Discovering Exodus: Finding prayer points, testimonies, reflection and journaling questions that will engage your heart with the Father.

Chapter 29: Consecration of the Priests

**□ The Invitation**: Invite the Holy Spirit to show you something new as you read through the chapter. The Father desires to meet with you and share something with you today. You may find it in the reading or you may hear His Voice speaking to Your Spirit in the quiet of this moment.

**□ The Reading:** Read Exodus Chapter 29. Record any thoughts from the chapter, questions you have or verses that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you while reading.

**□ The Focus**: Today’s focus is a prayer. Write your thoughts as you meet with the Father.

Chosen by God, the priests were called to minister to God and the nation of Israel. Today we will take a look at the ordination of the priests for them to be consecrated and prepared for service in the Tabernacle, and see how this compares to what we have experienced in Christ. We have been ordained as priests of the new covenant.

The ordination began with the **cleansing** of Aaron and his sons. Moses did the cleansing of the priests at this initial ceremony. Exodus 29:4 says, “*Bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and wash them with water*”. After this initial washing, the priests would cleanse themselves at the Bronze Basin. Exodus 30:19-20, “*Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it (Bronze Basin). Whenever they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water*...”

As believers, our ordination began with a cleansing by the blood of Jesus. We have been cleansed! I John 1:7 tells us, “*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*”. The initial cleansing is done by Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. There is no way to earn salvation or be good enough to enter into relationship with Him. Jesus paid that price for you and I to be with Him. “...*let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our heart sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water,*” Hebrews 10:22. Like the priests of old, we are to wash ourselves to keep our hearts purified. “*Therefore since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit.*..” 2 Corinthians 7:1.

After the initial cleansing, Aaron and his sons were given **priestly garments** to wear. Their old clothes were replaced with a new set. Moses dressed the priests with these divine garments. Exodus 28:40-43 describe these garments. They included tunics, sashes, caps, and a linen undergarment as a covering for the body. God instructs the priests, *“Aaron and his sons must wear them whenever they enter the tent of meeting or approach the altar to minister in the Holy Place*...” Exodus 28:43. These sacred garments changed these men from ordinary to divine. As believers we have been changed from ordinary to divine.

Let the following Scripture soak deep into your spirit. This is the Passion Translation of Ephesians 4:22-24, “*And He has taught you to let go of the lifestyle of the ancient man, the old self-life, which was corrupted by* sinful and *deceitful desires that spring from delusions. Now it’s time to be made new by every revelation that’s been given to you. And be transformed as you embrace the glorious Christ-within as your new life and live in union with Him! For God has re-created you all over again in his perfect righteousness, and you now belong to Him in the realm of true holiness.*”

As a priest you are made new! You have been re-created! You are a new creation in Christ. Read those verses above over and over. Let them penetrate your being and renew your mind. The garments you now wear as a believer are only seen by the spirit. They are not of a physical nature. Your life is hidden in Christ and the union with Him are your garments.

Moses **anointed** Aaron and his sons as priests. God directed Moses, “*Anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may serve me as priests*,” Exodus 30:30. Using this special blend of fine spices, the anointing oil became holy, to be used in an act of consecration. The anointing oil was a divine recipe. Exodus 30:22-33 gives God’s directions in using this oil. It was sacred, only to be used on the priests and the vessels in the Tabernacle. ”*You shall consecrate them so they will be most holy, whatever touches them will be holy.” Exodus 30:29.* The anointing oil had a fragrance which would linger for a while.

As priests, we have been anointed by the oil of the Holy Spirit. The fragrance of the Spirit of God through our lives has a fragrance. The world will respond in two ways to the anointing fragrance of Jesus in us. *“...through our yielded lives, He spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere we go. We have become the unmistakable aroma of the victory of the Anointed One to God—a perfume of life to those being saved and the odor of death to those who are perishing*,” 2 Corinthians 2:14-15 (The Passion Translation).

A sacrifice followed the anointing of the priests. Offerings were made at the altar of sacrifice (the bronze altar). A sin offering was made on the priest’s behalf for any intentional or unintentional sins committed for which there was no restitution. Then a burnt offering was offered, in which the entire animal was consumed in fire on the altar. Lastly was the ram of consecration. The blood of the ram consecrated the priests. They would place their hands on the ram, then the ram was offered as a sacrifice on the altar. The blood from the ram was rubbed on the 1) ears of the priests, so they could hear God’s voice clearly, 2) right thumb of the priests, which speaks to their hands belonging to the Lord and 3) big toe signifying walking in righteousness. These sacrifices and the final consecration by the blood was the way the priests offered themselves wholeheartedly to God.

**Prayer Point**: Write out a prayer of consecration to God. Give God your ears, hands, feet—your whole body, mind, strength, and heart to be wholly consecrated to Him.