

# The Building of a New Sanctuary

Exodus 25:1-9

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One-fifth of the book of Exodus is dedicated to a blueprint for God's people to build a sanctuary for Him that is meant for their worship of Him. God is leading us as a covenant community on a journey to worship Him on our way to the promised land.

God's plan for His covenant community to worship Him:

## **1) The Call for the Sanctuary**

True worship is the treasuring of God's worth above all things. We glean two truths about true worship from God's call to build a tabernacle:

### ***a. True worship comes from a moved heart in response to God's call.***

vv1-2 – God's command to give is not meant for someone to be compelled to give but rather impelled to give. True worship comes from a heart that is moved to treasure God's worth above all things. True worship cannot happen with an unmoved heart (treasuring God's worth without instruction or call) or if it is commanded by feelings (living in submission to feelings rather than God's command). True worship comes from both a moved heart and a response to God's call.

### ***b. True worship is focused on the requirements of God, not the worshipper.***

v8 – The sanctuary is meant for God and His presence to be manifest among His people. It is a sanctuary because of God's holy dwelling presence and not the people's act of worship. The starting point for our worship cannot be our own requirements, but God's stipulated requirements. Don't be a consumer in worship; be a true worshipper. Let our worship be focused on God alone!

## **2) The Significance of the Sanctuary**

God referred to the sanctuary as a tabernacle – a portable tent within a larger courtyard that the Israelites would dismantle

and raise up in their journey. 1045m<sup>2</sup> in size, it had an outer court (where a bronze altar was placed for burnt offerings and a bronze basin for the priest to cleanse their hands and feet) and the Tabernacle tent that housed the Holy Place (Golden lampstand, table for the bread of the presence and The Altar of incense) and the Most Holy Place (The Ark of the Covenant). God's command to build the tabernacle was an act of re-creation that allowed Him to dwell with His people. Through the tabernacle, the dwelling of fallen sinners and a Holy God became possible.

There are distinct parallels between God's creation (Gen. 1:3,6,9,14,20,24,26) and re-creation through the tabernacle (Ex. 25:1; 30:11,17,22,34; 31:1,12). It is not just the instructions that were given in both creation accounts that are linked, but also in its completion (Gen. 2:2 // Ex. 39:32, 40:33) and inspection (Gen. 1:31 // Ex. 39:43). The tabernacle was a re-creation of heaven-on-earth (Heb. 8:5). Our heaven-on-earth reveals what we truly worship. God's plan for His covenant community is one full of true worshippers who yearn for God's heaven-on-earth.

## **3) The Hope for the Sanctuary**

Instead of deserting and giving up on His people who continually wandered far away from His dwelling presence, God faithfully gave us Jesus Christ (John 1:14). Everything about the elaborate tabernacle in Exodus ultimately points to Jesus as the true tabernacle. Jesus' body was torn apart on the cross for our sake. His body was the sacred curtain ripped in two that brought us into the holy presence of God. The fullness of God dwells in Christ and now His Spirit dwells in us. Every person in Christ is God's sanctuary (1 Cor. 3:16) and at the end of this journey, God will dwell with us perfectly in his new creation to come (Re. 21:2).

## 2 Applications

#1 Turn away from your self-created heaven-on-earth

#2 Commit to meeting with God to worship Him daily