

June 18, 2023

Exodus 38: 1; 8-9; 21-31

1 (Bezalel) He made the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood. Five cubits was its length, and five cubits its breadth. It was square, and three cubits was its height.

8 He made the basin of bronze and its stand of bronze, from the mirrors of the ministering women who ministered in the entrance of the tent of meeting. 9 And he made the court. For the south side the hangings of the court were of fine twined linen, a hundred cubits;

21 These are the records of the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the testimony, as they were recorded at the commandment of Moses, the responsibility of the Levites under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. 22 Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the Lord commanded Moses; 23 and with him was Oholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an engraver and designer and embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen.

24 All the gold that was used for the work, in all the construction of the sanctuary, the gold from the offering, was twenty-nine talents and 730 shekels, by the shekel of the sanctuary. 25 The silver from those of the congregation who were recorded was a hundred talents and 1,775 shekels, by the shekel of the sanctuary: 26 a beka a head (that is, half a shekel, by the shekel of the sanctuary), for everyone who was listed in the records, from twenty years old and upward, for 603,550 men. 27 The hundred talents of silver were for casting the bases of the sanctuary and the bases of the veil; a hundred bases for the hundred talents, a talent a base. 28 And of the 1,775 shekels he made hooks for the pillars and overlaid their capitals and made fillets for them. 29 The bronze that was offered was seventy talents and 2,400 shekels; 30 with it he made the bases for the entrance of the tent of meeting, the bronze altar and the bronze grating for it and all the utensils of the altar, 31 the bases around the court, and the bases of the gate of the court, all the pegs of the tabernacle, and all the pegs around the court.

Scriptures for further study:

Romans 12:1-2

John 13:1-11

Luke 7:36-50

Luke 19:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

Philippians 2:5-11



Delivered to a Life of Extravagant Worship, Serving, and Giving
Exodus 38: 1; 8-9; 21-31

BIG IDEA: Because of the extravagant and sacrificial work of Jesus, then we are set free to a life of extravagant worship, serving, and giving.

OUTLINE

1. Forgiven, Cleansed, and Set Apart (38:1,8,9)
2. Extravagant Giving to a Majestic God (38:21-31)
3. Gospel Reminders:
 - Life of Fellowship with God
 - Life of Worship of God
 - Life of Serving and Giving

Q.1 What is the primary and highest purpose of human beings?

A. The primary and highest purpose of human being is to glorify God and to enjoy him completely.

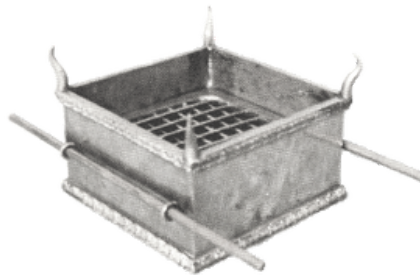
“A laver, to hold water for the priests to wash in when they went in to minister, v. 8. This signified the provision that is made in the gospel of Christ for the cleansing of our souls from the moral pollution of sin by the merit and grace of Christ, that we may be fit to serve the holy God in holy duties. This is here said to be made of the looking glasses (or mirrors) of the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle.”

-Matthew Henry

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

“The tabernacle and the services there pointed to Christ. In general terms, as the tabernacle was the place of approachable divine presence on Earth, so Jesus dwelled (lit., “tabernacled”) among us (John 1:14,17). Beyond this, the provision of animal sacrifices as temporary remedies for Israel’s sins anticipated the sacrifice of Christ’s death, when sin was punished once and for all.” - *Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible*, p.98

“The whole story of Exodus is a covenant narrative. The God who pledged himself to Abraham and his descendants remained the faithful God. He had made promises and intended to honor them, and when his moment came, honor them he did...in a word, Exodus cannot be described simply as the book of the holiness of the Lord, nor simply as the book of the presence of the Lord, but as the book of the holy God present in all his holiness at the heat of his people’s life, their provident savior and friend, who makes provision whereby they, in all their unworthiness, may live safely with him.”
- Alec Motyer, *The Bible Speaks Today: The Message of Exodus*, pp. 20-23



Praise to Jesus. Read Exodus 15:11. How have you seen in the Bible and in your life God to be “majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders”? Take time this week to praise God for His majesty.

Repentance through Jesus. This passage from Exodus 38 reminds us of our need for the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sin and the cleansing of our sinful hearts. What did God the Holy Spirit bring to your attention this week as sins that need repentance? Exodus 38:21-31 is a list of all the gifts that were used to build the Tabernacle. Ask God to reveal to you ways that you have not been a cheerful giver or sacrificial giver and to prompt you to repent of these.

Consecration for Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the eyes of faith to see the majesty of God this week and to guide you on how you can worship Him this week. Also ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen you to opportunities for sacrificial giving and serving this week.

DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These “Sermon Discussion Questions” are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. 1 John 3:1 and Romans 5:8 are great reminders of the extravagant love of God shown to us in Jesus. What difference does knowledge of God’s love make in your life? How does this knowledge affect your worship of God? In 2 Corinthians 5:14 Paul writes that “the love of Christ controls us”. What would it look in your life this week for you to be controlled by the love of Christ?

2. The Bronze Basin (38:8) reminded the Israelite priests of their need to be cleansed to serve God in the Tabernacle. This is an important reminder of the need for cleansing from our sinful hearts. What reminders do you use to keep this spiritual truth in your mind? Read 1 John 1:8-9 and discuss what our mindset towards our sin should be?

3. What are the different materials mentioned in Exodus 38:24-31 that were used in the Tabernacle? How do these various materials point towards the majesty of God? What do these verses tell us about the generosity of the Israelites? What do these verses teach us about faithful stewardship of God’s gifts to us?

4. Pastor Ken discussed three reminders from this week’s passage (Reminders of Christ delivering us to a life that includes the Fellowship with God, the Worship of God, and to Serving and Giving). Which of these three stood out to you? Why? What can you do this week to remind yourself of these?

“To us who live some three thousand years later, the quantity surveyor’s analysis recorded here (Exodus 38:21-31) may seem irrelevant. The meaning of it is not irrelevant, though. God, the Creator and Rescuer, must be served with attention to every exact detail. The measurements are not merely intended to record a historical inventory but to give a message to succeeding generations: put all your energy and skills at the service of your God at all times.”

- Godfrey Ashby

“As the Apostle Paul reminds us [in Romans 12:1], the very best offering that we can give to God is our own selves.”

- Africa Bible
Commentary,
p.128

FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

1. What were the spiritual reminders from the Altar of Burnt Offering, the Bronze Basin, and the Courtyard? *(The altar served as a reminder of our need for the forgiveness of sins through the shedding of blood. The basin reminded the Israelites of the need for the cleansing of our sinful hearts. The courtyard of the Tabernacle reminded God's people that they are to be set apart from the world while still living in the world).*

2. What are your reactions to verses 21-31 where we read of all the materials given and used for the building of the Tabernacle?

a. What do all these materials teach us about God? *(All the gold, silver, and bronze used made the Tabernacle a beautiful sight and this pointed to the beauty and majesty of God.)*

3. Including this passage, we have three passages remaining in our study of the book of Exodus. Pastor Ken pointed out that Exodus starts with the Israelites as slaves in Egypt forced to build for Pharaoh. The book of Exodus ends with the Israelites delivered out of slavery to worship God and to build the Tabernacle.

a. From what are we delivered when we become Christians? *(Christ's death and resurrection delivers us from our sin.)*

b. To what are we delivered when we become Christians? *(We are saved in order to have fellowship and communion with God. We show this through our worship God and by our lives focused on bringing Him glory with every aspect of life. We also are delivered to eternal life with God.)*

Scriptures for further study:

John 13:1-11

Romans 12:1-2

FOR STUDENTS

1. There were two metals used for the courtyard structure and the altar and basin that were in the courtyard. Which items were made of silver?
2. Is there a pattern to which items were bronze and which items were silver? If so, what was that pattern?
3. Read Exodus 38:21-31 again. How did Moses know how much material went into the building of the Tabernacle and all of its furnishings?
4. Read Exodus 38: 1-8. In what ways does the Bronze Altar point to Jesus? How should this picture impact our worship?
5. How can we be cleansed and prepared to worship from the inside out?
6. How can your worship be more sacrificial and life changing?
7. Why do the details of worship matter so much to God?

FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

1. Near the end of chapter 38, we are told exactly how much gold, silver, and bronze were used in the construction of the tabernacle. It is clear that the Tabernacle was quite costly. But this is fitting, given how much value and worth is to be ascribed to the Lord Himself!

Question: The word “worship” comes from an old English word “weordhscipe” (i.e. “worth-ship”) that means to ascribe worth to something. In other words, to worship God is to say that He is of great worth and value to us. How does your own worship convey to God that He is of supreme worth to you?

2. The materials used to make the Tabernacle were not only costly but colorful and beautiful.

Question: What does this suggest about God Himself? Read Psalm 27:4 and reflect on how this verse helps us understand why God wanted His “house” to look so beautiful.

3. The Israelites sometimes failed in their devotion to God. But in building the Tabernacle according to God’s exact specifications, they did demonstrate their obedience.

Question: In what ways are you obediently carrying out God’s specific purposes in your life? In what areas are you not “building” your life according to God’s plans? Would you pray about this and be willing to submit yourself entirely to obediently following the will of God?



The Seventh Plague of Egypt, John Martin, 1823

About the artist and painting: The English Romantic painter John Martin was no stranger to death and despair. Out of the 13 children born to his mother and father, John was one of only 6 that survived childhood. He grew up in poverty, the son of a farm laborer. In 1813, John lost his grandmother, mother, father, and youngest son all in the same year. Despite his popular appeal to English society, he was never really celebrated much less even accepted by the art community. Yet he was somewhat of a revolutionary by choosing to paint very fantastic, biblical scenes and landscapes. One can't help but think John looked to the extraordinary aspects of the bible to deal with the harsh realities of life in a broken world.

His 1823 work, *The Seventh Plague of Egypt*, helps to capture the deliverance theme so prevalent in the Book of Exodus. In the painting you have these mighty structures of Pharaoh's palace, city, and pyramids all displayed in their grandeur. In Moses' day this represented to God's people Pharaoh's power and oppression towards them as he ruthlessly made their lives harsh. Yet God is breaking into these circumstances, "showing up" to bring about His deliverance. In this painting, over and above the Egyptian structures is something more magnificent, the storm of God: thunder, hail, and fire being poured down upon the oppressor and persecutor of His people. And your eye is drawn to the man standing on the left side of the painting, Moses, with outstretched arms looking to the LORD and His deliverance.

The purpose of Exodus:

“The original purpose of Exodus was theological, to teach God’s people about himself and their relationship to him.” - Peter Enns, NIVAC, 25.

“Exodus is about a man, Moses. He is central to the narrative in a way in which no single character, not even Abraham, dominates Genesis...Exodus is about a nation, Israel, moving from slavery in Egypt into freedom...but ultimately Exodus is about God, about the God of the covenant who has instituted a new relationship between himself and those whom he has called to be his people.”
- John Mackay, Exodus, 9.

“The whole story of Exodus is a covenant narrative. The God who pledged himself to Abraham and his descendants remained the faithful God. He had made promises and intended to honor them, and when his moment came, honor them he did...in a word, Exodus cannot be described simply as the book of the holiness of the Lord, nor simply as the book of the presence of the Lord, but as the book of the holy God present in all his holiness at the heart of his people’s life, their provident savior and friend, who makes provision whereby they, in all their unworthiness, may live safely with him.” - Alec Motyer, The Bible Speaks Today: The Message of Exodus, 20, 23.

The setting for Exodus 1:1-2:25 is Israel in Egypt. The opening section sets the stage for the rest of the book by describing: the connection to the narrative of Genesis (Ex. 1:1–7), the oppression that has arisen under a new pharaoh (1:8–22), the preservation of Moses at birth (2:1–10) and later in Midian (2:11–22), and the declaration of God’s intimate knowledge of Israel’s suffering and God’s faithfulness to his covenant with Abraham and his descendants (2:23–25).

Exodus is a journey in two parts.

Part One: Egypt Exodus 1-15 Aug. 7th – Oct. 30th

Part Two: Sinai Exodus 16-18 Nov. 6th – Nov. 20th

Pause for Advent: Nov. 27th – Dec. 18th

Part Two Cont. Sinai Exodus 19 - 39 Jan. 8th – June 25th

Pause for Capital Campaign Series: Jan. 22nd-Feb. 12th

Pause for DNOW: February 19th

Pause for Missions Sunday: March 26th

Resources for further study:

Exodus: A Mentors Commentary by John Mackay

Exodus: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture
(Volume 2) (The New American Commentary) by Douglas Stuart