

The Presence of God

Part 2

Exodus Chapters 28 to 31

Outline

1. The priestly garments
2. Consecration of the Priests
3. Construction of some of the tabernacle furnishings
4. Bezalel and Oholiab, two skilled craftsmen filled with God's spirit
5. Instructions on the Sabbath

The Priestly Garments



Illustration of Israelite Priests © BiblePlaces.com

"Have Aaron your brother brought to you from among the Israelites, with his sons Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, so that they may serve me as priests.

(Exodus 28:1 NIV)

Make sacred garments for your brother Aaron, to give him dignity and honor. Tell all the skilled men to whom I have given wisdom in such matters that they are to make garments for Aaron, for his consecration, so that he may serve me as priest. These are the garments they are to make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a woven tunic, a turban and a sash. They are to make these sacred garments for your brother Aaron and his sons, so that they may serve me as priests. Have them use gold, and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and fine linen.”

(Exodus 28:2-5 NIV)

The Wardrobe



Garments of the high priest
in a model of the tabernacle
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The Breastpiece



Breastpiece in a tabernacle model © BiblePlaces.com

"Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, he will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart on the breastpiece of decision as a continuing memorial before the LORD."

(Exodus 28:29 NIV)

The Urim and the Thummim

Also put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastpiece, so they may be over Aaron's heart whenever he enters the presence of the LORD. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of making decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the LORD."

(Exodus 28:30 NIV)

The Turban



The Priestly Garments

- God gave very specific instructions
- God was in charge of the relationship with the young nation of Israel
- reminder of God's holiness and the need to approach Him with reverence

“Aaron and his sons must wear them whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting or approach the altar to minister in the Holy Place, so that they will not incur guilt and die. "This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants.”

(Exodus 28:43 NIV)

The Priests' Roles

- much responsibility
- God laid out for them, exactly what they were to do and how they were to do it
- cost of wilful disobedience was death

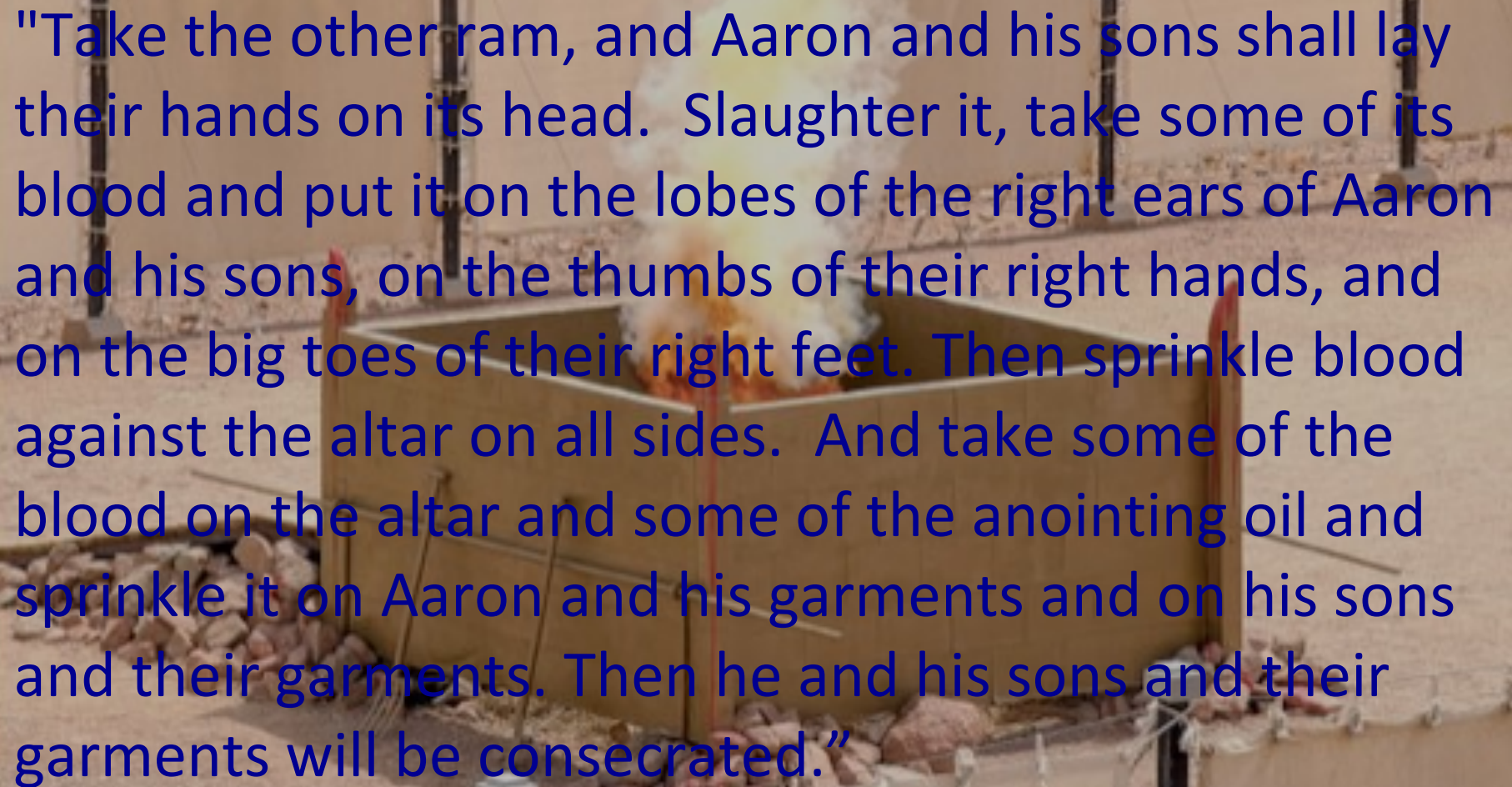
“Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorised fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.”
(Leviticus 10:1-2 NIV)

Consecration of the Priests

- to be dressed in the garments specifically made
- a sin offering in which a bull was to be sacrificed
- need for their sin to be atoned for to be presentable as servants before the Lord
- two rams were also to be slaughtered

“Then burn the entire ram on the altar. It is a burnt offering to the LORD, a pleasing aroma, an offering made to the LORD by fire.”

(Exodus 29:18 NIV)



"Take the other ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on its head. Slaughter it, take some of its blood and put it on the lobes of the right ears of Aaron and his sons, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. Then sprinkle blood against the altar on all sides. And take some of the blood on the altar and some of the anointing oil and sprinkle it on Aaron and his garments and on his sons and their garments. Then he and his sons and their garments will be consecrated."

(Exodus 29:19-21 NIV)

Encouraging Words for the Nation

"For the generations to come this burnt offering is to be made regularly at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting before the LORD. There I will meet you and speak to you; there also I will meet with the Israelites, and the place will be consecrated by my glory. "So I will consecrate the Tent of Meeting and the altar and will consecrate Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests. Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. They will know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God."

(Exodus 29:42-46 NIV)

Another High Priest

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise 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. Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. No-one takes this honour upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." And he says in another place, "You are a priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek."

(Hebrews 4:14-5:6 NIV)

Jesus, Our High Priest

- Unique... did not have to offer a sacrifice to atone for His sin (He was/is sinless)
- Became the sin offering once and for all
- Atoned (paid the penalty) for the sin of the world
- Therefore, those who accept Him by faith :
 - Are adopted into God's family as sons and daughters
 - Call God "Abba Father"

The Altar of Incense



Incense Altar in a tabernacle model
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- incense to be offered twice a day
- Recipe precisely laid out by God
- Formula only to be used by the high priest in the tabernacle

Annual Atonement

- blood to atone for sin
 - consecrates the altar to keep it holy
- part of the Day of Atonement ceremony
- “Yom Kippur” - a foreshadow of the atoning sacrifice Christ would make on the cross

The Basin



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“Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it. Whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting, they shall wash with water so that they will not die.”
(Exodus 30:19-20 NIV)

The Temple Tax

silver half sheqel
66 AD (1st year)



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The Right Attitude

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**The only way to approach a holy God ...
is with an attitude of humility and reverence**



Two Craftsmen

“Then the LORD said to Moses, “See I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.” Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given skill to all the craftsmen to make everything I have commanded you:”

**God doesn't
call the equipped...
He equips the called**

(Exodus 31:1-6 NIV)

The Sabbath

“Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so that you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy. ’”“Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you. Anyone who desecrates it must be put to death; whoever does any work on that day must be cut off from his people. For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must be put to death.

The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant. It will be a sign between me and the Israelites for ever, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he abstained from work and rested.'" When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God."

(Exodus 31:12-18 NIV)

Romans 14:5-6

“One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord.”

(Romans 14:5-6 NIV)



*Moses on Mount
Sinai*, by Jean-Léon
Gérôme,
circa 1895
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Next week... What the Israelites were up to
while Moses was on the mountain with God