

Reformation Fellowship Notes • September 17, 2017
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Handout #27
Exodus 27:20 to 31:11

I. Introduction

A. Questions from last week

- a) How big was the tabernacle?
 - (1) The tent was 15' x 45'.
 - (2) The Holy of Holies was 15' x 15' x 15'.
 2. What are the Cherubim?
 - a) Mischwesen (composite beasts) were commonplace in the ANE.
 - (1) Sphinx, centaur, mermaid are examples.
 - (2) A cherub was apparently a Mischwesen.
 - b) Creatures that guard
 - (1) Temples, palaces, thrones
 - c) Picture of throne of Hiram
 - (1) God is envisioned similarly Psalm 80:1, 99:1.
 - d) Appearance not always the same
 - (1) Ezekiel 1:5-11, 10:14-22, 41:18-19; Revelation 4:5-8
 3. Why is it called the “mercy seat?”
 - a) A noun derived from the verb *kapar* which means “to atone”
 - b) It was translated in the LXX with the Greek word *hilastarion* which means “place or object of propitiation.”
 - (1) On the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), the High Priest would sprinkle blood on the kapporet (Leviticus 16:15-16).
- B. Where are we in the text of Exodus?
1. Exodus 25:10-27:19 describes the plan for the Tabernacle and its furniture.
 2. Exodus 27:20-30:38 describes the clothing and activity of the priest.

II. Tabernacle as a whole

- A. The Tabernacle is designed to retain elements of the Sinai experience in symbolic form.
1. Three concentric circles of holiness
 - a) Foot of mountain, where people and altar were (court)
 - b) Mid-mountain, where priests and elders were (Holy place)
 - c) Summit, where God met with Moses (Holy of Holies)
 2. Cloud covered Tabernacle when it was completed.
 - a) Cloud covered Mount Sinai.
 3. Ten commandments kept in ark.

- a) God gave them to Moses on Sinai.

III. Exodus 27:20-28:5

- A. Transitional section
 - 1. Relates back to menorah, which was already talked about
 - 2. Relates to what is coming next—the priesthood
- B. Lamp in the holy place
 - 1. Aaron and his sons responsible
 - 2. Lit with pure olive oil
 - a) From evening to morning
- C. The lamp symbolizes the people of Israel.
 - 1. Oil represents the spirit of God.
 - 2. Was to be lit every day

IV. Exodus 28:1-43

- A. Aaron and his sons were to be called out as priests.
 - 1. Special clothes for Aaron as high priest
 - a) Breastpiece
 - b) Ephod
 - c) Robe
 - d) Tunic
 - (1) Checkered linen
 - e) Turban
 - f) Sash
 - g) Frontlet (mentioned later)
 - h) Undergarments (mentioned later)
 - 2. “For glory and for beauty”
 - a) To bring glory and honor to the office rather than the individual
- B. Clothing of high priest
 - 1. Ephod
 - a) Gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine linen
 - (1) gold predominates
 - b) Two shoulder pieces
 - c) Two onyx stones with all the names of the tribes inscribed on them
 - (1) In a gold fillet made of twisted cordage
 - (2) Attached to the shoulder straps
 - (3) Tribe names as a memorial to the Lord
 - 2. Breastpiece (of judgment)

- a) Made in the same way and from the same materials as the ephod
 - b) In shape of square, one span on a side, double thickness of cloth
 - (1) Four rows of three stones (one for each tribe)
 - (a) Ruby, topaz, emerald
 - (b) Turquoise, sapphire, diamond
 - (c) Jacinth, agate, amethyst
 - (d) Beryl, onyx, jasper
 - (2) Each stone in a setting
 - (3) Twisted cordage
 - (4) Gold ring on each end
 - c) Attach breast piece to ephod with a blue cord
 - d) It is a pouch.
 - (1) Urim and Thumim are inside.
 - (a) Not used after the time of David.
 - (b) In answer to questions placed by head of the people for the benefit of all the people
 - (c) Question had to be in yes or no form.
 - (d) Like casting lots
 - e) The high priest comes before the Lord as a representative of the people.
3. Robe
- a) All blue
 - b) Reinforced hole for head
 - c) Decorate hem with pomegranates and gold bells
 - (1) So that high priest might be heard while ministering in the holy place
4. Turban
- a) Pure gold plate (Holy to the Lord)
 - (1) Attached to turban with blue thread
 - (2) On Aaron's forehead
 - (3) Aaron shall remove the iniquity of the holy things.
 - (a) That the gifts of the people of Israel might be accepted
 - b) Made of linen in checkered pattern
 - (1) Like sash and tunic
5. Tunic
- a) Made of linen in checkered pattern
- C. Clothing of other priests
- 1. Tunic
 - 2. Sash
 - 3. Cap
- D. Anoint and consecrate priests
- 1. Linen breeches

- a) So they don't incur guilt when they approach the altar
 - (1) Priests were not allowed to uncover their nakedness when approaching the altar.
 - (a) Priests in other religions usually served naked.

V. Exodus 29:1-46

A. Ordination of the priests

1. Preparation

- a) Prepare an offering
 - (1) Bull
 - (2) 2 rams
 - (3) Unleavened bread
 - (4) Unleavened cakes
 - (5) Unleavened wafers
 - (a) Spread with oil
- b) At door of tent of meeting
 - (1) Bring the offering
 - (2) Priests
 - (a) Wash with water
 - (b) Dress Aaron in high priest garb
 - (i) Anoint him with oil
 - (c) Dress other priests in priestly garb
 - (3) Priests have priesthood by a perpetual statute.

B. Sacrifice of the bull

1. Priests lay hands on bull.

- a) At doorway of tent of meeting
- b) Slay the bull.
- c) Collect blood
 - (1) Put some on horns of altar.
 - (2) Pour the rest at the base of the altar.
- d) Burn fat, liver, kidneys on altar.
- e) Burn the rest of the bull outside the camp.

2. It is a sin offering.

C. Sacrifice of the first ram

1. Priests lay hands on ram.

- a) Slaughter ram
- b) Sprinkle blood around the altar
- c) Cut into pieces
 - (1) Wash entrails and legs
- d) Burn entire ram on altar

D. Sacrifice of the second ram (ram of ordination)

1. Priest lay hands on ram.

- a) Slaughter ram
 - b) Put some blood on the right ear lobe of each priest
 - (1) On thumb of right hand
 - (2) On big toe of right foot
 - c) Put the rest of the blood at the base of the altar
 - d) Take some of blood at base of altar and some anointing oil
 - (1) Sprinkle on Aaron's garments and other priests' garments
 - e) Make a wave offering
 - (1) Fat from the ram
 - (2) Cake of bread
 - (3) Cake of bread mixed with oil
 - (4) One wafer of unleavened bread
 - (5) Give to priests to make a wave offering
 - (6) Burn this on the altar
2. Breast is a wave offering.
- a) It is your portion.
 - b) Offer breast and thighs as wave offering
 - c) This is the portion of Aaron and the priests forever.
 - (1) This is their portion of their peace offerings.
- E. Garments are now consecrated.
1. New priests are to be anointed and ordained in them.
 - a) For seven days, the replacement priest will wear them in the Tabernacle.
- F. Ordination meal
1. Boil the breast and thighs of ordination ram in the temple court.
 - a) Priests eat meat and bread in basket.
 2. Priests eat the things by which atonements were made at their ordination.
 - a) No layman may eat them.
 - b) Any leftovers must be burned.
- G. Seven-day process
1. Repeat this ceremony seven days in a row.
 2. Offer bull as a sin offering for atonement.
 - a) You will purify the altar by making atonement for it.
 - b) Anoint it to consecrate it.
 3. Then the altar will be holy.
 - a) Everything that touches it will be holy.
- H. Perpetual offerings (*tammim*)
1. Offer two one-year-old lambs daily.

- a) One in morning
 - b) One at twilight
 - c) With each lamb—flour, oil, and wine
2. Offered at the Tabernacle
 - a) God will meet with his people there.
 - b) He will talk to them.
 - c) He will consecrate the Tabernacle and the priests.
 3. God will dwell among his people.
 4. They will know that he is God.
 - a) That he brought them out of Egypt

VI. Exodus 30:1-10

A. Altar of incense

1. Made of acacia
2. 1-cubit square and 2-cubits high
3. Horns
4. Covered with gold
5. Gold molding around it
6. Two gold rings on both sides in order to carry it (poles made of wood covered with gold)
7. Place it in front of the veil
8. Burn incense on it twice daily (*tammim*).
 - a) This altar is for incense only.
 - (1) No burnt offering
 - (2) No meal offering
 - (3) No libations
 - (4) No strange incense
9. BUT make atonement one time per year on this altar.
 - a) Place blood from the sin offering on the horns of the altar.
 - b) On Yom Kippur
10. IT IS MOST HOLY TO THE LORD.

VII. Exodus 30:11-16

A. Taxes to cover the cost of the *tammim*.

1. When you take a census
 - a) Each give a ransom for himself
 - (1) That there will be no plague
 - b) Everyone pays a half shekel.
 - (1) Everyone 20 years or older

- (2) Everyone pays the same amount.
- 2. This money is atonement money.
 - a) It is to pay for the service in the Tabernacle.
 - (1) A memorial before the Lord
 - (2) Priests make atonement for the people.

VIII. Exodus 30:17-21

- A. Last piece of furniture (in the courtyard)
 - 1. Bronze laver
 - a) For washing
 - b) Between tent of meeting and altar
 - c) Put water in it.
 - d) Priests wash hands and feet before entering tent or approaching altar.
 - (1) LEST THEY DIE
 - (2) THIS IS A PERPETUAL STATUTE.

IX. Exodus 30:22-33

- A. Anointing oil
 - 1. Mix certain spices in a certain proportion with oil.
 - 2. With it anoint:
 - a) Tent of meeting
 - b) Ark
 - c) Table and utensils
 - d) Lampstand and utensils
 - e) Altar of incense
 - f) Altar of burning and utensils
 - g) Laver
 - 3. They will be holy.
 - a) Anything that touches them becomes holy.
 - 4. Anoint priests with it.
 - 5. Don't misuse it.
 - a) By making some for other purposes
 - b) By using it on laymen
 - c) Anyone who does these things will be cut off from his people.

X. Exodus 30:34-38

- A. Incense
 - 1. Mix certain spices in certain proportions.
 - 2. The very best will be burnt in front of the ark on the incense altar.
 - 3. IT SHALL BE HOLY TO YOU FOR THE LORD.

4. Don't make this same incense for common purposes.
 - a) Anyone who does this will be cut off from his people.

XI. Exodus 31:1-11

A. Skilled craftsmen

1. God has called Bezalel.
 - a) Filled with the spirit of God
 - (1) In wisdom
 - (2) In understanding
 - (3) In knowledge
 - (4) In all craftsmanship
2. God has appointed him and some others.
 - a) In the hearts of all who are skillful, I have put skill.
3. They are to make everything as God has commanded.

XII. Conclusion

A. Giftedness

1. "But the one thing artists should never do is abandon their calling. If you are called to be an artist, be an artist! God's gifts are never to be hidden; his calling is never to be denied." (Ryken, p. 948)
 - a) Is this true?
 - b) Does this passage teach this?
2. God raised up artists to make the tabernacle.
 - a) So, God was preparing for the construction of the tabernacle way in advance.
 - b) God allowed people to be the craftsmen who built his tabernacle.
 - c) What a privilege! What a gracious thing to do!
3. Artistic talent is not in a unique category of giftedness.
4. God has raised up all of us to do what he wants us to do.
 - a) Over the course of a lifetime, we will all do a variety of things.
 - (1) We will do some of these things better than other things.
 - b) We may not be highly capable in what we are called to do.
 - (1) We may be called, in our incompetence, to be a source of frustration to those around us.
 - c) We may do something we are good at for only a short time.
 - d) We may be good at doing X but never have the opportunity to devote ourselves to X.