

The Ark And The Testimony Exodus 25 Verses 01-16

Ex 25:1 ¶ "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."

God tells Moses to request freewill offerings of the things needed to build a sanctuary, that the presence of God would always be represented among them.

Why were these to be freewill offerings? Because any person, that was forced to give to God, would be giving from a covetous heart, and their offerings would thereby be defiled with sin. We see a picture of the offerings of unwilling hearts, seen in: *Ga 5:19-21; 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envying, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*" These are not freewill offerings. They are all in defiance of God's commandment. The unsaved person has no desire to part with what they already possess, because they are filled with covetousness.

Remember, when Israel came out of Egypt: the Egyptians gave Israel great abundance to fill their every need? The saved person is willing to offer freely to God, of the treasures that God has given it. Such things as the fruit of the Spirit, seen in: *Ga 5:22-23; 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*" Do you see the picture? In the new birth, we are gifted with the great abundance of "*the fruit of the Spirit*," which we delight to share with one another, and to devote back to God, in our appreciation of the gift, of eternal remission of sins, and eternal life in Christ.

"And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them." Sanctuary means *a consecrated thing or place, a palace, or asylum, a chapel, hallowed part, holy place*. God is instructing Israel to build a sanctuary, which is to be representative of the presence of God in and with Israel.

Ex 25:9 "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. 10 And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof."

We notice first that God tells Moses: I have given you the pattern, and you are to make everything to look like what I showed you. God did not give Moses the liberty to decide if God was doing things right. God told Moses do it as I have shown you. The same is true of God's word of truth today. So many people, who do not believe God, are trying to make what God has said, into what they want God to say.

Shittim wood has the definition of *sticks of wood, to pierce, to flog, a goad, scourge*. This ark will be representative of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ, and the centerpiece of the focus of Israel upon God's presence. We see that the wood of this ark, emblematic of the prepared body of Jesus, is defined by things that would come upon the mortal body of Jesus in time. Jesus wore a crown of thorns, his side was pierced with the spear, he was flogged, he was goaded, and he was scourged, all in his body of flesh, to pay an eternal sin debt that we could not pay, and he did not owe.

As we research the shittim wood, we find that it is a wood that is very resistant to infestation by pestilence. This shows that the mortal body of Jesus Christ was the only body of flesh, which had complete resistance to the sinful flesh nature of man, because Jesus was the Son of God. Though he was born with mortal flesh, he came in a body prepared by God, and he did not have the inherit sin nature we all got from fallen Adam.

Ex 25:11 "And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. 12 And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. 13 And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood and overlay them with gold. 14 And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them. 15 The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it. 16 And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee."

The overlaying the ark with the gold is symbolic of the purity, and the sinlessness, of the body of Jesus Christ. The ark, which is being overlaid with gold, is already a body that is composed of flawless material that cannot be infested with parasites. Now, it is overlaid with a layer of gold, which would reduce the chance of inner infestation of the wood to zero. Herein, we see a picture of the prepared body of Jesus Christ manifested in time, in its purity and sinlessness. That body was overlaid with gold, which is representative of the pure love of God that was Christ himself. Jesus already had a sinless body, and that body of flesh, encapsulated in the pure love of God, was a completely impregnable defense system against any kind of parasitic infestation.

Prophetically, we are given the picture of the newborn child of God in the ark and its beauty. When the child of God is born again, they are indwelt with the Holy Spirit representation of Jesus Christ. This newborn heart and soul is sinless and pure, as that is the only kind of place in which the Holy Spirit can reside. The child of God, in their new Christ nature, is completely resistant to sin, seen in: **1Jo 3:9 "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."** The sinless Christ presence is now in us cannot commit sin in the new nature. That did not say that the old nature of the flesh was perfected and became sinless. That will happen, but it will be in the resurrection of the dead in Christ, and the change of those that are alive and remain, when Jesus returns the second time.

"that I may dwell among them." Being a new creature in Christ, our bodies become the tabernacle in which the ark of the covenant is placed. This is Christ in you. Wherefore, we are to purify our minds, our bodies, and our souls, in accordance with the pattern set for us by Jesus Christ and protect ourselves against the infestation of the parasites of sin. We are to live life in bodies, that reflect, not the old nature, the new nature of Christ.

Israel was told to place "**in the ark**," the testimony which God gave them. God instructs each child of God, to place in the ark (their mind, body, and soul) the testimony that God has given us. What testimony have we been given as children of God? God gave Israel the written by God commandments, which were both the spiritual and civil authority of their lives. God has given us the written word of God, which is the testimony of Jesus, seen in: **Joh 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."** Jesus expanded the law testimony in the New Testament in: **Mt 22:36-40; 36 "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."** When Jesus came the first time, Jesus completely fulfilled these two commandments in his earthly life and ministry. This admonishes us to follow the pattern, set forth by Jesus, in our own lives as Children of God. This is emblematic of the overlaying with gold. If we are overflowing with the love of God, sin is washed away and cannot penetrate through the love to get into the overlaid with gold.

Did you notice; the staves, by which the ark was to be handled, were to never be removed from their place on the sides of the ark? This tells us: we are to bear about the glory of Jesus Christ in all that we say or do.

Today is the day, which is set aside, and observed, as resurrection Sunday, the day that Jesus Christ arose from the dead. If you have been born again, you, also, have been resurrected from the dead. How? You are resurrected, from the state of being dead in trespasses and sins, to eternal life in Christ. You have been resurrected from the dead because the testimony of Jesus was placed in your mind, body, and soul, in the new birth. You show forth your resurrection for the dead, when you are baptized, by immersion, and raised up from the watery grave unto living a Christian life, which demonstrates that you are a Child of God.

Remember the definition of the shittim wood: **sticks of wood, to pierce, to flog, a goad, scourge.** Just as Jesus bore these things in his body of flesh: so, we will suffer many things in this world for the cause of Jesus Christ. Above all things remember: the observance of the resurrection of Christ from the dead is not a one day, once a year event. The resurrection, of Christ from the dead, should be daily in our hearts, that we may always give glory, honor, and praise to his Holy and Matchless name. Thank you, Lord Jesus! Amen!