TALKING POINTS

# Exodus

Quarter 3, Lesson 13
"The Tabernacle"

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**MEMORY VERSE:** "Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle… For the cloud of the Lord was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys." Exodus 40:34, 38, NKJV

## LESSON STUDY INTRO

This week's lesson examines the concluding six chapters of Exodus.

### 1. Sabbath rest is God's signature of fidelity (Sun)

- Sabbath observance is central throughout the book of Exodus.
    - Sabbath reform in Egypt (Ex. 5:4, 5; PP 258)
    - Sabbath rest with manna (Ex. 16)
    - The Sabbath commandment. (Ex. 20:8-11)
- Now, in the context of building the tabernacle, Sabbath observance is emphasized once again.
    - It is noteworthy that God's initial explanation of the tabernacle construction project ended with a Sabbath reminder (Ex. 31:12-17) and now the command to begin building the tabernacle opens with a Sabbath reminder (Ex. 35:1-3)
        - "The Hebrews were to be engaged in a holy enterprise and might think this an excuse for working on the Sabbath. But they were not to permit the sacred nature of their work to deceive them into a neglect of the holy observance of that day to tread thoughtlessly on its sacred time." SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 1, p. 679
- Such careful Sabbath observance should inform our Sabbath keeping today, even for those who work in ministry.

### 2. We give to God only what is His (Mon)

- The offerings collected from the Israelites for use in the Tabernacle were those given them by the Egyptians through the providence of God (Ex. 12:35, 36).
    - These abundant offerings were not from their own resources but merely a return of the Lord's incredible blessing (1 Chr. 29:14-16).

- Just as our material blessings come from God, our special gifts of talent are also a blessing from the Lord. (Ex. 35:30-35)
    - In the New Testament and still today, the church is to be edified by the exercise of everyone's talents and spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-7; Eph. 4:15, 16; Mk. 13:32-34).

> When the master of the house called his servants, he gave to every man his work. The whole family of God are included in the responsibility of using their Lord's goods. Every individual, from the lowest and most obscure to the greatest and most exalted, is a moral agent endowed with abilities for which he is accountable to God. ChS 13

### 3. The Tabernacle is the central framework of redemption (Tue-Fri)

- Apart from the golden calf incident (Ex. 32-34), from Exodus 25 on, the book of Exodus is entirely focused on the Tabernacle.
- Just as the Ten Commandments are a transcript of God's character, the Tabernacle is the framework of redemption.
    - The Lamb represents Christ, the camp and the courtyard represent Christ's earthly life and ministry that culminated in His sacrificial death, and the Holy and Most Holy Place represent the two phases of His priestly work in Heaven—intercession (daily service) and judgment (yearly service).

> In the ministration of the tabernacle, and of the temple that afterward took its place, the people were taught each day the great truths relative to Christ's death and ministration, and once each year their minds were carried forward to the closing events of the great controversy between Christ and Satan, the final purification of the universe from sin and sinners. PP 358 (Qtly, Fri, par 2)

        - The Tabernacle and its furnishings have significance only as they represent Christ's work for our redemption.
- Exodus closes with the Lord inhabiting His Tabernacle, just in time to celebrate the first Passover (Ex. 40;2, 17; 12:1-3 14).
    - This prefigured Christ's incarnation as the true Lamb of God. (Jn. 1:14; Hag. 2:1-9; Mt. 12:6)

## CONCLUSION

"The sanctuary demonstrated God's closeness to humanity and revealed the greatest truths to them, which is how He saves those who come to Him in faith." Qtly, Sab, par 4