TALKING POINTS

Exodus

Quarter 3, Lesson 10

"The Covenant and the Blueprint"

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MEMORY VERSE: "So Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, 'All the words which the Lord has said we will do.'" Exodus 24:3, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

This week's lesson studies the ratification of the Old Covenant and the preliminary steps in the building of the earthly tabernacle.

1. Obedience is what surrender looks like (Sab-Tue)

- Obedience to God's law formed the basis of the covenant He made with His people (see Ex. 24:3-7).
    - We tend to find fault with their pledge, which becomes especially interesting when we discover that God did not (see Dt. 5:27, 28).

> This is the pledge that God's people are to make in these last days. Their acceptance with God depends on a faithful fulfilment of the terms of their agreement with him. God includes in his covenant all who will obey him. RH June 23,1904

- His people failed to realize was that their relationship with God fueled their ability to obey Him (Dt. 5:29).
    - "You are not able to serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:19).
        - Even the leaders who went into the mount with Moses were not safeguarded against transgression (see Qtly, Mon, last par).
- We must surrender our wills to God (see Qtly, Tue, par 3).
    - In practical terms, what does this look like? Obedience!
        - "Obedience is God's gift…" (Qtly, Tue, last par).

> As soon as you surrender your whole heart to God, you will render self-denying, cheerful obedience. ST Sept. 22, 1890

> In receiving Christ as our Captain there must be a complete surrender of the human will to the divine will. The Lord can work out His will through those who have made this surrender, for they give prompt and cheerful obedience to His commands. TMK 219

2. The sanctuary revealed God's ideal for humanity (Wed)

- "That I may dwell among them" (Ex. 25:8).
    - God wanted to be near His people, not just for companionship. God wanted to acquaint them with His ways and character, that by beholding, they would become changed (2 Cor. 3:18).
        - "Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary" (Ps. 77:13); "is holy" (NASB).
        - "…we beheld His glory…" (Jn. 1:14).

> That temple, erected for the abode of the divine Presence, was designed to be an object lesson for Israel and for the world. From eternal ages it was God's purpose that every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator…. God designed that the temple at Jerusalem should be a continual witness to the high destiny open to every soul. DA 161.1

- God gave Moses a detailed pattern for the sanctuary and its services to be followed without deviation (see Lev. 10:1, 2).
    - To alter the sanctuary would be to alter the lesson God was intending to teach.
        - Consider Jesus' overturning of the tables (Jn. 2:14, 15; Mt. 21:12).

3. Every good and perfect gift comes from God (Thu)

- The craftsmen who built the sanctuary were especially endowed by the Holy Spirit to do so (Ex. 31:1-6).
    - As were their descendants (see Prophets & Kings, p. 62).
        - Every spiritual, physical and intellectual aptitude is a gift from God, whether received through a miraculous bestowal or simply an inherited trait (see Jas. 1:17). Therefore, every talent should be employed to bring glory to His name.
- Finally, it was no accident that the Ten Commandments were enshrined in the heart of the sanctuary.
    - God's law is the foundation of God's throne and the reason for the institution of the sanctuary and its services.
        - It should come as no surprise, then, that as God was giving instruction for the work to be done, He re-emphasized that it was not to be done on the Sabbath (Ex. 31:12-18).

CONCLUSION

> The law of God, enshrined within the ark, was the great rule of righteousness and judgment. That law pronounced death upon the transgressor; but above the law was the mercy seat, upon which the presence of God was revealed, and from which, by virtue of the atonement, pardon was granted to the repentant sinner. Thus in the work of Christ for our redemption, symbolized by the sanctuary service, 'mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other' (Ps. 85:10). PP 349.2 (Qtly, Fri, par 2)