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GRACE**

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Exodus 35

(2020)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Exodus 35.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

Topics.

- The Sabbath Day.
- The Sabbath Day was a sign between God and Israel.
- Paul's teaching concerning holy days.
- Giving to the LORD.
- The LORD calls Bezalel of Judah.

INTRODUCTION: in the book of Exodus, God fulfilled His promise to Abraham by multiplying Abraham's descendants into a great nation delivering them from slavery in Egypt to journey to the Promised Land, and then binding them to Himself with a covenant at Mount Sinai. Moses, under the direct command of God and as leader of Israel, received the Ten Commandments from God, along with other laws governing Israel's life and worship. He also led the nation in building the Tabernacle, a place where God's presence can dwell among his people and where they can make sacrifices for sin. Most Jews and Christians recognise Moses as the author, writing sometime after the Exodus from Egypt (about 1445 B.C.). Note: the promise God made to Abraham will be perfectly fulfilled when Christ returns in glory and all those (Jews and Gentiles) who belong to God's Kingdom are gathered to him. (See also the introduction to chapter one).

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NOTE: for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

EXODUS 35:1-3

The Sabbath Day.

- **Exodus 35:1-3:** Moses assembled all the congregation of the people of Israel and said to them, "These are the things that the LORD has commanded you to do. ²Six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. ³You shall kindle no fire in all your dwelling places on the Sabbath day."

Some in the Christian faith use these verses to support their belief all Christians should be worshipping on Saturday, but the Sabbath was given to the nation Israel, and not the Gentiles. When the Lord Jesus Christ came, he destroyed the Old Testament Covenant and introduced an entirely new covenant of salvation by grace and not by the works of the law or by keeping holy days.

The Sabbath Day was a sign between God and Israel.

- Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall *be put to death*. ¹⁶Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. ¹⁷It is a *sign forever between me and the people of Israel* that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed. (Exodus 31:15-17).

No-where in the New Testament does Jesus or the apostles command Christians to keep the Sabbath Day, but they do encourage the keeping of the other nine commandments and fellowshiping together with other brothers and sisters in Christ, but this can be done on any day and in any place. Though the majority of Christians do gather together on a Sunday and it is a good thing it is not a commandment or law of God that they do. The Spirit behind the Ten Commandments is love they are all about loving God and loving thy neighbour. Each commandment concerning our relations to each other protects another human from hurt and harm emotionally, financially, sexually and physically, showing that love is the spirit behind the Ten Commandments.

Concerning holy days Paul says:

- Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honour of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honour of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honour of the Lord and gives thanks to God (Rom. 14:4-6).

Now go to verse ten:

- Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God (Rom. 14:10).

The principal Jesus and the apostles teach is to be convinced in your own mind. This means that the brother and sister who are convicted in their own minds to keep the Saturday as the Sabbath, do right before God, but should not judge others who are equally convicted in their own minds that it is right to keep the Sunday as the day they put aside for the LORD. Likewise, the brother and sister who are convicted in their own minds to keep Sunday as their Sabbath, do right before God, but should not judge others who are equally convicted in their own minds, that it is right to keep Saturday as the day they put aside for the LORD. This is because both groups are acting in faith and being true to their own conscience before God. God accepts both groups, providing they are not keeping the day because they believe the law commands them to and are therefore simply keeping it as a legal requirement rather than as an act of faith and from a willing heart to gather together with others before the Lord.

NOTE: keeping Saturday or Sunday as a Sabbath Day has nothing to do with Salvation. It is simply a matter of conscience and convenience to the culture and nation one lives in and in many cases simply tradition. If all Christians around the world decided to gather together to worship on Wednesday it would most likely surprise many to find that God would still be in the service. For further information concerning the Sabbath Day, see the title:

- Sabbath Day in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

EXODUS 35:4-19

Giving to the LORD.

- **Exodus 35:4-19:** Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "This is the thing that the LORD has commanded. ⁵Take from among you a contribution to the LORD. Whoever is of a *generous heart*, let him bring the LORD'S contribution: gold, silver, and bronze; ⁶blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen; goats' hair, ⁷tanned rams' skins, and goatskins; acacia wood, ⁸oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, ⁹and onyx stones and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. ¹⁰Let every skillful craftsman among you come and make all that the LORD has commanded: ¹¹the tabernacle, its tent and its covering, its hooks and its frames, its bars, its pillars, and its bases; ¹²the ark with its poles, the mercy seat, and

the veil of the screen; ¹³the table with its poles and all its utensils, and the bread of the Presence; ¹⁴the lampstand also for the light, with its utensils and its lamps, and the oil for the light; ¹⁵and the altar of incense, with its poles, and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense, and the screen for the door, at the door of the tabernacle; ¹⁶the altar of burnt offering, with its grating of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils, the basin and its stand; ¹⁷the hangings of the court, its pillars and its bases, and the screen for the gate of the court; ¹⁸the pegs of the tabernacle and the pegs of the court, and their cords; ¹⁹the finely worked garments for ministering in the Holy Place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, for their service as priests."

Since this study is simply a brief overview of the chapter we will not be focusing upon the detail and types and shadows of all the items used for the construction of the tabernacle and its furniture and utensils or the priestly garments. But rather focus on the people's generous act of giving. Following are three things that should be highlighted:

1. This giving has nothing to do with the commanded law of tithing that God gave to the nation of Israel.
2. This giving came from a willing heart, not a commanded law.
3. This giving was a freewill offering, meaning the people were free to choose to give or not to give.

Moses said to the people whoever is of a generous heart let them bring the LORD'S contribution and everyone whose heart and spirit stirred them brought the LORD'S contribution, men and women, all who were of a willing heart every one dedicating an offering of what they had to the LORD. Everyone who could make a contribution brought it as the LORD'S contribution all the women whose hearts stirred them to use their skill did so they brought anything for the work of the LORD as a freewill offering to the LORD everyone who possessed things needed for the Tent of Meeting, its service, and for the holy garments brought them (Exod. 35:5) (Exod. 35:21-29).

EXODUS 35:20-29

- **Exodus 35:20-29:** Then all the congregation of the people of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. ²¹And they came, everyone whose *heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him*, and brought the LORD'S contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments. ²²So they came, both men and women. All who were of a *willing heart* brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and armlets, all sorts of gold objects, every man dedicating an offering of gold to the LORD. ²³And everyone who possessed blue or purple or scarlet yarns or fine linen or goats' hair or tanned rams' skins or goatskins brought them. ²⁴Everyone who could make a contribution of silver or bronze brought it as the LORD'S contribution. And every one who possessed acacia wood of any use in the work brought it. ²⁵And every skillful woman spun with her hands, and they all brought what they had spun in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. ²⁶All the women *whose hearts stirred them* to use their skill spun the goats' hair. ²⁷And the leaders brought onyx stones and stones to be set, for the ephod and for the breastpiece, ²⁸and spices and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense. ²⁹All the men and women, the people of Israel, *whose heart moved them* to bring anything for the work that the LORD had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a *freewill offering* to the LORD.

NOTICE: giving to the LORD does not just involve giving money, clearly not everyone would have had gold and wealth to give, but that did not mean they were unable to give to the LORD since they could offer their time and labour as their willing contribution and freewill offering or any skill, they had that would help in the building of the tabernacle. Free will offerings are totally different to tithing which was a commanded law that God gave to the nation of Israel and not to the New Testament Christian church. For further information concerning tithing and giving, see the title: Tithing (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The LORD called Bezalel of Judah and filled him with:

- **Exodus 35:30-35:** Then Moses said to the people of Israel, "See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; ³¹and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, ³²to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, ³³in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. ³⁴And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. ³⁵He has filled them with skill to do every sort of work done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of workman or skilled designer.

Some wonder, what their calling before the LORD is? One of the ways to discover our calling is to look at what talents and gifts we have. Bezalel was clearly very skilful in all sorts of craftsmanship and had the ability to teach others, so the LORD called him to this work. Not everyone had the skill Bezalel had likewise in the New Testament church not everyone is called into full time ministry or has the gift of oratory and teaching, but our gifts are not limited to these since Christ's church is global and not confined to brick walls. This means that those who have gifts of hospitality and encouragement or have an empathetic and compassionate heart that they are able to comfort others who are hurting and those who have the ability to help the poor and needy are never prevented from serving the Lord as they go about their daily duties and responsibilities of life since Christ's Kingdom is far greater than any bricks and mortar building no matter how beautiful it maybe.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.