When last we met two weeks ago, I showed you my video of the Tabernacle. Tonight I want to back up a bit to discuss Moses' nearly-six weeks atop Mount Sinai where God gave him the Ten Commandments and the specs for the Tabernacle. It is a fascinating study. (As I just arrived home unexpectedly today from California, these notes are somewhat truncated.)

Exodus 24:15-18

And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount. [16] And the glory of the Lord abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. [17] And the sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. [18] And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 25:1-9

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, [2] Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. [3] And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass, [4] And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, [5] And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, [6] Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense, [7] Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate. [8] And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. [9] According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

Remember that Moses was 80 years old when God called him to climb Mount Sinai. Leaving behind the rest of the Israelites (and even Joshua could go only part way), the great leader climbed to the summit of the Holy Mountain. In the next nearly six weeks (during which most of the people below believed he was dead), Moses received the plans for the Tabernacle.

THE FINANCING

Verse 2: "Bring me an offering." These people had been in Egyptian bondage for
This picture shows the possible way the Tabernacle was situated with the tents where people lived on all four sides. Remember there were several million people there.

generations Where did they obtain the millions of dollars (in our money today) to construct such a project? Exodus 12:35-36 (NAS) Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; [36] and the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

This entire project (estimated by some commentators as much as $13 million) was all financed by one offering! Note Moses’ words to them: “Bring gold, silver and brass, fine linens, skins, wood, oil, and precious stones....” (Verses 3-7)

I am captivated by the phrase, “Bring fine linen.” No junk. No second rate stuff. We give our BEST to God.

God has always demanded the “first fruit” of our giving. For over 61 years now, in our family the first check written each pay period is the tithe to the Lord. It isn’t a matter of “...let’s get our bills paid and if there is anything left we will give something to God.” Anything in our lives we put AHEAD OF GOD becomes a false idol. Idolatry has never
been acceptable to Almighty God.

More on the “fine linen:” Not rags....not dust cloths....FINE linen. We always offer God our very best. The best of our lives, the best of our talents....everything!

BADGERS’ SKINS

I suggested to you several studies ago that these were the skins of coneyes, a small furry animal you can still find in abundance in the rocks of Israel. While hiking En Gedi, I have often come across a dozen or so of them.

Why these skins?

1. The Tabernacle was covered with them for protection from the elements.

2. The hides hid from outside observation the precious gold and metals housed inside.

We followers of Jesus are sometimes questioned about our attending church, our giving to the Lord, our worship, etc. Outsiders say, “We don’t SEE why you do all these things.” They don’t SEE because they have never been INSIDE the work of the Lord.

STUFF

Exodus 36:1-7

Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the Lord put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the Lord had commanded. [2] And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it: [3] And they received of Moses all the offering, which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, to make it whole. And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning. [4] And all the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his work which they made;

[5] And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the Lord commanded to make. [6] And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing. [7] For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.
It wasn’t even “stuff they had to find somewhere....” It was stuff they already had - altogether sufficient for the work.

My friend, God has given you all “the stuff” you need to do His work. There is not one person in this sanctuary - or watching or hearing this lesson - who understands how much stuff God has given you!

God will never call you to something beyond your capabilities in HIM. As Paul wrote in Philip. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Yes, friend, THE STUFF YOU HAVE IS SUFFICIENT!

Next week: THE TERRIBLE COLLAPSE OF THE EXODUS!