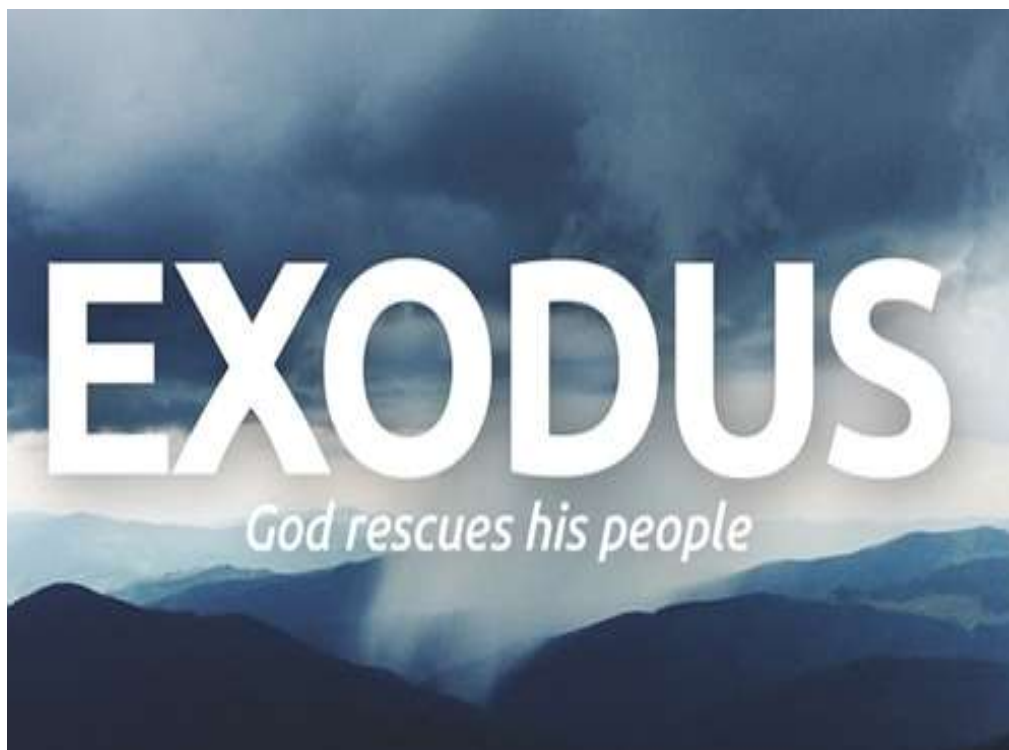


Let's Worship God

24th-29th February 2020

Exodus



EXODUS

Monday - Exodus 28 & 29; 30:22-33 - The High Priest

Chapters 28 & 29 move from looking at the tabernacle and its furniture to those who serve within the tabernacle - the priests. Here are the mediators between God and his people. The priests were set apart in their calling (28:1). God himself chose, called, and consecrated Aaron and his sons to serve as priests forever (29:9). They were called from among the people - they had to be like the people because they were going to represent the people (Hebrews 5:1-4). There are examples in Scripture where some tried to take to themselves the task of serving as priests eg. the sons of Korah (Numbers 16), King Saul (1 Samuel 13:8-14), King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:16-21). None of these ended well!

The garments of the High Priest are described for us in chapter 28. The ephod with the names of the 12 tribes on its shoulders shows that the High Priest carried the names of the people into the very presence of God. The breast-piece had 12 stones representing the 12 tribes of Israel and contained the Urim and Thummim to determine God's Will for his people. The High Priest had the people's names on his heart, and he declared the Will of God. The robe of the ephod had bells on it so that the people outside could hear the jingle and know that the High Priest was alive and ministering on their behalf. The turban and the plate read, "Holy to the LORD."

The image of the High Priest was speaking to the people of Israel of the representation that they needed before God the LORD - one chosen, one like them, one who carried their names into the presence of God, one who was alive and ministered on their behalf, one who knew and declared the will of God.

Jesus Christ is the great High Priest. Unlike the old order of priests Jesus Christ is sinless and so he is the perfect mediator as he offered his own blood for our sin, and unlike the old order of priests he lives forever to make intercession for us, carrying our names into the presence of God the Father.

Questions

1. In what ways is Jesus like the priests in the Old Testament?
2. In what ways is Jesus greater than the priests in the Old Testament?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for our great High Priest.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” Exodus 20:11

Praise: Psalm 147 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Tuesday - Exodus 30:1-10; ch. 34-38 - Prayer

We move back into the tent of the tabernacle to the third item of furniture in the Holy Place - the altar of incense. We are given both the description of the altar, verses 1-5, and its function, verses 6-10. At this golden altar the priests were to take burning coals from the bronze altar outside, they were to place these coals on the altar of incense, and then put on specially made incense that would burn and fill the space with a sweet smelling aroma. This was to be done every morning and then again in the evening. The burning of incense is a representation of prayers that are made before God. Psalm 141; Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4 Notice that prayer is made in the presence of God, v6. The altar was so close to the mercy seat that it was sometimes called the altar that belonged to the Holy of Holies (1 Kings 6:22 and Hebrews 9:3-4) The writer to the Hebrews isn't mistaken about where the altar was placed, rather he is stressing that this altar is in the very presence of God.

Prayer is offered before God's throne of grace and mercy. God delights in his children coming into his presence. Prayer is offered up continually, v 7-8. Every morning and every evening the incense was burned. It never ceased. The priests lived in continually atmosphere of prayer. Day after day, week after week, year after year, generation after generation. Continual, constant, regular prayer. Prayer is through God's appointed means, v9 & 34-38. The priests could not offer incense in the way that they thought was best (Leviticus 10 - Nadab and Abihu!). They had to approach God the way that he had prescribed in his Word. Prayer is a privilege of communion with God, v10.

Jesus Christ perfects prayer for us. He continually offers up prayer for us as our great high priest, and our prayers come through him (Hebrews 7:25). We can have communion with God the Father only because of Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. What was Christ's attitude to prayer while he was on earth?
2. How can we follow Paul's command to pray without ceasing, 1 Thessalonians 5:17?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the privilege of prayer.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” Exodus 20:11

Praise: Psalm 148 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Wednesday - Exodus 30:11-16; Matthew 17:24-27 - The Ransom Price

In Matthew 17 there is a strange episode where the collectors of the temple tax ask Peter if Jesus pays this tax. Jesus tells Peter that sons of kings don't have to pay tax but that Jesus will pay the tax for Peter and for himself.

To understand this passage we need to go back to the instructions for building the tabernacle. God tells Moses that when he takes a census he is also to take a ransom price of half a shekel from each man numbered and recorded. This money is then to be used in the construction and the maintenance of the tabernacle. God's dwelling place will, quite literally, stand on this ransom. When God numbers or orders anything to be numbered, he is saying, "these are mine." God has the right and authority to number that which belongs to him. But to be numbered among God's people means that a price has to be paid - half a shekel/2 drachmas. Everyone needed the same price to be paid for them showing that all were equal before God. In paying the price no plague would come among them showing that all deserved God's wrath but the ransom would set them free.

This is a picture of what Jesus has done for us. 1 Peter 1:18-19, "Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot." Jesus tells Peter that he will pay the ransom that he does not have to pay. The Son of God will pay the ransom for his people.

Notice also that the money from the census tax was to be used in the building of the tabernacle (and later the upkeep of the temple). Every time they entered the tabernacle the silver was a reminder to the people that the ransom price had been paid. In the throne room of heaven is the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who paid the price. He is before the Father as a constant witness to what has been accomplished for our salvation. And because the price has been paid, we are numbered among God's people. We are included. Our names are written in his book.

Questions

1. What does it mean that Jesus has paid the ransom price?
2. What other remembrance do we have of the price being paid?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ has paid the ransom price.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." Exodus 20:11

Praise: Psalm 149 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Thursday - Exodus 30:17-21; 38:8 - Reflection

For the priests serving in the tabernacle there was a continual reminder to them that they needed to be clean - the bronze basin. It was made from polished bronze and stood at the entrance to the tent of the tabernacle. The polished bronze came from the mirrors of the women who worshipped in the entrance to the tent of meeting. (Glass mirrors weren't used for another 1,500 years!) The duties of the priests were not clean duties. They sacrificed the animals, they walked about (probably bare foot), they trimmed the wicks for the candles, they carried oil, they burnt incense. At the basin God was teaching the people that he requires purity. To serve God they had to be clean before him. They had to look in the mirror and then wash. Priests were to examine themselves and to make sure that their lives and walk were pure.

The reflection of the water and the reflection of the mirrors are pictures of what God's Word does for us (James 1:22-25). We need to make use of the mirror. We need to study it. We need to look into the face of Jesus Christ in Scripture and see our own stains, faults, and sins, and then seek cleansing.

The priests had to wash every time they carried out a sacrifice and every time they went into the tent of meeting. This washing was to be repeated again and again and again. There was a washing that didn't have to be repeated (at their ordination). They were bathed. The priest didn't need his whole body to be washed again to set him apart before God - just his hands and his feet. This is what Jesus is telling Peter in John 13.

We also are to keep a short account as we serve Jesus Christ. We are made clean in Christ but we are also to continually confess our sin before God in the confidence that we have been forgiven. Jesus himself taught us to prayer, "Forgive us our debts, our trespasses, our sins." We are to do this continually as we see our reflection in the word of God.

Questions

1. How is God's Word like a mirror?
2. Why is it important to continually confess our sin?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would use God's Word as a mirror.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." Exodus 20:11

Praise: Psalm 150 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Friday - Exodus 32 & 33 - A Great Sin

When we come to Exodus chapters 32-34 we come across an episode that seems to be out of place. Why does this event interrupt God's instructions for building the tent? The answer, outside of the fact that this is the way history happened, is that there is a barrier in our approaching God. There are more references to sin in chapters 32-34 than there are in the rest of the book of Exodus. We are prone to sin and so we need an intercessor - one to act on our behalf.

When the apostle Paul writes about this episode in 1 Corinthians 10 he says, "Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, we must not put Christ to the test as some of them did, nor grumble as some of them did. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall."

Perhaps we are more like the people of Israel than we would like to think. Maybe, just maybe, our hearts are as inclined to wander, as inclined to make idols, as inclined to forget the saving grace of God. Just like the people Israel, we must then surely need a great intercessor. Like the people of Israel when we sin we have sinned a great sin, 32:31. Like the people of Israel when we sin we deserve to be blotted out, 32:33. Like the people of Israel when we sin we need someone to take our place, 32:30,32. Moses could not be blotted out instead of the people, he too would be guilty before God, but there is one who interceded for us and was took the punishment we deserve. His name is Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. In what ways can we be like the people of Israel with the golden calf?
2. How was Moses like Jesus? How is Jesus greater than Moses?

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

"For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." Exodus 20:11

Praise: Psalm 1 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Saturday - Exodus 34:1-9, 29-35 & 40:34-38 - The Glory of God

When Moses pleaded with God on behalf of the people of Israel God promised that Moses would catch a glimpse of God's glory. Moses could not see that fullness of God's glory but in just catching a glimpse he was changed. His face shone.

But when the tabernacle was finished God came down in his cloud of glory and filled the tabernacle. God's glory was amongst his people in the tabernacle. Still Moses couldn't approach because of the glory of God, but God's glory was now present. God's glory is an unapproachable glory, it is a present glory, and it is a glory that changes us.

Ultimately the tabernacle points us to Jesus Christ. The true presence of God's glory among his people. The tabernacle has shown us how sinful men and women can approach God. We can only do so through the means that God has provided. We must approach through the door, by way of the sacrifice, being washed clean. We can only approach through the great high priest who has gone in to the holy of holies and presented before God the blood of the sacrifice for sin. We can only approach through the great high priest who intercedes for us having paid the ransom price for us that we might be counted in. We cannot approach the glory of God without Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the Son of God who tabernacles among us. The glory of God took on human form and lived here on earth. It was a present glory. The glory of God was revealed in Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ we know God as the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and fourth generation.

And this is a glory that changes us in Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ we are made clean, we are forgiven, we are adopted into God's family. And one day we will see that glory in its fullness, and on that day we will be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.

Questions

1. What has stood out most for you about the tabernacle?
2. How has the tabernacle helped you to understand the work of 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

“For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” Exodus 20:11

Praise: Psalm 2 - 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
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