

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Seven

Complete Consecration of the High Priest

Two Old Testament passages of scripture set forth the principle that the one who served in the office of the High Priest must be completely consecrated before he fulfilled that office:

1. Ex. 29:29 "And the holy garments of Aaron shall be his sons' after him, to be anointed therein, and to be consecrated in them. 30 And that son that is priest in his stead shall put them on seven days, when he cometh into the tabernacle of the congregation to minister in the holy place. 31 And thou shalt take the ram of the consecration, and seethe his flesh in the holy place. 32 And Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram, and the bread that is in the basket, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 33 And they shall eat those things wherewith the atonement was made, to consecrate and to sanctify them: but a stranger shall not eat thereof, because they are holy. 34 And if ought of the flesh of the consecrations, or of the bread, remain unto the morning, then thou shalt burn the remainder with fire: it shall not be eaten, because it is holy. 35 And thus shalt thou do unto Aaron, and to his sons, according to all things which I have commanded thee: seven days shalt thou consecrate them."

2. Lev. 8:33 "And ye shall not go out of the door of the tabernacle of the congregation in seven days, until the days of your consecration be at an end: for seven days shall he consecrate you. 34 As he hath done this day, so the LORD hath commanded to do, to make an atonement for you. 35 Therefore shall ye abide at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation day and night seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, that ye die not: for so I am commanded."

From the above passages, we understand that what the High Priest ate and what the High Priest wore served to consecrate him. Also, he was to keep the charge of the Lord during his consecration.

Our High Priest is Jesus Christ: Heb. 3:1 "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." The Lord told us about his holy food in Matt. 4:4 "It is written, Man shall not

live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." The holy food of Jesus Christ was every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God.

Next, the holy garments of Jesus Christ were the garments of righteousness as he "is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself." Jesus Christ had no sin so he did not have to offer up a sacrifice for himself.

In the consecration of Jesus Christ, he kept the complete charge of the Father as he said in John 6:37 "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. 38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."

The types and shadows under the law only point us to the perfection of the true. This is true of the High Priesthood under the law. It only pointed us to the perfection of our High Priest, Jesus Christ: Heb. 7:28 "For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore." The word of the oath referred to in the above scripture is described in Heb. 7:21 "(For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:) 22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament." Jesus Christ is our High Priest after the oath of God: "Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

We have a High Priest who was completely consecrated to that office.