

February 9, 2014
"Christ's Sacrifice; Our Service"
Exodus 29:10-21; Revelation 1:5-6

When Aaron and his sons were consecrated as priests in Israel, after they were washed, clothed and anointed with oil; three animals were sacrificed as part of their consecration. This was required because while they were clean, smelled nice and looked great, their hearts were still sinful.

²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. (Hebrews 9:22 NKJ)

^{ESV} Hebrews 9:22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (Hebrew 9:22 ESV)

Look at the blood in this passage, it goes EVERYWHERE!

*:12 on the horns of the altar
Beside the base of the altar*

:16 all around on the altar

*:20 on their right ears
On their right thumbs
On their right big toes*

:21 sprinkled on Aaron and on his sons and on their garments

What does all this mean?

Ultimately, we know the sacrifice of these animals was to point us to Christ -

¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit

offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:13-14 NKJ)

⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. ⁵ Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. ⁶ In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, Behold, I have come - In the volume of the book it is written of Me-- To do Your will, O God." ⁸ Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), ⁹ then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. ¹⁰ By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ¹¹ And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, (Hebrews 10:4-12 NKJ)

Yet, each animal also represents something different –

1. The bull was offered as a sin offering - :14

¹⁴ "But the flesh of the bull, with its skin and its offal, you shall burn with fire outside the camp. It is a sin offering. ¹⁵

1. When Aaron and his sons put their hands on the head of the bull, it symbolized a transference of guilt, from Aaron and his sons, to the bull! :10

2. When they killed the bull, it was the death their sins deserved –
²³ For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23 NKJ)

3. Note, this sin offering :14 is first, the removal of sin is a priority, we must be cleansed from sin before we enter into God's presence or presume to do God's service.

4. None of this "sin offering" was eaten by the priest; it was not to be enjoyed! It (the bull's) body was burned outside the camp, picturing for us the full rejection of sin!

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJ)

II. *The first ram was offered as a burnt offering - :18*
¹⁸ "And you shall burn the whole ram on the altar. It is a burnt offering to the LORD; it is a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

1. *The fact that the entire or whole ram was burnt on the altar represented Christ's full, whole-hearted and perfectly obedient service to God –*

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:5-8 NKJ)

2. *It represents a resignation to the will and calling of God, which all followers of Christ are called to –*

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1 John 2:6 NKJ)

²³ Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. (Luke 9:23 NKJ)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* (Romans 12:1 NKJ)

III. *The second ram was offered and its blood was used to mark the servants of God, as His – :19-21*

¹⁹ "You shall also take the other ram, and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands on the head of the ram. ²⁰ "Then you shall kill the ram, and take some of its blood and put it on the tip of the right ear of Aaron and on the tip of the right ear of his sons, on the thumb of their right hand and on the big toe of their right foot, and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar. ²¹ "And you shall take some of the blood that is on the altar, and some of the anointing oil, and sprinkle it on Aaron and on his garments, on his sons and on the garments of his sons with him; and he and his garments shall be hallowed, and his sons and his sons' garments with him. (Exodus 29:19-21 NKJ)

²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJ)

The blood here is put on three parts of Aaron and his sons, just like the blood of the lamb was placed on three parts of the Israelites doors in Egypt, it marked the people of God, those whom God would pass over – Exodus 12:7

1. *Placed on the tips of their right ears, sanctifying them for the hearing of the Word of God –*

¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17 NKJ)

²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (John 10:27 NKJ)

2. *Placed on their right thumbs, sanctifying them for the doing of the Work of God –*

¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might (Ecclesiastes 9:10 NKJ)

3. *Placed on their right big toes, sanctifying them for a continuing Walk with God –*

But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31 NKJ)

NKJ Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.* (Romans 8:1 NKJ)

4. *Finally, the blood of the second ram, along with anointing oil was sprinkled on them and their clothing symbolizing the fact that they belonged to God, every part, and they were anointed for His service!*

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (1 Peter 2:9 NKJ)

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:5-6 NKJ)

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