

4. Give the names of :
  - a) The two items kept inside the breastplate
  - b) The garment signifying the fact that Jesus Christ is carrying us on His shoulders
  - c) The garment which signifies that Jesus Christ is bearing us in His loving heart
5. Prove the statement: "High priestly garments foreshadow the divine perfection of Jesus Christ".

## LESSON 4

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# THE CONSECRATION OF THE PRIESTS

**Reading** : Exo.29;Lev.8

**Memory verses** : Rom 12: 1-2

**Theme:** To study the spiritual meanings of various ceremonies performed during the consecration of Israeli priests and offer ourselves totally in the presence of God.

**Introduction:** A person who is volunteering for any service should dedicate himself for the same. Although all the sons in Aarons family were called for priestly service, they still had to be consecrated for it. Seven steps were required for consecration. In similar way, believers who are called to be priests in the New testament age must also go through the experiences of consecration for the priestly service. The seven steps associated with the consecration priests were shadows of the spiritual experiences of a consecrated believer.

*1st step* ✓ **1. Washing with water (Exo. 29:4; Lev 8:6):** On the day of consecration the priest is brought to the Tabernacle and washed with water and cleansed. This points to the requirement of being born again by the Word of God. Word of God is compared to water in the Bible. The verses, James 1:18 and 1 Pet. 1:23 clearly say the rebirth is by the Word of God. Jesus taught that a person is born again by the water and the Spirit (John 3:5). Here water refers to the Word of God. (Eph. 5:25-27) and Titus 3:6 also refer to the washing by Word of God. Holy spirit convicts a person of his

sins through the Word of God and leads him to Jesus Christ. Thus the person is born again. A person who is not born again cannot be a priest and worship God. Although a person is not born again by baptism, his born again experience is proclaimed through baptism.

**2. Putting on the garments (Lev. 8:7-9):** We have seen that the garments of high priest show the divine glory of Jesus Christ. God has called us to His salvation in order that we may also receive the glory of Christ (2 Thes. 2:14). Therefore all believers must strive to attain the glory represented by the high priestly garments. The white coat signifies the garment of righteousness that we receive through Jesus Christ (Isa. 61:16). Let us serve our Lord wearing the girdle of truth, the mitre of salvation, etc. (See the last lesson).

**3. Anointment with oil (Lev. 8: 12,13):** The priest who is cleansed with water and dressed in official garments is then anointed with oil. Oil is poured on his head. Anointing oil represents Holy Spirit. A child of God who is born again and given the robe of righteousness has to be anointed by the Holy Spirit. Priesthood is confirmed only by the anointing oil (Exo. 29:7,30:30). Anointing of the Holy Spirit is the earnest for our inheritance (Eph. 1:14). In the Old Testament days priests, prophets and kings used to be anointed with oil (1 Kings 19:16, 1 Sam 16:13; Lev. 8:12). Christ our High priest was also anointed by the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:2, 8:17). Therefore all believers must also be anointed with the Holy Spirit.

**4. Offering of sacrifices (Lev. 8: 14-28):** A sacrifice of consecration is offered after a sin offering and a burnt offering. The fat portions from inside and the right thigh of the sacrificial animal, an unleavened cake, a cake of oiled bread and a wafer are kept in the hands of priests and waved in the presence of God. The right thigh represents our strength, the fat from inside represents our innermost being and the other articles represent our material possessions. We have to present ourselves totally as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1,2).

**5. Cleansing of members of the body by blood (Lev 8: 23,24; Exo.29:20):** Blood of the ram is put on the tip of the right ear and the thumb of the right hand. This act points to the dedication of our ears to hear the voice of God and our hands for His work by the blood of Jesus Christ. "Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God (Rom. 6:13).

**6. Cleansing of the garments (Lev. 8 : 30):** Garments of the priest are sanctified by blood and anointing oil. Garments of the saints are their works of righteousness. These must also be sanctified by the blood of Christ and the Holy Spirit (Rev. 19: 7, 8 ; 22:14).

**7. Eating of bread at the door of the Tabernacle (Lev. 8:31):** The priest stays at the door of the Tabernacle for seven days sustained by bread from the basket and the flesh of the ram. Believers must remain in the presence of God and be in fellowship with the Lord and his people. The food at the door of the Tabernacle also points to the Lord's Table which commemorates our Lord's death (Act. 2:42). Moreover, it points to great feast in the kingdom of God (Matt 26 : 29 ). Believers must spend all the days of their lives in the temple which is the church and renew their consecration continually.

Are you enjoying the above seven experiences in your lives?

## **QUESTIONS**

1. What are the seven steps in the consecration service of the priests?
2. Prove that washing with water signifies being born again.
3. Which New Testament truth does putting on of the priestly garments point to ?
4. Prove the statement: "Ceremonies in the consecration service show that all believers must be anointed by the Holy Spirit".
5. Explain the meaning of : cleansing sacrifices, cleansing of members of the body and cleansing of garments.
6. In how many days is the consecration service completed? Where do the priests stay in those days and what do they eat?
7. What are the New testament experiences associated with eating food at the door of the Tabernacle?