

Out of Bondage onto Promise

Exodus 25:1-22

- The people are at the base of Mt. Sinai waiting for Moses to bring them the Word of God, Aaron and the elders have ascending up the mountain to meet with God, Joshua and Moses have gone up even higher in order to see God, and now Moses has gone up further into the clouds being engulfed by the Lord. So we see a progression, those who wait for others to bring them to God, some who want to meet and see God, and still others who want to be engulfed by God.

V1-22

- **V1-7** Moses is now where man was originally created to be, in the presence of the Lord, he's been chosen by the people to bring God's Word to the people, as they asked not to hear it directly from God > **Ex 20:19**. God speaks to Moses and tells him to take up an offering from the people but only from them who give it willingly from their hearts. What is interesting is God tells them to give before He tells them what it is for as He wanted them to trust Him first.
- **2Cor 9:7** tells us that God is not interested in coerced or manipulated giving, He wants us to give generously out of a heart of joy why? Because everything that we have came from God, He gave it to us, so why would we try and be stingy with the One Who is providing for us out of the goodness of His love. After the people have willing hearts notice what God asks the people for as He is very specific what is to be gathered > gold, silver, bronze, blue, purple and scarlet thread, fine linen, goats hair, ram skins dyed red, badger skins, acacia wood, onyx stones, and oil.
- Where will the people find all of this being slaves and poor traveling through the desert? Most of this they already had > **Ex 3:22** before Pharaoh let Israel go God told Moses that Egypt would give them gold, silver, and riches as payment for all the heartache they'd endured as slaves, and in **Ex 12:35-36**- just as God had said the people obeyed and asked their former bosses for material things and they gave it to them as if they were paying them reparations to leave Egypt.
- Now the things that Israel received from Egypt wasn't just for them to use for themselves, it was for God > **"you take My offering"** it didn't belong to Moses, the elders, or the nation Israel itself, it belonged to God, and Moses, Israel, were only stewards to do with it according to God's will. People listen very closely to this > **"we can only give to God that which He has first given to us, for all things come from Him"**. David prayed in **1 Chron 29:14**- **"we have given You only what has come from Your Hand"**, this perspective sets us free from our own covetousness.
- **V8-9** the purpose of this was to make a sanctuary for God, what God was asking from them commentators believe would cost close to **15** million today. This sanctuary would be called a tabernacle and was seen as the dwelling place of God, but not how we picture a dwelling place to be. This idea was not that God lived in this place, like it was His house, but that it was the specific place where man could come and meet God, and His presence you could sense. **Sanctuary** means "holy place or set apart" everything about the tabernacle was holy.

- **V10-11** the first representation of where God would meet and people could come was a tent, the same thing God calls our bodies in which He dwells in today > **2 Cor 5:4**- tents. We see that the “**Ark of the Covenant**” was the most important item associated with the tabernacle as it housed the Word of God and will be modeled after the throne of God, bearing the Two tablets of the Ten Commandments that were given to Moses by God.
- “**Acacia Wood**” is very interesting as it points to the ministry of Jesus Christ in three unique ways > **1.** It grows in the dry desert woods- **Is 53:2** says Jesus is called a root out of dry ground, **2.** It’s the only tree there which grows with thorns on it- Jesus was crowned in thorns. **3.** Acacia Wood when pierced produces a balm that’s good for healing- Jesus was also pierced so that we may be healed. Also the wood is overlaid by gold **V11**, and the Ark is given a mercy seat of pure gold.
- You might ask what the significance of that? **A.** Wood speaks of Christ humanity- why it says cursed is every man who hangs on a tree, the cross was a curse for mankind, **B.** Gold speaks of Christ Deity- gold is associated with the Divine, **C.** The Ark speaks of Christ great mercy- we see that with the mercy seat attached to it. So Jesus the God Man became humanity, but still covered in Deity, being full of mercy, as the wood, gold, and the Ark, speak of His great attributes.
- **V12-15** the rings and poles for the Ark by which they were to transport it as it was not to be touched by anyone except by the poles through the rings. **2 Sam 6:5-11** Uzzah was struck dead for touching the Ark as he tried to steady it to keep it from falling. What was wrong with that? They shouldn’t have tried to move it by a cart in the first place for God told them how the Ark was to be transported but they tried to do it the Philistine way and it cost someone his life.
- **V16** God tells Moses the contents of the Ark which is called “**the Testimony**” which is the Law, I like how God calls His word “**the Testimony**” which in a court of Law means someone is telling the truth. God’s Word is the truth people, don’t let anyone convince you that it is not, it’s the only thing on this earth that we can truly rely on, for it contains no bias, or partiality, just truth.
- **V17-22** the lid to the Ark was to be made of pure gold, and figures of Cherubim, which symbolized God’s attendant and messenger spirits > **Ps 104:3-4**. This was the place where God would meet the high priest who represented Israel and he would make an atonement for their sin on the day of atonement > **Lev 16:14-15**. God tells Moses that He will speak to Israel from above the mercy seat, that was great news because if He spoke to them from anywhere else it would mean judgment and not mercy, God does the same for us as well > **Rom 3:25**.
- The Greek word for “**Propitiation**”> Hilasterion, is also used in the Septuagint, as another word for “**mercy seat**”. So what this means is Jesus is our mercy seat, as God speaks to us seeing Him as our atonement and not our sin, therefore we receive grace and forgiveness, instead of deserved judgment, what a blessing.