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Friday, May 26, 2023 ◻ Read Exodus 36:8–38

Questions from the Scripture text: What did the artisans make in vv8–38? How do these verses compare to 26:1–37? Why would assembly instructions like 26:9b, 12–13 be left out in the context of the current passage? Why would 26:33–35 be absent from this passage but in 40:20–22 instead? What point is being made by how close these passages are to the instructions in ch26?

What does this passage show about the construction of the tabernacle? Exodus 36:8–38 looks forward to the evening sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these thirty-one verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the construction of the tabernacle was according to the Word of the Lord, because it was sustained by the grace of the Lord, to fulfill the purposes of the Lord.**

According to the Word of the Lord. This passage is a nearly word-for-word adaptation of 26:1–37, with the omission of a couple verses that had to do with the preparation of the materials but with the actual assembly. This demonstrates that Moses was, after all, faithful to write down all the instruction that had been given to him on the mountain (cf. 34:27). More impressively, it demonstrates that the people heeded the words that Moses had written down. Much has been made of the skill that they had for artistic work, but this was a much more important skill: careful obedience.

Sustained by the grace of the Lord. Of course, careful obedience is not natural to wilderness-generation Israelites (or 21st century Americans!). If they needed the Spirit of God for wisdom and understanding for knowledge and workmanship (cf. 35:31), how much more His Spirit was needed for obedience!

We have seen the grace of the Lord to give them His Word. We have seen the grace of the Lord to give them a prophet who would teach them His Word. We have seen the grace of the Lord to keep their prophet faithful. We have seen the grace of the Lord to make their prophet's face shine in order to instill in them reverence for the Word. We have seen the grace of the Lord to give them willingness in the giving for the materials of the tabernacle.

But more grace is needed for persistent, laborious obedience. And that is the grace that we see here (and in following, similar passages). The Lord graciously sustained the obedience of the Israelites so that their worship would be constructed exactly according to His Word. The Lord continues to give this sort of grace to His people. As the apostle says, "let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably" (Heb 12:28).

To fulfill the purposes of the Lord. Back in chapter 26, we considered many of the things that the Lord was teaching by constructing His worship like this. The ceiling curtains and roof curtains of vv8–19 convey mobility of a tent, with the modularity of rapid setup and takedown, the majesty of the heavenly appearance from inside, and multi-layered plan to indicate graded degrees of holiness and insulation from the elements of the outside world. The boards, hardware, and bars of vv20–34 conveyed strength by the primary materials and construction, and glory by the use of silver and overlaying with gold. The veil and screen of vv35–38 conveyed how sin had sealed off access to the holy God, but that He had made a way through.

But all of these pointed forward to Christ. Christ, Who leads worship wherever His people are. Christ, Who is infinitely stronger and more glorious than any material. Christ, Who is our way through the curtain and into heaven itself. All of God's commandments for our worship have this aim: that we would come only through Christ.

How ought we to worship? How can we be sustained in this meticulously careful obedience?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for telling us how to gather to You in worship through Christ. Sustain us by Your grace to carefully follow all of Your commands, so that we would only draw near in the way that You have said—through Christ—in Whose Name we ask it, AMEN!

ARP24 "The Earth and the Riches" or TPH152 "Safely through Another Week"

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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 36 verses 8 through 38. These are God's words. Then all the gifted artisans among them, who worked on the tabernacle. Made 10 curtains wasn't a fine women and the blue purple and scarlet thread. With artistic designs, a cherubim, they made them. The length of each curtain was 28 cubits of width of each curtain four cubits.

The curtains were all the same size. Any coupled five curtains to one another and the other five, curtains, a couple to one another He made lips of blue yarn on the edge of the curtain on the salvage of one set. Likewise he did in the outer edge of the other curtain of the second set.

50 lips. He made one one, curtain 50 lips. He made on the edge of the curtain on the edge end of the second set, the loops held one curtain to another He made 50 clasps of gold, a couple of the curtains to one another, with the clasps. That it might be one tabernacle.

He made curtains of goat's hair for the tent, over the tabernacle. He made 11 curtains, the length of each curtain was 30 cubits. And the witch of you, width of each curtain for cubits. The 11 curtains with the same song, see coupled, five, curtains. By themselves in six, curtains by themselves.

Then he made 50 lips on the edge of the curtain that is outermost. And one second. 50 loops you made in the edge, the curtain. Of the second set. He also made 50 bronze clasps to couple tent together. But it might be one. Then he made the covering for the tent of ramisconsin died, red.

And a covering of badger skins above that. For the tabernacle, he made boards of vacation, wood standing upright. Length of each board was 10 cubits in the width of each board, a cubit and a half. Each board had two tenants. For binding, one to another. Thus, he made for all the boards of the tabernacle.

And you made boards for the tabernacle. 20 boards for the south side. 40 sockets of silver. He made to go under the 20 boards. Two sockets under each of the board for its two tenants. For the other side of the tabernacle of the north side, he made 24 quarts.

And they're 40 seconds of silver, two sockets under each of the boards. For the west side, the tabernacle you made six boards, You also made two boards for the two back corners of the tabernacle. And they were coupled at the bottom. And coupled together at the top i wondering, Thus, he made both of them for the two corners.

So there are eight boards and their socket 16 sockets it's over. To sockets under each of the boards. They made bars of occasion, wood five for the boards and one side of the tabernacle. Five bars for the boards and the other side of the tabernacle. And five bars for the boards of the tabernacle.

On the far side, westward. And he made the middle bar to pass through the boards from one end to the other. The overlaid the boards with gold. He made the

rings of gold to beholders for the bars and overlaid, the bars with gold. Then he made available blue purple and scarlet thread.

And find woven linen. It was worked with an artistic design of charity. He made for it. Four pillars of vacation wood. And overlaid them with gold. With their hooks of gold. Many cast, four sockets of silver for them. It also made a screen for the tabernacle door of blue purple and scarlet thread.

And final women made by a weaver. And it's five pillars with their hooks. In the overlaid, their capitals and their rings with gold. But their five sockets were bronze. So far, the reading of god's. Inspired and inert.

As we see. The tabernacle now being constructed. It's a great mercy of god. We read it with Thankfulness. And maybe a little bit of relief. That because we've seen all of this instruction. Already back in chapter 26. We're almost all Much of it. Almost word for word back in chapter 26.

But that was on top of the mountain with moises and what God was saying. Not down at the bottom of the mountain with the people and what they were doing. And so, the first thing that we see, About the construction of the tabernacle is the mercy of god, to give them his words.

So they know what to do. And god is, Equally merciful with us, if we have The humility to place ourselves under his word. And not have. Human. Fleshly fights. About what we feel like is worshipful. And What we would like to do, etc. But, To receive from the lord.

Especially what he has done to his worship. Now that christ has come Now, you remember. The samaritan woman. In order to deflect detention away from Her current personal situation, tried to have a worship debate. And jesus first said, well. Since the jews know. Why. And how to worship because they have the bible?

You know they were right. But the time is now coming where Worship is going to be in spirit and truth. As the lord completes his Bible by his spirit, then We see what jesus says fulfilled. Because jesus is the one to whom all of this looked forward. And glory.

He is our tabernacle. There he is. Passed through the heavens. Uh, which is passing through. The veils. He's he is our holy of holies. He is. I'm mercy seat. Is our priest here and he went in there with the sacrifice, which was himself. And now that he has done everything to consecrate the worship, he himself leads the worship.

He is the one who addresses us. So, the preaching of his word. And the reading of his word. Is not just something we do on earth, but it means, by which He declares god's name to his brethren. So so psalm 22 and hebrews chapter 2. He is the one who sings.

This is the point of singing. It is not to Entertain us or There's not a human. A man-made wise way to get people softened up and warmed up for worship above. Certainly pray that god would fire our hearts with his word. By the singing, but we sing Because it is jesus who sings God's brains?

In the midst of the assembly and who fills us with the spirit? And it gives us his word to sing, so that it may be his word but dwells in us richly by the singing. Jesus is the one. Who always lives to intercede and Tells us to offer prayer to god through him.

Spray in his name. To come to the throne where he sits, And, Obtain grace and receive mercy, not just Request and look for, but obtain receive. And, Uh, and so when he gathers us at the throne where he sits And thrown above the cherubim. He tells us in Hebrews 4.

What are we to be there? Well, we To pray there. He commands. Baptism. Connecting heaven and earth.

He who is? The one who walks among the lampstands, and And is in his church. Let me know his presence, especially with us. Uh, he is the one. Who doesn't leave us or forsake us? He Walks among the lampstands and he teaches us to keep All the all that he has.

Uh, commanded and he has marked us. As. As his own. And so just as he pours out his spirit on us from heaven, the water is poured out on earth showing that he has All authority in heaven and on earth. Baptism opens. Our eyes. To see that jesus is.

The same one that is equal saw in his vision. Just as he appeared glorious in his ego's vision. In that prophecy. So, also drawn, when it's on the lord's day, And jesus is walking among the lampstands, especially on the lord's day. You have all that tabernacle language in the gatherings of his people.

Drawn sees something that makes him realize that what Ezekiel saw was very specifically jesus. And he has not just all authority in heaven. But although invisible to us, He still has. He already has all authority. On earth. And so, all of this, When we say, There's according to the word of the lord and you go through here.

You see? And the words. Almost exactly. As in chapter 26, you say, Bus regard that he has given us how to worship. That we may worship. Not according to r inventions and therefore have idolatry and falsehood and mind games and rebellion. But he has given us. His word. So we may know.

Precisely how to worship. And we may be confident then that if we worship in this way, by God's grace, That earth and heaven are connecting and that god is present among his people. And for us, especially Present among his people, not by way. Of this tent that is described here.

But by way of jesus, it would have made flesh. And, Tabernacle among us quite literally. And the last, the great announcement is the tabernacling of God is with, man. So, what a great gift. Having the word of god to tell us how to worship is. And that's the first thing that we see here, because of The.

Precision of How much almost word for word this is with chapter 26. And then, It's not just the word, that is a gift from god, but the grace to obey the word, Because if we've been tracking with these Israelites, And if we go ahead and read what they're going to be like and do later.

We should recognize that it is a miracle. It is a miracle. That you can describe what they're doing word for word. By the words that god has already said, it is grace. That gives obedience. And this is important for us to remember. Uh, that And even having what? As many call.

Now, historically the regulator principal, even having A correct understanding of the bible. Like the Westminsterian view of public worship. And the second commandment, Um, It doesn't mean that you're going to do it. You know, after all of the instruction that the book of hebrews gifts On the public worship of god, at the end of chapter 12, he says let us have grace that we may worship acceptably.

Knowing that even those who are believers in christ already, still. The only way we obey. The only way we follow word by word, what God has commanded. The only way we do it, sincerely. And from the heart. Is by his grace. And so, So hebrews 12 28 says let us have grace By which we may serve god acceptably, with reverence and all So not just doing what he says out of reverence and all But realizing that when we do worship, We come near.

The living god. And here's among us. And the greatness and the glory. Of what is? Is happening. We need grace. To follow the word of god.

Accurately. And correctly. And so, when we read this and we see Not just that they had were yes, such precise instruction but they actually followed it. We say that's a separate gift, isn't it? The grace of god to follow it? And that's a gift that we look for for ourselves.

And then, the things themselves and, and Uh, thinking back to chapter 26 and the reasons for all these things. That the the presence of god would be mobile with his people because his people were going to be going through the wilderness and even already. Making accommodation for sin, they hadn't committed yet.

That because he knows that they are going to fear. The amorites. And that they are going to rebel in their hearts against god and not trust him. And that they're going to have to wonder for 40 years. And so, he gives them. A form. Of worship with his presence among them.

That is mobile and modular. Able to be rapidly set up and rapidly taken down with With all of the clasps and loops and stuff and With all of the The bars. Uh, for the boards. And so forth. The boards themselves being Uh, maybe the most miraculous provision from egypt.

That they would have. Um, 15 foot boards, or even Trunks tree trucks. By which 15 foot boards. Could be made, and What must have? Been required for the transporting of that. Even across the Red Sea and so forth. They really did have the treasure of of egypt. With. At the base of the mountain.

But what the boards and the bars. Do is they make it not just mobile and modular but still despite those things Uh, very strong. And solid. That they would know that there is a great king in god in the midst of them. And then the use of the gold and the silver.

Making. Giving it heavenly appearance and Um, the not and the Um, The board's being made out of Out of wood. That. That lasts into strong. Or doesn't decay, but also. Covering for the top that is increasingly, Uh, waterproof and protected all the way to the dolphin skins on the outside.

God, weather protecting

The place. Of his worship. But then the veil the screen. One at the outside of the tabernacle. And one. Leading into. The holy of holies. And communicating the holiness of god. And so, all of these things, The god intends to be among us people. And he attends to be among his people and strength, and he intends to persist and stay with his people.

And he intends to do so, without compromising his holiness. Went back when we were in. Chapter 26. It was several sermons. Now, covering this. Coming covering all the things that are described here. Uh, but seeing that the lord has purpose here. Not to show us. What is enduring presence with his people is going to be like, And so it's not just the word of the lord.

To give us the right way. So, you may Know that we're actually worshiping God, and the grace of the lord. To sustain us so that we'll actually be obedient to the way that we know how to work up. But even to fulfill these purposes of the lord, That they might know the gracious presence.

And the persevering presence and the glorious presence. Of the god. Uh, was bringing and for us now has brought us near In the lord, jesus christ. This too, is something for us. To remember in our worship, not just that God has given us how to worship by his word that we are dependent upon his grace.

To follow that word. That there's a purpose behind the way that we worship. That we would know him to be with us. Wherever we are. Enduringly strongly, all mightily. And yet still Glorious. Holy. For that compromising his holiness. But having brought us near. By the blood of christ. This we've set a couple of times already, all of it pointed forward to Worship being entirely in and through.

The lord jesus christ. So, i hope that in all of the hustle and bottle of The lord stays. You guys are. Able to remember remind yourself, use the word quad to remind yourself. That the living got. Has given us that worship and that the living god. There's the one who gives you grace to worship in the way that he has said.

And that the living god has come near to you in jesus and brought you near to himself. He's brought you through the screen through the veil. You are able to be in the holy of holies. Because of christ, being your priest and Atoning for you. And the glories of heaven, not just The treasures of the world gathered in Egypt.

The glories in heaven. Yours and your servants. In the public worship of the lord jesus. Then, let's pray. Father, we thank you for this portion of your word.

Thank you that the great construction project. Was not just this tent at the base of a mountain. A few thousand years ago, a few thousand miles away. The great construction project of all history. Has been your. Are turning for and gathering. To yourself. Those whom you are redeeming in christ.

So that in him, your Tabernacing, maybe among us. Help us lord to remember and perceive that and respond. Rightly by your spirit. Particularly lord's day by lord's day. As the lord jesus. Walks among the lampstands. Authority in heaven and on earth. Make us to know him. We pray. Give us your spirits to stir up our faith.

So that we may Appreciate and they hold up. The realities. In which we are engaged. Give us grace. We pray. To obey not only according to the latter of the law. You mercifully have been given us. In your bible. In your word, how to how to worship But give us grace.

To a man, according also to the spirit, Of what you teach us about your worship and the scriptures. We ask all these things in jesus name. Amen.