

## SYMBOLS OF THE LORD

**Introduction:** The LORD is present everywhere, but He chose to localize His presence in a tabernacle on earth. The pattern for the tabernacle was shown to Moses on Mt. Sinai. It was primarily symbolic of Jesus Christ who later came to dwell among His people, not in a tent, but in a human body.

**Lesson Aim** To see more of the symbolism of Christ in the priesthood and tabernacle.

**Verse:** "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us . . . full of grace and truth" (Jn 1:14).

**Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer:**

**I. Consecration of the Priests - 29:1-37**

In order that the tabernacle might function as a clear illustration of the atonement of Christ, the LORD instituted the office of the priesthood. Since their duties were sacred as well as symbolic, it was necessary that they be duly consecrated to this office. All priests had to be in Aaron's family, so older priests would consecrate the younger priests. Moses, though not a priest, consecrated the first priests since he was the mediator of the covenant. The LORD gave Moses the procedure for this task.

1. What were the priests going to do that made it necessary to consecrate them? 29:1
2. Who was Moses to consecrate as Israel's first priests? 29:4
3. What was the first step in consecrating the priests? 29:4
4. How long was the priesthood to remain in Aaron's family? 29:9
5. What kind of offering was made with a bullock for the priests? 29:14
6. How many days was this impressive and awesome ceremony repeated? 29:35

**II. Continuation of Burnt Offerings - 29:38-46**

After the consecration of the priests, the LORD told Moses the priests needed to offer burnt offerings. These offerings would serve as a reminder that their covenant fellowship with the LORD could only be maintained by continual sacrifice. In contrast, Jesus' one sacrifice maintains our fellowship with God.

7. How often were the priests to offer a burnt offering for the people? 29:38-39
8. What did the LORD promise to do when they offered their burnt offerings? 29:45-46

**III. Completion of the Worship Furnishings - 30:1-38**

The LORD had two more furnishings to reveal to Moses that were needed for the worship of the priests: the golden altar of incense and the laver. The altar of incense was in the Holy Place before the veil before the Most Holy Place. It was exclusively an altar for fragrant incense prescribed by the LORD (30:9, 34-38). The smoke ascending to Heaven from the burning incense was symbolic of the prayers of Christ, the Holy Spirit and the people. The laver was a brass (bronze) basin filled with water located in the courtyard between the brass altar and the tabernacle. The priests were to wash their hands and feet before serving the Holy Place. Christ cleanses us by the washing of His word (Eph 5:26).

9. What restrictions were given regarding the altar of incense? 30:9
10. What would happen to a priest that entered the tabernacle without washing at the laver? 30:20

**IV. Construction of the Tabernacle - 31:1-11**

In order that the tabernacle might be constructed in all of its prescribed beauty and intricate detail, the LORD equipped Bezaleel and Aholiab to be the chief craftsmen and to oversee the work of others.

11. How did Bezaleel and Aholiab become so skillful in constructing the tabernacle? 31:1-6

**V. Connotation of the Sabbath - 31:12-18**

12. Why did the LORD demand that Israel keep the Sabbath? 31:13, 17
13. What was the penalty for not keeping the Sabbath a holy day? 31:14-15