

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

Message Nine

### **The Building of the Tabernacle**

Scripture Reading: Exo. 31:1-6, 12-17; 35:1-3; 36:2-7; 39:32, 42-43; 40:1-3, 20-21;  
Rev. 11:19; 15:5; 21:2-3, 16; Psalms 110:3

#### **I. The book of Exodus reveals that what God wants is the Ark of the Testimony in the Tabernacle of the Testimony—25:8, 21-22; 40:1-3, 20-21:**

- A. God's intention is to have the ark; the ark is the Ark of the Testimony; and the Ark of the Testimony causes the tabernacle to become the Tabernacle of the Testimony—25:10, 16, 22; 40:2-3.
- B. According to the book of Revelation, the ark of God eventually consummates in a tabernacle which will be the New Jerusalem—God's eternal goal—Rev. 11:19; 15:5; 21:2-3.

#### **II. The book of Exodus portrays the building of the tabernacle—Exo. 35:1—39:43:**

- A. The most noble task is the work of building up God's dwelling place with all the furniture portraying Christ and our Christian experience—36:8—39:31.
- B. For God's building we need an uplifted heart; this kind of heart is an inner motor motivating us to do the work of building up God's dwelling place—36:2.
- C. All the builders of God's dwelling place should be full of the Lord's light—31:2.
- D. If we would build God's dwelling place, we must be filled with the Spirit of God—v. 3; 35:31:
  - 1. Nothing natural is capable of building God's dwelling place.
  - 2. Only the Spirit of God can build His own dwelling place through us.
- E. The materials offered for the building of the tabernacle typify the Christ experienced by us in different aspects—25:2-7; 35:4—36:7:
  - 1. For the building of the church, God's dwelling place, we all need to experience Christ.
  - 2. The materials for God's building are the virtues of Christ's person and work that we have possessed, experienced, and enjoyed and then offered to God in resurrection as a heave offering—25:2-7.
- F. In order to have the building, there is the need of the skillful workers, who are filled with wisdom and understanding—31:1-6; 35:10, 30-35; 38:22-23; Eph. 3:4.
- G. If we would participate in the building of God's dwelling place, we need to keep the principle of resting with the Lord before we work with Him and for Him—Gen. 1:26, 31; 2:2-3; Deut. 5:12-15; Exo. 31:12-17; 35:1-3:
  - 1. The principle of the Sabbath is that working with the Lord requires that we learn how to rest with Him; the Sabbath means that before we work for God, we need to enjoy God and be filled with Him—Matt. 11:28-30.
  - 2. If we intend to work for God, we must first receive grace, enjoy grace, and rest with God; then we may proceed to do something for God.
  - 3. It is a divine principle that God does not ask us to work until we have had enjoyment; God first supplies us with enjoyment, and then, after a full enjoyment with Him, we may work together with Him.
  - 4. If we have enjoyed God and if we have been filled with God, we are ready to work for Him; such work will not be by ourselves—it will be by God.

- H. Concerning the building up of the church, we need to present everything to the Lord for His blessing—Exo. 39:32-43.
- I. The book of Exodus indicates that we need to have two beginnings: one typified by the Passover in chapter twelve, and the other typified by the building of the tabernacle in chapter forty:
  - 1. The second beginning is related to the building of God's dwelling place—40:2.
  - 2. The building of the church as God's house (1 Tim. 3:15) is the genuine second blessing, the blessing that takes place on the first day of the first month of the second year.
  - 3. When in our Christian life we experience the building of God's dwelling place in a practical way, we have the second beginning.
- J. After the tabernacle was built, the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory filled the tabernacle—Exo. 40:34:
  - 1. The same structure was both the Tent of Meeting with respect to man outwardly and the tabernacle with respect to God inwardly.
  - 2. We need to enjoy not only the cloud upon the Tent of Meeting but also the glory within the tabernacle.
  - 3. Both at the end of Exodus and at the end of Revelation, we see the glory of God filling the tabernacle, God's house.
- K. According to the typology in Exodus 40, apart from God's dwelling place there is no guidance or leading—vv. 36-38.

**III. Whereas Exodus began with fallen man in slavery in Egypt, it concludes with God's glory covering and filling the tabernacle built by His chosen and redeemed people; this shows us that God's eternal purpose is to have a corporate people as His dwelling place on earth for His expression and representation in eternity—Exo. 40:34-36; Rev. 21:2-3, 16; Psa. 110:3.**

**Focus:**

*As we come to the conclusion of the conference we want to impress the young people that the tabernacle was built up and that we too in the church life need to be built up. There are the wise master-builders and the perfecting of the saints. Through the church life the Lord will build His church and prepare His bride for His soon return.*