

The Continuing Priesthood Exodus 29 Verses 29-46

Ex 29:29 "And the holy garments of Aaron shall be his sons' after him, to be anointed therein, and to be consecrated in them. 30 And that son that is priest in his stead shall put them on seven days, when he cometh into the tabernacle of the congregation to minister in the holy place."

When the office of the high priest changed hands, the replacement son was to wear the high priest garments for seven days in the holy place when he came in to minister in the holy place. Notice that the garments did not change, only the person wearing them. Notice that the change was only from the father to the son, not an outsider. This instructs us that none, but God's children, are to serve in the priesthood of service to God. One who is not a child of God, cannot, without being a blasphemer and a hypocrite, serve in any place in the church.

The prophetic picture of the changing of the priesthood, from father to son, is the picture of God the Father sending God the Son to be the High Priest forever, when he had fulfilled the sacrificial law service and accomplished the will of the Father, to save all of God's people from their sins. This continuing priesthood is manifested today in each child of grace, as we are all made kings and priests to God through Christ.

31 "And thou shalt take the ram of the consecration, and seethe his flesh in the holy place. 32 And 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 the congregation. 33 And they shall eat those things wherewith the atonement was made, to consecrate and to sanctify them: but a stranger shall not eat thereof, because they are holy. 34 And if ought of the flesh of the consecrations, or of the bread, remain unto the morning, then thou shalt burn the remainder with fire: it shall not be eaten, because it is holy."

Surely, we see the prophetic picture of Jesus establishing the Lord's Supper for this age of salvation by grace and the New Testament church. Remember that the bread was representative of the body of Jesus and the wine was representative of the blood of Jesus. Since it was to be eaten by the priesthood in the holy place: we see the picture that only those who are in fellowship in the church are to be partakers of this ordinance. Any of the meat and bread left over was to be burned. It was not for any other person to partake of, nor was it to be saved for another time. This tells us what scripture tells us in: ***La 3:22-23; 22 "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."***

This is intended to strengthen our faith and trust in God, just as the manna fell from heaven every morning, for Israel on the wilderness journey, reminded them, and reminds us, that God is still on the throne. It also reminds us that God's children are to feed only upon the bread of life, and that we are to feed daily thereon. We need to be reminded, each day, that Jesus died upon the cross for the eternal remission of our sins. It is a reminder to us that as Jesus is the Word of God. We need to delve into the word of God, the King James Bible, each day, seeking to see the testimony of Jesus our Saviour, and what glories the Holy Spirit may reveal to us from God's word.

35 "And thus shalt thou do unto Aaron, and to his sons, according to all things which I have commanded thee: seven days shalt thou consecrate them. 36 And thou shalt offer every day a bullock for a sin offering for atonement: and thou shalt cleanse the altar, when thou hast made an atonement for it, and thou shalt anoint it, to sanctify it. 37 Seven days thou shalt make an atonement for the altar, and sanctify it; and it shall be an altar most holy: whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy."

God required seven days of consecration for the priesthood. This demonstrates to us that we must be consecrated in discipleship to Christ, to properly live the Christian life, and bring glory and honor to the name of our God.

Surely, we can see clearly: God chose the priesthood. God clearly defines how they are sanctified to serve in the priest's office, and lays upon them the instructions of how to perform their duties in their service to God. The picture is the same today, as we see in: ***Joh 6:44-45; 44 "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me."***

They were to offer a sin offering each day for seven days; for seven days they were to cleanse the altar; seven days they were to sanctify the altar; after which the altar would be most holy, and whatsoever touched the altar would be holy. Seven being the number of completeness, we see the seven days of consecration as a figure, of the completeness of the work of Christ, in making all who he touches holy before God. It demonstrates that when Christ died upon the cross for the eternal remission of sins for all of God's people, it was a completed work, which is why before he died on the cross, Jesus said: **"It is finished."**

"whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy," reminds us of the woman who had the issue of blood and desired to be healed. She understood that all she had to do was touch the hem of his garment to be made whole, seen in the scripture in **Mt 9:20-22; 20 "And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: 21 For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. 22 But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour."** Additionally, we find this imagery portrayed in: **Mt 14:34-36; 34 ¶ "And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret. 35 And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased; 36 And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole."** Eternal salvation is of the Lord only.

38 ¶ "Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first-year day by day continually. 39 The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even: 40 And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering. 41 And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD."

The priesthood was to offer the required sacrifices both morning and evening of every day. This demonstrates that we cannot demonstrate our salvation by just attending church services on Sunday. We are to put on Christ every day, always letting the light of Christ shine brightly through us. It demonstrates that we should come to God, morning and evening, with remembrance of the work of salvation that Christ has done for us, presenting to God our thankfulness for the first coming of Christ, and our looking to the second coming of Christ, which will be a sweet savor to God the Father.

It is a picture of why we open and close our worship services with song and prayer.

42 "This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee. 43 And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory. 44 And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest's office. 45 And 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, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the LORD their God."

This continual burnt offering was to be done morning and evening every day. It speaks to us of the continual intercession of Christ on our behalf to God the Father. It is a reminder to us to offer up our prayers and thanksgiving offerings, in the name of Jesus Christ, every morning and evening to God. This was to happen every day, as long as the sacrificial law service continued. This should happen every day in the life of every child of God, that the name of God may be lifted up and glorified upon the earth.

These daily sacrifices were to be done at the tabernacle which was sanctified for the glory of God. What does that have to do with us today? When we are born again, by the grace of God, and indwelt with the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ, our bodies become the tabernacle that is sanctified for the glory of God. We are instructed in this how to live our lives as children of God, seen in: **1Co 6:15-20; 15 "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. 16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. 17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is**

without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." We should remember that fornication may be a physical thing done by the natural body, and it may also be a spiritual thing done against God, and our Husbandman, Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus said if you look upon a woman in lust you have committed adultery already in your heart, so if you look upon anything that is sinful and desire that above your fellowship and communion with God, you have committed spiritual adultery and or fornication.

Surely, we can all see that when we are born again and become new creations in Christ, we are to devote our lives totally to bringing glory to the name of God and Christ. That is the imagery we get from the text above, and from the service of the priesthood, who were continually in service at the tabernacle.

Some will say: but preacher; we do not go to church building to worship every day. This is true, but we are told in scripture: ***Mt 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*** If you are born again you are indwelt with the Holy Spirit, which was sent to us in the place of Jesus being on earth in a body of flesh. If you have the Holy Spirit in you, you also have Christ in you, and you also have God the Father in you, therefore, you can worship God wherever you are, and since your body is the temple of God, you are always within the tabernacle to do your sacrifices and bring glory to God. What great provisions our Saviour has made for us. What glory he has bestowed upon us, to know that we are always in his presence. Wherefore, let us praise and glorify the name of our God and Saviour every day. Hallelujah! Amen!