

Handout: Exodus Lesson 16

The selection of Bezalel and Oholiab: In the Old Testament God's spirit usually "rests upon" or "comes upon" men selected for a special mission or service (i.e., Num 11:17, 25-26, 29; 24:2; Judg 3:10; 6:34; 1 Sam 11:6; 16:13; etc.). This is the one case I have found in the Old Testament where God's spirit actually indwelt/filled men as His Spirit will fill men and women after the advent of Christ in the New Testament (i.e., Lk 1:15; 41, 67; Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 9:17; 13:9; Eph 5:18).

Bezalel's name means "in the shadow ["protection"] of God." In 1 Chr 2:19-20 he is listed as the grandson of Hur: *Caleb married Ephrath, who bore him Hur. Hur fathered Uri, Uri fathered Bezalel* (1 Chr 2:19-20). For additional references to Bezalel see Ex 35:30; 36:1-2; 37:1; 38:22; 1 Chr 2:20; 2 Chr 1:5.

Nothing else is known about Bezalel's assistant Oholiab (Aholiah), except that he was a member of the tribe of Dan (Ex 31:6; 35:4; 36:1-2; 38:23). His name either means "the tent of the father" or "the father is my tent" ("my tent" meaning "my protection"). Oholiab's name is probably used in an intentional word-play since he is the man Yahweh appointed to help construct the "Tent of Meeting" in 31:7.

Exodus 31:12 is the seventh formula statement: "Yahweh (then) said to Moses" in the Sanctuary instructions (Ex 26:1; 30:11, 17, 22, 34; 31:1, 12). It completes the seventh part of the instructions to Moses that comprises Part V of the covenant treaty formulary: Disposition of the covenant documents and succession arrangements. The seventh formula statement is followed by the third command to observe the Sabbath obligation. The command to keep the Sabbath worship obligation is repeated in the Pentateuch ten times: Ex 20:8-11; 23:12; 31:12-17; Ex 34:21 (after the sin of the Golden Calf); 35:1-3 (in the covenant renewal); Lev 19:3b, 30; 23:3; 26:2; Dt 5:12-15.

In Exodus 32:11-14 Moses' first intercessory prayer and petition to God on Israel's behalf is based on four considerations:

1. The Israelites are God's chosen people.
2. God chose them when He manifested His power in liberating them from Egyptian bondage.
3. The destruction of Israel at this time would diminish the witness to the Egyptians of God's mighty acts of power and mercy in freeing the Israelites.
4. God must keep the promises He made to the Patriarchs.

Moses made three petitions to God in Exodus 33:12-18:

1. That God will show him God's ways (vs. 14).
2. That God's Presence will accompany the people on their journey (vs. 15).
3. That God will reveal His Glory to Moses (vs. 18).

Book of Life: Ps 69:27-28; Is 4:3; Jer 22:30; Ez 13:9; Dan 12:1; Rev 3:5; 20:12. The Book of Remembrance/ Book of Deeds: Ps 40:8; 51:3; 56:8; 109:14; Is 65:6; Jer 17:1, 13; Neh 13:14; Mal 3:16; Lk 10:20; Rev 20:12.