

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Dec 2024 Exodus 01-04 Seen and Heard
- 2) 08 Dec Exodus 05-10 Freedom Promised
- 3) 15 Dec Exodus 11-12 Delivered From Egypt
- 4) 22 Dec Luke 1:26-38 – Christmas Message Delivered From Sin
- 5) 29 Dec Exodus 13-14 Power Revealed
- 6) 05 Jan 2025 Exodus 15-18 Provision Given
- 7) 12 Jan Exodus 19-24 God's Commands
- 8) 19 Jan Exodus 19-24 God's Commands, Part II
- 9) 26 Jan Exodus 25-31 Instructions**
- 10) 02 Feb Exodus 32-40 Inhabited
- 11) 09 Feb Leviticus 01-15 Separation
- 12) 16 Feb Leviticus 16-22 Atonement
- 13) 23 Feb Leviticus 23-27 Holy Living

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
Exodus 25:1-40	<p>Temple Offerings, The Ark, and Temple Artifacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-2. The first thing God had Moses do was to raise money and precious commodities from willingly people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This was not part of the tithe ♦ 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 was from ½ shekel annual tax (~\$30) per person. • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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	Comments
Exodus 26:1-37	<p>More Artifacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-6. 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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. • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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
Exodus 27:1-21	<p>More Artifacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-8. 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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



Passage	Comments
Exodus 28:1-43	<p>Holy Garments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv2-4. 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)? It was actually the Urim & Thummin that were tossed like dice which determined God’s guidance. These were stowed in the breastplate, which was worn over the ephod in a day when God spoke in such a manner....1Sam 28:6; Pr 16:33; Heb 1:1 So when King David asked for the Ephod to be brought to him to enquire of God, the breastplate with the Urim & Thummin came with it. • v35. The High Priest had to have tinkling bells when he went within the Holy of Holies – or risk dying. God is not to be trifled with even when it came even to their dress code NOTE. Some legalistic churches mandate a dress code (e.g., suits & ties for men, dresses for women) – BUT, when the priests came out of the Tabernacle to minister to the people (at least as recorded for Ezekiel’s Temple) they had to take off their priestly attire & put on their everyday clothes. Dress codes are nice, but they should be based on modesty reasons & not to reflect one’s level of spirituality....Ezek 44:19 • vv42-43. Sacred Underwear (boxer shorts) had to be worn or the priests would incur death for immodesty as they marched up steps or a ramp to the respective altars..... Ex 20:26
	<p>Levites Had to be Committed to and Meticulous in Their Duties or They DIED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 18:32 • And for the High Priest, if his bells didn’t tinkle..... Ex 28:35 <p>NOTE #1. Other than Nadab and Abihu, who died for offering strange fire (Lev 10:1-2), no other priests are recorded to have died for Tabernacle snafus, though, Eli’s 2 wicked priestly sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died in battle (2Sam 2:12; 4:11)</p> <p>Note #2. The retirement age for priests was extended to 30 years after the Babylonian Captivity because there were not enough of them who were 30-50 years of age..... Ezra 3:8</p>
Exodus 29:1-46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-9. 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 counterfeits. 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.

OT SUBSTITUTIONARY OFFERINGS ALLOWED GOD TO DWELL AMONG HIS PEOPLE AND POINTED HIS PEOPLE TO SEE THE NEED FOR A PERMANENT SOLUTION (JESUS)	
<p>Offering Types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burnt • Drink • Free Free Will • Guilt • Grain • Heave (Priestly Tithe) • Jealousy • Meat • Memorial • Peace • Sin • Thanksgiving • Trespass • Voluntary • Vow/Votive • Wave • Willing 	<p>Offerings were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money • Animals (oxen, sheep, lambs, doves, etc.) • Field Products (corn, wine, grain, etc.) • Handy-works (Brass, Silver, etc.) • Human (First Born → Levites → Christ) <p>Offerings were to be either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burnt • Eaten • Let Go / Freed • Thrown out, or • Used for Service <p>Frequency of Offerings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From every morning to every 3rd year • Every offering was to include Salt <p>Forbidden Offerings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaven and Honey

Passage	Comments
Exodus 30:1-38	<p>Altar of Incense, Anointing Oil, and Special Incense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 serious it is to obey a holy, perfect, pure, 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What God calls holy should not be trivialized..... Act 10:15 ♦ What do most trivialize today that God considers holy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> God’s Name <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage of 1 man to 1 woman for life
Exodus 31:1-18	<p>Skilled Craftsmen and the Sign of the Sabbath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 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.

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.

