

Life-Study of Exodus Summary - Messages 182-185

The Making of the Tabernacle with its Furniture and the Garments for the Priests

The materials offered for the building of the tabernacle typify the Christ experienced by us in different aspects. In the matter of **offering** these materials, the people who had been idolatrous now become **faithful to God**. For the building of the church, God's dwelling place, we all need to **experience Christ**. If we do not experience Christ, we shall not have anything to offer to God as a heave offering, wave offering, or freewill offering for the building up of His dwelling place. **We need to experience Christ in every aspect of our daily life**: in the clothes we wear, in the way we cut our hair, and in our attitudes. If we are practical with this truth, we shall have something of Christ to offer to God for the building up of His church, His dwelling place on earth today.

When God was about to charge His people to make the tabernacle with its furniture and the garments for the priests, the first thing He told them to do was to **keep the Sabbath**. This means that before they worked in building the tabernacle they should **rest**. According to grace, we first enjoy grace and then we work. The significance of the Sabbath is to **remember our Lord as our Creator and Redeemer**. Let us rest with Him in remembrance of Him as our Creator and Redeemer, and also as our **Saviour, Lord, Master, and life**.

In order to have the building, we need not only the materials but also the **skillful workers**. God does not care about our human estate, whether we are high or low. For the work of building His dwelling place, He can raise up one from a kingly tribe and also one from a lowly tribe. Rather, we need to have a **heart that always lifts us up**. There is also the need for the **Spirit of God**. God filled with the Spirit those whose hearts lifted them up. By filling them with the Spirit. God gave them wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and skill.

The Erection of the Tabernacle

The revelation of the tabernacle and its furniture begins with the ark of the testimony. **God** begins with the **ark of the testimony** and then proceeds outwards to the outer court. But according to **our experience**, we begin with the **altar of burnt offering** and proceed onward until we reach the ark. God is in the heavens, and we are on earth. It is not an easy matter for God to reach us. God's coming requires a number of steps, or turns, from the ark in the Holy of Holies to the altar in the outer court.

In Exodus 12 and 40 we see that God's people had **two beginnings**. We all need to have two beginnings, one typified by the **Passover** in Exodus 12, and the other, buy the **erection of the tabernacle** in Exodus 40. The second beginning is related to the **building of God's dwelling place**. When in our Christian life we experience the building of God's dwelling place in a practical way, we have the second beginning.

In Exodus 40 we have the record of the glory of the Lord filling the tabernacle. The **cloud covered the tent of meeting**, and the **glory filled the tabernacle**. Those who only gather around the tent of meeting was covered by the cloud. However, we need to **also enjoy the glory within the tabernacle**. The cloud is the "shell" of God's glory, but inside is glory in the tabernacle. In the church life today, there is a difference between the tent of meeting and the tabernacle. We may have the church life and be in the church life, but we may be on the outside and not on the inside. This means that our church life may be merely the tent of meeting, not the tabernacle. Those who were outside the tabernacle could see the shell. Anyone who entered into the tabernacle would see not the shell, but would **see the inward glory of the tabernacle**. The dwelling place of God is the unique leading. When we are **one with God's dwelling place**, we have everything we need. We have the **Lord's leading and guidance**; we have His **blessing and victory**. Furthermore, we have **righteousness and holiness**. (Life-Study of Exodus – Messages 182-185).