

**CALVARY PANDAN BIBLE-
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

[Adapted from Bethel Bible-Presbyterian Church,
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**DHW BIBLE CLASS
LESSON 21
EXODUS
CHAPTERS 28-29**

INTRODUCTION

Moses had received from God the pattern for the making of the tabernacle and all the furniture and instruments.

God emphatically made it clear to Moses that His pattern must be strictly followed. There was no room for any human innovation. This indicates to us that man's access to God must be in God's prescribed way and not man's ways. For example, there was *one and only one* entrance to the tabernacle, into the presence of God. This foreshadowed the Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is *the only way* to God.

Now Moses received from God concerning Aaron and his sons who were appointed by God to serve God "in the priest's office" (28:1). Not only was the tabernacle to be built according to God's pattern, Aaron and his sons who served God as priests must perform their service according to God's prescribed way. Again there was no room for any human improvisation.

This study should teach us some valuable guiding principles in our service to God and enhance our worship of God.

OUTLINE

1. **The Appointment of the Priesthood (28:1).**
 - a. Aaron and his sons were chosen to be priests unto the LORD (1a).
 - b. They were to serve the LORD as priests (1b).
2. **The Sacred Garments for Aaron (28:2-43).**
 - a. Aaron and his sons were to adorn holy garments (28:2-5).
 - The command to make the garments (v.2).
 - The garments were specially made to consecrate the priests (v.3).
 - The various pieces of the priestly garments were a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, an embroidered coat, a mitre, and a girdle (v.4).
 - The colours and material used were gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine linen (v.5).
 - b. The ephod (28:6-14).
 - The ephod (v.6)
 - The two shoulder pieces (v.7).
 - The girdle (v.8).
 - The two onyx stones (vv.9-12).
 - The two chains (vv.13-14).
 - c. The breastplate of judgement (28:15-29).

- The breastplate was square (vv.15, 16).
 - There was a setting of twelve precious stones (v.17-20).
 - The name of each tribe was engraved on each stone (v.21).
 - The gold chains (vv.22-28).
 - Aaron would bear the names of the children of Israel before the LORD (v.29).
- d. The Urim and the Thummim (28:30).
- e. The robe of the ephod (28:31-35).
- It was a blue robe (v.31).
 - It had a woven collar (v.32).
 - Woven work of pomegranates and golden bells, arranged alternately lined the hem (vv.33-34).
 - Aaron should wear it when he appeared before the LORD (v.35).
- f. The mitre (28:36-38).
- It had a golden plate engraved with the words "Holiness to the LORD" (v.36).
 - The plate was held by a blue lace attached to the front of the headgear (v.37).
 - Aaron should wear it always when he appeared before the LORD (v.38).
- g. The embroidered inner garment was made of fine linen (28:39).
- h. These garments were for Aaron and his sons (28:40-43).
- They were to put them on (vv.40, 41a).
 - They were anointed, consecrated, and sanctified (v.41b, 42).
 - Aaron and his sons must always wear them that they sin not and die (v.43).
- 3. The Consecration of the Priests (29:1-46).**
- a. The purpose of the consecration (29:1-4).
- The requirements: one bullock and two rams without blemish (v.1)
 - One basket containing unleavened bread and cakes tempered with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil; made of wheat flour (vv.2-3)
 - Aaron and his sons must wash the animals at the entrance of the tabernacle (v.4).
- b. Aaron and his sons must adorn the sacred garments (29:5-9).
- The necessity to wear the garments (vv.5-9a).
 - The office of the priest allotted to Aaron and his sons perpetually (v.9b).
 - The need to consecrate Aaron and his sons (9c).
- c. The bull for a sin offering (29:10-14).
- Aaron and his sons put their hands on the head of the bull (v.10).
 - The bull would be

- slaughtered before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle (v.11).
- Aaron would stain the blood on the horns of the brazen altar with his finger (12a).
 - The rest of the blood was poured at the bottom of the altar (v.12b).
 - Every part of the bullock would be burnt on the altar (vv.13, 14a).
 - It is a *sin offering* (v.14b).
- d. One ram used for a burnt offering (29:15-18).
- Aaron and his sons would put their hands on the head of the first ram (v.15).
 - The ram would be slain and its blood sprinkled around the altar (v.16).
 - The ram would be cut into pieces and offered whole on the altar (vv. 17, 18a).
 - It was a *sweet savour burnt offering* unto the LORD (v.18b).
- e. The second ram was used for consecration (29:19-37).
- Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the second ram (v.19).
 - The ram would be killed and its blood applied to the tip of the right ear of Aaron and his sons, and sprinkled round about the altar (v.20).
 - The blood on the altar and the anointing oil would be used to sprinkle Aaron and his sons' garments to consecrate them (v.21).
- The inward parts of the ram, and the right shoulder of the ram, with the one loaf of bread and cake, and wafer out of the basket - waved before the LORD and then burnt on the altar (vv.22 - 25a).
 - It was *sweet savour wave offering* unto the LORD (v.25b).
 - The breast of the ram and the shoulder would be offered as a wave offering unto the LORD (vv.26-28).
 - Aaron and his sons must wear the consecrated garments for the seven days (vv.29-30).
 - Moses was instructed to cook the ram in the holy place for Aaron and his sons to eat the ram and the bread in the basket (vv. 31-33).
 - The remainder of the uneaten flesh was to be burnt on the altar (v.34).
 - Moses instructed to consecrate Aaron and his sons seven days (vv. 35-37).
- f. The daily morning and evening burnt offerings (29:38-42).
- The LORD instructed Moses to offer two lambs daily, morning and evening on the altar (vv.38-41).
 - It should be done as a continual burnt offering throughout the year at the door of the tabernacle (v.42a)

- g. The LORD renewed His promise of dwelling among the children of Israel (29:42b-46).
- God would meet the children of Israel at the entrance of the tabernacle (vv.42b-43)
 - The tabernacle would be sanctified by the glory of God (vv.43b-44a).
 - God would sanctify Aaron and his sons to serve Him (v.44b).
 - God would dwell in the midst of His people (v.45).
 - His people would know that He is the LORD their God (v.46).

SUMMARY

The Priesthood

God instructed Moses to appoint Aaron and his four sons, namely, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, as priests. The office of the priest was someone who stood before God, serving Him. God instructed Moses to make “holy garments” for Aaron to give dignity and honour. These sacred garments worn by Aaron and his sons would set them apart from the rest of the people to serve the LORD as priests. God would see to it that those who made the sacred garments would be filled the “spirit of wisdom” (the technical skill) for the design of these garments was special and of unique significance. The colours chosen were similar to those used for the tabernacle: gold, blue, purple, scarlet and fine linen (white).

The Ephod

The *ephod* was mentioned first. It is the outer garment skilfully sewn. On the shoulders, two *onyx stones* were placed with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel engraved on them, six names on each stone (28:9, 10). Aaron would bear their names before the LORD upon his shoulders to remember them before the LORD (28:12). Another piece of garment linked with the ephod was the *breastplate of judgement* (28:15). It was the breastplate for making divine and judicial decisions. The breastplate was square and double folded. How were decisions made? In addition to the twelve precious stones set on the breastplate, each having the name of one tribe of Israel engraved on them, there were another two stones, the *Urim and the Thummim* (28:30) which were placed in the breastplate. Interestingly, “Urim” begins with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet (*aleph*), and “Thummim” the last letter (*tau*). The names mean “lights” and “perfections”. Aaron would bear the decisions of the children of Israel before the LORD. There is no consensus on how Aaron arrived at the decisions. The stones could be one a “yes” and the other “no”.

The Other Garments

The other pieces of Aaron’s garments were *the blue robe* (28:31), which was worn under the ephod, and another coat of fine linen under it (28:39). The blue robe had golden bells and

pomegranates on the hem of the robe. The bells indicated to the others outside who could not see the high priest that his offering was accepted and he did not die (28:35). Aaron wore a turban that had a plate of pure gold with the words *HOLINESS TO THE LORD* engraved on it (28:36). This plate of gold was fixed to a blue lace tied round the turban above the forehead. Then Moses was instructed to provide clothing for the ordinary priests. After that, Moses was to consecrate and sanctify them so that they might minister unto the LORD (28:40-41).

The Consecration

Aaron and his sons who were chosen to serve the LORD in the tabernacle had to be consecrated and sanctified. Their outer sacred garments were not complete. Chapter 29 details the requirements for their consecration. The list of things was given by the LORD: one young bullock, two rams without blemish, then bread, cakes tempered with oil, and wafers anointed with oil, all unleavened.

The Sin Offering

The first sacrifice was the offering of the bullock as a *sin offering*. Moses would take the blood of the bullock and stain the horns of the brazen altar in the courtyard. Then certain select parts of the bullock were to be burnt on the altar. The remainder of the flesh of the bullock would be burned outside the camp (29:12-14). This sin offering was for the consecration of Aaron and his sons

(29:9-10), otherwise they could not serve the LORD.

Then one ram was slain, the blood sprinkled round about the altar. The ram would be cut in pieces and the whole ram would be burnt on the brazen altar. It was a *sweet savour burnt offering* (29:17-18). Why the sweet savour? The offering symbolises the total dedication of the priests unto the LORD, which was well pleasing in His sight. We see a parallel in Paul's letter to the Romans. For the first eleven chapters Paul dwelt on the subject of redemption and justification by faith in Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God. Having established the justification of the believer in Christ, in Chapter 12, he called upon the Roman Christians to offer themselves as a living sacrifice unto the Lord. Paul must have thought of this passage in Exodus!

As for the other ram, the usual ritual was followed. Certain parts of the ram, together with one loaf of bread, cake and wafer were held and waved before the LORD. It was called *the wave offering*. These parts together with the bread, cakes and wafer were burnt on the altar. The breast and the shoulder were consecrated and waved before the Lord as a *heave offering* even a *peace offering* unto the LORD (29:28). Aaron and his sons would then eat the flesh of this second ram by the door of the tabernacle. They must not eat it out of the camp. They must eat only after they had the atonement made to

consecrate and sanctify them. This was *a fellowship meal!*

Daily Offerings

Two more offerings were required. The LORD gave Moses precise instructions as to what was to be offered on the altar of burnt offering every morning and every evening. One lamb would be offered in the morning, and another lamb in the evening or at twilight. The lamb would be offered together with the prescribed amount of flour mixed with oil (29:38-40). It would be a sweet savour offering unto the LORD.

The Promise

The LORD renewed His promises to the children of Israel if they performed all these things which He had commanded them to do. The LORD would meet with Moses, and Aaron and his sons, and with the children of Israel. The LORD would dwell in their midst and would be their God. This showed God's promise of His presence, His fellowship, and His protection and provision on behalf of the children of Israel whom He brought out of Egypt.

The spiritual insight in these rituals is clear. The physical aspect of the tabernacle to be built according to all the specifications is not enough. It must have the consecrated and sanctified priests to serve God. The priests must adorn special garments prescribed by the LORD. Then the priests in order to serve the LORD must first atone for their sins, and then offer a sweet aroma

offering unto the LORD and then fellowship with the LORD followed. Christians today are priests unto the LORD only if they have been atoned by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then they ought to offer themselves *a living sacrifice* which is a sweet aroma, well pleasing in the sight of God, which is as Paul says, our reasonable service. After that the Christian is assured of the fellowship of God who promises to bless him. These rituals given by the LORD to the Israelites in time past provide a vivid picture of our spiritual relationship with God so that we make no mistake in our walk with Him. The Lord our God be praised.

DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Daily Readings

MONDAY: Exodus 28:1-25; Hebrews 5:1-5

TUESDAY: Exodus 28:26-43; Numbers 27:18-21

WEDNESDAY: Exodus 29:1-14; Hebrews 7:22-28

THURSDAY: Exodus 29:15-30; Hebrews 8:1-8; Romans 12:1-2

FRIDAY Exodus 29:15-30; Hebrews 8:1-8

Discussion Questions

1. Why and how did God give special status to Aaron and his sons? How does this compare with believers in Christ today?

2. What was Aaron to wear on his shoulders according to vv. 9-12? What do you think this symbolises?

3. What do you think the twelve precious stones on the breastplate of the high priest signify?

4. What does the Urim and the Thummim say about God?

5. What does the engraved plate on Aaron's forehead teach about God and the priest?

6. What do you learn about our Lord Jesus Christ who is our high priest (Hebrew 4:14) from the description of the high priest in Exodus chapter 28?

7. What was required of Aaron and his sons before they could minister to the LORD?

8. Does this requirement apply to Christians today?

9. The offering of the first ram was a sweet savour burnt offering (not a sin offering) unto the LORD. What does it tell about the priest who made the offer?

10. What do you think the application of blood by Moses on the ear, thumb, and great toe of Aaron and his sons signify?

11. How many days must Moses perform the consecration rituals unto Aaron and his sons? Why?

12. What would you say is revealed most about God's character and personality in verses 45-46?
