

God's Building, Part 1: The Tabernacle

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God's building

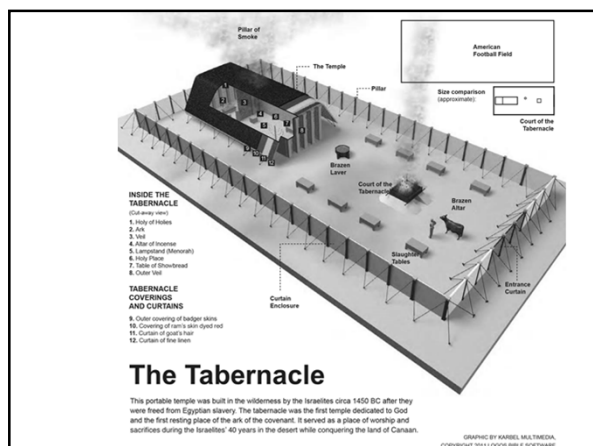
¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. [Matthew 16.15-18]

- God's building vs. God's building...

Some building problems

- Unfortunately this is true of some churches. Many churches nowadays try to build contrary to God's Word and revelation.



Exodus 25: The Tabernacle

¹The LORD said to Moses, ²"Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. ³And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, ⁴blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, ⁵tanned rams' skins, goatskins, acacia wood, ⁶oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, ⁷onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

Exodus 25: The Tabernacle

⁸And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. ⁹Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

The Participation of God's People (Ex 25.1-7)

Q: How can we say "God's building" when He commands us to make a 'contribution'?

A: He only commands us to contribute that which He has first given us (Ex 3.21-22; 12.35-36; 1 Cor 4.7)

Q: How can we say "God's building" when He says 'let them make me a sanctuary'?

A: God moves our hearts to move us (25.2)

Q: How can we say "God's building" when He's up in heaven?

A: He intercedes for us (Ex 12.7; Heb 7.25)

The Participation of God's People (Ex 25.1-7)

The 'contribution' is:

- Commanded (25.1)
- Voluntary (25.2)
- Costly (25.3-7; cf. David's sacrifice)
- Durable (25.3-7; cf. 1 Cor 3.12-13)
- Effort (25.8): He builds through us.

We are all priests who serve in God's sanctuary (Ex 19.6; 1 Pet 2.9) vs. the Pareto Principle: '20% make 80% of the contribution.'

- What could prevent us from contributing our treasure, time, and talent?



Many build for the wrong reasons, e.g. a Malawian pastor posted the following on Facebook:

"Those S classes currently I have 4 of them, and this E class I have 2 of them, 2x range rovers, 2 x Land Rover Discovery 4, just to mention a few."

- But any other reason is an idol.

The Purpose of God's Sanctuary (Ex 25.8)

We will only invest our treasure, time, and talent in what we value more than them.

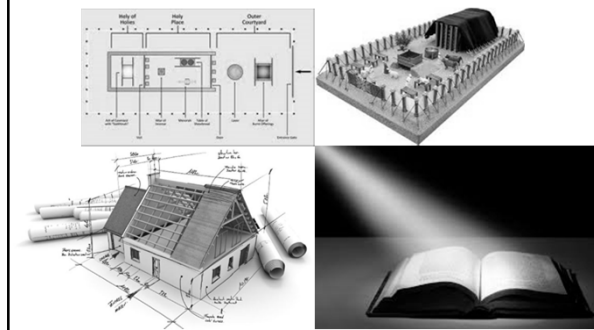
- The purpose of "God's building" is God's presence among us!
- The purpose of the sanctuary (Ex 25.8) is the same as the purpose of the Exodus (Ex 29.45-46).
- Sometimes we act as though we are eager to have God in our midst, but God is not eager to be in our midst (cf. the Cross!).

The Pattern of God's Revelation (Ex 25.9)

Moses had to build on earth according to the pattern in heaven (Ex 25.9; Heb 8.5) and so should we!

- God's building should always be built according to God's plan – we can't decide how we want to build.
- Nowadays many churches are building as they want or as culture dictates, not according to the 'pattern' given.
- How can all of us build 'exactly' according to pattern? (Ex 25.9)

By working from the same plan...



Discussion Questions

- How highly do I value the purpose of God's building?
- How can God build through me?
- How is God building through me?
