**LAST WEEK TOPIC: RENEWAL OF THE LAW AND OFFERING FOR THE TABERNACLE.**

**TODAY’S TOPIC: LESSON 59:**

**CONSTRUCTION AND ERECTION OF THE TABERNACLE**

**MEMORY VERSE: "And Moses did look upon all the work, and, behold, they had done it as the LORD had commanded, even so had they done it: and Moses blessed them" (Exodus 39:43).**

**TEXT: Exodus chapters 37 to 40**

God's dealing with Israel foreshadows His future plan commanded Israel to construct a tabernacle where He would meet with them. This tabernacle is a picture of what would happen in the new heaven and the new earth; the Lord God will dwell with His redeemed "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God" (Revelation 21:3).

**Quest 1. What is the place of the tabernacle in God's Programme for Isreal?**

**Ans: A place and channel of communion and fellowship between God and His people( Israel)**

As a figure of the eternal tabernacle, the earthly tabernacle must be raised following God's specifications. God had called Abraham out of his kindred to be separated from the idols of his lineage and the iniquities of his generation in order to raise a generation of peculiar people that would be regulated by special divine injunctions. Their pattern of worship and communion with God, and the place of worship are to be ordained by Him.

The plan of God for making Israel a peculiar people is presented to us in this lesson just as He is gathering to Himself today through the Lord Jesus Christ, people "...a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people..." (1 Peter 2:9). and so demands obedience from all true worshippers. Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Jesus, says that those who are to worship God must do so in spirit and in truth (John 4:23).

**The lesson is sub divided in to 3, as provided below:**

**CONSTRUCTION OF THE TABERNACLE (Exodus 37:1- 29; 38:1-31; 31:2; 30:6; 39:35; Numbers 8:4; Deuteronomy 10:2; 2 Chronicles 3:15; Hebrews 9:2**)

"And Bezaleel made the ark of shittim wood..." (Exodus 37:1). Moses, the spiritual leader of the Israelites was instructed by God to guide and direct the construction of the tabernacle. The personnel involved were called of God. "See, I have called by name Bezaleel ...of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship" (Exodus 31:2,3). Likewise, Moses was called before his commission for service (Exodus 3:4). In God's programme in the New Testament, the call to conversion is the first contact between God and all human instruments in His service. This relationship with Him begins when we heed His invitation to: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Finding and becoming a member of God's kingdom begins with salvation from sin and conversion from the way and life of sinning which ushers in a remarkable transformation of life (2 Corinthians 5:17 ) Bezaleel complied with the specifications of God in the choice of materials given to Moses. It must be observed that the best of materials were used for the work-shittim wood, brass, silver and pure gold. This implies that nothing else is good for the Master's service and tabernacle other than the best of our talents, treasures and time. Two (2) cherubims were made of pure gold and placed at the two ends of the mercy seat with their wings spread and facing each other. The spreading of the wings symbolises protection from the throne of mercy.

**COSTUME OF THE PRIESTS (Exodus 39:1-43; 35:19,23; 28:2,6-28,31-43; Psalm 132:9,16; Zechariah 3:1-4; Hebrews 9:6,7; Revelation 19:8)**

The priests that minister before the people in the tabernacle are the representatives of God ,as such, the priests could not appear anyhow in the performance of their duties. Thus, the components of the garments were both significant and symbolic. The design of their garments consists of the ephod and the breastplate.

**Quest 2: What does the use of gold symbolize in the believer's service?**

**Ans: Excellent Adornment for the glory of God. Nothing else is good than the best for the service of God.**

Ministers of the gospel must adorn themselves modestly, they must be presentable, not giving occasion to the enemies of the gospel or those who hear them to despise them. "Giving no offence in any thing" (2 Corinthians 6:3) is the rule to follow. The ephod is made of gold, blue, purple and fine twined linen. It was a short kind of waistcoat, which consisted of two pieces, one covering the back and the other the front. The two pieces are fastened together on the shoulder with a curious girdle of the ephod. Two precious stones (onyx) are fixed on each shoulder of the ephod. The names of the twelve tribes of Israel according to their order of birth, are engraved on the projects the glory of God and the beauty of His holiness in the breastplate in place. The uniqueness of this design stones. Two golden rings are also fixed on it for holding and the decency that should characterize those who appear before him.

The Twelve precious stones in setting of gold are three rows of four sets and the names of the twelve tribes of Israel engraved on them (Exodus 39:8-21; 28:15-30). The breastplate also has a porch for keeping the Urim and Thummim. These two objects are used to determine the will of God on difficult issues or to receive the counsel from Him. (Numbers 27:21; Deuteronomy 33:8- 10; 1 Samuel 23:6-8; 28:6).

**Quest 3. As New Testament believers, what do we possess in place of the Urim and Thummim as guides?**

**Ans: In the New Testament dispensation, believers are endued with the Holy Ghost who guides and leads us into all truth. We do not need the Urim and Thummim; the Holy Spirit and the word of God are guides in all matters of life and faith (Acts 13:1-3; 16:6-8; 20:21-24; 21:10,11; 1 Timothy 4:1-3).**

**CONFORMITY TO DIVINE PATTERN (Exodus 40:1-38; 39:42,43; 25:9,40; Acts 7:44; Hebrews 8:5)**

"And Moses did look upon all the work, and, behold, they had done it as the LORD had commanded, even so had they done it..." (Exodus 39:43). In response to God's command, the people conformed to the divine order. They obeyed and complied with His instruction to the minutest detail in constructing the tabernacle and the design of the priest's garment.

**Quest 4. What do we learn from the way the people obeyed Moses and worked according to divine specifications?**

**Ans: Faithfulness and Total Obedience and Submission to God through his servant is required in all areas of believer’s service.**

This is a call to the New Testament Believers that we should be careful to obey God's word in all areas "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (Romans 12:2). It should be noted that the tabernacle is the evidence of God’s literal presence among the children of Israel. This affords them the opportunity of sacrificial atonement for their sins and continual fellowship with Him. Secondly, Aaron and his sons are to be washed, need atonement for their sins and continual fellowship need be cleansed, sanctified or set apart for divine service.

**Quest 5. What experience must we have before rendering, service to God**

**Ans: Salvation and sanctification : Purity of heart is utmost importance.**

There must be salvation before service, cleansing before commission and purity before participation Lord's service should Commission and purity before participation. God must be sanctified in the lives of those who approach Him on behalf of the people. The consistency of God's word remains significant for believers. "And thou shalt put upon Aaron the holy garments..." (Exodus 40:13). Holiness is the demand of God from anyone who desires to offer acceptable service.

**Quest 6. What should characterize believers' garments? Ans: Decency and moderation that projects the glory of God.**

This emphasizes the decency, non- conformity to the world and moderation of all believers who minister in songs, soul-winning and all manner of service, that their garments should befit the glory of God; it should not be confusing or ambiguous like the attire of a tempter. It is such a service predicated on a cleansed life, clear motive and consecrated living that is acceptable to God (Deuteronomy 30:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:3,7; 1 Peter 1:14-16). Thirdly, the glory of God descended and His presence was manifest to them as a seal of divine approval (Exodus 40:34-38; Numbers 9:15-23; 1 Kings 8:10,11; Revelation 15:8). "Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle" (Exodus 40:34). The seal of God's approval for their obedience was His literal presence among them. The Lord came down to identify with His people through the pillar of cloud in the day and pillar of fire in the night, that brought confidence and joy of His presence.

**Quest 7. How can we retain God's presence in our midst? Ans: Obedience to God’s Instructions.**

His continual abiding presence becomes the possession for us His children as we obey Him in small and great matters. As we do His will, He will abide with possession for us His children as we obey Him in small us always (Matthew 28:20).

“Let us Pray on all that we have heard. “