

Day 108 - TUESDAY: February 28th

Exodus 31

Exodus 31:1–18 NKJV

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship. "And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you: the tabernacle of meeting, the ark of the Testimony and the mercy seat that is on it, and all the furniture of the tabernacle— the table and its utensils, the pure gold lampstand with all its utensils, the altar of incense, the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base— the garments of ministry, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, to minister as priests, and the

anointing oil and sweet incense for the holy place. According to all that I have commanded you they shall do." And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' " And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

Daily Deep Dive:

MEMORY VERSE: Exodus 31:13 - “Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it *is* a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that *you* may know that I *am* the LORD who sanctifies you.”

The UCG reading plan states about verses 1 through 11: “Bezalel of the tribe of Judah and Aholiab of the tribe of Dan were chosen to build the items for the tabernacle. Though naturally born with these talents—and, as a result, skilled in working with gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood, as well as in carving and embroidered work—the most important thing to notice is that, just as He did with the garment makers, God also filled them with wisdom by His Spirit to enable them to accomplish this most important responsibility.” [END]

Verse 3 - Let us all remember that when God calls us to any position in the Body of Christ to serve, that God magnifies our abilities beyond our natural talents and will ensure we have the knowledge and skills necessary to do the work He has asked of us.

The UCG reading plan states the following about verses 12 through 17: "Also in this chapter, God stresses that it is important to keep His Sabbaths (weekly *and* annual), as they are a sign between God and His people. It serves as a visible badge and witness to others manifesting those who serve the true God. Furthermore, verse 12 says, "It is a sign...that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you." Thus, it is a sign that regularly points us to the true God. Indeed, the weekly Sabbath memorializes *creation*, as stated in this passage—and creation points to the *Creator*, the true God. The Sabbath is a reminder that we do not worship "gods" of rocks and trees, sun moon or sky, or figments of human imagination, but the very Creator who *made* all these things—including the human mind. And all of God's Sabbaths reveal His plan for the salvation of all mankind. Notice that the Sabbath is given as a special covenant—a *perpetual* covenant—*distinct* from the Sinai covenant (verse 16).

Indeed, God's Sabbaths are important for us even today, as He said they would be "a sign between Me and the children of Israel *forever*" (verse 17). Notice: "...for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth..." (same verse). Why would this only be for the Jews alone? That wouldn't make

any sense. Rather, it is clear that, as Christ said, "the Sabbath was made for *man*" (Mark 2:27–28)—that is, for *all mankind*. What ties it all together is that all people must become part of *spiritual* Israel (compare Romans 11:17, 24; Galatians 3:28–29; Genesis 6:16)—and that is defined as those who obey God's law (Romans 2:25–29), which includes His Sabbath." [END]

Let's now look at a few of the Hebrew words in just a bit more depth.

Verse 13 – In our week 16 study on Exodus 16:23 I dove in ((שבת)) depth to the connection of the Hebrew verb Shabbath found ((שבת)) found in Genesis 2:2, the noun form Shabbath meaning Sabbath) in Exodus 16 and also Shabbathôn

Here in Exodus 31:13 is the שבתון -observance – noun noun form Shabbath. From here in verse 13 to 17, every time the NKJV states Sabbath, it's this noun form. However, in verse 15 it says: "Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh *is* the Sabbath (Shabbath) of rest (Shabbathôn .(meaning Sabbath observance)), holy to the LORD

In verse 17 it says God "rested" (the verb form Shabbath from Genesis 2:2). It's very clear here in Exodus 31 that God's Sabbath is connected back to the end of creation when God rested and sanctified the 7th day. It has been

Holy since week one and continues to be Holy each week for God and His people (Hebrews 4:9).

We'll end this day with the UCG reading plan for verse 18: "After God finished talking with Moses, He gave him the two stone tablets of His Ten Commandments, which He had already written (Exodus 24:12) with His very finger (Exodus 31:18). Though we often think of each of these tablets as containing separate sections of the Ten Commandments, it is possible that "all ten commandments appeared on each tablet. Middle Eastern treaties were typically written in duplicate" (Nelson Study Bible, note on 24:12). As these were "tablets of testimony," it would seem that this would provide the testimony of "two witnesses," a requirement of God's law for judgment to be carried out (Numbers 35:30; Deuteronomy 17:6; Deuteronomy 19:15). Perhaps that is even one reason the Ten Commandments are recorded twice in the Bible (Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 5). Still, as the front and back of the tablets were written on (Exodus 32:15), it is possible that the first four commandments, concerning duty to God, were inscribed on one side, while the last six commandments, concerning duty to man, were engraved on the other side. In that case,

putting the two tablets together, with one turned over,
would still yield the traditional picture.” [END]