

May 27, 2018 - Ex. 35:30 – 36:38 - Making the Tabernacle
Torah Reading: Exodus 35:30 – 36:38 - Making the Tabernacle
Psalm 69
Haftarah: Isaiah 55:13 – 56:8 + 57:15

Exodus 35:30-35 is the carrying out of what God called for in **Exodus 31**. Israel has brought the free-will offering of what is needed to build the Tabernacle. Now God's design is being set into motion.

The mirroring of these two passages is meant to show that God's heavenly design for the Tabernacle is being reproduced exactly, just as the words and sentences of the two passages are duplicated - the first as the plan and the other as the realization of the plan.

Exodus 36:1 - "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."

The key is "according to all that the LORD had commanded." As we each contribute and work on our small part of the kingdom of God, we don't see the grander picture of what is being put together by God - His Tabernacle in the Spirit - until it is completed and set up.

The Free-Will Offering was Too Successful

Exodus 36:5-7 - "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. 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. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much."

You're probably not going to hear those words from a televangelist.

Because God was putting the desire to give in the hearts of the people, he always provides 20 percent more, and even superabundance - "pressed down, shaken together and running over."

Luke 6:38 - "Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

The Letter vs the Spirit of Giving

Tithing and the first fruit offering is part of the Law - God requires 10 percent of our increase to show that all belongs to Him. Actually, since there were more like three different tithes, the total was about 22 percent (**Lev. 27:30-33, Num. 18:20-21; Deut. 12:17-18; Deut. 14:28-29**).

But this is about giving freely, and is a different mechanism. Tithing, as part of the Law, was "passing away" Paul said. But true giving overtakes and surpasses that rule.

Jesus commended the widow who gave all she had (**Mark 12:41-44**).

"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (**Matthew 6:21**).

We are now under the "law of Christ," and the cross demands all. God loves a "hilarious" giver. We are instructed to "be generous and ready to share" (**1 Timothy 6:18**). Our joy comes from opening our hand to the poor and meeting the needs of those around us.

Tithing is not mentioned in any of the instructions to churches, or later by the Early Church Fathers, but a lot is said about giving.

Paul's instructions on giving seem to echo the passage in Exodus 35 about the Free-Will Offering for the Tabernacle:

Exodus 35:21 - "And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering..."

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."

The result would be no lack:

2 Corinthians 8:15 - "As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack." (quoting **Exodus 16:18**)

These people who gave to the Tabernacle in humility and with a willing heart could say with the Messiah, "The zeal of thy house hath eaten me up." (which is from the Psalm 69 reading for this week).

See also **John 2:17**, after Jesus cleansed the Temple.

During this same incident, Jesus also quotes from this week's Haftarah reading - Isaiah 56:7 - "for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." (**Matthew 21:13**)

So - Jesus' purging of the Temple is analogous to it's being "re-made" in association

with this Exodus passage describing the Tabernacle being "made" originally.

Exodus 36:8-38 - The "making" begins

Then follows a complete listing - again! - of all the items that were being made for the Tabernacle. One theory about repetition in the Bible is that it emphasizes the importance of what is being said. The Tabernacle, its furniture, articles and materials, is the most important image in the Bible reflecting the gospel of Jesus Christ. The worship and activities of the priests, the sacrifices and offerings that took place in the Tabernacle are shadows and prophecies of Christ's sacrifice on the cross in all its dimensions.

We studied the meaning of each of these already, but re-read them with that understanding, and rejoice in the fulfillment of the gospel of redemption hinted at in these curtains, boards and sockets, and for God's tremendous grace towards us.