to the people as well.

Let us not forget...

God came up with the design of the Tabernacle, God came up with the process of consecration because He longed to have fellowship with His people.

Amen

Let's pray...