

Lesson Sixteen: *Proper Worship*
Exodus 25-31

Theme:

Exodus 25-31, 35-40: God must be worshipped according to His instructions in order for there to be fellowship with Him.

I. The King

- a. (25:8) *Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them.*
 - i. God is the rightful Sovereign over Israel.
 1. By choice: Deuteronomy 7:6-8; Ephesians 1:4
 2. By creation: Genesis 1:1
 3. By covenant: Genesis 12:1-3
 4. By redemption: Exodus 19:8; Ephesians 1:7
 5. By adoption: Exodus 19:4; Romans 8:15-16
 - ii. God's sovereignty is recognized by the construction of a royal residence.
 1. (25:8) *Sanctuary*: the place of God's self-revelation, the place where holiness resides
 - a. The sanctuary includes the tabernacle, but is not limited to it.
 - i. All of Israel is to be holy.
 2. (25:9) *Tabernacle*: a dwelling place or divine residence
 - a. The tabernacle represents the fulfillment of the Lord's promise to be Israel's God (Gen 17:7).
 - b. The tabernacle represents the fulfillment of redemption.
 - c. The tabernacle represents their willingness to obey the covenant.
 - d. The tabernacle represents the invitation of God's people.
 - e. The tabernacle represents the centrality of God.
 - f. The tabernacle represents God's condescension and sympathy.
 - g. The tabernacle represents God's *ongoing* presence.
 - h. The tabernacle is where God meets with His people (Ex 29:42b).
 - i. The tabernacle is where God speaks to His people (Ex 29:42b).
 - i. Christ is the fulfillment of the tabernacle (John 1:14).
 - j. The tabernacle is to be consecrated (Ex 29:43).
 - iii. God's sovereignty is recognized by various gradations of holiness.
 1. Within the camp:
 - a. outside → inside → tribes → Levites → tabernacle
 2. Within the tabernacle:
 - a. the curtained court → the holy place → the most holy place
 - i. As you draw closer to God, finer materials are required.
 3. Throughout the history of redemption:
 - a. The tabernacle → the temple → Christ
 4. If we are to draw near to God, we must do so according to His terms (God only looks favorably on holiness—Esth 5:2; Hab 1:13).
 - a. The people of Israel “approached” God through the priests and through the blood of animal sacrifices.
 - b. Under the New Covenant, we approach God through the High Priest and the blood of His perfect sacrifice.
 - i. *Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens...let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace* (Heb 4:14, 16).
 - c. Christians approach boldly because they are declared holy.

II. The King's Edict

- a. (25:9) *According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it.*
 - i. **Construction:** God's tent must be assembled according to precise instructions.
 1. (25:1-9) The people must offer a contribution:
 - a. (25:2) *Willingly:* offerings to God must proceed from the heart.
 - i. Reluctance evidences selfishness (II Cor 9:7).
 - b. (25:3-7) *Sacrificially:* sacrifice evidences our love for God.
 - i. God expects our best.
 - ii. God provides for us, so we can offer it to Him (Ex 3:22).
 2. (25:9-31:18) The people must build according to God's plan.
 - a. A holy God requires meticulous attention to detail.
 - i. The use of the best materials
 - b. A test of obedience and endurance
 3. (31:1-11) The people must build under the authority of chosen men.
 - a. (2) *Called by name* – specific
 - b. (3) *Filled with the Spirit* – anointed
 - c. (3) *Wisdom, understanding, knowledge, craftsmanship* – gifted
 - i. The use of the best workmanship
 - ii. **Worship:** God must be worshipped according to precise instructions.
 1. Through mediation:
 - a. The priests served as mediators (I Tim 2:5).
 - b. The priests served as judges (Deut 17:8-13; cf. Acts 10:40).
 - c. The priests dispensed blessings (Num 6:22-22; cf. Acts 3:26).
 - d. The priests taught the law (Deut 33:10; Matt 5:17).
 - e. The priests offer atoning sacrifices (Ex 29:1-46).
 - i. God must be approached through blood.
 - ii. Christ's blood is once for all the elect (Heb 10:10).
 2. Through Sabbath observance:
 - a. (31:12-18) The Sabbath is to be honored as a sign of covenant obedience and worship to the Lord (right use of the tabernacle).

III. The King's Dwelling

- a. (25:9) *According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it.*
 - i. (25:10-22) **The ark:** mercy and the law
 1. Fulfillment: greater access (Heb 8:1-2) / law in heart (Heb 8:7-12)
 - ii. (25:23-30) **The table of showbread:** dependence upon God
 1. Fulfillment: the bread of life (John 6:35) / daily bread and communion
 - iii. (25:31-40) **The lampstand:** new life
 1. Fulfillment: the light of the world and the light of life (John 8:12)
 - iv. (27:1-8) **The bronze altar:** sacrifice / atonement / safety
 1. Fulfillment: the sacrifice of Christ (Heb 9:25) / the removal of sin
 - v. (30:1-10) **The altar of incense:** intercession
 1. Fulfillment: the prayers of the saints (Rev 5:8) / Christ's intercession (Heb 7:25)
 - vi. (30:18-21) **The laver:** cleansing
 1. Fulfillment: the cleansing of Christ's blood (Heb 9:14) / Holy Spirit
- b. How should we respond to the mercy of God?

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name (Hebrews 13:15).