

“PARTICULARS of God”

Exodus 20-40

February 18, 2012

The Word of God: 2012 Sermon Series

PLAN

PEOPLE

PECULIAR

PERCEPTIVE

PERSPECTIVE

PROMISES

Today... we’re going to take a closer look at the PARTICULARS of God...

T/S: Before we go to today’s text... let me ask you a hypothetical QUESTION...

If I gave you a **TREASURE MAP** that was guaranteed to lead to limitless treasure,
HOW ZEALOUSLY & CAREFULLY WOULD YOU FOLLOW THE MAP?

If it said: “Do this... or DON’T do that,” how “anal” would you be???

How PARTICULAR would you be about adhering to the map???

Here’s the million \$\$\$ question: WHY???

Do you see how your answers both reveal and reflect your heart?

WHEN THINGS ARE A PRIORITY TO US, WE ARE VERY PARTICULAR IN OUR APPROACH!

T/S: As we prepare to go through the second half of Exodus, I am going to ask you to engage and embrace God’s priorities, as evidenced and highlighted thru His prioritized PARTICULARS...

Let me try to show you why being PERSNICKETY about God’s PARTICULARS is so important...

*** PERSNICKETY vs. Pharisee...

1. Persnickety = requiring painstaking care; exacting; excessively precise & attentive
2. Pharisee = knowing (and even “doing”) without “BEING” (“head minus heart”)

THE DIVINE is in the DETAILS... the DEVIL is in the DE-RAILS

Example: Exodus 20 begins with the 10 Commandments...

What are they? (LEARN HAND SIGNS)

Why do we have them??? (Assume = “way to get to heaven?”)

WRONG!!!

The 10 Commandments show us WHY we won't go to heaven!

WHAT???

The Law is our “school-master” teaching our NEED for a SAVIOR...

YET... Most people believe...

DO NOT HAVE GOD'S PERSPECTIVE...

Thus, they do NOT have God's PROMISES

ALL because they MISSED GOD'S PARTICULARS!

T/S: I can hear some of you now... BUT.... BUT.... BUT..... Sadly, we live in a world of “Ya, But...”

*** VIDEO: *** “Big Buts”

T/S: Our text today shows the difference between “big buts” and “prioritizing God's particulars”

Ch. 21:1 (Life's RULES) = “Now these are the rules that you shall set before them.

Ch. 22:16-25 (Social Justice) = “If a man seduces a virgin who is not betrothed and lies with her, he shall give the bride-price for her and make her his wife. **17** If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money equal to the bride-price for virgins. **18** “You shall not permit a sorceress to live. **19** “Whoever lies with an animal shall be put to death. **20** “Whoever sacrifices to any god, other than the Lord alone, shall be devoted to destruction. **21** “You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. **22** You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. **23** If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, **24** and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless. **25** “If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him.

Ch. 23:20-33 (Upcoming Conquest of Canaan Promised) = “Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. **21** Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him. **22** “But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. **23** “When my angel goes before you and brings you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, and I blot them out, **24** you shall not bow down to their gods nor serve them, nor do as they do, but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their pillars in pieces. **25** You shall serve the Lord your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you. **26** None shall miscarry or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days. **27** I will send my terror before you and will

throw into confusion all the people against whom you shall come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you. **28** And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites from before you. **29** I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the wild beasts multiply against you. **30** Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and possess the land. **31** And I will set your border from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates, for I will give the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you. **32** You shall make no covenant with them and their gods. **33** They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.”

Ch. 25:9 & 40 (Particulars in Preparation to Build...) = “...construct a sanctuary for Me... according to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all its furniture, just so – you shall construct it.” --- “See that you make them after the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain.”

Ch. 26: 31-38 (The TABERNACLE) = “And you shall make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. It shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it. **32** And you shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, with hooks of gold, on four bases of silver. **33** And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in there within the veil. And the veil shall separate for you the Holy Place from the Most Holy. **34** You shall put the mercy seat on the ark of the testimony in the Most Holy Place. **35** And you shall set the table outside the veil, and the lamp-stand on the south side of the tabernacle opposite the table, and you shall put the table on the north side. **36** “You shall make a screen for the entrance of the tent, of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, embroidered with needlework. **37** And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia, and overlay them with gold. Their hooks shall be of gold, and you shall cast five bases of bronze for them.”

Jump ahead a bit.... MOSES has received so much from God.... Now going back to the people...

Ch. 32 MOSES comes down to the GOLDEN CALF

- vv.1-10 = **the Golden Calf** particulars...
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- **v.4** is hard to fathom... How could the Israelites say this???
- **Aaron took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”**
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- **v.10b** = God tells Moses His anger is burning against the people and He may destroy them...
- **v.10c** = God promises Moses: “I will make of you a great nation”
- **vv.11-18** = **Moses pleads with God to show mercy on His people... (Like ABE)**
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- **vv.19-35** = **Moses’ anger/confrontation with the people/golden calf**
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- **v.19** = **Moses “burned” with RIGHTEOUS ANGER... over the sin of the people**
- **NOTE:** Moses broke the 10 Commandments... & God said nothing

- *NOTE: Moses' anger was consistent with God's anger (Politically Incorrect... but Righteous)*
- **READ vv.25-29.... "when Moses saw that the people were out of control..." God instructed Moses to separate the people by asking them a simple but profound question by implication: "WHOEVER IS FOR THE LORD, COME TO ME!"**

TRY TO IMAGINE THE DYNAMICS IN THE CROWD AMONGST THE PEOPLE....

DON'T FORGET HOW GOD HAS DELIVERED THEM...

WHO DO YOU SEE IN THE CROWD?

WATCH OUT!!!

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 = *I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—**10** not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. **11** But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. **12** What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? **13** God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."*

***** VIDEO: Jesus on Wolves *****

- *NOTE: v.22 = Aaron says: "Don't get so upset... You know how prone to sin they are..."*
- *NOTE: vv.23 Aaron spoke like Eve and Adam, pointing the finger, **rebuffing responsibility***

TRY TO IMAGINE MOSES' HEARTBREAK AND RIGHTEOUS ANGER...

TRUTH-TELLERS ARE OFTEN ATTACKED...

EVEN BY THE ONE'S THEY'VE HELPED... (a sign of THE wolf &/or wolves)

Galatians 4: 11-17a = *I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you. **12** I plead with you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong. **13** As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. **14** Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. **15** What has happened to all your joy? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. **16** Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? **17** Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good.*

- **BEWARE any and all association/coercion with sin & active sinners!**

Jeremiah 18:18 = *Then they said, "Come, let us make plots against Jeremiah... Come, let us strike him with the tongue, and let us not pay attention to any of his words."*

1 John 4:6 = *We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.*

vv.27-29: Next, **"thus says the LORD" – the believers killed 3,000 non-believers...**

27 Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.'" 28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died. 29 Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."

- **God takes sin seriously and the purity of His people means more to Him than we tend to think!**
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- **READ vv.30-35 to see a tremendous exchange of love, grace, blessing, & wrath...**

vv.30-35 = TRUTH-IN-LOVE

The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." 31 So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. 32 But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written." 33 The LORD replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. 34 Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin." 35 And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

Ch. 33

- **THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...**
- God told Moses to lead the people to the literal Promised Land...
- God promised to send "an angel before you AND I WILL DRIVE OUT THE _____..."
 - NOTE: God promises to do the miraculous!
 - NOTE: God can handle EVERY PARTICULAR PROBLEM... No Matter What!
- **Read v.3: "...I will not go up in your midst, because you are an obstinate people, and I might destroy you on the way."**
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- **MOSES INTERCEDES...**
 - Moses pleads with the Lord to "lead His people"

- **MOSES PRAYS: “LET ME KNOW YOUR WAYS THAT I MANY KNOW YOU...”**

- NOTE: You cannot know God if you do not know His ways

- NOTE: To know His ways you must know His Word...

- NOTE: Those who THINK they know Him, when they do not know Him in accordance with His Word... whoever/whatever they “know” – it is NOT the God of the Bible. **(See 2 Timothy 3:16-17)**

- **vv.13-18 = VERMONT Mission’s TRIP passage:**

13 Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You [progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with You, perceiving and recognizing and understanding more strongly and clearly] and that I may find favor in Your sight. And [Lord, do] consider that this nation (MISSION’S TEAM) is Your people. (Amplified)

14 And GOD said, “My presence will go with you, & I will give you rest.” 15 And Moses said to Him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I & your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, from every other people on the face of the earth?” 17 And the Lord said to Moses, “This very thing that you have asked I will do, for you have found favor in My sight, and I know you by name.” 18 Moses said, “Please show me Your glory.” (ESV)

- **v.19 = “...I will be gracious to whom I choose to be gracious, and I will be merciful to whom I choose to show mercy...” = God is sovereign!**

Ch. 34

- **Key Character of God: vv.5-8**

- God can use stiff-necked people... which does NOT justify stiff-neckedness!

- NOTE: Compromise with pagans will be a snare to your people...

- **NOTE: Flirting with sin gives way to the marriages of sorrow – JDP**

- **Quote v.27 as God’s conditional promise!**

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.”

- Moses “shown” with the impact of having met with God!

- **Do you look like God met with you?**

Ch. 35

- **Moses brought all the people together to tell them God’s words/truth!**

- Moses calls for an **offering from the heart** to build God’s tabernacle/tent/Ark/etc.

- **“Everyone whose heart moved him and whose spirit stirred him.... All who were of a willing heart gave to the Lord...”**

Ch. 36

- **vv.6-7 = The people gave to the point of Moses saying: give no more... (HEART!)**

T/S: God's true "Israel" (a.k.a. the Church) is identified by their hearts (as sheep & shepherds)...

It ALWAYS comes back to: Truth in Love (Ephesians 4:15)

***** VIDEO: "Not a FAN" *****

T/S: Okay, Okay.... So how does all this tie together with Exodus 20-40???

HOW DO ALL THESE "PARTICULARS" ABOUT THE TABERNACLE RELATE TO ME???

Tabernacle Location in camp (center) = God's place in our hearts/lives

Fence = outer-barrier (overtly rejecting God)... those lost and loving it.

Gate/Door = only One Way in... (John 10:9 & 14:6)

Gate-Curtains = Blue/heaven; White/purity; Red/blood; Purple/royalty

Courtyard = "close to the Holy Place" (like entering "physical church")... lost but close.

Brazen Alter = Sin offerings... (note role of Sinners & Priests) offering = "means"

*** 1 Peter 2:9 = **ALL Christians are a "royal priesthood"**...

*** Lamb on the Alter = **Jesus on the CROSS!**

Laver = Priest (only) wash before entering the Holy Place (**God's Word shows our dirt...**)

- **Our spiritual hands represent our actions & our feet represent our walk...**
- We are always touching & walking in/thru sin... thus we must be washed...
- **Psalms 24:3-4a = "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart."**
- **The mirror of God's Word also serves as the water to wash us and cleanse us from our sins...**

- Ephesians 5:26 = *“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the Word.”*
- Therefore, we must come to Calvary to be saved and to be initially cleansed of our sin, but **we should also come to the Word (laver) daily to see our sins, to confess them, and to be forgiven.**

The Holy Place = where only Priests/Christians can go...

Holy Place Furniture:

“Bread” Table = Fellowship with God (“I am the Bread of life” – John 6:35)

Lamp-stand = the Light never went out (filled with the Holy Spirit)

Golden Alter of Incense = Rev. 8:4... our prayers = sweet incense to God...

The MOST HOLY PLACE (a.k.a. “Holy of Holies”)

Only High Priest = **once per year... bells on... to cover sins of the people**

ARK of the Covenant = **only furniture in Holy of Holies...**

Contents = **10 C’s Staff Manna**

MERCY SEAT = H.P. sprinkled blood on it... foreshadowing Jesus’ blood on His seat!

Ex. 25:22 = “I will dwell above the mercy seat where the cherubim’s faces are looking”

Holy of Holies had no windows or lamp-stands yet it was never dark...

The Light was the LIGHT...

SHEKINAH GLORY = is His Light radiating out of you???

Close:

CONSIDER THIS: **the moment Jesus died on the cross, Scripture tells us that the veil (the dividing curtain in the Holy Place, which separated the Holy of Holies) of the Tabernacle in Jerusalem was ripped apart from top to bottom!**

SO WHAT???

Answer:

When Jesus said: ***"It is finished."*** He meant it!

Jesus took down the dividing wall that separated sinners from fellowship with God

- a. **Jesus, the true High Priest, made the Way for us to go into the presence of God, the Holy of Holies... read Hebrews 4:16**
- b. *"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

God was so particular because the Tabernacle was to be a "picture," an object lesson, of our relationship with God...

BIBLICAL BELIEVERS = "LIVING TABERNACLES!"

Ch. 20 **The Ten Commandments:**

1 *And God spoke all these words:*

2 *"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*

3 *"You shall have no other gods before me.*

4 *"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. **5** You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, **6** but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

7 *"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.*

8 *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. **9** Six days you shall labor and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.*

11 *For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

12 *"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

13 *"You shall not murder.*

14 *"You shall not commit adultery.*

15 *"You shall not steal.*

16 *"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. **17** "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."*

Ch. 21

- v.1 “Now these are the ordinance (a.k.a. PARTICULARS) you (Moses) are to set before them.”
 - Slavery particulars...
 - Personal injury/retribution particulars... (people/slaves/animals...)
- NOTE the widespread use of the death penalty...

Ch. 22

- Property rights/particulars...
 - If one steals & sells/kill it, they owe 5X retribution (or they become a slave...)
 - If one steals & has the animal still alive... they owe 2X retribution
 - Retribution for arson is addressed...
- vv.16-25 great diversity of particulars....
 - Seducers are to pay a dowry
 - Sorceresses are to be put to death
 - Any and all worship to/of other gods is worthy of being “utterly destroyed”
 - God warns not to wrong “strangers, widows, or orphans”
 - Lending money is not to be done to “make” money... no charging of interest!

Ch. 23

- **vv.1-2** = Particulars pertaining to lies, liars, and affiliating with them as a wicked witness
- Return the property of your enemies should you find it...
- Do not accept bribes because they subvert the cause of the just
- Be kind and hospitable to strangers... remember, you were a stranger in Egypt
- Sabbath principle.... Work 6 days rest on the 7th ... grow crops for profit for 6 years and then let the workers have the harvest in the 7th year...
- Feasts (3X) are to be celebrated in their particulars as set forth by God...
- **vv.20-27 (READ)** God promises to protect His people with amazing particulars...
- v.28 = God promises to send **hornets** ahead of His people to “drive out” their enemies...
- v.31 = God defines the **boundaries** of the Promised Land (note how they did not trust Him)
- v.32 = God demands.... **NO COMPROMISE or COVENANTS** with the enemies...
- v.33 = God warns that any disobedience will be “snares” to His people...

Ch.24

- **v.3 = Moses shares God’s “particulars” and “all the people answered... we will do!”**
- v.7 = restating the commitment of v.3 in even stronger language!
- **v.8 = Moses sprinkles the covenant blood on the people!**
- v.12 = God says **HE wrote the 10 Commandments** on the stone tablets...
- v.18 = NOTE: Moses was on Mt. Sinai “40 days & 40 nights” (Note the “flood” connection)

Ch. 25

- God calls for an offering from His people... for the purpose of building His temple...
- **v.8 = “Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them.”**
- **v.9 = “...construct a sanctuary for Me... according to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all its furniture, just so - you shall construct it.”**
- God calls for and gives the blueprint for creating the **ARK of the Covenant**
- **READ vv.10-22 to see PARTICULARS of the ARK & MERCY SEAT**
- vv.23-30 = particulars on mfg. the table and serving jars/containers...
- vv.31-40 = particulars on mfg. the “LAMPSTANDS”
- **NOTE: God calls for the use of the people’s valuables (i.e. GOLD)...**
- **NOTE: God restates His command that His people follow His PARTICULARS!**

- **v.40 = "See that you make them after the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain."**

Ch. 26

- vv.1-6 = all the particulars to the "linen curtains" for the tabernacle
- vv.7-14 = same particulars for the "goat hair curtains" for the tent over the tabernacle...
- vv.15-30 = particulars for the tabernacle's "boards and sockets"
- vv.31-38 = particulars for the tabernacle's veil & screens...
- **READ vv.31-38** as a GREAT EXAMPLE of God's attention to detail... **PARTICULARS!**

Ch. 27

- vv.1-8 = Bronze alter particulars...
- vv.9-23 = Court of the Tabernacle particulars...
- **NOTE:** v.20 calls for the sons of Israel (the Church) to **"make a lamp burn continually"**

Ch. 28

- Garments of the Priests... more particulars...
- **NOTE:** the names of the sons of Israel shall be carried by Aaron "over his heart" (2X) when he "enters the holy place"

Ch. 29

- vv.1-9 Consecration of the Priests... particulars
- vv. 10-30 Sacrifices... particulars
- vv.31-46 Food for the Priests... particulars
- **vv.45-46 restates the promise of God to be with His people & be their God...**

Ch. 30

- vv.1-21 = Alter of Incense particulars...
- vv.22-33 = the Anointing Oil particulars...
- vv.34-38 = the Incense particulars...

Ch. 31

- vv.1-11 = the skilled craftsmen particulars...
 - **NOTE: v.2 = "I have called by name Bezalel...of the tribe of Judah..."**
- vv.12-18 = the sign of the Sabbath
 - **NOTE:** God makes the Sabbath a perpetual command across all generations...
 - **God is deadly serious about the Sabbath!**
- v.18 = "When He (God) had finished speaking with Moses on Mt. Sinai, God gave Moses the two tablets of stone, written by the finger of God."
- **Moses now comes down off Mt Sinai...**

Ch. 32

- vv.1-10 = **the Golden Calf** particulars...
- v.4 is hard to fathom... How could the Israelites say this???

He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

- Note how Aaron caves in without any notable resistance....
- Note how God tells Moses all that is happening down below.... God knows all!
- v.10b = God tells Moses His anger is burning against the people and He may destroy them...
- v.10c = God promises Moses: "I will make of you a great nation"
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- **Ephesians 5 (end)**

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- **Titus 1:11**
- **Jeremiah 18:18**

- **READ vv.25-29.... "when Moses saw that the people were out of control..." God instructed Moses to separate the people by asking them a simple but profound question by implication: "WHOEVER IS FOR THE LORD, COME TO ME!"**
- NOTE: Next, "thus says the LORD" – the believers killed 3,000 non-believers... God takes sin eternally seriously and the purity of His people means more to Him than we tend to think!

- **READ vv.30-35 to see a tremendous exchange of love, grace, blessing, & wrath...**
 - Moses confronts the people with their sin
 - Moses expresses love through confrontation & attempted atoning prayer
 - Moses pleads with God for the people's forgiveness
 - Moses tells God he would rather be blotted out of the Lamb's Book than see his people receive God's wrath
 - NOTE: God corrects Moses with grace:
 - God says "I will punish the sinners, not you, for what the sinners did..."
 - God tells Moses to "Go do what I told you to do." (God wants obedience)
 - God did "smote the people, because of what they did with the calf..."

Ch. 33

- THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...
- God told Moses to lead the people to the literal Promised Land...
- God promised to send "an angel before you AND I WILL DRIVE OUT THE _____..."
 - NOTE: God promises to do the miraculous!
 - NOTE: God can handle EVERY PARTICULAR PROBLEM... No Matter What!
- **Read v.3: "...I will not go up in your midst, because you are an obstinate people, and I might destroy you on the way."**
- NOTE: God reiterates v.3 again in v.5
- vv.1-11 = God makes the point that He speaks to Moses on a regular basis...
- MOSES INTERCEDES...
 - Moses pleads with the Lord to "lead His people"
 - MOSES PRAYS: "LET ME KNOW YOUR WAYS THAT I MANY KNOW YOU..."
 - NOTE: You cannot know God if you do not know His ways
 - NOTE: To know His ways you must know His Word...
 - NOTE: Those who THINK they know Him, when they do not know Him in accordance with His Word... whoever/whatever they "know" – it is NOT the God of the Bible. **(See 2 Timothy 3:16-17)**
- **vv.13-18 = VERMONT Mission's TRIP passage:**

13 Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You [progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with You, perceiving and recognizing and understanding more strongly and clearly] and that I may find favor in Your sight. And [Lord, do] consider that this nation (MISSION'S TEAM) is Your people. (Amplified)

14 And GOD said, "My presence will go with you, & I will give you rest." 15 And Moses said to Him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I & your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I & your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?" 17 And the Lord said to Moses, "This very thing that you have asked I will do, for you have found favor in My sight, and I know you by name." 18 Moses said, "Please show me Your glory." (ESV)

- vv.17-23 = Moses is promised by God that He will reveal His glory to Moses... However, Moses will need to be shielded by God's hand in the cleft of a rock because the power of His glory is too great to even be in the presence of if unguarded...

- **v.19 = “...I will be gracious to whom I choose to be gracious, and I will be merciful to whom I choose to show mercy...” = God is sovereign!**

Ch. 34

- MOSES MAKES NEW TABLETS...
- NOTE: God promises to do the writing...
- **Key Character of God: vv.5-8**
- NOTE: God can use stiff-necked people... which does NOT justify stiff-neckedness!
- NOTE: Compromise with pagans will be a snare to your people...
- NOTE: Flirting with sin gives way to the marriages of sorrow – JDP (paraphrase)
- God again and again stresses the Sabbath... & worshipful feasts/offerings
- “I will cast out nations before you and expand your land...”
- God gives more and more “particulars” when it comes to His commands...
- **Quote v.27 as God’s conditional promise!**
- Moses “shown” with the impact of having met with God! **Do you look like God met with you?**

Ch. 35

- **Moses brought all the people together to tell them God’s words/truth!**
- Death was the consequence for breaking the Sabbath
- Moses calls for an **offering from the heart** to build God’s tabernacle/tent/Ark/etc.
- **“Everyone whose heart moved him and whose spirit stirred him.... All who were of a willing heart gave to the Lord...”**
- What they gave was **“the Lord’s contribution” – How is your heart moving you?**
- NOTE: vv.30-34a = God specifically calls out Bezalel by name... tells of specific giftedness and calling... God is very PARTICULAR IN Plan, People, Promises, etc.

Ch. 36

- **v.1 says it all... God’s people were saved to serve!**
- **vv.6-7 = The people gave to the point of Moses saying: give no more... (HEART!)**
- *Particulars, particulars, particulars.... God is delighted in the details!*
- Details, details, details.... All particulars in the construction of the tabernacle.

Ch. 37

- MAKING THE PARTICULAR PARTS OF THE TABERNACLE
- NOTE: the Tabernacle was “made” above...
- In this chapter we see the making of the “pieces” --- NOTE THE PARTICULARS!
 - The ARK
 - The TABLE
 - The LAMPSTAND
 - The ALTER of INCENSE

Ch. 38

- CONSTRUCTION OF THE TABERNACLE’S PARTS CONTINUES... (PARTICULARS ABOUND!)
 - ALTER of BURNT OFFERINGS
 - BASIN of BRONZE
 - MAKING the COURT
 - MATERIALS for the TABERNACLE
 - Note: God details the offerings in both amounts & applications! Every detail!

Ch. 39

- CONSTRUCTION OF THE PRIESTLY GARMENTS...
- Note: Particulars abound here again...
- v.42 = ***According to all that the Lord had commanded Moses, so the people of Israel had done all the work.***
- v.43 = ***And Moses saw all the work, and behold, they had done it; as the Lord had commanded, so had they done it. Then Moses blessed them.***

Ch. 40

- vv.1-34 = Tabernacle erected... in all the particulars...
- God even told Moses when to start (1st day of the 1st month...)
- God told Moses exactly how/where things were to be arranged in the Tabernacle
- God told Moses to anoint everything with oil so it will become holy
- NOTE: God told Moses to wash Aaron and have him wear the priestly garments... then God said He would make Aaron (and his following generations) a perpetual priesthood...
 - NOTE: God's mercy and grace to Aaron the "calf-maker"
 - HOW OFTEN DO WE RECOGNIZE GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE TO US???
- vv.35-39 = The Glory of the LORD!
 - ***"Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 36 Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys."***

*** How old's the bus driver?

*** 10 C's = a "smart mirror" vs. smart phone...

Teaching on the Tabernacle: (then and now)

NOTE: When Moses went up Mount Sinai, God not only gave him the Ten Commandments, but He also gave Moses a pattern of particulars for the preparation & construction of the Tabernacle...

"God said, *"Moses, make very sure that you follow the pattern. Make it exactly as you have seen it."*

We need to understand WHY God was so particular...

- I. PREPARATION for the TABERNACLE
 - A. Israel, having been delivered out of Egypt, was now living in tents at the base of Mt. Sinai
 - B. The Tabernacle would be tent that God was preparing to have them build...
 - C. The Tabernacle would be the "special place" in which God would dwell in their midst...
 - D. God told Moses that He wanted all the people of Israel to donate the materials needed...
 - E. God told Moses EXACTLY what materials & methods were to be used.
 - F. *"Whoever has a willing, generous heart, let him bring an offering to the Lord."* - Exodus 35:5

G. NOTE: two very telling truths:

- Not everyone participated in the giving... evidenced by God's Word:
 "Those whose hearts were stirred by God's Spirit brought their gifts..."
- Those that did give brought "more than enough" to fulfill God's call & command
 - Moses told the people to stop giving...
 - Notice the proper proportioning... the goal is worship, not wealth!
 - This shows the role of "hearing from God" in all calls for special offerings (which is not to be confused with biblical tithing)
 - Note: Moses didn't "build it bigger" because more funds came in...
 God made it clear what was to be built...
 - "Then the people were restrained from giving..."
 - What might God do in and amongst a people who gave with such a heart today?

II. The TABERNACLE and the ENCAMPMENT

A. NOTE: the Tabernacle was located in the very center of the camp...

B. *"I am going to come and dwell in your midst..."* - Exodus 25:8

C. This model still exists... God wants to be at the center of our lives. He wants EVERYTHING in our personhood, all actions & attitudes, to be built around Him, His will, and His presence in our lives!

D. Notice the FENCE around the Tabernacle... this taught the people that they could only enter into God's presence One Way... for there is only One right way to approach God (John 14:6).

E. Notice that while the fence was in place to keep people out... the gate or door was there to let the God's chosen people in... Read John 10:9... *"I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved."*

F. NOTE: the fence around the Tabernacle was approx. 7 feet, thus blocking people's ability to see what was on the inside...

* Therefore, a person had to go thru the gate/door to see what was inside!

* All an outsider could see was the animal skin roofing, dark billowing smoke coming up from the brazen altar

* Consequently, the Tabernacle did not look very appealing from the outside...

--- The same is true today... Christianity does not appeal to those without Christ

--- Only when Christ dwells in us, do we see the how wonderful and beautiful the Christian life really is...

III. The GATE of the COURT

A. NOTE: the colors of the curtain that hung at the gateway were:

- Blue
- White
- Red
- Purple

B. These colors teach us about Christ...

- Blue – the color of the sky, reminds us that Jesus came from heaven
- White – reminds us that Jesus is pure & perfect. He is without blemish of any kind
- Red – reminds us that He is our atoning sacrifice... that He shed His blood for us
- Purple – is the color for royalty – reminding us that Jesus is King of kings...

C. People would come thru the fence's outer gate to enter into the Tabernacle's courtyard.

- The specific purpose of entering the Tabernacle was to get right with God...
- Forgiveness of sin, while ultimately a gift of grace, comes through the substitutionary and atoning conduit of a blood sacrifice
 - All sin will be paid for with blood...

- There are only two questions that matter moving forward:
 - 1). WHO is going to pay for your sins?
 - a. YOU? or...
 - b. Jesus
 - 2). WHEN are your sins going to be paid for?
 - a. ETERNALLY, by YOU, in a very real HELL or...
 - b. CRUCIFIXION FRIDAY – when JESUS died on the CROSS

IV. The BRAZEN ALTER and the LAVER

- A. The Brazen Alter is where people bring their sacrifice to be given to God...
- B. NOTE: God establishes standards of animal sacrifice that are proportioned to His people...
 - **Rich** = bring a young bull
 - **Middle Class** = bring a lamb or goat
 - **Poor** = bring a couple turtledoves (NOTE: Joseph & Mary brought turtledoves when they brought young Jesus to the Temple..)
 - **Very Poor** = “catch” and bring a couple pigeons
- C. Continual fire burns in the Brazen Alter... the never-goes-out flames of this alter symbolize hell, where the eternal fire is never quenched.
- D. CRITICAL CONNECTION:
 - The priest(s) served as mediators, who helped the people with their atoning sacrifice
 - The priest holds the animal and the sinner killed it...
 - The sinner puts his hands on the animal’s head and confesses his sins to God
 - The sinner specifically asks God to forgive them for their sins
 - Putting one’s hands on the animal’s head identifies him with the one sacrificed
 - Conversely, the sacrificed one is the sinner’s substitute who suffers in the sinners place... paying the ultimate cost of death
 - NOTE: the sacrificed animal pictures Jesus Christ, the perfect Lamb of God offered on Calvary’s cross.
 - Today, by trusting in Jesus Christ, Who 2,000 years ago became our spiritual sacrifice as the Lamb of god, we are identified with Him and His death for us, and thus our sins are forgiven.
 - The lamb lying on the altar was a picture of Jesus hanging on the cross... suffering our hell in our place.
 - Since the biblical believer’s burden of sin can now be forgiven because of Calvary, we have peace and joy as we commune/fellowship/live in-Christ.
 - **1 Peter 2:9 tells us that ALL Christians are a “royal priesthood”...**
 - NOTE: only the priests could go into the Holy Place...
 - Before going into Holy Place, priests had to **wash their hands/feet @ the laver...**
 - **Our spiritual hands represent our actions & our feet represent our walk...**
 - We are always touching & walking in/thru sin... thus we must be washed...
 - **Psalms 24:3-4a = “Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart.”**
 - The laver was made from polished brass that used to serve as a sort of mirror... In this case, it symbolically represents the inspecting properties... the mirror-like qualities of the Word of God... The Bible shows us where we need to be cleaned up!
 - The “Law” (and full Word of God) is our “school-master” to teach us of our need for forgiveness and redemption.
 - NOTE: **The mirror of God’s Word also serves as the water to wash us and cleanse us from our sins...**

- Ephesians 5:26 = *“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the Word.”*
- Therefore, we must come to Calvary to be saved and to be initially cleansed of our sin, but **we should also come to the Word (laver) daily to see our sins, to confess them, and to be forgiven.**

V. THE HOLY PLACE

A. Furniture of the Holy Place

- Within the Holy Place was also the Most Holy Place (a.k.a. the Holy of Holies)
- NOTE: only priests (Christians) could/can go into the Holy Place, and only the High Priest could go into the Holy of Holies – one time per year, on the Day of Atonement.
- Sadly, many people confuse the courtyard with the Holy Place... & never come in.
- **Table of bread:**
 - The table represents fellowship with God, thru our Lord Jesus Christ
 - Jesus said: “I am the bread of life” – John 6:35
 - **Note this bread is ONLY in the Holy Place & available only to priests!**
- **Lamp-stand:**
 - Rather than candles... **filled with oil (symbolic of the Holy Spirit)**
 - This **Light was to never to go out (symbolic of the Holy Spirit)**
 - The Holy Spirit wants to be our guiding Light in a dark and dying world
 - The Holy Place was illuminated by the Lamp-stands Light...
 - NOTE: people outside had “sun” light but the Holy Place has “SON” Light...
 - When you become a “priest” you see everything differently – now in His Light!
 - **“If nothing has changed.... Nothing has changed.” – JDP**
- **Golden alter or Alter of Incense:**
 - NOTE: the bronze alter outside was for sin...
 - NOTE: the gold alter inside was for fellowship (ALL) sin is covered outside
 - This alter was for the creating of a delightful fragrance in the Holy Place...
 - **The delightful fragrances represent our prayers before God**
 - **Revelation 8:4** = The Lord says that our prayers are like sweet incense going up into His nostrils...

B. The 3 pieces of furniture in the Holy Place teach Christians to fellowship with the Lord, in part, by feeding on God’s Word, having a healthy prayer life, and following the Holy Spirit’s leading in our lives.... **Such is the essence of living in the Holy Place!**

VI. THE HOLY of HOLIES

A. Inside the Holy of Holies

- Only the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies one time per year...
- The H.P. would bring blood from the brazen alter.... All to cover the sins of the people
- There was **only one piece of furniture inside... the Ark of the Covenant**
 - **Ark of Covenant:**
 - 1). Looked like a golden chest with a golden lid-like seat on top
 - 2). The Ark contained 3 things:
 - a. Ten Commandments
 - b. Aaron’s staff
 - c. Jar of the miraculous manna
 - **Mercy Seat:**
 - 1). The “Mercy Seat” was the “lid” that covered the Ark of the Covenant
 - 2). Two gold cherubim facing each other with their wing tips touching flanked the left and right side of the seat...

- 3). **NOTE: in the Holy of Holies there were no windows or lamp-stands yet it was never dark...**
- a. *The Light was the LIGHT..*
 - b. "I will dwell above the mercy seat where the cherubim's faces are looking..." Exodus 25:22
 - c. **Exodus 25:22 tells us the Light was God's "Shekinah Glory"**
 - d. The glowing radiance that came out from the Holy of Holies was recognized as evidence of God's presence...
 - e. **Shekinah Glory... is His Light radiating out of you???**

B. The Blood on the Mercy Seat

- Annually the High Priest would come into the Holy of Holies (**wearing bells...**)
- He would sprinkle blood on the Mercy Seat.... WHY???
- The sprinkling of blood was a symbolic preparation for Jesus on the cross...
- NOTE: the "mercy seat" is for the mercy-Giver... Jesus, the Christ
- The Lamb of God whose blood was represented, was also the High Priest; Jesus brought His own blood from Calvary to purchase the forgiveness of our sins!
- CONSIDER THIS: **the moment Jesus died on the cross, Scripture tells us that the veil (the dividing curtain in the Holy Place, which separated the Holy of Holies) of the Tabernacle in Jerusalem was ripped apart from top to bottom!**

SO WHAT???

Answer:

- c. Because **when Jesus said: "It is finished."** He meant it!
- d. **Jesus took down the dividing wall that separated sinners from being able to have personal, full fellowship with God the Father - AMEN!!!**
- e. **Jesus, the true High Priest, made the Way for us to go into the presence of God, the Holy of Holies... read Hebrews 4:16**
- f. *"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

God was so particular because the Tabernacle was to be a "picture," an object lesson, of our relationship with God from the beginning of that relationship until we have continual fellowship with Him day by day, and because the Tabernacle was to be where God dwelt in their midst... TODAY, BIBLICAL BELIEVERS ARE "LIVING TABERNACLES!"