**November 9, 2022**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“WORDS FOR WILLING WORKERS”**

**Exodus 35:1-35**

***Exodus 35:1-3***

***1 "And Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said unto them, These [are] the words which the LORD hath commanded, that [ye] should do them."***

***2 "Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death."***

***3 "Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day."***

With instructions in hand for constructing the tabernacle and its furnishings, Moses was ready to relay everything to the Israelites so that the work could begin. But first he reminded them of the Sabbath. Six days of work were to be followed by a Sabbath of complete rest to the Lord. We see, here, that Moses had brought the exact message that God had given him for the people. It seems as though this "ye shall kindle no fire", probably, was an explanation of how far the keeping of the Sabbath was to go. The prohibition “Thou shalt not kindle a fire in any of your dwellings on the Sabbath day” has been debated among those who observe the Sabbath day. Jews and Samaritans have interpreted it as a permanent prohibition for the Sabbath itself is a permanent law. But Jews are divided into two views. The first view does not allow Jews to kindle and keep a fire burning continually on the Sabbath day. The second view allows Jews to have a fire on the Sabbath, but the fire itself cannot be kindled, refueled or extinguished during the Sabbath hours. The Samaritans do not allow their members to kindle and keep a fire burning on the Sabbath day. Some Christian scholars have interpreted it as a temporary prohibition and relate it to the time of Israel’s wandering in the wilderness for forty years. Other scholars relate it to the construction of the Tabernacle and its equipment. In this view, it seems that this prohibition was valid less than one year. Others relate it to pagan worship.

***Exodus 35:4-9***

***4 "And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This [is] the thing which the LORD commanded, saying,"***

***5 "Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever [is] of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass,"***

***6 "And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' [hair],"***

***7 "And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood,"***

***8 "And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and for the sweet incense,"***

***9 "And onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and for the breastplate."***

Moses spoke to the people and gave them a list of things that they could bring as an offering unto the Lord for the tabernacle. Moses called the Israelites to give sacrificially. These people had repented of their sins they committed while Moses was on the mountain with God the first time. We will find that they not only did what Moses told them was God's wishes about the offerings, but actually freely gave more than was needed to furnish the tabernacle and outer court.

***Exodus 35:10-18***

***10 "And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the LORD hath commanded;"***

***11 "The tabernacle, his tent, and his covering, his taches, and his boards, his bars, his pillars, and his sockets,"***

***12 "The ark, and the staves thereof, [with] the mercy seat, and the veil of the covering,"***

***13 "The table, and his staves, and all his vessels, and the shewbread,"***

***14 "The candlestick also for the light, and his furniture, and his lamps, with the oil for the light,"***

***15 "And the incense altar, and his staves, and the anointing oil, and the sweet incense, and the hanging for the door at the entering in of the tabernacle,"***

***16 "The altar of burnt offering, with his brasen grate, his staves, and all his vessels, the laver and his foot,"***

***17 "The hangings of the court, his pillars, and their sockets, and the hanging for the door of the court,"***

***18 "The pins of the tabernacle, and the pins of the court, and their cords,"***

This had to do with those whom the Lord had filled with the knowledge to help with the work of the tabernacle. When you look at this list above, you must take note that they were not listed in the same order as before. Perhaps, this list, here, indicated what would be needed first and the order in which this shall be done. We note, here, that all of the valuable metals, materials, etc., were to come from the people to build this tabernacle and its court. I believe this endeavor, here, was why God had the Israelites bring silver, gold, and precious things into the wilderness with them. These pins, in verse 18, were not listed in the earlier list and were, perhaps, used in tying down the tent.

***Exodus 35:19-20***

***19 "The cloths of service, to do service in the holy [place], the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office."***

***20 "And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses."***

We see that Moses went into great detail about the needs for the tabernacle and its court; and after he explained to the people everything that was needed, they immediately went to their own tents to prepare to bring all of this.

***Exodus 35:21 "And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, [and] they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments."***

We see who came to bring the necessary things for the tabernacle and court, those with a willing heart. All spiritual things begin in the heart. This Scripture did not state any particular tribe. God really doesn't care what family affiliation you have, all He wants is a willing heart. When the Spirit moves upon the heart, something happens that causes people to want to work for the Lord. You will find these people going far beyond a tithe, as well. They gave everything they could to the work of the Lord, and they worked, as well. These were not things they brought grudgingly, but with a joyful heart. They were rejoicing that they could be part of this great undertaking.

***Exodus 35:22 "And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, [and] brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered [offered] an offering of gold unto the LORD."***

Here, we see God's people bringing their jewelry to be used for God's work. They brought this willingly. This was voluntary. This was not just the men, but women, as well. It appears that in this particular time of history, men and women wore all sorts of jewelry. I believe this offering of gold being mentioned twice, here, has great spiritual significance. I believe it symbolizes the pureness of heart the givers had.

***Exodus 35:23-26***

***23 "And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' [hair], and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins, brought [them]."***

***24 "Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the LORD'S offering: and every man, with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought [it]."***

***25 "And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, [both] of blue, and of purple, [and] of scarlet, and of fine linen."***

***26 "And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' [hair]."***

Perhaps, some of this silver was attained in sacrifice unto the Lord purchasing the firstborn. I believe what was intended here was the fact this was all freewill offerings though. This blue, purple, and scarlet was dyed, probably, before the weaving began. The fine linen was, perhaps, white. These women were experts in spinning. God had poured the knowledge and skill to do this job into their minds and spirits. It is strange that this would be separated out, but it was a different skill required to spin the goat's hair. Here, again, we see that the Lord had given them the wisdom, and it was the desire of their hearts to do this.

***Exodus 35:27-28***

***27 "And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate;"***

***28 "And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense."***

We see, here, that the rulers, probably, had more wealth than the others. We discussed before that this onyx meant here was a precious stone, probably not the one we know today as an onyx. The onyx was mentioned separate, because it would not be on the breastplate, but was the stone for each shoulder. The other stones were not specifically named here, but we remember that each of the 12 represented one of the tribes of Israel. We, also, must remember that these different oils and the spice were special preparations.

***Exodus 35:29 "The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the LORD had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses."***

We remember, here, the most important thing. They (men and women) brought them from willing hearts. This statement ("by the hand of Moses") did not mean that Moses would actually do any of the work. He just received the plans from God, and was responsible to give accurate instructions, nothing else.

***Exodus 35:30 "And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the LORD hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah;"***

***Exodus 35:31 "And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship;"***

***Exodus 35:32 "And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,"***

***Exodus 35:33 "And in the cutting of stones, to set [them], and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work."***

We spoke about Bezaleel in chapter 31 of this Bible study. It is almost unbelievable that one man had all the different skills to do such a wide variety of jobs. One of these skills would take a lifetime to perfect in the natural, but all things are possible with God. God poured His Spirit upon Bezaleel, and perfected all of these abilities in him. To get the details on all of this, study chapter 31 of Exodus in this Bible study.

***Exodus 35:34-35***

***34 "And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, [both] he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan."***

***35 "Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, [even] of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work."***

This Aholiab was Bezaleel's assistant that God had given him. God allowed Bezaleel and Aholiab to teach these crafts to others the Lord had chosen to help. Bezaleel was the boss, Aholiab was his assistant, and the other helpers were under Aholiab. God had filled these helpers, as well, with skill and understanding to do the job. They were under the constant, watchful eye of Aholiab and Bezaleel.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Why did Moses gather the congregation?
2. What additional description was added to the warning not to work on the sabbath?
3. What was the penalty for working on the sabbath?
4. What did Moses command the people to do?
5. What had to be the condition of their hearts?
6. The wise hearted were to do what?
7. Who would furnish the metals, wood, and precious stones for the tabernacle?
8. What 2 descriptions were given of the people who brought the materials?
9. All spiritual things begin where?
10. In verse 22, what did men and women bring for the tabernacle?
11. What was the description of the women who spun with their hands?
12. What was, probably, the difference of the goats' hair?
13. Why were the onyx stones mentioned separate from the other stones?
14. What did "by the hand of Moses" mean?
15. What did God do for all the workers?