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# SG020205

## The Whole Counsel of God – Exodus 25-31

Got questions? Email Pastor Jason at [jasonduff7@gmail.com](mailto:jasonduff7@gmail.com)

(You can download this message as a podcast by searching Jason Duff on iTunes)

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### Introduction

The Book of Exodus is divided into three main sections. Chapters 1-4 – God develops His man (Moses). Chapters 5-24 – God delivers His people. (He delivers them out of Egypt (5-12), He delivers Egypt out of them (13-18), and then He delivers to them His law (19-24). Now we begin the third and final section of the book of Exodus - Chapters 25-40 – God dwells with His saints. In the section we will look at this week God gives to Moses the design of the tabernacle and ordination process for the priests who will serve in it. Every article in the tabernacle is either a picture of Jesus or the throne room of God in heaven. Below is an overview of the section which outlines the design of the tabernacle and its articles. It is not 100 percent accurate, as certain verses from different chapters in the section deal with subject matter mainly covered in other sections. It does however give us a good grasp on the overall content of the section.

### Overview of the Section

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#### **Exodus 25 – Design of the Articles in the Tabernacle**

In this section God gives the design for the articles that were found inside the Tabernacle. There were four of them – The Ark of the Covenant – 25:10-22, The Table of Showbread – 25:23-30, The Golden Lamp Stand – 25:31-40 – And The Altar of Incense (the design is contained in chapter 30:1-16)

#### **Exodus 26 – Design of the Structure of the Tabernacle itself**

This section contains the design for the structure of the temple itself starting with – The Curtains (surrounding the entire Tabernacle structure) – 26:1-6 – The material covering the main building in the Tabernacle (know as the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies) – 26:7-14 – The boards and sockets making up the walls and foundation of the tabernacle – 26:15-30 – and finally the screen which separated the Holy Place from the courtyard, and the Veil which separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies) – 26:31-37

#### **Exodus 27 & 30 – Design of the Articles in the Tabernacle Courtyard**

This section contains the design for the Tabernacle courtyard itself – 27:9-19 and the articles located in the courtyard, which included – The Brazen Altar (where sacrifices were performed) – 27:1-8 – And The Brass Laver – 30:17-21

#### **Exodus 28 & 29 – Design of the Priests' garments and ordination**

This section contains the design of the Priests' garments and the elaborate ordination and cleansing processes they went through before and while serving the Lord.

#### **Exodus 31 – God gifts men to do the work and a Sabbath to rest**

This section closes with God gifting men to bring to pass the designs He had given to Moses. It is just like the Lord to design the tabernacle, provide the materials, and then gift people to do the work He designed. It seems once again it is all the work of the Lord! God also in this chapter reiterates the importance of the Sabbath.

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## **Exodus 25-31 – part two**

### **“The Ordination of the priests”**

**The Book of Exodus can be divided into 3 sections**

**#1 - Exodus 1-4 – God Develops His Man**

- It is the story of the background and calling of Moses

**#2 - Exodus 5-24 – God Delivers His people**

- By bringing them out of Egypt
- By setting them apart in the wilderness
- By giving to them His law

**#3 - Exodus 25-40 – God Dwells with His Saints**

- The design of the tabernacle
  - The building of the tabernacle

**Now last week we looked at the design of the tabernacle (see the back of your study guide)**

**The Tabernacle had three sections**

- **The Courtyard**
- **The Holy Place**
- **The Holy of Holies**

**As you would enter the Courtyard through the gate or the door (Jesus) you would notice two articles**

**The Articles of the Courtyard**

**#1 - The Bronze Altar – Exodus 27:1-8**

**#2 - The Brass Laver – Exodus 30:17-21**

- The altar was where the sacrifices would take place
  - And the laver was where the priests would wash before entering the holy place

**Then if you were a priest you could enter the Holy Place - and inside the holy place you would notice 3 articles**

**The Articles of the Tabernacle**

**#1 - The Table of showbread – Exodus 25:23-30**

**#2 - The Golden lampstand – Exodus 25:31-40**

**#3 - The Altar of incense – Exodus 30:1-16**

**And each of them were a picture of Jesus in that He is the bread of Life, He is the light of the world, and He ever lives to make intercession for us**

**Then if you were the High priest, only one day a year, you could enter into the Holy of Holies and inside the Holy of Holies you would find...**

**The Ark of the Covenant – Exodus 25:10-22**

- It was here that the very presence of God dwelt
  - And it was this article that was made first
- We might think but that is not practical
  - Steve would have gone nuts if we started setting up chairs in the sanctuary redo before it was done being painted and the floors done

**But that is exactly what happened, it is exactly what God desired – why???**

- Because it is the most important – the presence of God is more important, not the walls or the curtains or the altar – it's God – so different than we normally think
  - Normally we work so hard to make sure the music is right and the message is funny
  - At other churches people are all concerned about how they look
- But God is speaking to us through this picture – what is most important
  - What you need the most – is My presence

- That can not be conjured up, or purchased
- But it is what we should be praying for, church
  - Lord, would you show up tonight and work among us –
  - I know Lord You are everywhere – but work here in our hearts in a way we can comprehend
  - That is what we need, church
- The ark, where the presence of God was, was first in importance

**And over the ark was the Mercy Seat – God said – “There I will meet with you” – It is not that we work ourselves into the presence of God – no, God says I will meet with you – but it will be at the Mercy Seat – where the blood of the sacrifice was sprinkled**

- you see friends, Old Testament, New Testament, between the testaments – it was never about keeping the Law – the Law is good – But God meets with man because of mercy – at the Mercy Seat I will meet you

**Well, next we move out past the veil from the Holy of Holies, to the Holy Place**

- And as I said before there were three articles in the Holy Place
  - The first one you would encounter first if you were leaving the Holy of Holies was the altar of Incense – where the priest would have incense burning before the Lord at all times

**It was a picture of Jesus in His current ministry – He now ever lives to do what??? – to make intercession for us**

- Incense a picture of prayer – Jesus is interceding for you, before the presence of God

**Next to your right (leaving the Holy of Holies) would be the 7 branch candle stick**

- made out of 75 pounds of gold
  - the priest would keep the wicks burning continually – it was the only light for the temple – the light came from the oil
- The picture that He is the light of the world and the light for all our ministry
  - It is picture of how Jesus did ministry – not in His own strength – Zech 4 – speaking of this 7 branch candle stick and looking forward to the ministry of the Messiah – it will not be by might, nor by power, but By My Spirit says the Lord – the Spirit – represented by the oil was the source of light

**Well – across the room you would find the table of showbread**

- again made out of acacia wood – overlaid with gold
  - and it was there the priest would put out 12 loaves of bread representing the twelve tribes of Israel
  - And they were held up – by a frame the size of the man’s hand

**The picture of Christ – again the wood overlaid with gold, but also Jesus is the bread of Life**

- And it is He who holds us in His hand
  - It is all a picture of Jesus

**So we understand???? –Remember the book of Hebrews and Revelation says that this tabernacle was a picture of what we would see in heaven – so I don’t want you lost in heaven, if you’re not listening - don’t tell anyone where you went to church**

- The Tabernacle had 3 parts – the courtyard, the main structure was divided into two parts – Holy Place and the Holy of Holies

**Inside the Holy of Holies was the...**

- Ark of the covenant with the Mercy Seat
- Inside the Holy Place was....
  - The Table of Showbread
  - The Golden Lampstand
  - The Altar of Incense

## **Well, tonight we move to those who served in the tabernacle**

- There were two types of ministry in the temple especially at this point in its construction

### **Exodus 28-29,31**

#### **The Priestly Ministry – Exodus 28-29**

#### **The Practical Ministry – Exodus 31**

- There was the Priestly Ministry (chapters 28-29) and there was Practical Ministry (chapter 31)

## **Now it is easy for most of us at this point to tune out**

- oh tonight is about ministry
  - well I bet you learned a lot this week pastor Jason and I am glad you needed to learn a lot
  - I bet this study will be enjoyed by Pastor Rob
- But me, I'm just back row bob – I work construction, just trying to learn the Bible – I am definitely not in ministry

## **Oh friends – this is what we need to understand**

- the word Ministry means service, serving the Lord
  - and all of us hopefully have a heart that says, Lord You have done so much for me, I want my life to be lived for You
  - I want to serve You
- Yeah but this is for priests
  - Well what does I Peter 2:9 say?

## **“But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” – I Peter 2:9**

- We are all servants of Jesus
  - Our lives are to proclaim Him
  - Whether you are teacher or a mechanic or you work in the Mall
  - You are supposed to serve God right where you are
- And so all of us will be able to apply this tonight if we have a heart to hear it

## **Exodus 28-29 deal with the priestly ministry**

- Chapter 28 deals with their garments
- Chapter 29 deals with their ordination

### **Exodus Chapter 28**

#### **The primary ministry of the priests – 28:1-5**

- they were to minister to the Lord

## **That was the first priority**

- And this is the first priority for me and for you
  - Again – as we saw last week and will see again tonight before the study is over – not everybody is supposed to do the same thing in serving the Lord
  - Not everyone is supposed to be a teaching pastor, not everyone is supposed to be a worship leader or a missionary
- But everyone of us is called to serve the Lord
  - But you might say, but I can't teach, I can't sing
  - Hold on – the first priority you have is to minister to the Lord
- My first and most important ministry is not to teach the Word, though I love doing it
  - It's not even to my family, though the Lord has that for me as well

## **Our first ministry is to the Lord – to come here with a heart to honor Him**

- To worship Him, and give Him glory
  - To open up His Word and say, Lord speak to my heart

- Our primary ministry – that all of us can do, no degree required – is we can minister to the Lord

- That's the most important – never lose sight of that

### **Notice their garments – 5 parts to them**

#### **#1 - A breastplate – Exodus 28:6-29**

#### **A couple of things to note about the outfit the High Priest was to wear**

- He got to wear a cool little hat and a sash, very chic - But then they put on him the breastplate
  - Each of those stones on the breastplate represented one of the 12 tribes of Israel, and they were to be bared on the heart of the High priest

#### **The High Priest was to bare the children of Israel on His heart**

- And we as ministers are to bear the people God has called us to minister to on our hearts
  - Do you bear your family, those you work with, those God has put in your sphere of influence on your heart in prayer
- And praying for someone is the most effective thing we can do for them
  - We act like it is just pastor speak
  - But prayer is powerful

#### **Notice – primary ministry – to minister to the Lord**

- Secondary ministry – to bear the people on His heart
  - I point this out because all of us can be active and effective in the two most important ministries, ministering to God and bearing the people, praying for one another without any ministry training

#### **#2 – It was made of Linen – Exodus 28:8, 15**

- And I love this picture here – God makes their priestly outfits out of something that would be cool to where
  - And I really think other than just being practical – it's hot in the desert – it's a great picture as well
- God didn't want them wearing something like wool, where they would be sweating all over the tabernacle
  - And the reason – I believe – because as we serve the Lord it is to be done by inspiration not perspiration

#### **There is a time and a place for perspiration**

- when you are at the gym, when you are working in the back yard – I'm sure you girls don't feel this way but for us guys, I feel like I'm accomplishing something when I'm sweating
  - I have a desk job – so sweat means labor

#### **And again that is great for running on a treadmill and mowing the lawn**

- but serving Jesus is not supposed to be that way
  - no – I don't mean by that, that we don't work hard
  - Pastor Rob, Steve and Eddie is some of the hardest working guys I know
- We work hard
  - But sometimes we think – I am going to serve you Lord – you watch – and we jump into what we believe the Lord is calling us to do
  - And if I just have enough ambition and effort, well then it has to work

#### **No, no, no – again, what is the lesson of the lampstand???**

- not by might, not by power, but by My spirit says the Lord
  - I am to do ministry, anything for Jesus – by the inspiration and power of the Spirit
  - Not by the perspiration of my flesh

#### **#3 - The Urim and Thummim – Exodus 28:30**

- Now what were these – well everyone knows they were special glasses that Joseph Smith found in New York to translate the Book of Mormon – right?
    - No – oh guys the reason cults have success is people don't know their bibles
    - The first time one of the those missionaries said that to me – He translated them by the Urim and Thummim – I said, what, those were two stones the high priest would wear to help discern the will of God – not glasses – we have to know our Bible
  - Not glasses, they were stones by which they sought the direction from the Lord
- “Urim and Thummim” literally mean “light and perfection”**
- what a great description of God's will
    - we think – if I surrender to the Lord in my life, he is going to send me to the worst place I can image
    - If I hate bugs, he will send me to Africa and He won't let me get married or if He does it will be to someone really ugly
    - But I will do it because then I get to go to heaven
  - What a wrong view of the will of God
    - As you and I seek the Will of the Lord – which is a whole other study – we don't pick rocks out of our pocket
    - But we have His Word, we have godly counsel, we have peace in our hearts or lack therefore and we have Him writing His will on our hearts
    - We take all those things together and use the brain God gave us, praying James 1:5 – if anyone lacks wisdom, let Him ask of God
    - And God will show you His will
  - And friends what you will discover – is not the burden it is to surrender to Jesus, but light and perfection, the absolute joy it is to do things God's way

#### **#4 – Golden bells were attached– Exodus 28:31-35**

- Exodus here tells us that part of the high priest's outfit was to have little bells on the end
  - Some of you girls would love this – God was very fashion forward, He wouldn't wear a golf shirt 90 percent of the time, like someone else I know

#### **But these bells had a purpose – the Jewish historian Josephus tells us they would tie a rope to the high priest when he entered the Holy of Holies**

- you remember – one day a year – after many sacrifices for his own sin
  - but if something wasn't right – God will kill him
- So the other priests would tie that rope around him and listen for these bells – and if they stopped ringing, then they pulled him out – because would you want to go in there if only the High priest could go in one day a year, and he apparently didn't cut it – no way!

#### **#5 - A turban which read “Holiness unto the Lord” – Exodus 28:36-43**

- Holiness means wholeness –
  - Holiness was to be on the forefront of their minds
  - And with our last part of the robe we understand why holiness is important – it is serious thing to represent God to the people

#### **And it still should be with us**

- Not because Holiness earns God's favor, or blessing –
  - but it effects your ministry – power in purity
  - it effects your family – things are caught
  - Holiness needs to be a passion for you and me – if not we are really just playing religious
  - This is important stuff

**I find it interesting that God leaves Aaron with the exhortation that the garments that he would wear, were the garments that the kids would wear - v.43**

- What are you talking about????
  - What I just said – holiness effects your family
- What are you wearing dad, because your son will wear it
  - What garments are you adorning? – So will your kids, Put on the garment of praise, put on the garments of Holiness- not of bitterness, lust, pride

**The Priestly Ministry – Exodus 28-29**

**Their Garments – Exodus Chapter 28**

**Their Ordination – Exodus Chapter 29 – read the chapter**

- You have probably heard the story of Billy – Billy did not want to get up and go to church – His mom woke him up and said, Billy it is time to get up – but I don't wanna go – why should I go
  - His mom gave him 3 reasons
    - #1 - You are built up
    - #2 - It is the Lord's day, it is important
    - #3 - You are the pastor
- All of us who serve God have times when we really feel like staying in, like pulling the covers over our heads and taking some time off
  - But that is the exception
  - It is a joy to serve the Lord

**Why is it a joy???**

- because of the present blessings
  - because of future rewards

**Well I am glad you love your job, But how does this apply to me?**

- I am a school teacher, I work at Walmart
  - And it can be a joy, when we see ourselves as serving the Lord – no matter where we are
- But in order to do that, we need to consider the ordination of these priests and see how it prepared them for ministry
  - As we go through this, I want you to notice 3 things in particular about the hands

**Their Ordination – Exodus 29**

**#1 – Their hands were consecrated to the Lord**

- if you notice in verse 19 – they take the blood of sacrifice and they dip not only his hands, but his tip of his ear and feet as well

**And we look at this as Westerners and think - sick what in the world is going on**

- But Aaron and his sons would have understood
  - The bull that had been killed was not like any other bull that roamed the pasture
  - No – this bull had been selected for a very special purpose
  - To be the Lord's
- And for the Bull it was a very serious thing
  - It meant the end of everything he wanted, the end of doing life his way
  - It meant total consecration to God in the most ultimate sense
- And as Aaron and his sons dipped parts of their body in this blood – what they were saying is as this bull was fully consecrated to you
  - So it is my desire by the blood of the sacrifice, to be set apart to You

**And what we learn from that – is as we come to the Lord - just like the bull and the priests**

- though everyone else can do things certain ways, Lord I need to be set apart to You
  - Lord may my ear be consecrated to You
  - And what I listen to – that may be fine for everyone else – but I need to have my ear consecrated
- Lord may my hands be about your work
  - Not grasping after the things of the world But may they be yours oh God – others can be involved in this or that – but I need to be consecrated
- Lord may my feet walk not in the ways of the world
  - Again that might be fine for so many people, but Lord I need to be set apart for You

## **Their Ordination – Exodus 29**

### **#1 – Their hands were consecrated to the Lord**

### **#2 – Their hands were empty until the Lord filled them**

- Notice Verse 24 - Why is that important???
- Well because when we come to the Lord and realize He wants our lives, He wants us to serve Him
- I think that is great, and then I think – but I can't I don't know how – I don't have what it takes to serve the Lord

### **I remember my first teaching assignment in ministry – Jr. High**

- The first day I was leading worship, they threw a pen at my head
  - One day I thought they were really getting it, question time – do you have a girlfriend
    - Lord I don't have what it takes
    - But you surrender and you do
- And just when I was comfortable with Jr. High, then it was High School
  - I can't do that – they're scary
  - Five years – so many of those kids are serving the Lord kids – I can do this

### **And then He wanted me to pastor the church in Texas**

- Lord a senior pastor – actually responsible for things – no way
  - And yet by His grace, in spite of me he took that church from 17 people to almost 1,000 – I didn't know what I was doing
- God will give what you need, in the moment you need it

### **I think of David – He comes against Goliath – and yet the reality is David didn't have the rocks until he stepped in the valley**

- He was pretty committed at that point
  - But God was calling – so God provided

### **You see you come to Him, I want to serve you in this coming year**

- But how – He will give you everything you need
  - In fact He will fill your hands with everything you need
  - You just worry about following Him
  - You just worry about the who – not the how or the what – Just the who – just Him

## **Their Ordination – Exodus 29**

### **#1 – Their hands were consecrated to the Lord**

### **#2 – Their hands were empty until the Lord filled them**

### **#3 – Notice what God filled their hands with**

- again verses 22-24

### **God fills their hands**

- that is what ordination means by the way

### **Ordination – “to fill the hands”**



- Now what did they fill his hands with
  - It was really a gross mixture of items – there was the inward parts of the bull
  - The fatty lobe, the fatty liver – all the entrails
  - And God has Moses mix all of that up with bread
- And I can just image Aaron thinking, please don't make me eat that
  - But it wasn't for eating – it was to fill his hands
  - Now what is going on here?

**Well this picture will become even clearer in the fall when we go through the book of Leviticus**

- as we see all of the sacrifices are a picture of Jesus

**Just like the tabernacle was a picture of Jesus, so each sacrifice was a picture of Jesus, who was the ultimate sacrifice for our sin**

- well okay but wait –the fatty lobe, and the fatty liver all mixed with bread is a picture of Jesus
  - isn't that a stretch
  - no way – The bread speaks of His humanity
  - the inward parts, the hidden parts speak of His deity
  - and the fact all the sacrifices were a picture of Christ is not a stretch at all

**But then, it gets even better, because the priests were to take the sacrifice and perform a wave offering before the Lord**

- You see The inward parts, the vital organs, the parts not seen outwardly spoke, pictured His deity, the outward what the world saw spoke of His humanity
  - And Moses took all these parts and put them into the arms of Aaron and His sons – and then they were supposed to perform a wave offering unto the Lord
- Now a wave offering, which we haven't studied yet was very interesting
  - Seems hard to wave when you have all that stuff in your hands
  - It was not side to side or up and down but out and in

**What they were saying was – may the sacrifice always be between me and You Lord**

- as I minister to You, may You look not on me and my sinful heart, but may You look on the sacrifice
  - and of course so we understand – every sacrifice was a picture of Jesus
- so today when we talk about wanting to prepare for ministry we need to keep this same thing in mind

**I need to keep Jesus between me and my wife, me and my kids, me and the church**

- I don't want the Lord to see me in all my flesh when He looks upon me
  - I want Him to see Jesus
- I need it and so do you
  - In your ministry – your life
  - Your marriage – your family – your job
- God, keep Jesus between us and everything
  - So important for us, and for them

**Let nothing come between you and Jesus**

- we are so busy we no longer have time to serve the Lord
  - and don't think that is the Lord's heart at all

**This is so important because Satan tells the truth**

- I know he is the father of lies
  - But once in a while he tells the truth
  - Jason you are not worthy to serve the Lord – true
  - Jason you can't do it – true
- But Jesus is between me and the ministry

**Exodus 28-29,31**

## **The Priestly Ministry – Exodus 28-29**

### **The Practical Ministry – Exodus 31**

- **verses 1-11** – God gifts men to build the temple
  - God appointed men to oversee and craftsmen came to them to volunteer –
  - Chapters 28-30 – deal with priestly ministry
  - Chapter 31 - deals with practical ministry

### **Both are so important – and, equally gifted by the Lord**

- God especially gifted these people to do ministry
  - To build things, to lift things, to design things – God gifted them to do these things – and God gifts men and women in the church today

### **Not every time is it a gift of teaching or worship or evangelism**

- is that okay?
  - I feel sometimes in our church it's not
  - We put God in a box and says things like this is what the gifting of a pastor looks like – He can teach, he can administrate and lead, He can counsel – He is good directing people
  - And that is what God's calling looks like

### **But I see in the scriptures some people are gifted by God to be artist, design the tabernacle**

- that doesn't mean they can teach or administrate
  - Some people are gifted to build things – but that doesn't mean they can counsel

### **You see we are called a body, and a body had different parts with different functions**

- and I don't expect my mouth to hear words or my eyes to chew my food
  - they each have a function and the body works best when everyone just simply does the job it was created to do
- And I think sometimes we miss that in the church a little bit
  - We think – God has called me – that means I have to learn to teach
  - God has called me – I have to learn to be organized – I have to learn to play guitar

### **We live in a culture where you promote everyone who does their job excellent – and that is good except we keep promoting until people are out of their element, out of their calling**

- and then people get frustrated – I just can't serve the Lord

### **Why don't we realize God gives people different gifts and that is okay – no one is more important**

### **When can we be free just to do what God has called you to do**

- Are you an administrator – meaning organizing things come easy to you – God bless you, get involved in administration – then administrate
  - God has made you a counselor – counsel
  - God has made you a helper – help
  - God has made you a mouth piece - speak

### **We think I need to fulfill some ministry box man has prepared for me**

- Oh friend – just rejoice and thrive where God has you – because the other side is not always greener – and if you are not happy where you are, you will probably not be happy where you are going
  - Blessed is the man who knows what God is calling Him to do, and does it with all of His heart, not worried about what comes next...

### **Review – okay class**

- You enter through the..... gate (a picture of ....Jesus)

- first thing is the brazen...altar – sacrifices – a picture of Jesus in that He was our sacrifice
- next you come to the brass... laver – where you are washed by the water – a picture of the word – and the word made flesh – Jesus

**Next you come to the tabernacle proper – divided into two parts – the... Holy place, and the... Holy of Holies - The Holy Place was separated from the courtyard by...**

- the screen – a picture of Jesus, by which you enter into ministry
  - as you enter the Holy Place to your right would be the table... Of showbread – where the priests would put the bread – picture of Christ – bread of life

**Across the room was the 7 branch.... Candle stick – the only light of the temple – picture of Jesus – He is the light of the world**

- Directly in the back – the altar of ..... incense – where the priests would put burn incense before the Lord – speaks of Christ in His present ministry,...Interceding for the saints

**Behind the altar of incense was the veil**

- A picture of Christ – we enter the very presence of God

**Behind the veil was the .... Ark of the the.... Covenant**

- where the very presence of God dwells
  - a picture of Christ in that the Mercy Seat is where God met with man
  - Jesus is where God meets with man

**Class dismissed – let's pray**