

# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## EXODUS 31:12-18

### LESSON: SABBATH OBSERVERANCE — September 17, 2017

#### INTRODUCTION:

##### **BUILDING—FURNISHING—CLOTHING**

**31:7-11** The list of items to be built in the construction of the tabernacle and its furnishings was given by God because God wanted the work organized and He attended to each detail as he related them to Moses.

- **THE TABERNACLE OF THE CONGREGATION,**
  - the ark of the testimony,
  - the mercy seat that [is] thereupon,
- **ALL THE FURNITURE OF THE TABERNACLE,**
  - the table and his furniture,
  - the pure candlestick with all his furniture,
- **THE ALTAR OF INCENSE,**
  - the altar of burnt offering with all his furniture,
  - the laver and his foot,
- **THE CLOTHS OF SERVICE,**
  - the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office,
- **THE ANOINTING OIL,**
  - sweet incense for the holy [place]: according to all that I have commanded thee shall they do."

Nothing should be forgotten or neglected. This reminds us that God wanted the tabernacle and its furnishings built according to a specific pattern. It was a deliberate model of a heavenly reality. <sup>1</sup>The following lessons are suggested by Vern Poythress in his book, *The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses.*'

1. The tabernacle reminds us that God is the heavenly King.
2. The tabernacle reminds us that God provides for us.
3. The tabernacle reminds us that God's people have unique privileges.
4. The tabernacle reminded Israel of both their fallen condition and their hope for restoration. The tabernacle symbolized God's people corporately.
5. The tabernacle symbolized God's people individually.
6. The tabernacle pointed forward to the New Jerusalem, the final dwelling of God with human beings.
7. The tabernacle symbolized God Himself.

#### **LESSON: I. SABBATH REGULATION EXODUS 31:12-13**

**31:12** And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,— God speaks further instructions to Moses.

**31:13** Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you. Moses was to speak to the children of Israel concerning the Sabbaths. Though God gave Israel a work to do in building the tabernacle He did not want them to do that work on the Sabbaths; from one period of week to the next. They were to still keep the weekly Sabbaths by observing and respecting the Lord's Day.

*Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. Leviticus 23:3.*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.deercreekchurch.com/pdf/ex-dt5.pdf>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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There were weekly and yearly Sabbaths. The Sabbath had two purposes: it was a time to rest and a time to remember what God had done. It was a sign about the special promise (the covenant) that God had made to Israel throughout their generations. This sign of keeping the Sabbath shows the world that the Jews belonged to God for He had sanctified; set them apart and separated them unto God as a holy nation from other nations, distinguishing them from all other people.

## II. SABBATH REJECTION EXODUS 31:14-16

**31:14** Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. The keeping of the Sabbath was meant for the children of Israel. It was *"holy unto the Lord"*, set apart for God's use. This made them different from the rest of the world. Everyone that defiled the Sabbath was put to death. To *"defile the Sabbath"* meant that the Mosaic Law was broken, and servile work was done on the Sabbath which made it unclean, polluted, and unholy. Death could be inflicted by the civil magistrate. Anyone who worked on the Sabbath, their soul would be cut off from among God's people. The Sabbath was to be a rest, centered on drawing near to God. Therefore, by his own offense, he put himself out of terms of the covenant.

**31:15** Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Work may be done for six days, but on that Sabbath Day they were to rest. This one day of rest a week is for man's benefit as well as it being a time set aside to worship God. The Jews, by observing one day in seven, after six days' labor, testified and declared that they worshipped the God who made the world in six days, and rested the seventh. Those who broke this Sabbath were put to death. It was important for them to keep the Sabbath for this distinguished them from other nations.

**31:16** Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. The Sabbath was to be kept by the children of Israel and observed throughout their generations, in every age, for an eternal covenant.

- God's example was from the very beginning Gen.2:1-3. It was on the seventh day God rested. Has anything changed concerning this? No, because God has said He will not alter what he has said (Psalm 89:34), so the Sabbath must still be His holy day. *"I know that whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him"*(Ecclesiastes 3:14). God does not change.
- God gave the Sabbath day commandment to His chosen people Exo.31:12-17. It is a sign that He had distinguished them from all other people; and their religious observance of the Sabbath was a great example of their duty and obedience to Him.
- Isa. 56:2:
  - Blessed is the man who refuses to work during my Sabbath days of rest, but honors them.

Blessed is the man who keeps himself from doing wrong.

Another example is The Ten Commandments. God had spoken and written upon tablets upon Mount Sinai in the hearing of all the people were now written, in *perpetuam rei memoriam* —for a perpetual memorial, because that which is written remains. To keep God's Sabbath was to keep the covenant.

## III. SABBATH RATIONALE EXODUS 31:17-18

**31:17** It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed. This was to be one of the most lasting tokens of

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the covenant between God and Israel. The Sabbath was now a sign of the special relationship between God and Israel. To disregard God's Sabbath was to disregard God's purposes for creation through His redemption of Israel. The 7th day reminds them that it is God who provides as you rest. An implied benefit is to be "*refreshed*." This points to the creation of man on the 6th day – and that God breathed into Adam and He became a living soul. To be refreshed in this context is to "*breathe in as God is breathing out*." Deut 8:11-18: Remember, it is not our "*work*" that benefits us – it is His work.

**31:18** And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God. At the conclusion of the forty days and nights of communing with God upon Mt. Sinai, God gave Moses two tablets of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God because this written Law testified the Will of God concerning He and Israel, and would be a testimony against them if they were disobedient. Thus the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

"40" occurs at almost every new stage in Israel's history; e.g.

- at the flood • the time of the spies in Canaan • Elijah's journey to Horeb
- Jesus' time in the wilderness • and the time between His resurrection and ascension.

## SUMMARY:

Though God gave Israel a work to do in building the tabernacle He did not want them to do that work on the Sabbath. This command was strategically placed toward the very end of all the commands to build the tabernacle. The "*rest*" of God still had to be respected (31:12-13).

God again repeats the law of the Sabbath. The keeping of the Sabbath was meant for the children of Israel. However, everyone who violated or defiled the Sabbath shall be put to death. And anyone who does any work on the Sabbath day shall be cut off from among His people. This sign of keeping the Sabbath showed that the Jews belonged to the Lord. This made them different from the rest of the world. How? It demonstrates trust in God. It was to be a rest centered on drawing near to God. It was "*holy to the Lord*", set apart for God's use. They must work for 6 days, but on the 7th day, they must rest because it is the Sabbath of rest; holy to God. The Sabbath was to be kept by the children of Israel and observed throughout their generations, in every age, for an eternal covenant (31:14-16).

The Sabbath was a sign between God and the children of Israel—Heaven and earth was made in six days and the seventh day He rested. At the conclusion of the forty days and nights of communing with God upon Mt. Sinai, God gave Moses two tablets of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God because this written Law testified the will of God concerning He and Israel, and would be a testimony against them if they were disobedient (31:17-18).