



Our Life Commissioner

Read Exodus 25:1-9

- Why do you think the tabernacle was built?
- What are your thoughts on the following statement? Do you agree? Why or why not?

The Israelites have accepted the covenant that Yahweh offered. Now, a way must be made for Yahweh to dwell among his people. The tabernacle will be that dwelling place. Yahweh's commitment to dwell among his people antithetically corresponds to the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Yahweh's presence and the garden of Eden. Access to the garden is denied them. Sinful, beings do not have access to Yahweh's presence, but Yahweh now crosses such boundaries and chooses to dwell among mortals, through the re-creation of a holy ground.

- The offering is not mandatory. It is optional. What significance does this have for those who give? What is it that God wants, materials or generosity? Why does He want this?
- Do you remember how the Israelites acquired the wealth of materials? Who do these materials actually belong to? *Plundered the Egyptians during the exodus (Exodus 12:33-38)*
- And yet, God gives them discretionary authority over the materials? What has God called you to do with the resources you have?

The colors are mentioned in order of descending value. The color blue is used most prominently. The blue (from marine snails) and purple (from shellfish) dyes were very costly due to the labor required for their production and were, thus, a sign of wealth and nobility, fitting a king.

- In a day and age that all nations had rulers... the Israelites did not have a king. What do these colors tell you about how God views the government of his people?
- Is your allegiance to a president? Or to our King? God is not at the top of the org chart for Americans. He is at the top of the org chart of His Kingdom. How does this inform you about how to operate in our governmental system?

The Old Testament progressively develops the theme of God in the midst of His people. The birth of Christ, however, marked the beginning of the final phase. The gospel of John says literally that "the Word became flesh and [tabernacled] among us"

- During His incarnation, Jesus fulfilled God's promise to tabernacle or dwell with His people. How is He dwelling among His people now? Matthew 18:20 John 14:16-17 John 14:23
- Paul speaks of believers individually and corporately as God's temple How does the description of the tabernacle and its furnishings enrich your appreciation of what it means to be God's holy dwelling?