

Exodus

Lesson #10, Chapters 25-31

If you've peeked at the chapters for this lesson, you may be wondering how the instructions for the tabernacle and the priests can have any bearing on your life. Yet, God preserves *all* His Word for a purpose. As you delve into the contents of these chapters, you will gain tremendous insight into God Himself—and find your soul encouraged to worship the Lord with greater zeal and love. Before beginning the lesson, be sure to ask the Lord for His help and grace to see the treasures of His Word.

1. After giving Moses the laws and commandments (Chapters 20-24), God now instructs Moses about building the Lord a dwelling place and the details for worshipping Him there. What does God want the nation to do to prepare His sanctuary? What details are given that describe *how* they were to do this. See Exodus 25:1-2.
 - a. What do you notice about this kind of giving from the selection of verses that follow? See Exodus 35:21; 1 Chronicles 29:3, 5, 9, 14-17; Ezra 1:5-6; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:11-12; 9:7-11.
 - b. Consider your attitude when needs are presented at church and within the church body, what is your response? Is it similar to the ones in the verses above? If your heart isn't eager to give, why not? What do you think gets in the way of joyful, exuberant, generous giving?
2. Why does God want the people to give so generously? See Exodus 25:8. What parameters does God place upon His dwelling place in Exodus 25:9?
3. Read Exodus 25:10-22 and in your own words, briefly describe the ark God desires them to build.

- a. What was one aspect of the ark's role? See Deuteronomy 10:2-5 and Hebrews 9:4.

4. What is the mercy seat? See Exodus 25:21-22.

5. The next piece of furniture for the tabernacle is described in Exodus 25:23-30. What is it and what is its purpose? See also Leviticus 24:5-9; Hebrews 9:2.

6. After the table, they were to make the golden lampstand. Try to draw a picture of it based on the description given here in Exodus 25:31-40.

7. See Leviticus 24:1-4 for the purpose of the lampstand. What do you learn about the lampstand stationed in God's house? What picture does that paint for us? Psalm 139:11-12; John 8:12; 12:46; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 5:8; 1 John 1:5.

8. As we move into Chapter 26, God's detailed instructions continue. Briefly explain how the two different curtains work and where they hang in the tabernacle (Exodus 26:1-14).

9. See if you can draw a picture of how the boards are to be the frame for the tabernacle's tent curtains from Exodus 26:15-30.

10. What is the veil's purpose according to Exodus 26:33-34? What do you learn about the veil from the following texts? See Exodus 40:3, 21; Matthew 27:50-51; Hebrews 6:19-20; 9:1-7, 11-12, 10:19-22.

11. Quickly read through Chapter 27. It doesn't take long to realize God is specific in how He wants to be worshiped. How is that knowledge different than what many think and put into practice today?

12. God even cares about the priest's garments. What do you learn about these special clothes from Exodus 28:2-3? What picture do the physical garments paint of the spiritual clothing we wear according to Psalm 132:9, 16; Zechariah 3:1-5; Romans 13:14; Ephesians 4:24?

13. From the description given in Exodus 28:6-14, 31-35, what is the ephod?

14. What goes over the ephod according to Exodus 28:15-30? What is the purpose of this priestly garb? See Exodus 28:29-30.

15. What an incredible picture of God's care and concern for His children! God designed the priestly garments, so the priest "carried the nation" into God's presence as he made atonement for them once a year. What marvelous truths do you learn from Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 9:11-12, 24; 1 John 2:1-2?

16. Even the priest's turban was to remind him of the God he served. What do you learn about the turban and the role it was to play in the offering and sacrifices? See Exodus 28:36-40.

17. What is the purpose of the linen breeches according to Exodus 28:42-43? See also Exodus 20:26; 1 Timothy 2:9 (be sure to notice the context for this verse); Revelation 3:18; 16:15. What do these verses teach us about God, modesty, and worship?

18. What special preparation needed to take place before the priests were allowed to serve the Lord in His tabernacle according to Exodus 29:1-30? What does it mean to *consecrate* something? Why were these procedures so important for God—and for the priests? See also Exodus 30:29; Leviticus 11:44; 19:2; 20:7; Ephesians 5:26-27; Hebrews 7:27; 1 Peter 1:14-16.

19. Even in giving the precepts for His own worship, God provided for the ones who served in His dwelling place. What did God do for the priests according to Exodus 29:31-34?

20. In Exodus 29:38-46, God provides us with a reason for the burnt offerings. What does God promise to do in the presence of the burnt offering? See Exodus 29:42-46.

21. Read Exodus 30:1-10 to discover the purpose for the altar of incense. What do you learn? Again, what things do you learn about God from these instructions?

22. What is the purpose of the census in Exodus 30:11-16?

23. What is the bronze laver for according to Exodus 30:17-21? Along with bronze laver, God also gives instructions about the anointing oil and the incense to be used for the sacrifices and offerings. What purpose do these items serve? See Exodus 30:22-38.

24. In Chapter 31, what do you learn about those whom the Lord called to design and build the tabernacle and all its parts? See Exodus 31:1-11. How is that consistent with what we know from 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11-13; and 1 Peter 4:10-11?

25. What is God's purpose for the Sabbath according to Exodus 31:12-18?

26. Phew! That was a lot of information and instruction, and yet, we've gained so much insight into God's character and purposes, Christ's sacrifice on our behalf, and how we can live more faithfully to honor the Lord. What has stood out to you in this lesson?

"Here is the Christian's way and his end...His way is holiness; his end is happiness." ~John Whitlock¹

¹ John Whitlock, *A Puritan Golden Treasury*, editor, I. D. E. Thomas (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1989), 140.