

Exodus 28-31

Day 1

Priests and their Garments, Consecration. Read Exodus 28:1 - 29:9

1. What family was to chosen to minister as priests for the LORD? 28:1

2. What was the purpose of their garments? 28:2,3

3. What purpose did the following parts of Aaron's high priestly garment have?

Two engraved onyx stones with the names of the sons of Israel attached to the shoulders of the Ephod. (28:9-12)	28:12
Twelve engraved gemstones stones with the names of the sons of Israel attached to the breastplate (28:17-21)	28:29
Urim and Thummim put into the breastplate	28:30 (Also see Numbers 27:21)
Pomegranates and bells on the hem of the robe (28:33,34)	28:35
Plate of pure gold engraved with "Holiness to the Lord" on the turban (28:36)	28:38

FYI: "The **ephod** has been described variously as a cape or a vest...Its two main sections covered the chest and back."
- The Nelson Study Bible (149)

"The use of the **Urim and Thummim** is described on a few occasions (Numbers 27:21, 1 Samuel 28:6, Ezra 2:63, and Nehemiah 7:65) and their use may be implied in other passages (Judges 1:1; 20:18, 23)...We aren't sure what they were or how they were used. The best guess is that they were a pair of stones...and each stone indicated a 'yes' or 'no' from God."
- David Guzik

4. Even though the priests held a place of honor, what did they need to recognize about themselves? 28:35,43 (See Hebrews 5:1-3)

- How is Christ's priesthood superior? Hebrews 7:23-28

Consecration 29:1-9

5. What needed to be done first before the priests could serve? 29:1-3 (Compare 19:10)

- Why did this ceremony need to start with sacrifices? See Hebrews 5:1-3
- What do “unblemished” and “unleavened” offerings (29:1,2) indicate?

For descriptions of priestly duties beyond the temple service, see 1 Chronicles 23:13 and Malachi 2:7.

6. What happened first at the consecration ceremony? 29:4 (*These are the instructions. The actual ceremony occurred later and is described in more detail in Leviticus 8.*)

- What happened to Aaron the high priest? 29:5-7
- To his sons? 29:8-9

Digging Deeper

How are we clothed?
Galatians 3:27

How are we anointed?
2 Corinthians 1:21

7. For how long were Aaron and his sons to serve? 29:9

Applying the Word: How do you think the people felt about the responsibility of the Aaron bearing their guilt? Read 1 Peter 2:24 and 1 John 2:2. How do you feel about your sin bearer?

Day 2

The Sacrifices, Week of consecration. Read Exodus 29:10-46

8. Before sacrificing the bull (the “sin offering” 2:14), what did Aaron and his sons do first? 29:10b, 15,19

- What did this signify? Leviticus 1:4; 16:21,22

FYI: “The Hebrew word means more than lightly placing the hand, it gives the idea of pressing hard upon the bullock’s head. They came each one and leaned upon the victim, loading him with their burden, signifying their acceptance of its substitution, their joy that the Lord would accept that victim in their stead. When they put their hands on the bullock, they made a confession of sin.” (Spurgeon) - David Guzik

9. The impure parts of the bull were burned outside the camp. 29:14 How was this picture fulfilled in Christ? Hebrews 13:11-13
10. Why did the parts of the tabernacle (29:12,16) and the priests (29:20,21) need to be anointed or sprinkled with blood? Hebrews 9:21,22
11. What do you think the ears, hands and feet (29:20) represented in the life of a priest?
12. (A “wave” or “heave” offering” (29:26) was waved to the altar and back showing that it was given to God with thankfulness and then received back to be eaten. Thus, it was also considered a “fellowship offering” with God.) What part of the wave offering were Aaron and his sons to receive for their service? 29:26-28,32
13. What did the sacrifices accomplish? 29:33 (See Leviticus 17:11)

FYI: "Atonement (at-one-ment) (Heb. *kaphar*, to "cover, cancel"; Grk. *katallage*, "exchange, reconciliation"). In accordance with the force of these terms of Scripture the atonement is the covering over of sin, the reconciliation between God and man, accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ." - The New Unger's Bible Dictionary

14. How long did the ceremony of ordination and consecration of the priests last? 29:35
- What else was being consecrated? 29:36
15. What kind of offerings were to be made on the altar each day? 29:38-41 (Why was this necessary? Hebrews 10:1-3)

FYI: "One tenth of an ephah was about two quarts; one fourth of a hin was about one quart." The Nelson Study Bible (153)

16. How was Christ's sacrifice superior? Hebrews 9:23-26
- What did this do to the need for sacrifices? Hebrews 10:10-14-,8)

17. Underline what Christ's sacrifice brought us:

- Hebrews 9:12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. NIV
- Colossians 1:22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation- NIV
- Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.
- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. NIV

18. What did God promise to do because of these offerings?

- 29:42,43
- 29:44
- 29:45

19. What would this communicate to the people? 29:46

"KNOW
THAT I AM..."

FYI: "As [the Israelites] had learned to know Him through the rescue from Egypt and preservation in the wilderness, now they would also know Him through His presence with them and His provision for worship and communion with Him at the tabernacle."
- The Woman's Study Bible (152)

20. When this week of consecration was actually carried out, what happened on the eighth day? Leviticus 9:1,21-24

Applying the Word: *This consecration service required a lot of time, effort and spilled blood. What message did that convey about serving the Lord? How does that compare to how you view your service to Him?*

Day 3

Altar of Incense, Atonement Money, Basin, Anointing Oil, Incense. Read Exodus 30

21. How big was the altar of incense? 30:2

- When was the incense burned? 30:7,8
- What warning did God give about the incense? 30:9
- What needed to be done to the altar once a year? 30:10 Why?



FYI: "*Strange* may mean 'foreign' or perhaps 'common' (that is, unsanctified) incense."

Once a year: This Day of Atonement was later specified in Lev. 16." - The Nelson Study Bible (153,154)

"make atonement on its horns" (30:10) "Every day when the priests brought a morning and evening offering of incense they saw the blood stained horns of the altar. This was a constant reminder of the work of atoning blood."
- David Guzik

22. What might have been the significance of the incense and of its continual burning?
Psalms 141:2; Revelation 5:8

23. What picture do the three pieces of furniture (Table of Shewbread, Lampstand and Altar of Incense) in the Holy Place give about the fellowship we have with God?

Atonement Money - 30:11-16

24. Why did God want a census taken? 30:12,14 (See also Numbers 1:1-3)

- Why was this "ransom" (30:12) payment not enough? Psalm 49:7-9
25. What warning was given about numbering the people? 30:12b (*i.e. Why might someone want to count the people for themselves?*)

FYI: "*Ransom* is related to the words for atonement...The idea is to pay a price for one's life. The Israelites had to acknowledge that their lives were from God and governed by Him by giving Him an offering of money."
- The Nelson Study Bible (154)

That there may be no plague among them when you number them: (30:12) If a count was made without receiving the ransom money, a census communicated the idea that a king or a human leader owned Israel, when God alone did. This was David's problem in 2 Samuel 24:1-25, when David took a census without the ransom money and God plagued Israel."
- David Guzik

26. What message was God communicating by having everyone pay the same amount (30:15)?

- What was the money used for? 30:16

27. Who paid the ultimate “ransom” payment? For how many? I Timothy 2:5-6

Bronze laver - 30:17-21

28. How important was it for the priests to do ceremonial washings? 30:20,21
What do you think this washing represented? (See Isaiah 1:16)



29. If a person is in Christ, how have they been washed?
1 Corinthians 6:11; Titus 3:5,6

Creative Corner

On the diagram draw a picture or a shape in the courtyard for the Altar of Incense and Laver.

Oil and incense - 30:22-38

30. Why do you think the formulas for the anointing oil (30:32,33) and incense (30:37,38) were sacred and not to be imitated or used for personal reasons?

31. Using your senses of sight, sound, touch and smell, describe what you think it would be like to enter the courtyard and tabernacle?

32. What do you think God’s careful and detailed instruction for worship conveyed? (i.e. About man? About the problem of sin? About the cost of redemption/renewal?...)

Applying the Word: How thankful are you for the “washing of rebirth and renewal” that has been done in your life by the Holy Spirit? What impact should that have on your view of yourself? On your actions?

Day 4

God Gives Wisdom. The Sabbath. Read Exodus 31:1-18

33. To whom did God give wisdom and understanding? 31:2-3,6 (See also 35:34,5)

- For what reason? 31:6b

34. What kind of skills did God impart? 31:3-5 (How do you think this made the people feel?)

Digging Deeper

Read Romans 12:4-8 and Ephesians 4:7-13 for how we are to use our gifts.

35. What else do you learn about Bezalel and Oholiab's roles in Exodus 35:34?

36. As God gave people this work to do, of what did He remind them and why? 31:13 (Why was this an important time to remind them?)

- In 31:13,16, what two words did He use to describe the observance of the Sabbath?

FYI: "It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever: Though ...we are not bound by the Sabbath (Romans 14:5; Colossians 2:16-17), the principle is still important. Our rest in the finished work of Jesus is never to be eclipsed by our work for God. When workers for God are burnt-out, they have almost always allowed their work for God to be bigger in their minds than His work for them." - David Guzik

37. Why do you think such a severe punishment was given for profaning the Sabbath? 31:14

- What does observance of the Sabbath bring? 31:17b (Compare Mark 2:27)

6. How was the law preserved and authenticated? 31:18 (See also 32:15,16)

- What does the phrase "*written with the finger of God*" say about the origin of the law and its standard of right and wrong?

7. Reflect back on all the miraculous ways that God had revealed his love and power to the people from Egypt to Sinai. Think how carefully He had laid out his plan for them to follow in knowing how to worship and fellowship with Him. Then consider His personal equipping of the people in giving them the skills to carry it all out. What should this have communicated to them:

- About God's commitment and care for them?

- About their calling and responsibility? (See Ex 19:5-6)

Applying the Word: *What is one of the best ways you have made use of a giftedness the Lord has given you for service? How did it make you feel?*