

March 21

Scriptures: Read Exodus 37 & 38

Key Verse: “Bezaleel... of the tribe of Judah, made all that the Lord had commanded Moses” (Exodus 38:22)

Overview

Throughout these chapters, we are told that all the furnishings were made by Bezaleel. As the foreman, he was responsible for seeing that all the work was done in exact accordance to God’s instruction. We know he had tremendous help and that he taught others the necessary skills, so “he” as the head man had all these articles made, along with doing a great deal of work himself, especially the honor of making the important articles in the holy place. The building began with the most important furnishings; firstly, those found in the Most Holy place (the ark, mercy seat, and above it, the cherubim; see comments on Exodus 25:23-39; 30:1-10). Also at this point the holy anointing oil was prepared (Exodus 30:23-33); then the outer court (Exodus 27:1-8; 30:18-21) were constructed.

We learn that the bronze laver was made from the polished bronze mirrors that the “serving women” donated (38:8). These women must have played an important role, for they were worthy of mention. They were devoted to the work of the tabernacle and assembled at the entrance. They were probably doing the important task of caring for the needs of the workers, such as preparing and offering food and drink. This, their “labor of love” (Hebrews 6:10) and their gifts of bronze mirrors (a valuable treasured possession for women in those days) did not go unnoticed by God or Moses. Those mirrors, which once reflected natural faces, were transformed into holy items which reminded those who served God of their need for spiritual cleansing in order to reflect His glory.

It must have been quite a task to take inventory and audit all the materials that went into making the tabernacle. Aaron’s son Ithamar was entrusted with this responsibility (38:21). He was probably chosen to do this because he was well organized, and a very intelligent accountant. The cost of the building and all its furnishings cannot be accurately interpreted in today’s economy, but certainly it totaled an enormous sum. It was a magnificent monument expressing the dedication and respect of the Israelites to their God. It is significant that the only obligatory offering used in its construction was the ransom money (38:26); cf. Exodus 30:11-16). This seems to indicate that the faithful and obedient redeemed are the foundation of the tabernacle.

We must not think that the repetitive passages found here are of no purpose, for Moses as other writers of Scripture, wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and everything in the Bible has a purpose. Moses wrote with the Israelites in mind. It was necessary for them to hear and read over and over again these hidden and holy treasures which they were not permitted to view. To visualize them in their minds they needed detailed descriptions. In writing them again, Moses showed the great care taken to make the articles exactly as God had ordered. The people could compare the original instructions with the written record of the work actually done, and thereby observe how exactly they agreed. In doing this, Moses proved to be faithful unto the Lord, even in the small details of all His commands (cf. Hebrews 3:5). We learn from Him, to highly respect and obey all God’s commands. Not only was Moses found faithful, but so were the workers who served to be a good example, even to believers today.

Prayer

Almighty God, grant that we may take great care in all that we do for You. Thank You for being interested in the details of our lives and our service.