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Exodus 37

(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 37.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

Topics.

- The Ark of the Covenant.
- The Mercy Seat.
- The table of acacia wood.
- The lampstand of pure gold.
- The altar of incense.

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).

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 37:1-5

The Ark of the Covenant.

- Exodus 37:1-5: Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half was its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ²And he overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a moulding of gold around it. ³And he cast for it four rings of gold for its four feet, two rings on its one side and two rings on its other side. ⁴And he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold ⁵and put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark.

If we likened the ark to our bodies, we could say that like the beauty of the ark was in the pure gold that overlaid the timber the beauty of our body (spiritually speaking) is that it is overlaid with the cleansing power of Christ's blood. In the same way that we only see the glory of the gold overlaying the timber as we look upon the ark, when God's eyes look upon our body, He sees the blood of Christ covering all our inward sinful aberrations and dysfunctions that lie embedded within our fallen corrupted nature that we inherited from our earthly father Adam.

EXODUS 37:6-9

The Mercy Seat.

- Exodus 37:6-9: And he made a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half was its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. ⁷And he made two cherubim of gold. He made them of hammered work on the two ends of the mercy seat, ⁸one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat, he made the cherubim on its two ends. ⁹The cherubim spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, with their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat were the faces of the cherubim.

Here is the glory of God the lid of the ark was given the title, "The Mercy Seat." God told the people of Israel to put the law in the Ark of the Covenant which means the law was under mercy. If anyone was to apply the law it was to be applied with mercy (i.e., from the mercy seat). It is interesting to notice that the spirit that underpins the six laws concerning mankind is love.

This is because each law protects the innocent from harm and hurt, physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. The fact that God had the law placed under the Mercy Seat shines a spotlight on the truth that the law was not designed to be used as a legalistic battering ram to condemn, but as a guide to right and wrong behaviour and as a foundation for justice, but it should always be clothed with mercy. To add to this glory the mercy seat had two cherubim's covering the entire Mercy Seat with their wings and their faces toward it. This beautiful picture could be seen as a shadow of all the angels of heaven covering and watching over and protecting all who show mercy to others.

EXODUS 37:10-16

The Table of Acacia Wood.

- **Exodus 37:10-16:** He also made the table of acacia wood. Two cubits was its length, a cubit its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ¹¹And he overlaid it with pure gold, and made a molding of gold around it. ¹²And he made a rim around it a handbreadth wide, and made a molding of gold around the rim. ¹³He cast for it four rings of gold and fastened the rings to the four corners at its four legs. ¹⁴Close to the frame were the rings, as holders for the poles to carry the table. ¹⁵He made the poles of acacia wood to carry the table, and overlaid them with gold. ¹⁶And he made the vessels of pure gold that were to be on the table, its plates and dishes for incense, and its bowls and flagons with which to pour drink offerings.

Based upon the beauty of the tabernacle and its furniture and this table is no exception to something made with great skill, craftsmanship and beauty some teach that we are to give God our best and then spend mega dollars on gold statues, expensive art and religious furniture etc., but unlike the Old Testament giving God our best has nothing to do with material possessions of this world.

Giving God our best is about living a life of faithfulness, integrity and honesty, it is about fulfilling Jesus' command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," meaning do good to others and not harm. It is about living a lifestyle that brings honour to God's name and a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

EXODUS 37:17-23

The Lampstand of Pure Gold.

- **Exodus 37:17-23:** He also made the lampstand of pure gold. He made the lampstand of hammered work. Its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers were of one piece with it. ¹⁸And there were six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side

of it; ¹⁹three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. ²⁰And on the lampstand itself were four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and flowers, ²¹and a calyx of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out of it. ²²Their calyxes and their branches were of one piece with it. The whole of it was a single piece of hammered work of pure gold. ²³And he made its seven lamps and its tongs and its trays of pure gold.

- Here we have a lampstand that is not only made of pure gold, but also made of one piece so it is of great value. Added to this its foundation and all that is attached to it were also of one piece with it. This can be seen as God, Christ and the church all being one in each other by the same spirit, and by unity and by love.
- The lampstand had one stem and three branches going out of each side which means from the central stem there were six branches the number of man. The stem can be seen as Christ and the branches as his global church. Especially since a Roman soldier pierced the side of Christ with a spear and blood mingled with water flowed out of his side (John 19:34) and in this way the church can be viewed as being born out of Christ's side.
- Upon the top of the stem and the six branches were lamps. These lamps were fuelled by oil and can be seen as the light of the Holy Spirit.
- The whole of the stem, the stand and its bases, the branches and the lamps were made from a single piece of hammered work of pure gold. Clearly it took blow after blow of a master craftsman's hammer to make this lampstand into something of amazing beauty. This can be seen as a beautiful picture of Christ suffering on the cross and the persecution, trials and tribulations all faithful Christians suffer as they hold fast to their faith in this mortal and corrupted world while the Lord's church is being fashioned into a spiritual temple of astounding beauty to be manifested to all the world when Christ returns.
- The tongs and its trays of pure gold (tools used for flaming the fire and cleaning the ashes) could be viewed as the working of the Holy Spirit upon our lives to mould us into the image of Christ himself.

EXODUS 37:24-29

The Altar of Incense.

- **Exodus 37:24-29:** He made it and all its utensils out of a talent of pure gold. ²⁵He made the altar of incense of acacia wood. Its length was a cubit, and its breadth was a cubit. It was square, and two cubits was its height. Its horns were of one piece with it. ²⁶He overlaid it with pure gold, its top and around its sides and its horns. And he made a moulding of gold around it, ²⁷and made two rings of gold on it under its moulding, on two opposite sides of it, as holders for the poles with which to carry it. ²⁸And he made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. ²⁹He made the holy anointing oil also, and the pure fragrant incense, blended as by the perfumer.

A brief overview of the layout of the tabernacle: the tabernacle was divided into two sections; the first section was called the Holy Place the second section was called the Most Holy Place and the court surrounding the tabernacle was called the outer court. The entry into the outer court and the entry into the tabernacle faced east. When the people of Israel entered the gate into the outer court the first thing, they would see was the altar for sacrifices and burnt offerings, behind this was the basin for the priests to wash their hands and feet before ministering and behind the basin was the tabernacle itself. Behind the first curtain of the tabernacle (the entry into the Holy place) on the left was the golden lampstand and on the right the table of shewbread.

The altar of incense: was also in the Holy Place in front of the curtain separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy place and the Ark of the Covenant was behind this curtain in the Most Holy Place. The sweet-smelling aroma of the incense would drift over the curtain and into the Most Holy Place and the presence of God. The altar of incense can be seen as symbolising the prayers of the faithful ascending into the very throne room of God in heaven.

Conclusion: clearly this is a very brief overview of the chapter, but hopefully it is enough to encourage those who have the time, and love the joy and the thrill of studying types and shadows and finding their own discoveries.

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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