

# THE TABERNACLE IN THE LAW

By Keith Greer

"And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them." (Exodus 25:8)

When man was placed in the Garden of Eden, he had fellowship and direct access to God. Adam and Eve's sin in the garden brought about a separation between God and man. No longer did a close relationship exist between them. God made a promise that in the future God would provide the means that this broken fellowship could be restored, Genesis 3:15.

In God's infinite wisdom, He had a plan to bring about reconciliation between Himself and man once again. He instructed the Israelite people to build Him a "habitation", as a dwelling place. The story of the "Tabernacle" has more written about it in the Old Testament than any other subject. (Sixteen chapters)

"And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain." (Exodus 25:40) Moses received the "blueprint" from God while up on Mount Sinai. Yes, Moses received the law but God also desired a place that His people could come to worship Him. God desired this dwelling place to be made according to His instructions, not men's! Since He was the one they were to worship why would He not leave a pattern for them to go by?

We can read of God's instructions on how they were to construct the tabernacle, in Exodus, chapters 26-30. One cannot fail to be impressed about the amount of details God gave in these instructions, he was very specific. When other religious folks tell me today that "details" are not important to God, but just worry about the major points, I take them back to God's instructions concerning His "dwelling place":

"And you shall couple five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves, and you shall double over the sixth curtain at the forefront of the tent. You shall make fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in one set, and fifty loops on the edge of the curtain of the second set. And you shall make fifty bronze clasps, put the clasps into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one." (Exodus 26:9-11)

"And for the tabernacle you shall make for the boards of acacia wood, standing upright." (Exodus 26:15)

"You shall make the altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide-the altar shall be square-and its height shall be three cubits." (Exodus 27:1)

"Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs of the first year, day by day continually." (Exodus 29:38)

"So I will consecrate the tabernacle of the meeting and the altar ... brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the Lord their God." (Exodus 29:44-46)

So we can readily see a very specific pattern to be followed. Why such a pattern? It was given to them as a test of faith, to see if they would follow God's instructions to the letter!

What if they had used pine wood? Built the altar six cubits square? Offered two goats, instead of two lambs? All of these were prohibited in God's pattern. So, what did the people do?

Hopefully they followed the blueprint and followed every detail God gave them, placed the furniture in the proper location, used the proper materials, made the priests garments according to specifications and faithfully perform all tasks. When it came time to dedicate the tabernacle – what did God think of the work they accomplished? "Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." (Exodus 40:34) \*\*\*