

Message #70**Exodus 36:8-38:31**

We come now to the actual construction of the Tabernacle. This place is more significant than just some religious place of worship. This was a place planned and designed by God, Himself, and the entire facility had very deep, symbolic meaning that actually pointed to Jesus Christ. This was a very sacred place. This was a place where God would actually meet with man.

Now I know this gets to be a little controversial, but I believe we can find a connection between the Tabernacle and the N.T. church. The New Testament writers did refer to the church as being the dwelling place and house of God (Eph. 2:19-22). One text that I think is important in regard to this is I Timothy 3:15. Paul is speaking of behavior in the church and he refers to it as the “household of God” and “the church of the living God.” He is actually discussing behavior in a specific place. So there is a connection between the O.T. Tabernacle and the N.T. church. It is perfectly right to classify the N.T. church as being the “House of God.”

This is actually a fascinating section of Scripture. In this passage we see that the actual construction of the tabernacle and all things connected to it were made in precise conformity to the construction specs given back in Exodus 26. One thing that is interesting is that there is enough detail given to us to show us that things were being made in complete conformity to the standards of God; but not all of the precision details are given like they were previously.

What that teaches us is that once we have the Word of God, we are to precisely obey it and if we do, God will honor us. We are expected to follow through in obeying the Word of God and this was one time in Israel’s history when she did.

IN COMPLETE OBEDIENCE TO THE CONSTRUCTION SPECS GIVEN BY GOD, SKILLED PEOPLE COMPLETED THE PROJECT OF BUILDING THE TABERNACLE AND ALL ITEMS CONNECTED TO IT.

Now in this section we get a record of 14 tabernacle items that were completed. Now there is no precision in the sequence of the chronology of the items made. For example, the first thing that was given to Moses to make was the Ark of the Covenant in Exodus 25. That does not show up in this listing until item number 5. We may assume that all things were being built and made as one major project.

The important thing about them is that they were all being made in conformity with exactly what God prescribed. God gave the blue prints and this section proves the skilled workers carefully followed those blueprints.

COMPLETION ITEM #1 – The curtains were completed out of the linen. 36:8-13

The first four items have to do with the tabernacle structure. These linen curtains actually draped the sides and formed the ceiling of the tabernacle. This speaks of the pure white righteousness that is clean. This is in complete conformity to what was demanded in Exodus 26:1-6.

COMPLETION ITEM #2 – The curtains were completed out of goats’ hair and rams’ skin.
36:14-19

This is in complete conformity to what was demanded in Exodus 26:7-14. These skins certainly speak of a sacrifice of an animal which was necessary for the skins. The whole relationship any has with God is due to a sacrifice covering.

COMPLETION ITEM #3 – The boards and sockets were completed. **36:20-34**

These boards and sockets formed the frame. This is in completed conformity to what was demanded in Exodus 26:15-25. Now in verses 31-34, the details are identical to the original command (26:26-29). There is no condensing of any wording.

What was built here was the frame for the north and south sides; plus the backside of the structure with the crossbars that would hold the framework together.

These boards and sockets enabled this to stand upright and tall. Any relationship with God stands upright in conformity with his perfect standards. That is found in Jesus Christ.

COMPLETION ITEM #4 – The inner and outer veil was completed. **36:35-38**

These were the entrance curtains. There were actually three entrance curtains: one that got a person into the courtyard; one that got a priest into the tabernacle/tent and one that got a high priest into the Holy of Holy areas. These veils were critical. This is a shortened version of what was described in Exodus 26:31-37. All of this says entrance into a relationship with God goes through one door.

COMPLETION ITEM #5 – The Ark of the Covenant was completed. **37:1-5**

This is in conformity to Exodus 25:10-20. A right relationship with God is based on the written Word, which was in that ark/box.

COMPLETION ITEM #6 – The mercy seat was completed. **37:6-9**

This is in conformity to Exodus 25:17-20. It is critical that this mercy seat atonement cover be on this ark. The way to having access to God, and even His Word, is the grace and mercy of God.

COMPLETION ITEM #7 – The table of showbread was completed. **37:10-16**

This table was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold. This is in conformity to Exodus 25:23-29.

COMPLETION ITEM #8 – The golden lampstand was completed. **37:17-24**

This was a very difficult item to make because we may recall it was a one piece item. This is in conformity to Exodus 25:31-39. This was that which gave light to those in a relationship with God in this tent.

COMPLETION ITEM #9 – The altar of incense was completed. **37:25-28**

This brought a sweet fragrance to the place of worship. This is in conformity to Exodus 30:1-5.

COMPLETION ITEM #10 – The anointing oil was made. **37:29**

This is in conformity to Exodus 30:22-25, 34-36. Everything, in regard to God, was anointed as set apart and sacred.

COMPLETION ITEM #11 – The altar of burnt offering was completed. **38:1-7**

The only way to access God was through a blood sacrifice. This is in conformity to Exodus 27:1-8.

COMPLETION ITEM #12 – The laver of bronze was completed. **38:8**

This of course was for washing and cleansing. The priests must be clean. This is in conformity to Exodus 30:17-21.

COMPLETION ITEM #13 – The courtyard was completed. **38:9-17**

This is in conformity to Exodus 27:9-19.

COMPLETION ITEM #14 – The gate of the court was completed. **38:18-20**

There is only one entrance into this relationship with God. This is in conformity to Exodus 27:16.

THE COST OF THE PROJECT – 38:21-31

This passage has no parallel in any of the previous chapter. What we have here is an inventory of the tabernacle materials that was compiled by the Levites under Ithamar, who was Aaron's youngest son. **Notice verse 21, this was all under the command and supervision of Moses.** No one tried to do anything behind his back.

It is clear that while Ithamar was calculating the amount of donations needed, both Bezalel and Oholiab were carrying out their work (**38:22-23**).

We also get some insight here as to the number of people. In **verse 26** we learn that there were 603,550 men over twenty, which means that there were a total of about 2 million people for a total population.

Remember this was all given by the people as free will offerings and these people were giving and generous people to this worship place. They literally gave multiple millions of dollars.

Now in Exodus 38:21-31, we get the cost of the project and it is astronomical. We are talking about a tent inside and courtyard. The dimensions of the tent are not that huge. The free will donations literally brought in millions and millions of dollars.

Just the gold amount (Ex. 38:24) has been calculated as over 2000 pounds. One pound of gold today valued at over \$1200 per ounce is worth \$19,200 per pound. Multiply this times 2000 and it is worth more than 38 million dollars.

The silver amount (Ex. 38:25-28) has been calculated as over 8000 pounds. You can buy a pound of silver for about \$200. So 8000 pounds is \$1.6 million dollars.

The bronze amount (Ex. 38:29-31) is calculated at over 5000 pounds. Bronze is going for about 1.65 per pound. 5000 pounds is worth about \$8250.

Now if we do simple math, the cost of this relatively small area was worth nearly 40 million dollars, which is a staggering amount.

Now the thing we know is that all of this points to Jesus Christ. The high value, the pure gold, the inner and outer veils all point to Jesus Christ in one way or another. He was heavenly and righteous and yet He came to this earth. Even though we may not be able to decipher it all, the fact is God knows how all of this points to His Son.

Now Jesus Christ paid the full redemption price for our sins. His sacrifice cannot be calculated. But the full price has been paid. He is able to take you into the presence of God.