

Part 2 – Consecration: The Priests and the Tabernacle - Sacrifices

Exodus 29

5 And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the curious girdle of the ephod:

6 And thou shalt put the mitre upon his head, and put the holy crown upon the mitre.

7 Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour it upon his head, and anoint him.

8 And thou shalt bring his sons, and put coats upon them.

9 And thou shalt gird them with girdles, Aaron and his sons, and put the bonnets on them: and the priest's office shall be theirs for a perpetual statute: and thou shalt consecrate Aaron and his sons.

Now we see that, after the priests washed their bodies, they were to put on ALL the specially made garments, and then Moses was to anoint them. Notably, Aaron was to be clothed and anointed *first* and then his sons. Further, they were to work in the 'priest's office' *perpetually*. Thus, the purpose of their consecration (cleansing) was so they could *perpetually* work for God. The word 'perpetual' in verse 9 is #5769 'owlam (o-lawm'); or 'olam (o-lawm') and it means: properly, *concealed*, i.e. *the vanishing point*; generally, *time out of mind* (past or future), i.e. (practically) *eternity*; frequentatively, adverbial (especially with prepositional prefix) *always*. Serving God is a forever job. Previously, we learned what the spiritual clothing the priests are to have on, and now we learn that cleansing is also part of the process, *forever*. Indeed, Jesus Christ (our High Priest) was the first one who was 'consecrated' and it is because of His consecration that the rest of the priests will be cleansed (1 Pt 2:9). We see this exemplified in the precious prayer Jesus prayed to our Heavenly Father shortly before His crucifixion...

1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father; the hour is come; glorify thy Son [the High Priest was first to be washed, clothed and anointed], that thy Son also may glorify thee:

2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. [the other priests were to be consecrated second, after the High Priest]

3 And **this is life eternal**, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

*11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. **Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.***

12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them. [Jesus promised to consecrate us with His Word and Holy Spirit].

John 17:1-26

Our Heavenly Father clothed Jesus Christ with all the spiritual garments of the High Priest throughout His life here on earth. There was not one spiritual attribute Jesus Christ lacked. Through His life, death and resurrection, He perfectly fulfilled all the prophecies of the Old Testament and the blood sacrifices which concerned His First Advent (He will finish fulfilling the prophecies when He returns at His Second Advent). He was clean 'from the beginning' for, even His conception without sin (Lk 1:35). But Jesus sacrificed a lot to fulfill His mission for God and to equip us with what we need to serve Him too. We should never, *ever* forget the sacrifices Jesus made for us; and, we should learn from His example...

1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,
2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.
3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.
4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.
*5 **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:***
6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
*7 But **made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant**, and was made in the likeness of men:*
*8 And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.***
9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;
11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.
*14 **Do all things without murmurings and disputings:***
15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
*16 **Holding forth the word of life;** that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.*
Phil 2:1-16

Paul urges us to put on the same mindset that Jesus Christ has and *learn to serve God by serving His children*. While most people only think of serving others in a physical way, the truth is that it's much more important to serve people spiritually - by sharing the truth and helping them to spiritual cleanse their heart and mind put and on the spiritual clothing – rather than to feed and clothe people physically. And really, it is a lot easier to go out and physically feed people. Much easier. So, naturally, that's what many people do. It's also a lot easier to just tithe and go to Church once a week than to actually study God's Word and try to obey it from the heart. Now, as back in the Biblical days, people tend to prefer the 'easy way' and consequently, they often miss the whole point of what God is trying to communicate to us. Those who think doing carnal 'services' to others (without cleaning their heart) is really pleasing to God are no different than those who brought the animals to be sacrificed, but did not grasp the spiritual lessons from it. It does not matter how many fleshly 'good works' we think they we are doing; none of them please God if we are not trying to actually obey Him *from the heart*. Jesus explained this very clearly...

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 5:14-20

Those who will be ‘called great’ in the Kingdom of Heaven are those who DO and teach God’s Commandments. Never forget the most effective way to actually teach God’s Word is to actually obey it yourself. You may be the only ‘Bible’ people ever ‘read’ – make sure it reflects the *true* Word of God. Jesus pointed out that we must both DO and TEACH God’s Commandments if we want to be ‘great’ in the Kingdom of Heaven. He explained this also in the great book of Luke...

24 And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Luke 22:24-27

When the disciples were disputing about who among them would be the greatest, Jesus bluntly pointed out what His Kingdom was really all about: *serving others*. If you ever wonder what ‘heaven’ will be like, it will be a place where no one is selfish and the governmental employees will really be ‘public servants’. Anyone who refuses to accept Jesus Christ as their King and Savior is one who refuses to crucify their selfish ego and pride, thus making them an incorrigible criminal like Satan is. At the end of the Millennium, all those who refuse to repent and change their heart to be selfless servants in God’s Kingdom will be put to death spiritually, which means they will cease to exist anymore – it’s likely we won’t even remember them anymore. Satan, who? Yes, those will be glorious times but, we are not there yet, because our Heavenly Father wants to save as many of His children as possible (1 Pt 3:9, Ezek 18, 33). So, we are still going through this flesh life, which helps people understand the consequences of their actions, what death really is. It also helps people to understand God’s concern for His children, because we can have children too in this flesh. Do you like it when you kids fight? Wouldn’t you rather they ‘just

get along’? How would you feel if one of them started beating up the others? What if that one turned 1/3 of your other kids against you and began to steal from you and beat up all your other children? Wouldn’t make you very happy, would it? This is, essentially, what happened to God when Satan turned on Him in the first earth age. Ezekiel 28, Rev 12 and Isaiah 14 give us details into how Satan became corrupted and also caused 1/3 of God’s children to become corrupt rebels as well [learn more in **Exalted, The Inside Scoop** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/192?single>].

So, Jesus Christ (our High Priest) has already been ‘cleansed’ (He never sinned) by learning obedience, even to the death (Heb 2:14). And He’s already put on all the spiritual clothing needed to be High Priest. He is now working to clean and clothe those who will serve in His Kingdom (His priests). And so, we (as His servants) should remember not to complain about rough times in this life. It’s part of being cleansed and putting on the spiritual garments needed to live eternally with Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father. But we should also not forget to help others, for we truly cannot love God without doing so. As 1 John 4:20-21 so beautifully points out: *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother **whom he hath seen**, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.*

One does not have to be a Priest, Pastor or Teacher to help others clean and clothe their heart through Jesus Christ. Our very life should be a testimony to others. The way we think, what we desire, what we say, how we speak, how we act and treat others should radiate God’s Word and love and righteousness. Being righteous is simply learning to treat everyone according to God’s Word (Lev 19:16-18). When others see the Word of God *through you* it helps them see the light (truth) and plants seeds of truth in their mind (heart), even if you never actually get to plant a ‘word’ of truth in their mind... actions truly speak louder than words. Now, this does not mean we should not plant verbal seeds of truth, when the opportunity arises. The word of God tells us we should *walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man* (Col 4:5-6). So, these are ways we are now to clean ourselves (and others) spiritually and put on the spiritual clothing needed to serve our High Priest, Jesus Christ. And doing so truly makes our Heavenly Father very happy (2 Tim 2:1-4, Heb 11:6, Rom 8:6-18, 15:1, 1 Thess 4:1).

Exodus 29

10 And thou shalt cause a bullock to be brought before the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the bullock.

11 And thou shalt kill the bullock before the LORD, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

We now come to the details about the first blood sacrificial offering: a bullock (a young bull, calf or ox) was to be killed for a ‘sin’ offering. There is so much symbolism in these blood sacrifices to digest. As always, we must remember that these blood sacrifices are *not* to be performed anymore, since Jesus came and died for our sins. His entire life was centered upon becoming the perfect sacrifice because He perfectly fulfilled God’s Laws in His thoughts, desires, words and

actions. Everything He did was obedient to God's Laws. And then, in His death, He was also perfectly obedient (Heb 5:8-9), thus making Him the perfect sacrifice for one and all times (Heb 10:10). We know also that He (through the power of God) rose from the dead, which gave Him the power over all things in heaven and earth (Mth 28:18). But, although we no longer actually perform the blood sacrifices, we are to still study them because they are examples for us to learn by and are written for our edification (1 Cor 10:11, 2 Pt 2:20-21, Ecc 1:9). The spiritual 'meat' found in these sacrificial offerings is truly astounding. We'll look at a few of them but it's well worth the effort to continue to study them on your own, comparing the Old Testament types with the New Testament explanations of them – it's truly beautiful how they work together to explain God's method of saving His wayward children. It shows us (through analogy) just how much our Heavenly Father loves; it also shows us how just and fair and righteous He really is. How true is Deut 32:4 when it declares: *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

First off, we should understand why animals were ever allowed to be a substitute for our death. With the exception of Jesus Christ (who is God incarnated, John 1:1, 14, Heb 1:3, Col 1:15, 19), **we all sin**, *for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God* (Rom 3:24). Yea, truly *we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.* (Isa 64:6). And unless there is a way to be reconciled to our Heavenly Father (our Creator, God Almighty – YHVH is His name), we are destined for death (Rom 6:23). But not just a physical death, we are also destined for spiritual death, which means *we won't exist in any form at all* (Rev 20) [Learn more about this in the special study on **Sinners Are Not Tormented Forever** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/330>].

But our Heavenly Father does not want us to die *but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance* (2 Peter 3:9). For this reason, He calls us to repent and change our sinful ways, beginning from the inside out. Ezekiel has recorded this plea, specifically to Israel, but it truly applies to all of His children...

31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

Ezek 18:31-32

Ezek 33:11 echo's this call. Notice how He calls us to 1) cast away all our transgressions and 2) make a new heart and spirit. This reveals that, in order to truly repent, we must also have a change of heart *that lasts*. In Hos 6:4, God says: *O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.* God expresses His frustration with the two houses (kingdoms) of Israel - Ephraim stands for the northern Kingdom of Israel and Judah stands for the southern kingdom of Judah. And, although He chastised them time and time again (Deut 8:5, Prov 13:24, Heb 12:4-11), they continued to turn back to false gods and idols which lead them into abomination of all kinds,

bringing upon themselves the cursings (Lev 26, Deut 28). Jeremiah chapter 3 explains how Israel broke their end of the national covenant they made with God on Mount Sinai (which we learned about in chapters 19-29 of Exodus). But God did not give up on them because of the promises He made to Abraham (Gen 12, 15, 17, 22), Isaac (Gen 26) and Jacob/Israel (Gen 28, 35). Thus, He allowed Israel to be taken captive and scattered among the gentiles; first the northern ten tribes (by Assyria) and then the southern tribes, which were only left in Jerusalem (by Babylon). And, while it pained Him to have to punish them, (Jer 4:19), He did so for their betterment. We must be willing to repent wholeheartedly and truly have a change of heart that is sincere and permanent. This is what the purpose of God's chastising is for: to bring us back to Him, in faith and love. And why these blood sacrifices are so important for us to study is because: they perfectly depict (through symbology) exactly how to repent and have a sincere change our heart that is everlasting. They teach us that **true love (and eternal life) all centers upon sacrifice.** In Luke, chapter 9, Jesus said...

23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

Luke 9:23-24

While some Churches erroneously teach, we must learn to 'love' ourselves, Jesus taught the opposite. He told us that, to truly follow Him (to gain eternal life) we must 'deny' our 'self' and take up our *cross* daily. What do you think a cross is for? It's not just an image we wear around our neck or put on a bumper sticker. A cross had only one purpose and that was to kill people with. The only reason anyone ever 'took up' their cross was to be crucified (killed) upon. And it was the worst kind of death: you slowly suffocated to death on the cross [note this for later]. Paul also explains that *no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it* (Eph 5:29). So, we do not need to 'love' ourselves more. Anyone who tells you that you need to love yourself is leading you directly to Satan's rebellion. The truth is Jesus said we must 'deny' our 'self'. The word 'deny' here is a Greek word that means #533 and means: *to deny utterly*, i.e. *disown, abstain*. The word 'cross' is #4716 and, figuratively means: *exposure to death*, i.e. **self-denial**. Paul echo's this command in Gal 5:24 when he said that: *they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*

Now, what part of us are we to 'deny'? Jesus wants us to deny (kill) the 'animal' inside of all of us. You see, in this flesh body, we all have a carnal mind called a heart (Ecc 3:11, Prov 22:15). Paul speaks of it a lot in the New Testament but in Rom 8:6-7 he is particularly candid when he states: *to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.* Therefore, it is this 'carnal mind' (i.e., the heart) that we are to crucify (utterly disown, deny and abstain from) IF we truly believe in Jesus Christ. And the crucifixion reveals how we are to put the 'old man' (carnal mind, Rom 8:7) to death: **through suffocating it, day in and day out.** And, just as it was a slow, painful death to die on the cross, likewise, it's a slow painful process to kill

the old man every day. It is very hard to deny your ‘self’ and crucify those desires, the pride, the selfishness... *but it’s worth it*. You see, to have faith in Jesus means you must strive hard to do what He says. He pointedly said so in John 14:15: *If ye love me, keep my commandments*. He reiterated this truth in Luke 6:46-49 when explaining that all those who truly believe in Him will lay the foundation (their heart and mind) upon **the Rock, which is the Word of God** (Deut 32:4, 13, 15, 18, Ps 62:7, 89:26, 94:22). So, in order to truly have faith in Jesus and believe upon Him, we must bring forth ‘fruits of repentance’ (Lk 3:8). This means we must have a true change of heart, *and stick with it*, so our words and actions change to reflect God’s character, instead of the world (James 2, 4:4, Mth 6:24). **The blood sacrifices teach us (through analogy – imagery) exactly how to crucify the ‘old’ (carnal) ‘self’ inside of each of us**. Further, all these sacrifices *looked forward to Jesus Christ*, who was perfectly able to control the carnal mind (heart) within Him and therefor literally overcame sin because He made His heart to fear God and obey Him only. [Learn more in the special study on **Incline Your Heart** <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/980>]. Paul explains this in his book to the Ephesians...

*13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.
14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;*

*15 **Having abolished in his flesh the enmity**, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for **to make in himself of twain one new man**, so making peace;*

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Eph 2:13-16

Note what verse 15 says: the enmity of the flesh is the law of the commandments contained in ordinances. These ordinances (blood sacrifices) were ‘enmity’ in the flesh... why? Because of what they represented, which is bluntly stated to be our carnal mind in Rom 8:7. Paul goes on to explain that, *they that are in the flesh cannot please God*. What does he mean? He means those who are ‘fleshly minded’ cannot please God. In other words, those who allow their carnal mind (their heart) to control them, instead of them controlling their heart (carnal mind), cannot please God. While the world tells us to just ‘follow your heart’, God’s Word warns us this is the path to hell (permanent spiritual death). We should not ‘follow our heart’ because *the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked* (Jer 17:9). But, we can overcome the ‘animal’ in all of us (the heart, which is the carnal mind) by studying God’s Word for ourselves (2 Tim 2:15) and asking the Holy Spirit of God to come into our heart and help us to clean it and protect it from deception and sin. This is what Paul means when he says: *ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his* (Rom 8:9). We are not thinking ‘in the flesh’ when we study God’s Word and have the Holy Spirit of God helping us understand it, and teaching us how to obey it. When we study God’s Word, *with sincerity*, we allow the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) to come into our heart and change us for the better. *God’s Word and Holy Spirit changes the way we think and what we desire* (Col 3:1-3, Mth 6:33).

Further, it's *paramount* that we study God's Word, for that's how we learn who God is, what He wants from us and what our duty to Him is. Only when studying His Word (for ourselves) can we be assured we are finding truth. It's ok to study with a good teacher but we must always 'search the scriptures' ourselves (John 5:39, Acts 17:11) because *no one else can make the connection to God for you. **Your spirit must connect with God's Holy Spirit through His Holy Word** – the Bible. Again, no one can make the connection to God for you. It is your personal responsibility to study God's Word, listen to Him, obey Him and pray to Him. You have to learn how to 'walk in the Spirit' for yourself* (Gal 5). No Priest, Pastor, evangelical or teacher can do it for you. There is no human on earth who can intercede with God for you. None. Jesus Christ is our only intercessor and we must pray directly to God in Jesus' name if we want our prayers heard. God is only available through praying in Jesus Christ's name (John 14:6). Anyone who tells you differently is not telling you the truth, for God's Word clearly tells us Jesus is our only path to God (John 14:6).

And Jesus promised He would send His Holy Spirit IF we keep His commandments. We can only do that by studying His Word, all of it (Old and New Commandments) because Jesus did not teach us to do anything different than what the Old Testament did (John 14:15-18). What Jesus taught us is how to keep the laws of God from our heart. He taught us how to keep the blood sacrifices *spiritually*. This means that Jesus taught us how to sacrifice our carnal mind (heart) in order to follow God. You see, true love is obeying God (Rom 13:10) and this means we must sacrifice the carnal mind (heart) inside of us, because it is selfish and does not want to obey God (Rom 8:7). *Jesus said that: greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends* (John 15:13). While this certainly is true concerning our flesh life, the 'life' we must need 'lay down' is our carnal desires and inclinations.

And, within this fact is the reason studying these carnal sacrifices is so important: it teaches us to crucify the 'carnal mind' (heart) within all of us – that selfish, prideful, lustful part of us that keeps trying to control us. While we'll never get rid of it while in the flesh (as Paul points out in Romans 7), we are to spiritually 'kill it' each and every day (Lk 9:23) to keep it from controlling us. Without doing this, there's no way we can obey God's Word from the heart. And heartfelt obedience is what God truly wants from us. *Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams* (1 Sam 15:22).

So then, now that we understand *why* we are studying these blood sacrifices in depth, let's take second look at the 10th and 11th verses of this 29th chapter in Exodus...

Exodus 29

10 And thou shalt cause a bullock to be brought before the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the bullock.

11 And thou shalt kill the bullock before the LORD, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

The first thing we need to understand is *why* Aaron and his sons put their hands on the head of the bullock. This signaled that they admitted and repented of their sins and it thus *symbolically* 'transferred' their sins to the animal, who would take their place in death, so the payment for their sins could be paid. The animal killed not only looked forward to the great price Jesus Christ (the perfect sacrifice) but it also represented our carnal side: the side of us that 'acts like an animal'! (Rom 8:7) This is the part of us we are to 'crucify' each and every day if we are followers of Jesus Christ (Lk 9:23). And when we do 'crucify' the carnal mind (the animal in all of us), we are then 'dead' to sin, as Paul states in Rom 6:2. And, because *ye are dead, your life is hid with Christ in God* (Col 3:3). Romans 7:4 states that, because we accept Jesus' sacrifice for us, and are trying to crucify the 'animal' (carnal mind) in us each day, we are thus "dead to the law", meaning we strive to no longer do those things that break God's Law. As 1 Tim 1:8-10 declares: *but we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine.*

In other words, if people obey God's Laws from their heart, they wouldn't even think of doing things that would break His Laws. They don't steal, kill, commit adultery, etc. because they are convicted in their conscience not to (1 Pt 3:21, Heb 9:14, 10:22). But those who have not crucified the carnal mind are indeed inclined to break God's Laws, *and try to get away with it*. Thus, the law is indeed not made for the righteous man, because he won't break the laws physically because he tries hard to obey the Law of God from His heart. This is why the law of God is 'spiritual' (Rom 7:14) – it addresses the intents of our heart first and foremost, because our actions reflect what's in our heart (Mth 15:13-20, Mk 7:20-23). The blood sacrifices (rituals) portray what Jesus did perfectly and what He expects us to strive sincerely and wholeheartedly to do as well. The sin and trespass offerings picture a convicted sinner coming before God to receive the judgment of death. However, the animal's death portrays Christ's vicarious death *in our stead*, for in reality, since He is the offering, our sins have been transferred to Him. In this way, we are atoned for and redeemed. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift (2 Cor 9:15).

But why were some animals used and others were not? What determined the use of a bullock for this sin offering to atone for the priests? Israel was commanded to eat only clean animals and thus, they were also to only sacrifice with clean animals. The use of clean animals in sacrifices dates back even to Noah's day (he took more clean animals than unclean onto the ark) so we know this is how God originally instructed Adam and Eve to perform blood sacrifices. While this it is not specifically stated that God showed Adam and Eve how to make the blood sacrifice, it is written that He made them clothes from an animal (Gen 3:21) and He *clothed* them. In doing so, He taught them what the sacrifice was for and gave them the promise of the Messiah (who was also prophesied of in Gen 3:15). This is why, *by faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh* (Heb 11:4). Abel had to have known and understood the promise of the coming Messiah and *why* he was making that blood sacrifice *in order to have*

faith in it. So, using clean animals to sacrifice with was first instituted by God and carried out by those who had faith in the promised Messiah (Jesus Christ) throughout the ages. And clean animals were used for several reasons. First, the sacrifices were sometimes eaten after being ‘given’ to God and, since we are to only eat clean animals, sacrifices needed to be from clean animals. But also, the unclean animals also symbolize an unclean heart, which is not an acceptable sacrifice to Him. Spiritual sacrifice comes from a sincerely repentant heart, which is the first step in cleaning one’s heart. And we God expects us to clean our heart and mind if we truly are following Him (Mth 23:26).

Additionally, a bullock (a young bull, calf or ox) was used to farm with. They were valuable, not only for meat, but because they helped produce food from the ground. They therefore were worth a lot, which teaches us that *the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord* (Rom 6:23). Further, the bullock was also a patient, untiring and a successful labor in service to others (Prov 14:4). Thus, the nature of the ox (or cow) reveals what God really desires from us: our patient, untiring labor for Him. This is what we are to strive to do, even though we all have sin. Moreover, we are covered through the precious blood of Jesus Christ *because He perfectly fulfilled His life with patient, untiring and successful labor to His Father, God Almighty (YHVH).*

Exodus 29

12 And thou shalt take of the blood of the bullock, and put it upon the horns of the altar with thy finger; and pour all the blood beside the bottom of the altar.

Next, we see that the blood of the bullock was to be put on the four horns of the altar, with Moses’ finger, and then poured out beside the bottom of the altar. Now, the finger used here symbolizes **God’s** power. It was used as a figure of speech back in Ex 8:19 and in Luke 11:20, Jesus uses it again, as a figure of speech, referring to the power of God to cast out demons (evil spirits) through Jesus Christ. Further, blood (as we learned before) symbolizes life (Lev 17:10) and horns also symbolize power (1 Sam 2:1, Ps 112:9, 148:14, Jer 48:25, Ezek 29:21, Zech 1:21). So, blood was put on the altar from the top (the power of the horns) to the bottom. This reveals complete atonement, of which Jesus Christ fully did when He shed His own blood on the ‘altar’ of the Cross. That Jesus would be our ‘horn of salvation’ is written in 2 Sam 22:3 and Lk 1:69. Jesus Christ therefore is able to save Israel *and* all others, who truly believe upon Him. He has shed His blood for us and His blood is (thanks to His sinless life) the perfect sacrifice for our sins for all times (Heb 10:10). Therefore, just as the blood was put from the top down (starting with the horns of power) likewise Jesus has shed His blood for everyone: from the greatest (top) to the lowest (down) in society, His blood will cover all those who truly believe in Him and accept His sacrifice. However, we also get a glimpse of the spiritual connotation for the horns of the altar from other Scriptures...

God is the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar.

Ps 118:27

Here we see God (who shows us light, which is the truth) is connected with binding the sacrificial animal to the horns of the altar, with a cord. It thus connects the power (horns) of sacrifice (the altar) with our Heavenly Father. In essence, it reveals to us that: our Heavenly Father (YHVH, who is our Creator and God Almighty) sacrifices greatly for us (His children) and He therefore expects us to sacrifice for Him. That's IF we want to be accepted into His everlasting Kingdom. Otherwise, He will have to put us to death for our rebelliousness (sins unrepented of). We see this reiterated in Ps 51:17, which declares: *the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise*. So, again, we see that God sacrifices for us and He expect us to sacrifice for Him. But why? Because the essence of true love is sacrifice. Paul explains this in Gal 2:20 when he says: *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, **who loved me, and gave himself for me***. Sacrifice is a part of true love. 1 John 4:10-11 continues with this important truth when it states: *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another*. True love contains sacrificing for one another. Again, Jesus confirmed this when He said: *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you* (John 15:12-14). In other words, God loves His children and He wants them to love each other and get along. This is why Paul said in Rom 12:18: *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men*. To live peaceably with others requires that we sacrifice our desires, our lusts, our pride and our selfishness (our carnal inclinations) and do what is right to others (which God's Word teaches us how to do) despite how we 'feel' about them. The law actually expresses this sentiment rather well...

16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.

17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

Lev 19:16-18

So, the 'horns of the altar' being rubbed with the blood of the animal, teaches us the power of sacrifice, of which there is no greater than that of Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us. Because He was perfect, His sacrifice was good enough for one and all times. But that does not mean we are 'off the hook' with sacrificing. Jesus paid the price so we would not have to die spiritually, but we are still responsible to Him to sacrifice our carnal mind, desires, inclinations so that we can obey Him from the heart. Again remember, our Heavenly Father simply wants His children to get along. But some of them (led by Satan) refuse to do that and instead began to oppress and hurt others. This is the 'problem' God is fixing through this flesh dimension (our being in a flesh body), through His great sacrifice (as Jesus Christ) and through the teachings recorded of in the

Bible. The truths that these blood sacrifices teach are indeed powerful, for there is power (horns) in the blood (of Jesus Christ) being rubbed (anointed) upon the alter (of sacrifice). When you sacrifice that ‘carnal mind’ then the Holy Spirit continues to into your soul to clean you and make you fit to be a citizen in the Kingdom of God. You get to be a part of His everlasting Kingdom when you learn to sacrifice that carnal mind (heart). The Psalms, once again, tells us what God really wants from us; what these blood sacrifices reveal...

30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

31 This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs.

Ps 69:30-31

Do you see now why there is ‘power’ in the blood of Jesus Christ? Christ’s blood shed released the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33) which is what cleanses us and changes our heart. Yes, the blood of Jesus Christ is powerful indeed!

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

1 John 1:7

We’ll pick up with this astounding thought in Part 3...

AMEN.