

תְּרוּמָה

T'rumah

(offering)

Shemot [Exodus] 25:1-27:19

Manmade Religion Will Not Get Us There!

Shemot (Exodus) 25:9

“According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it.”

This is an amazing verse for at least a couple of reasons. One is that it teaches us that YHWH is fully capable of giving us complete and detailed instructions which He expects us to follow to the letter. He does not always do this in His Torah. So, when He does not do it and He leaves the details up to us as individuals, then we need to give grace and mercy to others in these areas just as YHWH has given us grace and mercy in abundance. For example, the only requirement for the tying of tzitziot is that they must have a thread of techelet (blue) in them. Beyond that there are no other specifications. One way of tying tzitziot is just as legitimate as another as long as the requirement of the techelet is met. A word to the wise in this particular commandment is that Yeshua taught us that one's motive as to why he ties it the way he does is also a very important factor; which happens to be true in everything that we do.

Another thing that the above verse shows us, is that the pattern that YHWH showed to Moshe was to be followed in every detail. It also teaches us, that because YHWH does give us patterns, we need to be aware of those patterns for they teach us something very important. Many times those patterns, foreshadowings or types are in some way related to Mashiach. This is no less true than here in the mishkan that Moshe and Israel were to construct in the wilderness. YHWH not only took Moshe into the heavenly mishkan and showed him all that he needed to know, but YHWH also warned him to be careful to construct all these items each according to its own pattern.

Now when we think of a pattern in the West we often have a very different concept in mind. We usually think of a pattern as something less than the real thing. Usually a pattern is made and then the real thing is made from that pattern. However, in this case it is just the reverse. First, YHWH made the real thing and then a copy or a model of it was made upon earth in the physical realm. This is what YHWH showed to Moshe; He showed him the real thing and told him to copy it exactly. The mishkan that Israel

constructed in the wilderness, while very real to us, was still just a copy of the genuine mishkan in heaven.

When we consider the truth of this matter, that the mishkan that Moshe and the children of Israel constructed was just a copy, then the following passage makes much more sense to us.

Ivrim (Hebrews) 8:1-2

1 Now in the things which we are saying the chief point is this; we have such a High Priest, who sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

2 a Minister of the sanctuary, and of the true mishkan, which YHWH pitched, not man.

Notice that the above passage specifically states that the mishkan in the heavens is the true one. The mishkan which Moshe built is not the true one, but a copy of the true one. One of the things that this teaches us is that it is only in the heavenly mishkan that our salvation and redemption is completed and made sure. Let us consider this next passage.

Ivrim (Hebrews) 8:4

Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, seeing there are those who offer the gifts according to the Torah.

In speaking of Mashiach Yeshua we learn that as long as Yeshua is on earth He is not a priest. His priestly duties are only in the true mishkan in heaven.

Just as a pattern was followed for the mishkan, so too was a pattern followed for the kohen gadol. Aharon was the first kohen gadol (high priest) in Israel. However, his duties were only patterned after the true High Priest found in the true mishkan in heaven, which is Mashiach Yeshua. The duties and responsibilities of Aharon as high priest were many and varied. However, none of his duties and responsibilities could actually take away the sin of an individual, let alone a nation, for sin can only be adequately dealt with in the true mishkan in heaven and only by the one true High Priest, Yeshua our Mashiach.

As we consider these matters concerning types and patterns, we must include the following two passages from Kohelet.

Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) 1:9

That which has been is that which shall be; and that which has been done is that which shall be done; and there is nothing new under the sun.

Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) 3:15

That which is has been long ago; and that which is to be has long ago been; and Elohim seeks again that which is passed away.

YHWH works in cycles. What He has done in the past He will do again. It is a rare thing for YHWH to do a new thing. He does do it, but not without first warning us through His prophets that He is about to do a new thing. For the most part YHWH does what He has already done. This is a very good thing for us as it teaches us about the dependability of YHWH. It also teaches us that what YHWH does is quite predictable. We can know what He is about to do by looking at what He has already done.

These things are important for us to understand as they relate to our passage from the Torah portion this week because the only way to come to YHWH is through His ways. We cannot get there through manmade ideas and rules and traditions. The only way to get to YHWH is through obeying His commandments. Furthermore, the obedience to His commandments is a strict matter of the heart. One's motives are very crucial in determining whether one will actually make it to YHWH and have eternal life or not.

Man contrives all sorts of ways to be able to come to YHWH through works of the flesh. No work of the flesh will avail to any good thing as it pertains to eternity. But what is a work of the flesh?

Matithyah (Matthew) 12:33

“Either make the tree good, and its fruit good; or make the tree corrupt, and its fruit corrupt; for the tree is known by its fruit.”

A work of the flesh consists of doing something from a heart that has not been cleansed and purified by the Blood of Mashiach Yeshua. Any work that comes from a heart that has not been forgiven and cleansed by His Blood is a work from a corrupt tree, thus making the work corrupt. This is true regardless of how benevolent that work may seem to the human mind. Because the work is divorced from the work of Mashiach it cannot be anything but corrupt. Even as true as this is, it does not negate the reality that YHWH can still use such a corrupt work to further His own kingdom.

Romans 8:28

And we know that to them that love Elohim all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to His purpose.

Please note that it is not just that all good things work together, but that all things work together for good. This is a clear indication of just how sovereign YHWH Elohim is over His creation.

In manmade religions man thinks that the Creator needs the help of His creation in order to accomplish His will. However, this is just not the truth. While He does not need us to accomplish His will, He is gracious and merciful to us to invite us to be included in His will and working to build and restore His kingdom. It is because He is a merciful and compassionate Creator that He extends to us the opportunity to come to Him and to allow Him to work in our lives and to work through us. We are not the ones who build His kingdom, rather it is He in us and through us who builds His kingdom.

This is one of the great lessons of this passage from this week's Torah portion. One of the lessons taught to us in the pattern shown to Moshe is that we cannot get to YHWH our Elohim through our own designs. Rather, the only way to get to YHWH our Elohim is to come to Him in exactly the pattern laid out before us. To deviate from this pattern in coming to YHWH is to miss YHWH completely, and to miss eternal life.

It is because the pattern shown to Moshe was dealing with the mishkan and all the utensils and furniture and workings of this structure, that we know that what YHWH showed to Moshe was dealing with the salvation of man. But it is not man who secures the salvation of man. Only YHWH had the ability to secure this salvation. He did it by coming as a kinsman redeemer. We see this pattern set forth in the Torah and also foreshadowed in the life of Boaz and Ruth, both of whom were ancestors of Mashiach.

When will we learn that man's best intentions, man's best attempts, man's best designs, just simply cannot get us into the presence of YHWH our Elohim? It is only through Mashiach that we can come into His presence and have eternal life. This is further signified in that if one does not have His Spirit, the Spirit of Mashiach, then he is in very serious trouble.

Man cannot get there. However, when we as individuals, and then as a nation, the nation of Israel, surrender to YHWH our Elohim and submit to His will, the Torah, then and only then can we get to where we need to be, in His presence.

ABBA YHWH, please remove from us all manmade artifices and open our eyes and ears that we may see and hear Your Voice to us, that we may do and walk in the fullness of Your will; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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