

**Message #58****Exodus 29:1-46**

I do not believe God actually does much of anything with people who go to church. In fact, I don't believe God even considers most churches to be places of real worship. If a church is not following carefully what God has prescribed in His Word, He does not and will not accept it. That idea comes straight out of the book of Exodus. In order for a place and a people to actually have the presence of God, it must meet His demands.

The tabernacle is God's house and it was to be built according to God's dimensions and those who ministered were to meet God's specifications.

Now there can be little doubt that the primary point of this chapter is about consecrating or ordaining priests as ministers of God. That word "consecrate" or "ordain" shows up many times in this chapter (29:1, 9, 21, 22, 26, 27, 29, 29, 31, 33, 34, 35).

There are actually three different Hebrew words used in this chapter to describe this:

- 1) Qadesh—29:1, 21—this is a word that emphasizes something very sacred and something very holy.
- 2) Mala Yad—29:9, 29, 29, 33, 35—the word "mala" means full or filled. The word "yad" means hand. Combined, these words mean "full hand." So this ceremony is one that is necessary to give the full authority to the hand of one who is supposed to carry out sacred responsibilities.
- 3) Mishicah—29:7, 21—this is a word that means to anoint, to set apart something by anointing it.

So if we take into consideration all of these words, the concept behind consecration is a special service that is designed to set these men apart and anoint them as sacred priests in which God calculates them as having full priestly authority in their hands.

**IN ORDER FOR GOD TO ACCEPT WORSHIP AND ACTUALLY MEET WITH HIS PEOPLE AT WORSHIP, WORSHIP MUST BE IN CONFORMITY WITH HIS PRE-REQUISITES AND IT MUST BE DONE HIS WAY.**

The property and the priests were to be consecrated to God. This was a sacred ceremony that involved Moses, offerings, sacrifices, washing and clothing. If you did not follow through with this, you did not get the presence and power of God.

God demanded that his priests be set apart for His service. What leaders need to remember is that they are ministers for God. Aaron and his sons were to be consecrated by a series of sacrifices and offerings. This had to include anointing oil and proper clothing.

Now you will notice that there is the repetition of the pronoun "you" in this chapter. This refers to Moses. Nothing went down in this ministry apart from Moses, including the consecration of the priests.

He was actively involved in this and had any tried to do this without him, there would have been serious consequences. God had used Moses in a powerful way and he was involved in this ordination process.

There were nine very specific requirements God established to consecrate priests:

**CONSECRATION REQUIREMENT #1** – They had to offer a sacrifice consisting of one bull, two rams, unleavened bread and cakes.  
**29:1-3**

Moses was to see to it that this whole thing began with offerings. Now these are real tangible sacrifices that were to be offered. The sequence of the animal offerings is very important. The bull was a sin offering; one ram was a fragrant burnt offering and another ram plus the bread and cakes was a wave offering.

The sin offering cleansed the priests from sin and one can certainly see why you need to start here because every believer, including one that was a priest, was still a sinner and needed cleansing.

The fragrant burnt offering expressed devotion and commitment to the Lord with a lifestyle that pleased Him. The wave offering, which included the ram and the unleavened bread and cakes, is certainly something that expressed gratitude to God for all He had given.

**CONSECRATION REQUIREMENT #2** – They had to be specifically washed at a specific place. **29:4**

God demanded that His priests be washed with water so they are clean. Moses needed to do this. It is interesting that in the chronology here that the washing occurs before the sacrifice. Now we would certainly understand that after you sacrifice an animal, you would need to wash; but this washing actually occurred before the priests got dressed to serve as priests.

God wants those who minister for Him clean. God will not accept a dirty minister. Before you even get dressed to go to church, if you want to experience God's blessings at the ultimate level, you will spend time analyzing yourself and, if necessary, confessing our sin so we may be "cleansed" from all unrighteousness.

**CONSECRATION REQUIREMENT #3** – They had to be specifically clothed with specific garments. **29:5-9**

Moses was to see to it that the priests were dressed in proper order and in proper clothing. Aaron was to be first cleansed, dressed and anointed and then the other priests were also to be cleansed, dressed and anointed. There is a difference between Aaron and the other priests. Aaron was specifically anointed with oil (v. 7), which indicates he was the main leader of these matters pertaining to worship.

All priests were important, but there is always one key leader who has been singled out by God.

**CONSECRATION REQUIREMENT #4** – They had to sacrifice the animals. **29:10-25**

Moses needed to make certain he brought the proper animal sacrifices. There are three animal sacrifices spelled out in these verses:

**Animal #1** - They had to sacrifice one bull as a sin offering. **29:10-14**

No one can be used by God who is not willing to deal with sin. All of these priests were sinners and it was important that the priest recognized his sinful condition and rely upon the proper sacrifice to cleanse him. Carefully notice from **verse 12** that there was no merit in the altar; it was in the blood. The blood had to be applied.

It does not matter how great or how spiritual the leader is, he is still a sinner and he still needs the cleansing blood applied to his life in order to minister in any capacity.

**Animal #2** - They had to sacrifice one ram as a soothing aroma offering. **29:15-18**

**Verse 18** makes it clear that this was an offering by fire or a burnt offering. First, there needed to be a sin offering and second, there needed to be this burnt offering. This was the offering in which a priest dedicated himself to God after having been cleansed by the blood. There is a major emphasis on blood because it is only the blood of Christ that qualifies anyone to do anything for God.

**Animal #3** - They had to sacrifice one ram as an ordination wave offering. **29:19-25**

This was an ordination wave offering in which the blood was used in order to completely set apart these priests to God once they had dealt with their sin. The difference between the burnt offering and the ordination offering is the burnt offering is an offering in which the priest dedicates himself, and the ordination offering is a special offering in which a priest is applying the blood in order to go to another sacred level of service for God.

According to **verses 22-24**, Moses was to put the fat of the ram and the unleavened bread and cakes into Aaron's hands and he was to wave them before the Lord and then burn them on the altar as an offering by fire to the Lord.

It is a little unclear just what this wave offering was. Obviously it is an offering that was to be waved before the Lord. According to Numbers 6:20, there were two specific motions for the wave offering—**waving and lifting**. According to Rabbi Hertz, **the waving went forward and backward toward the altar and the lifting went up and down toward heaven**.

Now if we carefully analyze this motion or movement, we could conclude that this movement does form or could form some kind of cross motion.

It may be that this is what God had in mind at this consecration service because the only way any may serve God is through the cross work of Jesus Christ. The whole potential for worshipping God, in any capacity, comes through the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ.

**CONSECRATION REQUIREMENT #5** – The breast of the ram was to be waved before the Lord and eaten by the priest. **29:26-28**

One thing is certain; those priests who ministered for God were to partake of the offerings. They were to be able to feed themselves from the offerings. This was never to be given to “lay worshippers” for them to eat. This was specifically their portion and their provisions from God.

**CONSECRATION REQUIREMENT #6** – The priestly garments were always to be worn from then on by Aaron’s sons. **29:29-30**

Priestly clothing was critical to priestly ministry. It is clear that this dress is given in the context of very sacred ministry. This is always to be viewed as sacred ministry.

**CONSECRATION REQUIREMENT #7** – The priests alone were to eat prescribed meat and bread at the entrance of the tabernacle. **29:31-34**

This was not to be eaten by any layman. No other Israelite, no Levite could eat this. This was specifically for the priests at the tabernacle. This was so sacred that leftovers were not to be given to outsiders or used for snacks later. This was to be fully eaten.

I do think there is a principle to apply here to the N.T. church. The principle is this: when the priests gather and every believer is a priest unto God, it is expected that they will eat a sacred meal, which includes a full feeding on the Word of God. I am totally convinced that a full feeding at corporate worship will never be replaced by small home group Bible studies. We do hope you read and study your Bible at home, but there will be a sacred feeding of your soul that you will only get at church.

**CONSECRATION REQUIREMENT #8** – The duration of this consecration of priests was to be seven days. **29:35-41**

It is clear from **verses 35** and **37** that there is an emphasis on seven days. Why is that? Seven is the number of completeness. The ordination ceremony was to last for seven days because God deems that this completes the consecration.

Every day a bull was to be offered as a sin offering and two lambs were to be offered, one in the morning and one in the evening. Also there was to be offered 1/10<sup>th</sup> of an ephah (2 quarts) of fine flour; 1/4<sup>th</sup> of a hin (1 quart) of beaten oil and 1/4<sup>th</sup> of a hin (1 quart) of wine for a drink offering.

**CONSECRATION REQUIREMENT #9** – The glory of God would be present if they followed the requirements. **29:42-46**

If these priests would come to God having offered the proper blood sacrifices, food and drink offerings and wearing the right clothing, God promises:

**Promise #1** - God would meet and communicate with His leader at the tabernacle/tent. **29:42**

**Promise #2** - God would meet with His people at this consecrated place. **29:43**

**Promise #3** - God will consecrate His place and His priests. **29:44**

**Promise #4** - God will dwell among the sons of Israel. **29:45a**

**Promise #5** - God would be Israel's God. **29:45b**

**Promise #6** - God would make sure Israel would know He is Israel's God. **29:46**

When God's people corporately meet, there should be a sense that we have been in the presence of God. If you go to a place of worship and wonder if God is even there, there is something wrong.