

## February 17 Answers

- 1) The ordination of Aaron and his sons, the first Levitical priests. Unlike the secret rites of the pagan religions surrounding Israel, Moses consecrated Aaron and his sons in full **view** of the people (Lev 8:3–5). The ceremony began with washing, signifying spiritual **cleansing** in preparation for the duties of the priesthood. Aaron was then clothed with the high priestly garments, setting him **apart** as leader of the priests and showing that God **equips** those He calls for service. Moses then anointed the Tabernacle and Aaron with holy oil, a symbol of the **sanctifying** and **enabling** power of the Holy Spirit (cf. Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38). Next, Moses clothed Aaron's sons with priestly garments, setting them apart from the other Levites as God's designated **mediators**. Finally, three animals were sacrificed: a bull for the purification (sin) offering, a ram for the burnt offering and a ram of ordination. These sacrifices spoke of the need for **atonement** for sin and the complete **consecration** of their lives in service to God. The ordination period lasted **seven** days, the number of perfection. During those seven days, and for five days after, each tribe presented an offering to God. They all gave the same offering so that all would share **equally** in the support of the Tabernacle and priesthood. In this way all the tribes were represented and no tribe had preeminence.