

Exodus Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Five: Sinai: The Tabernacle – Exodus 25-31

Overview of Exodus 25-31

- 1) What special vision did Moses receive, according to Exodus 25:9, 40; 26:30; and 27:8?

- 2) What spiritual reality was represented in the symbolism of:
 - a) the Tabernacle (see Exodus 25:8, 29:45 with Hebrews 8:5, 9:24, Revelation 21:3)?
 - b) the Ark with its Atonement Cover (see Exodus 25:17, 22 with Romans 3:25, Hebrews 10:19-22)?
 - c) the bread of the Presence (see Exodus 25:30 with John 6:35, 48-51)?
 - d) the light (see Exodus 25:37 with John 8:12, 14:6)?
 - e) the altar with its sacrifices (see Exodus 27:1, 29:10-14 with Hebrews 10:1-10)?
 - f) the priests (see Exodus 28:1, 29:9 with Hebrews 4:14, 7:24-25)?
 - g) the basin for washing (see Exodus 30:18-20 with Titus 3:5, Hebrews 10:21-22, 1 Peter 3:21-22)?

- 3) Overall, the story of the Old Testament is the story of the need for and anticipation of a Savior and Messiah. The elements of the Tabernacle portrayed His person and His work. The New Testament tells us that today *we*, the Church, portray and represent Christ to the world (Acts 1:8; Philippians 2:14-16; Colossians 1:26-29). With which person or in what situation will you ask the Lord Jesus to help you represent Him well this week? (If you name an individual who challenges your ability to do so, take care not to disparage this person's character in sharing your answer.)

Exodus 25:10-40

- 4) From Exodus 25:17-22:
 - a) Briefly describe the Atonement Cover (or "mercy seat").

 - b) What does verse 22 indicate about the Atonement Cover?

- 5) To atone for wrongdoing is to make amends with a satisfactory payment. What do Romans 3:23-26 and 1 John 2:2 teach about atonement?
- 6) Atonement comes by sacrifice. Read Matthew 6:14-15, 18:21-22 and 1 Peter 4:8. What are the implications of Christ's atonement for you, with regard to your relationships with others? Has the Lord reminded you of a specific relationship in which you need to take this action?

Exodus 26-27

- 7) According to Exodus 26, the Tabernacle (or "Tent of Meeting") was to be constructed of curtains that were hung on wooden frames. This allowed the structure to be portable. The curtains created outer and inner "walls." Later in their history, Israel constructed a permanent temple that had the same basic features.
- a) Read Exodus 26:31-34 and give the names of the two rooms (in the Tabernacle and the Temple) that were separated by one particular curtain.
 - b) Read Matthew 27:50-51 and tell what significant occurrence involved this curtain.
 - c) Connect what you learn about the placement of the Ark in Exodus 26:34 with what you discovered in Question 2b (Exodus 25:22) about its significance. What is the meaning of what happened to the curtain at the moment of Jesus's death, as described in the Matthew verses (Hebrews 10:19-22 help to explain this)?
- 8) See Exodus 29:13, 18, 25, and 38. What was the purpose of the altar, described in Exodus 27:1-8. What do 1 Corinthians 5:7b and Hebrews 9:26 say about the need for such an altar today?
- 9) Read Romans 6:13, 16, 19; 12:1; and 1 Corinthians 6:20. Specifically, how will you offer your body as a "living sacrifice" today?

Exodus 28-31

- 10) Aaron and his sons were to serve as the High Priests of Israel (Exodus 28:1 and 29:9).
- a) According to Exodus 28:9-12, 15, 21, and 29, what did the High Priest bear on his shoulders? Why would this have been appropriate?

- b) Following washings, dressing in priestly attire, and the offering of sacrifices, what particular act consecrated Aaron and his sons for office (see Exodus 29:19-21)?

11) From Exodus 29:38-43, describe the sacrifice that was ongoing.

12) Exodus 30 describes a second altar, an altar of incense.

- a) Read Revelation 5:8 and 8:3-4. In the book of Revelation, what does incense symbolize?
- b) Where within the Tabernacle was the altar to be placed (Exodus 30:6)? Where is the altar of Revelation 8:3 located?
- c) How does this visual encourage you with regard to your own prayers, particularly a prayer you are waiting to be answered? Explain.

Exodus 28-31

13) Recall God's warnings that the Israelites would die if they got too close or touched Mount Sinai, once He descended on it (Exodus 19). Considering what God said about the Tabernacle's ultimate purpose (see Exodus 29:45), why were the elaborate consecration ceremonies described in Exodus 29 necessary?

14) Trace and connect the historical events in the following passages: Genesis 3:23, Exodus 29:45, John 1:14, Revelation 21:1-3.

15) Is there a parallel between the way the Israelites would have felt about God coming to dwell among them and the anticipation Christians should feel today? See 1 Corinthians 15:52, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, and Revelation 21:3-4, 21:10-22:5. What aspect of dwelling with God do you most anticipate?