

Exodus Chapter 25 Commentary

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 gave to God by mandate, would be giving from a covetous heart, and their offerings would thereby be defiled with sin. In this age of grace, the rejection of the request from God for freewill offerings is manifested by the behaviour of the covetous heart, 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 Envyings, 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 all covetous because they are for the one committing them, not for God or God's glory.

Remember, when Israel came out of Egypt: they were gifted by the Egyptians with the abundance of Egypt to fill their every need, as they are traveling to the land of promise? The saved person is willing to offer freely to God, of the treasures that God has given it. These freewill offerings are from the abundance of the fruit of the Spirit, which is gifted to the child of God in the new birth, 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.

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 among Israel. God is telling Israel: you are my chosen nation of people and as such you need my presence to go with you, until you get to your new home. God tells each child of God: you need my presence to go, and be, with you, until you reach your eternal home.

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, which is sin.

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, is emblematic of the prepared body of Jesus, which is defined by the things that would come upon the mortal body of Jesus in time. Jesus was hung on a wooden cross, 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 what we would call completely 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.

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, which was to be overlaid with gold. His body was already a body that is composed of flawless material that cannot be infested with the parasites of sin. 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 of sin.

Prophetically, we are given the picture of the newborn child of God in the composition of the ark. When the child of God is born again, they are indwelt with the Holy Spirit representation of Jesus Christ. This newborn heart and soul are 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."** Since the sinless Christ presence is now in us, we 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.

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. This tells us; we are to purify our minds, our bodies, and our souls, in accordance with the pattern set for us by Jesus Christ, and build a place that is protected, against the infestation of the parasites of sin. We are to live a life, in our bodies, that reflects, not the old nature, but the new nature of Christ in us.

Israel was told to place in the ark, the testimony which God gave them. Each child of God today is instructed by 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, and the spiritual and civil authority of our lives, 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 application of the law testimony in the New Testament, seen 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."** This says to us: when Jesus came the first time, Jesus completely fulfilled these two commandments in his earthly life and ministry, and 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.

Jesus further expanded the meaning of the law commandments and their application in our lives as Christians in: **Mt 5:28 "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."** Thus, we see that the intent of God, and Jesus, was to purge the heart, and the inmost being of our bodies, of even thoughts of sin.

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. It reminds us that we should never willfully turn away from church fellowship and return to living like the world.

Remember the definition of the shittim wood: **sticks of wood, to pierce, to flog, a goad, scourge**. Remember this also; 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. Remember, as we suffer here in this world for the cause of Christ, to overlay our every action with gold, the pureness of the love of Jesus Christ. Above all things remember: the resurrection of Christ from the dead is not a one day, once a year event, as most people which call themselves Christians celebrate at Easter. 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!

"And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof;" This demonstrates to us that God's saving grace will go into all the world, and Jesus will save people from all over the earth, as seen in: **Isa 11:9-12; 9 "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. 10 ¶ And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. 11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. 12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."** This is the Old Testament prophesy that both Jew and Gentile shall receive the gift of salvation by the grace of God. We see this prophesy of redemption affirmed in the New Testament in: **Re 5:9-10; 9 "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."** Wherever, God's children are born-again, they are to live their lives so that the glory of Christ in them is revealed to all around them. They are the representation of the manifestation of Christ's presence on earth.

"they shall not be taken from it." We see that the staves were made in the same fashion as the ark. This emblemizes for us; Christ not only is represented by the ark, but He also is the provider of the means by which He is to be carried. It gives us a picture of the Church being supplied by the emblem that is to be born in the world and put on display for God's people. The staves were not to be removed and this tells us that if we try to remove Christ from any part of our salvation then we are wrong. It demonstrates that indeed Christ has made all things and is the author and finisher of our faith. Don't miss that the ark was to be borne by a people designated later by God. This is just demonstrating that the true church of Christ is today still borne upon the shoulders of God's chosen people. The true church is not carried on its journey by the world but by God's people.

17 "And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. 18 And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. 20 And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. 21 And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. 22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel."

We said earlier that the ark of the covenant was to be an emblem of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. Here we see this revealed plainly. Notice, the mercy seat was over, it covered, the written by God commandments, which were to be put inside the ark. This shows us that Jesus stands between us, who cannot fully keep the law commandments as Christ did, and God the Father, who is offended when we sin by failing to keep the commandments. If we are not covered by the blood of Christ, our sins will not be forgiven, and we will be damned to eternal death in the lake of fire.

Notice, the cherubims with their outstretched wings, standing on each end of the mercy seat, and their wings touching in the middle on each side of the ark. This created an open space from which the Holy Spirit of God would communicate with Israel, his chosen people.

As you faced this ark with the mercy seat in place, there was an opening through which you could look. As you looked upon the mercy seat from above, there was an opening that you could see through. This shows us

that the voice of God comes down from heaven through the portal above and when it hits the mercy seat, God's voice is broadcast forth in all directions so that the gospel of Jesus Christ is broadcast to all the world.

These cherubims were to be facing this central place, which is the picture of the eternal throne of God, which is surrounded by God's creatures, and people, all facing and looking toward Jesus Christ, seen in: **Re 4:1-11; 1 ¶ "After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. 3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. 4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. 5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. 6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. 7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 8 ¶ And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. 9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, 10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."** And continued in: **Re 5:6-14; 6 ¶ "And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. 7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. 8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. 11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever."**

All this worship directed to Jesus Christ, is revealed when the vail of the temple is rent in twain, from the top to the bottom, at the death of Jesus on the cross.

23 ¶ "Thou shalt also make a table of shittim wood: two cubits shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. 24 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about. 25 And thou shalt make unto it a border of an hand breadth round about, and thou shalt make a golden crown to the border thereof round about. 26 And thou shalt make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings in the four corners that are on the four feet thereof. 27 Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table. 28 And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them. 29 And thou shalt make the dishes thereof, and spoons thereof, and covers thereof, and bowls thereof, to cover withal: of pure gold shalt thou make them. 30 And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me alway."

This table was to be for the shewbread in the holy place. As with the ark, the table was made of shittim wood and overlaid with gold. Again, demonstrating that it requires complete protection from the entrance of parasitic sin.

The dishes on the table were to be made of pure gold. There is no wood in them. God provided every need the priest had to prepare his table of shewbread in perfect order before him. The shewbread reminds us that to survive the life of a Christian, here in time, we have need to eat of the true bread of life, the body of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ, and the unadulterated Word of God. The King James Bible, not some version of the bible that has been changed to suit the minds of people, which has ever been the devil's way of turning people from God, by changing the Word of God and its truth.

31 ¶ "And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the same. 32 And six branches shall come out of the sides of it; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side: 33 Three bowls made like unto almonds, with a knop and a flower in one branch; and three bowls made like almonds in the other branch, with a knop and a flower: so in the six branches that come out of the candlestick. 34 And in the candlestick shall be four bowls made like unto almonds, with their knops and their flowers. 35 And there shall be a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, according to the six branches that proceed out of the candlestick. 36 Their knops and their branches shall be of the same: all it shall be one beaten work of pure gold. 37 And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it. 38 And the tongs thereof, and the snuff dishes thereof, shall be of pure gold. 39 Of a talent of pure gold shall he make it, with all these vessels. 40 And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount."

Next, they were to make a candlestick, which had a central candle and was surrounded by six other candles. It was a very ornate piece of work, which was to be made of one talent of pure gold. God designed it to have a place for the storage of the oil which would feed all the candles.

This candlestick was to be in the holy place also. Remember the holy place and the most holy place were both covered on the top and sides and separated by a curtain between them. Therefore, it was necessary to have the candlestick to light the holy place, where the priests were to enter to minister before the Lord. The light of the candlestick would reveal the shewbread, which is emblematic of the body of Christ being the bread of life. The priests were to have a steady diet of the holy bread, which is picturesque of the need of God's people today to have a steady diet of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We see this central candle, which was above all the other candles, as the light of Jesus Christ, surrounded by his people, who are showing the same light, the glory of Christ, in their lives as Christians.

Again, Moses is warned to make everything according to the pattern he was shown when he was in the mount with God. A reminder to us that we are to do all things as unto Christ, as seen in: ***Eph 6:5-9; 5 "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; 6 Not with eyeservice, as men pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. 9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him."*** This text reminds us that there is no separation of secular and spiritual works. If all is to be done as unto the Lord, then all is together become worship and praise to God, both secular and spiritual. May we all strive to attain unto the pattern of perfection set before us by Jesus Christ. Amen!