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Exodus 36

(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 36.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

Topics.

- Everyone whose heart stirred them came to do the work of the LORD.
- The people are told to stop giving to the work of the LORD.
- The construction of the curtains for the tabernacle.
- The construction of the frames for the tabernacle.
- The Construction of the veil for the tabernacle.
- The wonderful message of the sacrifice of Jesus in the Hebrew word scarlet.

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).

1 _____

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 36:1-2

All whose Heart Stirred them came to do the Work of the LORD.

- **Exodus 36:1-2:** "Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the LORD has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded." ²And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work.

Here we see that the LORD calls those who have the skill and talents to do the work that their skill is suited for, while all others who do not possess such skill are called to help those who do. No one should be envious of another persons' skill nor should anyone feel less worthy or less important because they do not have such skills, since no building is ever built only by those who are skilled. Likewise, the global body of Christ is being established and built not only by those who are skilled in oratory and teaching, but by all the faithful worldwide. Before the LORD no one is of any less importance or counted as less worthy simply because they are not as skilled as some others might be. It matters not to the Lord if a person is a great orator and teacher or simply a member of the congregation who tidies up after each service since the Lord judges us not by our skills but by our faithfulness and willingness of heart to serve him and for this reason no faithful brother or sister should ever feel they are

lesser of a Christian simply because they lack certain skills. It is true that in some circles of Christianity those with the gift of oratory and teaching are exalted and revered by the congregation above others, but though we may do this God doesn't. Certainly, people should be given honour where honour is due, but showing respect is a totally different thing to considering a gifted person to be of higher worth to God than those they are ministering to.

EXODUS 36:3-7

The People are told to Stop Giving to the Work of the LORD.

- **Exodus 36:3-7:** And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him *freewill offerings* every morning,⁴ so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing,⁵ and said to Moses, "The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do."⁶ So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, "Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing,⁷ for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.

This was an enormously exciting time for the people of Israel all gave from a willing heart and not from a command of Moses or a command of the law. Added to this each one gave as they were able, meaning if they had riches and wealth, they gave of these while those who had little gave of their skills, time and labour. No one was unable to give something to the construction of the tabernacle. Likewise, in the global body of Christ no one is unable to serve the Lord, since Christ's church is not bound by brick walls or by one day, but flows into every area of life which means all us can serve the Lord in some way as we go about our daily lives. For most this might simply be doing all we do with honesty and integrity and sharing our testimony and the Gospel when we are able as we attend to our duties and responsibilities of life.

2

EXODUS 36:8-19

The Construction of the Curtains for the Tabernacle.

- **Exodus 36:8-19:** And all the craftsmen among the workmen made the tabernacle with ten curtains. They were made of fine twined linen and blue and purple and scarlet yarns, with cherubim skillfully worked.⁹ The length of each curtain was twenty-eight cubits, and the breadth of each curtain four cubits. All the curtains were the same size.¹⁰ He coupled five curtains to one another, and the other five curtains he coupled to one another.¹¹ He made loops of blue on the edge of the outermost curtain of the first set. Likewise he made them on the edge of the outermost curtain of the second set.¹² He made fifty loops on the one curtain, and he made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that was in the second set. The loops were opposite one another.¹³ And he made fifty clasps of gold, and coupled the curtains one to the other with clasps. *So the tabernacle was a single whole.*¹⁴ He also made curtains of goats' hair for a tent over the tabernacle. He made eleven curtains.¹⁵ The length of each curtain was thirty cubits, and the breadth of each curtain four cubits. The eleven curtains were the same size.¹⁶ He coupled five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves.¹⁷ And he made fifty loops on the edge of the outermost curtain of the one set, and fifty loops on the edge of the other connecting curtain.¹⁸ And he made fifty clasps of bronze to couple the tent together *that it might be a single whole.*¹⁹ And he made for the tent a covering of tanned rams' skins and goatskins.

NOTICE: the words, "So the tabernacle was a single whole" (v13, 18). The tabernacle was made up of multitudes of all sorts of contrasting materials some of which were:

- Fine twined linen and goat's hair.
- The most beautiful curtains and ram-skins and goatskins.
- Gold and bronze.

Likewise, the global body of Christ is made up of multitudes of faithful brothers and sisters of contrasting personalities and mindsets and totally different skills and talents to each other. Amongst Christ's worldwide Kingdom there are those who are blessed with riches while others struggle to survive, there are those gifted with brilliant skills of oratory and the knowledge and ability to teach while most not only do not have such skills, but also fear to speak before a public crowd, yet as in the construction of the tabernacle it took all types of materials to build likewise in the building of God's Kingdom it takes all types of personalities and mindsets for the Gospel to be taken into all vocations of human life worldwide. No faithful brother or sister should ever feel they have nothing to offer or are of lesser worth to God. The bronze, the goats' hair and the ram-skins were just as needed in the construction of the tabernacle as the fine twined linen and the gold. This I suspect is why the words, "So the tabernacle was a single whole" (v13, 18) are repeated since the tabernacle is full of types and shadows of the body of Christ. Though the Lord knows us all individually and we all have our own unique spiritual relationship with him and we are all different in many ways to each other, when the Lord looks upon his global church collectively, he sees us as a single whole.

EXODUS 36:20-34

The Construction of the Frames for the Tabernacle.

- **Exodus 36:20-34:** Then he made the upright frames for the tabernacle of acacia wood.
21Ten cubits was the length of a frame, and a cubit and a half the breadth of each frame.
22Each frame had two tenons for fitting together. He did this for all the frames of the tabernacle. 23The frames for the tabernacle he made thus: twenty frames for the south side. 24And he made forty bases of silver under the twenty frames, two bases under one frame for its two tenons, and two bases under the next frame for its two tenons. 25For the second side of the tabernacle, on the north side, he made twenty frames 26and their forty bases of silver, two bases under one frame and two bases under the next frame. 27For the rear of the tabernacle westward he made six frames. 28He made two frames for corners of the tabernacle in the rear. 29And they were separate beneath but joined at the top, at the first ring. He made two of them this way for the two corners. 30There were eight frames with their bases of silver: sixteen bases, under every frame two bases. 31He made bars of acacia wood, five for the frames of the one side of the tabernacle, 32and five bars for the frames of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the frames of the tabernacle at the rear westward. 33And he made the middle bar to run from end to end halfway up the frames. 34And he overlaid the frames with gold, and made their rings of gold for holders for the bars, and overlaid the bars with gold.

3

Since this study is only a brief overview we will not be covering all the various types and shadows hidden in the construction of the tabernacle except to highlight the fact that for it to be built and completed as building it required all sorts of different materials in the same way that the global body of Christ requires men and women of all types of personalities and with different skills, talents and vocations in life to establish it as a spiritual temple of glory to the Lord in every nation and culture throughout the world.

EXODUS 36:35-38

The Construction of the Veil for the Tabernacle.

- **Exodus 36:35-38:** He made the veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen; with cherubim skillfully worked into it he made it. ³⁶And for it he made four pillars of acacia and overlaid them with gold. Their hooks were of gold, and he cast for them four bases of silver. ³⁷He also made a screen for the entrance of the tent, of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, embroidered with needlework, ³⁸and its five pillars with their hooks. He overlaid their capitals, and their fillets were of gold, but their five bases were of bronze.

The following shows that there is a most majestic and wonderful message of the sacrifice of Jesus in the Hebrew word scarlet

The following begins by showing the glorious symbolisms between Christ and the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place of the temple and the veil that divided them. It then shines a spotlight on the brilliance of Scripture by showing that there is a most majestic and wonderful message of the sacrifice of Jesus in the Hebrew word scarlet.

- You shall make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. It shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it. ³²And you shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, with hooks of gold, on four bases of silver. ³³And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in there within the veil. And the veil shall separate for you the Holy Place from the Most Holy (Ex. 26:31-33).

The veil: was put in place as a division between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place it served to separate the daily activities from the annual activities on the Day of Atonement. Because of this it shows a distinction between the normal Levites and the High Priest. But its purpose was not to just separate physical things. The true separation that the veil represented was between the flesh and the Spirit and between the sinfulness of man and the righteousness of God. Once the Israelites had entered into their own land and were no longer at war with the nations round about them Solomon built a magnificent Temple. It was constructed out of high-quality stone and wood and though it was very different in size to the Tabernacle, the basic design principles remained the same. On the inside the Holy Place was still separated from the Most Holy Place by a veil. The veil was made of blue and purple and scarlet fabrics and fine linen, and images of cherubim were woven into it (2 Chron. 3:14). Everything under the law represents something spiritual, but it's not until the death of Jesus that the full extent of their meaning is revealed. This is true with the veil. When Jesus breathed his last breath the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom (Mark 15:37-38). It was not torn from bottom to top or left to right, but from the top to the bottom. The word top comes from the Greek word (anothen) and can mean from above; from the very first; from the beginning and by implication new. The tearing of the curtain from top to bottom symbolised the beginning of the New Covenant of grace and that God was granting access into the Most Holy Place to all who come to Him through the Lord Jesus Christ the true veil of God. It also highlights the truth that from the very beginning of the foundations of the world Jesus was not only the central focus of God's eternal mind and of His eternal plans and purposes for mankind's salvation and for eternity, but also the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8) (KJV). Jesus' cleansing blood shed on the cross of Calvary does not cleanse only those who believe after his death and resurrection it flows all the way back to Adam and Eve like a spiritual river cleansing all the faithful who by faith looked to the appearing of the promised Messiah the Christ to come. Peter wrote:

- You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you (1 Peter 1:18-20).

Although Matthew, Mark and Luke record that at the precise moment of Jesus' death the veil of the Temple was torn in two, it is only when we come to the letter to the Hebrews that we can see what this means on a

spiritual level and what it means to us. Hebrews ten is the key that unlocks the spiritual aspects of the law. It explains to us that Jesus was of far more importance than the entire Law of Moses. After all, the law was only a shadow or an outline of the blessings to come through the Lord Jesus Christ. In Hebrews ten we read the following about the veil:

- Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water (Heb. 10:19-22).

These verses make it clear that the veil represents the flesh of Jesus it was this nature of the flesh that prevented atonement between God and man. The flesh (the sinful nature) was the boundary between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (the righteousness of God). In order for us to have reconciliation with God, He required the sacrifice of the flesh. The flesh represents all sin and had to be put away because it separates humans from their heavenly Father. Complete obedience to God's will, was the only way that the punishment of sin could be overcome. It was in the Garden of Gethsemane that Jesus endured one of his most difficult and trying moments. It was here where, mentally and emotionally the strength of the flesh was met and defeated by Jesus words, "Not my will but thine be done," In this act of love and obedience Jesus' self-will was sacrificed to God's will. It is interesting to note that Gethsemane means oil press and, just as the children of Israel were commanded to bring pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually (Lev. 24:2) It was in the garden of Gethsemane that the pure life of Jesus was crushed to enable the light of God's love to shine for all people to see and to respond to (John 1:4). The colours used in the veil are also very significant since all three colours (blue, purple and scarlet (red) (also crimson) all represent a certain characteristic of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blue: is closely associated with sky and water, it represents spiritual things and with regard to Jesus, it shows him as the Son of God.

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Scarlet: (red) is naturally associated with blood and as such represents mortality and the sinful nature of mankind and of course Jesus' blood shed on the cross.

Purple: is a mixture of blue and red and therefore represents a combination of two opposites. It is a unification of the Spirit and the flesh and shows the perfect character of Jesus in his mortal body as the Son of God and the Son of Man.

The symbolism of scarlet: scarlet in these verses come from the Hebrew words (towla/shaniy) and can refer to the colour scarlet or to the worm or maggot (a scarlet grub) that the red dye comes from. The scarlet worm was from a worm that the colourant was extracted to dye the thread that made the veil. It is for this reason that the word (towla) is translated sometimes as scarlet, and sometimes as worm. The interesting thing about the female of this species is that, when it is ready to give birth to her young, it attaches its body to the trunk of a tree. It fastens itself so firmly that it never leaves that place again. The eggs are deposited beneath its body and are protected by it until the larvae hatch and are able to enter their own life cycle. As the mother dies, the scarlet fluid stains her body and the surrounding wood. It is from the dead bodies of these female scarlet worms that the commercial scarlet dyes were extracted (Ungers Bible Dictionary). This gives us a very clear image of Jesus dying on the tree and shedding his blood that we may have life eternal. The following Psalm of David is a psalm that reflects the thoughts, emotions and the words of Jesus during his trial and crucifixion, while he bled and died on the tree at Golgotha.

- My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our fathers

trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame, but I am a worm (towlah) and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people (Psalms 22:1-6)

The Hebrew word for worm, here is (towlah) which is the same word translated as scarlet in the veil, so we can see that it was from our Saviour's body that the scarlet blood poured out onto the tree was so that life could be given to those who believe on him. The prophet Isaiah wrote:

- Come now, and let us reason together, "Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, (towla/shaniy) They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like scarlet, They shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).
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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.

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