

God's Plan to Tabernacle With His People

EXODUS
PURCHASED BY GOD FOR GOD

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Open: When you get ready for church services on Sunday mornings, what goals do you have in mind?

Read & Discuss: Exodus 25:1-22

1. Why might an Israelite be moved to give toward the building of the tabernacle (v. 1)? How does their giving to this project compare with Christian giving today? (*See 2 Corinthians 9:7; Hebrews 13:15-16*) What motivates you to give to God and His work?
2. God said, "make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst" (v. 8) and then goes on to give specific instructions regarding its construction. What do God's purpose and plan tell us about God? What does it reveal about ourselves and our place in this world? If God no longer dwells in a building, how should we think about church sanctuaries or buildings today?
3. In verse 22 God promised to meet His people above the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant and instruct them from there. Why is mercy a necessary component of God meeting with His people? How is our access to God and His commands today superior to what the Israelites had?

Read & Discuss: Exodus 29:38-46.

4. What do you believe God intended to communicate to the Israelites through the rules regarding the offerings made at the entrance of the tent (vv. 38-42)? How should an awareness of what the Israelites experienced impact our heart attitude as we approach God today?
5. In verses 42-46, how does God summarize the purposes of worship? Why would God emphasize the corporate nature of His relationship with the Israelites? How does this compare or contrast with how we tend to think of our relationship with God? How does it affect our relationship with God when we remember that we are *part of a people* with whom He is in relationship?
6. Imagine an ancient Israelite attending one of our worship services today. What might he or she be astonished by? Could there be any ways that he or she might see reason to give us caution regarding our approach to God and our worship of Him or interaction with Him?

Apply: How does God's design and intention for the tabernacle and all its parts add to your ability to praise and enjoy God?

Pray: Ask God to help us all to grow in our reverence of God—and to grow in our appreciation of how Christ enables us to approach and worship God.

Exodus 25:1-22

¹ The LORD said to Moses, ² "Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. ³ And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, ⁴ blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, ⁵ tanned rams' skins, goatskins, acacia wood, ⁶ oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, ⁷ onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. ⁸ And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. ⁹ Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

¹⁰ "They shall make an ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ¹¹ You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside shall you overlay it, and you shall make on it a molding of gold around it. ¹² You shall cast four rings of gold for it and put them on its four feet, two rings on the one side of it, and two rings on the other side of it. ¹³ You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. ¹⁴ And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark by them. ¹⁵ The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. ¹⁶ And you shall put into the ark the testimony that I shall give you.

¹⁷ "You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. ¹⁸ And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work shall you make them, on the two ends of the mercy seat. ¹⁹ Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the cherubim on its two ends. ²⁰ The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be. ²¹ And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. ²² There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

Exodus 29:38-46

³⁸ "Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs a year old day by day regularly. ³⁹ One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight. ⁴⁰ And with the first lamb a tenth measure of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering. ⁴¹ The other lamb you shall offer at twilight, and shall offer with it a grain offering and its drink offering, as in the morning, for a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD. ⁴² It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. ⁴³ There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory. ⁴⁴ I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. ⁴⁵ I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. ⁴⁶ And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God. (ESV)