

Pure Incense of Sweet Spices

Exodus Chapters Thirty-Six and Thirty-Seven

~ Work commences on the tabernacle in this report as Bezaleel and Aholiab and their assistants begin to make the articles of furniture and other items essential to worship. I think this was a very large group of people who engaged in building; and we likely don't have all of their names in the credits. We have now had the instructions given, and here we see the things being made according to their specifications. While the work was being performed, Moses was walking up and down inspecting and answering technical questions. This is God's portrait of Christ Jesus walking in the midst of the lampstands that He is painting in the Old Testament; Christ will be completely revealed when our tabernacle is finished. We're trying to get the total picture on our Spiritual Safari and we're certainly back on the right path now....

XXXVI

1 Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the LORD put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD had commanded.

2 And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it:

~ It is very important to perform the work of the Lord without doing it grudgingly or reluctantly. If you are asked to do something and you do it with hesitation and lackadaisically then just don't do it at all because God won't use it. That attitude does no good for Him. Here we have a group of men that are motivated in their hearts to carve out and engrave upon the articles that are to be used in the service of God. It's not a job and they're not watching the clock for quitting time. Of course, these people had been slaves recently. Now, they're slaving because they want to; because their

hearts are set on accomplishing this work. And that's the only way we are to ever do the work of the Lord.

The work of the Lord has no place for men or women who do not love to study the Word of God. If we can't work with an educated enthusiasm and give the Word of God out with vitality, verb and vigor then we ought not to do it at all. God doesn't want it when it's done like that. Bezaleel was given the instructions and the next thing you see him do is go to work. We don't find Bezaleel at the movies or at a football game; we find him immediately doing the work of the Lord. If every one of us worked for God like that, then our entire city would be looking at us and wondering what was going on. THAT is when revival might happen! Revival won't happen until God's children start to work with enthusiasm, either, you may be sure.

Once you have mastered that motivation then you will have mastered your Christian conduct, I might add. Quite frankly, I think the work of the Lord is the only thing we are to do - if we can do it with great enthusiasm. Paul said, "... let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." That sentence should govern our work for the Lord. Are you working for the Lord? Are you doing it because you want to do it? Paul also said, "... woe is me if I preach not the Gospel." Is this something you want to do? Remember, Gideon's men jumped in the river and they didn't waste any time; they just splashed up the water on the way to fight the Midianites. That's the enthusiasm for the work of the Lord that we need today. We have too many spiritually dead saints - just - plain - dead. Most of them still walk through the door of the church every Sunday, too! This, of course, is another reason the church is in such bad condition.

Also startling here is that this is the only place on record that I know of where the people were asked to stop bringing offerings because they had collected more than they needed. I've just never heard of that happening before. This is truly a miracle in the Bible - when the people bring too much! These people had never been urged to bring anything in the first place - but they're asked to stop bringing. I don't know about you but to me that is amazing. These people are recently out of slavery and had never had anything of their own; and here they are giving graciously everything to the work of the Lord that they had brought out of Egypt with them.

Someone has said, "... give until it hurts." Well, if it hurts – DON'T give! We should give with joy because we want to give to the Lords work – no other reason. I have also heard people say God has provided for them because God gave them just enough for their needs. Well, the evidence that God is in the giving is when we receive too much. I have been guilty of thanking people and saying that to them; the truth is, they have always given much more than I needed, and I truly thank them for that - because it allows me to pass along some of the offering....

3 And they received of Moses all the offering, which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, to make it withal. And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning.

4 And all the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his work which they made;

5 And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the LORD commanded to make.

6 And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing.

7 For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.

8 And every wise hearted man among them that wrought the work of the tabernacle made ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work made he them.

~ So, we have the final set of blueprint drawings for the tabernacle, and here we are on the construction site as the workmen are breaking ground on the project. It seems like a redundant account, but it isn't. God is adding a layer of understanding upon and in addition to what we have already received. The curtains were made out of fine twine Egyptian linen and that

speaks of the righteousness of Christ and of Who He is. They also speak of us and how we might be clothed to stand in the presence of the Father God. These curtains covered the furniture when the children of Israel marched. Christ is adequate and able to cover us – and meet our needs and to save us. God is able to deliver us. We really must keep that in mind.

Now, this account goes on to examine the exterior elements of the tabernacle. We have focused mainly on the interior articles of furniture thus far. As we have said before, all of the items – every thread and every color – speak of the Lord Jesus Christ in one way or another. Here we have the boards and sockets all overlaid with gold and silver. When Israel marched, they were very heavy and difficult to carry. The boards were carried in wagons, but the articles of furniture were carried on the shoulders of the priests in the family of Levi. These boards of gold were stood upright with sockets – or tenons – that held them together. The sockets were silver and that’s really what held the structure together. The silver speaks of redemption. We’ve been over this before....

9 The length of one curtain was twenty and eight cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: the curtains were all of one size.

10 And he coupled the five curtains one unto another: and the other five curtains he coupled one unto another.

11 And he made loops of blue on the edge of one curtain from the selvedge in the coupling: likewise he made in the uttermost side of another curtain, in the coupling of the second.

12 Fifty loops made he in one curtain, and fifty loops made he in the edge of the curtain which was in the coupling of the second: the loops held one curtain to another.

13 And he made fifty taches of gold, and coupled the curtains one unto another with the taches: so it became one tabernacle.

14 And he made curtains of goats' hair for the tent over the tabernacle: eleven curtains he made them.

15 The length of one curtain was thirty cubits, and four cubits was the breadth of one curtain: the eleven curtains were of one size.

16 And he coupled five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves.

17 And he made fifty loops upon the uttermost edge of the curtain in the coupling, and fifty loops made he upon the edge of the curtain which coupleth the second.

18 And he made fifty taches of brass to couple the tent together, that it might be one.

19 And he made a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering of badgers' skins above that.

20 And he made boards for the tabernacle of shittim wood, standing up.

21 The length of a board was ten cubits, and the breadth of a board one cubit and a half.

22 One board had two tenons, equally distant one from another: thus did he make for all the boards of the tabernacle.

23 And he made boards for the tabernacle; twenty boards for the south side southward:

24 And forty sockets of silver he made under the twenty boards; two sockets under one board for his two tenons, and two sockets under another board for his two tenons.

25 And for the other side of the tabernacle, which is toward the north corner, he made twenty boards,

26 And their forty sockets of silver; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board.

27 And for the sides of the tabernacle westward he made six boards.

28 And two boards made he for the corners of the tabernacle in the two sides.

29 And they were coupled beneath, and coupled together at the head thereof, to one ring: thus he did to both of them in both the corners.

30 And there were eight boards; and their sockets were sixteen sockets of silver, under every board two sockets.

31 And he made bars of shittim wood; five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle,

32 And five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the tabernacle for the sides westward.

33 And he made the middle bar to shoot through the boards from the one end to the other.

34 And he overlaid the boards with gold, and made their rings of gold to be places for the bars, and overlaid the bars with gold.

35 And he made a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen: with cherubims made he it of cunning work.

36 And he made thereunto four pillars of shittim wood, and overlaid them with gold: their hooks were of gold; and he cast for them four sockets of silver.

37 And he made an hanging for the tabernacle door of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, of needlework;

38 And the five pillars of it with their hooks: and he overlaid their chapiters and their fillets with gold: but their five sockets were of brass.

~ Now, we have five sockets of brass - and brass speaks of judgment. Again, we have been over all of this before. The tabernacle has three compartments and three entrances. The front entrance led into the outer court through the fence and gate. Then, there was a door that led into the tabernacle proper – the Holy Place. Next, there was an entrance with a veil into the Holy of Holies where only the high priest went once each year to sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat as an atonement for the nation Israel. We will see all of this again when we consider the Day of Atonement in Leviticus, also.

So, we have the articles of furniture arranged as they are to present another wonderful picture for us. The brazen altar speaks of the cross of Christ and that's where we receive forgiveness from sin. The next article is the laver which the priests washed in. This speaks of Christ and how He washes His own down here; this is where we confess our sins and we get washed and cleansed from all unrighteousness. After that we're in the place of worship and the first thing we see is the golden lamp stand. That speaks of Christ as the light of the world. The table of show bread speaks of Christ as the bread of life that we feed on today. Then, the altar of incense is where our prayers go up to God; this is where Christ makes intercession for us and when we get to Hebrews this altar of incense has been moved into the Holy of Holies. Only believers can come in here. If you want the light of the world, you'll have to go outside; if you want the light of the Lord Jesus Christ and to serve Him, you'll have to come in here. In here, you won't be walking in the wisdom of this world; you'll be walking in the light of the Word of God. Feeding at His table – that's worship; and when we pray it should contain praise to God, thanks to God, confession of sins and requests all in praise and worship. Well, that's all done right here in the Holy Place.

Inside the Holy of Holies is where Christ has gone and into the presence of the Father; we're told to come there in Him, and we're told it's a throne of grace and help and mercy. This is the mercy seat for us today. When Christ came to the earth, He not only fulfilled all of this but something else was done that is quite unusual. At the time in which we are studying the tabernacle is horizontal to the earth. You won't get to God traveling horizontally to some building or to some man; oh, no – we are to look up

and go directly to Him today! We only do this through Christ; He is our Mediator between God and man. Christ, with the cross, has made the altar perpendicular. We worship God because He did all of this so He might forgive us of our sins. We worship God in spirit and in truth today.

Where are you today? Do you need a few minutes at the brazen altar to work out your sin problem? Many church members need to be there! Are you a dirty Christian that needs to wash at the laver? Are you walking in darkness because you haven't come by the light of the lamp stand? Are you starving in His Word because you do not feed on the showbread of the Word of God? There are a whole lot of spiritually hungry people wandering around in the dark today. Have you not fed properly and regularly on Christ? If not, you are highly anemic and malnourished. Maybe you need to be at the altar of incense because your prayer life is not on fire? Fire it up today, friends! Are you in trouble and in a dark place where you need His mercy and grace to help or you just won't make it? Are you in a time of need and no one is around? The mercy seat is there for you to go to....

XXXVII

1 And Bezaleel made the ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half was the length of it, and a cubit and a half the breadth of it, and a cubit and a half the height of it:

2 And he overlaid it with pure gold within and without, and made a crown of gold to it round about.

3 And he cast for it four rings of gold, to be set by the four corners of it; even two rings upon the one side of it, and two rings upon the other side of it.

4 And he made staves of shittim wood, and overlaid them with gold.

5 And he put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, to bear the ark.

6 And he made the mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half was the length thereof, and one cubit and a half the breadth thereof.

7 And he made two cherubims of gold, beaten out of one piece made he them, on the two ends of the mercy seat;

8 One cherub on the end on this side, and another cherub on the other end on that side: out of the mercy seat made he the cherubims on the two ends thereof.

9 And the cherubims spread out their wings on high, and covered with their wings over the mercy seat, with their faces one to another; even to the mercy seatward were the faces of the cherubims.

10 And he made the table of shittim wood: two cubits was the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof:

11 And he overlaid it with pure gold, and made thereunto a crown of gold round about.

12 Also he made thereunto a border of an handbreadth round about; and made a crown of gold for the border thereof round about.

13 And he cast for it four rings of gold, and put the rings upon the four corners that were in the four feet thereof.

14 Over against the border were the rings, the places for the staves to bear the table.

15 And he made the staves of shittim wood, and overlaid them with gold, to bear the table.

16 And he made the vessels which were upon the table, his dishes, and his spoons, and his bowls, and his covers to cover withal, of pure gold.

17 And he made the candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work made he the candlestick; his shaft, and his branch, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, were of the same:

18 And six branches going out of the sides thereof; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side thereof, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side thereof:

19 Three bowls made after the fashion of almonds in one branch, a knop and a flower; and three bowls made like almonds in another branch, a knop and a flower: so throughout the six branches going out of the candlestick.

20 And in the candlestick were four bowls made like almonds, his knops, and his flowers:

21 And a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, according to the six branches going out of it.

22 Their knops and their branches were of the same: all of it was one beaten work of pure gold.

23 And he made his seven lamps, and his snuffers, and his snuffdishes, of pure gold.

24 Of a talent of pure gold made he it, and all the vessels thereof.

25 And he made the incense altar of shittim wood: the length of it was a cubit, and the breadth of it a cubit; it was foursquare; and two cubits was the height of it; the horns thereof were of the same.

26 And he overlaid it with pure gold, both the top of it, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns of it: also he made unto it a crown of gold round about.

27 And he made two rings of gold for it under the crown thereof, by the two corners of it, upon the two sides thereof, to be places for the staves to bear it withal.

28 And he made the staves of shittim wood, and overlaid them with gold.

29 And he made the holy anointing oil, and the pure incense of sweet spices, according to the work of the apothecary ~

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