

March 14

Scriptures: Read Exodus 29

Key Verse: “This shall be a continual burnt offering... at the door of the tabernacle... where I will meet you to speak with you.” (Exodus 29:42)

Overview

Before Aaron and his sons could be involved in active service to God, they were to be consecrated to Him. This was done through an elaborate ceremony of sanctification in which Moses officiated as the mediator. They were (2) to be washed with water signifying purity. In the Bible washing has spiritual symbolism: cleansing by the Word (Ephesians 5:26); the “washing of regeneration: (Titus 3:5). Jesus He is our High Priest, we can draw near to God “in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water: (Heb. 10:22). (2) The priests were to be set apart by being arrayed in their holy garments, and (3) anointed with oil, signifying their sanctification and empowerment for effective ministry by God the Spirit. In the Bible oil represents the Holy Spirit. Aaron the high priest, as a type of Christ, was anointed before the sacrifice by oil being poured upon his head (29:7), just as Christ was anointed by the Spirit descending upon Him (Luke 3:22; 4:1) before He shed His own blood in sacrifice. Aaron’s sons were anointed after the sacrifice was made (29:20, 21). Likewise, after Christ’s perfect sacrifice His servants were filled with the Holy Spirit as an anointing to His service (Acts 2:1-4). (4) The sacrifices and the use of the blood were the most important part of the ceremony. These not only made atonement for Aaron and his sons, but were for the purification of the altar as well. The blood applied to the various right parts of their bodies were signs of consecration to God by the power of redemption and the work of the Holy Spirit. The blood was applied to the ear, for they were to listen to God; upon the hand to serve Him; and upon the foot to walk in His ways and in holiness. At every sacrifice, Aaron and his sons were to put their hands upon the animal’s head which is a clear indication that their sins and guilt were to be laid upon the sacrificial animal with which they identified themselves. Jesus offered Himself unto death as the all-sufficient, final, and perfect sacrifice. He lovingly and willingly became our substitute to bear our guilt and sins, taking the punishment we deserve. (5) The wave offering signified the offering of their lives to God in complete consecration. Since God is holy, all those people or things dealing with Him are to be holy as will. (6) The last part of the ceremony involved eating the sacrificial meal, representing fellowship with God. Once atonement was made for their sins, having been made holy before God, they could enter into true communion with Him (29:33).

This impressive ceremony of sanctifying the priests and the altar was repeated for seven days. It made the whole nation realize the holiness of God and the importance of high calling of the priests and their duties.

The establishment of the tabernacle, the priesthood, and the daily sacrifices was to assure God’s continual presence in dwelling among them. The continual burnt offerings of the lambs, one every morning and a second in the evening, meant they were daily meeting with God (29:42) and therefore He would be among them to speak with them (29:42) and therefore He would be among them to speak with them (29:44, 45). These sacrifices came up to the Lord as a sweet aroma (29:41), something which appeased Him and through which the people gained His acceptance. They typify the continual intercession of Jesus Christ before the Father. With these offerings God said, “I will meet you (plural form) to speak with you (singular form)”.

When we pray and worship God it gives Him the opportunity to speak with us as individuals and touch our hearts in a personal way. These daily offerings teach us that each day, ideally every morning and night (yet not to be forgotten during the course of the day as will), we should offer up to God the spiritual sacrifice of prayer and praise. For those who follow the Lord, times of fellowship with God, when fed by His Word, should be considered the most necessary and important activity of the day. In so doing, the Lord dwells among His children.

Jesus has promised his workers: “I am with you always” (Matt. 28:20). Hallelujah!

Prayer

Lord, as our Eternal High Priest, You have presented Your own Blood before the mercy Seat. Help us today to fulfill Your purpose in our fellowship with You.