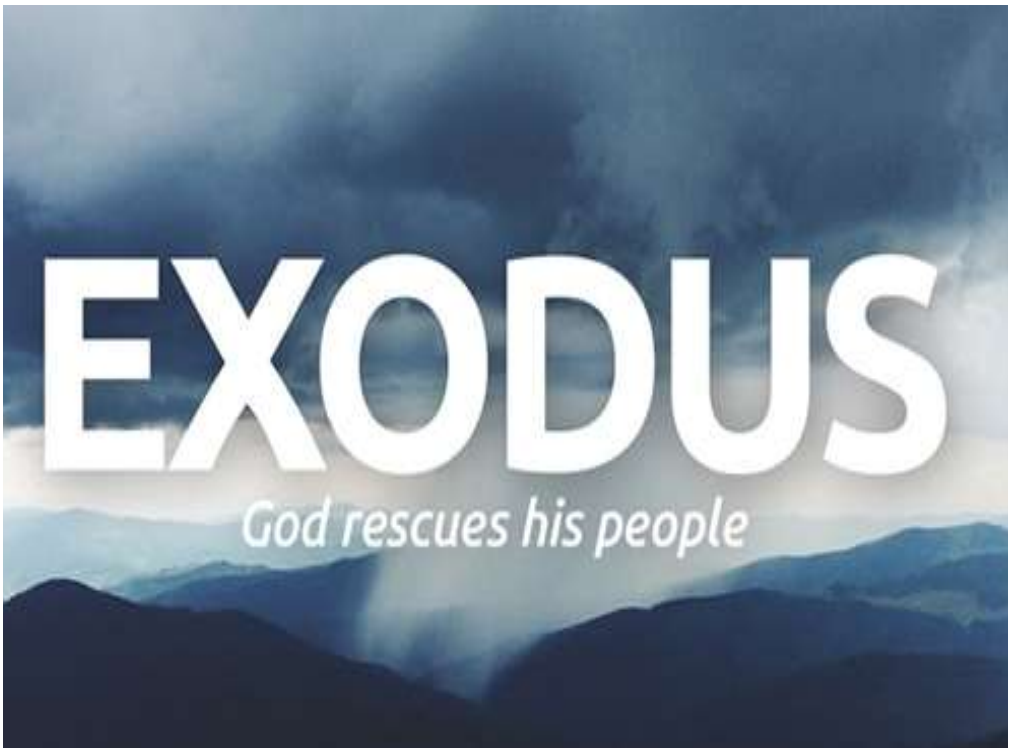


Let's Worship God

17th-22nd February 2020
Exodus



EXODUS

Monday - Exodus 25:1-9 & 35:4-29 - God Dwells With Us

There is a beauty to the structure of Exodus 25-40. Chapters 25-31 are the instructions for building the tabernacle and its furniture, beginning from the inside out and finishing with Sabbath rest. Chapters 35-40 the tabernacle is being built, beginning with the Sabbath regulations and finishing with the glory of God coming down. The middle section, chapters 32-34, show us the great need for an intercessor. The only way to dwell with God is, not by our own doing, but through God's provision. God is going to dwell with his people.

The tabernacle is like a picture book to help us understand what it means to dwell with God and enter his presence. Hebrews 8:5 and 9:24 tell us that these pictures are a copy and shadow of the true heavenly things. That is, the tabernacle and all its furniture is a copy of a heavenly reality.

The tabernacle was pointing God's people forward to the reality of Jesus Christ, his dwelling with us, our access through him, and our eternal dwelling with God. God says, "I will dwell in their midst." We are told of Jesus Christ, "The word became flesh and dwelt among us." John 1:14. God dwells with us.

Notice also that the people are to be involved in the work of building. The Israelites were called to serve. And in serving they are to have a heart for the work. Chapter 35 tells us that they gave willingly. Not only does God graciously dwell among us in Jesus Christ but he calls us to be involved in the building work of his kingdom. Just like the Israelites God provides everything we need to be involved in serving him. The Israelites were provided with the gold and silver from Egypt, the wood from acacia trees in the wilderness, the skins from the animals. Everything that the Israelites gave to God was already given to them first. Everything we have to serve is from the gracious provision of God who has provided the way for us to dwell with him.

Questions

1. How is the dwelling of God in the tabernacle a picture of Jesus Christ? John 1:14, Revelation 21:3.
2. In what ways can we be involved in the building work of Christ's kingdom?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God dwells with us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates." Exodus 20:10b

Praise: Psalm 141 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Tuesday - Exodus 25:10-22 & 37:1-9 - The Mercy Seat

The ark of the covenant is the most important item in the tabernacle. It is mentioned over 200 times in the Old Testament and the only item placed in the Holy of Holies, the inner part of the tent of meeting. It contained the 10 commandments, a sample of manna, and Aaron's staff that had budded, also it had a lid called the mercy seat. But one of the main purposes for the ark was that it represented the presence of God among his people. Like everything in the tabernacle God gave specific instructions on how it was to be made because it is pointing us to a heavenly reality - Jesus Christ and his kingly presence and mercy to approach.

The ark of the covenant is called the footstool of God (1 Chronicles 28:2). The picture is of the king of heaven on his throne resting his feet on this footstool. God's majesty and splendour and glory were present among the people of Israel with the ark. As they carried the ark into battle they were carrying the throne of the king. Their king went before them. The king of glory has stepped down. Jesus has come.

But how can we approach such a majestic holiness? The answer is found at the throne itself. On top of the throne is the mercy seat. The symbolism of the ark reaches its grand climax on the Day of Atonement. On that day, only once in the year, the High Priest went behind the curtain into the Holy of Holies and he sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice on the mercy seat. It was this blood being sprinkled on the mercy seat that propitiated or turned away God's anger at sin. The ark of the covenant pictures for us both majesty and mercy, power and pardon, greatness and grace. We don't need a box anymore because we have this reality in Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. In what 2 ways does the ark of the covenant point us to Jesus Christ?
2. What do you think happened to the ark of the covenant (Jeremiah 3:16-17)? Why is it not needed anymore?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ has turned away God's wrath.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates." Exodus 20:10b

Praise: Psalm 142 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Wednesday - Exodus 25:23-40 & 37:10-24 - Bread and Light

The next 2 items of furniture in the tabernacle were found in the Holy Place. This was the larger section of the tent of meeting, with the smaller inner section being the Holy of Holies. In the Holy Place only the Levites and Priests were free to enter. Here on either side, left and right, were the lampstand and the table for bread. There was one other piece of furniture in the Holy Place, the altar of incense, which stood in front of the Holy of Holies.

The table for bread was made from gold but the table isn't to be the focus, rather it is the bread. This bread of the Presence is pointing us to a greater reality. Firstly, it is pointing us to the nearness of God. God says, "set the bread of the presence on the table before me." Leviticus 24 tells us the bread is 12 loaves set in two piles, six on each pile, before the LORD and it is from the people of Israel as a covenant forever. The bread represented the people before God - it is from the people of Israel. All of God's people are before his face. This is the bread of presence. Every tribe has a place at the table of God. God is near us continually. Secondly the bread points us to nourishment from God. It is bread, provided by God, that is to be eaten. The God who is near to his people, gives satisfaction to his people. Leviticus 24:9 says the bread was to be for Aaron and his sons, and they were to eat it in the Holy Place. God was providing for the priests in his court. They shared fellowship with God. They ate the bread in the Holy Place. God was nourishing them before his face.

The lampstand, which stood opposite the table for bread was shaped like a tree, and it contains the various stages of life of a tree - budding, blossom and flower. The purpose of the lampstand is to give light. This light was necessary for the priests to go about their service in the tabernacle. Without the light they would be in darkness.

Both the bread and light point us to Jesus Christ who said, "I AM the bread of life" and "I AM the light of the world." In Jesus Christ we are in the presence of God, we are nourished, and we are given the light of life.

Questions

1. In what ways is Jesus the reality of the bread of presence?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is the Light?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ is the bread of life and light of the world.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates."
Exodus 20:10b

Praise: Psalm 143 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Thursday - Exodus 26 & 35:30-36:38 - A Way In

The construction of the tabernacle tent points us to the effects of the Fall in Genesis with the hope of restoration. There is restricted access to God's presence but also there is the hope of fellowship with God being restored.

The tent of the tabernacle has much beauty and structure. Furniture made of pure gold and the inner coverings of curtains with heavenly pictures and glorious colours is a reminder of the Garden of Eden. Beauty and structure. The tabernacle is a picture of close fellowship with God in his place and everything very good. But with the Fall came a broken relationship.

When we come to the tabernacle tent we find there is a covering that goes over the fine linen cloth. And this covering is longer than the inner covering, so that none of the inner covering can be seen. The inner beauty is hidden. Access is denied. The sign over the tabernacle tent would read, "You cannot enter." The cherubim guard the way. All of this is saying to the Israelite that access to God is denied, but there is hope. The Priests could go into the tabernacle tent, the Holy Place, and the High Priest could go into the Holy of Holies, but only once a year on the day of atonement. Yet they could go in. There was the possibility of access. A restricted access but still access. The ordinary Israelite could enter the tabernacle fence but could only go so far because the curtain was in the way. Access into the presence of God is denied.

This is our standing before God. Because of sin, access is denied. We cannot approach God, we cannot enter into relationship with God, we cannot look forward to the beauty and splendour of heaven and the heavenly throne room, because of sin. Nevertheless there is hope. The Priests could go in and the High Priest could go behind the curtain into the Holy of Holies. Our representative can approach for us. There is a way into the beauty and glory and majesty of his presence. There is a way for access to be restored. And this is what Jesus Christ has done for us. Matthew 27:50-51; Hebrews 10:19-22

Questions

1. How does the tabernacle speak of access being denied and access being opened for God's people?
2. How can we make better use of the access we have to God through Jesus Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that through Christ access to God is restored.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates." Exodus 20:10b

Praise: Psalm 144 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Friday - Exodus 27:1-8: & 38:1-7 - The Altar

Moving outside the tent into the courtyard of the tabernacle we find ourselves in an open space fenced in by a cloth wall. The only door was in the eastern side of the tabernacle. When you entered the tabernacle complex the very first thing you saw was a bronze altar. Exodus 27 & 38 speak of the instructions and construction of the altar. Leviticus chapters 1-7 speaks of how the altar was used. The altar itself was 7 ½ feet long and the same wide, and 4 ½ feet high. It was made from acacia wood, overlaid with bronze, and had four horns, one on each corner. The bronze altar was for burnt offerings; it was a hollow box, with a bronze grate on the top and around the sides, and the fire of the LORD burned inside and burnt up all the sacrifices. This fire was to be kept burning continually, Leviticus 6:13.

Why was this the first item that every Israelite saw on entering the tabernacle? The answer is because of sin. Because of sin we cannot approach God. The only way into the presence of God is to have our sin dealt with. The altar tells us that God is angry at sin and the punishment that sin deserves is God's fierce, hot, wrath. Hebrews 12:29, "for our God is a consuming fire." But the altar also tells us that there is a way to have satisfaction made with God - through a substitute.

All the sacrifices of the people of Israel were brought to the bronze altar. Without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sin. And so for each person, or representative, each was to bring an animal without blemish for sacrifice. This points us to the reality that we have in Jesus Christ. He has satisfied the righteous anger of God at our sin. The consuming fire of God the Father fell on Jesus Christ as he willingly died, as our substitute, on the cross for our sin. Christ Jesus was tied to the horns of the altar for us.

Questions

1. Read Psalm 118:27. Jesus sang these words as he went out to the Garden of Gethsemane. What do they tell us about the altar and the sacrifice?
2. Why was it important that the altar was the first item that God's people would encounter in the tabernacle?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of friends and family members.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates." Exodus 20:10b

Praise: Psalm 145 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Saturday - Exodus 27:9-19 & 38:9-20 - The Door

The instructions for the tabernacle begin with God's presence, and then work from the inside out. Chapter 27 is the court of the tabernacle. The large open area, fenced off from the wilderness, where every Israelite could come and worship God. The court is where God's people worshipped and served as they made their way through the wilderness to the land of promise. It was a place they loved, it was a place where they longed to be. (It was the place where Hannah was praying when Eli found her 1 Samuel 1). But it was also a place where a distinction was made. There is a distinction between the dwelling place of God where his people gather for worship, and the world outside. A curtain fence of fine twined white linen that went the whole way around this court said those on the outside were cut off. The whole tabernacle stands out against the dusty, dry bleakness of the wilderness. The gathering of God's people is distinct from the world. Not only is God separated from sinners but those who are brought near through the sacrifice are also made distinct. So how do we gain access? How are made distinct? The answer is through the door. The entrance is a beautiful gate made up of vivid colours.

The door is Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John 10:7, "I AM the door". And again in John 14:6, "I AM the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Paul says in Ephesians 2:12, "remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility." Through Jesus Christ we can approach God, and through Jesus Christ we are made distinct from the world. Through Jesus Christ alone we can worship and serve. There is no other way.

Questions

1. How does the tabernacle help us to see Jesus Christ as the door and the way?
2. Why do you think the courts of the tabernacle were so precious to an Israelite (Psalm 84:10)? Do you have this same joy and anticipation in coming in worship through Jesus Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates."
Exodus 20:10b

Praise: Psalm 146 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

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