

# The Book of Exodus

## The Divine Plan for the Tabernacle

### Part 5: The Final Details

Text: Exodus 30:11-16; 31:1-18

Outline of God's plan for the Tabernacle:

- a. 25:1-7 - Offerings for the Tabernacle
- b. 25:8-9 - Emphasis upon following the pattern
- c. 25:10-40 - The furniture for the Tabernacle
- d. 26:1-37 - The pattern for the Tabernacle
- e. 27:1-8 - The pattern for the altar
- f. 27:9-18 - The pattern for the court
- g. 27:19-21 - The pattern for the vessels
- h. 28:1-43 - The pattern for the priestly garments
- i. 29:1-37 - The pattern for the consecration of priests
- j. 29:38-46 - The pattern for the daily sacrifice
- k. 30:1-10 - The pattern for the altar of incense
- l. 30:11-16 - The pattern for the ransom of souls (census)
- m. 30:17-21 - The pattern for the laver of water
- n. 30:22-33 - The pattern for the holy oil
- o. 31:1-11 - The choosing of those who would construct the Tabernacle
- p. 31:12-17 - The sign of the Sabbath
- q. 31:18 - The two tables of stone

#### I. The Ransom of Souls

(Exodus 30:11-16)

- A. The children of Israel had been numbered when they first came out of Egypt (12:37), though this seems to be a rough count.
- B. Now, a formal count was to be made and everyone 20 years old and older was to pay a ransom for the support and service of the Tabernacle.
- C. This was also a ransom for their souls.
  - 1. The Hebrew word refers to a covering; thus, an atonement for their sins (vs. 15; 29:33, 36).
  - 2. It is called a ransom, an atonement, and an offering.
  - 3. It was a reminder of their sins and their unworthiness to be a part of the people of God.
  - 4. Yet, it also reminded them of God's mercy and forgiveness.
- D. The amount was the same for all people – one half shekel.
  - 1. This is a reminder that all sin bears the same cost.
  - 2. This is a reminder that all have sinned and need redemption.
  - 3. This is a reminder that there is only one remedy for all sin.
- E. This was in addition to the free-will offering that was made.

#### II. The Choosing of Builders

(Exodus 31:1-11)

- A. God chose two men to oversee the work of building the Tabernacle.
  - 1. Bezaleel was of the tribe of Judah.



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2. His name means, “In the shadow of God” – “Under God’s protection.”
  3. He seems to have been responsible for the major building work of the Tabernacle – including delicate designs (cf. 37:1; 38:22; 2 Chron. 1:5).
  4. Aholiab was of the tribe of Dan.
  5. His name means, “Tent of his father” – “Father’s tent.”
  6. He was also an engraver and embroiderer (38:23).
  7. Both of these men were inspired of God that they might teach others what to do in order to follow God’s pattern for the Tabernacle (35:34; 36:1-2).
- B. The “spirit of God” is likely a reference to the Holy Spirit and His inspiration.
- C. God gave the pattern and made sure that man had it to follow – much as He has revealed His Word to the world by the Bible.

## III. The Sign of the Sabbath

(Exodus 31:12-17)

- A. This section of the book ends with a reminder of the importance of keeping the Sabbath Day.
- B. Remember that the Sabbath was a day of rest – a reminder to the Israelites that the spiritual is more important than the physical.
- C. Even when doing a good work like building the Tabernacle, they must remember the importance of not working on the Sabbath.
- D. To violate the Sabbath was to disregard the covenant of God and resulted in death.

## IV. The Two Tables of Stone

(Exodus 31:18)

- A. Moses’ time on the mountain ends with his receiving two tablets of stone on which had been written the testimony of God.
- B. Pulpit Commentary makes this important observation: “It is not too much to say that the tabernacle ...was constructed for this purpose; the rest of the tabernacle was designed with a view to the holy of holies, the holy of holies was designed as a receptacle for the ark – and the ark was designed as a receptacle for the tables of testimony.”
  1. Obviously, the Most Holy Place was where God manifested His presence.
  2. However, God’s dwelling among His people was dependent upon the covenant and their obedience to His law.
  3. Thus, as always, grace, faith and law combine to bring salvation and fellowship with God.
- C. It is likely to be understood that these two tables were constructed miraculously – “with the finger of God” (cf. 32:15-16; Deut. 4:13; 5:22; 9:9-11).
- D. However, it seems that the second tables were written by Moses (cf. Exo. 34:27-29).