

Title:        **BEZALEEL AND AHOLIAB**

Text:        Exodus 35 30-35

Subject:    *Bezaleel and Aholiab As  
Types of Christ*

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Introduction:

I am going to talk to you tonight about two men, two men who were chosen and ordained of God to serve him in an extraordinary way, to men whose names are known only to a few, but two men who are held before us in Holy Scripture as eminent types of our Lord Jesus Christ: — **BEZALEEL AND AHOLIAB**. Our text is Exodus 35:30-35.

**I have repeatedly told you that the tabernacle was typical of our Lord Jesus Christ and the salvation that is ours in him.** It typified both **the person** of our blessed Savior and **the work** he performed. Therefore, when the Lord God

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gave commandment for it to be erected **every detail was arranged by divine purpose**, revealed to a mediator (Moses), provided for by the hand of God; and the whole work was executed precisely according to the revealed will of God in his Word. — Nothing is left to chance. No vote was taken. — No mortal was consulted. No man was allowed to add anything, or take anything away. — Everything was exactly as God himself said it must be; and everything was done exactly as God himself said it must be done. — No exceptions!

**Though skilled in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, Moses was not left to draw the plans for Jehovah's dwelling-place.** Instead, **he was required to make all things after the pattern shown him in the mount.** Not even Moses was allowed to add anything or subtract anything. The “pattern” had been fully set before him, perfectly and clearly. There was no question about what was to be done or who was to do what. **The Lord God even specified who**

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**would do the work, right down to who would carry the nails that were driven into the ground** (Numbers 4:29-33).

**So it is in all things relating to the salvation of our souls.**

- It is God's work alone. — "Salvation is of the LORD!"
- It is a work purposed and predestined from eternity (Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:3-6).
- It is carried out exactly according to God's purpose.
- Nothing is left to chance!
- Nothing is contributed by man!
- Even the man who brings the Word of God to the chosen sinner, the time it comes, the place and the circumstances are exactly according to the immutable, eternal, unalterable, irresistible will of God!

Here, in Exodus 35:30-35, the Lord God names **two specific men** who were to be the primary artisans by whom all things were to be

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accomplished, **Bezaleel from the tribe of Judah and Aholiab from the tribe of Dan**. God chose them. God equipped them. God identified them. Let's see what God tells us about them.

(Exodus 35:30-35) “And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the LORD hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; (31) And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship; (32) And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, (33) And in the cutting of stones, to set *them*, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work. (34) And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, *both* he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. (35) Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue,

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and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, *even* of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.”

The Tabernacle is now to be built; and the Lord told Moses who must do the work. But, **long before this**, when God gave Moses the pattern of the Tabernacle, he identified these two men in exactly the same words (Exodus 31:1-5).

**TYPICAL OF CHRIST**

The first thing I want you to see is that Bezaleel and Aholiab are set before us here as very instructive pictures of our blessed Savior. They were typical of the Lord Jesus Christ. **None but Christ was capable of building a House for God, and every detail given about these two men clearly establishes that fact.** May the Spirit of God grant us eyes to see. — In fact, that is the first thing Moses says about this revelation from God, “**SEE.**” — Ponder this awhile!

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**BEZALEEL.**

As is so often the case in Holy Scripture, the names given to these two men and their ancestors are highly significant. The first man named here is **Bezaleel.**

- His name means “**In the shadow of God**” or “**the protection of God.**”
- Bezaleel was the son of **Uri, which means “light.”**
- He was the grandson of **Hur, which means “free.”**
- He was from the tribe of **Judah, which means “praise.”**

**Christ is that One who is the Shadow of God and Protection of God for his people** (Psalms 17:8; 57:1; 63:7). Blessed are they who take refuge under the shadow of his wings!

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(Psalms 17:8) “Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,”

(Psalms 57:1) “To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave. Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until *these* calamities be overpast.”

(Psalms 63:7) “Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.”

**Bezaleel was the son of Uri, — “Light;” and the Lord Jesus is”the Light of LORD”** (Isaiah 2:5). The “Urim” of the high priests’ breastplate is the same word, in the plural number. **As Bezaleel was the son of Light, so Christ is the Son of God who is Light,** in whom is no

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darkness at all. He who is the “Son of Light” is the Son of God (1 John 1:5).

- He is “**the Brightness** of the Father’s glory, and the express impress of his person” (Hebrews 1:3).
- He is “**the Light** of the world” (John 9:5).
- He is “**the Sun** of Righteousness” who arises upon the souls of men with healing in his wings (Malachi 4:2).

**Bezaleel was the son of Uri, the son of “Hur,” which means “free,” or “at liberty.”** What a great picture we have before us! — Christ is our Salvation. He is the Refuge for our poor souls, the Shadow and Protection of God. — The Lord Jesus is our Light, “the Light of the LORD” in whom we walk. — **And Christ is our Liberty, the One who sets us free!**

- Free from sin!
- Free from the curse!
- Free from the law!
- Free from guilt!
- Free from religious tradition!



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- Free from death!
- Free from the fear of death!

Next, we are told that Bezaleel was “**of the tribe of Judah.**”

- Judah was **Benjamin’s Surety.** — Christ is our Surety (Genesis 43:9, — Not Rueben 42:37-38).
- Our Lord Jesus is called “**the Lion** of the tribe of Judah”.
- Judah was **the royal tribe** of Israel, from whom Christ our King descended.
- Judah **the tribe God ordered to take the lead** when Israel journeyed. — Christ always goes before and leads the way for his Israel.
- **And the name Judah means “praise.”** — Christ shall have all the praise of his house (Revelation 5).

**DIVINELY EQUIPPED**

Second, we are told that Bezaleel was divinely equipped for the work he was to do (vv. 31-35).

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(Exodus 35:31-35) “And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship; (32) And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, (33) And in the cutting of stones, to set *them*, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work. (34) And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, *both* he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. (35) Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, *even* of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.”

As Bezaleel was equipped, miraculously and divinely equipped to build the Tabernacle, **so our Lord Jesus was miraculously and divinely**

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**equipped to be our Redeemer and Savior**  
(Isaiah 11:1-6).

(Isaiah 11:1-5) “And there shall come forth **a rod** out of the stem of Jesse, and **a Branch** shall grow out of his roots: (2) And **the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him**, the spirit **of wisdom and understanding**, the spirit of **counsel and might**, the spirit of **knowledge and of the fear of the LORD**; (3) And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: (4) But **with righteousness shall he judge the poor**, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. (5) And **righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins**, and **faithfulness the girdle of his reins**.”

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**Bezaleel was equipped “to work in gold.”** Gold is used throughout the Tabernacle to represent God. — Only One who is filled with “the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding and in knowledge” was able to “work in gold.” — **Only One who is God** is fit to work in divine things. — **Our Savior said**, “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.” — “I have manifested thy name.” — “I have given unto them the words which thou gavest.” — “I have kept them in thy name.” — “It is finished!”

**Bezaleel, this divinely appointed builder of the Tabernacle was also divinely equipped to work “in silver.”** — **Silver speaks of atonement.** It speaks of redemption. And who was qualified to “work in silver”? None but Christ! The work of redemption was a more stupendous and wondrous one than the work of creation. It was **a work far beyond the power of those who are redeemed** (Psalm 49:7-8).

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(Psalms 49:7-8) “None *of them* can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (8) (For the redemption of their soul *is* precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)”

Yes, the redemption of the soul is “precious,” so precious that nothing but the “the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:19) could avail to wash away our sin!

“**And in brass.**” — **Brass is the symbol of divine judgment.** No mere creature is capable of enduring the entire weight of God’s judgment upon the sins of his people. Therefore, our God laid help upon One that is mighty. He exalted One chosen out of the people (Psalm 89:19). **This is unspeakably solemn.** Let us ever think and speak of these things in reverence. None but Christ could have been made sin for us, born the wrath of God for our sins, and thereby redeem us

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from the curse of the law (Lamentations 1:12-14; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13).

(Lamentations 1:12-14) “*Is it* nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted *me* in the day of his fierce anger. (13) **From above hath he sent fire into my bones**, and it prevaileth against them: **he hath spread a net** for my feet, **he hath turned me back**: he hath **made me desolate and faint** all the day. (14) **The yoke of my transgressions is bound by his hand: they are wreathed, and come up upon my neck**: he hath **made my strength to fall**, the Lord hath delivered me into *their* hands, *from whom* I am not able to rise up.”

(2 Corinthians 5:21) “For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

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(Galatians 3:13) “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:”

As Moses lifted up the serpent of brass (John 3:14), Christ was crucified for us. **The “work in brass” was completed when he cried” It is finished,”** bowed his head, and breathed out his life (Joh19:30). — Read on...

**“And in cutting of stones.”** — The reference is to the jewels which were to adorn the shoulders and breastplate of Israel’s high priest, as he appeared before God on their behalf, jewels on which were engraved the names of all their twelve tribes. **Thus, those gems spoke of the people of God, presented before him in all the merits and excellency of that great and blessed High Priest of God’s Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ!**

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“**And in carving of timber.**” — It is the Lord Jesus who, by his Spirit, falls the tree which he sets as a beam in his holy Temple and upon which he carves his own image with “cunning work.” The trees he falls in his grace he makes to be boards, standing upright in his tabernacle, boards of shittim wood, overlaid with pure gold, standing in fixed sockets of silver, made from the atonement money paid by our Substitute!

**AHOLIAB**

Now, look at this man called “Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan” (v. 34). It takes more than one man to foreshadow the God-man. Adam, Abel, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, David, Solomon — all are types of Christ, each one pointing to some distinct aspect of his person, offices or work. Here in Exodus 35 Bezaleel and Aholiab together typify our Savior.



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**Aholiab means “The Tent of the Father”** (John 1:14).

(John 1:14) “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

Just as Jehovah took up his abode in the Tabernacle in the wilderness, so he found a Dwelling-place on earth when God the Son became one of us! — “God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself” (2 Corinthians 5:19). He is “God manifest in flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16). So perfect and complete is that manifestation he could say, “he that hath seen me, hath seen the Father” (John 14:9).

**Aholiab was the son of Ahisamach.**  
**Ahisamach means — “Brother of Support.”**  
Christ is our Brother, our Brother born for adversity, and our Brother of Support (Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16).

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(Hebrews 2:17-18) “Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. (18) For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”

(Hebrews 4:14-16) “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. (15) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. (16) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

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**Aholiab was of the tribe of Dan.** As Judah took the lead when Israel was on the march, so Dan brought up the rear.

- Thus, **in these two men all Israel was represented**. So all God's elect are in Christ and one with Christ. The Lord Jesus, both in his person and in the glorious work he accomplished, represented all God's Israel.
- **The tabernacle of God is a place for worship and praise**, because therein is revealed God's great act of judgment upon sin in the sacrifice of his dear Son, the Lamb of God.
- **As Dan brought up the rear**, so our Lord Jesus is both the Leader and the Rear Guard of his people (Isaiah 52:12; 58:8). He goes before; and he brings up the rear. — That means all is well!

(Isaiah 52:12) “For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the LORD will go before you; and the God of Israel *will be* your rereward.”

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(Isaiah 58:8) “Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward.”

**Both Bezaleel and Aholiab were** “filled with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship...Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.” — **And we are God’s “workmanship”** (Ephesians 2:10), **God’s masterpieces created in Christ Jesus!**

- It is in his heart to teach us (v. 34), to reveal the things of God, to reveal God to us!
- He knows how to work in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

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- He will perform his work until his house is complete!

Thank God for our Lord Jesus **Christ**, **our Bezaleel**, the Shadow of God under whose wings we hide. — The Light, the One who makes us free. — He shall have our praise!

Blessed be our Lord **Jesus**, **our Aholiab**, in whom dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily! — Our Brother of Support! — Who both goes before and comes behind to gather all his chosen into heavenly glory!

Amen.