

Exodus 61 - Cleansing Laver and Final Details

Exodus (Names) - Changing the World
Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 30:11-31:18

Tabernacle - Bronze Laver

Tabernacle - Outside Bronze



Tabernacle - Inside Gold



Holy Place

Holy
of Holies

Brazen Laver

- Laver was made only of bronze, metal of judgment
- No dimensions given
- Used by priests to wash hands and feet before going into the Holy Place or ministering at the altar



Looking at the Cleansing

- Priests required frequent cleansing of hands and feet
 - They had already offered sacrifices for their personal sin
 - They needed frequent washings due to uncleanness on the outside - blood (Le 6:44)
- This would presage Christ's action for His disciples on His last night before the stauros

Washing of the Feet (Jn 13:1-11)

- Christ, the High Priest, washed the feet of His disciples preparing them for their ministry based on His death
- They were cleansed of sin, like the priests who had already given their own sin offerings
- But, they needed additional cleansing for daily sins while ministering to and for the Lord

High Priest is to Serve (Jn 13:12-20)

- Christ also used this Tabernacle ceremony to draw a distinction between His and the Aaronic priesthoods
 - Aaronic priesthood sought to be served by others
 - Christ came to serve others bringing them to Himself
 - His believers were to do the same, especially the Church
 - Each believer is to see others as greater than himself (Ph 2:1-8)

Washed as a Sacrifice to Christ

- Each of us are a living sacrifice to Christ (Ro 12:1-2)
 - We are to be washed daily by His Word examining ourselves as He examines us to cleanse us (He 10:19-25)
 - He cleanses His Church as the First Fruits of His Bride (Ep 5:23-27)
 - If we are not cleansed continually by His Word then you have no part of His eternal kingdom (1Co 7:21-23; 1o 13:8)

Last But Not Least

- This is why the laver is listed last, because it reminds us of our continual sinning as He develops us into His image preparing us for service now and in eternity (Ro 8:19; Ga 2:19-20; He 1:8-9)
- We will enter the Holy Place when we see Him face to face but for now we undergo the Hagiazo Process in the courtyard being washed by His word and offering ourselves on His altar as is our reasonable service

Wrapping Up the Details

Census Tax

- During the annual census, 20 years old and upward, each man had to redeem himself with a half shekel
 - This tied each family to the Tabernacle and the health of the Tabernacle to the nation
 - This was the "tax" Peter paid for Christ and himself (Mt 17:24-27)
- This "tax" not laid on churches; not a theocracy

Lord is Author of Men's Talents

- God called and prepared Bezalel (protection of God) and Oholiab (father's tent) to oversee the preparations for the Tabernacle
 - This does not mean that God gave them, and others, miraculous, instantaneous knowledge of these skills
 - This does mean that God developed these skills in them, and others, during their period as slaves
 - Illustrating that God does cause good during evil events (Ro 8:28-30)

Lord is Author of Your Talents

- God has specifically created you (Ep 1:3-10, Ga 1:13-17)
 - Body
 - Mind
 - Soul
- He has a calling for you that He has already developed
- Follow your abilities and to find your calling (Ro 11:29, 1Co 1:16-31)

Sabbath – Cornerstone of Worship

- God repeats His instructions concerning Sabbath rest at least six times in Exodus (not specifically mentioned in Genesis) (Ex. 16: 20; 23: 18; 34: 35)
- While the Tabernacle looks ahead to the Priesthood of Christ and the believer's relationship with Him in the New Covenant, the Sabbath rest begins at creation and runs throughout Scripture pointing toward salvation

Sabbath for Each Individual

- The Tabernacle was the center of corporate, national, worship
 - If there was only the Tabernacle it would have been the same forms of worship normal to the Ancient Kingdoms
- The Sabbath was for each person to worship God individually, growing in His grace

Satan Attacked Sabbath Mercilessly

- Sabbath designed to give man a day of rest
 - Not just rest from work as agrarian work is 24/7
 - The opportunity to commune with God in His Word
- Satan, through religion, turned Sabbath into a burden that everyone dreaded, detracting from mercy of God (Mt 23:1-4)
 - Declaring Himself Lord of Sabbath defied their rules (Mk 2:27-28)

Sabbath Challenged

- Christ performed many of His works on the Sabbath to challenge the satanic rules that prevented belief in God
- He demonstrated that the Sabbath message was of compassion, mercy, faith in God (Mt. 12:1-12)
- Satan, and man, had turned it into a dictatorial nemesis designed to enslave man to ritual, not God

Reformational Churches

- Reformational churches via Replacement Theology co-opted the Sabbath making it as onerous as the Jews had
- Sunday is not a Sabbath based on rules (Blue Laws)
- Sunday is *our* voluntary day of worship for those who want a closer relationship with God through His Word

Sabbath Voluntary Worship

- Ancient Israel was a theocracy and codified Sabbath
- It was a pattern of personal worship for all cultures
- It was probably a major influence in development of the Axial Age religions
- It focused on personal morality, practice and salvation

Summary

Retrospective Contrast

- Moses placed the development of the Tabernacle here, though he is still on Mt Horeb receiving the Law, to contrast the sinfulness of the Hebrews while he was on the Mount communing with God
- The Tabernacle is the crescendo of God leading them out of Egypt; but, the next events prove natural man's innate sinfulness and inability to naturally follow God

They No Worse Than Us

- Modern man has the tendency to view ancient Hebrews as lesser people because of their failures
- The Church Age has only highlighted the consistency of man to sin when he seeks to set up his own religion even if it mimics God's faith and institutions
- If anything, we prove the Bible true: All have sinned
(Ro. 3:10, 23)