

The Tabernacle

Preparation and Construction

Prelude

- Israel arrives at Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19, where Moses makes several trips up the mountain to receive instruction from God.
- In chapters 20-23 the first of the Law is given to him, including the Ten Commandments (20:1-17) and the three Pilgrimage Feasts (23:14-19).
- Chapter 24 is of the utmost importance. Moses tells Israel of all the Lord has commanded and they agree to follow it twice (vs. 3 & 7). The covenant is sealed as a blood covenant (compare to Genesis 15). God calls Moses to return up the mountain to receive more instruction (vs. 12)

The Instructions from God

- An outline of the commands given (chapters 25-30)
 - An offering towards construction – 25:1-9
 - Ark of the Covenant and Mercy Seat – 25:10-22
 - Table of Shewbread – 25:23-30
 - Golden Candlestick – 25:31-40
 - Curtains and Coverings – 26:1-14
 - Boards and Bars – 26:15-30
 - Inner and Outer Vails – Exodus 26:31-37
 - Brazen Altar – Exodus 27:1-8
 - Court – 27:9-19
 - Oil for Light – 27:20-21
 - Garments of Priests - 28:1-43
 - Consecration of Priests – 29:1-46
 - Altar of Incense – 30:1-16
 - Laver of Brass – 30:17-21
 - Incense – 30:22-38
 - Artisans – 31:1-11
 - Sabbath – 31:12-18

Breaking and Reestablishing the Covenant

- Is it a coincidence that immediately after God gives Moses the directions on how come before Him that we see the people try to come another way?
- The impatient people attempt to serve God through idolatrous methods (32:1-6)
 - Scott Aniol – “Most people likely assume that the Israelites' problem here was one of worshipping a false god. Yet a closer look at what happened reveals something

different. The common assumption is usually based upon the fact that most English translations use the term "gods" in Exodus 32:4-6 to describe what they desired to worship - "These are your gods, O Israel," the people said. This is a legitimate translation of the Hebrew term Elohim in this text, a plural reference to deity common in the ancient near east. However, that very term (in its plural form) is also used elsewhere to unquestionably refer to the true God, and other clues in the text indicate that the people were actually trying to worship the true God. One clear example is what Aaron says in verse 5: "Tomorrow shall be a feast to Yahweh." Clearly, the attempt here was to worship the true God through the golden calf."

- Moses intercedes for the people (chapter 33) and the covenant is renewed (chapter 34).
 - Note – the “tabernacle of the congregation” in 33:7-11 is not the Tabernacle we are studying, though its function as a place for religious gathering is similar.
- THIS IS THE SETTING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TABERNACLE.

Contributions

- Exodus 35:4-29 contains the joyous freewill offering of materials for the construction of the Tabernacle.
- Exodus 38:24-31 give totals for the offering. Assuming a *shekel* is 11.4 grams and a *talent/kikkar* is 3,000 shekels: the gold would weigh over 2,200 pounds (~\$60 million), the silver over 7,500 pounds (~\$3 million), brass/bronze over 5,300 pounds (~\$10,000).
 - Hebrew *nechosheth* (Strong’s H5178) is from a root word for *copper*, and the exact alloy it refers to is not certain.
 - Gaebelain – “Silver was given by every male a half of a shekel (the atonement money). The number of men from 20 years and upward was 603,550; so they gave 301,775 shekels of silver.” See Exodus 30:11-16

Construction

- God specially prepared and equipped workers (35:30-35). This was a *Spiritual* undertaking.
- Exodus 36:1-39:31 are the details of the construction and preparation with a summary in 39:32-43
- In chapter 40 is the Tabernacle is assembled on Nisan 1 (corresponds to April 2 this year)
 - Nisan is the first month of the Jewish calendar, which started in Exodus 12:2 one year prior.
- God shows His approval of their work by inhabiting the Tabernacle – 40:34-35.