

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD TEACHER'S GUIDE: LESSON 4B

[Assigned Reading: Exodus, Chapters 19-25]

[Themes to Teach: Purpose of the Law & the Foreshadowing of the Tabernacle Plan]

(Read Exodus 19:1-6)

After delivering the Children of Israel from Egyptian bondage, the Lord brought them through the Red Sea and to Mt. Sinai. At Mt. Sinai, God made a covenant with the Children of Israel and gave them the Law.

The best-known portion of the law is the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17).

However, there were a total of 613 commandments in all.

The purpose of the Law:

- The Law separated Israel from other nations. It made them God's chosen people.
- The Law revealed to Israel the nature of God. They knew little about God.
- The Law was a schoolmaster intended to show Israel their need for a savior (Galatians 3:24-25). It was a diagnosis of our sinful condition (Romans 7:7).

I. THE LAW CAN BE DIVIDED UP INTO THREE GENERAL CATEGORIES:

1. The Moral Law:

These are laws dealing with basic right and wrong.

This category included laws regarding murder, adultery, theft, lying, sexual sins, idolatry, etc.

The moral laws were based on the nature of God. For example: God is just; therefore, taking a life unjustly would be wrong; and God is true; therefore, telling a lie or bearing false witness would violate the very nature of God.

These laws never change because God's nature never changes.

2. The Civil Law:

These laws pertained specifically to daily conduct within the civil society of Israel.

This category included laws regarding business transactions, suits, and personal liability (See Deuteronomy 24:10-11).

3. The Ceremonial Law:

These laws pertained to the religion of Israel and their worship of Jehovah under the Old Covenant.

This category included dietary codes, circumcision, holidays, sacrifices, priesthood, tabernacle, etc.

The ceremonial law was in place to:

- a. Provide a path for Israel to have a relationship with God.
- b. Teach Israel about their own sinfulness and the price of redemption.
- c. Serve as a foreshadow of the finished work of Christ.

Most of the ceremonial law pointed to Christ or an aspect of salvation (He is our Passover lamb, He is our High Priest, He is our Sabbath, and through His Holy Spirit we become the tabernacle of God, etc.)

(Read Hebrews 10:1-4 & Colossians 2:16-17)

Jesus fulfilled the ceremonial Law. One great example of this is the Passover commandment (Exodus 12:14). This commandment is fulfilled through Christian Communion (1 Corinthians 5:7-8). Therefore, we now observe the Passover in its fulfillment.

II. THE TABERNACLE PLAN REPRESENTED MAN'S APPROACH TO GOD:

Exodus 25:8-9 (KJV 1900)

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.

The Tabernacle was a portable tent designed to be a place of communion with God. Once Israel settled in the promised land, they built a permanent structure called the temple.

The Tabernacle had three sections: Outer Court, Holy Place, and Holiest of Holies.

The tabernacle represented Israel's approach to God. This would be where the High Priest would offer sacrifices for the sin of the people. If Israel was going to have a relationship with God as a nation, it would center around and run through the tabernacle.

God designated the tribe of Levi to be a priesthood and to work in the Tabernacle. (The entire book of Leviticus is written to provide them with instructions on how to keep the tabernacle, perform sacrifices and atone for sins). (Read Numbers 8:13-16)

III. THE TABERNACLE LAYOUT:

1. One Door – Jesus is the door (John 10:9).
2. The Brazen Altar – A place of sacrifice, death and shed blood.

Leviticus 17:11 (KJV 1900)

11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Fulfilled in Hebrews 9:28: The Brazen Altar foreshadowed the blood of Jesus and our repentance.

3. The Brazen Laver – A place of washing and cleansing by water.

Exodus 30:20 (KJV 1900)

20 When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not...

Fulfilled: Acts 22:16, the Brazen Laver foreshadowed our baptism.

4. The Holy Place – A place of worship.
 - a. Furniture: Table of Shew Bread, Golden Candle, and the Altar of Incense.
5. The Holiest of Holies – A place of fellowship with the Spirit of God.
 - a. It housed the Ark of the Covenant – (Read Exodus 25:10-11, 19-22)
 - i. This was God's throne on Earth.
 - ii. God would commune with the High Priest from the Ark of the Covenant.
 - b. Only the High Priest could enter this part of the Tabernacle, once per year; He could never enter without blood.
 - c. The Holiest of Holies was separated from the rest of the tabernacle by a curtain or a veil. Access to His presence was very limited!
 - d. Yet, when Jesus died, the veil was torn in two. The way to God was now open to everyone. (Read Luke 23:45)
 - e. The Holiest of Holies also foreshadowed us becoming the temple of the Holy Ghost

(Conclude by reading 1 Corinthians 3:16)

The Tabernacle Plan was a temporary means of relationship for Israel, and its patterns foreshadowed our approach to God under the New Testament. We must recognize Jesus as the door, we must repent and deal with our sin, we must be washed in baptism, and God promises to fill us with His Spirit and make His dwelling place in our hearts.