

And Fire Was On It By Night

Exodus Chapters Thirty-Nine and Forty

~ We are in the driest, dustiest sands of Scriptural desert as our Spiritual Safari completes the Exodus portion of our expedition through the entire Word of God. Thank goodness we have the refreshing waters of the New Testament to go back to after this report for some refreshment. The children of Israel are going to remain out here in this desert for so long that it's going to start to feel like home to them. Thank God we're not stuck out here continually in our safari because, I don't know about you, but I couldn't take it just straight through with them. I feel the Bible would bog down - and right about here, actually; from here, we ultimately just simply would not be able to continue in Old Testament teachings. I hope this trip through Exodus has been as rewarding spiritually for you as it has been for me; but I've had enough for now.

I don't take much avail when listening to other preachers speak anymore; and I realize that contradicts one of my own personal rules for studying the Bible. I have tuned out all except for one man that I believe the Spirit of God placed in my path. There is only one current resource for getting the entire Word of God explained correctly and entirely and in an educated manner today – and I also know that's dramatic; well, I'm trying to build a wall here of my own. Yes, I'm trying to build a wall all the way around my own city. I hope this is a place all of you would want to live because as you read, I am closing the wall in with you and me both inside.

Sitting down in Bible study and prayer - and then teaching the Bible, as I see it - is my work – it's what I do, so to speak. My own heart has been so blessed by this endeavor that it was all worth it if no one ever read a single word. Isaiah was murdered; they burnt his house down and threw all of his writing in the Dead Sea. Well, let's hope that doesn't happen to these reports – although it is probably the appropriate place for them. This has brought me to a place of understanding and appreciation of the Lord Jesus that I never want to lose or leave. I certainly don't want to learn ANY of my life lessons again and I don't want to learn the Bible again, either, to be

honest; I still have too much left to learn this time! Perhaps somewhere, someday, there will be a worldly value in my reports as someone discovers God.

Our last report will be extended reading - but casual - and we will just sail through the remainder of the wonderful manufacturing and construction of the tabernacle and priestly garments. Later in this same report we'll come to the interior and actually worship in a new way on the wilderness march with the children of Israel. First, we need to look again at the clothes the priests wore. Just as the tabernacle furnishings, materials, colors, shapes, smells and every minute detail speak of the person of Christ Jesus - so do the garments the priests wore. I realize this may be a bit boring, but I urge you to carefully read the pattern and the manufacturing process for the priestly garments....

XXXIX

1 And of the blue, and purple, and scarlet, they made cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, and made the holy garments for Aaron; as the LORD commanded Moses.

2 And he made the ephod of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.

3 And they did beat the gold into thin plates, and cut it into wires, to work it in the blue, and in the purple, and in the scarlet, and in the fine linen, with cunning work.

4 They made shoulderpieces for it, to couple it together: by the two edges was it coupled together.

5 And the unusual, curious girdle of his ephod, that was upon it, was of the same, according to the work thereof; of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen; as the LORD commanded Moses.

6 And they wrought onyx stones inclosed in ouches of gold, graven, as signets are graven, with the names of the children of Israel.

7 And he put them on the shoulders of the ephod, that they should be stones for a memorial to the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses.

8 And he made the breastplate of cunning work, like the work of the ephod; of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.

9 It was foursquare; they made the breastplate double: a span was the length thereof, and a span the breadth thereof, being doubled.

10 And they set in it four rows of stones: the first row was a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this was the first row.

11 And the second row, an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond.

12 And the third row, a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst.

13 And the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper: they were inclosed in ouches of gold in their inclosings.

14 And the stones were according to the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet, every one with his name, according to the twelve tribes.

15 And they made upon the breastplate chains at the ends, of wreathen work of pure gold.

16 And they made two ouches of gold, and two gold rings; and put the two rings in the two ends of the breastplate.

17 And they put the two wreathen chains of gold in the two rings on the ends of the breastplate.

18 And the two ends of the two wreathen chains they fastened in the two ouches, and put them on the shoulderpieces of the ephod, before it.

19 And they made two rings of gold, and put them on the two ends of the breastplate, upon the border of it, which was on the side of the ephod inward.

20 And they made two other golden rings, and put them on the two sides of the ephod underneath, toward the forepart of it, over against the other coupling thereof, above the curious girdle of the ephod.

21 And they did bind the breastplate by his rings unto the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it might be above the curious girdle of the ephod, and that the breastplate might not be loosed from the ephod; as the LORD commanded Moses.

22 And he made the robe of the ephod of woven work, all of blue.

23 And there was an hole in the midst of the robe, as the hole of an habergeon, with a band round about the hole, that it should not rend.

24 And they made upon the hems of the robe pomegranates of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and twined linen.

25 And they made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates upon the hem of the robe, round about between the pomegranates;

26 A bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, round about the hem of the robe to minister in; as the LORD commanded Moses.

27 And they made coats of fine linen of woven work for Aaron, and for his sons,

28 And a mitre of fine linen, and goodly bonnets of fine linen, and linen breeches of fine twined linen,

29 And a girdle of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, of needlework; as the LORD commanded Moses.

30 And they made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote upon it a writing, like to the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.

31 And they tied unto it a lace of blue, to fasten it on high upon the mitre; as the LORD commanded Moses.

32 Thus was all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation finished: and the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did they.

33 And they brought the tabernacle unto Moses, the tent, and all his furniture, his taches, his boards, his bars, and his pillars, and his sockets,

34 And the covering of rams' skins dyed red, and the covering of badgers' skins, and the vail of the covering,

35 The ark of the testimony, and the staves thereof, and the mercy seat,

36 The table, and all the vessels thereof, and the shewbread,

37 The pure candlestick, with the lamps thereof, even with the lamps to be set in order, and all the vessels thereof, and the oil for light,

38 And the golden altar, and the anointing oil, and the sweet incense, and the hanging for the tabernacle door,

39 The brasen altar, and his grate of brass, his staves, and all his vessels, the laver and his foot,

40 The hangings of the court, his pillars, and his sockets, and the hanging for the court gate, his cords, and his pins, and all the vessels of the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of the congregation,

41 The cloths of service to do service in the holy place, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and his sons' garments, to minister in the priest's office.

42 According to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel made all the work.

43 And Moses did look upon all the work, and, behold, they had done it as the LORD had commanded, even so had they done it: and Moses blessed them.

~ So, we have great details given concerning the garments; they're outward adorning's that speak of glory and beauty. Glory and beauty are always present together. An emphasis is placed on the mitre that had, "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" written on it. Everything is completed now - and Moses reviews the work. As he looks over the extremely important high priestly garment, which speaks of Christ as our High Priest, he sees very definitely how it does so. You'll notice these clothes covered all flesh completely; with the exception of the feet. They did, apparently, serve bare footed. Aaron, as high priest, was dressed similarly but separately from the other priests. Now, on the Day of Atonement, that once per year occurrence when Aaron went into the Holy of Holies to sprinkle blood, he laid aside all the outward garments of glory and beauty and had the basic priest's clothes on.

The white linen speaks of clean living and a righteous life. Scripture says those who bare the vessels of the Lord are to be clean! That still stands, by the way. God does not use a sinful preacher or teacher nor a sinful layman to reach anyone today. They may play a religious game for a few weeks or decades or whatever, but it won't be anything meaningful. I don't care how prominent in the community they are. I don't care how many come to their building and I do not care how much money people give them - or about their talent or influence. They're doing less than NOTHING – that means bad things – for Christ! They do nothing for God! It's all for THEM! That is why He doesn't accept their works and it will be nothing but a pile of burnt ashes when it is tried in the fire, you may be absolutely sure. We must be clothed with the righteousness of Christ and there must be a lifestyle that backs it up! All of that spiritual meaning is found and taught in the basic clothes of the priests.

What is most interesting is that Aaron laid these garments aside when he went into the Holy of Holies and offered the sacrifice for the sins of the people. That is the day known as Yom Kippur; the beginning of days, the Great Day, for these people. It is still an important observance today. So, when Christ laid aside His glory and deity, He laid aside the prerogatives of God. Christ laid aside the Shekinah glory at that time and appeared just like you and me as a man. Of course, Jesus was born a baby and they were looking for a king. Instead of a few thousand measly shepherds that showed up for His birth, the entire WORLD should have been there! The Lord Jesus was born God manifest in the flesh.

We also have a mystery when exiting Exodus: as God died in His humanity....or did God die on the cross? If we define Christ's death as separated from God and as a rift in the Godhead of the Trinity at that time as He Who knew no sin was made sins for us, which is correct, then, even at that moment, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. I have heard many commentaries concerning this fact and not a single one seems to have figured it out, either.

So, the high priest had on this ephah before he took it off and laid it aside. The stones that are on the shoulders of the garments speak of His strength and ability to carry the twelve tribes of the nation Israel; that is, the strength and ability of our great Savior Who, when one sheep went missing, He went out and found it and brought it back on His shoulders. Thank God we have a Savior and a Shepherd that can go out like that and bring us back – on His shoulders! Christ is able to save unto the uttermost those who come to the Father through Him!

Then, we see the breastplate; similar to a vest and which had twelve different precious jewels sewn into it. It was a thing of beauty, to be sure. It had a hidden pocket for the Urim and Thummim. As we have said, these had to do with prediction and forecast. I can't tell you much more than that because I just don't really know about this, either. See, there happen to be many, many things God doesn't tell us in Holy Writ. The precious stones on the breastplate speak to how God carries us on His heart today; that I DO know! He did all of this because He loves us; for God so loved the world.

When the high priest was serving, you could hear the golden bells ringing right up until he entered the Holy of Holies and took them off. The golden bells speak of the testimony of the nation for God and the pomegranates speak of the fruit of the nation in the work of producing for the Lord. They could physically hear the high priest go forth to make intercession for them. This is what worship ought to mean to us today; if we don't hear the bells ring-along-linging in our Bible study there is something terribly wrong with our Christian status. If we don't see how wonderful Jesus is right here, well, then, you probably aren't even reading anymore anyways! The true Christian won't be ringing his own bell and he won't be tooting his own horn, either! The true Christian isn't running around running up the American flag and joining every one of these useless protest movements. That's all just used as a gimmick in the church today; and it goes on in a whole lot of so-called fundamental Christian organizations where it ought not. If you just wear the garment supplied to you then the people around you will hear your testimony, friends.

Make no mistake - Bible study is a difficult discipline to become accustomed to. If you don't hear the bells you better find a different Christian work and it better begin with Bible study. You need to also make the distinction of not hearing ringing in your ears and confusing it with the bells of testimony. Be careful about that, my Christian friends. Well, the bells from this garment are ringing so we know Christ goes forth to worship for us. Once again, we found Him on every page of Scripture in this so-called Spiritual Safari. What a fantastic, wonderful, glorious picture we have of the high priest and his garments.

The side meaning of the clothes the high priest wore is that he was dedicated completely and wholly to the Holy work of the ministry. Holy is defined as anything that is set aside for the use of God. If your teacher is going to do that, he is going to need a whole lot of time in Bible study and prayer, friends. A program that will educate you properly, completely and correctly requires a lot of time from YOU, but the teacher spends ALL of his time involved or it just isn't that meaningful to God. You can just write that down. If the teacher does not reach this level of study and prayer, then you do not have a high priest that can wear the mitre reading HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD!

Consider that as you pray for the Spiritual Safari and as you ask God to direct what and who you support in His work! The time to prepare a message and the time to spend before God praying about preparing that message is a whole bunch of time – you can simply trust me on that. I'll be honest with you - because I always am honest with you - people who know me think I should get out more. Many people invite me to the things I used to love to do. How do you truly and really appreciate this so-called Spiritual Safari we are on? I could easily take some time to enjoy my favorite sports teams or go to the movies; I could still find the time to cut and paste some meaningless verses and random thoughts here and there on this forum on which I teach. If that's okay with everyone else, it's okay with me.

Your prayer is the only fuel our safari vehicles run on; you may be absolutely sure. The tank isn't empty, but it could use a whole lot of prayers. If you want to hear something that comes directly from God, it won't just appear on your computer in an email; there will be a very real Person behind that message. The only way you will get any help is for that Person to spend some time understanding what we cannot attain to in the first place - because it is too high for us. You better find a man that can lead you as high as he can get you because you STILL will not get there, friends. You definitely will not get there with the man of the world. The true message spoken to you from Heaven is a message from the Word of God, not a man-made philosophy that anyone could dream up during a drunken deep sea fishing expedition – no, that isn't going to get it to you properly at all. If your teacher wears Christ's mitre you better thank God for him and show your charity to the Lord - and to him by giving him all of your possible prayer and financial support. If we both say we are dedicated to the Lord, we ought to mean it....

XL

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

3 And thou shalt put therein the ark of the testimony, and cover the ark with the vail.

4 And thou shalt bring in the table, and set in order the things that are to be set in order upon it; and thou shalt bring in the candlestick, and light the lamps thereof.

5 And thou shalt set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the testimony, and put the hanging of the door to the tabernacle.

6 And thou shalt set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

7 And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein.

8 And thou shalt set up the court round about, and hang up the hanging at the court gate.

9 And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that is therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the vessels thereof: and it shall be holy.

10 And thou shalt anoint the altar of the burnt offering, and all his vessels, and sanctify the altar: and it shall be an altar most holy.

11 And thou shalt anoint the laver and his foot, and sanctify it.

12 And thou shalt bring Aaron and his sons unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and wash them with water.

13 And thou shalt put upon Aaron the holy garments, and anoint him, and sanctify him; that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

14 And thou shalt bring his sons, and clothe them with coats:

15 And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office: for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.

16 Thus did Moses: according to all that the LORD commanded him, so did he.

17 And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was reared up.

18 And Moses reared up the tabernacle, and fastened his sockets, and set up the boards thereof, and put in the bars thereof, and reared up his pillars.

19 And he spread abroad the tent over the tabernacle, and put the covering of the tent above upon it; as the LORD commanded Moses.

20 And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy seat above upon the ark:

21 And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up the vail of the covering, and covered the ark of the testimony; as the LORD commanded Moses.

22 And he put the table in the tent of the congregation, upon the side of the tabernacle northward, without the vail.

23 And he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD; as the LORD had commanded Moses.

24 And he put the candlestick in the tent of the congregation, over against the table, on the side of the tabernacle southward.

25 And he lighted the lamps before the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses.

26 And he put the golden altar in the tent of the congregation before the veil:

27 And he burnt sweet incense thereon; as the LORD commanded Moses.

28 And he set up the hanging at the door of the tabernacle.

29 And he put the altar of burnt offering by the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the meat offering; as the LORD commanded Moses.

30 And he set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and put water there, to wash withal.

31 And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat:

32 When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the LORD commanded Moses.

33 And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.

34 Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

35 And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

36 And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys:

37 But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up.

38 For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

~ Now we have the tabernacle given its certificate of occupancy. Then, the cloud covered the tabernacle and filled it. Moses couldn't even see to get in there. We're ready to worship now and one thing is for sure: the children of Israel have the glory! They are the only people that have ever had the visible presence of God that led them. Well, He's leading us again today in this safari. They didn't decide when to move. They didn't vote on whether or not to march out. If the cloud lifted, they went forth on the journey. If the cloud remained, then the children of Israel just stayed right where they were at! They did not deal with their own wisdom or their own judgment and Moses didn't make the decision for them. God made their decisions and the Lord Himself physically moved them along.

It seems totally meaningless today to see the churches saying, "... Christ is the head of their church." The question is: is Christ the head of you? What about the little church you have going or are going to? Is the Holy Spirit of God leading and guiding you today? Is He guiding that church? Does He speak to your heart to let you know that you are in the will of God? We always need an appeal to something human and outward; it seems. We need men who are filled with the Holy Spirit who want to take the time to teach and reach the world with the Word of God. This is what it's all about from here, my fellow safari travelers.

So many people are just spouting off at religion without any unction from Heaven at all. They absolutely ignore the Word of God or they mistreat it so horrendously that it becomes meaningless. I see and hear things today that are just shameful. I have to just shake my head and move on. They have no connection to the Word of God whatsoever. They don't care what it says because they sure don't care what God says. They have no idea what God's will is as they strive to put forth their own way that seemeth right to them. The leading of the Holy Spirit is very real to the genuine child of God; and He wants to lead us and guide us today.

What a perfect corner we turn in our wall of the New Jerusalem as we conclude our inspection of the establishment of the Mosaic System of Levitical Law and the construction of the tabernacle in the Book of Exodus on our way through the entire Bible - and prepare to begin our work in the Gospel of Mark. Our Spiritual Safari reaches this milestone in great praise to God. We opened this book in the brick yards of Egypt and it closes with the glory of God! We gave the glory to God in this report, too, friends. Stop and thank God that Moses led our way thus far. The presence of the Lord is here – right NOW – leading us through the wilderness and filling the tabernacle. He wants to bring us into the glory of His redemption and deliver us from the gloom of the slavery of our sin; that is the very center of His will for the world - that He might lead us and guide us – Exodus – He leads us out – He’s going to lead us into a good land now ~

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