

- Last week we continued our study in the book of Ecclesiastes. This was a book written by Solomon ([Ecclesiastes 1:1](#)) toward the end of his life to express all the things that the King has seen and lived through, and what is important in life. 20170702 Sunday AM Exodus 25-31 People are envious of other people's hard work at times, without realizing that is this hard work that deprives one of any pleasure in life. ([Ecclesiastes 4:4-8](#)) He cites a few reasons why two are better than one ([Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#)) and to make a point out of enjoying life with the one you love. ([Ecclesiastes 9:7-10](#)) He also notes that it is better to be a man of few words than to talk a lot. ([Ecclesiastes 5:1-3](#))
- This week start a new quarter for us. Welcome to all the new students. This quarter we will be studying the Old Testament system of worship, the last prophets God sent (commonly called "minor prophets") and the period of time in between the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- The Major Prophets are described as "major" because their books are longer and the content has broad, even global implications. The Minor Prophets are described as "minor" because their books are shorter (although Hosea and Zechariah are almost as long as Daniel) and the content is more narrowly focused. That does not mean the Minor Prophets are any less inspired than the Major Prophets. It is simply a matter of God choosing to reveal more to the Major Prophets than He did to the Minor Prophets.  
(<https://www.gotquestions.org/major-minor-prophets.html>)
- Today we are going to focus on temple and tabernacle worship as set forth by God in Exodus chapter 25-31. These were specific instructions given to Moses by God. The overarching theme today we will notice is how specific God is in telling Moses exactly how everything should be built and done to worship Him.
- God tells Moses that he should tell the people to contribute specific items to the building of the temple sanctuary but only if they want to do so. ([Exodus 25:1-9](#)).
- Our giving today is not mandatory either. God already owns the world and everything in it. ([Psalms 24:1](#)) Our giving is an act of worship. God does not dictate how much we give, only that He wants us to give as an act of worship. ([2 Corinthians 9:6-7](#)) Think of it like prayer – God already knows what we need but He wants us to go through prayer as an act of worship.
- Next, God gives Moses very specific instructions on how to build the Ark of the Covenant, including what dimensions and materials to use. ([Exodus 25:10-16](#))
- God pays special attention to the "mercy seat" built on top of the Ark because that is where God will speak directly to the people. In fact, it is so important that is mentioned eight times in six verses. ([Exodus 25:17-22](#))
- God also gives specific instructions to Moses on how to make the table for the hold the "showbread" and vessels for drink offerings. These were emblems used in various rituals we will be examining. ([Exodus 25:23-30](#))
- For light in the worship area, God gave specific instructions for making a lampstand. ([Exodus 25:31-40](#)) There was no electricity back then, and there were not windows in the

place of worship God is telling them to build, so they should build a lampstand for God's instructions to have light in the place where they would be worshipping him.

- The lampstand came to signify spiritual light also. God tells the Church in Ephesus that they were not as dedicated to God as they should be, so God threatens to "take away their lampstand from its place." (Revelation 2:4-5)
- In Exodus 26, God spends 36 of what we now call verses – the entire chapter, on the exact materials and dimensions for the tabernacle. (Exodus 26:1-36) The tabernacle was going to the place of worship for the priests on behalf of the people.
- God also describes how to make an altar in detail. The detail includes vessels to receive ash pans as well as fire pans. In this way, God is preparing for them to make "burnt offerings" to Him. (Exodus 27:1-8)
- God tells Moses to make the court of the tabernacle per specific instructions also. (Exodus 27:9-19) Note that here, as in all the previous and future elements, the material God instructs them to use is mobile. In many cases, He even prescribed "hooks" or "rings" to be used with wooden poles run through those rings. This is because they have no permanent home yet and must be ready to leave on short notice. Rather than build a new tabernacle each time they settle down, they just take it with them.
- God tells Moses to tell Israel that they should bring oils for lamps, so the high priests can tend those lamps so that they never go out. God says this never-ending flame be symbolize and remind folks of the statute forever. (Exodus 27:20-21)
- In Exodus 28, God spends 42 of what we now call verses – the entire chapter, on the exact clothing the priests should wear. They had to follow these instructions very specifically when they were in the tabernacle or they would not live. (Exodus 28:1-43)
- In Exodus 29, God gives specific instructions on how to "consecrate" the first priests. The rituals involved bulls, rams, and lambs – sacrificing and eating them for seven days. (Exodus 29:1-44).
- God says that the successful consecration of the priests will mean God will dwell among the people and they will know He is the God and brought them out of Israel. (Exodus 29:1-45-46)
- God tells Moses to make an altar for burning incense, and He is very clear that no other things should be burned or offered there. (Exodus 30:1-10).
- God instructs Moses to take a census of the people, and while they are doing that, to collect an equal amount of tax (a small flat fee, not a percentage) from each person, to signify that the people are atoning for their sins. (Exodus 30:11-16)
- God also instructs Moses to make a wash basin for the priests to use so they will be clean before they sacrifice, in order that they not die. (Exodus 30:17-21)
- Exodus 30 closes with God giving instructions to produce anointing oil and incense, and stresses that they are holy and not to be used frivolously, especially not for perfume. (Exodus 30:22-28)
- God specifically designated two craftsmen called Oholiab and Bezalel to create a lot of the elements God required. (Exodus 31:1-11)

- God tells Moses that the Israelites should always observe the Sabbath (forever) as a sign of their commitment to God as the creator who rested on the seventh day. (Exodus 31:12-17)
- The two tablets of the ten commandments were carved in stone by the finger of God. (Exodus 31:18-19)

### Questions

1. Why are the “minor” prophets called “minor”?
2. When God instructed Moses to take contributions from Israel was it commanded that give?
3. What should be our attitude when giving today?
4. Give two examples of how God gave Moses specific instructions regarding the construction of the Ark of the Covenant.
5. What was the mercy seat?
6. What are the showbread and drinking vessels used for?
7. What two things are God very specific about regarding His instructions for building the tabernacle?
8. Why would the altar God tells Moses to make include items to catch ashes?
9. Why would God instruct the Israelites to use material they can easily move around?
10. Why does God have the Israelites bring oil?
11. What would happen to the priests if they did not wear what God told them to wear in the performance of their duties?
12. What did the rituals for the initial sanctification of the priests involve? How long did this go on?
13. Why is the consecration of the priests so important to God?
14. What specific things does God prohibit from happening at the incense altar?
15. What did the “census tax” signify?
16. Why did Moses make a wash basin for the priests?
17. For what purpose does God say specifically that incense was not to be used?
18. What two craftsmen does God specifically designed to build many elements of the tabernacle?
19. How long does God say Israel is to recognize the Sabbath and for what purpose?
20. How many tablets were the ten commandments on and how were they made?