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GRACE**

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Exodus 38

(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 38.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

Topics.

- The altar for burnt offering.
- The basin of bronze and its stand of bronze.
- The court of the tabernacle.
- The design of the tabernacle did not come from the mind of man.
- All the gold, silver and bronze used for the work of the tabernacle.

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 38:1-7

The Altar for Burnt Offering.

- **Exodus 38:1-7:** He Bezalel (Exodus 37:1) made the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood. Five cubits was its length, and five cubits its breadth. It was square, and three cubits was its height. ²He made horns for it on its four corners. Its horns were of one piece with it, and he overlaid it with bronze. ³And he made all the utensils of the altar, the pots, the shovels, the basins, the forks, and the fire pans. He made all its utensils of bronze. ⁴And he made for the altar a grating, a network of bronze, under its ledge, extending halfway down. ⁵He cast four rings on the four corners of the bronze grating as holders for the poles. ⁶He made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with bronze. ⁷And he put the poles through the rings on the sides of the altar to carry it with them. He made it hollow, with boards.

The altar for burnt offering was used to sacrifice the people's offerings on. The sacrifices were offered to the LORD by the priests and then burnt on this altar after this ceremony most of the sacrifices became food for the high priest and his family and the Levitical priesthood. For those who may think that this is a total waste of animal life just replace the word burnt with the word cooked. Remember during these early ages the people could not walk down to their local butcher shop and buy their meat. This was God's way of supplying the priesthood and their families with healthy meat. The following truth should be highlighted since it is a perfect picture of New Testament Christianity. The entire tabernacle was constructed in such a way that it was portable meaning it could be taken down when the

LORD called Israel to move on and rebuilt when they arrived at their destination. This is why the altar for burnt offering and all other furniture of the tabernacle had rings on the corners for poles to go through so that they could be easily carried as the people of Israel wandered through the wilderness. This is a perfect picture of New Testament Christianity, because Christ's global church is not limited to any established building nor is the Spirit of the Lord bound by brick walls. New Testament Christianity is fluid and the Spirit of Christ is wherever the faithful happen to be.

EXODUS 38:8

The Basin of Bronze and its Stand of Bronze.

- **Exodus 38:8:** He made the basin of bronze and its stand of bronze, from the mirrors of the ministering women who ministered in the entrance of the tent of meeting.

The basin of bronze was used for the priest to wash in before they ministered before the LORD. Following is a brief overview 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. From this we see that the very first thing the priest were required to do before they stood before the LORD was to wash themselves, this is a perfect picture of New Testament water baptism. This is because it is through water baptism that those who believe enter into the Kingdom of God.

For further information concerning water baptism, see the title:

- Water Baptism (ON WEBSITE MENU).

EXODUS 38:9-20

The Court of the Tabernacle.

- **Exodus 38:9-20:** And he made the court. For the south side the hangings of the court were of fine twined linen, a hundred cubits; ¹⁰their twenty pillars and their twenty bases were of bronze, but the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver. ¹¹And for the north side there were hangings of a hundred cubits, their twenty pillars, their twenty bases were of bronze, but the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver. ¹²And for the west side were hangings of fifty cubits, their ten pillars, and their ten bases; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver. ¹³And for the front to the east, fifty cubits. ¹⁴The hangings for one side of the gate were fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and three bases. ¹⁵And so for the other side. On both sides of the gate of the court were hangings of fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three bases. ¹⁶All the hangings around the court were of fine twined linen. ¹⁷And the bases for the pillars were of bronze, but the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver. The overlaying of their capitals was also of silver, and all the pillars of the court were filleted with silver. ¹⁸And the screen for the gate of the court was embroidered with needlework in blue and purple and

scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. It was twenty cubits long and five cubits high in its breadth, corresponding to the hangings of the court. ¹⁹And their pillars were four in number. Their four bases were of bronze, their hooks of silver, and the overlaying of their capitals and their fillets of silver. ²⁰And all the pegs for the tabernacle and for the court all around were of bronze.

To the eyes of those standing in the outer court looking at the tabernacle it looked beautiful, but as one entered from the outer court into the Most Holy place the glory and beauty increased, but the glory and beauty did not stop here but was even greater as one entered behind the veil into the Most Holy Place where the Ark of the Covenant was. This is a perfect picture of the Kingdom of God, there is a beauty to be seen for those who stand in the outer court, but should they through faith enter the waters of baptism that beauty takes on a whole new dimension but the glory does not end here. This is because for all brothers and sisters who faithfully follow the Lord and perceives the enormity of Christ's love manifested on the bloodstained cross of Calvary and discover the endless depth of God's grace in Christ their heart is filled with God's overflowing gratitude and God's abundant love.

EXODUS 38:21-23

The Design of the Tabernacle did Not come from the Mind of Man.

- **Exodus 38:21-23:** These are the records of the tabernacle of the testimony as they were recorded at the commandment of Moses, the responsibility of the Levites under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. ²²Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the LORD commanded Moses; ²³and with him was Oholiab the son of Ahis-amach, of the tribe of Dan, an engraver and designer and embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen.

These verses shine a spotlight on the truth that the design of the tabernacle did not come from the mind of man, but from God Himself. The LORD gave Moses all the detail of the tabernacle and Moses passed that detail onto those who were skilled for the work. This is also a great picture of the New Testament spiritual temple of God being established by faith in the hearts and minds of the faithful worldwide. The construction of this spiritual temple did not come by the intellect or cleverness of man, but by the word of God and His eternal plan that He established by His eternal foreknowledge and eternal wisdom before the world began.

EXODUS 38:24-31

All the Gold, Silver and Bronze used for the Tabernacle.

- **Exodus 38:24-31:** All the gold that was used for the work, in all the construction of the sanctuary, the gold from the offering, was twenty-nine talents and 730 shekels, by the shekel of the sanctuary. ²⁵The silver from those of the congregation who were recorded was a hundred talents and 1,775 shekels, by the shekel of the sanctuary: ^{26a} beka a head (that is, half a shekel, by the shekel of the sanctuary), for everyone who was listed in the records, from twenty years old and upward, for 603,550 men. ²⁷The hundred talents of silver were for casting the bases of the sanctuary and the bases of the veil; a hundred bases for the hundred talents, a talent a base. ²⁸And of the 1,775 shekels he made hooks for the pillars and overlaid their capitals and made fillets for them. ²⁹The bronze that was offered was seventy talents and 2,400 shekels; ³⁰with it he made the bases for the entrance of the tent of meeting, the bronze altar and the bronze grating for it and all the utensils of the altar, ³¹the bases around the court, and the bases of the gate of the court, all the pegs of the tabernacle, and all the pegs around the court.

These verses shine a light upon the excitement and willingness the people of Israel were to give to the work of the LORD. In chapter thirty-six the people were willing giving so much every day and were bring more than enough that that Moses had to command every man and woman not to

do anymore for the contribution for the tabernacle so all the people were restrained from bringing materials because they had more than enough (Exod. 36:5-7). It should be pointed out that though Israel at this time was acting in the will of God and acting from a willing and generous heart and doing what the LORD required, it does not mean that this is what we should be doing today. Today God does not require the faithful to give all their money to build mega million-dollar buildings. It is interesting to notice that all the offerings the apostles and Paul took up were to help the poor, especially brothers and sisters who were financially struggling because of their faith. Certainly, the church may need buildings for practical reasons (i.e., protection for bad weather, the size of the congregation etc.), but if the congregation and the oversight is put under oppression to pay off mega bank loans then such a building is not in the will of God since in this situation the borrow has become slave to the lender.

NOTE: there is no mention of church buildings in the New Testament, during the era of the early church most churches meetings were held in the homes of faithful brothers and sisters in Christ and sharing the Lords Supper together was having a meal together in the Lord's name.

For further information concerning the church, see the title:

- Church (The definition of a Church).

In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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.