

# **Second Baptist Church of Doylestown**

## **Bible Study Notes**

**12-2-20**

### **Exodus 29**

#### **Aaron and His Sons Consecrated - Verses 1-9**

**"<sup>1</sup>And this is what you shall do to them to hallow them for ministering to Me as priests: Take one young bull and two rams without blemish, <sup>2</sup> and unleavened bread, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil (you shall make them of wheat flour). <sup>3</sup> You shall put them in one basket and bring them in the basket, with the bull and the two rams. <sup>4</sup> "And Aaron and his sons you shall bring to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall wash them with water. <sup>5</sup> Then you shall take the garments, put the tunic on Aaron, and the robe of the ephod, the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the intricately woven band of the ephod. <sup>6</sup> You shall put the turban on his head, and put the holy crown on the turban. <sup>7</sup> And you shall take the anointing oil, pour it on his head, and anoint him. <sup>8</sup> Then you shall bring his sons and put tunics on them. <sup>9</sup> And you shall gird them with sashes, Aaron and his sons, and put the hats on them. The priesthood shall be theirs for a perpetual statute. So you shall consecrate Aaron and his sons.**

**29:1-9** Why did God set up the priesthood? God had originally intended that his chosen people be a "kingdom of priests," where both the nation as a whole and each individual dealt directly with God. But the people's sin prevented this from happening because a sinful person is not worthy to approach a perfect God. God then appointed priests from the tribe of Levi and set up the system of sacrifices to help the people approach him. He promised to forgive the people's sins if they would offer certain sacrifices administered by the priests on behalf of the people. Through these priests and their work, God wished to prepare all people for the coming of Jesus Christ, who would once again offer a direct relationship with God for anyone who would come to him. But until Christ came, the priests were the people's representatives before God. Through this Old Testament system, we can better understand the significance of what Christ did for us (see Hebrews 10:1-14).

#### **Verses 10-21**

**<sup>10</sup> "You shall also have the bull brought before the tabernacle of meeting, and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands on the head of the bull. <sup>11</sup> Then you shall kill the bull before the LORD, by the door of the tabernacle of meeting. <sup>12</sup> You shall take some of the blood of the bull and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger, and pour all the blood beside the base of the altar. <sup>13</sup> And you shall take all the fat that covers the entrails, the fatty lobe attached to the liver, and the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, and burn them on the altar. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> "You shall also take one ram, and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands on the head of the ram; <sup>16</sup> and you shall kill the ram, and you shall take its blood and sprinkle it all around on the altar. <sup>17</sup> Then you shall**

cut the ram in pieces, wash its entrails and its legs, and put them with its pieces and with its head. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> "You shall also take the other ram, and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands on the head of the ram. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.

**29:10-21** All the priests bathed, representing the necessity of cleanliness before God. The priests had sacrificial blood applied to their ears, thumbs, and big toes (Exodus 29:20). This symbolized their complete consecration: to hear the word of God, to serve as mediators, and to walk as an example to others. They experienced sprinkling with blood signifying their complete sanctification. Their anointing with oil (Exodus 29:21) represented their endowment with power by God's Spirit for divine service.

### Verses 22-37

<sup>22</sup> "Also you shall take the fat of the ram, the fat tail, the fat that covers the entrails, the fatty lobe attached to the liver, the two kidneys and the fat on them, the right thigh (for it is a ram of consecration), <sup>23</sup> one loaf of bread, one cake made with oil, and one wafer from the basket of the unleavened bread that is before the LORD; <sup>24</sup> and you shall put all these in the hands of Aaron and in the hands of his sons, and you shall wave them as a wave offering before the LORD. <sup>25</sup> You shall receive them back from their hands and burn them on the altar as a burnt offering, as a sweet aroma before the LORD. It is an offering made by fire to the LORD. <sup>26</sup> "Then you shall take the breast of the ram of Aaron's consecration and wave it as a wave offering before the LORD; and it shall be your portion. <sup>27</sup> And from the ram of the consecration you shall consecrate the breast of the wave offering which is waved, and the thigh of the heave offering which is raised, of that which is for Aaron and of that which is for his sons. <sup>28</sup> It shall be from the children of Israel for Aaron and his sons by a statute forever. For it is a heave offering; it shall be a heave offering from the children of Israel from the sacrifices of their peace offerings, that is, their heave offering to the LORD. <sup>29</sup> "And the holy garments of Aaron shall be his sons' after him, to be anointed in them and to be consecrated in them. <sup>30</sup> That son who becomes priest in his place shall put them on for seven days, when he enters the tabernacle of meeting to minister in the holy place. <sup>31</sup> "And you shall take the ram of the consecration and boil its flesh in the holy place. <sup>32</sup> Then 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 meeting. <sup>33</sup> They shall eat those things with which the atonement was made, to consecrate and to sanctify them; but an outsider shall not eat them, because they are holy. <sup>34</sup> And if any of the flesh of the consecration offerings, or of the bread, remains until the morning, then you shall burn the remainder with fire. It shall not be eaten, because it is holy.



<sup>35</sup> "Thus you shall do to Aaron and his sons, according to all that I have commanded you. Seven days you shall consecrate them. <sup>36</sup> And you shall offer a bull every day as a sin offering for atonement. You shall cleanse the altar when you make atonement for it, and you shall anoint it to sanctify it. <sup>37</sup> Seven days you shall make atonement for the altar and sanctify it. And the altar shall be most holy. Whatever touches the altar must be holy.

**29:22-41** Why were there such detailed rituals in connection with these sacrifices? Partly, it was for quality control. A centralized, standardized form of worship prevented problems of belief which could arise from individuals creating their own worship. Also, it differentiated the Hebrews from the pagan Canaanites they would meet in the Promised Land. By closely following God's instructions, the Hebrews could not possibly join the Canaanites in their immoral religious practices. Finally, it showed Israel that God was serious about his relationship with them.

**29:37** Notice the overwhelming emphasis on the holiness of God. The priests, the clothes, the tabernacle, and the sacrifice had to be clean and consecrated, prepared to meet God. In contrast, today we tend to take God for granted, rushing into worship and treating him with almost casual disregard. But we worship the almighty Creator and Sustainer of the universe. Remember that profound truth when you pray or worship, and come before him with reverence and repentance.

**29:37** This process was to take seven days. Seven is often the number used for completeness. It is one week, the amount of time God used to create the world. The fact that it took seven days was a reminder of the importance of the task they were being consecrated for. These seven days were definitely a somber and serious occasion. They were a time when the priest to be would certainly reflect on the importance of this great task God called him to. It was a time to reflect on his own life, motivations, purposes, and sins. A time to confess any wrongdoing and come into God's presence with clean hands a pure heart. It was a time to remember that he was chosen specifically by God as His representative and a servant of the people. A time to prepare himself to be a good example to the people as well as teacher.

## The Daily Offerings

<sup>38</sup> "Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs of the first year, day by day continually. <sup>39</sup> One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight. <sup>40</sup> With the one lamb shall be one-tenth of an ephah of flour mixed with one-fourth of a hin of pressed oil, and one-fourth of a hin of wine as a drink offering. <sup>41</sup> And the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; and you shall offer with it the grain offering and the drink offering, as in the morning, for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD. <sup>42</sup> This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet you to speak with you. <sup>43</sup> And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory. <sup>44</sup> So I will consecrate the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. I will also consecrate both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me as priests. <sup>45</sup> I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. <sup>46</sup> And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

**29:38-46** Although so many processes are gone through, notice how they are finally consecrated. 42-46. God was the one who finally consecrated them. All the previous things are only symbols, physical reminders of unseen spiritual truths. God is the only one who can really forgive sin. Washing yourself with water, anointing with oil, and even blood sacrifices doesn't actually take away sin. God does. We must always depend on God, not on things or rituals. Remember the bridge illustration? Religion or religious rites do not bring us to God. They can teach us about God. They can remind us of spiritual realities. They can impress upon us truths in a deeper way. But they cannot take away our sins. It is not enough to go to church, take communion, or be baptized. We must come to God and confess to Him, and ask Him to purify us. If we do, He will just like He did with the priests.

**29:45-46** God's action in bringing the Israelites out of Egypt showed his great desire to be with them and protect them. Throughout the Bible, God shows that he is not an absentee landlord. He wants to live among us, even in our hearts. Don't exclude God from your life. Allow him to be your God as you obey his Word and communicate with him in prayer. Let him be your resident landlord.