I Will Meet You to Speak There unto You

Exodus Chapter Twenty-Nine

~ In the last leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, we managed to completely cover up the flesh with the garments of the high priest. Those are garments of glory and beauty. In this report, we are still examining instructions for garments; but these are for the common priesthood - the family of Levi. I suppose the camp is just going about their every day lives now while we are getting these directives and blueprints for the tabernacle and the service in it! This will mark the third time I have acknowledged that I believe this section of the Bible is not as thrilling as it could be. However, it is so filled with meaning of the Lord Jesus Christ that it is, actually, the most thrilling and informative book mankind has available; with the possible exception of Leviticus. I'm absolutely confident the Spirit of God wants to minister to you and me in this message of the tabernacle. This is Gods A,B,C book for us — it's a picture book. All of these things happened unto the children of Israel as examples to us - and we have some great spiritual lessons as a result.

Consecration for a believer is not about anything the believer does Consecration is something God does for us. Consecration must rest upon the finished work of Christ on the cross. We hear about consecration services where people promise to do something - well, consecration means to come to God with empty hands and allowing Him to fill those hands with His substance. I have promised God big promises, quite frankly, and I have never really made good on my part. Consecration means to come to God with empty hands and confess our sins and weaknesses and inabilities and see what He does through us! The great prayers of the Bible are never based on what the people praying the prayer are going to do for God; no, they're all based on what God promised He is going to do for the person praying. Maybe you have something to offer God — I don't! When Aaron's sons wash the sacrifice with water this speaks of regeneration. It is not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy hath He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy

Spirit. This is not to be confused with the washing at the laver which is altogether different.

Moving on in this section, Moses is to take all the articles of the garments and put them on Aaron the high priest. Also, the priest was to lay hands on the little animal that was substituting in death. We hear so much about the laying on of hands in the Old Testament - and today, too - but it has no value for us as Christians. People mistakenly think they transmit something spiritual by laying their hands on others. Well, you cannot transmit ANYTHING except for a communicable disease today by touching someone else. The laying on of hands means the sinner is identifying with the sacrifice. This ridiculous notion that we have some hocus pocus magic act we impart to someone that we forcibly touch is sheer nonsense. Let's get rid of that type of thinking and get down to the reality of growing in the grace and knowledge of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, shall we? Let's begin where the sinner is identified with the sacrifice dying for them because they are sinners....

1 And this is the thing that thou shalt do unto them to hallow them, to minister unto me in the priest's office: Take one young bullock, and two rams without blemish,

2 And unleavened bread, and cakes unleavened tempered with oil, and wafers unleavened anointed with oil: of wheaten flour shalt thou make them.

3 And thou shalt put them into one basket, and bring them in the basket, with the bullock and the two rams.

4 And Aaron and his sons thou shalt bring unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water.

5 And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the curious girdle of the ephod:

6 And thou shalt put the mitre upon his head, and put the holy crown upon the mitre.

7 Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour it upon his head, and anoint him.

8 And thou shalt bring his sons, and put coats upon them.

9 And thou shalt gird them with girdles, Aaron and his sons, and put the bonnets on them: and the priest's office shall be theirs for a perpetual statute: and thou shalt consecrate Aaron and his sons.

10 And thou shalt cause a bullock to be brought before the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the bullock.

11 And thou shalt kill the bullock before the LORD, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

~ Here we find the order for the sacrifice of the burnt offering. This is not the sin offering. We don't find the sin – or trespass – offering until we get to Leviticus. From the beginning, even in the Garden of Eden, there was a burnt offering. The burnt offering speaks of the Person of Christ and Who He is; the altar speaks of what Christ has done for us. All of this is quite detailed through here; but we're going to wait to go in-depth with the offerings until we examine the Book of Leviticus. There are, however, MANY minor details we need to pick up here that will be amazingly meaningful to us later. So as always, I suggest you read this section of Scripture very carefully after praying for wisdom, judgment and spiritual discernment....

12 And thou shalt take of the blood of the bullock, and put it upon the horns of the altar with thy finger, and pour all the blood beside the bottom of the altar.

- 13 And thou shalt take all the fat that covereth the inwards, and the caul that is above the liver, and the two kidneys, and the fat that is upon them, and burn them upon the altar.
- 14 But the flesh of the bullock, and his skin, and his dung, shalt thou burn with fire without the camp: it is a sin offering.
- 15 Thou shalt also take one ram; and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the ram.
- 16 And thou shalt slay the ram, and thou shalt take his blood, and sprinkle it round about upon the altar.
- 17 And thou shalt cut the ram in pieces, and wash the inwards of him, and his legs, and put them unto his pieces, and unto his head.
- 18 And thou shalt burn the whole ram upon the altar: it is a burnt offering unto the LORD: it is a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD.
- 19 And thou shalt take the other ram; and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the ram.
- 20 Then shalt thou kill the ram, and take of his blood, and put it upon the tip of the right ear of Aaron, and upon the tip of the right ear of his sons, and upon the thumb of their right hand, and upon the great toe of their right foot, and sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about.
- 21 And thou shalt take of the blood that is upon the altar, and of the anointing oil, and sprinkle it upon Aaron, and upon his garments, and upon his sons, and upon the garments of his sons with him: and he shall be hallowed, and his garments, and his sons, and his sons' garments with him.
- 22 Also thou shalt take of the ram the fat and the rump, and the fat that covereth the inwards, and the caul above the liver, and the two kidneys,

and the fat that is upon them, and the right shoulder; for it is a ram of consecration:

23 And one loaf of bread, and one cake of oiled bread, and one wafer out of the basket of the unleavened bread that is before the LORD:

24 And thou shalt put all in the hands of Aaron, and in the hands of his sons; and shalt wave them for a wave offering before the LORD.

25 And thou shalt receive them of their hands, and burn them upon the altar for a burnt offering, for a sweet savour before the LORD: it is an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

26 And thou shalt take the breast of the ram of Aaron's consecration, and wave it for a wave offering before the LORD: and it shall be thy part.

~ This section of Scripture concerns food provisions for the priests and the manner in which they were to obtain it, bless it and consume it. A portion of each sacrifice went to the priests and another portion went to Aaron. The Levites had no part in the day-to-day business affairs of the nation Israel; so, this is the plan God implemented to sustain them. The priest is to serve and, as a result, he is to receive a specified and designated portion of the offering....

27 And thou shalt sanctify the breast of the wave offering, and the shoulder of the heave offering, which is waved, and which is heaved up, of the ram of the consecration, even of that which is for Aaron, and of that which is for his sons:

28 And it shall be Aaron's and his sons' by a statute for ever from the children of Israel: for it is an heave offering: and it shall be an heave offering from the children of Israel of the sacrifice of their peace offerings, even their heave offering unto the LORD.

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

~ So, this leg of our Spiritual Safari closes with an emphasis on the burnt offering. The reason there is no sin offering as Leviticus outlines is because, while sin has always been sin, it was not a trespass or an overt act against God until after the law is given and the commands for an offering are also given with it. If you read carefully, there actually is a sin offering in the waste remains of the sacrifice in verse fourteen; but it is already part of the ritualistic command - not a separate obligation of the individual Israelite, per se. Today, just as in the day in which we are studying, breaking the law is breaking the law and sin is sin. An axiom of the legal profession is that ignorance of the law is no excuse for breaking it. A whole lot of God's law gets broken because of willful ignorance, to be sure.

Well, this burnt offering is to be offered on the altar, day by day, continually. The really important thing for us to see is that this was the daily sacrifice. Every morning and every evening these children of Israel were making an offering. They needed a continual reminder of the need for someone to take their place in the judgment of sin before God. Every day. They acknowledged that their sins merited death and required the shedding of blood - every day. In Hebrews, we are told, ".... once, in the end of the age has He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." The blood of bulls and goats and lambs just does not remove sins; but Christ Jesus has dealt adequately and completely with the sin question....

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.

~ Once hath He appeared at the end of the age....well, I hope we see Him every single day, friends. And that makes for a great conclusion of this report as it leads us into the great worship chapter of Exodus next where we get the instructions for the altar of incense. That represents and speaks of prayer. We will also see that only the truly redeemed are permitted to worship at that altar. We're also going to learn what it means to get cleaned up at the laver. These are all tremendous spiritual truths that can only be discovered in a sincere, educated Bible study; and they are requirements if we are going to oblige ourselves serviceable to God!

We have seen the brazen altar, but not the brazen laver. The laver speaks of the cross of Christ and death for our sins. All of the furniture is centered towards worship. We'll see how the priests carried the furniture through the wilderness when we reach Numbers. Our church today shouldn't be a place where we all go and gossip. It should be the place where you meet and feed on the Person of Christ. It should also be the place where we offer our incense on the altar of prayer.

In our next report we will examine the dimensions for this altar. It is a very small altar, to be sure - and it's no altar for sacrifice. This altar was for one thing and one thing only – incense! And only one particular type of incense, I should add. The priests would burn incense every time they would light the lights thereof. The altar of incense is very important to see as part of a proper program for prayer. The Bible tells us that incense is a symbol of

prayer and praise in many places. David said, ".... let my prayer be set before Thee as sweet incense." When the angel in Revelation offered prayer, he also poured out the incense. Remember, after four hundred years of silence, God spoke to Zechariah in Matthew at the altar of incense during a time of prayer.

This all conjoins with a figure of Christ as our Intercessor. Aaron ministered where the high priest was. In Hebrews we find out the altar of incense is currently located inside the Holy of Holies! When Hebrews was written, the veil had been rent and twain; Christ had already offered Himself down here as our sacrifice. The writer to the Hebrews knew that the altar of incense is in Heaven after Christ died for our sins. You and I come to God through Christ Who is our Great Intercessor. When you and I come to the Father in prayer we must come through Christ! Even after you are saved you don't come directly to the Father; you will come to the Father through Christ throughout eternity - or you just won't be coming to the Father! The Lord Jesus Christ is the only One Who can bring us into the presence of God; and Christ is in Heaven today praying for us.

I'm sure the children of Israel were reassured by Aaron being in the tabernacle praying for them! It's a beautiful wonderful picture to know Christ is praying for us always. Remember, Jesus said, "I pray not for the world but for those that the Father hath given Me who are in the world." Christ says He isn't praying for the world today, friends. It's a little bit more personal than that! The Holy Spirit is in the world to speak of the things of Christ to those who will receive Him. Jesus isn't doing anything more for the world after having died for them! Christ is in Heaven praying for you and me personally, and I like that – do you? If it weren't for Him up there as our Holy High Priest, then we wouldn't have very much worthwhile to do down here. At least, I wouldn't ~

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