

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

This morning we are continuing our study through the book of Exodus –

We will be in Exodus 25 –

For the past couple of weeks, we have gone over the Book of the Covenant – the laws that God gave to Moses so that the Children of Israel can live by –

And one of the things we saw in our text last week was that this Covenant was ratified – the Children of Israel agreed to do everything that God had said.

They accepted the terms of the covenant.

They were ready to be ruled by God.

So now that God has given them the parameters on how to live, He is going to give them the parameters on how to worship Him.

For the next 15 chapters, God will give Moses precise instructions on how to build the tabernacle and all the contents that were to be placed inside it.

God will tell Moses what colors to use, what type of materials to use, what quantities to use, what dimensions to use – and the reason for this is because the tabernacle and all of its contents all pointed to Jesus Christ.

You see, the Tabernacle was the place where God was going to meet the Children of Israel – in the same way, God meets with you and me through Jesus Christ.

Let's pray...

[Exo 25:1-40 NKJV] 1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it **willingly with his heart you shall take My offering. 3 "And this [is] the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze; 4 "blue, purple, and scarlet [thread], fine linen, and goats' [hair]; 5 "ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; 6 "oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; 7 "onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.**

God commands Moses to go to the Children of Israel and take up a special offering.

You see, even though the design of the tabernacle is going to be God's alone – He gave the Children of Israel a definite part to play in the construction.

God could have provided all the materials for the construction, He could have spoken a word and tabernacle appear before the Children of Israel – but He wanted the Children of Israel to be involved – much like you and I are involved in ministry and outreaches.

I asked you to make a note that God commanded Moses to gather the offering from those that were willing to give out of their own heart.

He wasn't supposed to twist their arm or make them feel guilty or provide false promises that God was going to repay it threefold or fourfold.

They were to give willingly -

We have the same principle in the New Testament –

Paul writes to the church in Corinth -

[2Co 9:7 NKJV] 7 [So let] each one [give] as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

And that is what the Children of Israel did – they were cheerful givers – later on we will see that because of their generosity, Moses tells them to stop giving.

There will be some that will ask where did they get all these things???

God provided them back when they left Egypt – the Egyptians were so tired of the plagues – they wanted the Children of Israel out of Egypt, so they gave them a good portion of these items. The rest of them were readily available in the wilderness.

8 "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.

The purpose of the tabernacle was to be the dwelling place of God.

The idea was not that God exclusively lived in that place, but that it was the specific place where men could come and meet God.

Turn with me to John 1 -

[Jhn 1:14 NKJV] 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Of course, the Word refers to Jesus Christ – and we see that He dwelt among us – the word dwelt is the word tabernacled.

This tabernacle – or tent – was a temporary structure until the Temple was built.

Whenever the Children of Israel moved, they were supposed to move the tabernacle as well.

And we will see that the tribes would even camp around the tabernacle as it became the center point of their lives. Just like Jesus Christ is the center point of our lives.

9 "According to all furnishings, just so you shall make [it].

God commands Moses to build the tabernacle according to the blueprints that He is about to provide him.

Moses didn't have the liberty to choose a different color scheme or modify the design to his liking.

The reason – we find in the book of Hebrews

[Heb 8:5 NKJV] 5 who serve the **copy and shadow of the heavenly things**, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See [that] you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

The tabernacle was supposed to provide the Children of Israel with a glimpse of heaven.

10 "And they shall make an ark of **acacia wood**; two and a half cubits [shall be] its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. 11 "And you shall **overlay it with pure gold**, inside and out you shall overlay it, and shall make on it a **molding of gold all around**.

God provides Moses here with the instruction on building the Ark of the Covenant or the Ark of the Testimony.

This was a box – approximately 4' X 2' X 2'

This is going to house the Ten Commandments, a jar of manna and Aaron's rod.

I had you make a note what it was made of – Acacia wood – overlaid with gold.

Wood in scriptures is often a symbol of our humanity.

Gold in scriptures is a symbol of deity.

So we see a picture or a shadow of Jesus Christ who was 100% God and 100% man at the same time.

At the end of verse 11, we also see that the ark was to have molding of gold all around it.

The KJV translates this as a crown of gold.

Now, through the gospels, we know that Jesus was crowned with a crown of thorns – however, the book of Revelation tells us that He will be crowned with a crown of gold.

[Rev 14:14 NKJV] 14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat [One] like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.

12 "You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put [them] in its four corners; two rings [shall be] on one side, and two rings on the other side. 13 "And you shall make poles [of] acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. 14 "You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them. 15 "The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. 16 "And you shall put into the ark the Testimony which I will give you.

God provides Moses here with the details on how to move the ark –

It was supposed to be portable just like the tabernacle – when it moved, the Ark was to go with it.

17 "You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits [shall be] its length and a cubit and a half its width. 18 "And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 "Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it [of one piece] with the mercy seat. 20 "And the cherubim shall stretch out [their] wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim [shall be] toward the mercy seat. 21 "You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. 22 "**And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat,** from between the two cherubim which [are] on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

The Ark of the Covenant – this box - was supposed to be a lid. A covering.

This is the place where God was going to meet the Children of Israel.

This was supposed to represent His throne room.

This mercy seat was going to bridge the chasm between God and man.

But notice that it was not going to be done through their adherence to the law –

It was only going to be through His mercy.

Church, God will always approaches us in mercy.

It is at His throne where we will find mercy and forgiveness.

Turn to the gospel of Luke 18, we will find this in one of the parables that Jesus spoke.

[Luk 18:9-14 NKJV] 9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise [his] eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Which of the two men are we like today?

Are we like the hypocrite who felt like he was better than other people?

Or are we like the "sinner" in need of forgiveness.

Church, we have to stop thinking that our relationship with Him is based upon our works –

Our relationship with Him is solely based upon the unmerited, undeserved, unearned favor of God.

[Heb 4:16 NKJV] 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

23 "You shall also make a table of acacia wood; two cubits [shall be] its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. 24 "And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a molding of gold all around. 25 "You shall make for it a frame of a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a gold molding for the frame all around. 26 "And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that [are] at its four legs. 27 "The rings shall be close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table. 28 "And you shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be carried with them. 29 "You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold. 30 "And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.

So here we have another article that was supposed to be built and placed in the tabernacle.

It was a table for the showbread.

It was made of the same materials as the ark of the covenant and it was also supposed to be equipped with rings like the ark of the covenant so that it could be moved.

The book of Leviticus 24, gives us a little more insight on this showbread that was supposed to sit on top of the table.

[Lev 24:5-9 NKJV] 5 "And you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it. Two-tenths [of an ephah] shall be in each cake. 6 "You shall set them in two rows, six in a row, on the pure [gold] table before the LORD. 7 "And you shall put pure frankincense on [each] row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, an offering made by fire to the LORD. 8 "Every Sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, [being taken] from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. 9 "And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place; for it [is] most holy to him from the offerings of the LORD made by fire, by a perpetual statute."

There were supposed to bake 12 loaves and change them out every Sabbath.

The 12 loaves were supposed to represent the 12 tribes of Israel.

The table and the loaves was a continual reminder of the everlasting promises, the covenant between God and the Children of Israel, and a memorial of God's physical and spiritual provisions.

Keep in mind that Jesus called Himself the Bread of Life – that anyone who comes to Him will never hunger again -

31 "You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its [ornamental] knobs, and flowers shall be [of one piece]. 32 "And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side. 33 "Three bowls [shall be] made like almond [blossoms] on one branch, [with] an [ornamental] knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond [blossoms] on the other branch, [with] an [ornamental] knob and a flower--and so for the six branches that come out of the lampstand. 34 "On the lampstand itself four bowls [shall be] made like almond [blossoms, each with] its [ornamental] knob and flower. 35 "And [there shall be] a knob under the [first] two branches of the same, a knob under the [second] two branches of the same, and a knob under the [third] two branches of the same, according to the six branches that extend from the lampstand. 36 "Their knobs and their branches [shall be of one piece]; all of it [shall be] one hammered piece of pure gold.

So here we have the instructions for the lampstand (menorah) – unlike the Ark of the Covenant and the Table for the showbread that were supposed to be made of acacia wood covered in gold – the lampstand was supposed to be made by hammering or beating into shape a single piece of gold.

It was not to be made by piecing pieces together or melting and molding the gold –

I already mentioned that gold symbolized deity – and like the lampstand, Jesus Christ was also beaten – yet He rose again.

There were supposed to be seven lamps on the lampstand – one main stem and six branches.

Six is the number of man.

And seven is number of completion or perfection.

This brings to mind Jesus' words in John 15 when He said, "I am the Vine and you are the branches"

This was supposed to be the source of light inside the tabernacle.

[Jhn 12:46 NKJV] 46 "I have come [as] a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

The six branches were supposed to be made from the same material as the main stem – this means that we shall also be beaten, just like the main stem – and it is during these times when the world will see our light.

But the light that we shine does not come from within us – it is simply a reflection of the light that Jesus provides.

37 "You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it. 38 "And its wick-trimmers and their trays [shall be] of pure gold. 39 "It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. 40 "And see to it that you make [them] according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

In verse 37-39, it speaks about these utensils that were needed to maintain the lamp burning.

You see, it was the duty of the high priest twice a day to come into the Holy Place in the Tabernacle and maintain the lampstand.

This involved primarily two things:

a. Trimming the wicks

This was important because it trimmed off all the burnt out and unproductive areas that kept the light from burning brightly as it produced less smoke to cloud the flame.

b. Adding more oil

Additional oil was essential because it was the continual supply of oil that was to keep the wick from burning up and burning out before its time.

Now, for the believer, this means that we need to continually allow the great High Priest to come through the ministry of the Holy Spirit to cut away the unproductive and burned out areas of our lives by submitting to the trimming process.

We also need to be waiting on the Lord for a continual supply of the oil (which of course speaks of the Holy Spirit) so that we are operating on His power instead of human sweat and effort.

The chapter ends with once again God emphasizing to Moses the importance of building the tabernacle and the furnishings according to His commands –

In the same way to His church, we also need to be reminded that there are somethings that never negotiable –

The Bible itself reveals those doctrines that are essential to the Christian faith. Among them are:

1. The deity of Jesus Christ.
2. Salvation by grace.
3. Salvation through Jesus Christ alone.
4. The physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.
5. The Gospel.
6. Monotheism.

7. The Trinity.

If any one of those is denied, or deleted, we are not building according to the pattern that is given to us.

Amen.

Let's pray...

