

INTRODUCTION: EXODUS 27

- The Book of Exodus teaches us that there are 3 pillars to faith
- First Salvation through the Blood of the Lamb... evidenced by the Passover
- Second... accepting God's invitation to become a citizen of the Kingdom of God and submitting one's life to His **LORDSHIP**... evidenced by the giving of the Torah, the Word of God, the Law of God
- Third... a life of worship that results in life of generous giving and serving the **LORD**... evidenced by the Tabernacle
- From this we understand that salvation positions us to receive the blessing of freedom, forgiveness of sins, the blessings of the Kingdom of God financially, spiritually, socially, psychologically and physically
- Salvation also positions us to worship God and as I've said before... only those who are born again can worship in Spirit
- If you're not born again, you can acknowledge God's position and power, you will confess that He is **LORD**, but God doesn't receive it as worship because worship is an expression of love from the heart
- All of this is found in the Book of Exodus
- Although it seems redundant to say... Jesus, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James, Jude... all taught out of the Hebrew scriptures
- When Paul encouraged Timothy to study the scriptures he was referring to the Torah, the Hebrew scriptures
- There is a misunderstanding that many churches, even Calvary Chapels, believe that because we are New Testament churches we don't need to study the Old Testament... at least on Sunday morning
- Yet Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy more than any other book
- Paul taught out of the Torah which is where he received the revelation of salvation by grace through faith, the revelation of the ekklesia, the church, the Body of Christ and other essential teachings
- So the Old Testament is the Commentary for the New and you can't understand the New without the Old
- As Augustine said... *Novum Testamentum in Vetere latet, Vetus Testamentum in Novo patet...* New Testament in the Old lies, the Old Testament in the New is clear
- That is the value of going verse by verse through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation...
- There are those who teach expositionally through a book... which is good, but Chuck would say at Costa Mesa we've upgraded that and teach verse by verse from beginning to end

[SLIDE 1] Today we continue looking at the Tabernacle Complex

- We are going to look at the instructions received from God that are very insightful in terms of how we are to approach God in worship

Exodus 27:1–8 (NKJV)

27 “You shall make an altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide—the altar shall be square—and its height *shall be* three cubits. ² You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay it with bronze. ³ Also you shall make its pans (remove ashes) to receive its ashes, and its shovels (to collect the ashes) and its basins (catch liquids like blood) and its forks (remove pieces of meat) and its firepans (to put out the fire); you shall make all its utensils of bronze. ⁴ You shall make a grate for it, a network of bronze; and on the network you shall make four bronze rings at its four corners. ⁵ You shall put it under the rim of the altar beneath, that the network may be midway up the altar. ⁶ And you shall make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze. ⁷ The poles shall be put in the rings, and the poles shall be on the two sides of the altar to bear it. ⁸ You shall make it hollow with boards; as it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make *it*.

- Now in vs. 1 it says you shall make an altar, but in the Hebrew it uses the definite article **“THE” ALTAR**
- Every religion has an altar, but God’s altar is not just any altar... it is **THE ALTAR** because the **LORD** is the **ONE TRUE GOD**
- There is no such thing as a false god... there is **ONE GOD**, there are angelic beings that serve God and there are fallen angels or demons that oppose God
- The leader being Satan... all angelic creatures are created by **GOD**
- **[SLIDE 2] THUS**, the Tabernacle Altar is referred to as **THE ALTAR**
- The altar was 7 1/2’ square (5 cubits – grace) and 4 1/2’ tall (3 cubits – the complete revelation of God) with 4 horns (gospel to the world) on each corner of the altar
- The altar was covered with copper or bronze which is the Hebrew word “nehoshet”... Bronze or copper is a symbol of judgment for sin
- **EXODUS 20** God commanded Moses to make an altar of earth or stone... thus the Bronze Altar was to be made hollow (vs. 8)
- The box was made to expose the earth or stone altar underneath it

- Thus the Bronze Altar was actually 3 pieces attached together
- The grate was to sit on the rim of the box and over the grid sat the top piece with the 4 horns

Exodus 27:9–15 (NKJV)

⁹“You shall also make the court of the tabernacle. For the south side *there shall be* hangings for the court *made of* fine woven linen, one hundred cubits long for one side. ¹⁰ And its twenty pillars and their twenty sockets *shall be* bronze. The hooks of the pillars and their bands *shall be* silver. ¹¹ Likewise along the length of the north side *there shall be* hangings one hundred *cubits* long, with its twenty pillars and their twenty sockets of bronze, and the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver. ¹² “And along the width of the court on the west side *shall be* hangings of fifty cubits, with their ten pillars and their ten sockets. ¹³ The width of the court on the east side *shall be* fifty cubits. ¹⁴ The hangings on *one side of the gate shall be* fifteen cubits, *with* their three pillars and their three sockets. ¹⁵ And on the other side *shall be* hangings of fifteen *cubits*, *with* their three pillars and their three sockets.

- The outer courtyard around the entire Tabernacle was 150’ long (100 cubits) on the north and the south sides
- It was 75’ wide (50 cubits) and 7 ½’ tall (5 cubits) with the opening on the east side
- Notice the 5x5x4=100 (double portion of grace through the gospel or a double portion of freedom)
- 50 is the number of freedom (Jubilee)
- The walls were made of curtains or hangings and the gate leading into the Tabernacle complex was made of curtains
- Notice the sockets were made of bronze, but the hooks were made of silver
- As we said earlier... bronze is a symbol of judgment for sin and silver is a symbol for redemption and holiness

[SLIDE 3] Vs. 16 gives instructions for the entrance to the Tabernacle

Exodus 27:16–19 (NKJV)

¹⁶ “For the gate of the court *there shall be* a screen twenty cubits long, *woven of* blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. It *shall have* four pillars and four sockets. ¹⁷ All the pillars around the court shall have bands of silver; their hooks *shall be* of silver and their

sockets of bronze. ¹⁸ The length of the court *shall be* one hundred cubits, the width fifty throughout, and the height five cubits, *made of* fine woven linen and its sockets of bronze. ¹⁹ All the utensils of the tabernacle for all its service, all its pegs, and all the pegs of the court, *shall be* of bronze.

- Again we see the symbols of grace... 5 cubits in height
- The symbols of the gospel... you enter in the gate of 4 pillars
- The symbols of redemption and holiness... the silver hooks
- The symbols of judgment for sin... bronze
- The symbols of redemption... scarlet thread
- The symbols of heaven... blue thread
- The symbols of the Kingdom of God... purple thread
- The symbols of righteousness... fine woven linen (white)
- Everything about the Tabernacle communicates God's plan to redeem man and that is the basis of our worship
- We love Him because He first loved us... God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, redeemed us
- **[SLIDE 4]** You would enter into the gate of the Tabernacle and the first thing you would come to is the Bronze Altar
- Beyond the Bronze Altar is the entrance to the Tabernacle, which you could only enter if you were a priest.

Exodus 27:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ “And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually. ²¹ In the tabernacle of meeting, outside the veil which *is* before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening until morning before the LORD. *It shall be* a statute forever to their generations on behalf of the children of Israel.

- **[SLIDE 5]** When we go to Israel, we like to visit an olive oil factory where you'll learn there are 3 presses of olive oil
- They place the olives in a round, flat shaped basket and put rocks on top of it and the weight of the rocks gently presses the oil from the olives... this is known as the first press and it's considered the purest oil
- This is the oil that the **LORD** commanded them to burn in the Menorah
- Then they take the pressed olives and consolidate them into another flat shaped basket and do a 2nd press by crushing it with a round rock

- This is what they cook with
- Then they consolidate the olives and do a final press by running a rock over it and this is what they use to light the lamps in their homes
- This 3 step process of extracting the olive oil is what took place with Jesus in the Olive Tree grove we call the Garden of Gethsemane

Vs. 21 Tabernacle of meeting... outside the veil... before the Testimony

- This is the holy place where the menorah and the shewbread table are located
- Aaron and his sons will tend to the Menorah from evening until morning to make sure it didn't go out in the middle of the night
- The Menorah was to burn always... and notice... this is a statute forever
- The word forever is "olam" and this is word always has Kingdom significance... thus the lamp is to provide light forever to their generations... signifying God's leadership of the children of Israel
- However, today the Menorah doesn't burn because there is no temple
- The Rabbi's teach this is a consequence for Israel giving themselves over to idolatry... the glory departed... the light has gone out

In Chapter 28 God establishes the priesthood

Exodus 28:1-4 (NKJV)

28 "Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron *and* Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ² And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. ³ So you shall speak to all *who are* gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. ⁴ And these *are* the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest.

- God commands Moshe to set Aaron and his sons apart to minister to God as "kohanim" or priest
- The word "kohanim" can also be translated servant... thus Aaron and his sons were chosen by God, set apart to serve the **LORD**
- That is how God operates in the Kingdom
- God speaks to leadership about who to set apart to serve the **LORD**

- You might say... why doesn't God speak to me? I would say... I don't know... I just know he works through leadership
- Everyone I know that is in leadership today are there because a leader heard from God and invited them to serve the **LORD**
- I'm in the ministry because I was invited to serve the **LORD** and when I was asked, I took it as the **LORD** setting me apart to serve Him
- Thus God sets Aaron and his sons apart to serve Him and notice... He commands Moses to make them holy garments for glory and beauty so they can minister to the **LORD**
- This is a picture of God's empowering Presence, His grace at work in us
- Glory is "chabad" and beautify is "tiperet" which means splendor or magnificent
- When God sets us apart for service, He empowers us with His glory and surrounds us with His magnificence, His Presence and our lives shine and that elevates us... raises us up
- Vs. 3... God says He will speak to the artisans and give them the wisdom to know how to make Aaron's garments
- Knowledge is knowing information, wisdom is knowledge applied
- **NOTICE**... not everyone is chosen to serve, God is selective, which means God is the One who places us in areas of service
- The one God selects, He gives wisdom to know what to do
- Another way to say it... God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called... so if a leader has invited you to serve... begin asking for wisdom and expect God to give it to you
- **[SLIDE 6]** Vs. 4 God instructs them to make a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban and a sash (separates the upper body from the lower body)
- **NOTE:** The relationship between the priests and the gifted artisans
- That is a picture of how the Body of Christ works together... there are those who minister to the **LORD** and the people
- There are those who use their skills empowered with God's wisdom so the ministers can serve the **LORD** and the people... both are essential

[SLIDE 7] First the Ephod

Exodus 28:5–14 (NKJV)

⁵“They shall take the gold, blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and the fine linen, ⁶ and they shall make the ephod of gold, blue, purple, *and* scarlet *thread*, and fine woven linen, artistically worked. ⁷ It shall have two shoulder straps joined at its two edges, and so it shall be joined together. ⁸ And the

intricately woven band of the ephod, which *is* on it, shall be of the same workmanship, *made of* gold, blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and fine woven linen.⁹ “Then you shall take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel: ¹⁰ six of their names on one stone and six names on the other stone, in order of their birth. ¹¹ With the work of an engraver in stone, *like* the engravings of a signet, you shall engrave the two stones with the names of the sons of Israel. You shall set them in settings of gold. ¹² And you shall put the two stones on the shoulders of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. So Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders as a memorial. ¹³ You shall also make settings of gold, ¹⁴ and you shall make two chains of pure gold like braided cords, and fasten the braided chains to the settings.

Notice vs. 6... it says the Ephod is artistically worked

- The word “artistically” is the Hebrew word “hoshev” and it implies the use of the imagination to create new ideas
- God is creative... God gives wisdom and this wisdom works through the imagination, using knowledge and skill to create something new, original
- The Ephod was a multi-colored vest with gold, blue, purple, scarlet thread held together with a woven band
- **[SLIDE 8]** It had 2 shoulder straps that were attached with 2 **SHOHAM** stones set in gold, one on each side, each with six names of the children of Israel on them in the order of their birth
- Here we see the ministry of the priest... they are ministering to God **AND** they have on their shoulders the names of the tribes of Israel so they will remember them before God
- This describes the ministry of intercession
- Prayer is one of the great privileges of the child of God... we can stand in the Presence of God and bring our needs and the needs of others before God
- I would encourage you to take advantage of this glorious privilege
- Rather than complain, pray... pray for God to reveal Himself, bind the spiritual darkness and pray for God to release His power and revelation

[SLIDE 9] The next piece of garment is the Breastplate

Exodus 28:15–28 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “You shall make the breastplate of judgment. Artistically woven according to the workmanship of the ephod you shall make it: of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and fine woven linen, you shall make it. ¹⁶ It shall be

doubled into a square: a span *shall be* its length, and a span *shall be* its width. ¹⁷ And you shall put settings of stones in it, four rows of stones: *The first row shall be* a sardius, a topaz, and an emerald; *this shall be* the first row; ¹⁸ the second row *shall be* a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond; ¹⁹ the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; ²⁰ and the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They shall be set in gold settings. ²¹ And the stones shall have the names of the sons of Israel, twelve according to their names, *like* the engravings of a signet, each one with its own name; they shall be according to the twelve tribes. ²² “You shall make chains for the breastplate at the end, like braided cords of pure gold. ²³ And you shall make two rings of gold for the breastplate, and put the two rings on the two ends of the breastplate. ²⁴ Then you shall put the two braided *chains* of gold in the two rings which are on the ends of the breastplate; ²⁵ and the *other* two ends of the two braided *chains* you shall fasten to the two settings, and put them on the shoulder straps of the ephod in the front. ²⁶ “You shall make two rings of gold, and put them on the two ends of the breastplate, on the edge of it, which is on the inner side of the ephod. ²⁷ And two *other* rings of gold you shall make, and put them on the two shoulder straps, underneath the ephod toward its front, right at the seam above the intricately woven band of the ephod. ²⁸ They shall bind the breastplate by means of its rings to the rings of the ephod, using a blue cord, so that it is above the intricately woven band of the ephod, and so that the breastplate does not come loose from the ephod.

- Notice God refers to the Breastplate as the Breastplate of Judgment
- **REMEMBER:** God’s judgment does not mean punishment, but decision
- The Breastplate was worn over the Ephod
- The Breastplate was to have 12 stones, 4 rows of three, each stone with the name of a tribe of Israel on them

The stones would have appeared as follows...

- **ROW 1:** Sardius/Odem (Reuben), Topaz/Pitdah (Shimon), Emerald/Carbuncle/Bareqet (Levi)
- **ROW 2:** Turquoise/Nopek (Judah), Sapphire/Sappir (Issachar), Diamond/Yahalom (Zebulun)
- **ROW 3:** Jacinth/Ligure/Lesem (Nephtali), Agate/Sebo (Gad), Amethyst/Ahlama (Asher)
- **ROW 4:** Beryl/Tarsis (Manasseh), Onyx/Soham (Ephram), Jasper/Yosefe (Benjamin)

Exodus 28:29–30 (NKJV)

²⁹“So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of judgment over his heart, when he goes into the holy *place*, as a memorial before the LORD continually. ³⁰ And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron’s heart when he goes in before the LORD. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually.

- The High Priest bore the children of Israel on his heart as a memorial, each tribe represented by a precious stone
- Notice it says He ministers in the holy place continually meaning everytime the High Priest went into the Holy Place (daily), the people were on his heart... again speaking of intercession
- That is a true minister... they have the people on their heart
- **[SLIDE 10]** Vs. 30 mentions the Urim and the Thummim (Lights and The Perfections)... a black and a white stone
- The Urim and Thummim were kept in a pocket in the breastplate and when they would inquire of the **LORD**, they would pull out a stone and if it was white the answer was yes and if it was black the answer was no
- This was how they would determine the will of God (led by God)... and there was a supernatural aspect to this

Exodus 28:31–35 (NKJV)

³¹“You shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue. ³² There shall be an opening for his head in the middle of it; it shall have a woven binding all around its opening, like the opening in a coat of mail, so that it does not tear. ³³ And upon its hem you shall make pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet, all around its hem, and bells of gold between them all around: ³⁴ a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe all around. ³⁵ And it shall be upon Aaron when he ministers, and its sound will be heard when he goes into the holy *place* before the LORD and when he comes out, that he may not die.

- **[SLIDE 11]** The Robe was a blue seamless garment with slits for the head and arms.
- Blue represents heaven and the fact that Israel is a heavenly people
- The hem included a golden bell and a pomegranate and as the High Priest ministered to the **LORD**, the bells would ring

Exodus 28:36–38 (NKJV)

³⁶ “You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, *like* the engraving of a signet: **HOLINESS TO THE LORD** ³⁷ And you shall put it on a blue cord, that it may be on the turban; it shall be on the front of the turban. ³⁸ So it shall be on Aaron’s forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD.

- On the forehead of the priest was a gold band that said **HOLINESS TO THE LORD** and it reminded him of his acceptance before God
- **NOTE:** Holiness does not mean purity or righteous... it simply means set apart for God’s exclusive use
- One of the purposes of the High Priest was to bear or take iniquity away
- Now the Aaronic Priesthood could not do this... but the High Priest under Aaron pointed to a High Priest who could... Jesus our Great High Priest!

Exodus 28:39–43 (NKJV)

³⁹ “You shall skillfully weave the tunic of fine linen *thread*, you shall make the turban of fine linen, and you shall make the sash of woven work. ⁴⁰ “For Aaron’s sons you shall make tunics, and you shall make sashes for them. And you shall make hats for them, for glory and beauty. ⁴¹ So you shall put them on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him. You shall anoint them, consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister to Me as priests. ⁴² And you shall make for them linen trousers (boxers) to cover their nakedness; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs. ⁴³ They shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they come into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister in the holy *place*, that they do not incur iniquity and die. *It shall be* a statute forever to him and his descendants after him.

What is significant about the Priest garments?

- Garments are symbolic of righteousness
- As believers we’ve been clothed in the white garments of salvation, robed in righteousness and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live victorious, fruitful lives for the **LORD**