

CRUCIAL ASPECTS OF GOD'S ECONOMY PORTRAYED IN EXODUS (4)—BUILDING

Message Two

The Heave Offering for the Building Materials

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:9, 12; Phil. 3:7-14; Rom. 12:1;
Exo. 27:9-19; 38:9-20; 40:33

- I. God revealed to Moses the materials, the basic elements, to be used in building the tabernacle; all the materials represent basic elements we should use in building the church—Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:9, 12.**
- II. The fact that the materials for the building of the tabernacle were offered to God by His people as a heave offering signifies that the church is built up not with any natural materials but with the very Christ who has been gained, possessed, enjoyed, and experienced by God's people—Phil. 3:7-14; Eph. 3:8; cf. 1 Cor. 3:12:**
 - A. For the building up of God's dwelling place, we need a consecration in which we offer precious things to God—Rom. 12:1; Exo. 25:2; 35:4-9.
 - B. There were twelve kinds of materials used in building the tabernacle; these materials were of three categories: minerals, plants, and animals.
 - C. Without a consecration in which we offer the most precious things to God, the building of God cannot come into being in a practical way—Rom. 12:1, 4-5.
 - D. For the sake of God's dwelling place, through our labor we should plunder Egypt of its wealth and offer it to God for His building—Exo. 11:2; 12:35-36.
- III. The materials for God's building are the virtues of Christ's person and work that have been possessed, enjoyed, and experienced by us and offered to God in resurrection as a heave offering—Exo. 25:2-7:**
 - A. Concerning minerals, we read of gold, silver, bronze, onyx stones, and "stones to be set for the ephod and for the breastplate"; these materials were not used for decoration or ornamentation; they were all used for building—vv. 3, 7.
 - B. The minerals signify Christ as the building material; although Christ is this building material, God does not use this material directly; instead, God gives Christ to us that we may gain Him, enjoy Him, and experience Him—v. 3; Phil. 3:8, 12-14:
 1. Gold signifies Christ's divine nature and it is pure and everlasting.
 2. Silver, the second of the minerals, signifies Christ's redemptive work; redemption involves termination and replacement.
 3. Bronze signifies the testing of God's judgment. Christ as a man was tested again and again.
 4. The onyx stone was red in color and signifies Christ's blood shed for redemption as a base for the Spirit's transforming work—Eph. 1:7.
 5. The other precious stones signify different aspects of the transforming work of the Holy Spirit based on Christ's redemption—v. 7; 2 Cor. 3:18.
 - C. The plant life is for generating, for producing; Christ is the essential factor of the generating and producing life; His life is very productive, and He imparts His life to us—Exo. 25:4; John 12:24:
 1. The first expression of this generating life is linen, which signifies Christ's conduct—v. 4.

- a. Linen in the color of blue signifies that Christ's generating life not only imparts life to us, but also produces a character and behavior which are heavenly, as signified by the color blue.
 - b. Linen with the color of purple signifies royalty.
 - c. Scarlet linen signifies the blood of Christ shed for our redemption.
 - d. The linen used for the tabernacle was also fine; to be fine in our conduct and behavior means that we are balanced in every way.
2. The acacia wood used in building the tabernacle signifies Christ's human nature, strong in character and high in standard; in His humanity, the Lord Jesus was strong in character and high in standard—v. 10.
 3. The "oil for the lamp" signifies the Spirit of Christ; whatever we are and whatever we do, we should be saturated with the Spirit of Christ—v. 6.
 4. The plant life also included the "spices for the anointing oil and for the incense of perfumes"; these spices typify the effectiveness and sweet odor of Christ's death and resurrection—v. 6.
- D. Christ's life is also typified by the animal life; the animal life is for redemption; with Christ's redemptive life we are nourished, fed, and sustained that we may live:
1. The goats signify sinners; hence, goats' hair signifies Christ being made sin for us in His redemptive work—Exo. 25:4; 2 Cor. 5:21.
 2. The rams' skins dyed red signify Christ's redemption accomplished through the shedding of His blood—Exo. 25:5.
 3. The porpoise skins are strong, tough, and long-lasting; they signify Christ's strength in bearing sufferings—v. 5.

IV. "And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst; according to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, even so shall you make it"—Exo. 25:8-9:

- A. The pattern of the tabernacle and of all its furniture signifies the church and all the details of the church life; this pattern was shown by God to Moses when Moses was on the mountaintop under God's glory.
- B. The pattern revealed to Moses was according to the heavenly things, the things in the heavens; the pattern of the tabernacle and its furnishings is a full and complete type of the church life—cf. Heb. 9:23

Focus:

The burden in this message is to help the young people realize that the building of God's house needs materials. These materials come out of our experiences of Christ in our daily life and are offered to Him in the church meetings. The twelve kinds of materials needed in three categories show how much we need to enjoy Christ and offer everything to Him for the building of the church.