
Friday, March 3, 2023 • Read Exodus 31

Questions from the Scripture text: Who spoke to whom in v1? Whom did He tell Moses to see (v2)? How does He specify which Bezalel? With what has Yahweh filled him (v3)? What four abilities has the Spirit given him? To make what (v4)? Out of which five materials, especially (v4-5)? Whom else does v6 name? And what has Yahweh done to Aholiab's heart? And to whom else's hearts? In order that they may make what sorts of things? Which three specific things in v7? And what nine other furnishings (v8-9)? And what else, for whom (v10)? And finally what two things (v11)? What determines what they should do/make? Who spoke to whom in v12? To whom is Moses to speak (v13)? Whose does He say the Sabbath is? What does He say that it is between whom? How long? So that they may know what? What therefore shall they do (v14)? Why? What must be done to those who profane them? To how many of them must this be done? Why must they be thus put to death? What shall be done on what days (v15)? How is the seventh different? What shall be done to how many of those who do work on the Sabbath day? Who must keep and observe (do) what (v16)? As what? How does the Sabbath function in v17? Why—what two things had Yahweh done? What does this Sabbath instruction conclude (v18)? What does Yahweh now give Moses? Of what are they made? With what were they written?

What is the tabernacle, and its construction process, accomplishing? Exodus 31 looks forward to the evening devotional on the coming Lord's Day. In these eighteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **that the tabernacle and its construction process communicated a restoration of imaging God and fellowshiping with Him.**

Imaging God in work v1-11. The Lord could have spoken a tabernacle into existence, the way that He spoke the world into existence (cf. v17) or even produced the two tablets in v18. But He has instead spoken to Moses (v1, 12) and the children of Israel (v13) for their working/making of the tabernacle. This verb (translated variously as “do”/“make”/“work”) is the key word in v4, 5, 6, and 11.

For this work, He has given a special distribution of His Spirit. Only by the merciful upholding of the Spirit of God can any creature do anything. But just as the Holy Spirit has a special work that He does in making us alive (cf. Rom 8:4-5, Gal 5:25) and in producing in us the character of Christ (cf. Rom 8:9-12, Gal 5:22-24), the Lord here names a special work of the Spirit in Bezalel (v2-3), and Aholiab and all the wise artisans (v6).

For the making of all that has been commanded (v6, 11), the Lord Himself will give them to image Him in a special way. He will give wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and all working (v3).

Imaging God in worship, v12-18. It is this “working”/“workmanship” that ties v1-11 to v12-18. The “workmanship” at the end of v3 and v4 is the same word as “work” at the beginning of v15 (different than the do/make/work word mentioned earlier). Even during the tabernacle construction, the Sabbath is to be kept. How often believers self-excuse Sabbath-breaking for things because they consider them to be “church-related,” but the tabernacle-construction-directions conclude with a vehement demand for the death penalty for anyone who works on the tabernacle on the Sabbath!

This is because the Sabbaths are “My” Sabbaths (v13). God Himself “rested and was refreshed” (v17) not because He needed to (of course, He needs nothing!) but so that His Sabbath would also be “holy to you” (v14). For they are consecrated/sanctified by Yahweh Himself (v13). And the Sabbath is a sign between the holy Lord and them whom He has made holy (v13). They who are imaging Him now in work must image Him all the more in the purpose of that work: resting in the covenant fellowship they have with Him.

When they keep the Sabbath (v16), it is not work that they do but the Sabbath itself that they “work” (v16, where the word “observe” is translating the same do/make/work word as throughout the passage).

This is a sign between Yahweh and His people (v13, 17). He is theirs, and they are His. He has made covenant with them. He Himself makes the tablets of the Testimony (v18) to put in the ark of the Testimony (v7). And He has given them to image Him in the working of this fellowship with them—all unto the purpose of that more direct fellowship with God when the work is set aside for worship.

In the instruction for the tabernacle in Exodus 25-31, just as with the original account of the creation in Genesis 1-2, the Sabbath is the dimax. Those who image God in their work do so in service of their imaging God in their worship.

How do your life's habits and practices reflect the same emphasis upon the Sabbath that the Lord places? How is being His image-bearer central to your own, specific daily work? How is being His image-bearer central to your own, specific weekly Sabbath fellowship with Him in worship?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You and praise You for revealing Yourself to us in the Person of Jesus Christ; we praise You, Lord Jesus—God and Man, perfectly righteous, absolute in authority, powerful to save and to reign forever and ever; forgive us for taking doctrine lightly, and grant unto us instead to embrace and uphold and proclaim the truth about You, which we ask in Your Name, AMEN!

ARP23B “The Lord's My Shepherd” or TPH154 “This Day at Thy Creating Word”

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Exodus 31, these are God's words. Then you all play spoke to Moses saying See, I've called my name Bezalel. Son of Ori, son of her of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the spirit of god and wisdom and understanding And knowledge and in all manner of workmanship.

To design artistic works, to work, and go open, silver, and bronze, and cutting jewels for setting and carving wood. And work in all manner of workmanship. And I indeed I have appointed with him a holy abb, the son of a he's a man of the tribe of Dan and I have put wisdom.

And the hearts of all the gifted artisans that they may. Make all that. I have commanded you. The tabernacle of meeting the orc of the testimony, the mercy seat that is on it. And all the furniture of the tabernacle on the table and it's utensils. The pure gold lamp stands with all its utensils.

The altar of incense the ultra burnt offering with all its utensils, the lather and its base. The garments of ministry, the holy garments for Aaron, the priest, and the garments of his sons. To minister is priests. And the anointing oil and sweet incense for the holy place. According to all that, I have commanded you, they shall do.

And you always spoke to Moses. Saying speak also to the children of Israel saying. Surely my status, you shall keep Pretty design between me and you throughout their generations. That you may know that I am your way who sanctifies you? You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore For it is.

Holy to you. Everyone who profains it shall surely be put to death for. Whoever does any work on it? That person shall be cut off from among his people. Work shall be done for 6 days. But the 7th is the Sabbath of rest. Holy to y'all play, whoever does any work?

On the sabbath day, he socially be put to death. Therefore, the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath. To observe the sabbath throughout their generations. As a perpetual, covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever. 4 and 6 days. Y'all have made the heavens and the earth.

On the 7th day, he rested and was refreshed. And when he had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, he gave Moses Two tablets of the testimony tablets of stone. Written with the finger of God. So far the reading of god's inspired and In our twerk.

God has created people to. Image him. To work as he works. Of course, God's working is something that he does. Outside of himself and that he does in order for us to be imaged, God in himself is unchanging unchangeable. And yet he works in order that we may image him.

I am working. So, When he comes to produce a tabernacle. That will be at the center of his people's fellowshiping with him. He doesn't just speak it into existence. He certainly could have done that and he had done that with the creation. He has done it with. These tablets of stone.

On which the finger of god has written the Ten Commandments in verse 18. But we know of course that God does not have a body, and he does not have fingers. And therefore, We understand what's going on in verse 18. It's similar to what happened in verse 17. So God doesn't actually need Israel to make.

The tabernade and the Ark of the testimony and the mercy seat, and the table, and the utensils and a lampstanding, the dentals, and the altar of incense, and the ultra burnt offering, and all those utensils and all over in the base, in the garments. Etc. God doesn't need them to do that.

He is giving them to image him and doing that. And one of the ways that we see that very plainly in the passage, That God actually fills. Bezalel and the holy ab, and all the other wise men it says, gifted artisans, but it says, wise wise ones in the Hebrew. We just Well, we mess things up sometimes. By trying to be more clever and translating.

But the spirit of to them is a spirit of wisdom and he puts wisdom in their hearts, by the working of the Holy spirit. We know from the very beginning of creation. That none of us, actually no creature at all. Can do anything except by the sustaining of the spirit of god.

Even the waters could not continue existing when God, created the heavens and the Earth. Except that the spirit of god hoverboard over bruted over. The waters that had been made. Psalm 104 reminds us that if God were to withdraw his spirit for a moment, all of us would bearish cease to exist.

But there is this special giving of his spirit for special things in the imaging of god. Such as Well, we're Romans 8 and Galatians 5, tell us about the spirit making us alive. All right, so that we may have the spirit of Christ who leads us and conforms us into the shape of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And he's a spirits to us of many things from christ and an exodus 31, he's a spirit of wisdom. Is the spirit of wisdom because as they make the tabernade, The great thing is not.

Creativity. And since it's all exactly as God has commanded, they shall do verse 11. Some people come to this passes. I appreciates creativity. No, he appreciates obedience, but we need his spirit. Even to give us obedience even to give us wisdom, even to give us the ability to observe things and to make them beautiful as he is commanded, etc.

So, Their imaging. God in their work and the word for do or work or make appears throughout both halves. Well, I guess Both parts of the passage versus 1 through 11 and versus one through 18. But there is another word That appears a couple of times in the first part, the end of verse 3, it's translated, workmanship, the end of verse 4, it's translated workmanship and it's the same as the word that is translated work is beginning of verse 15, which is a different word than the to do or to make

Do make work. Or to work. And that's what ties the front half together with the second half. You see? Yes. We're to image god in working. But we image God and something even better in worship. When we are gathered to him, to adore him, to have fellowship with him.

Which is something that God has in himself from all eternity, work does not exist. Outside of God, but worship does. There is this mutual adoration mutual fellowship within the godhead. And while creatures do things and make things and and so forth, and many different creatures do and make things There's only one creature.

Who's able to have fellowship with God? Yeah, even the holy Angels, they they worship but they don't have fellowship. They don't have the union with the phone, they don't have the indwelling of the spirit. They don't have this. This mutual delight of a shared life with God. That's what he has given to man.

And, and so there's something that God has done in creating. That we image him in and the tabernacle is a special case of that, but even in this special case, God does not set aside. That man exists for worship. Far more than he exists for work and need all of the work is unto worship.

If we don't do our work as those who are imaging God independence, upon god. If we don't have a fellowship with God, unto the praise of God, in the way that we do our work, we are missing the point of work. Then if we come to do work, During the worship time.

We revealed that whatever we had. Told ourselves. About working unto God's glory or working in God's image or working independence upon God's wisdom. If we take the, the consecrated worship time and spend that time working, We demonstrate that we don't have a clue what it means. To image god for being fellowship with God.

And so one of the strongest statements and one of the most severe threats against Sabbath breaking in the whole Bible, actually comes in the context of They're building the tabernacle. So they are to do this workmanship and diverse 3. This workmanship end of verse 4 in which they are doing making working.

All of the things that God has commanded for his fellowship and his holiness in the midst of his people in the tabernacle. Then it comes and says but you need to know it. It's not the tabernacle that sanctifies you, it's not the arc that sanctifies you. It's not the mercy seat that sanctifies you.

It's not the table that sanctifies you. It's not the lampstand that sanctifies you. It's not the incense alter the sanctifies you. It's not the labor in its base or the ultra burn offering that sanctifies. You were the priestly garments that sanctify you or the incense or the anointing oil that sanctify.

You It's guy. God you all weigh himself, was the one whosanctifies Israel. And that is the point of the sabbath. This is a sign between him and then that God is

holy And that the fellowship into which he brings his people with himself, is holy and makes them holy in a way that nothing else is holding.

God is covenanted with his people and the sabbath is a sign of that covenant. And therefore, anybody who breaks the sabbath is to be put to death. Even and especially anybody who breaks the Sabbath. In order to work on the tabemade. Is your parasitical person who doesn't understand. That the sabbath is about fellowship with God and worship of god and participating in that shared life, that images.

Something that is in God himself from outside of creation from all eternity. That is the highest privilege that any creature has, which is what we have being made in his image and even more. So being renewed in his image in Jesus Christ. That, that is what the Sabbath is about.

And so those who treat the Sabbath as being about the lists, Here's the things that you have to do for 6 days. Here are the things that you may do. Are on the on the 7th day and they were going to say, well, you know, I consider this to be the business of the church so we can do that on the sabbath.

God says. If you try to work on the tabemade itself on the Sabbath, Everyone else needs to keep Sabbath by executing you. You can do that on the Sabbath. You may not work on the tabernacle on the sabbath, but you may execute someone who does In order to put away from you, The one who profains.

The image of God. In his worship. And then the shared life that we are to have with him. You see the Lord's day is not a day. Merely for fellowship with one another. We have shared life with one another throughout the week. The Lord's day is a day for setting aside all the other works.

Even the building of the church. In order to enjoy that shared life, With the Lord. And that's the fellowship that we have. With one another, in the Lord's day, there's a sabbath fellowship that we have one another Well, so it's pretty amazing that The conclusion. For the start chapter 25 chapter 24.

Chapter 25. In a section from chapter 25 to chapter 31 of the construction of the instructions for the construction and consecration of the tabemade The conclusion. Is imaging God and dependence upon him. And the work. Which must cease? For an entire day, every week. Because, All of it is on two imaging, God.

In shared life with God. In the worship. So that Throughout your week. As you. Do your school as you do your chores. As you enjoy the good things that God has made. And serve him in the creation. You are. Enjoying that, you are imaging him. That like Jesus says, my father is working until now and even I am working.

And you're not Jesus. You don't have a divine personhood, as he was arguing at that point, but you do have some of that pleasure. God did work. In order that that would be something he and I have in common, And that revolutionizes things like math. But then, when you come to the Lord's day, And you settle that aside.

Is a god exists. In himself. Father, son. And holy spirit. And the shared life. A mutual adoration and mutual fellowship and mutual enjoyment. And he has brought me into that. And although we would not be able to survive, we would run out of food. If we did that seven days a week and this creation the way it is right now.

He is giving me to enjoy something. And some imaging of him in the worship. That he has set this day aside for a part for And God, literally forbid. That I should spend it in any other way.

Lord, give us to view our work. Do you are worship? In the way that he so intensely teaches us. At the conclusion to the instructions. About the construction and consecration. The tabemade, let's pray. Her father in heaven, we thank you for this chapter. We pray that you would help us to continue increasing and understanding of it.

Has we come to hear it preached, and the Lord stay evening? Pray that you would help me. Oh Lord. You know how? Week, I am in my creatureliness and even in my sinful, especially in my sinfulness And yet, here is something That not only I but the rest of your people so desperately need.

So we pray. For the help of your holy spirit. Both for the preparation. How to preach and to hear. And then, when the time comes, For the hearing, that your spirit would work in our hearts. And then, after the hearing, That he would apply these things in our hearts and our minds and our lives.

We bless you a god for the perfection of your word. And for how perfectly it treats, all that we need. To believe and to do As your people who belong to you. So, we asked for your help in Jesus name, amen.