

Friday, December 23, 2022 • Read Exodus 27:20–21

Questions from the Scripture text: Whom is Moses to command to bring what (v20)? For what? So that the lamp can burn when? Where is the lampstand (v21)? What is it before? Who may tend it? When, especially, must they tend it? Before Whom? How long will this be a statute? Unto whom? For whose sake?

What is the first thing we learn as the Lord moves from instructing about the tabernacle construction to instructing about the priestly service? Exodus 27:20–21 looks forward to the p.m. sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the priestly service is going to bring and employ the people's offerings before the Lord while communicating His favor to the people**.

The people's service. Everyone is participating. The Lord reemphasizes Moses's own role with the "You shall command" of v20. And there's the particular priestly role in the assignment given to Aaron and his sons in v21. But there is also the special effort and offering of the children of Israel. "Pure oil of pressed olives" refers to olives that have been pressed by hand or hand tool rather than crushed in the ordinary oil press. The Lord is involving all of His people. Each one's participation is not only a privilege but a binding obligation. "A statute forever to their generations on behalf of the children of Israel."

The communicated favor. The purpose of the great supply of highest quality oil is clear: so that the lamp will burn continually. Especially from evening until morning it must be tended so that the light does not go out. He Who keeps Israel does not slumber nor sleep. He put lights in the sky to govern both the night and the day, and He will later call Himself "the Father of lights" Whose giving of every good and perfect gift never wavers or shifts due to shadow. This is communicated in the service of the lampstand. The light of His Favor never goes out. In the very next section, He is about to begin giving instructions about the priesthood who will perform this service.

Throughout most of the period of the Judges, the lamp of God still had not gone out (cf. 1Sam 3:3), but this earthly copy would. Now, we receive constant benediction through Jesus Christ. Our priest sits above the heavens. He has fulfilled our obligations, and our walking in obedience here is supplied by Him through His Spirit. Though the Lord still chastens us in fatherly love, the light of His knowledge no longer shines in a lampstand, but it shines by faith in the heart in the face of Jesus Christ (2Cor 4:6).

How have all your obligations to God been fulfilled? Yet, what duties has He assigned you in life? In His church? How can you know that you always have His favor?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You that now we have a light before You that will never go out. We know that the light of Your favor in Jesus Christ continually shines upon us. Grant that this would not be seized upon by our flesh resulting in laziness, but responded to by Your grace in us that we would love You by Christ's loving and living in us, which we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP51B "From My Sins, O Hide Your Face" or TPH275 "Arise, My Soul, Arise"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Exodus, 27 verses, 20 and 21. These are God's words. 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. And the tabernacle of meeting outside the veil, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening until morning before you all it'll be a statute forever.

To their generations. In behalf. Of the children of Israel. So, for the reading of God's inspired and inherent worked, The Lord here at the end of chapter, 27 is Uh, changing gears transitioning a little bit from describing, the furnishings, the setup of the tabernacle, which he has done from the holy of holies, or the most holy place.

Uh, to the holy place to the outside of the tabernacle, where the bronzy altar is, all the way to the outer hanging, which we Um, oh to the coverings to the outside to The outer hangings, which we heard about. Last week. And now he's switching from the construction of the tabernacle to the service of the tabernacles, going to give instructions concerning the priests, and the priest hood and the priestly service, and as he does.

So, He ties it too. Uh, everything that is in the tabernacle and every one who is in Israel. The first place he ties it to everyone who is in Israel. He gives Moses A job, you shall command? Uh, he gives all of the children of Israel job, they all have to bring this.

Pure oil of and the word is, Um, Uh, beaten. Uh, New King James translates, it pressed probably Uh, it has that range of meaning and you don't really beat olives. Uh, but it's a word that distinguishes from the ordinary way. In which? Olives are pressed. Uh, this would have been done with Mortar and pestle.

Uh, some kind of hand operation. Uh, the signified by the word beaten. And so there's care and cleanliness, it's better oil. And so, the best of the oil, all the children of Israel are going to spend extra time. Uh, taking extra care to make extra fine oil. So, even though they're not going to go into the holy place to see, To see the light of the lamp, they will know that the Lord gave them a role in communicating how continual His favor is towards them.

That he is unto them, a Father of lights from whom comes every good and every perfect gift and whom there is no shifting or change due to shadow that wonderful. I think it's James 1:7. Somewhere in James chapter 1. Um, in that area and James chapter one, that wonderful truth that we hold on to That God's favor towards us as goodness towards us the light of His blessing us.

Never doesn't just never go out. Never flickers. There's never any shift or change due, to shadow something that he had communicated. We remember when Uh we were looking at that word lights in connection to the creation something that he had communicated, by making a not just the sun for the day but the moon for the night and the stars also almost Oh, and by the way, you know, the innumerable stars that it doesn't matter how many high powered Uh, telescopes man puts however far out.

Into geosynchronous orbit. Um, He still finds more and more stars and yet all of that was made to communicate that God has made sure that the the communication of the expression of the light of His favor towards us. Would be continual. Now, there is something even greater than sun moon and stars.

There is the lamp of God's favor in the tent of God's favor and fellowship and presence. To His people and he gives every single one Of His people. The privilege and calling. Of being used. Not to give us His favor. He's the one who gives us His favor. Uh but to communicate that favor towards one another by the hand work, this extra work of making that oil.

So even a cephea Even a four-year-old girl in israel at the time. Would on occasion. However, often each of them had to do it be told By mommy, guess what? Honey. We have some fresh olives today and we are not going to To press these in the same. We're not going to extract the oil from these in the same way that we usually extract the oil.

Because this That is the olive oil that we are giving at the tabernacle for the lamp, and this has to be pressed out by hand. And you shows her little girl just like her mommy had showed her when she was a little girl and they pressed out together. And of course, god and that deuteronomy 6 sort of lay designing for that opportunity.

For mommy to tell her little girl who had, then tell her a little girls one day as they did it together about the favor of god towards his people and how we didn't deserve it. But we were slaves in egypt and slaves to sin and wicked and deserved to be destroyed.

But god has given a substitute like we see at the altar and then the priests who go past the altar, to the labor and they wash one of the things that they do sometimes is they take oil in, To feed the lamp to make sure that the the lamp of the light of god's favor.

And there never goes out, not at all. And someday not too long from now, a priest is going to be taking this oil that we are pressing out right now and so you can hear how God gives not just Moses the role, you shall command the children of israel.

Not just Aaron. And the ironic priesthood Aaron. And his sons shall tend it. Especially from evening until morning, Uh, before yahweh. But that's, you know, hebrew way of saying all the time. Um, Well, but he gives everyone in israel. A partner you shall command the children of israel. So he highlights That everyone in israel.

Has a part of it. And he highlights. That this is a reminder that all of what the tabernacle is designed to communicate is Always true of god among his people. To cause the lamp to burn continually. And so he says in the tabernacle of meeting. So he talks about the tabernacle as a whole outside, the veil, which is before the testimony, so outside the veil in the holy place.

And so you're a member uh, outside the veil, there's that lamp stand and On the right hand side, as you enter, there's the, the the table, with the bread, but nobody ever sits at that table. It's a golden table with golden plates. And the priests just get leftovers when they put the fresh bread.

Fresh bread on. But it's a reminder of the fellowship of god, with his people, but it's not just outside the veil, it's before the testimony. Because on the other side of that veil, Is the holy of holies? Whereas, the ark of the testimony. God, having bound his himself to his people by his covenant and the word of his covenant.

The ark of the testimony and the blood of his covenant. The blood that is on the lid of the mercy seed. God being not just prophet to his people, but the ultimate priest to his people in providing blood for atonement, which the high priest would bring The once a year and also the king of his people, the cherubim being built into the lint and god being him.

Yahweh being him who dwells? And thrown sits and throne. Upon the cherubim and so tabernacle generally holy place specifically holy of. Holy is most intensely all here mentioned by god brought into this description. Of the continual burning of the light. Reminding them that these are not just things that were true once at the exodus or true.

Once at sinai or true once on the day that the tabernacle was ordained. But god's presence to his people, his favorite towards them. This fellowship with with them his being alt their ultimate prophet ultimate priest and ultimate king that these were continual realities night and day every day forever.

And now we have that. Don't we? In the lord jesus christ. And the lord jesus gives us each. Not just hand work to meet olives. But to speak the truth and love which he is using to build us up into himself, which his spirit uses. To give the light of the knowledge of his Of the glory of god in jesus's face in our hearts.

And we have this great blessing. Because now, it's not. Um, just The great profit, like Moses the preacher. Or Aaron and his son's, a priests. The lord has given us. Preachers. But he's given us preachers in part because we all speak the truth and love to one another We are all used by god and the building up of one another into crime.

And we all come all the way through into the holy of holies in our lord. Jesus and union with him and that new and living way through the veil. Where he is our anchor and our foreigner, and he brings us especially on a weekly basis. And so both hold true today.

He gives all of his people, every one of us. Apart. And communicating his favorite towards us. And he communicates to us that his favor, his fellowship. Himself, especially now, in the person of jesus christ, being our great prophet priest, and king, That these are continual complete. Uninterrupted realities for believers.

Praise god. What a start to Uh, the service. Of the priesthood and we'll start hearing more. About the priests and chapter 28 lord willing. Next week, let's pray. Our father in heaven. We bless your name. For your great goodness, to us that you have Uh, delighted to devise this goodness from before the world began.

And that you have not only accomplished it. Unto your pleasure and our Profit. But Uh, now you have communicated it to us. Thank you for the way that you communicated to it to your people. Israel in. Picture book, fashion form. Uh, even by this instruction about the collection of the oil and the Priestly service of the lamps.

Thank you, lord. That you have given us not the picture book but the grown up description. That by faith, we would know christ. As the genuine reality, the ultimate reality to which the picture pointed forward. And we pray that you'd make us to know him that you'd stir up and strengthen our faith.

That we might be. Blessed in him. And that we might by his grace and us and use of us in all to which you have called us that he might make us a blessing to others. As he causes the whole body. To build itself up and to him. Who is the head glorify yourself?

Oh, god and your son and glorify your son, o god, and your church and give each of us. We pray the delight. Of whatever part you've given us. In all of that glorifying of you. And of christ, in his name, we ask it. Amen.