

Lesson 9 Exodus Chapters 24-30

PART A: EXODUS 24 THE COVENANT RATIFIED, PLANS FOR THE TABERNACLE GIVEN

FIRST READING: EXODUS 24 THE RATIFICATION OF THE COVENANT BY ISRAEL

Reading Note: Verses 1-2 are a “set-up” instruction Moses receives just before coming down from the mountain for the ratification ceremony with Israel. We will consider these verses in the order the events actually occurred.

A1. In preparation for the ratifying of the covenant, Moses tells the people (v.3) the “words of the Lord,” i.e., the 10 Commandments, plus the “judgments,” or the new legal code we studied in Lesson 8.

a) What was the people’s response when they heard these things?

b) Moses then wrote it all down. (v.4) Why do we need the *written* word of God in our life?

c) The next day, after the sacrifices are made, Moses reads (v.7) from the book all the laws and statutes. So they heard it two times in two days. What was their response after the second time?

A2. Moses built an altar and raised 12 pillars or large stones to signify the twelve tribes and to act as a witness of the important thing being done on that occasion.

a) Are there occasions in our lives or the lives of our community so solemn or important that we make “monuments” to remember them? Share something of this kind that is meaningful to you.

b) CHALLENGE QUESTION: What were Israelite altars always used for in the Old Testament?

A3. The covenant being sealed or ratified by both God and the people here is solemn and binding. The people had verbally agreed to the Law already. But more was required. This covenant had to be sealed by “the blood of the covenant.” (v.8) This means something had to be sacrificed, giving its life that the covenant could be made binding.

a) What died?

b) Here is an important bit of information about blood: “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.” (Leviticus 17:11) What did Moses do with the animal’s blood?

c) Which part of Moses’ action symbolized God ratifying the covenant? (See also Hebrews 9:19)

d) Which part of Moses’ action symbolized the people ratifying the covenant?

e) According to Hebrews 9:19, name one additional thing that Moses sprinkled blood upon.

A4. a) How do you think the people were bound to God now that they had made this covenant?

b) How was God bound to them, in your own words?

A5. As God instructed Moses in verses 1-2, after the ratification ceremony by the blood of sacrifice, there was a second important step that must take place. God needed other witnesses to the truth of the covenant that had been made. For this reason some priesthood leaders were allowed to go part way up the mountain where they experience the Lord's presence in a remarkable way. Only Moses, the prophet, is allowed to go all the way to the top of the mountain. The majority of the people stayed off the mountain entirely.

a) What experience did the leaders and 70 elders have in the mountain?

b) What could they now personally bear witness of?

c) What would have happened to these men if they had tried to climb the mountain *before* they had been sprinkled with the sanctifying blood of the covenant? (Hint: remember the warnings of Chapter 19.)

d) How would this enable Moses and them to better carry out their duties as leaders in Israel?

A6. CHALLENGE QUESTION: Moses was the 'go-between' between God and Israel. Later the High Priest alone went into the Holy of Holies, the symbolic presence of God, on the Day of Atonement. When Jesus died, the veil hanging before the Holy of Holies was "rent in twain." (Matt. 27:51) Christ's atonement changed the nature of worship forever. How do *you* experience that different worship under the "new covenant in Christ's blood"? In other words, how can your relationship with God be different because of it? (See passage from Hebrews 10 at the end of this lesson for ideas.)

A7. a) Who did Moses leave in charge when he went to the top of the mountain into God's presence?

b) Did he take anyone with him? Cite verse.

c) How many days was he gone?

SECOND READING: EXODUS 25-27 SKIM THESE CHAPTERS, WITH ATTENTION TO VERSES MENTIONED IN QUESTIONS.

A8. Read the first 9 verses of chapter 25. What is the Lord going to show Moses a pattern for making?

A9. a) What will the people contribute to the building of this structure?

b) What should be the heart attitude of their giving? And why is this necessary?

A10. Verses 10-22 describe the Ark of the Covenant and what its significance was. Tell one thing about how it was made, and one thing about what it represented.

A11. Verses 23 through 30 describe the way the Table of Shewbread was to be made. Verses 31-40 describe the lampstand, or large standing menorah.

a) What metal was used for both these items?

b) What was always to be placed on the table? (see Bible Dictionary: Shewbread)

A12. Chapter 26 gives the pattern for the Tabernacle, or “tent temple” that would be the designated sanctuary of the Lord until the people could build something permanent. Read verses 31-37.

a) The veil (v. 31) divided the interior of the tabernacle into two rooms. What were they called?

b) What strikes you about the veils that functioned as doors in the tabernacle? (See Psalm 50:2)

A13. Chapter 27 gives the plan for the altar of sacrifice and the outer curtains that made up the courtyard surrounding the tabernacle.

a) Skim verses 1-8, about the altar. What metal was used? And what was on each corner?

b) According to verse 20, what do you learn about the “light” or large brass lampstand that was the only source of light inside the tabernacle?

c) CHALLENGE QUESTION: Do you see any elements of Christian symbolism in the answers to the last question?

A14. Do you think God would have given Moses the plans to build a tabernacle for God to dwell among them if the people *hadn't* agreed to the covenant? Why?

Scripture Reference for Exodus Lesson 9 Part A—Question A2

- 1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.
- 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.
- 3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.
- 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. . . .
- 11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:
- 12 But this man [Jesus}, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;
- 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.
- 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.
- 15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,
- 16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;
- 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.
- 18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.
- 19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,
- 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;
- 21 And having an high priest over the house of God;
- 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10: 1-4, 11-22)

PART B: EXODUS 28-30 PRIESTHOOD AND WORSHIP

FIRST READING: EXODUS 28 THE HIGH PRIESTS CLOTHING

B1. Read verses 1-5. Five individuals are separated here from the rest of the people of Israel to serve in the priest's office. Who were they and how are they related?

B2. The chapter that follows is a long description of the clothes that were to be made for Aaron, the High Priest. a) What do you find in the first few verses that tell why he should have such special clothing?

b) Even before Moses received the vision and pattern of this clothing, God was preparing people with the talent and wisdom and right hearts to be able to make them! (v.3) What has God made you "wise-hearted" in so that you could help build the kingdom of God with those talents? In other words, what has He prepared you for ahead of time?

B3. The ephod was an embroidered full 'apron' slipped on over the head, held to the body by a sash of the same embroidered material and clasped at the shoulders by two onyx stones, *6 tribe's names inscribed on one and six on the other stone*. The ephod went over a blue robe embroidered along the hem with pomegranates, alternating with small golden bells that made a sound when the priest walked. Both these garments were worn over a longer, long-sleeved white linen "coat," or full-length robe. A square breastplate with four rows of three precious stones was held in place over the center of the chest by gold chains.

a) According to verse 21, what was engraved upon each of the twelve precious stones?

b) Note verses 12, 29-30. How did the engraved stones symbolize the work of the priests? Was it a burden?

B4. Read verses 40-43. To be anointed, and consecrated to minister in the office of a priest was a very solemn and sacred responsibility. What would happen to the priest if, while serving in his priestly duties, he did not follow instructions exactly and thus "bore [or incurred] iniquity"? Cite verse.

SECOND READING: SKIM EXODUS 29 THE CONSECRATION OF THE PRIESTS AND THE ALTAR

B5. There are three words used in this chapter that are important. Give dictionary meanings that apply for:

Hallow: (Ex. 29:1, 21)

Consecrate: (Ex. 29: 22, 26, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35)

Sanctify: (Ex. 29: 27, 33, 36, 37, 44)

B6. Considering the attention given to "hallowing," "consecrating," and "sanctifying," how do you think we apply that as Latter-day Saint women in our lives? How should we, can we, be "set apart"?

B7. Chapter 29 lists the offerings to consecrate Aaron and his sons as priests. The sacrifices made an _____ (v.33 or 36) for their sins, by blood. “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.” (Hebrews 9:22) What was done with animal blood according to this chapter for the sanctifying of the altar and the men? (see vs. 12, 16, 20, 21)

B8. Read verses 38-46, showing the daily sacrifices required for Israel’s worship in their tabernacle (later temple). *Every morning* and *every evening* a _____ was sacrificed upon the altar to be a “sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the Lord.” These sacrifices were the heart of Israel’s worship.

- a) Think of some ways that these daily offerings are a symbol of things in our lives.

- b) How do the daily offerings of verses 38 through 42 allow the blessings of verses 45-46 to come to Israel?

B9. Verses 45-46 express what we will call the “Basic Covenant.” This is the covenant between God and man expressed in the simplest and broadest possible terms. There are two parts. 1) “Ye shall be my people. 2) “... and I will be your God.” (Jeremiah 30:22)

- a) Which half of the basic covenant is expressed at the end of chapter 29?

- b) Look up one of the following and tell one additional thing you learned from these expressions of the basic covenant. Leviticus 26:12; Jeremiah 7:23 Jeremish 24:7 or Ezekiel 37:23.

THIRD READING: EXODUS 30 (SELECTED VERSES) ALTAR OF INCENSE-TEMPLE TAX-LAVER-HOLY ANOINTING OIL

B10. Verses 1-10 concern the golden altar of incense upon which the priest daily offered special incense, the recipe for which is given in verses 34-36.

- a) How many times a day was Aaron supposed to offer the incense?

- b) What do you learn about the symbolism of incense from Psalm 141: 2 and Revelation 8:3-4?

- c) Why do you think it was commanded that incense be offered twice a day, morning & evening?

B11. Verses 11-16 explain how money was raised for the maintenance of the tabernacle (later the temple). Who paid this tax and how much was required?

B12. Verses 17-21 give the pattern for a brass laver on a pedestal, for the priests to wash “their hands and their feet.” What is the penalty for not doing this? Why do you think the penalties for not following the Lord’s instructions exactly were so strict?

B13. Worship was very different for the children of Israel than it is for us. Consider this statement: “Ceremonies are embodied thoughts.” What thoughts and ideas do you think the *ceremonies* of the Mosaic system taught?