

Date : 11 June 2023

Theme : Understanding the Journey of Faith in Exodus

Topic : Building a Sanctuary of worship

Passage : Exodus 25-31, 35-40

Key Verse : ...*Tell the Israelites to bring Me an offering. You are to receive the offering for Me from each man whose heart prompts him to give...Exodus 25:2*
...*Then have them make a sanctuary for Me, and I will dwell among them. Make the tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you... Exodus 25:8-9*

Introduction

As soon as the people of God entered into covenantal relationship with God *Exodus 24:3*, God said ...*let them **make Me a sanctuary** (a sacred place), that I may dwell among them Exodus 25:8*

a) In the making of His sanctuary, God said...*bring Me an offering...Exodus 25:2.*

- God gave details of how it was to be done *Exodus chapters 25-31.*

b) In observing the **Sabbath**, God said this was a sign and a perpetual covenant between Him and them throughout their generations *Exodus 31:13, 16.*

Sadly, everything fell apart when the children of Israel worshipped the **golden calf**. *Exodus 32*

c) Only after the covenant relationship was restored *Exodus 34:10*, thanks to Moses' intercession, did God resume His plans for construction of the Tabernacle *Exodus 35:4 to end of chapter 40.*

These plans were preceded by observing the covenant sign of the Sabbath. *Exodus 35:1-3*

- So, after giving the 10 Commandments *Exodus 20*, God seemed to focus on Tabernacle building in the second half of Exodus to end of chapter 40.

1. The Lord commanded two things for the place of worship. *Exodus 35, 36*

a) Take an offering to the Lord. ...*whoever is of a willing heart. Exodus 35:5*

i) Everyone brought an offering for the work of the tabernacle

- Their heart was stirred, and their spirit was willing
- They brought so much that they had to be restrained *Exodus 36:7*

ii) God had instructed His people about their offerings

- Don't come empty handed *Exodus 25:2, 23:15*

...*bring the very best of the first harvest to the house of the Lord your God Exodus 23:19 (NIV)*

- How far are you prepared to over give?

...*The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done... Exodus 36:5.*

b) Appoint gifted artisans to make all that the Lord commanded *Exodus 35:10*

i) Gifted craftsmen – Bezalel, Oholiab *Exodus 31:2-11, 35:30-35*

- Every article must be covered with pure gold *Exodus 31:8*
- Every article directs our attention to Jesus

ii) The Lord filled them with the Spirit of God

...*with wisdom, understanding, knowledge in all manner of workmanship... Exodus 35:31*

- The Lord put in Bezalel's heart the ability to teach others *Exodus 35:34.*

iii) Moses supervised

He inspected the work, and indeed they had done it *Exodus 39:43*

- When you build His church, He will occupy it. *Exodus 40:34*

2. What are the articles of the tabernacle?

- a) Entrance (curtains speak of the person of Jesus)
 - i) Purple – His Lordship (Emphasized by Matthew)
 - ii) White – Humanity (Servanthood) (Emphasized by Mark)
 - iii) Red – Saviourhood (Emphasized by Luke)
 - iv) Blue – Deity (Emphasized by John)
- b) The Brazen Altar
 - Jesus' sacrifice as our Substitute
 - He paid in full the penalty of our sin
- c) The Laver (purification by the Word)
- d) The Holy Place of worship
 - Table of Shewbread
 - Lampstand
 - Altar of Incense
- e) The Veil
- f) The Most Holy Place
 - Ark of covenant
 - Staff which budded
 - 2 Tablets of 10 commandments

3. What is significant about tabernacle worship?

- a) Enter with gladness (**Entrance**)

...I was glad when they said unto me, let us go to the house of the Lord. Psalm 122:1
- b) Present the sacrifice (**Brazen Altar**)
 - Thanksgiving for access to God through Christ
 - Praise His name – Jehovah Jireh
- c) Purify the heart by the Word (**Laver**)

...Sanctify them by the truth. Your Word is truth... John 17:17

 - Overcome unbelief through the Word of truth. *Psalm 119*
- d) Worship in the **Holy Place** = Focus on the Lord Jesus.
 - Communing (**Table of Shewbread**)
 - Enlightening by the Holy Spirit (**Lampstand**)
 - Praying and worshipping (**Altar of Incense**)
- e) Enter through the **Veil (Body of Jesus)**
 - Appreciate power of His blood
- f) Worship in the Presence of the Lord (**Most Holy Place**)
 - Submit to His authority (**Budded Staff**)
 - Obey His Word (Two **Tablets** of the 10 Commandments)
 - Rejoice in His promises (**Manna** signifies every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God).

4. Applications:

- a. Familiarise yourself with the steps in Tabernacle worship
- b. What should be your focus at each step of worship?
- c. What can you offer to the Lord to prepare the place of worship?
 - In your heart *...from each man whose heart prompts him to give... Exodus 25:2 (NIV)*
 - Can you over give to God for building His sanctuary?
 - In building a physical place of worship