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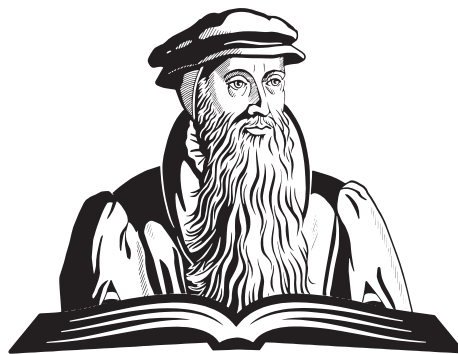
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 35:

A Priest for the People

Lecture Presenter: Mr. Daniel Van Brugge



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

40 LESSONS

(Additional lessons forthcoming)

Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

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| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 25. Joseph Raised out of Prison |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 30. Let My People Go |
| 07. The Coming Judgment – A Way of Escape | 31. Deliverance |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit but to Show
Thankfulness |
| 10. Abram: Called By God | 34. The Lord Dwells among His People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 12. Melchizedek | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 14. Two Sons | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | |
| 24. An Eye upon God | |

Lesson 35

A Priest for the People

Exodus 28 – Exodus 29, 31

Memory Verse

Seven days thou shalt make an atonement for the altar, and sanctify it; and it shall be an altar most holy: whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy.

Exodus 29:37

It was a beautiful thing the Lord had done, to place the Tabernacle among His people. A place of reconciliation for all Israel to see, no matter where they encamped. Whether on the north, south, east or west, the way of reconciliation was before all the people. This is true today for all those that grow up under a faithful gospel ministry. Rich as this privilege is, we know that it is not enough. The people had to come to the tabernacle, bringing a sacrifice, confessing their sins.

When the people brought their sacrifices, they could not offer it themselves. Nor could they enter the Holy Place nor the Holy of Holies. God was of purer eyes than to behold iniquity – “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity” (Habakkuk 1:13). How then could the people hope to find mercy and pardon with God?

Establishment of the Priest's Office

God, in His mercy, called for Aaron and his sons to fill the priest's office. As priest, Aaron and his sons would fulfill the duties of the tabernacle. They, and they alone, could offer the sacrifice and come before the presence of the Lord in the Holy of Holies. This entering before the Lord in the Holy of Holies the high priest could do but once a year.

As priests, Aaron and his sons had to have special clothing. They were to be distinct from others. Therefore, God commanded that they had to wear special garments. What was the purpose of the garments?

- First, it showed that they were separate from the people. The one who interceded for the people had to be set apart from the people. Jesus Christ was appointed to His office as Savior in eternity. However, He was consecrated to the office of Savior when He was baptized and the Spirit descended upon Him and His Father declared His pleasure in His Son.

- Second, it covered their nakedness. Nakedness is often a reference to the sinfulness of a people. Because Aaron and his sons were conceived in a natural way, they, like all the people, were born with a corrupt nature – “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:6). They could not approach the Lord in their sinfulness. Therefore, they need a robe to cover their sinfulness.

The priesthood of Aaron pointed to Jesus Christ, the greater Aaron. Jesus Christ is a priest who intercedes for those that come to God by Him.

- Unlike Aaron and his sons, He did not have to have a garment to cover His sins, for He was without sin – “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15).
- Unlike Aaron and his sons, He does not offer the blood of bullocks and rams, but His own precious blood. That blood, which was shed on Calvary’s cross for the remission of sin.
- Unlike Aaron and his sons, who had to offer sacrifices daily, Christ offered His body a sacrifice one time for all time – “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” (Hebrews 7:27).
- Unlike Aaron and his sons, who could only come before the presence of God, in the Holy of Holies once a year, Jesus Christ is upon the right hand of the Father, continually making intercession for all them that come to God by Him.

Carrying the People

Of the many items that were made for Aaron that should draw our interest is the breastplate. The Lord commanded that a breastplate be made. In that breastplate were to be contained twelve stones. On each stone was to be carved the name of a different family. In addition to this, two onyx stones were to have the names of the children of Israel engraved with their names – six names on one stone and six names on the other. These onyx stones were set upon the shoulders of the priest. On both the breastplate and the onyx stones, none of the children of Israel were to be forgotten.

In this, we see how the priest did not represent himself but the people. We see further that his function was not merely form and custom, but that he was to carry the needs of the people close to his heart. In addition, he bore the burden of their sins upon his shoulders.

This picture of the priest portrays beautifully what Jesus Christ does for His people. First, in the onyx stones we see how He has borne the sins of His people upon His shoulders. Though never so heavy, He bore them faithfully to the end. Second, in the breastplate we see how He carries them close to His heart. In the life of Peter, we see how the Lord Jesus Christ holds dear all those who put their trust in Him. In Peter we see a man who at one time doubted, at another time denied, and yet because Christ loved Peter, He would not let him go - “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not” (Luke 22:31-32).

Questions

1. All of the following were sons of Aaron who were to minister in the priests office, except
 - a. Abihu
 - b. Ithamar

- c. Bezalel
- d. Nadab
- e. Eleazar

Exodus 28

2. And thou shalt make _____ garments for Aaron thy brother for _____ and for _____.
3. The stones on the breastplate were to appear _____.
- a. In a single row of twelve
 - b. In two rows of six
 - c. In three rows of four
 - d. In four rows of three
4. Which of the following was not a stone found in the breastplate?
- a. Beryl
 - b. Onyx
 - c. Jasper
 - d. Emerald
5. The breastplate was called the breastplate of _____.
- a. Mercy
 - b. Righteousness
 - c. God
 - d. Judgment

Exodus 28

6. And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the _____ and the _____ ; and they shall be upon Aaron's _____ , when he goeth in before the _____ : and Aaron shall bear the _____ of the _____ of Israel upon his _____ before the LORD _____ .
7. A plate was to be made of pure gold. The plate was to have engraved upon it the words "Holiness to the LORD." This plate was to be placed on Aaron's
- a. Forearm
 - b. Right thigh
 - c. Right hand
 - d. Forehead

Discussion Questions

1. We read in Exodus 28:34 that the hem of the priests garment was to have a "golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate." What was the purpose of the bells?
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2. Discuss how Aaron was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Read Exodus 31:12-17. Discuss the significance of the sabbath day.
