

Bibles???

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

This morning, we are going to conclude our study though the book of Exodus.

We started with the Children of Israel being in bondage in Egypt for over 400 years.

God delivered them out of Egypt –

And brought them to Mt. Sinai – where they were instructed by God on how to worship Him.

They were given the Ten Commandments

The Book of the Covenant

And the instruction for the building of the Tabernacle – and once again - the significance of the Tabernacle was that this is the place where God was going to dwell among His people.

As Moses was receiving the instruction, the Children of Israel became impatient – and they rebelled against God with the Golden calf.

So for the past two weeks, we saw Moses intercede on their behalf and we saw God reestablishing the covenant between Him and the Children of Israel.

So from chapter 35 until the end of chapter 40, we have the account of the building of the Tabernacle –

For the Children of Israel - it's time to stop talking and time to start doing.

It's time to build the Tabernacle.

Let's pray...

[Exo 35:1-3 NKJV] 1 Then Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said to them, "These [are] the words which the LORD has commanded [you] to do: 2 "Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. 3 "You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day."

The Children have a huge building project awaiting them.

There is a lot of work that is going to have to be done.

- The materials have to be collected
- They have to build the Tabernacle
- They have to build all the furnishings for the Tabernacle.
- They have to get all the garments ready for the priests
- The incense has to be mixed

There is a lot of work.

But church, here is the thing.

Before the Children of Israel could start on any of the work on the Tabernacle, God says, "Remember My rest"

Remember the Sabbath, the day set apart.

The day that remembers that God finished His work, in creation and He has a finished a work for us to enter into as well.

Here is the principle church -

Anything we do for God grows out of the rest that we have in the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

If we have the mindset that God is not going to be pleased with me until I do this thing or I do that thing – then we have it all wrong.

God gives us rest, He is pleased with us - because of faith and because of the work that Jesus Christ did on the cross, and then, we go out and do the work.

The Sabbath was to be a sign between them and God –

They alone in the world, among all peoples, were given rest by their gracious and merciful God.

And God wants to make sure that they don't forget it.

That is why He said that anyone who did work on the Sabbath was to be put to death.

This was a strict call to obedience.

Before they did the work of building the tabernacle, God first called Israel to the work of simple obedience.

If the Children of Israel was not willing to keep the Sabbath, God didn't want them building the Tabernacle.

We must remember that basic obedience is a pre-requisite for doing work for the LORD.

[Exo 35:4-9 NKJV] 4 And Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "This [is] the thing which the LORD commanded, saying: 5 'Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever [is] of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the LORD: gold, silver, and bronze; 6 'blue, purple, and scarlet [thread], fine linen, and goats' [hair]; 7 'ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; 8 'oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; 9 'onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.

I had you make a note of – which the Lord commanded.

The Tabernacle was not Moses' idea.

The elders among the Children of Israel didn't get together and say, "I think it would be a cool to build this tent in the middle of nowhere for God to dwell in"

This is what the Lord has commanded – Moses is carrying it out just as God commanded him.

Guess what guys – God has commanded us to build Him a Tabernacle.

And these are the items that are going to be needed for the construction of the Tabernacle.

Now, I want you to think about this.

The God of creation could have spoken a word and the entire Tabernacle complex would have popped up before their very eyes.

Or they could have woken up one morning with all the resources piled up for them to use in the construction of the Tabernacle.

But God looked down upon Israel and He says, "I am asking you to come and contribute for the building of this Tabernacle"

Why?

Because God does a good work in His people through the gifts given by His people with a willing heart.

The reason for the giving was for the Children of Israel's heart, so that they could be of the right mind.

Church, it works the same way with our tithes and offerings.

We do not give with the mindset that if I don't give, Calvary Santa Cruz will not be able to pay their bills.

We do not give because God is broke.

The primary reason is the individuals need to be generous with what God has given them.

Apostle Paul echoed the same principle to the church in 2 Cor 9

[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 as we read on, we see that is exactly what the Children of Israel did.

Let's skip to verse 20 –

[Exo 35:20-21 NKJV] 20 And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. 21 Then everyone came **whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, [and] they brought the LORD's offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments.**

After Moses provides the Children of Israel with the list that was needed for the building of the Tabernacle, notice that he didn't manipulate the Children of Israel regarding their giving – he didn't say, "Let's see what tribe can give more" or put a picture of a giant thermometer with a goal.

He simply allowed them to go home so that God would stir their hearts and allow them to respond to God's work.

Everyone gave –

This doesn't mean that everyone gave gold, because some only had goat's hair to give.

But as long as they were given with the right heart, God welcomed them.

Go to verse 30 -

[Exo 35:30-35 NKJV] 30 And Moses said to the children of Israel, "See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 "and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship, 32 "to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze, 33 "in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship. 34 "And He has put in his heart the ability to teach, [in] him and Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. 35 "He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work of the engraver

and the designer and the tapestry maker, in blue, purple, and scarlet [thread], and fine linen, and of the weaver--those who do every work and those who design artistic works.

So here we see that not only did they give from the own resources, they also gave from their own talents.

Bezalel and Aholiab – these guys were the general contractors.

They were the ones that were going to make sure that everything was done according to God's blueprints.

And not only did God equip them to do the work – He also equipped them to teach others to do the work.

I want you to think about this for a moment.

When God delivered the Children of Israel out of Egypt – there was only one thing that they knew how to do.

What was it?

They knew how to make bricks.

That's it. That was their only true skill – everything else was rudimentary.

I'm sure they were really, really good at brick-making; as we have studied in the last couple of weeks – I couldn't find one brick in the entire design of the Tabernacle.

So - God entrusted a fortune in precious stones, metals, and materials, to be fashioned into the most beautiful Tabernacle ever built – to a bunch of brickmakers and housewives.

Just think about how God works for a moment.

Because in the same way, God has entrusted the gospel to us – as lame as we are, He uses us to tell the world about His Son.

Let's go to chapter 36 – starting in verse 2.

[Exo 36:2-7 NKJV] 2 Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work. 3 And they received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of making the sanctuary. So they continued bringing to him freewill offerings every morning. 4 Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing, 5 and they spoke to Moses, saying, "The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the LORD commanded [us] to do." 6 So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, "Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary." And the people were restrained

from bringing, 7 for the material they had **was sufficient** for all the work to be done--indeed too much.

God commanded that Moses take up an offering for the building of the Tabernacle.

He didn't say, "Take up an offering and whatever is leftover, put into a savings account for a rainy day.

So when Moses is notified that the people have supplied the building project with enough resources to finish the tabernacle, Moses tells the people to stop giving.

No twisting of the arm

No manipulation

The people gave.

This also shows that Moses and the planners of the work knew how much enough was.

Their job was organized and planned to the extent that they understood what they needed, and when they had more than enough.

When God's people are asked to give to something, they should expect that it be well organized, planned, and managed.

I remember when I was younger, seeing televangelist on TV telling me that if I send a small seed payment within the next 30 minutes, God was going to make me rich beyond measure.

Or pushing prayer cloths that would not only heal you but also bless you financially.

How sad.

A bunch of scammers.

When we learn to give under the leading of the Lord, there is more than enough.

From verse 8 until the end of Exodus we have the account of Children of Israel progress as they build the Tabernacle.

The Tent itself is put together.

The Ark of the Covenant.

Table of Showbread

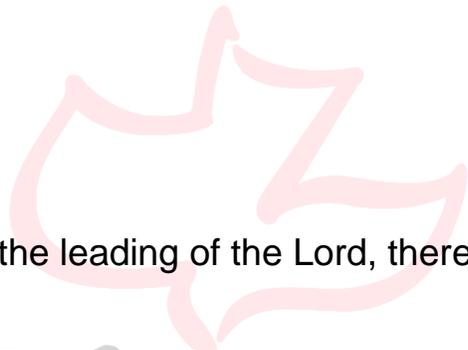
Menorah

Altar of Incense

Oil and Incense

Altar of Burnt Offering

Laver



CALVARY
Santa Cruz

The Priestly Garments

Turn with me to Exodus 40

So here in chapter 40, we see Moses erecting the Tabernacle and placing all the furnishings just as God had commanded him to do up on the mountain.

[Exo 40:34-38 NKJV] 34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

The moment the last peg was pegged, so to speak, God visited the Tabernacle in a powerful way.

And He shows His approval by His presence both in it and upon it.

Now, why was Moses not able to enter into the Tabernacle?

First of all, he didn't need to – as God's glory was so visible.

The other reason was that since the Tabernacle was now in place, only the priests were going to be allowed in the Tabernacle and only the High Priest was going to be able to enter the Holy of Holies once a year.

The Children of Israel are now going to worship God in the way that He prescribed.

36 Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the LORD [was] above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

The Children of Israel, once we get into the book of Numbers, are going to begin to march toward the Promised Land.

God is going to lead them.

He is going to dictate where the stop and when they move.

And every time they moved, the Tabernacle was moved with them.

I want you to see the contrast between the first time Moses came down the mountain at the second time.

The first time, The Children of Israel rebelled against God and God's response was to stay as far away from them as possible.

Remember, He told Moses that He wasn't going to go with them because they were stiff-necked.

Now the people have responded to all that God has been teaching them about who He is and how they are to relate to Him.

This time God responds with His presence.

As beautiful, and as precise, as the Tabernacle was, it was just a pile of materials without the presence of God in it, and above it.

Many years later, the Temple was built by Solomon for God to dwell in and that was also temporary.

You see, God had something better in mind as a dwelling place.

You and me.

[2Corinthians 5:1 NKJV] 1 For we know that if our earthly house, [this] tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

We will one day be resurrected from the dead in a glorious heavenly body; or be transformed into our heavenly bodies at the rapture.

But in the meantime, we are to think of these bodies as tents.

Col 1:26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

Col 1:27 To them [the saints] God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

The mystery is that non-Jews could be saved apart from the Tabernacle.

From the time of Abraham until the first century if you wanted to know God and have a relationship with Him you had to either be a Jew or convert to Judaism.

Paul was going around preaching Jesus Christ to Gentiles with no requirement that they first convert to becoming Jews.

It was for that message of grace the Jews had him arrested and for which he was in prison in Rome.

What a rich and glorious truth this is!

That you can come to God by grace through faith in Jesus Christ apart from any works of righteousness and certainly apart from any and all religion, rites, and rules.

We don't need the Tabernacle because we are the Temple within which God resides.

The Israelites could see God's glory.

In a sense, people should see God's glory in us.

1Co 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

1Co 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

We were bought.

At the Cross, Jesus paid the penalty for our sin, buying us out from slavery.

We are no longer our own, but are now the Temple of God.

Think of it this way: God bought you, and so you belong to Him, and He has let a tenant move in with you - the Holy Spirit.

Therefore we are able to glorify God in our body and spirit.

How do we use our bodies as God's Temple?

By walking in His leading, and according to His Word.

When we simply obey God, it brings glory to Him - and it is noticeable by both believers and nonbelievers.

They see the goodness of God; the power of God; the love of God.

In other words, they see His phenomenal cosmic power in each of our lives.

Amen

Let's pray...