

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Exodus 36 verses 8 through 38. These are God's words. Then all the gifted artisans. Among them, who worked on the tabernacle made 10 curtains within a fine linen and a blue purple, and scarlet thread. With artistic designs of cherubim, they made them. The length of each curtain was 28 cubits in the width of each curtain four cubits.

The curtains were all the same size and he coupled five curtains to one another, the other five curtains he coupled to one another. He made loops of blue yard on the edge of the curtain on the salvage of one set. Likewise he did on the outer edge of the other curtain of the second set.

50 loops you made on one curtain at 50 loops he made on the edge of the curtain on the end of the second set. The loops held one curtain to another. And he made 50 clasps of gold. And coupled the curtains to one another, with the clasps. That it might be one tabernacle.

He made curtains of goats hair for the tent over the tabernacle. He made 11 curtains, the length of each curtain was 30 cubits and the width of each curtain four cubits. The 11 curtains were the same size. A coupled five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves. Then he made 50 loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in one set.

And 50 loops he made on the edge of the curtain of the second set. You also made 50 bronze clasps to couple the tent together. That it might be one. Then he made a covering for the tent of ram, skin's dyed, red and a covering of badger skins above that.

For the tabernacle he made boards of acacia woods standing upright. The length of each board was 10 cubits. And the width of each board, a cubit and a half. Each board had two tenons. For binding, one to another. Thus, he made for all the boards of the tabernacle. And he made boards for the cube for the tabernacle 20 boards, for the south side, 40 sockets of silver.

He made to go under the 20 boards. Two sockets under each of the boards for its 2 tenons. And for the other side of the tabernacle of the north side, he made 20 boards. And there. And therefore he sockets of silver. Two sockets under each of the boards. For the west side of the tabernacle, he made six boards, He also made two boards for the two back corners of the tabernacle.

And they were coupled at the bottom. And coupled together at the top. By one ring. Thus, he made both of them for the two corners. So there were eight boards and their sockets 16, thousands of silver. Two sockets under each of the boards. And he made bars of vacation with five for the boards and the one side of the tabernacle, five bars, for the boards, on the other side of the tabernacle and five bars, for the boards of the tabernacle on the far side.

Westward. And he made the middle bar to pass through the boards. From one end to the other. The overlaid the boards with gold made their rings of gold to be holders for the bars. And overlaid the bars with gold. And he made a veil of blue purple and scarlet thread.

And find woven linen. It was worked with an artistic design of cherubim. He made it, he made for it. Four pillars of a cage of wood. And overlaid them with gold with their hooks of gold. And he cast four sockets of silver for them. He also made a screen for the tabernacle door.

Of blue purple and scarlet, thread. And fine, woven linen. Made by a weaver. And it's five pillars with their hooks. And he overlaid their capitals and their rings with gold. But they're five sockets. We're bronze. So far the reading of god's inspired. And inherent word.

Now, one of the things that i noted, when we were going through the instructions, given to Moses on the mountain, about the building of the tabernacle was That there is a tendency, by some Uh, to see. A passage like this one or maybe a census of the nation of israel or Uh, distribution of Uh, the land.

This is one of those passages that people I think, well, that's not particularly edifying. Us skip to a better part. And hopefully we've been disabused of thinking about any part of the word of god that way. By our time in Acts 20, and by the spirits blessing is word to us.

But if you had taken the time, Uh, to read chapter 26, and verse 1 through 37 in particular. And then you came to chapter 36 and red versus 8 through 38, as we have just done, You would be very impressed and i hope you are. Uh, with how very closely.

Uh, almost word for word. Uh, these two passages resemble one another. Now, why? Does god give us? Uh, such long passages and then a repetition. Of such a long passage. As we had in that place and as we have in this one and Uh, we're going to have a couple more working in.

In sumerial fashion, just meaning that we're taking, what's really several Passages together. And summarizing. Well, why does the lord give us? Long passages like this, and One of the answers is to slow us down. And drive home to us. Not only the particular things that we saw. About these things back in chapter 26, when God was giving the design and we'll think about that still again together.

Um, But just to drive home. How exactly? According to the word of the lord. The construction of the tabernacle was, Hi, this is not a wonder of the ancient world. This is a wonder of the heavenly world. That there is a reality. That god wanted to communicate specific things about And so, down to the width and length of the boards.

And remember occasionally, it was long or sorry it was dense. It's heavy and you got 15 by two two and a quarter boards. A vacation wood and they've been hauling these things around. The wilderness to cyani. Uh, probably whoever had Uh enough a case of wood and big enough, a case of wood that boards these size boards could be made from it.

Uh, was really Delighted to have the opportunity that we talked about last week to give that as part of the offering. Um, i have no idea about the ancient economics of it. But i suspect is highly. Highly valuable. And yet, we see that the lord gave them. Down to the number of sockets and what each one should be made of and so forth.

Uh, how they should worship. So, one reason to repeat this For us, is to slow us down and drive him that the tabernacle construction Was to be exactly, according to the word of the lord. Another reason is to, Uh, drive home to us so that we can see. That for them to do this.

Exactly. According to god's word, they would have had to have been sustained by god's grace. And then, in the third place, Uh, to be reminded. Of those purposes of the lord in each item. If

he had just said, And they made. The. Curtains. Of the tabernacle and the boards, and the bars and the veil on the screen.

Exactly? As Yahweh had commanded Moses, Covered the subject. It would have been one verse long. Much less tedious to read. But we wouldn't have been reminded then. Of all the various purposes that That we saw back in verse or in chapter 26, So very briefly, then those three things.

This was exactly according Uh, to the word of the lord. This of course, required moses to be faithful to an instruction that was given him in chapter 34 and verse 27 to write down. According to all that, the lord had commanded him previously in the mountain. You remember, it was his first 40 day, stint that he had received all of these instructions and then god and his mercy, granted that there would be even a second day to a second 40 days stint.

And one of the things that then Moses was instructed to do and that he was doing during his second, 40 days on the mountain was writing this down. And so, when He comes and is writing now chapter 36, And reporting on what? What they did. He can report that they did word for word.

According to what god had said, On the mountain. Moses was faithful. Uh to chapter 34 and verse 27. And the people, then needed, those words of the lord that Moses wrote. Um, They, they did. And as you go and you can do this, you can go back and, you know, there are some verb tenses that are a little bit different and Uh, but the differences are very, very small.

And you can say, isn't it? Amazing? Uh, that these people did. Exactly. According To what was written? And it is amazing. And this is why is is a big part of Uh, when jesus was having the conversation with this Samaritan woman, House salvation was of the Jews. They were the ones who had the word of god and cared, very much about each of those particular words.

And, When she asked a question, who's right? Are they right? Or are we right? I mean, we're worshiping on the mountain. And she thought the mountain was a big deal. And it was a big deal. Because on that mountain, god had given them his word and the word was the big deal.

And as he continued to give his people instruction and command work in them and through them. He? He gave them the temple. Which was in jerusalem. Which he calls the city, where he puts his name. And that poor woman. That poor woman knew a little bit about sinai, a little bit about the greatness that had happened there.

But she didn't have all of god's words. And so she was wrong about where to worship. But god has continued, hasn't he? To speak, he didn't end. Didn't end in. First kings with the construction of the temple, didn't end in malachi. He? He has given us now, the completed.

Bible having spoken in these last days. By his son. And having apostles from christ and prophets from christ and evangelists from christ. By whom the spirit has given us. The completed bible. And so if we were to come and we were to try to worship, Either the tabernacle way or the temple way, or if we were trying to To make a big deal about pilgrimage to jerusalem.

We'd be in the same pathetic place, that's Samaritan woman. Not having all the words. But we do have all the words. And the words. Now tell us. Though, about the worship of god. Um, Has led by jesus from heaven. The great high priest, his priesthood is after the order of milk is a deck, not Levi and Aaron.

And so we want to worship as those who are led by Jesus. Which means we worship in spirit, and in truth, And you don't need dolphin skins or acacia wood boards. You don't need an animal to sacrifice. You need a copy of the word of God, a loaf of bread, a flask of wine.

Flask of water on a good Lord's day. That's what you need, because He has given us all His words and when we add to it, when we attempt to complicate it, We really do despise. Treat as a small thing. The fact that God has given us everything we need.

In His word, for how to worship. So the the first thing that we see in a reminded is how specifically in detail completely God gave them Uh, how to construct the tabernacle The second thing is, That we see is that they were sustained by the grace of the Lord.

There's no other way to explain the obedience. This is a great amount of detail. Um, When this is, To borrow. Phrase that hopefully they would never have. Heard of. But that sometimes you may hear, especially living in that Nashville area, Especially for the community of artists. Uh, to value exact following of what God has given them rather than their own self-expression or creativity.

Um, But not just a community of artists. Israelites. I hope you're familiar with your entire Old Testament. And if you are, Uh, those who Uh submit to and obey meticulously every word that God has given is probably not the first way you think of the Israelites. Uh no, they are notorious For submission and rebellion.

Not just, Failing to keep the word of God meticulously, but even losing track of the word of God altogether. So that for generations. Uh, you're the only copy left is in a heap of rubble somewhere inside the temple. Because the temple court is filled with all of the rubbish, the spiritual rubbish, That they so keenly maintain For their own.

Created worship. But here. For an extended period of time and for a sustained effort. They do exactly according To what the Lord has commanded. Here. They're not just Uh, impressed by. A display that the Lord has made. And and for a moment, commit themselves to we will do as the Lord has said, Israel says that sometimes.

But there's actual follow-through they do as the Lord has said, And and so we see that the Lord didn't just supply the specific instructions. He supplied grace in the heart. To follow the instructions. And that's what we need. We need grace if you've ever had a lot of discussion and You know, I've had more, obviously, because I'm a minister and I end up in that discussion of fair amount.

If you've ever had extended discussion, or frequent discussion with people about, About how? Uh, to conduct the public worship of God. Uh, You know. How very much it takes grace in the heart, to say, well, We just do what he says. I mean, who would have thought that that would be one of the most controversial doctrines.

In in Christian life. And then the church, To just do what he has. And so we look to him for grace. And we thank him that. That's one of the last words literally, on worship in the Bible. You get to the end of the book of Hebrews. And you've had this, this wonderful tour to force.

Of how God the Son has redeemed us. And he went having atoned for our blood and took a seat in heaven. And from there, He addresses us on earth and from there, he intercedes for us, and And leads our praying and leads our worship, and gathers the assembly and presents us in heaven.

And He does, it says all of that. And then he gets to the end. And then he doesn't say therefore you shall worship. God acceptably with reverence and all that's true. He shall But even after all of those specific instructions, about how worship has led by Jesus in heaven, and now it's in spirit and in truth words, sacrament and prayer.

Lisa has let us have grace. Let us have grace that we may worship acceptably. He says at the end of Hebrews 12 there, is exactly what we need. And that's what our generous God provides. If he gave grace to Israelites to sustain them, for the construction of the tabernacle word for word, like we read here and compare with chapter 26.

Israelites who are going to fall in the wilderness Israelites, many of whom. With whom God was not pleased. And who did not enter his rest? They were reprobate. They died in their sin. A large number of them. And if you give them grace to worship, according to his word, Certainly, we have could hope that he will give us grace.

And some of the more difficult we find it to accept or having accepted it. The more difficult we find it to practice. Yet, we can look to the God who has given us the word and say, give me also the grace. That I would worship your way. We would do it your way.

So we see that it's according to the word of the Lord. We see that it's sustained by the grace of the Lord. And we see then that is also to fulfill the purposes of the Lord and here, I'm just gonna summarize. I'll just read it to you off the outline.

You can read it for yourself. Because if I don't summarize, then we're going to get into it and try to re-preach I forget if it was three or four sermons. But reminding us of all of the different connections. To the worship. Leading ministry of Jesus. That we saw in the parts of the tabernacle and God's detailed instruction.

About those parts. That the ceiling curtains, and the roof curtains, and versus eight and eight through 19 here. Remind us that God was going to be with his people and so he needed a mobile temple. A tent temple. Um and the modularity of rapid setup and takedown since they were going to wonder for a while before they got where they were going.

And yet the commanded design and materials had the majestic and heavenly appearance. From from the inside. And then, Um, His plan for the curtains, that would be. Multi-layered. With the most precious on the inside, and the most durable on the outside. And then, as you go in, you know, multiple locations with the holiest location at the center.

All communicating. The greatness of the holiness. Into which, Uh, they were were brought in the person of their priest. And then the boards and hardware, and the bars versus 234, the strength of the materials. We mentioned already, the occasional would the strength of the construction with the crossbars and the interlocking tenons and The the glory that was conveyed by the use of silver and overlaying everything with gold so that it would look like heaven.

Uh, or be it to them a picture of heaven. On the inside. And then the veil and the screen. Uh, keeping sin out. And yet designed to let redeemed sinners in And, All of the wonderful things that we see about the Lord Jesus. And the worship that is in him.

You thought the tabernacle was portable? How about worship that just takes faith in Christ and enters? Uh, when the gospel came. The Lord made worship in Jesus, so portable you could do it anywhere. And we can go to heaven. Every Lord's day. And then, if you thought boards and bars were strong, How about the strength of worship constructed in the Lord?

Jesus. You start saying things like imperishable undefiled incorruptible. Thieves can't break in and steal moth and rust. Destroy You know what? Uh, what strong enduring worship? They're never going to be any decay in the materials of proper christian worship. There's only Decay of worshipping properly. But so long as we worship the way the lord has told us.

It will last and endure until the return. And if you thought the materials were glorious in heavenly When it was just gold over late. Acacia wood and silver, clasps, gold rings and etc. Well, it is God. The son himself. Who added humanity that he might be ordained as a priest from among us.

He became a man. Because god was going to give us a priest from among men. And yet the man. The that he gave us as that. Priest is the god, man. The one who is the radiance of his glory. And the exact impression. Because they are the same. One in nature in his divine person that Um, and in his divine nature.

Um, How glorious? How heavenly Is the true and simple and unadorned on earth. You have something, perfect. If you add to it, you dilute you profane, you cannot improve. How glorious? Is the heavenly? On adorned simple. Worship that is in christ. And so our worshipping only through christ was the ultimate purpose of all of these things that we have in these 31 verses before us.

And it is still now worshipping only through christ. There's the purpose. Of worshipping only according to his word. In the artistry. Of grace sustained, obedience. Because it is in christ. That the lord gives us glorious enduring strong. Hol. Experience of himself. And acting upon him. Himself. God gives us to act upon him.

In the worship that comes. Through jesus. And then, let's pray. Thank you. Lord for Every word of the description. That you give us here. Of how you commanded that the tabernacle should be made. How they actually did it? Thank you for those moments. Minute by minute hour by hour, day by day.

In which you sustained by grace. Those who You had gifted with the ability. To obey. And we pray lord that you would continue to give us grace. But you would give us to persist. In simple obedience to your word. That you would keep us from going astray. Or embellishing.

And we ask Lord that. You would present christ always before our hearts always to our faith. That we would. Know, the glory of Him whose face shines. And never fades. Thank you for bringing us to you in the sun. Thank you for gathering us to yourself. In heaven, even while we are still on earth.

Help us, lord. For even as we Increase in. Intellectual understanding of these things. We confess that our hearts barely know. What, or how? To lay hold of these glories. And so give us to know the joy. And fellowship and love of these realities. In which you bring us home to yourself.

And have jesus present us in heaven and say, behold i And the children whom you have given me. An amazes us so god. That when your son says that he is talking about us, So we pray that your spirit would continue. To plant and make fruitful. These truths in our hearts.

We ask jesus name. Amen.