

Exodus Ch. 25

V: 1 Moses is up on Mount Sinai, having been beckoned into God's presence.

- Joshua is a little farther down the Mt. somewhere.
- Aaron, his sons, and the elders are farther still down the down the hill.
- The people, the children of Israel are gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai behind the border, waiting on the Lord.
- And again the Lord speaks to Moses:
 1. He is the God who see's: "El-Roi
 2. He is the God who hears: "Jehovah-Shammah"
 3. He is the God who speaks: "Jehovah dabar"

V: 2 *"Speak unto the children of Israel..."*

- Moses is acting in the capacity of a priest; he is to represent God to the people, and in turn, he represents the people unto God.

"...bring me an offering, of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart..."

- 1st time that God tells the people to bring forth and offering.
- Even though God put it in his heart, Abram initiated giving his tithe, there have been other sacrifices and "burnt" offerings commanded by God, but this is the first offering of this kind.
- It is conditional: *"... that giveth willingly with his heart..."* That is a true offering, a genuine offering – motivated by love.

2 Corinthians 9:7 *"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."*

- In the Hebrew it is literally "everyone who is driven by his heart to give."
- Those whose hearts are driven to give: If
 1. God has put that desire, that strong desire, that drive to give – they are the ones to give.
 2. If you don't have that compulsion in your heart to give, then don't.
 3. Our giving should never be grudgingly, it should never be under pressure, it should never be by constraint. It always has to come from a heart that's been driven; a willing heart, a joyful heart.
- We'll see that the people do in fact respond with cheerful, loving hearts – and with enthusiasm. Later the people actually have to be told to stop giving.

Exodus 36:4-7 “⁴And all the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his work which they made; ⁵And they spake unto Moses, saying, the people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the Lord commanded to make. ⁶And 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. ⁷For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.”

- Radio ministries vs: Jack Abeelan / Morningstar Christian Chapel

“... *take / receive My offering.*”

Deuteronomy 16:16-17

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

1 Chronicles 29:3-14

V: 3-8 14 items are listed (loot from Egypt) which are to be gathered with the purpose of making or constructing 5 things:

1. “the light”
2. “anointing oil”
3. “sweet incense”
4. “ephod”
5. “a sanctuary”

“Sanctuary” (H4720) miqdash, mik-dawsh'; or miqqedash a consecrated thing or place, espec. a palace, sanctuary, chapel, holy place, sanctuary, temple, tabernacle. A place set apart – a home vs: a house, a safe place, a refuge, a protected place, a sanctified place.

- God's desire is to dwell in the midst of His people – because He loves us!
- As the people build God a sanctuary, the Ark & the menorah, these are things that will bring people into a consciousness or awareness of the presence of God.
- This is something that will be portable, as God moves the people will move, or as the people are moved, God will go with them.

Matthew 28:20 “... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

- We'll eventually see that the tabernacle is to be set up in the middle of the camp, in this we see that God is at the heart of the nation; God at the center of national life.
- The people will pitch their tents around the Tabernacle so that the doors of their tents face the Tabernacle. When they get up in the morning, as they go in and out they see the sanctuary of God – and they are constantly reminded of Him, of His presence in their midst.

- This sanctuary was made with fellowship in mind, for the express purpose that God might dwell among His people – much like Emmanuel: God with us.
- There are some similarities between the Tabernacle of God, the tent, and the Tabernacle of God, Christ Jesus.

5 points of comparison:

1. The Tabernacle was a temporary set up, it served up until Shiloh – until the Temple was constructed.
 2. Jesus dwelt amongst us, and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father – for 33 years, until He ascended up into Heaven.
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3. The Tabernacle was erected in the wilderness and wandered with the children of Israel.
 4. Jesus dwelt in the wilderness;

Matthew 8:20 “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head”

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5. The Tabernacle looked pretty humble and ordinary on the outside, covered with animal skins it probably look much like a Bedouin tent of the day.
 6. Isaiah tells us that Jesus had no form or comeliness that we should desire Him – to the point that Judas had to kiss Jesus to identify him to the Roman guards.
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7. The inside of the Tabernacle was glorious, covered with fine tapestry, golden adornments, golden furniture, it was filled with the Shekinah glory of God.
 8. Jesus was fully man, yet fully God, filled with the Holy Spirit and people were drawn to Him.

Colossians 2:9 “For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”

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- 9 The Tabernacle was to be God’s dwelling place, and the place where He met with the people.
- 10 Jesus is our point of contact with the Father:

John 14:6 “For I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life, and no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.”

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

V: 9 God is specific and exact for a reason:

Hebrews 8:5 “Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, see, saith He, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.”

Hebrews 9:11 “¹¹ But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building.”

- The tabernacle that Moses would build is simply a type or shadow of the more perfect Heavenly Tabernacle to come – thus follow the pattern.

Now we get down to some specifics:

1. 1st the Ark of the testimony or covenant.
 2. Table of show bread.
 3. Menorah.
- The next several chapters describe various aspects of the building and design of the Tabernacle and you would think that God would start there.
 - Build the Tabernacle first, then move on to the contents, starting on the outside and working our way in.
 - That could almost seem like working our way into God’s presence and it is the opposite of how God works in our lives – He starts with our hearts.
 - He always works from the inside out... and we don’t “work” our way into His presence, it is always by His grace!

Ephesians 2:8-9 “²For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

V: 10 An ark of shittim / acacia wood.

- Noah’s ark, Moses’ ark: (H8392) tebah, tay-baw'; a box, ark.
- God’s ark – a different Hebrew word: (H727) 'arown, aw-rone'; or 'aron, aw-rone'; a box, ark, chest, coffin.
- A cubit is generally the distance between the bottom of the elbow to the tip of the middle finger, 18” on average.
- 2 ½ cubits = 45” long, 1 ½ cubits = 27” wide and tall.

- Shittim wood or acacia wood; acacia trees grow in desert regions, they grow in very dry ground.

Speaking of Jesus:

Isaiah 53:2 “For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground...”

- Acacia tree’s or wood has a unique property that Bedouins use to this day. When cut or pierced, it exudes a gum resin that has medicinal and healing properties, it’s good for cuts, sores, and abrasions.

Isaiah 53:5 “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”

V: 11 Overlaid with gold inside and out, with a gold crown (border molding, lip)

- Although Jesus became a man, He was also fully God. Thus to portray Jesus correctly, the acacia wood of humanity was covered in the royalty of gold of Deity.

Revelation 14:14 “And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown,...”

- In heaven He is crowned with a golden crown, but in this life He was given a crown of thorns.
- The acacia trees are covered with thorns.

V: 12-15 The hardware is put in place so that once it is constructed; it could be transported in a prescribed manner and that no man would have to touch it.

- It’s always ready to go.

V: 16 The Testimony: the Ten Commandments were to be kept in the ark.

- Where were to commandments kept? In the ark.
- Who kept the commandments? Jesus!

John 8:29 “... for I do always those things that please Him.”

V: 16-21 The ark will contain those things which God eventually commands including the “testimony” which is the 10 commandments, later a jar of manna, and Aaron’s rod which budded.

- The mercy seat would be pure gold and would fit over the top of the Ark.
- Two cherubims would be fashioned over the top, two (unity) is somewhat redundant.
- Cherub is singular, cherubim, or cherubims is the plural form for multiples.
- The first time we see cherubims is in Genesis Ch. 3 as Adam & Eve are exiting the Garden of Eden – these are angelic creatures
- “Mercy Seat” is mentioned 7X’s between verses 17-22.

Speaking of Lucifer before he sinned and became Satan:

Ezekiel 28:14 “Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.”

- Only a few angels are named, Michael & Gabriel the arch angels, and Lucifer.
- They are all described as fearsome creatures – not feminine or effeminate, not the cupid figures, naked and chubby little baby caricatures that we see on valentine’s day with bows and arrows.
- Somehow the Mercy Seat is a type or shadow of the throne of God; we’ll see more of that as we get into Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Revelation.
- From a practical point of view; the mercy seat covered the top of the Ark of the testimony, meaning it was at least 41 inches by 27 inches, possibly 1” thick, with these solid gold cherubims on top and depending on the size of the cherubim figures and the thickness of the base, it could weigh as much as 6-700 pounds because it’s solid gold.
- Two golden cherubim on either side facing each other and God’s presence, God’s glory in the midst of the two.

Speaking of the high priest:

Leviticus 16:14 “And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.”

John 20:11-12 “¹¹But Mary stood without at the sepulcher weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulcher, ¹²and seeth two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.”

- Picture: bloody coffin / grave with two angels facing each other.
- Another way to look at this is the Hebrew word for “mercy seat”:

“Mercy seat” ^(H 3727) kapporeth, a lid, propitiation – kofar, covering: used only of the cover of the sacred Ark, mercy seat.

- 7 X’s = complete as in “... it is finished.” / paid in full.

1 John 2:2 “And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

1 John 4:10 “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

V: 22 Point of contact, God will meet with His people there.

“above the mercy seat...”

- Nothing made with human hands could possibly be suitable for God as a “resting” place; just like the Temple when it was dedicated:

1 Kings 8:27 “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?”

V: 23 Instructions for the construction of the table of showbread.

- Shittim wood or acacia.
- 2 cubits (36”) long, 1 cubit (18”) wide, and 1 ½ cubits (27”) high.

V: 24-28 Covered in pure gold, and again a rim or crown of gold, with a border the width of a hand breadth.

- A “hand breadth” is the width of the hand at the base of the fingers, usually about 3” on average.
- 4 gold rings for gold plated staves set up for transportation, as the people move, the show bread goes with them wherever they go.

Matthew 28:20 “... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age...”

- Later we’ll learn that there will be 12 loaves of bread – show bread, consecrated unto the Lord which will be displayed, then rotated out and eaten by the priests.

- Just as we too will partake of the bread of life.

John 6:35 “And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.”

V: 29 Dishes to make and transport the bread, along with other aspects of worship were all to be made of pure gold.

V: 30 There shall always be bread on the table, before the Lord always.

V: 31-39 Instructions for a golden candlestick, a menorah (Hebrew for candlestick), a candlestick with 6 branches.

- Six is the number of man, 7 is the number of completion.
- A candlestick with 6 branches: complete.

John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches...”

V: 31 If there was any doubt then the personal pro-noun should help: **His** shaft, **His** branches, **His** bowls, **His** knops, **His** flowers...

John 1:17 “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

John 1:14 “And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- Made using a talent of pure gold, with lamps, filled with oil at the top of each branch.
- A very specific design incorporating the shapes of almonds blossoms and flowers, “knops” or buds:

John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches, he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit...”

- All of this culminating in a usable lamp on the top, this was to be the light within the Tabernacle.

John 1:4 “In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

John 8:12 “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

- The lamp stand was not made of acacia wood then covered, it was to be pure gold.
- It was to be “beaten” work:

Isaiah 53:5 “...He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him...”

- When the Roman general Titus destroyed the Temple in 70 AD they did bring the Menorah and the table of show bread back to Rome because they are depicted in Titus’ triumphal arch in Rome – the only ancient depiction that we have of these items.
- There is much controversy about the ark, if it was even there when this occurred, if it disappeared during the siege by Nebuchadnezzar or what.
- We do know that in 550 AD both the Menorah and the Table of showbread were returned to the Christian church in Jerusalem – but in the intervening invasions by the Muslims, they both disappeared and their whereabouts have since been a mystery.

V: 37 “... *that they may give light over against it.*”

- The purpose of the Menorah is to light the Tabernacle, but it is also intended to shed light upon itself, more specifically upon the center lamp stand / vine.
- The branches were intended to illuminate or glorify the Lamp stand.

Psalms 150:6 “Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.”

V: 38 The tongs and the snuffdishes were to be of pure gold as well.

- Essentially the tools used to snuff the lamps, to trim the wicks were to be pure gold as well.
- There will be people and circumstances in our lives that God will use to trim, adjust, re-fill, or snuff us at times – but these instruments are pure gold because it is God working in our lives.

V: 39 A talent of pure gold – approximately 132 pounds.

V: 40 Make sure you stick to the pattern or plan that was laid out to you.

Three key furnishings in the tabernacle:

1. Ark of the covenant with the mercy seat.
2. Table of show bread.
3. Menorah.

1. The Ark of the covenant is where God will meet with His children, this is where we see the glory of God – representing God the Father.
2. The table of show bread is where we see the Bread of Life, Jesus.
3. The menorah is where we see the light, the power of the light which is the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 40:7 “Then said I, lo, I come: In the volume of the book it is written of Me.”

- It’s all about Jesus.