

from above the altar. The next chapter gives us additional messages that God gave to Moses. It is possible to say whether this verse is introducing 8:1 or finishing the account of the dedication of the altar.

c. The lamps lit (8:1-4)

Now that the gifts have been received for the dedication of the altar, command is given that the lamps in the tabernacle be lit. These have already been described with more detail in Ex. 25. It is necessary that they be lit before the journey can properly be commenced. We also must have our lamps burning if we are to serve God effectively.

d. Cleansing of the Levites for service (8:5-22)

At a formal meeting, with appropriate ceremonies, the Levites must be consecrated to God and inducted into His service. Details of their service have already been explained in chapter 4. It was necessary that the work of the altar be done by persons properly prepared for the task. Therefore, the Levites had to be cleansed both ceremonially and physically. Verses 5-19 contain God's command; verses 20-22 describe its performance.

There are many lessons for the Christian in this section. He sees here the importance of each member of God's family having his own particular task. Cf. I Cor. 12. It is necessary that special men be designated for particular duties, and the most important of these duties require ceremonies of installation, in order that the work of God's kingdom shall be done in orderly fashion. Those who do the work of God must be cleansed from all defilement of flesh and spirit. No one is fit in himself to serve God. It is only ~~the/sacrifice/of/the/Lord/Jesus/Christ/at/Calvary/that/we/~~ as we see ourselves as guilty sinners saved through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary that we can do anything that is worth while in God's sight. All our