

Sermon Handout

A Consecrated Priesthood

Exodus 28:1-29:37

- I. The bookends** – Moses’ departure and return frames the narrative
- a. Departure 24:12-18
 - i. Moses tells Israel to wait
 - ii. Moses tells Aaron to adjudicate (govern)
 - iii. Moses & Joshua ascend the mountain
 - iv. Moses remains sequestered with God 40 days
 - v. Moses receives the stone tablets
 - b. Return 31:18-34:28
 - i. Moses receives the stone tablets
 - ii. Moses remains sequestered with God 40 days
 - iii. Israel tires of waiting
 - iv. Aaron assists in Israel’s idolatry
 - v. Moses returns down the mountain with the stone tablets
- II. The Center of the story** – Aaron’s consecration 28:1-5
- a. Holy garments for priestly glory & beauty v. 2 *contra* an idol having glory
 - b. Gold thread interwoven with blue, purple, red v. 5
 - c. The craftsmen are given wisdom for their labors v. 4
 - d. Garments listed:
 - i. Breastplate vv. 15-24; 29-30
The priest represents the people before God vv. 17-21
 - ii. Ephod vv. 6-7, 25-28
 - iii. Robe vv. 31-35
 - iv. Coat v. 39
 - v. Mitre vv. 36-38
“Holiness to YHWH” – his mission is a consecrated one
 - vi. Girdle v. 8
 - e. Aaron’s sons v. 1, 40-43 *cf.* Num 3 :2
 - i. Nadab & Abihu executed by God Num 3:4a
 - ii. Ithamar Num 3:4b; I Chr 24:3; I Sam 22:20; 14:3; 2:27-31; I Kg 2:26-28
 - iii. Eleazar Num 3:4b; the Zadok line: I Chr 24:3; 6:10, 12; Zechariah Lk 1:5
- III. The lessons**
- a. God’s way vs. the pagan way: Aaron’s calf vs. Aaron’s consecration
 - b. Vocational blessing & wisdom v. 4
 - c. Priesthood was representational and consecrated vv. 17-21; 36-38
 - d. Priesthood was conditional – the subsequent stories of Aaron’s sons I Sam 2:30