

Exodus 66 – God’s Way? Offerings or Taxes

Exodus (Names) – Changing the World
Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 35:1-29

What Should We Look At?

Forest



Trees



God’s Focus is our Focus

- When God gives detail then we look at details (trees)
- When God gives overarching views then we take the “long view” (forest) {Remember: no trees – no forests}
- Previously we looked at the tabernacle in detail (trees), now we will look at the flow of events (forest) as God brings Exodus to a conclusion

How Important is the Sabbath?

- There is no question God considered the Sabbath vital
- The issue: *why* was the Sabbath important? (Dt 5:17-28; 10:7-12:28)
 - Man treats the Sabbath important due to works that demonstrates "self-righteousness"
 - Christ treated the Sabbath important as a time to learn of God's mercy, grace and forgiveness; rules defined the Sabbath encouraging people to learn of God

Could God Have Given the Tabernacle?

- God could have given them the Tabernacle as the articles were copies of what already existed in Heaven (He 9:22-28)
- Yes; but, sinful man would have been prevented from entering and learning God's salvation (Ge 3:22-24; Re 21:22-27)
- God will bring *New Jerusalem* from heaven (*new earth and heaven*) to fellowship with His people forever (Re 21:1-3)

God *Allows* Participation for Man

- God gave the pattern and requirement to build but:
 - He asks for voluntary contributions (offerings) in the form of goods and services to build the Tabernacle
 - He did not require people to give material or labor (taxes) as this would have taught a works-based salvation
- Message of the Tabernacle: Joy in communing with God rather than warring against God in sin

Offerings Give to God What is His

- People willingly gave material and labor to God which Scripture said was God's gift to them (Ex 35:1-6)
- Demonstrates relationship of God's grace to man:
 - People were giving to God what God had previously given to them (Reflecting God's grace to Him & others)
 - Talents (from God) and materials (from Egyptians) were "theirs" to give to God for their benefit (Tabernacle)

Willing Hands - Light Work

- Old adage means work goes faster when people work together accomplishing the goal (Offerings)
 - Total time at Mount Horeb to the Tabernacle being built was about nine months
 - Moses spent two 40-day periods on Mount Horeb
 - Tabernacle took about five months to complete
- Forced labor takes longer with greater waste (Taxes)

What Are Offerings?

- Talent, material and time given *by God*, through others, that one gives back to *God*, through others, because of the new nature (Ro- 12:5-8)
 - Maturation of this new nature is demonstrated by giving willingly to the work of the ministry, needs of others
 - Realizing that offerings are not yours but God's that He shares with others *through you* so that you can grow in His grace; accomplished through (χάρισμα) Holy Spirit

Offerings Allow Participation

- As people give to God what God has given to them, He credits them as serving through their offerings (Ps 4:10-20)
- Offerings: *voluntary* giving from a willing heart (GC-961D)
 - First: giving one's self to God - Salvation and maturation in Christ (2Co 8:1-9)
 - Becoming more Christ-like following Christ's example in giving to needs of others: spiritual and material

Offerings Demonstrate One's Nature

- How one gives demonstrates the truth of one's nature
 - Those who are not saved or are immature in Christ (Corinthian Church) do not give willingly; thus, giving is works that hardens one's heart against God (Ma 6:1-8)
 - Those who are maturing in Christ learn how they are maturing by how they give to others of material and time; thus, giving not only demonstrates but causes maturation in Christ-likeness (1-2:14-18)

What Are Taxes?

- Reasonable taxes on transactions repay the government for providing an environment in which mutually beneficial transactions can occur (1Ti 2:1-6)
 - Duties **Examples**
 - Sales taxes
- Governments that enslave their people via taxes show that Satan is their authority; you still pay taxes (Ma 22:15-22)

Theocracy Requires Taxes

- People required to pay tithes (taxes) to God
 - Theocracy was their government
 - God leveed tithes which are taxes for the government to function for their benefit but fixed the tithes (10%)
 - There was a "temple tax" for maintenance of the structures also (Ex 30:11)
 - These values were fixed, encoded in God's Laws

Monarchy Demands Taxes (1Sa 8)

- When Jews demand a king "like the other nations" Samuel warns them that taxes will enslave them
 - Sons for war; Daughters for wives and service
 - Farm land for king and for those who serve him
 - Tithe of all earnings for king to give to others
 - Taxes of herds and flocks for king's consumption
- People enslaved to government which owns *everything*

God to Set Man Free From Sin (Ex. 8, 11, 30)

- Tabernacle was to teach man of:
 - God's holiness
 - Man's sinfulness
 - God's plan of salvation based solely on God as sacrifice
- God *offered* Christ, His Son, for sin demonstrating how man was to give to others; as He gave to them
(Mt 20:28 1Ti 2:5-6)

Difference Between God and Satan

God

- God gave to the people
- God asked people to give
- Tabernacle built
- People demonstrate God's message of grace to others

Satan

- Satan doesn't give to man
- Satan demands from man
- Satan forces compliance
- People devour each other as Satan devours them (Is 4:1-4)

Idolatry is Slavery to Sin (Isa 27:1-6, 27-28)

- Israel was to be a beacon of hope of God to all the nations of the salvation He would provide in Christ
- Israel consistently demonstrated that she sided with the nations, rejecting God's freedom *from sin* in favor of slavery *to sin* for some aspect of power now
- Except, ultimately Satan never shares power

True Jews Always Choose God

- Though the nation rejected God, there were always a remnant of true Jews who consistently chose God (Isa 1:29)
- There will come a time when God will return to His people and *true* Jews will repent and call Him their God (Isa 12:10-11)
- Then all the nations will come to Jerusalem to learn of God, though in time nearly all will rebel (Isa 14:16-21, Isa 20:7-10)

False Teaching on Giving

- Many churches misuse Scriptures on giving because of ignorance (eisegesis), teaching that as you give money to God, He will give more money back to you - Bribery (Faith Promise is in this category)
- Tithing, 10% of income, is adaptation of Mosaic Law to churches; but, we are under grace, not law - Works

Assumptions of False Giving

- The basis for false teaching on giving starts with the belief you own everything (Reductio ad Absurdum)
 - You are the source of your material possessions
 - You gave yourself talents and abilities
 - You control time
- These are lies of Satan robbing you of God's truth

Point of Fact: No One Owns

- Each person is a recipient of the illusion of choice:
 - God's blessing of talent, abilities, body and soul
 - God's unfolding of His plan during your lifetime (Salvation)
 - Satan's interference in God's plan for his own goals
- Giving as works only results in loss of God's grace (Lk 19,11,27)
- Giving willingly to God via others confers more grace to you (Mt 23:14-30)