

## **The Beauty of His Holiness & Our Holy Work**

Text: Exodus 28, 29; John 19

### **Introduction**

- In Matthew people rain Jesus out of town - they feared His holiness.
- Turn to Exodus 28 - but also flip over to John 19 - that is where we will end.
- We have been looking at this section of Exodus that runs from Exodus 24 through 40, with one interruption in 32, 33, and 34. This whole passage has to do with the right worship of God, except 32-24 is about wrong worship.
- Obviously the fact that Moses would spend a third of the book on the subject of the worship of God is some indication of how important this subject is to God.
- Exodus 25-31 contain the message that God gave to Moses on the mountain during some portion of that forty-day time that he was up on the mountain receiving the revelation of God; and that passage, that section of Exodus, focuses on the form of worship that is to provide the vehicle for the people of God's divine encounter with Him.
- Priesthood of the believer. I would like to say this is something super special for us preacher types in the New Testament. That is not the case. This describes the relationship we believers have as priests. Made possible by the blood atonement.

## **Chapter Division**

- verse 1 - Aaron and his sons being called by God and set apart for the priestly office
- verses 2-4 - the holy garments for their ministry in the tabernacle are appointed by God
- verses 5-14 - extensive instructions are made or given for the making of this ephod—this kilt, or waistcoat, or whatever it is that's to be worn along with the girdle by the high priest.
- verses 15-20 - details on the design of the breastplate that is to be worn by the high priest, as well as the mysterious Urim and Thummin. - interesting study last mentioned in Ezra.
- verses 31-35 - further specifications on the robe that is to be worn along with the ephod with woven pomegranates and bells
- verses 36-39 - we have a description of the gold plate to be worn on the turban of the high priest described in connection with the tunic and the embroidered coat
- verses 40-43 - the attention turns away from these specific garments of the high priest to the instructions or directions for the garments of Aaron's sons — that is, the ordinary priesthood.

## I. The Presentation of the Priests

A. All the details reminds us that this, worship, is very important. **ch. 28, 29**

1. It is not a product He is asking to be produced but a heart that should be given in praise.
2. He even orders directions regarding the underwear that is to be worn by the priests (verse 43)!
3. No Old Testament saint could think it was OK to be irreverent in the presence of God.
4. Worship is an engagement with God on the terms He proposes, and in the way He alone makes possible.

B. The instructions about clothing for the high priest and the priests indicate that God wants those that serve Him to be set apart.

**28:2-4, 40-43.**

1. They are expensive; they are ornate.
2. The very phrase for **glory and beauty** is repeated in the Bible but it is always attached to God in the Psalms, and not to the priests and not to the high priests.

**1 Chronicles 16:29** Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

**Psalm 29:2** Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3. Set apart for the purpose of “that he may minister unto me”.

**28:3**

**3** And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

C. Distinctive clothing.

1. The high priest has eight distinctive garments that are to be worn. The regular priests have four distinctive garments.
2. No shoes are mentioned. That's because they minister before the Lord barefoot. **Exodus 3:5** Moses

D. High priest's garment compared to the regular priests' garment.

1. They were clothed in white linen, but he was clothed all in white linen and gold.
2. High Priest: Wears the same material that decorates the interior of the Holy of Holies.
3. Must be clothed in righteousness. **Psalm 132:9 9 Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy.**

E. Distinctive line.

1. Be from the line of Levi & Aaron. **28:1**
2. Not just children of Israel. Not just Levis. But men from the line of Aaron. Becomes an idiom “the sons of Aaron”.

***The point of all this, in verses 2-4 and in verses 40-43, is that the priests are to be clothed in a manner that prepares them to minister for the living God.***

## **II. The Preparation of the Priests**

- A. God directs that priests are to be consecrated and ordained via a ritual that emphasizes the need for cleansing. 29:1-9
1. The ceremony begins with the collection of three sacrificial animals, a bull and two rams.
    - a. The bull is for a sin offering.
    - b. The first ram was for a burnt offering, a whole burnt offering.
    - c. The second ram was a ram for consecration or ordination.
  2. Three types of wheat bread are to be made and brought in a basket to the doorway of the tent of meeting. **29:2-3**
  3. Ceremonial washing & anointing. **29:4, 7**
    - a. The bronze laver taught about in ch. 27 was to be used.
    - b. The priest is anointed with oil and that anointing oil is a visible marker of God's choice of Aaron and his sons.
  4. Aaron and sons were given the task with a perpetual statute **29:9** **...and the priest's office shall be theirs for a perpetual statute: and thou shalt consecrate Aaron and his sons.**

B. Even the priests who served as the representatives of Israel needed a representative because of their sin. **29:10-14**

1. The bull - sin offering.

- a. Hands on the head of the bull - this bull would be their substitute.
- b. The death of that animal will stand in for the death of the priest. The priest, because of his sin deserve to die.
- c. Priest is not allowed to go into the tent of meeting until the sacrifices have been made, until the ceremonial washing has occurred.
- d. The bull is slaughtered at the doorway and then some of the blood of the bull is smeared on the horns and the base of the altar.
- e. The skin, the carcass, and the waste parts of the bull are to be taken outside the camp and burned 'outside the camp'. **29:14**  
**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.**

2. First ram - burnt offering. **29:15-18** This is the ram of burnt offering.

- a. Hands layed on the head.
- b. Whole ram slaughtered.
- c. Blood thrown all over the altar not just on the tips.

3. Second ram - Ordination **29:29-25**

- a. Some of this blood was sprinkled on Aaron and his sons.
- b. Parts of this ram with some of the bread will be waved in the sky as it is offered up in a burnt offering.
- c. Blood smeared on the right ear lobe and right big toe.
  - i. Brining to the mind the bond servant.
  - ii. Symbolizing being ready to hear and to obey.

4. Even the altar must be atoned for and the priests consecrated over seven days. **29:35-37**

- a. Seven day ordination service.
- b. Not merely purified but atoned for. Why? Because the altar, though it was commanded by God, was made with sinful hands. **29:38**

**Hebrews 8:6** But now hath he obtained a *more excellent ministry*, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

### III. Jesus has a more excellent ministry.

#### A. A Different Line.

1. Remember we said the High Priest must come from the line of Aaron. 28:1
2. Jesus descends from Judah. **Hebrews 7:14-17** For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.
3. According to Melchizedek not physical requirements.

#### B. Permanent verses Temporary.

1. Appointed from God.
2. A priest forever.

#### C. Representation. 29:9-12, 15-21

**15** Thou shalt also take one ram; and Aaron and his sons *shall put their hands upon the head of the ram.*

1. Priests had 2 different ways of representing their people.
  - a. The 12 stones represented on the onyx shoulder piece.
  - b. Also on the breastplate.
2. The high priest was their representative before God - what a task to trust someone with.
3. We are represented by Jesus Christ to the Father!
4. Jesus enters into the Heaven for us to intercede. **Hebrew 8:24** For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*

#### D. Jesus becomes our sacrifice. John 19

1. Hebrews 9:22 says, "That without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin."
2. They placed a purple robe on His back. John 19:2,3
3. Just like the high priest of the OT, Jesus coat was without a seam. **John 19:23** Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a

part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

4. John's point is very obvious: Jesus is our great High Priest.

#### **IV. The seriousness and subject of our Worship!**

A. Worship: Worship is an engagement with God on the terms He proposes, and in the way He alone makes possible.

B. After the ceremony the priests who serve as the representatives of Israel are blessed with a meal of communion. **29:31-34** 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.

1. No laymen could eat it.

2. If anything was left they burn it.

3. Made up of the remainder the second ram and finally those three types of bread that had been put in the basket.

C. God brought the children out of Israel out of Egypt so he might dwell with them **29:46** 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.

D. You have been created to worship the God of Heaven. He must be worshipped in spirit and in truth. **John 4: 24** God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

E. The role of the priest was not a part time gig. They were set apart for this work.

1. We are holy priesthood.

2. Worship is not and cannot be just music on a stage on a few occasions a week.

3. Worship often times requires work. It always requires obedience.

4. Think about the description of what the priests did as worship.

- F. Look at how Paul lived out his priestly ministry in the NT.
1. He offered up the faith of the gentiles. Romans 15:16-17 **That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God.**
  2. He offered himself onto of the sacrifice of their faith. **Phil. 2:17** **Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. 18 For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.**
  3. He planted the Word - that yielded the faith that would become his sacrifice unto God. **1 Peter 1:23** **Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.**

### **Conclusion:**

- Are you leaving a life that is clearly set apart for the sake of worship?
- Is your life reflecting the “beauty and holiness” of our great God?
- You cannot even enter into worship unless you are a believer. You must receive forgiveness of your sin.
- Believer have you got so called up in the “ceremony of religion” that you have forgotten that the whole purpose is to serve God and worship Him in the beauty of His holiness?
- **The purpose of redemption is that God might fellowship with us. He shed His blood so you could be freed to worship Him. Are you?**