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Study on Exodus 30:11 – 31:18

1. The Census Tax: Atonement Money - (Ex. 30:11-16)
2. The Bronze Basin: Washing Water - (Ex. 30:17-21)
3. The Anointing Oil & Incense: Tabernacle Recipes – (Ex. 30: 22-38)
4. Bezalel and Oholiab: The Appointment of Craftsman - The Calling of God – (Ex. 31:1-11)
5. The Sabbath: A Structural Covenant of Rest (Ex. 31:12-18)

***What I know is that in the heart of God, nothing is mundane.**

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS & DETAILED DESCRIPTION = His Nature & His Character

1. The Census Tax: Atonement Money (Exodus 30: 11-16)

A. This passage outlines a mandatory “atonement money” of half a shekel (5.8 grams of silver) as an offering to the Lord, a memorial for the Israelites, and a ransom price for their lives as they acknowledge their need for atonement and God’s redemption.

USE: It was designated for the service and maintenance of The Tent of Meeting, and The Tabernacle Foundation was literally built on this atonement money

B. Everyone numbered in the census, from 20 years old and upward was required to do so.

C. The rich did not give more, and the poor did not give less. Everyone paid the same amount.

D. SPIRITUAL EQUALITY - REDEMPTION MONEY:

This highlighting that everyone’s life had the same value to God and required the SAME COVERING. It showed no advantage in God’s eyes.

The poor and the rich are alike, standing on even ground before the Lord.

Theological Significance: The atonement money served as a foreshadowing of the Ultimate Ransom paid by Christ.

1 Peter 1: 18-19

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver and gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a Lamb without blemish or defect.”

CLOSE: We all approach the cross of Christ the same because the same price was paid for all. A perfect and final atonement for all humanity's sin.

II. The Bronze Basin: Washing Water: Exodus 30:17-21)

Unlike most other Tabernacle furnishings, the Bible provides no specific record of dimensions for the bronze basin. It was simple in design with no documentation of specific size, weight, measurements or shape.

SHOW EXAMPLE OF THE ALTAR: Ran with the “no specifics”, so I designed my own!

A. SYMBOLIC & AESTHETIC ELEMENTS: THE MIRRORS

1. **Materials from Mirrors:** The basin and its stand were famously made from the bronze mirrors donated by the women who served at the entrance of The Tent of Meeting.
2. **Reflective Symbolism:** Beyond mere decoration, scholars note that the choice of using mirrors, which represents self-examination and the need for spiritual cleansing before approaching God.

FUNCTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: TWO SPECIFIC PARTS: WASHING & LOCATION

EXODUS 40: 30 “He placed the basin between the Tent of Meeting and the altar and put water in it for washing, and Moses and Aaron and his sons used it to wash their hands and feet. They washed whenever they entered the Tent of Meeting or approached the altar, as the Lord commanded Moses.

vs. 30:20b: “They shall wash with water so they may not die”

1. **PRIESTLY WASHING:** It's a picture of the place where God commanded Aaron and his sons to wash their hands and feet in the basin's water before entering the Tent of Meeting or approaching the altar to minister. The user's attention was focused on the functional and symbolic purpose of cleansing, not drinking.

Brief distinction between the symbolism of Drinking Water vs. Washing Water

a. **DRINKING WATER**: a picture of the Holy Spirit – LIVING WATER

- **John 7:37**- “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink

- **John 4:10**- Jesus offers the Samaritan woman at the well “LIVING WATER”

b. **WASHING WATER**: a picture of the Word of God

- **Ephesians 5:25,26** – Husbands love your wife as Christ loved the church, cleansing her by the washing of water WITH THE WORD.

- **John 4:10**- Jesus offers the Samaritan woman at the well “LIVING WATER”

c. **A PREREQUISITE FOR SERVICE**: This washing was a mandatory ritual to maintain the purity required for serving a holy God; failing to do so carried a penalty of death.

Ex. 30:20b: “They shall wash with water so they may not die”

3. **LOCATION - PLACEMENT**: The basin was strategically placed in the Tabernacle courtyard, between the bronze altar (where sacrifices were made) and the entrance to the sanctuary, emphasizing that atonement (through sacrifice) had to be followed by purification (washing) before one could enter God’s presence.

*It was not a GENERIC cleansing or Hygienic activity for the Priest, as they were already atoned for... It was a ceremonial Law in the Old Testament given to Israel for the purpose of HOLINESS and SETTING THEM APART from other nations

It serves as a reminder that we are in NEED OF DAILY CLEANSING, PURIFICATION AND REPENTANCE.

III. **The Anointing Oil and Incense: Tabernacle Recipes (Ex .30:22-38)**

“THE TABERNACLE RECIPE BOOK”

1. **CONSECRATION PURPOSES:** To anoint all sacred furniture and the basin. Utensils, The Tent, The Ark, lampstands and altars. He also anointed Aaron and his sons to sanctify them for the priesthood, and throughout the generations.

-“**I Smell a Priest**” : The priest was a sweet fragrance was also a distraction from all the blood from the sacrifices. One could smell the set apart, holy aroma of a priest.- **2 Corinthians 2:15** - we are the fragrance of Christ to God. The aroma of life and the aroma of death

They offered unauthorized incense, a different incense...and experienced the supernatural judgement of God

LEVITICUS 10:1,2 – “Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the Lord. contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.

2. **FOR THE SET APART:** (vs. 32) Not to be poured on the body of an ordinary person. It is limited in its application. If anyone uses the recipes for anything else, other than what God prescribed them for, there will be SIGNIFICANT RAMIFICATIONS. Using them inappropriately is an attack on God. Anyone who imitated the recipe or used it on an “outsider” was CUT OFF from the community.

3. **FOLLOW THE RECIPE:** (vs.32) You shall make no other like it in composition. It is holy.

- It is not a magic potion. God is behind the oil, and by his command, He makes it holy

- It’s not about protecting a unique smell, odor or anointing oil. It’s about preserving the honor of God and His worship among His people.

THE PERFUMER’S RECIPE: (VS. 34-37): The finest, sweetest, purest, principal spices: myrrh, cinnamon, aromatic cane, cassia, holy anointed olive oil of equal parts...beat and blended, seasoned, salted. Composed, Holy to The Lord, and no other. THE RECIPE IS NOT TO BE COPIED AND NOT TO BE DUPLICATED.

IV. Bezalel and Oholiab: (Exodus 31: 1-11)

The Appointment of Craftsman -The Calling of God

These men had a different ministry than Aaron and Moses, but in God's eyes, their work was of equal value, equal calling and they were equally equipped to do the work He has called them to.

“If it was just Moses, there would be no Tabernacle!”

– none of the building -none of the furniture- doesn't do any gold overlay-no weavings-do designs-no sculpting of cherubim on the mercy seat

All done by others. Each has their responsibilities!

It's a reflection for us about The Body of Christ and how we each use our gifts for the glory of God as an act of worship. Everyone is of value and importance. WE NEED EACH OTHER!

1. Bezalel Means: “IN THE SHADOW OF GOD” – THAT'S WHERE WE WANT TO BE!

He is a model of someone who worshipped God with his TIME and TALENT

It's not just “a job”! Just like Aaron was called to the appointment of priest,

Bezalel was called and set apart with a different job description

REMINDER ABOUT OUR GIFTS: are for building up, not tearing down...to construct, not dismantle...they are for the edifying of the saints

A. THE CALLING: (vs.2): He is Called by name as THE CHIEF ARCHITECT

1.(vs. 3): He's a **“SPIRIT FILLED”** construction worker

a. This is the first instance in the Bible where individuals are described as being “FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD” for the purpose of craftsmanship and artistic design.

b. Commentary notes that God empowers His people with ‘wisdom, understanding, and knowledge” for **TECHNICAL TASKS...**

c. While viewing artistic and manual labor as **SACRED SERVICE.**

B. WHO WAS HE? (Parallels with The Shepherd Boy, David!)

a. He was a trained artisan out of Egypt. Don't know about his training

b. He was an artist without a STUDIO...the wilderness

c. No projects to carry out...AND THEN GOD CALLS HIM OUT TO MAKE ALL THE PARTS OF THE TABERNACLE FOR WORSHIP TO BE USED FOR CENTUREIS OF GODS PEOPLE!

C. BUT FIRST:

a. He gives WISDOM, INTELLIGENCE, UNDERSTANDING & KNOWLEDGE OF MATERIALS

Ex. Claus Oldenberg: The Clothespin- physics, materials, weather

Ex. Aron's priestly garment, trimmed with bells and pomegranates

Ex. They had to know how to pound metals to microscopic thinness and know the nature of acacia wood.

EX. The glory and beauty of Blue, Purple, Scarlet, Gold...and the depth of tone and value

b. **CRAFTSMANSHIP:** (vs.4-5): A mixed media artist: Metalwork Design (gold, silver, bronze), stone, wood carving, engraving / gem cutting,

c. **TEACHING:** God specifically gave him and Bezalel the ability to inspire and teach other skilled workers their skills to ensure The Tabernacle was built according to divine specification and that the knowledge would be passed on.

3.Oholiab Means: “FATHER OF THE TENT” or “TENT OF THE FATHER”

ROLE IN THE TABERNACLE: His name is considered fitting because he served as the deputy architect for the TABERNACLE, which was itself a “Tent of Meeting” designed as a dwelling place for God (the Father) on Earth.

1. The Calling and Enabling: (vs.6): He was appointed to be his primary assistant

- Raised and equipped to fulfill the purpose
- Raised up to compliment Bezalel
- I have called him

- I have filled him
- I have appointed him

2.Scope of their work:

- They were responsible for everything from the Ark of the Testimony and the golden lampstand to the high priest's holy garments and the anointing oil.

*****Together their names represent the balance of divine protection and the physical dwelling place of God.**

God establishes through the gifts and talents of many...HIS WORSHIP! That they may make all that I have commanded Thee

3.Bezael and Oholiab work ethic in everything:

COLOSSIANS 3:23 "WHATEVER YOU DO, WORK HEARTILY FOR THE LORD, NOT MAN.

1.God calls believers in every vocation-arts, engineering, education- to glorify Him with excellence!

2.Skilled labor is holy, not secular; the mention of Oholiab dignifies all non-pulpit ministries

3. Diversity in gifting unites rather than fragments the covenant community

Ephesians 4:16: ...when each part is working properly, it makes the body grow, so that it builds itself up in LOVE!

QUESTION: What possible gifts do I have to make a difference in the Kingdom of God?

V. The Sabbath: A Structural Covenant of Rest (Ex.31:12-18)

(vs. 13) "**ABOVE ALL**", you shall keep MY Sabbath

1.A SIGN OF THE COVENANT: It is established as a central pillar of the covenant between God and the Israelites. Following the detailed instructions for

building the Tabernacle, this passage emphasizes that even the holy work of construction must cease for the Sabbath.

2.(vs. 13, 14): A PERPETUAL OBLIGATION: They are to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a “lasting covenant” and a “permanent sign” of solemn rest, holy to the Lord.

3.(vs. 14b): SEVERE PENALTIES: Disregarding the Sabbath was considered a capital offense. The text states that anyone who works on the Sabbath or profanes it “must surely be put to death” and be “cut off” from their people.

4. (vs. 17): ROOTED IN CREATION: The command is grounded in God’s own example at Creation. Just as the Lord made the heavens and the earth in six days and rested on the seventh, His people are to follow this divine rhythm.

The Sabbath is God’s GIFT to remind His people that the God Who made them, SEPARATES them from the world with this distinguishing mark for the people of God.