

So Let it be Written, so Let it be Done...

Discovering God (Exodus) Series - Part 11

God moves into the Tabernacle

Ex. 35:1-40:38

Aug 6/7

Introduction

- **Last part of the series** – *Discovering God* – tracing the Exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt into their new identity as the Chosen People of God, the Jews.
 - **Applicability & Relevancy** - How we are discovering our identity in Christ and how we learn about God and interact with Him differently.
- **God wants to be near His people** – How do we know? Because we look at the beginning of the story of mankind and the ending of the Biblical story. It begins with God walking with mankind in the cool of the day, in the **Garden of Eden**, with no sin, no problems and friendly, loving connection. Sin ruined it and we've been separated ever since (to varying degrees). At the end of the Biblical account, in the Book of **Revelation**, we see that after God is done fixing the sin problem, it says that we will behold him with our own eyes, sin is gone, tears are wiped away and joy is full and we are glorified to be with Him forever. **We start and end near to Him. Therefore we can be assured that in between those two points, God is doing something to draw us as near as He can.**
- **Do we want more of God?** - **The Israelites didn't, Moses did.** What made the difference? The Israelites saw God as an extra challenge and someone limiting their freedom, while Moses saw God as his source of everything good. **How do you see God?**
- **How do we get more of God?** – we aren't in control so we can't force it, so how does it happen? God draws near to us. But what makes Him draw close?
 - **Simply being available is usually not enough** – many of us who have grown up around Conservative Church environments say, 'if God has something supernatural for me, I'm open to it.' But we don't pursue it. I don't see a lot of teaching about things just happening to people (although it happens). I see a call from Paul the Apostle and Jesus Christ to press in and seek.
 - **We can't bring the fire, but we can prepare the altar** – Elijah prepared the altar on Mt. Carmel, but couldn't light it from heaven, that was God's job. Same thing with us and the supernatural presence of God (or the miraculous). We set the stage and God's the center star. Either He comes or He doesn't, it's His prerogative. But we can set the tone and worship place so that He is welcomed in as the King He is.

We Must PREPARE for God's PRESENCE

- **This Week's Focus**
 - **Where we are going** - We close out this season of Israel's journey, moving from the base of Mount Sinai where they got the 10 commandments and beginning the journey into the desert toward the Promised Land.
 - **What God wants to Accomplish** - God wanted to make sure that the Golden Calf situation, which we studied last week, never happens again.
 - **Last Week's Point** - As I taught last week, it only happened because there was no real relationship with God to stop them. They had said yes with their mouth but their hearts were still their own.
 - **God's Plan = More of His presence.** His presence changes everything. It may not change every heart (as we know from Judas), but it CAN. And the key to God's presence is Him drawing close to His people. We can't reach Him so it's either His initiative or nothing. Yet, because God wanted the Jews to be His precious people, He had Moses design a tabernacle where He would come and dwell among them as they camped and traveled.
 - **Not recapping Pastor Matt** – Pastor Matt Bach did an incredible job laying out how the Tabernacle was designed and it's incredible meaning in part 9 of this series. This week I want to take the whole point of it and make it personal for us here at Bridgeway.
 - **Let's dive in.**

Lesson

- **I'm Serious About This!**
 - **God Reminds Israel to Keep the Sabbath**
 - **Exodus 35:1-3** – *“Moses assembled all the congregation of the people of Israel and said to them, “These are the things that the LORD has commanded you to do. ² Six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. ³ You shall kindle no fire in all your dwelling places on the Sabbath day.”*
 - **Why the Sabbath is such a big deal** – there have been countless references to the sabbath in the Bible and lots of sermons have been preached on it. I want to cut to the chase, why is the sabbath a big deal? Because selfishness is such a big deal. God knows that if given the chance a human being will try to achieve themselves to death. We want more, we put our identity in what we accomplish, it will kill us. God knows that we were built for Him and if we don't have constant reminders of drawing close to Him and stopping our agenda, it's going to get bad. Just as all the Hebrew festivals were keeping their hearts tethered to fruit of the Spirit (thankfulness, joy, etc.), so too is the Sabbath keeping their hearts tethered to the intimacy and respect for the Lord.
- **Who Wants to Be a Part of a Miracle?**
 - **Moses Leads a Financial Campaign for the Tabernacle Construction** – Exodus 35:4-29

- Moses Calls for Freewill Offerings - Exodus 35:4-9** – *“Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, “This is the thing that the LORD has commanded. ⁵Take from among you a contribution to the LORD. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the LORD’s contribution: gold, silver, and bronze; ⁶blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen; goats’ hair, ⁷tanned rams’ skins, and goatskins; acacia wood, ⁸oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, ⁹and onyx stones and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece.”*

 - God Commanded the Process** – Is it selfish for God to demand or command an offering to be given to Him and a place to be built for Him? On one hand we could simply say it doesn’t matter because He is God and we aren’t. He can do whatever He wants, and that would be true. But I think we need to think more holistically about it. God is a good God and wants to bless His people so let’s think again why God may demand it. The answer will be the same to the question: Is it selfish or egotistical for God to demand worship?
 - God didn’t Command the Specific Givers, so How it’s Going to Happen: Those of a generous heart** – [complete]
 - The Grocery List** – what are we going to need to get the job done? Moses was already given all the schematics, building plan and details up on the mountain so he’s aware of what it’s going to take. He makes out a list and reads it to the people. Clearly, they have these items to give. The group is 1.5 million people. We need precious metals, yarn, linen, hides, wood, oil, spices and setting stones.
- Moses Calls for Workers and Craftsmen - Exodus 35:10-19** – *“Let every skillful craftsman among you come and make all that the LORD has commanded: ¹¹the tabernacle, its tent and its covering, its hooks and its frames, its bars, its pillars, and its bases; ¹²the ark with its poles, the mercy seat, and the veil of the screen; ¹³the table with its poles and all its utensils, and the bread of the Presence; ¹⁴the lampstand also for the light, with its utensils and its lamps, and the oil for the light; ¹⁵and the altar of incense, with its poles, and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense, and the screen for the door, at the door of the tabernacle; ¹⁶the altar of burnt offering, with its grating of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils, the basin and its stand; ¹⁷the hangings of the court, its pillars and its bases, and the screen for the gate of the court; ¹⁸the pegs of the tabernacle and the pegs of the court, and their cords; ¹⁹the finely worked garments for ministering in the Holy Place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, for their service as priests.”*

 - Skilled Workers in church** – God had gifted certain people to do certain tasks (embroiderers, metalworkers, carpenters, seamstresses, etc.). It was **equipping the Body to come together with their gifts to do something incredible for the Lord. God still does that today.** Your gifts, talents and abilities are from the Lord and should be used as God wants you to use them, and sometimes that means a portion (or all) is used in the local church. But even if it isn’t, we need to use them for His glory wherever we work.

- **A good heart wasn't enough** – What I'm about to say will offend some of you, so I need you to think through it before you make a determination on whether you want to judge me. ☺ **When God wanted His Tabernacle built, He didn't just leave it to people with a good heart. He wanted quality not just willingness.** Too often we think that anyone that has a good heart should be allowed to be on stage and do what they feel interested in. That doesn't work. Let's use the worship team as an example. They are up here because they are gifted to be here. Why does that matter? Because they are not just worshiping for and by themselves, they are leaders for us (solo worship just needs a good heart). It means that they need to be good enough to both inspire and not to distract. If I'm trying to follow your harmony but it's all over the place, I'm pulled out of my focus. It's tempting to say we are putting talent before heart but remember what their purpose is. Of course, they need a good heart to be up here, but they also need talent, gifting and calling. Their job is not just to worship, but to get us to worship and out of our distraction. I don't let anyone that loves the Bible preach. I don't even let anyone that's super smart preach. I don't even let someone with experience preach. I only let those who can do the task with excellence so that we all don't have to strain to hear God and his Word. I need someone who can correctly handle it and then communicate it in a winsome and helpful way. That's a very small group of people.
- **The First Gifting of the Holy Spirit** – The first time the Bible says the phrase, filled with the Holy Spirit¹ and then mentions a direct purpose, is in Exodus 31. God had filled Moses with His Holy Spirit as a whole. God had filled he and Aaron with

 - *Ex 31:1–5 – “The LORD said to Moses,² “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah,³ and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship,⁴ to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze,⁵ in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft.”*
 - *Ex 28:3 – “You shall speak to all the skillful, whom I have filled with a spirit of skill, that they make Aaron's garments to consecrate him for my priesthood.”*
 - **Why That Matters: Naturally Supernatural Abilities** – Before we got to the spiritual gifts of the Prophets and the spiritual gifts of the New Testament, we see the Holy Spirit filling not for weird supernatural miracles, but for practical art. How incredible is that? We never think of our talents and abilities as supernaturally inspired but they are. God was giving them the Holy Spirit to equip them for their usage for His glory. It wasn't crazy, it was naturally supernatural.

¹ Exodus 28:3 mentions the same thing but calls it a 'spirit of skill' which basically means the Holy Spirit comes in and enables the skill. It can be said both ways, but the chapter 31 version explains that they didn't just get an ability, they got a Person. From my understanding, chapter 31 was God letting Moses know what He had already done, but that guy isn't outed publicly until chapter 35 which we are about to read in a moment.

- Poles, Hooks and Bases** – when you look through the list of the stuff that they needed to make there was sexy stuff and non-sexy art stuff. Someone got to **embroider the cherubim** on the curtain that stood before the Holy of Holies. Someone got to **form the beautiful lampstand** and **fashion the ark** of the covenant with it's mercy seat lid. **But then there's a bunch of lame-sounding stuff**: poles, hooks and bases. **Without those the whole things falls down.** There is no ability to transport the presence of God box without the poles. There is no beautiful curtain of presence without hooks. There is no tent structure without bases because it would fall. Those aren't sexy but they are necessary. They aren't fancy, they don't get the wows, but they sustain the same amount of glory as the table of showbread. **Never see your contribution to the Kingdom as meaningless or less-than.** Without IT and tech, there is no streaming church online. Without sound and lighting there is no worship atmosphere that can engage a thousand people at a time. Without Kidsway leaders holding babies, there is no sense of a loving presence of God in the nursery. Without administration, nothing of meaning gets done consistently. We need all the gifts employed to do any of the ministry.
- Israel Responds and Gets to Work - Exodus 35:20-29** – *“Then all the congregation of the people of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. ²¹ And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the LORD's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments. ²² So they came, both men and women. All who were of a willing heart brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and armlets, all sorts of gold objects, every man dedicating an offering of gold to the LORD. ²³ And every one who possessed blue or purple or scarlet yarns or fine linen or goats' hair or tanned rams' skins or goatskins brought them. ²⁴ Everyone who could make a contribution of silver or bronze brought it as the LORD's contribution. And every one who possessed acacia wood of any use in the work brought it. ²⁵ And every skillful woman spun with her hands, and they all brought what they had spun in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. ²⁶ All the women whose hearts stirred them to use their skill spun the goats' hair. ²⁷ And the leaders brought onyx stones and stones to be set, for the ephod and for the breastpiece, ²⁸ and spices and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense. ²⁹ All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the LORD had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the LORD.”*

 - Giving with Joy and Meaning** – This passage shows how much the people WANTED to contribute to what God was doing. These knew that it was meaningful work. They didn't have to, they wanted to.
 - Giving Stats for Bridgeway** – We recently had our Bridgeway membership ratify our fiscal year budget. We talked about all the incredible things that your generous giving has allowed us to do for the Kingdom of God. I realize this is a continuous giving and not like the one time offering Moses was taking for the

tabernacle, but the premise is the same. People were giving for God's glory and work. That's what we do. Well, that's what some of us do.

- **We ratified \$7,404,503 budget.** It sounds like a lot of money, and it is. Actually, lots of people had opinions about how it should be spent. But I wanted to get you some interesting data points so you can see a little bit into the inside of a local church budget.
 - **Where does it come from?**
 - **89% is Tithes & Offerings** – church family gives almost 90% of the budget. Amazing. Look what we can do together.
 - **50% give consistently** - An honest assessment is that when we consider how many people attend Bridgeway both in person and online consistently, which is around 4,000 people, it looks like we have about 50% of people contributing significantly² to the ministry. It leaves about 2,000 people not contributing financially to what Bridgeway is doing.
 - **% of Giving = 6.3% Net** - if we take the faithful givers and estimate our regions median household income, we get a max of about 6.3% after taxes (net). The gross is lower at 4.6%. That means even those that give, a great percentage, if not most don't even reach 10% as a base giving.
 - **Where Does It Go?**
 - **Payroll = 52%** - Just over half of our income goes to the workers of the ministry. 52% goes to payroll.
 - **Location = 30%** - If we add mortgage, maintenance, utilities and cost of being in this location we see 30% goes to that.³
 - **Daily Ministry = 18%** - That leaves 18% to spend on ministry directly and costs of doing ministry day to day.
 - **What does this all mean.** It means it's expensive to have a church in California, we pay our people so you can be blessed and any money we are able to get beyond that we pour into ministry directly to you and the world around us. **The location costs are steady. When our budget increases it allows us to invest in people and ministry.**
 - **We are doing all of that on 50% of our body participating.** What could happen if all of us poured into what God is doing here? I'm not saying we can double our budget because the wealthiest of us seem to be contributing significantly and making up for the rest of us who aren't wealthy. But I think that we can increase it significantly.
 - **The Question on the Table** – Beyond, should I give to the Lord, that's an absolute (but where you give is a good question)... **Do you believe**

² Any discernible giving that we can track. Maybe someone gave \$20 one time in cash. That's not in there.

³ Utilities, leases, insurance, mortgage, capital reserves, property management, G&A costs.

that God is using Bridgeway to impact your family and the world for Jesus in a healthy and powerful way?

- **The Greatest Artist of All Time (the Holy Spirit)**
 - **God Uses Art for His Glory**
 - **Exodus 35:30-35** – *“Then Moses said to the people of Israel, “See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; ³¹ and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, ³² to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, ³³ in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. ³⁴ And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. ³⁵ He has filled them with skill to do every sort of work done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of workman or skilled designer.”*
 - **Art and the Christian Church** – How many of you would consider yourself artists (of any medium)? How many of you would consider yourself terrible at creating art yourself but are an appreciator of art and find it emotionally moving and spiritually connective? How many of you don’t have any interest in art and are constantly saying the phrase, ‘I don’t get it, what is it?’ Okay, cool, so we are all different. So, I’m going to try to bring all of us together on the same page to understand what our Creative Arts department does around here.
 - **Art comes from God** – I know I already talked about this above, but I want to highlight again that **art comes from the heart of God**. Music isn’t from the devil, sculpture isn’t secular, creative writing isn’t busy hands and drawing from our imagination isn’t a waste of time. Acting is powerful, writing music can change lives, paintings have rescued people from despair. It matters, because art is one of the key ways that God expresses Himself and draws people closer.
 - **What haze and lighting is for** – I know I’ve touched on this a number of times from the pulpit but it bears repeating since we get so many questions about it. What’re the haze and the lights for? Is it to make it look like a show and be cool? No. If you knew the people behind it, you wouldn’t even ask the question. It’s for those who are visual to worship. It’s for the ones running it to offer their gifts to God and do something with excellence. The haze is not a concert atmosphere, as much as making it so we can see the light beams. Without the haze the light spreads out too much and ruins the point.
 - **What quality worship in song is about** – Do we have great musicians and singers up here because we want to be the best band in town? No. It’s about minimizing distractions and leading us into the presence of God. It’s about using our gifts for His glory.
 - **What painting on stage is** – not everyone learns or engages through their ears. Some people are visual and during worship they aren’t sure where to look or what to look at. You can only look at the cross for so long without

your eyes wandering. The painters present a visual offering of worship to the Lord so that not only do they do something for Him, but that others would be able to see the visual and praise God in their hearts seeing a visualization of worship.

- **What expressive dance in worship is about** – some people need to get in on the action and sitting with their hands in their lap makes them feel distant. They want to get up and walk around. They want to dance. They want to use their whole bodies to honor the Lord and not just their hands. They are the expressive ones. They are the ones that feel movement in the song and in the air. Just as King David & Prophet Miriam danced before God, so do they.
 - **Hobby Nights** - hobby nights drew out artists from all over our church. I have a **turtle on my desk** carved out of a Hawaiian coconut shell by one of our resident artists here at Bridgeway and it reminds me of one of the greatest vacations my family ever took when this church sent us to Hawaii in honor of my serving 20 years as senior pastor. That turtle means joy and peace and memories to me.
 - **Haven Ministry, Worship, Tech** –If you want to get connected to other artists please reach out to haven@bridgeway.church. If you want to participate in the behind the scenes tech of the church, email creativearts@bridgeway.church, and if you feel God has gifted you and called you to engage with worship through music we have so many opportunities here. Reach out to Rayon Graham at rgraham@bridgeway.church.
- **There's a First Time for Everything**
 - **The People Give TOO MUCH**
 - **Exodus 36:1-7** – *“Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the LORD has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded.”² And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work.³ And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning,⁴ so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing,⁵ and said to Moses, “The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do.”⁶ So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, “Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary.” So the people were restrained from bringing,⁷ for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.”*
 - **Stopping the People from Giving More (various motivations)** – What in the world? This has never happened to any church ever. What's going on? It's probably a variety of motivations. Some could just be so excited to support something that mattered with God. Some may be gun-shy about the Golden Calf

incident and wanting to make amends with God and do something for Him. Some may just have been moved by God. Usually in any given movement of God (including Revival) there are a variety of motivations for why people engage. But how cool that a bunch of people wanted to give with their full hearts to something that was for God. Amazing.

- **God's Vacation Home**

- **What Israel Created for God's Glory – Exodus 36:8-39:43**

- **Curtains, Frame and Infrastructure - Exodus 36:8-38** – *“And all the craftsmen among the workmen made the tabernacle with ten curtains. They were made of fine twined linen and blue and purple and scarlet yarns, with cherubim skillfully worked. ⁹ The length of each curtain was twenty-eight cubits, and the breadth of each curtain four cubits. All the curtains were the same size. ¹⁰ He coupled five curtains to one another, and the other five curtains he coupled to one another. ¹¹ He made loops of blue on the edge of the outermost curtain of the first set. Likewise he made them on the edge of the outermost curtain of the second set. ¹² He made fifty loops on the one curtain, and he made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that was in the second set. The loops were opposite one another. ¹³ And he made fifty clasps of gold, and coupled the curtains one to the other with clasps. So the tabernacle was a single whole. ¹⁴ He also made curtains of goats' hair for a tent over the tabernacle. He made eleven curtains. ¹⁵ The length of each curtain was thirty cubits, and the breadth of each curtain four cubits. The eleven curtains were the same size. ¹⁶ He coupled five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves. ¹⁷ And he made fifty loops on the edge of the outermost curtain of the one set, and fifty loops on the edge of the other connecting curtain. ¹⁸ And he made fifty clasps of bronze to couple the tent together that it might be a single whole. ¹⁹ And he made for the tent a covering of tanned rams' skins and goatskins. ²⁰ Then he made the upright frames for the tabernacle of acacia wood. ²¹ Ten cubits was the length of a frame, and a cubit and a half the breadth of each frame. ²² Each frame had two tenons for fitting together. He did this for all the frames of the tabernacle. ²³ The frames for the tabernacle he made thus: twenty frames for the south side. ²⁴ And he made forty bases of silver under the twenty frames, two bases under one frame for its two tenons, and two bases under the next frame for its two tenons. ²⁵ For the second side of the tabernacle, on the north side, he made twenty frames ²⁶ and their forty bases of silver, two bases under one frame and two bases under the next frame. ²⁷ For the rear of the tabernacle westward he made six frames. ²⁸ He made two frames for corners of the tabernacle in the rear. ²⁹ And they were separate beneath but joined at the top, at the first ring. He made two of them this way for the two corners. ³⁰ There were eight frames with their bases of silver: sixteen bases, under every frame two bases. ³¹ He made bars of acacia wood, five for the frames of the one side of the tabernacle, ³² and five bars for the frames of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the frames of the tabernacle at the rear westward. ³³ And he made the middle bar to run from end to end halfway up the frames. ³⁴ And he overlaid the frames with gold, and made their*

rings of gold for holders for the bars, and overlaid the bars with gold. ³⁵ He made the veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen; with cherubim skillfully worked into it he made it. ³⁶ And for it he made four pillars of acacia and overlaid them with gold. Their hooks were of gold, and he cast for them four bases of silver. ³⁷ He also made a screen for the entrance of the tent, of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, embroidered with needlework, ³⁸ and its five pillars with their hooks. He overlaid their capitals, and their fillets were of gold, but their five bases were of bronze.”

- **This is a Very Expensive Construction** – The tally at the end says that it was built with 2195lbs of gold, 7550lbs of silver, 5310lbs of bronze. Now of course we have no way of knowing the value of precious metals at this time in the ancient world. Was it more rare or less rare? Was it more expensive or less expensive. Just for fun I calculated a modern-day cost. If there are 16oz in a pound and we calculate the current value per ounce, we come up with the following costs: Gold⁴ = \$62,021,920.00 (\$62mil); Silver⁵ = \$2,405,128.00; bronze⁶ = \$10,620.00. So the total project just in precious metals (not counting the spices, embroidery, linens, etc.) would be \$64,437,668 or **\$64.5 million dollars**. Remember the main special tabernacle, not including the curtained courtyard was only 15’X45’. In other words, it was **675sf**. The courtyard was larger but only had 2 items in it and more basic curtain work. The courtyard was 75’X150’ or **11,250sf**. Oh, and **only a few people ever got to go into it and see it**.
- **This is a Beautiful project** – Notice that this is a beautiful tent building. It’s embroidered, all the fittings are gold, the bases silver, the items beautiful. It’s a variety of colors. It’s not just practical or functional, it’s loaded with beauty and money. Does that seem right or odd to you?
- **Why Beauty with God Matters** – I have a question for you. **Are the great cathedrals of the world glorious or a waste of money?** Make no mistake those are so expensive. Many of them were constructed over multiple lifetimes. Is that honoring to God or simply a way for a church to arrogantly one up the other church? Think about that for a moment because the longer you do the more you will flip flop back and forth on your answer. It all depends on how you look at it right? Don’t we want grandeur of God? Don’t we want beauty to reflect His name. Don’t we want people drawn to His stuff? Don’t we want to use the best of this world to showcase His presence? On the other hand, does God need gold to be happy? How many building projects are about ego and not about God’s glory at all? Does motivation matter more or result on people? Ahhh, that’s why it’s so complicated. To some that are atmospherically impacted, a beautiful massive cathedral is bonding, to those who aren’t, it feels like a waste of money. So who’s right? All we know is that in the case of God’s Tabernacle and Temple, He designed in expensive items and beauty. I believe it’s because ‘where your

⁴ \$1766 per ounce as of Aug 6, 2022. 2195lbs x 16oz per lb = 35,120 ounces. Multiply that by the cost per ounce.

⁵ \$19.91 per ounce as of Aug 6, 2022. 7550lbs x 16oz per lb = 120,800 oz. Multiply that by the cost per ounce.

⁶ Bronze is difficult to calculate since it’s made of Copper and tin. Today bronze is only scrap metal and it’s valued at around \$2 per POUND. Copper is \$3.55 per ounce. I calculated at scrap per pound numbers. 5310lbs of bronze at \$2 per pound = \$10,620.00

treasure is there your heart will be also.' I think it's working with the hearts of people. I think it says more about what humans need than God needs.

- **Furniture & Holy Items (ark, table, lampstand, incense altar, burnt offering altar, washing basin, courtyard curtains – expensive) - Exodus 37:1-40:38 –** *“Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half was its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ² And he overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold around it. ³ And he cast for it four rings of gold for its four feet, two rings on its one side and two rings on its other side. ⁴ And he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold ⁵ and put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark. ⁶ And he made a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half was its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. ⁷ And he made two cherubim of gold. He made them of hammered work on the two ends of the mercy seat, ⁸ one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat he made the cherubim on its two ends. ⁹ The cherubim spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, with their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat were the faces of the cherubim. ¹⁰ He also made the table of acacia wood. Two cubits was its length, a cubit its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ¹¹ And he overlaid it with pure gold, and made a molding of gold around it. ¹² And he made a rim around it a handbreadth wide, and made a molding of gold around the rim. ¹³ He cast for it four rings of gold and fastened the rings to the four corners at its four legs. ¹⁴ Close to the frame were the rings, as holders for the poles to carry the table. ¹⁵ He made the poles of acacia wood to carry the table, and overlaid them with gold. ¹⁶ And he made the vessels of pure gold that were to be on the table, its plates and dishes for incense, and its bowls and flagons with which to pour drink offerings. ¹⁷ He also made the lampstand of pure gold. He made the lampstand of hammered work. Its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers were of one piece with it. ¹⁸ And there were six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it; ¹⁹ three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. ²⁰ And on the lampstand itself were four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and flowers, ²¹ and a calyx of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out of it. ²² Their calyxes and their branches were of one piece with it. The whole of it was a single piece of hammered work of pure gold. ²³ And he made its seven lamps and its tongs and its trays of pure gold. ²⁴ He made it and all its utensils out of a talent of pure gold. ²⁵ He made the altar of incense of acacia wood. Its length was a cubit, and its breadth was a cubit. It was square, and two cubits was its height. Its horns were of one piece with it. ²⁶ He overlaid it with pure gold, its top and around its sides and its horns. And he made a molding of gold around it, ²⁷ and made two rings of gold on it under its molding, on two opposite sides of it, as holders for the poles with which to carry it. ²⁸ And he made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. ²⁹ He made the holy anointing oil also, and the pure fragrant incense, blended as by the*

perfumer. **38** He made the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood. Five cubits was its length, and five cubits its breadth. It was square, and three cubits was its height. ² He made horns for it on its four corners. Its horns were of one piece with it, and he overlaid it with bronze. ³ And he made all the utensils of the altar, the pots, the shovels, the basins, the forks, and the fire pans. He made all its utensils of bronze. ⁴ And he made for the altar a grating, a network of bronze, under its ledge, extending halfway down. ⁵ He cast four rings on the four corners of the bronze grating as holders for the poles. ⁶ He made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with bronze. ⁷ And he put the poles through the rings on the sides of the altar to carry it with them. He made it hollow, with boards. ⁸ He made the basin of bronze and its stand of bronze, from the mirrors of the ministering women who ministered in the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁹ And he made the court. For the south side the hangings of the court were of fine twined linen, a hundred cubits; ¹⁰ their twenty pillars and their twenty bases were of bronze, but the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver. ¹¹ And for the north side there were hangings of a hundred cubits; their twenty pillars and their twenty bases were of bronze, but the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver. ¹² And for the west side were hangings of fifty cubits, their ten pillars, and their ten bases; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver. ¹³ And for the front to the east, fifty cubits. ¹⁴ The hangings for one side of the gate were fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and three bases. ¹⁵ And so for the other side. On both sides of the gate of the court were hangings of fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three bases. ¹⁶ All the hangings around the court were of fine twined linen. ¹⁷ And the bases for the pillars were of bronze, but the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver. The overlaying of their capitals was also of silver, and all the pillars of the court were filleted with silver. ¹⁸ And the screen for the gate of the court was embroidered with needlework in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. It was twenty cubits long and five cubits high in its breadth, corresponding to the hangings of the court. ¹⁹ And their pillars were four in number. Their four bases were of bronze, their hooks of silver, and the overlaying of their capitals and their fillets of silver. ²⁰ And all the pegs for the tabernacle and for the court all around were of bronze. ²¹ These are the records of the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the testimony, as they were recorded at the commandment of Moses, the responsibility of the Levites under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. ²² Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the LORD commanded Moses; ²³ and with him was Oholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an engraver and designer and embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. ²⁴ All the gold that was used for the work, in all the construction of the sanctuary, the gold from the offering, was twenty-nine talents and 730 shekels, by the shekel of the sanctuary. ²⁵ The silver from those of the congregation who were recorded was a hundred talents and 1,775 shekels, by the shekel of the sanctuary: ²⁶ a beka a head (that is, half a shekel, by the shekel of the sanctuary), for everyone who was listed in the records, from twenty years old and upward, for 603,550 men. ²⁷ The hundred talents of silver were for casting the bases of the sanctuary and the bases of the veil; a hundred bases for the

hundred talents, a talent a base. ²⁸ And of the 1,775 shekels he made hooks for the pillars and overlaid their capitals and made fillets for them. ²⁹ The bronze that was offered was seventy talents and 2,400 shekels; ³⁰ with it he made the bases for the entrance of the tent of meeting, the bronze altar and the bronze grating for it and all the utensils of the altar, ³¹ the bases around the court, and the bases of the gate of the court, all the pegs of the tabernacle, and all the pegs around the court.”

- **See Part 9** of this Series for the powerful **meanings** behind the items in the Tabernacle (Tent of Meeting).
 - **expensive - ark, table, lampstand, incense altar, burnt offering altar, washing basin, courtyard curtains –**
 - **Ministering Women –** Notice in verse 8 it says that the bronze came from the mirrors of the ministering women who ministered at the Tabernacle. This is the only reference to women ministering in a Levitical way for the tabernacle. They’ve been serving but no one is talking about it until it’s slipped in here. What did they do? We don’t know. But they were a part of the ministry.
- **Holy Fashion**
 - **The Priestly Garments**
 - **Exodus 39:1-31** – *“From the blue and purple and scarlet yarns they made finely woven garments, for ministering in the Holy Place. They made the holy garments for Aaron, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ² He made the ephod of gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen. ³ And they hammered out gold leaf, and he cut it into threads to work into the blue and purple and the scarlet yarns, and into the fine twined linen, in skilled design. ⁴ They made for the ephod attaching shoulder pieces, joined to it at its two edges. ⁵ And the skillfully woven band on it was of one piece with it and made like it, of gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ⁶ They made the onyx stones, enclosed in settings of gold filigree, and engraved like the engravings of a signet, according to the names of the sons of Israel. ⁷ And he set them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod to be stones of remembrance for the sons of Israel, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ⁸ He made the breastpiece, in skilled work, in the style of the ephod, of gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen. ⁹ It was square. They made the breastpiece doubled, a span its length and a span its breadth when doubled. ¹⁰ And they set in it four rows of stones. A row of sardius, topaz, and carbuncle was the first row; ¹¹ and the second row, an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond; ¹² and the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; ¹³ and the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They were enclosed in settings of gold filigree. ¹⁴ There were twelve stones with their names according to the names of the sons of Israel. They were like signets, each engraved with its name, for the twelve tribes. ¹⁵ And they made on the breastpiece twisted chains like cords, of pure gold. ¹⁶ And they made two settings of gold filigree and two gold rings, and put the two rings on the two edges of the breastpiece. ¹⁷ And they put the two cords of gold in the two rings at the edges of the breastpiece. ¹⁸ They attached the two ends of the two cords*

to the two settings of filigree. Thus they attached it in front to the shoulder pieces of the ephod. ¹⁹ Then they made two rings of gold, and put them at the two ends of the breastpiece, on its inside edge next to the ephod. ²⁰ And they made two rings of gold, and attached them in front to the lower part of the two shoulder pieces of the ephod, at its seam above the skillfully woven band of the ephod. ²¹ And they bound the breastpiece by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, so that it should lie on the skillfully woven band of the ephod, and that the breastpiece should not come loose from the ephod, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²² He also made the robe of the ephod woven all of blue, ²³ and the opening of the robe in it was like the opening in a garment, with a binding around the opening, so that it might not tear. ²⁴ On the hem of the robe they made pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. ²⁵ They also made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates all around the hem of the robe, between the pomegranates— ²⁶ a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate around the hem of the robe for ministering, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁷ They also made the coats, woven of fine linen, for Aaron and his sons, ²⁸ and the turban of fine linen, and the caps of fine linen, and the linen undergarments of fine twined linen, ²⁹ and the sash of fine twined linen and of blue and purple and scarlet yarns, embroidered with needlework, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ³⁰ They made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote on it an inscription, like the engraving of a signet, “Holy to the LORD.” ³¹ And they tied to it a cord of blue to fasten it on the turban above, as the LORD had commanded Moses.”

- **What the Priest Wore** – Not only was so much meaning tied into what they wore, but their uniforms were beautiful. It was a multilayer outfit of white as a base, overlaid with a blue robe and on top a golden attachment. The turban was white with a gold nameplate on it reading ‘Holy to the Lord’. There are a couple additional things they wore that were particularly meaningful (at least to me).
 - **The Breastplate** – a gold breastplate with 12 gems on it adorned their chest. Four rows down of 3 across in each row. Each stone was engraved with one name of a tribe. Therefore the high priest would have the 12 tribes on his heart.
 - **The shoulder stones** – on the shoulders were onyx stones (maybe engraved with 6 tribes each, maybe not, it’s not very clear). The point was that the High Priest would carry the whole nation with them on their shoulders when they went in. This was about responsibility.
- **The Blessing of Finishing a Work**
 - **The Work is Completed & the People are Blessed**
 - **Exodus 39:32-43** – *“Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished, and the people of Israel did according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses; so they did. ³³ Then they brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its utensils, its hooks, its frames, its bars, its pillars, and its bases; ³⁴ the covering of*

tanned rams' skins and goatskins, and the veil of the screen; ³⁵ the ark of the testimony with its poles and the mercy seat; ³⁶ the table with all its utensils, and the bread of the Presence; ³⁷ the lampstand of pure gold and its lamps with the lamps set and all its utensils, and the oil for the light; ³⁸ the golden altar, the anointing oil and the fragrant incense, and the screen for the entrance of the tent; ³⁹ the bronze altar, and its grating of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils; the basin and its stand; ⁴⁰ the hangings of the court, its pillars, and its bases, and the screen for the gate of the court, its cords, and its pegs; and all the utensils for the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of meeting; ⁴¹ the finely worked garments for ministering in the Holy Place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons for their service as priests. ⁴² According to all that the LORD had commanded Moses, so the people of Israel had done all the work. ⁴³ And Moses saw all the work, and behold, they had done it; as the LORD had commanded, so had they done it. Then Moses blessed them."

- **They finished it** – just like God told them to do it. Considering a lot of their projects in the 40 years of wandering were a failure, it's great to see them complete something right, together. So many great ideas and plans for the Lord are started well, but so many fail to finish well. This was a huge undertaking and it was done well and lasted for a long, long time.
 - **There was a blessing** – I know that it's just a side note here but I think it's cool that Moses blessed the people who worked on it and didn't just take it for granted. They walked away from a good God work blessed and encouraged that they had done something great. I love that. It shows his shepherd heart.
- **A Setting Fit for a King**
 - **Assembly and Preparation for the Presence of God** – erect the tents, put in the furniture, set it up, anoint everything including the priests
 - **Exodus 40:1-33** – *"The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "On the first day of the first month you shall erect the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. ³ And you shall put in it the ark of the testimony, and you shall screen the ark with the veil. ⁴ And you shall bring in the table and arrange it, and you shall bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps. ⁵ And you shall put the golden altar for incense before the ark of the testimony, and set up the screen for the door of the tabernacle. ⁶ You shall set the altar of burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, ⁷ and place the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it. ⁸ And you shall set up the court all around, and hang up the screen for the gate of the court. ⁹ "Then you shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and consecrate it and all its furniture, so that it may become holy. ¹⁰ You shall also anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar, so that the altar may become most holy. ¹¹ You shall also anoint the basin and its stand, and consecrate it. ¹² Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and shall wash them with water ¹³ and put on Aaron the holy garments. And you shall anoint him and consecrate him, that he may serve me as*

priest. ¹⁴ You shall bring his sons also and put coats on them, ¹⁵ and anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may serve me as priests. And their anointing shall **admit them to a perpetual priesthood throughout their generations.**” ¹⁶ This Moses did; according to all that the LORD commanded him, so he did. ¹⁷ In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. ¹⁸ Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. ¹⁹ And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁰ He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. ²¹ And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²² He put the table in the tent of meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the veil, ²³ and arranged the bread on it before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁴ He put the lampstand in the tent of meeting, opposite the table on the south side of the tabernacle, ²⁵ and set up the lamps before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁶ He put the golden altar in the tent of meeting before the veil, ²⁷ and burned fragrant incense on it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁸ He put in place the screen for the door of the tabernacle. ²⁹ And he set the altar of burnt offering at the entrance of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered on it the burnt offering and the grain offering, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ³⁰ He set the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it for washing, ³¹ with which Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet. ³² When they went into the tent of meeting, and when they approached the altar, they washed, as the LORD commanded Moses. ³³ And he erected the court around the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the screen of the gate of the court. So Moses finished the work.”

- **Set It Up** – There was one last step to take and that was to put it all together. They did that and it was awesome.
 - **Anoint and Consecrate the stuff** – God wanted His stuff to be ONLY His stuff. When they would anoint it with oil (or blood, depending) and pray over it, they would ‘consecrate’ it and thereby designate it as God’s-ONLY. No one can use it for anything else. Only a few can even touch it or move it (priests only). The idea was about separateness/holiness.
 - **Anoint and Consecrate the priests** – Aaron, as high priest, and his sons as priest as well, were washed by the people, dressed by the people and anointed by Moses to be PERPETUAL priests (their lineage) before God in the tabernacle. It was a HUGE deal.
- **Our God Among Us**
 - **God Shows Up – Semi-Permanent Presence for Israel**
 - **Exodus 40:34-38** – “Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁶ Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷ But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.”

- **What We’ve All Been Waiting For** – Now we see if it’s acceptable to God. Now we see if He will come near and (partially) dwell with His people. Now we see if everything done, matters. And it did.
- **The Cloud Covered, the Glory Filled** – the presence cloud that normally came down to talk with Moses and would rise back up, came down and covered over the tabernacle. That meant God was coming down physically to check things out. Then once accepted, God’s glory (a greater manifestation of His presence) filled the tabernacle. That means He was pleased and filled the whole thing as holy and powerful.
 - **Too much for Moses** – not even Moses could initially go in, it was so thick and powerful.
- **Continued Presence** – cloud and fire as a reminder of the presence of God. Clearly God could and was always among His people to some degree and He can do that without being detected. But the point of His presence in this sense was to be a reminder and encouragement to the people that He was among them. So, He gave them physical manifestations. Cloud and nightlight glow.

Conclusion

- **First Things First: Before We Get Going** – The book of Exodus closes with God coming and dwelling among His people. It is only at this point that they are ready to set out from Mt. Sinai and begin the journey to the Promised Land. **No Presence, No Point, in moving on.**
 - **I want more of God’s Presence at Bridgeway** – I will continually beat this drum. I want more of God here tangibly and the only way that’s going to happen is if we prepare for His presence in a deeper way.
 - **Pray for More of God on those who want it.**