

Exodus 25

Read Exodus 25:1-9: God told Moses to take up an offering of precious materials to build the tabernacle. Where did these multi-generational Hebrew slaves get gold, silver, bronze, precious purple fabric, linen and expensive fragrances? Why would you carry something heavy like bronze through the desert?

²⁰ So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go. ²¹ “And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. ²² Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians.” (Exodus 3)

³⁴ So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. ³⁵ The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. ³⁶ The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians. (Exodus 12)

This was not a forced or compelled gifting. God only wants a cheerful giver. A grumbling giver is not of any value. God does not need our stuff. It really is for us. All of these materials would be used to make and decorate the tabernacle.

Read Exodus 25:10-22: The ark of the covenant was supposed to represent God’s presence. It was in the inner-most area of the tabernacle. It is not solid gold. It is covered in gold, to make it light enough to carry on poles. The acacia wood is insect and fungal resistant and easily workable, yet hard.

God is holy; so that our sinful self could not directly approach him. The poles on the holy furniture was to keep men’s sinful hands off of it. Two cherubim angels were made on top of the mercy seat (or throne box lid). There are four cherubim in heaven that surround God’s throne. They are amazing creatures.

⁴ As I looked, behold, a high wind was coming from the north, a great cloud with fire flashing intermittently and a bright light around it, and in its midst something like gleaming metal in the midst of the fire. ⁵ And within it there were figures resembling four living beings. And this was their appearance: they had human form. ⁶ Each of them had four faces and four wings. ⁷ Their legs were straight and their feet were like a calf’s hoof, and they sparkled like polished bronze. ⁸ Under their wings on their four sides were human hands. As for the faces and wings of the four of them, ⁹ their wings touched one another; their

faces did not turn when they moved, each went straight forward. ¹⁰ As for the form of their faces, each had a human face; all four had the face of a lion on the right and the face of a bull on the left, and all four had the face of an eagle. ¹¹ Such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above; each had two touching another being, and two covering their bodies. ¹² And each went straight forward; wherever the spirit was about to go, they would go, without turning as they went. ¹³ In the midst of the living beings there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, like torches moving among the living beings. The fire was bright, and lightning was flashing from the fire. ¹⁴ And the living beings ran back and forth like bolts of lightning. ¹⁵ Now as I looked at the living beings, behold, there was one wheel on the ground beside the living beings, for each of the four of them. ¹⁶ The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship was like sparkling topaz, and all four of them had the same form, their appearance and workmanship being as if one wheel were within another. ¹⁷ Whenever they moved, they moved in any of their four directions without turning as they moved. ¹⁸ As for their rims, they were high and awesome, and the rims of all four of them were covered with eyes all around. ¹⁹ Whenever the living beings moved, the wheels moved with them. And whenever the living beings rose from the earth, the wheels rose also. ²⁰ Wherever the spirit was about to go, they would go in that direction^[u]. And the wheels rose just as they did; for the spirit of the living beings was in the wheels. ²¹ Whenever those went, they went; and whenever those stopped, they stopped. And whenever those rose from the earth, the wheels rose just as they did; for the spirit of the living beings was in the wheels. (Ezekiel 1)

The tabernacle concept is that it is a mobile meeting place with God. It represents our body (body, soul and spirit). It is not pretty outside, but there is something precious inside. The inner chamber (holy of holies) represents our spirit; which is the only part that can meet and dwell with God. Our flesh is too sinful and subject to bad ideas.

For we know that if our earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made by hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For indeed, in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, ³ since in fact after putting it on, we will not be found naked. ⁴ For indeed, we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as a pledge. ⁶ Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— ⁷ for we walk by faith,

not by sight—⁸ but we are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5)

¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. (1 Corinthians 6)

Read Exodus 25:23-40: The table of showbread and menorah lampstand are also significant representations. The table of showbread represents God's fellowship and dining with men. Breaking bread together is a significant thing in the middle east. The two loaves of bread represented the 12 tribes of Israel being waved before God to lift up our societies and dedicate them before God. The lampstand represents the seven-fold spirit of God.

Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11)

We are called to be lights to the world, and God will take our light if we fail to walk according to our calling.

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And after turning I saw seven golden lampstands; ¹³ and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and wrapped around the chest with a golden sash. ¹⁴ His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like burnished bronze when it has been heated to a glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷ When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. (Revelation 1)

The menorah is supposed to be an almond tree with cups filled with olive oil. The almond is the first to bloom each year. Judgement and communication always begins with the house of the LORD.

