

Exodus-Part 24 (Chapter 31)

Oholiab and Bezalel

Exo 31:1 Then the LORD said to Moses,

Exo 31:2 "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah,

Exo 31:3 and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills--

Exo 31:4 to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze,

Exo 31:5 to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts.

Exo 31:6 Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you:

Exo 31:7 the tent of meeting, the ark of the covenant law with the atonement cover on it, and all the other furnishings of the tent--

Exo 31:8 the table and its articles, the pure gold lampstand and all its accessories, the altar of incense,

Exo 31:9 the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, the basin with its stand--

Exo 31:10 and also the woven garments, both the sacred garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons when they serve as priests,

Exo 31:11 and the anointing oil and fragrant incense for the Holy Place. They are to make them just as I commanded you."

The Sabbath

Exo 31:12 Then the LORD said to Moses,

Exo 31:13 "Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy.

Exo 31:14 "'Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you. Anyone who desecrates it is to be put to death; those who do any work on that day must be cut off from their people.

Exo 31:15 For six days work is to be done, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day is to be put to death.

Exo 31:16 The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant.

Exo 31:17 It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he

rested and was refreshed."

Exo 31:18 When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the covenant law, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.

The connection we see in Exodus 31 to the New Testament is that it foreshadows the empowering of the Holy Spirit for ministry, pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Sabbath rest, and highlighting the believer's role in building the church. It connects the Old Testament Tabernacle, built by Spirit-filled craftsmen, to the New Testament concept of the church as God's dwelling place.

Key Connections:

- **The Holy Spirit in Service:**

Exodus 31:1-6 describes Bezalel and Oholiab being filled with the Spirit for artistic work, mirroring the New Testament infilling of the Holy Spirit that empowers believers with the spiritual gifts for ministry (1 Cor 12:1-11).

1Co 12:1 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

1Co 12:2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols.

1Co 12:3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

1Co 12:4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

1Co 12:5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

1Co 12:6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

1Co 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1Co 12:8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,

1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,

1Co 12:10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

1Co 12:11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes

them to each one, just as he determines.

- **The Sabbath as a Sign and Rest:** The Sabbath command (Exodus 31:12-17) is viewed in the New Testament not as a legalistic requirement, but as a pointer to the spiritual rest found in Jesus. Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath, providing rest from works-based salvation (Matt 12:8; Heb 4:1-11).

Mat 12:1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them.

Mat 12:2 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath."

Mat 12:3 He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?"

Mat 12:4 He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread--which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests.

Mat 12:5 Or haven't you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent?"

Mat 12:6 I tell you that something greater than the temple is here.

Mat 12:7 If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent.

Mat 12:8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Heb 4:1 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.

Heb 4:2 For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed.

Heb 4:3 Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world.

Heb 4:4 For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "On the seventh day God rested from all his works."

Heb 4:5 And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."

Heb 4:6 Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience,

Heb 4:7 God again set a certain day, calling it "Today." This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

Heb 4:8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day.

Heb 4:9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God;

Heb 4:10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.

Heb 4:11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

- **Building the "Tabernacle":** The instructions for the Tabernacle (Exodus 31:7-11) symbolize God's presence among His people, which is fulfilled in the New Testament through Jesus (the true Tabernacle) and the Church.

1Co 6:19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

1Co 6:20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

- **The Law Written by God:** The mention of the tablets written with the "finger of God" (Exodus 31:18) connects to the New Testament, where the law is written on hearts by the Spirit, rather than just on stone.

Jer 31:31 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

Jer 31:32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

Jer 31:33 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Jer 31:34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

These connections illustrate that God desires to dwell with His people it was initiated in Exodus, and is completed through Christ and the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.