

Quarter Three: Exodus: Journey to the Promised Land

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Lesson 13—The Tabernacle

Sunday: The Sabbath of the Lord

September 21, 2025

- **Last Week:** “Please, Show Me Your Glory”
 - Exodus 33, 34
 - Moses’ growth in grace; the covenant renewed; God again accompanies His people
- **This Week:** “The Tabernacle”
 - Exodus 35 – 40
 - **Timeline:**
 - Ex 19 – 24 – God called His people into covenant with Himself
 - Gave the 10 commandments / promises
 - Ratified the covenant with blood
 - People belonged to Him
 - He was their God; they were His people
 - Ex 25 – 31 – Moses spent 40 days / nights in the mount with God
 - Received the 2 tablets of stone, written with the finger of God
 - Received the instructions for the sanctuary / tabernacle
 - God wanted to dwell with His people
 - Ex 32 – golden calf experience
 - Interruption of sin
 - Idolatry introduced
 - People broke the covenant
 - Moses interceded for them – type of Christ
 - Ex 33 & 34 – God’s character revealed / covenant renewal
 - God wouldn’t go with the people anymore (Moses was to take them)
 - Sanctuary / tabernacle put on hold
 - Moses’ appeal to God
 - God’s revelation of His glory (character) to Moses
 - Renewal of the covenant – people reconciled back to God
 - Law written again by Moses
 - Exodus 35 – 40
 - Once the covenant was restored, God wanted to dwell with His people again.
 - Building of the sanctuary begins again
 - Starts with a reminder of the Sabbath commandment
 - Sin brings separation from God (golden calf experience)
 - Sin brings fear & guilt (Gen 3)
 - God calls to restore that broken relationship

- Gen 3:9 – “Where are you?”
- Jesus came to reconcile us to the Father
 - 2 Cor 5:19 – “That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”
- Sanctuary was their place of meeting with God
 - Ex 25:8 – “And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.”
 - Covenant is renewed / restored – God is dwelling with His people again

Memory Text: “Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ... For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys” (Ex 40:34, 38, NKJV).

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** The Sabbath of the Lord (Jill)
 - Ex 35:1 – 3 -
- 2. **Monday:** Offerings and the Spirit (James)
 - Ex 35:4 – 36:7 – what the people gave to help build the sanctuary – their time, their talents, their treasure
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Tabernacle Built (John D)
 - Ex 36:8 – 39:31 – articles of furniture for the tabernacle as well as the priestly garments; all of the sanctuary service was a visual object lesson of the gospel; daily & yearly services
- 4. **Wednesday:** God’s Presence in the Tabernacle (John L)
 - Ex 40 – dedication / consecration of the tabernacle & the presence of God (the cloud)
- 5. **Thursday:** Jesus Tabernacled with Humanity (SQ)
 - John 1:14; Rev 21 – Jesus’ incarnation (the Word becoming flesh); Jesus dwelling with us in Heaven / New Earth

Sunday: The Sabbath of the Lord

Exodus 35:1 – 3; Gen 2:1 – 3; Ex 16:22 – 29;

- Is the Sabbath for Jews only?
 - Gen 2:1 – 3 – “Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. (2) And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. (3) Then God blessed the seventh day and **sanctified** it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”
 - Sabbath was established at Creation, as a memorial of creation
 - God blessed & sanctified this day – sign of sanctification
 - Same Heb word as Ex 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.”

- Did the Jews keep the Sabbath before Sinai?
 - Ex 16 – gathered twice the manna on Friday; nothing on Sabbath
- Ex 35:1 – 3 – “**Then** Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said to them, ‘These are the words which the LORD has commanded you to do: (2) Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD. **Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.** (3) You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day.’”
 - Then = right after Moses came down from the mount with shining face
 - Death penalty for working on the Sabbath
 - Capital offenses in the Torah:
 - Premeditated Murder (cities of refuge for accidental killing) (Ex 21:12 – 14)
 - Idolatry – including the sacrifice of children to idols
 - Sexual sin: rape (in the country; Deut 22); or adultery (both parties to die; Lev 20:10) or bestiality (Ex 22:19)
 - Witchcraft (Lev 20:27)
 - Children hitting parents (Ex 21:15)
 - Working on the Sabbath
 - Human rating of sins:
 - Murder or witchcraft is worst
 - Working on the Sabbath? Why is that so bad?
 - Sabbath = a commandment
 - God looks at sin differently than we do
 - Yet – more to it

What the Sabbath truly means

- **The Sabbath = memorial of Creation**
 - Gen 2:1, 2 - “Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. (2) And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.”
 - Sabbath connected with creation & rest
 - God rested on the 7th day from His creative work
 - Sabbath is a memorial of Creation
 - Ex 20:8 – 11 – “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (9) Six days you shall labor and do all your work, (10) but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. in it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. (11) For in six days, the Lord made the heavens & the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”
 - Sabbath is connected with creation & rest
 - Work for 6 days, rest on the 7th – everyone associated with you rests, too
 - We rest because we’re reminded of God’s creative work – He made everything

- Ex 31:17 – “It (the Sabbath) is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in 6 days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.”
 - Sabbath connected with creation & rest
 - Work for 6 days, rest on the 7th
- **The Sabbath = memorial / reminder of redemption**
 - Deut 5:12 – 15 – “Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. (13) Six days you shall labor and do all your work, (14) but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. (15) And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.”
 - Sabbath connected with redemption & rest
 - Work 6 days – rest the 7th – everyone associated with you rests, too
 - Children rest
 - Employees rest
 - Animals rest
 - Guests rest
 - Sign of redemption – God delivered us from Egypt
 - We rest because we’re reminded of His redemptive work
- **The Sabbath = sign of sanctification**
 - Ex 31:12, 13 – “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (13) ‘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.”’”
 - Sign – same Heb word used in Gen 17 of the sign of circumcision
 - Symbolizes these are God’s people
 - Sign of sanctification
 - Sanctifies – same word
 - Gen 2:3 Then God blessed the seventh day and **sanctified** it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”
 - Sabbath is connected with sanctification
 - God’s the One who sanctified it in the beginning
 - God’s the One who sanctifies us now
 - Eze 20:12 – “Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.”
 - Observing the Sabbath is an external, visible & perpetual sign between God & His people that He is their God & sanctifier & they are His covenant people & belong to Him
- **The Sabbath = symbol of Rest**
 - Heb 3 – Israel failed of entering into God’s rest
 - Promised land of Canaan

- Failed because of unbelief (believed the 10 spies report)
 - Lack of faith in Him
- Heb 4:9 – “There remains therefore a **rest** for the people of God.”
 - Rest = lit, “Sabbath rest”
 - Spiritual rest on the Sabbath
 - Faith in the work He’s done
 - Rest in Him
 - Rest in assurance of our salvation
 - Rest in the work God is doing in our lives
- Sabbath is connected with not just physical rest from work
 - Spiritual rest – rest in Him being the One who
 - Created us & can recreate us in His image
 - Redeemed us from bondage & from sin
 - Sanctifies us by the power of His Holy Spirit & Word
 - We accept His rest by faith
- Working on the Sabbath, would then negate:
 - God as Creator
 - God as Redeemer & Savior
 - God as Sanctifier & Restorer
 - God as our Rest & Salvation