

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

EXODUS 21 -40

Lesson 11

Biblical-Literacy.com

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CONTEXT

- God's Kingdom is being established in its Old Testament form.
- The Israelites are the descendants of the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob).
- They are heirs to the promised land (modern Israel).
- They are the promised conduit of the victory over evil.

THE STORY

- Chapters 21 – 31 God tells Moses a number of the laws for the people.
- When Moses tells these laws to the people, the people respond:

“with one voice, ‘Everything Yhwh has said we will do.’”

Ex. 24:3

- The people lie!

THE STORY

- Moses takes a night to write the laws.
- Moses ascends Mt. Sinai for more instruction.
- Over 40 days and nights, God explains a number of matters:
 - Tabernacle
 - Priestly garb
 - Atonement issues, etc.
- God delivers the written Ten Commandments

THE STORY

- Meanwhile, back at the ranch
- Restlessness
- Aaron goes to work
- And let the party begin!



Lucas van Leyden c. 1530





Lucas van Leyden c. 1530



TIME OUT

- Tired of waiting on God?
- Ready to get things going your way?
- Ready to remake this whole existence along your own lines?
- Ready to pursue what you know is contrary to what God wants?

THE STORY

- Moses returns.
- Moses throws a fit (and the tablets!)
- Aaron tells a whopper.
- Moses begins serious intervention.
- Here again, Moses is a precursor of Jesus.
- Moses gets the second printing of the Ten Commandments.
- The Tabernacle is made, inspected, set up, indwelt.

In the Wilderness

At Timna Park, (Yotvata), 'a land with streams of water' (Deut. 10:7) , a life-size replica of the biblical tabernacle has been constructed. While no original materials (e.g., gold, silver, bronze) have been used, the model is accurate in every other way based upon the biblical description.



The Outer Court

The bronze laver and bronze altar were located in the outer court. The altar was 7.5 feet square and 4.5 feet high, was made of acacia wood overlaid with bronze, and had a horn on each corner. The fire on the altar was to be kept burning at all times and the daily sacrifices were offered in the morning and afternoon.



The Holy Place

This sacred area was occupied by the golden lampstand, incense altar and table of showbread. The lampstand (menorah) was beaten and fashioned out of a single block of gold and had three branches coming out of each side of the central shaft. The seven lamps on top of the branches were likely round saucers with pinched rims which held the wick and olive oil.



Ark of the Covenant

The only object in the Holy of Holies, the sacred ark contained the two tablets with the Ten Commandments, the rod of Aaron that blossomed and the pot of manna. The ark was covered by the "mercy seat" on which the high priest sprinkled the blood of the goat seven times on the Day of Atonement. The ark represented the footstool of God's throne.



THE TABERNACLE

- God dwelling with his people. (Ex. 25:8, 22; 29:42-46)
- Jesus becomes flesh and tabernacles (dwells) among us (John 1:14).
- Jesus was a more perfect tabernacle not made with hands (Heb. 9:11).
- In Jesus, God dwells with his people.

THE PURPOSES OF LAW

1. To regulate society.
2. To benefit people with a moral code and instructions in piety.
3. To point us to God and Christ.
 1. Explaining God's character.
 2. Showing our shortcomings.

NEVER TO SET US RIGHT WITH GOD

THEOLOGICAL TERM DU JOUR

JUSTIFY/JUSTIFIED/JUSTIFICATION:

JUSTIFY = Make right with God.

JUSTIFIED = Made right with God.

JUSTIFICATION = That which makes us right with God.

THE LAW

- NEVER MADE TO JUSTIFY US BEFORE GOD.
- Served as the basis for our legal system.

NEXT WEEK

- LEVITICUS
- READ Chapter 10 (Nadab and Abihu)
- READ Chapter 16 (the Day of Atonement).