

## God's Building, Part 1: The Tabernacle

hennie swart

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### God's building

<sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. [Matthew 16.15-18]

- God's building vs. God's building...

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Some building problems

- Unfortunately this is true of some churches. Many churches nowadays try to build contrary to God's Word and revelation.

---

---

---

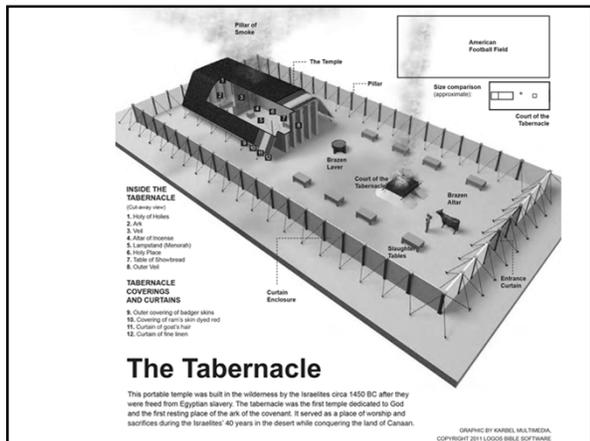
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Exodus 25: The Tabernacle**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>"Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. <sup>3</sup>And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, <sup>4</sup>blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, <sup>5</sup>tanned rams' skins, goatskins, acacia wood, <sup>6</sup>oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, <sup>7</sup>onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Exodus 25: The Tabernacle**

<sup>8</sup>And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. <sup>9</sup>Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Participation of God's People (Ex 25.1-7)

**Q:** How can we say "God's building" when He commands us to make a 'contribution'?

**A:** He only commands us to contribute that which He has first given us (Ex 3.21-22; 12.35-36; 1 Cor 4.7)

**Q:** How can we say "God's building" when He says 'let them make me a sanctuary'?

**A:** God moves our hearts to move us (25.2)

**Q:** How can we say "God's building" when He's up in heaven?

**A:** He intercedes for us (Ex 12.7; Heb7.25)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Participation of God's People (Ex 25.1-7)

The 'contribution' is:

- Commanded (25.1)
- Voluntary (25.2)
- Costly (25.3-7; cf. David's sacrifice)
- Durable (25.3-7; cf. 1 Cor 3.12-13)
- Effort (25.8): He builds through us.

We are all priests who serve in God's sanctuary (Ex 19.6; 1 Pet 2.9) vs. the Pareto Principle: '20% make 80% of the contribution.'

- What could prevent us from contributing our treasure, time, and talent?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Many build for the wrong reasons, e.g. a Malawian pastor posted the following on Facebook:

***"Those S classes currently I have 4 of them, and this E class I have 2 of them, 2x range rovers, 2 x Land Rover Discovery 4, just to mention a few."***

- But any other reason is an idol.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Purpose of God's Sanctuary (Ex 25.8)

We will only invest our treasure, time, and talent in what we value more than them.

- The purpose of "God's building" is God's presence among us!
- The purpose of the sanctuary (Ex 25.8) is the same as the purpose of the Exodus (Ex 29.45-46).
- Sometimes we act as though we are eager to have God in our midst, but God is not eager to be in our midst (cf. the Cross!).

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Pattern of God's Revelation (Ex 25.9)

Moses had to build on earth according to the pattern in heaven (Ex 25.9; Heb 8.5) and so should we!

- God's building should always be built according to God's plan – we can't decide how we want to build.
- Nowadays many churches are building as they want or as culture dictates, not according to the 'pattern' given.
- How can all of us build 'exactly' according to pattern? (Ex 25.9)

---

---

---

---

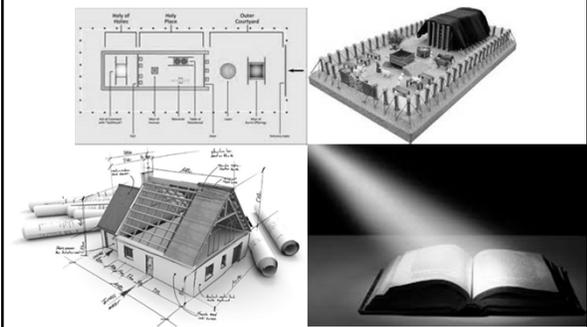
---

---

---

---

### By working from the same plan...



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Discussion Questions**

- How highly do I value the purpose of God's building?
- How can God build through me?
- How is God building through me?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---