

Sermon Notes

Exodus – The Revealing of God’s Glory and His Design for the Chosen #87

“The Dwelling of God” – Exodus 26:1-37

I. Introduction

- A. Contradictions in human behavior.
 - 1. Examples
 - 2. In relating to God, people desire to contact God, but when He is perceived near, they flee.
- B. Today’s study
 - 1. Chapter 26 concerns the architectural design of the tabernacle tent.
 - a. Some skip this text.
 - 2. However, this text has much to say about God deigning “to dwell” among His people.
 - 3. The dwelling revealed two things.
 - a. God’s character.
 - b. How sinful human beings may meet a holy God.
 - 4. The construction detail began with the interior as opposed to the exterior.
- C. Reading of the text: Exodus 26:1-37

II. Exposition

- A. Exodus 26:1-6
 - 1. The innermost layer of coverings – ten sheets of linen sewn together to make two coverings.
 - 2. Beautiful in color and included depictions of cherubim.
- B. Exodus 26:7-14
 - 1. The second layer – made from goat’s hair.
 - a. Typical of nomadic life.
 - b. Slightly larger than the linen coverings.
 - 2. Followed by two more layers of animal hide. Served as a waterproof tarp.
- C. Exodus 26:15-29
 - 1. Concerns the framing which supported the portable tent.
- D. Exodus 26:31-35
 - 1. Concerns the veil (curtain) that separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place.
 - a. Ex. 39:34; 40:21. A screening veil.

E. Exodus 26:36-37

- 1. The final covering was a flap placed over the doorway.

F. Final thought on art depictions of appearance.

- 1. No two depictions are alike.

III. Special meanings.

- A. Old Testament meaning in view of context.
 - 1. The tabernacle was a part of Heaven on earth.
 - a. Ex. 25:8
 - b. God’s throne.
 - c. Note significance of cherubim – harks back to Genesis 3.
 - 2. It was a copy of the heavenly realm.
 - a. Hebrews 8:5
 - 3. A sad reality – for the masses, there was no access.
 - a. Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies.
 - b. Jewish history on the thickness of the veil.
 - c. Note cherubim who blocked entrance to the Garden and Tree of Life in Genesis 3.
 - 4. The holiness of God is being highlighted.
 - a. Hebrew term for Holy – to c _____ or s _____
First used in Ex. 3:5
 - b. God is completely other – Ex. 15:11; I Sam. 2:2
 - c. *The Idea of the Holy* by Rudoff Otto, 1917.
 - 1. Quite a contrast to popular culture’s view of coming in contact with “the holy.”
 - d. Encounter with Jesus deity – Mark 4:35-41; Luke 5:1-9
- B. The New Testament understanding
 - 1. David asked the thought provoking question, Ps. 15:1
 - a. Then came the answer, Ps. 15:2-5
 - 2. Yet, Jesus is the tabernacle – John 1:4
 - 3. When He finished His work, the separating screen was torn asunder – Matt. 27:50-51a; Mark 15:37-38
 - a. A miracle!
 - b. Perhaps an explanation for Luke’s account – Acts 6:7.

IV. Points for Reflection.

- A. The way has been cleared. We do have access.
 - 1. Hebrews 9:12,24; Hebrews 10:19-20
- B. We even became the priestly class.
 - 1. I Peter 2:5-10