

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 12:50 PM  
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on Exodus 29

"I will dwell among the sons of Israel and will be their God. They shall know that I am the LORD their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell among them; I am the LORD their God!" (Exodus 29:45-46)

Over the past few weeks, we have learned about God's plan for building the tabernacle, given in great detail by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai. It was to be a place where He could come to dwell among His people, and where they could come to worship Him, through the mediation of Aaron, the high priest. We also learned about the elaborate garments which were to be worn by Aaron and his sons, with all the luxurious accessories, to be made by people who would be endowed by God with special skills! But once everything would be finished, and ready to be implemented, there would be a need for Aaron and his sons to be ordained, and consecrated, in order for them to be able to carry out the many duties prescribed for them by God, including a full array of sacrifices and offerings for the people before God!

Tuesday night's lesson on Exodus 29 basically describes the intricate details of the ceremony that God instructed Moses to carry out in consecrating Aaron and His sons, all of which was to take place when the tabernacle would be finished, so that they could serve as priests before God (which we will not see happening until we get to Exodus 40)! And we see the symbolism of the ceremony carried over into the New Testament!

- It was to begin by "bringing Aaron and his sons, and the garments, and the anointing oil, and one young bull and the two rams (all without blemish), and the basket of unleavened bread," to the doorway of the tabernacle, where the congregation of the people would be assembled to hear from Moses what God commanded on the mountain. (The bulls and rams "without blemish" symbolize the sinless nature of Christ!)
- Moses was to "wash Aaron and his sons with water" and put the garments (with all the accessories) on Aaron and pour oil his head to "anoint" him and do similarly with Aaron's sons--thus "ordaining" them as priests. Leviticus 8 says the anointing oil was also to be applied to the tabernacle and all that was in it, to consecrate all it as well! (Titus 3:5 speaks of the "washing of regeneration," and Ephesians 5:26 notes how Christ "loved the church and cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, so that He might sanctify her and present it to Himself in all her glory, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing..."! As for the "anointing"--I Samuel 16:13 tells how Samuel later "took the horn of oil and anointed David as King of Israel and how the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him from that day forward!" Anointing in the New Testament was to become associated with being "indwelt," and empowered, by the Holy Spirit!)
- Then Aaron and his sons were to "lay their hands on the head of the bull (picturing the transfer of the sin of the one offering the sacrifice to the sacrificial animal), and slaughter it before the LORD at the doorway of the tabernacle..." putting some of the blood on the "horns of the altar" and pouring out the rest at the base of it. Then to "take some of the fat of the bull and offer it up in smoke on the altar"! But burning the rest of the bull's flesh with fire "outside the camp" as a "sin offering"! (Taking it "outside the camp" symbolizes removing the sin from the people! Hebrews 13:11-12 says, "For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are buried outside the camp. Therefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His blood, suffered outside the camp, bearing His reproach!")  
But this is only the start of the ceremony!

- Moses was then to bring the first ram and have Aaron and his sons perform the same ritual as with the bull, but verse 14 says, "to offer up in smoke the whole ram on the altar as a "burnt offering to the LORD," noting that it would give off "a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the LORD"! (2 Corinthians 2:14 says, "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place!")

- Then the second ram was to be brought and Aaron and his sons would again "lay their hands" on its head and slaughter it, but take some of the blood and "put it on the lobe of Aaron's right ear and on the lobes of his sons' right ears and on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet...and sprinkle the rest of the blood around the altar and on Aaron and his sons' garments," consecrating it all! (MacArthur notes that the blood applied to the ears, thumbs, and feet "symbolically sanctified the ear to hear the Word of God, the hand to do the work of God, and the foot to walk in the way of the Lord"!)

But there are more ceremonial proceedings involving the second ram, called "the ram of ordination"!

- Some of the fat from the ram, and the breast of the ram, along with the unleavened bread from the basket, was to be given to Aaron and his sons for "waving as a wave offering before the Lord" (a symbolic act indicating the offering was for the LORD). And verse 31 says, they were to "eat the flesh of the ram of ordination and the bread in the basket, at the doorway of the tabernacle" (as a kind of "ordination meal"), burning any remains with fire, "since it was holy"! (God obviously took all of this seriously!)

But there is more! The ordination ceremony was to last for "seven days"! But the burnt offerings continuously!

Exodus 29:37-38 says, "For seven days you shall make atonement for the altar and consecrate it; then the altar shall be most holy...and you shall offer on the altar two one year old lambs each day, continuously"! Wow!

Verse 42 says, "It shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the doorway of the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you...!" (Some may wonder, and even be disturbed, about the constant emphasis on the shedding of blood which was to become a part of the priestly system! Leviticus 17:11 says, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement! How significant--and "wonderous"--that Christ would one day shed His blood on the cross as the "once for all" sacrifice for sin, making future blood sacrifices unnecessary! "What can wash me white as snow? Nothing but the blood of Jesus...!" Thank you, Lord, for the blood!)

Our text ends with a declaration from God that expresses again His great love for, and desire to dwell among, His people: "I will dwell among the sons of Israel and will be their God. They shall know that I am the LORD their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell among them; I am the LORD their God!"

And, as we look back on this passage, the message of the Gospel makes so much more sense as we see how the Old and New Testaments again connect together so well, so beautifully, in the eternal redemptive plan of God!

Men, go with God this week and be a blessing!

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