

EXODUS 25-40

The Story of Redemption

Thoughts and Comments

"And he said to him, 'If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.'"
Exodus 33:15

favorite verse

EXODUS 25

Mercy Seat

God gave specifications for how the ark of the covenant should be built. Atop the ark was a gold covering flanked by two cherubim. This was called the mercy seat. Where God would come to meet them.

What's cool is that John 20:12 says that when Mary went into the tomb where Jesus once lay, she saw two angels sitting-- one at the head, one at the feet. Like the mercy seat.

Jesus is our mercy seat. The Greek word used for the Hebrew word for mercy seat is translated as propitiation.

God did come to meet us-- Jesus born to Mary to come be the one true and perfect sacrifice.

Another thing I find interesting about the cherubim is that Exodus says "The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings... toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be."

I just finished reading the book of Ruth. When she goes to ask Boaz to be her redeemer she says, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."



Just as the cherubim looked to the mercy seat (Christ), so too do we see foreshadowing of Christ being our redeemer as Boaz redeemed Ruth and spread his wings over her. Their child is the father of Jesse, the father of David-- the lineage of Christ.

One last comment-- it's really cool that the ark of the covenant represented the law (it held the tablets), mercy, and grace.

EXODUS 25

Bread of the Presence

Another name for the Bread of the Presence is the showbread... not to be confused with the band of the same name!

God requested bread be placed before him regularly. Leviticus 24:5 tells us it was 12 loaves, 2 piles of 6 loaves each probably to show how he provides for the twelve tribes of Israel.

Bread is a common theme throughout Scripture. Jesus is the bread of life. We ask God for our daily bread. Bread is a staple food. It is often overlooked, but if we are without our bread, we notice we are missing something.

Perhaps the Bread of the Presence was a tangible reminder to the people that they needed God, and that he didn't need them. They presented him with the bread, but God didn't need to eat it. He gives it back in fellowship to the priesthood to eat, signifying a peaceful relationship between God and his people.

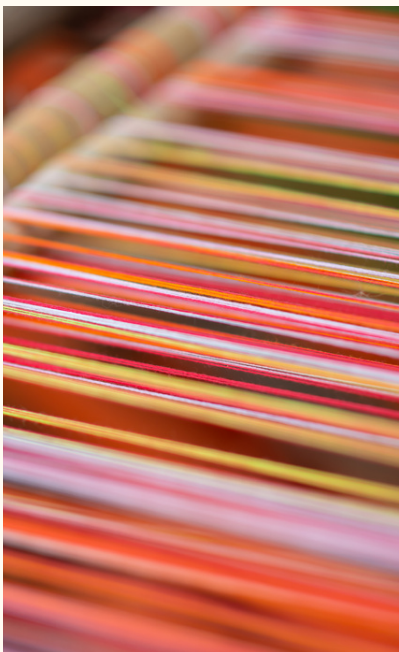


EXODUS 28 & 31

The Spirit at Work

Exodus 28:3 says, "You shall speak to all the skillful, whom I have filled with a spirit of skill, that they make Aaron's garments..."

The Spirit came to dwell in us once Jesus died, rose, and ascended. Sometimes we wonder where the Spirit was at in the Old Testament. Of course He was there in creation, but this is another example of His work. God filled people with the Spirit to give them skills to complete tasks he put before them. He will always equip those he calls!



EXODUS 28

Urim & Thummim

God instructs them to put the Urim and Thummim in Aaron's breastplate. We don't know exactly what these were but it is suggested that these were probably stones or sticks of different colors. When Aaron would go in to pray, he would pull a stone out and if it was the one color it would mean to do one thing whereas the other color would indicate a different action.

We see Saul using these in 1 Samuel 14:41.

Today we have things like magic 8 balls. It would be nice if we could ask it all of our hard questions and get told what to do! God doesn't promise his presence in those and largely just speaks to us through his Word.

Every decision we make can be held up against Scripture. If Scripture is silent on it and we have prayed over it, we can trust that we can make a decision within the will of God.

Waiting for a clear Urim vs Thummim revelation moment can leave us paralyzed and immobile. God doesn't want that for us. Step out in prayer and faith, carrying God's Word in your breastplate.

EXODUS 31

Sabbath or Death?

It is hard for us to read through all of the laws, rituals, and sacrifices that God commanded of us people and the punishments that went along with disobeying. We tend to picture God as loving and kind and gentle (which he is) but, to our shame, his holiness has been diminished.

The laws established for the Israelites created clear distinction between clean and unclean, holy and unholy. God DWELT with them! His presence required holiness. They had to do all the things to maintain the ability to fellowship with God. (*cont'd*)



(cont'd)

Thankfully Christ was the ultimate unblemished lamb sacrificed so that we could be made clean, our sins atoned for.

The Sabbath was established to represent their covenant with God for freeing them from their bondage.

We see here a picture of God's mercy and grace with his long-suffering over their failure to consistently keep the Sabbath. We also see his justice as this ultimately led to them being exiled (seen in Ezekiel and Jeremiah)

What does the Sabbath mean for us today?

Mark 2:27 says that Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

Keeping the Sabbath is not a requirement for salvation. There are many views on if or how it should be used today.

I found Jefferson Bethke's book [To Hell with the Hustle](#) to be an interesting perspective on setting aside a personal Sabbath and recognizing the need to rest in Christ and remember all he has done for us.

EXODUS 32

The Golden Calf

The story of the golden calf is almost humorous. Moses is gone for like one second and the people make an idol!

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In a Gospel Coalition article Caleb Greggson says, "It makes clear that a worshiper's intentions are irrelevant when their worship isn't obedient to the clear instruction of God's Word."

Aaron called it worship to Yahweh but it specifically went against God's laws to make a graven image.



If we look at the idols in our lives today, the things we find ourselves worshipping-- we can see ourselves making excuses that we did it with good intentions. But that's not acceptable. (cont'd)

(cont'd)

Our theology is essential to our worship. We need to worship God for who He tells us He is and how he tells us to do it. Our creativity is not to change Scripture or God into what we want it/Him to be.



EXODUS 40

Seeing and Believing

One thing that I keep coming back to as I read through these first five books about God giving them commandments and them complaining or doubting God or disobeying.

They literally had God dwelling with them!

The signs and wonders he did in Egypt and freeing them from slavery. He rescued them in a pretty miraculous way. He wanted them to know it was Him not them that did anything.

Then he provided for them in the desert. He came to them as a pillar of fire or a cloud over the tabernacle.

Imagine what that would have been like to be in that camp! To look at the tabernacle and see the cloud above it. To be directed when to leave and when to settle based on the Presence of God. (40:36-37)

God was talking to Moses. They were best buds hanging out on the mountain and chatting it up!

And yet. After all of that. The Israelites still had the gall to doubt him, question him, complain about their lives.

We want to slap the Israelites upside the head and say-- you are WITH God and you still lack faith?

And then we think of ourselves. We think if we could just see God, hear God, or have some sort of sign, then we would know we could trust God. But no. We are a fickle sinful people. We are like the Israelites. Even if we had everything we thought we needed, we would still find a reason to doubt, to want to control our lives because we think we would do a better job. (cont'd)

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Forbearance. That was God's heart towards his people then, and it is with us now. But as we're reading through the Bible, let it sink in how much God is revealing about himself to us. We are seeing time and again his faithfulness, his constancy.

Scripture and Jesus is all the proof we need that God is for us, not against us. That we can trust him. That he is a good and powerful God. That his ways are better. That his promises are true. That his word never comes back void. He does what he says he will do.

And let our hearts be like Moses-- Lord, we don't want to go anywhere unless you're with us!

Questions

- 1. WHAT ARE ALL THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF OFFERINGS? [I'LL TRY TO COVER THIS WHEN THIS GETS TO LEVITICUS]**
 - 2. WHO WAS BEING KILLED IN 32:27?**
 - 3. HOW LONG IS A CUBIT?**
 - 4. WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW ALL OF THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE ARK OF THE COVENANT AND THE TABERNACLE? WHAT DOES THAT TELL US ABOUT GOD?**
 - 5. 39:11-13 WHERE WOULD THEY FIND ALL OF THESE GEMS? WHAT KIND OF MINING OPERATIONS HAPPENED IN THESE TIMES?**
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Looking Ahead

WE FINISHED EXODUS! I'M ALMOST DONE READING NUMBERS, BUT WE'RE FINALLY MOVING THIS EMAIL UPDATE UP TO LEVITICUS WHERE WE GET TO TALK ABOUT BLOOD AND SACRIFICES AND SUCH!

[NOTE: IF YOU'RE BEHIND AND FEELING OVERWHELMED, FEEL FREE TO SKIP THE CHAPTERS YOU MISSED AND MOVE AHEAD TO STAY ON TRACK!]

Next up... Numbers 31

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