



Go for God!

“BE ANOINTED! BE CONSECRATED!”

Exodus Chapter 29

(v1) ***“And this you shall do to them to hallow them for ministering to Me as priests”***

– Jesus said in to His disciples in Acts 1:8 - 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.”

- **PRIESTS & LEVITES**: Were official ministers or worship leaders in the nation of Israel who represented the people before God and conducted various rituals to atone for their sins. This function was carried out by the father of a family (Job 1:5) or the head of a tribe in the days before Moses and his brother Aaron.

With the appointment of Aaron **by God** as the first High Priest, the priesthood was formally established. Aaron's descendants were established as the priestly line in Israel. They carried out their important duties from generation to generation as a special class devoted to God's service.

The Bible often speaks of priests and Levites as if these two offices were practically the same (1 Chronicles 23:2; 24:6,31). They were closely related, in that both priests and Levites sprang from a common ancestor. They traced their lineage back to Levi, head of one of the original twelve tribes of Israel. But these two offices were different, in that priests (a specific branch of Levites descended through Aaron) and Levites (all descendants of Levi in general) performed different duties.

Priests officiated at worship by offering various offerings on behalf of the nation and by leading the people to confess their sins. The Levites were assistants to the priests. They took care of the tabernacle and the Temple and performed other menial tasks, such as providing music, serving as doorkeepers, and preparing sacrifices for offering by the priests.

In their function of offering sacrifices at the altar, **the priests acted as mediators between man and God, offering sacrifices so that sin might be forgiven** (Leviticus 4:20,26,31). Each sacrifice was a **demonstration that the penalty of sin is death** (Ezekiel 18:4,20), and **that there can be no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of BLOOD** (Hebrews 9:22).

> SEVEN STAGES OF ANOINTING & CONSECRATION:

#1 - (v1-4) The WASHING of the Priests - When Aaron and his sons were washed all over, it was symbolic of complete cleansing from the Lord. They didn't have to be bathed all over again; all they had to do was cleanse their hands and feet at the laver. ***“A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean,”*** said Jesus (John 13:10). Those who have trusted Christ have experienced this inward cleansing from the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

#2 – (v5-9) The CLOTHING of the Priests - These were their official "uniforms" and they dared not minister in the tabernacle dressed in other garments. **Today Christians are to lay aside the filthy garments of the old life and wear the beautiful “garments of grace” provided by the Lord** (Ephesians 4:17-32; Colossians 3:1-15). Christ has taken away our dirty rags and given us a robe of righteousness that He purchased for us on the cross (Isaiah 61:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17,21).

#3 – (v6-9) The ANOINTING of the Priests - In the Old Testament, prophets, priests, and kings were anointed; it was a symbol that God had granted them the Holy Spirit for power and service (Luke 4:17-19; Isaiah 61:1-3). Moses poured the oil on his brother's head, which meant it ran down his beard and therefore bathed all the stones on the breastplate. **Those who trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord have received an anointing of the Spirit of God** (1 John 2:20,27; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

#4 – (v10-14) The FORGIVENESS of the Priest - A bull was slain as a sin offering (Leviticus 4; 8:14-17) to atone for the sins of the priests. This sacrifice was repeated each day for a week (Exodus 29:36-37), not only for the cleansing of the priests but also for the sanctifying of the altar where the priests would be ministering. **Jesus Christ is our sin offering and through Him alone we find forgiveness** (Isaiah 53:4-6,12; Matthew 26:28; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; Revelation 1:5-6).

- Notice the term “sin offering” (v14), this bloody offering, also known as a guilt offering, was presented for unintentional or intentional sins for which there was no possible restitution (Leviticus 4:5-13; 6:24-30). **If the offering was not accompanied by repentance, divine forgiveness was withheld** (Numbers 15:30).

Expiation or covering (forgiveness) of sin was represented by the blood smeared on the horns of the altar of incense or burnt offering and poured out at the base of the altar. The penalty for all sin, death, was vicariously inflicted on the sacrificial animal. **Guilt for the worshiper's sin was transferred symbolically to the animal through the laying on of the offerer's hands.**

#5 – (v15-18) The DEDICATION of the Priest - In the sacrifice of the burnt offering, the animal was completely given to the Lord, a picture of total dedication (Leviticus 1). **Our Lord gave Himself fully and without reservation, not only in His ministry before the cross, but in His willing sacrifice of Himself on the cross.**

The high priest and his associates were expected to devote themselves wholly to the work of the ministry and to make it the uppermost concern of their hearts. **Christians today are must be devoted to Romans 12:1-2 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

Notice the term “burnt offering” (v18), this kind of offering was described as “*that which goes up (to God).*” It was termed “whole” (Leviticus 6:22) because the entire offering was to be burnt upon the altar. It was termed “continual” (Exodus 29:38-42) to teach the nation of Israel that their sinfulness required a complete and continual atonement and consecration. **This sacrifice, offered every morning and evening, pointed to Christ's atoning death for sinners (2 Corinthians 5:21) and His total consecration to God (Luke 2:49).**

#6 – (v19-22) The BLOOD and the Priest - Moses would sprinkle the blood on the altar and upon Aaron and his sons, along with the anointing oil, but each man was marked with some of the blood on the right earlobe, the right thumb, and the right big toe. **This was a token reminder that they must listen to God's Word, do God's work, and walk in God's way.** The blood speaks of sacrifice, so the priests became “living sacrifices” in the service of the Lord.

#7 - (v22-28, 31-34) The FOOD and the priest - Another unique occurrence was the filling of the priests' hands from the "food basket" (Exodus 29:2-3) and from the altar (vv. 22-28). The priests waved these gifts toward the altar in dedication to God (v. 24, the "wave offering") and then shared them in a fellowship meal (vv. 31-34). Portions from some of the offerings, as well as special tithes of the harvest, were part of the priests' compensation for serving at the altar (Leviticus 8:28-36), but they had to look upon those gifts as holy sacrifices and eat them in the tabernacle precincts.¹

(v29-37) FYI - The altar of burnt offering (Exodus 27:1-8) was placed in front of the entrance to the tabernacle (Exodus 40:6), where it was used for the daily burnt offering and meal offering. This altar declared that entry into the presence of God must be preceded by sacrificial ATONEMENT for sin. The altar of burnt offering was made of acacia wood, overlaid with bronze. The corners of the altar extended at the top into projections that looked like horns.

- ***What does ATONEMENT mean? C.I. Scofield writes, "The Hebrew word for "atonement" is kaphar, which means to propitiate, to atone for sin. According to Scripture the sacrifice of the law only covered the offer's sin and secured the divine forgiveness. The OT sacrifices never removed man's sin; it was "not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins" (Heb. 10:4).***

The Israelite's offering implied confession of sin and recognized its due penalty as death; and God passed over his sin in anticipation of Christ's sacrifice which did, finally put away those "sins that were previously committed" [in OT times] (Heb. 9:15,26; Rom. 3:25).

(v38-46) Each day would begin with the priests sacrificing a lamb as a burnt offering, signifying the total dedication of the people to God, and the day ended with the offering of a second lamb as a burnt offering. Let's be dedicate our hearts to Jesus Christ everyday in all ways!

- **What's a "grain offering"?** The Hebrew is *minchah*, a sweet aroma and a freewill offering, either of fine flour, oil, and frankincense or unleavened cakes or wafers of fine flour and oil, or green heads of grain. Grain offerings were made together with burnt offerings as sacrifices of thanksgiving and devotion to God. **Christ's sinless humanity is denoted by absence of leaven.**

- **Hebrews 4:15-16 - *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.***

- **Oil signifies Christ born of and baptized with the Holy Spirit (John 1:32).**

- **What's a "drink offering"?** This consisted of wine (Numbers 15:5; Hosea 9:4) poured around the altar (Exodus 30:9). Joined with meat-offerings (Numbers 6:15,17; 2 Kings 16:13; Joel 1:9,13; 2:14), presented daily (Exodus 29:40), on the Sabbath (Numbers 28:9), and on feast-days (28:14).

Remember 1 Peter 2:9-10 - *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

¹ Warren Wiersbe Commentary