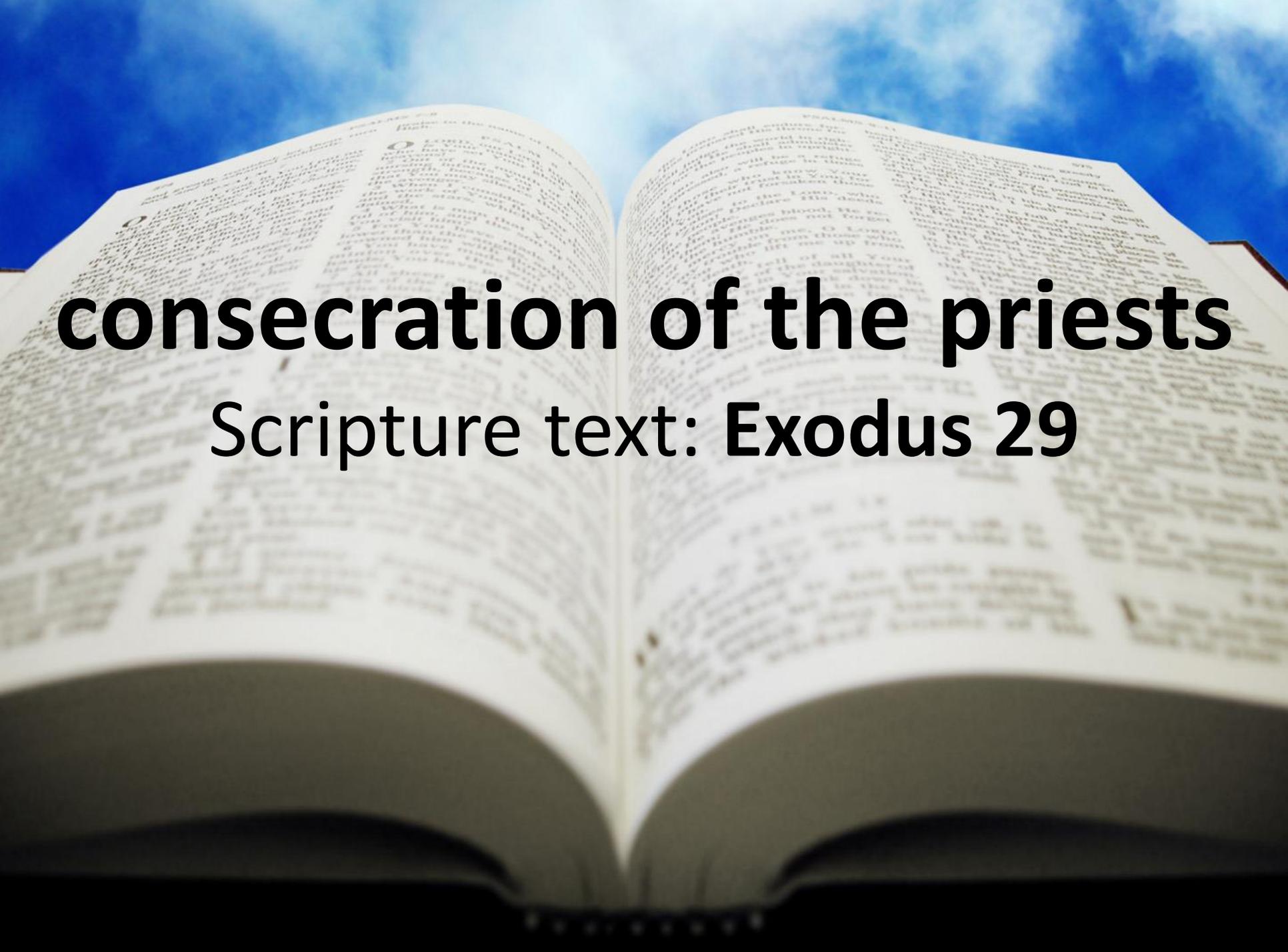


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!





consecration of the priests

Scripture text: Exodus 29

The consecration of the priests **teaches us much about our own relationship to the Lord.**

The Ceremony (29:1–9)

Aaron and his sons did not choose the priesthood for themselves but **were chosen by God**. It was an act of God's grace. **No stranger (outsider) was allowed to intrude into the priesthood** (Num. 3:10), **not even a king** (2 Chron. 26:16–23).

2 Chronicles 26:16-18 But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the LORD his God and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. But Azariah the priest went in after him, with eighty priests of the LORD who were men of valor, and they withstood King Uzziah and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Go out of the sanctuary, for you have done wrong, and it will bring you no honor from the LORD God."

2 Chronicles 26:19-20 Then Uzziah was angry. Now he had a censer in his hand to burn incense, and when he became angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead in the presence of the priests in the house of the LORD, by the altar of incense. And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he was leprous in his forehead! And they rushed him out quickly, and he himself hurried to go out, because the LORD had struck him.

Numbers 3:10 And you shall appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall guard their priesthood. But if any outsider comes near, he shall be put to death."

The washing speaks of the cleansing we have through faith in Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 6:9–11; Rev. 1:5; Acts 15:9), a once-for-all washing that needed never to be repeated (John 13:1–10).

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Revelation 1:5-6 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and **has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father**, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Act 15:8-9 And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, **having cleansed their hearts by faith.**

John 13:6-10 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "**If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.**" Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. **And you are clean**, but not every one of you."

It was necessary for the priests to have daily washing at the laver, which speaks of our daily cleansing as we confess our sins (1 John 1:9).

1 John 1:7-10 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, **we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

In Scripture, **clothing often symbolizes character and conduct**. Our righteousnesses are like filthy rags before God (Isa. 64:6), and we cannot clothe ourselves with good works as Adam and Eve tried to do (Gen. 3:7).

Isaiah 64:6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and **all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment**. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And **they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths**.

When we trust Christ, we are clothed with His righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21; Isa. 61:10).

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so **that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for **he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness**, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

We should put off the “graveclothes” and put on the “grace clothes” (Col. 3:1ff).

Colossians 3:1-6 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on things that are above**, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and **your life is hidden with Christ in God**. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **On account of these the wrath of God is coming.**

Colossians 3:7-13 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but **Christ is all, and in all.** Put on then, as **God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.**

The distinctive garments of the priests identified them as the holy servants of God, set apart to minister to the Lord. As we noted before, the holy anointing oil is a type of the Spirit of God who alone can empower us for service (Exodus 30:22–33).

Exodus 30:22-25 The LORD said to Moses, "Take the finest spices: of liquid myrrh 500 shekels, and of sweet-smelling cinnamon half as much, that is, 250, and 250 of aromatic cane, and 500 of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. And **you shall make of these a sacred anointing oil blended as by the perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil.**

Exodus 30:26-33 With it you shall anoint the tent of meeting and the ark of the testimony, and the table and all its utensils, and the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense, and the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils and the basin and its stand. You shall consecrate them, **that they may be most holy. Whatever touches them will become holy.** You shall **anoint** Aaron and his sons, and **consecrate them**, that they may serve me as priests. And you shall say to the people of Israel, '**This shall be my holy anointing oil throughout your generations.** It shall not be poured on the body of an **ordinary person**, and you shall make no other like it in composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you. **Whoever compounds any like it or whoever puts any of it on an outsider shall be cut off from his people.'**"

The Sacrifices (29:10–37)

According to OT law, there were three agents for cleansing: water, blood, and fire. It was necessary that the priests be cleansed by the sacrificial blood (Lev. 17:11). A bullock was slain as a sin offering each day for the entire week of consecration (Exo. 29:36), and the **first ram was given as a burnt offering, a picture of total dedication to God.** The blood from the second ram was applied to the right ears, thumbs, and great toes of Aaron and his sons, picturing their consecration to hear God's Word, do God's work, and walk in God's way. This second ram became a wave offering and then a burnt offering.

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for **it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.**

Exodus 29:35-36 "Thus you shall do to Aaron and to his sons, according to all that I have commanded you. Through **seven days shall you ordain them, and every day you shall offer a bull as a sin offering for atonement.** Also you shall **purify the altar, when you make atonement for it, and shall anoint it to consecrate it.**

Part of the second ram was **kept back for a special meal that only the priests could eat** (Lev. 7:28–38). God ordained that certain parts of some sacrifices belonged to the priests **as payment for their ministry to the people.**

Leviticus 7:34 For the **breast** that is waved and the **thigh** that is contributed I have taken from the people of Israel, out of the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and **have given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons, as a perpetual due** from the people of Israel.

The Continual Burnt Offering (29:38–46)

Now the Lord began to describe the ministerial duties of the priests, beginning with the burnt offerings that were to be offered morning and evening each day. The first responsibility of the priests each morning was to remove the old ashes from the altar, get the fire burning, and then offer a lamb to the Lord, a symbol of total devotion to God. See Lev. 6:8–13. This is a beautiful picture of what our morning “devotional time” ought to be like.

Leviticus 6:8-13 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
"Command Aaron and his sons, saying, **This is the law of the burnt offering.** The burnt offering shall be on the hearth on the altar all night until the morning, and the fire of the altar shall be kept burning on it. And the priest shall put on his linen garment and put his linen undergarment on his body, and he shall take up the ashes to which the fire has reduced the burnt offering on the altar and put them beside the altar. Then he shall take off his garments and put on other garments and carry the ashes outside the camp to a clean place. The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not go out. The priest **shall burn wood on it every morning,** and he shall arrange the burnt offering on it and **shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings. Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out.**

“Stir up the gift of God” (2 Tim. 1:6) literally means **“fan into full flame.”** How easy it is for the fire to get low on the altar of our hearts (Rev. 2:4) so that we become lukewarm (Rev. 3:16) and even cold (Matt. 24:12). The tabernacle was sanctified (set apart) by God’s glory (Ex. 29:43) when the glory of God moved into the holy of holies (Ex. 40:34). Israel was the only nation to have **“the glory”** (Rom. 9:4). **God’s Spirit lives within us and therefore we should be a separated people who bring glory to God** (2 Cor. 6:14–7:1).

2 Timothy 1:2-7 To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. **For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God**, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, **for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.**

Revelation 2:3-7 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But **I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.**

Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent, and do the works you did at first.** If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, **unless you repent.** Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. **He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.** To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

Revelation 3:14-18 "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. "'**I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.** For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

Matthew 24:9-13 "Then they will deliver you up to **tribulation** and put you to **death**, and you will **be hated by all nations** for my name's sake. And then **many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another**. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because **lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold**. But the one who **endures to the end will be saved**.

Exodus 29:43 There I will meet with the people of Israel, and **it shall be sanctified by my glory.**

Exodus 40:34-35 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and **the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.** And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and **the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.**

Romans 9:4 They are Israelites, and **to them belong** the adoption, **the glory**, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? **What agreement has the temple of God with idols?** For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and **be separate from them**, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

God wanted His people to be “**a kingdom of priests**” (19:6).

Today, all of God’s people are a priesthood (1 Peter 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6), but in OT days, the nation of Israel had a priesthood that represented them before God.

Exodus 19:5-6 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

1 Peter 2:4-9 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but **in the sight of God chosen and precious**, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. **But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

Revelation 1:5-6 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

What the priests were, **the whole nation should have been**. What kind of people make up “a kingdom of priests”?

A Praying People; A Grateful People; A Cleansed People; and An Anointed People!