LESSONS THIS QUARTER
1) 03 Sept 2017 ............... Exodus 1-4 ............................................ Reluctance
2) 10 Sept ....................... Exodus 5-10 ............................................ Confrontation
3) 17 Sept ....................... Exodus 11-12 ......................................... Liberation
4) 24 Sept ........................ Exodus 13-14 ......................................... Victory
5) 01 Oct .......................... Exodus 15-18 ......................................... Sufficient
6) 08 Oct .......................... Exodus 19-24 ......................................... Commanded
7) 15 Oct .......................... Exodus 25-31 ......................................... Equipped
8) 22 Oct ........................ Exodus 32-34 ......................................... Rebellion
9) 29 Oct ........................ Exodus 35-40 ......................................... His Presence
10) 05 Nov ....................... Leviticus 1-7 ........................................... Set Before
11) 12 Nov ....................... Leviticus 8-15 ........................................... Set Apart
12) 19 Nov ....................... Leviticus 16-22 ......................................... Set Free
13) 26 Nov ....................... Leviticus 23-27 ......................................... Set Futures

INTRODUCTION
- This lesson looks at the significance of the Ark, various priestly garbs, and temple artifacts
- God provides the purpose of proper worship – to glorify Him
- God does not ask Moses or the Jews for their preferred style of music or worship but tells them what to do, how to do it, when to do it, and where to do it – BUT not WHY! …………. Why is that?
- God is worshipped in spirit (right heart & motive) & in truth.. John 4:23
- Temple artifacts, from clothing to the facility to various practices, would be used to assist with the worship experience
- Chapters 25-31 deal with the directives received from God
- Chapters 35-40 deal with executing God’s directives
- Chapters 32-34 deal with the Golden Calf incident

Passage | Comments
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**Exodus 26:1-37**
**Temple Offerings, The Ark, and Temple Artifacts**
- vv1-2. The first thing God had Moses do was to raise money and precious commodities from willingly people
  - This was not part of the tithes
  - Consider this. The OT Tithe did not provide funds for Temple construction or upkeep or for ministry outreach. The Tithe’s sole purpose was to support the Levites & Priests, who constituted about 10% of the Jewish population. Funds for Temple upkeep came from an annual tax of about $20
- vv10-22. The Ark was to be an untouchable box built of acacia wood and covered with beaten gold. Initially it would hold the 10 commandments and be supported by 2 poles while being carried. The top lid (Mercy Seat) would be made of pure gold with two solid gold cherubims from which God would meet with Moses
  - Consider this. The top lid or Mercy Seat, being comprised of solid gold, would be so heavy to lift off of the Ark that the Ark would remain virtually sealed with rare exceptions to put something new into it
  - Contents of the Ark: 1) The 2 Tablets; 2) Manna; 3) Aaron’s rod; and some say 4) ashes of the initial Red Heifer, used for ceremonial cleansing
- vv23-30. Table of Showbread made of acacia wood and covered with beaten gold to hold the “Bread of the Presence” – possibly to indicate God is the provider of man’s physical needs
- vv31-40. The Lampstand made of pure gold and decorated with flowering almond bulbs ...............WHY?
  - Some say the Lampstand emulated a fruitful almond tree, which was first to bloom in the Spring, possibly representing better times in the Garden of Eden
  - This solid gold lampstand was the only source of light within this darkened chamber where God was
  - This lampstand would later represent the church as being the only light for a dark world ............... Rev 2:3

Passage | More Artifacts
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**Exodus 27:1-21**
- vv7-14. 11 Curtains of Goat’s Hair (45’x6’ each). These covered the top of the Tabernacle (45’x15’x15’)
- vv15-30. **48 Boards (15’x2.25’) and Sockets.** These were to jointly fit together to support the heavy curtains surrounding the Tabernacle. Possibly akin to how believers are to jointly fit together to support the work of the Kingdom.
- vv31-37. **The Veil and Screen.** Notice this artifact, like all the others, was not to be crafted half-heartedly or with less than high quality craftsmanship (WHY?). This Veil separated the Inner Court (Holy Place) from the Holy of Holies where the Ark was positioned
  - Recall that a later rendition of this Veil hanging in Herod’s temple, possibly being 5” (hands breadth) thick, was torn down the middle at the moment Christ died, conveying we now have open and direct access to God .......... Mat 27:51; Mrk 15:38; Luk 23:45

Passage | More Artifacts
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**Exodus 35-37**
- vv8-12. **10 Linen Curtains (42’x6’ each).** We may have lost much of the meaning for each of these artifacts, but, surely, the Jews of this generation were aware of possible spiritual analogies for the quality, thickness, and color of the curtains, the length and width of each curtain, the interconnectivity of the curtains to each other, and for the 50 loops and clasps in the 2 outer curtains to make the tabernacle a single unit
  - For those on the outside of the Tabernacle, which consisted of the Inner Court or the Holy Place (30’x15’x15’) plus the Holy of Holies (15’x15’x15’), they only saw the outer badger skins [AV] or porpoise [NASB], sea cow [NIV], goat [ESV], manatee [HCSB], or dolphin skins [Message]
  - BUT for the Levites and priests, who had the privilege of being within the Tabernacle complex, they saw the intricate beauty of the colorful (red, blue, and purple) curtains & trappings.
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**Exodus 25-40**
- vv18-25. The Bronze Altar and its Instruments. Like all other Temple artifacts, it was to be crafted according to the specific plan shown only to Moses in the mountain
  - This sounds awfully similar how Mormon founder, Joseph Smith, proclaimed that he received the ability from God to translate some ancient Egyptian plates into the so-called “Book of Abraham”
  - How do we answer the skeptics when they question why the word of one man is accepted on blind faith?
  - The difference between Moses’ claim for divine revelation from Smith’s claim was the substantiated and corroborating evidence of supernatural attestation given by God to 70 others....Exod 24:9-11
- vv9-21. **Court of the Tabernacle (150’x75’x7.5’).** As the pure olive oil was to continually fuel the lamps, so the Holy Spirit is to continually be our source of power

**Exodus 19:20**
- Moses met with God at the mountain
- God’s presence was visible through the light
- God’s presence was visible through the sound of Thunder
- God’s presence was visible through the pageantry of fire
- God’s presence was visible through the pageantry of presence
**Passage**

**Holy Garments**
- v2:4. Holy priestly garments for glory & beauty [Breastplate, Ephod (vest), Robe, Tunic, Turban, and Sash]
- v3. Does God endow people today with the “Spirit of Wisdom” to be craftsmen? God does give natural talents to saved and unsaved people to be, e.g., engineers, craftsmen, musicians. Even so called spiritual gifts (e.g., mercy, administration, grace, teaching, discernment, etc.) are very subjective. From a general perspective, we can claim all talents and gifts are God-given, but we cannot be dogmatic that certain people receive certain gifts at a certain time, such as at salvation.
- v15. How was the ephod (a garment worn under the priestly breastplate) used for prophetic guidance (1Sam 23:9; 30:7)?

**Levites Had to be Committed to and Meticulous in Their Duties or They Died**
- If they did not wear the right underwear .......... Ex 28:42-43
- If they failed to wash their hands and feet .......... Ex 30:21
- If they looked at the holy artifacts ............. Lev 4:20, Num 18:3
- If they sacrificed wrong ....................................Lev 10:1-2
- If they had a wardrobe malfunction ..............Lev 10:6
- If they left the tabernacle too early .............. Lev 8:35, 10:7
- If they drank alcohol while on duty ...............Lev 10:9
- If they wrongfully entered the holy of holies ......Lev 16:2
- If they failed to put the incense on the fire ......Lev 16:13
- If they offered less than the best ....................Num 18:22
- And for the High Priest, if his bells didn’t tinkle ........Ex 28:35

**Skilled Craftsmen and the Sign of the Sabbath**
- vv1-11. The Skilled Craftsmen. God bestowed special talents to some people to make the various Tabernacle artifacts of gold, bronze, stone, clothing, oil, and incense. God loves quality. Is our work high quality?
- vv12-18. The Sign of the Sabbath. Again, the Sabbath was a covenantal sign between God and the Jews that resulted in the death penalty for those who profaned it. We are not under such a covenant.
- v17. Six Literal 24-hour Days. This verse corroborates along with Genesis 1 that God created the Earth in six days.

**Passage**

**Offering Types:**
- Burnt
- Drink
- Free
- Free will
- Heave (Priestly Tithe)
- Jealousy
- Meat
- Memorial
- Peace/Thanksgiving
- Sin
- Trespass
- Voluntary
- Wave
- Willing

**Offerings were to be either:**
- Burnt;
- Eaten;
- Let Go / Freed;
- Thrown out;
- Used for Service

**Frequency of Offerings**
- From every morning to every 3rd year

**Altar of Incense, Anointing Oil, and Special Incense**
- vv1-10. The Altar of Incense (perpetual). Recall our prayers are a sweet aroma to God ... Ps 141:2; Lk 1:10; Rev 5:8; 8:3-4
- vv11-16. 1/2 shekel offering by adults or suffer a plague. This was to pay a memorial ransom or an atonement. From a human perspective, God and His ways may seem to us as austere, hard, cruel, but He had to convey how seriously it is to obey a holy, perfect, and righteous God .... Luke 19:21
- vv20-21. Priests shall wash with water or DIE. Cleanliness is next to Godliness.
- vv22-38. The One-of-a-Kind Anointing Oil and Incense. These could not be bought in a souvenir shop or conjured up at home without the risk of being excommunicated or possibly even put to death (i.e., cut off from the people) ........ WHY?
  - What God calls holy should not be trivialized .......... Act 10:15
  - What do most trivialize today that God considers holy? □ God’s Name □ Marriage of 1 man to 1 woman for life

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS**
- We do not have all the details given to Moses regarding the Tabernacle artifacts, which he was to duplicate .................. Ex 26:30
- ...Yet we have enough information to apprehend and comprehend the seriousness in approaching a most holy God on His terms
- ...and, like the golden Lampstand, are we being a bright light for a dark world to find their way to Christ?
- ...and, like the pure olive oil used to keep the Tabernacle lamps burning, do we rely on the Holy Spirit for continual power to accomplish the Kingdom work God has assigned to us?

**NEXT WEEK:** Exodus 32-34. The Golden Calf Incident and how Israel recovered from such a catastrophic situation.

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**NOTES**
- Holy Garments
- Levites
- Skilled Craftsmen
- Offerings
- Frequency

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**Passage**

**High pressure job led to early Levite retirement after only 20 years of service (Num 4:3, 29, 30, 35)**
- v1-9. Consecration of the Priests. This was a “perpetual statute” God would only honor men who were of the lineage of Aaron to be priests. All others are counterfeiters. This was not broken till Jesus (from the tribe of Judah after the order of Melchizedek) legally changed the rules of the game.
- vv10-46. Sacrifices (bull, rams, & lambs) and Special Offerings: Fire, Wave, Heave, and Peace offerings.
- v20. Blood on right ear lobe, right toe, and right thumb. The true meaning of this practice seems to be forever lost in history. We can only speculate. A possible comparison is when Peter asked to be fully washed while Jesus said just your feet (i.e., need of daily repentance) .......... John 13:10
- vv45-46. The Purpose of the Offerings. For God to dwell among His people and for Israel to know that He is their Lord.