

Friday, June 9, 2023 • Read Exodus 38:21–31

Questions from the Scripture text: What do these verses detail (v21)? What is this tent called? Why did they count this inventory? Who took the inventory? Who oversaw all of the work (v22)? How is the work described/summed up? Who was with him in this (v23)? What skills did Aholiab have? What is inventoried first (v24)? How much total gold was used? How much total silver was used (v25)? How was this exact amount produced (v26)? What did this silver primarily produce (v27)? What did the remaining silver produce (v28)? How much bronze was inventoried (v29)? What was made with it (v30–31)?

What does the Spirit teach us by the numbering out of the gold, silver, and bronze for the tabernacle construction? Exodus 38:21–31 looks forward to the evening sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these eleven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **God provides resources, responsibility, and reliability for the earthly carrying out of the work and worship of His church.**

The numbering of this inventory is by the commandment of Moses (v21), just as the construction of the tabernacle was just as Yahweh had commanded Moses (v22). What does the Spirit intend for us to see by this God-commanded numbering?

Riches. At the time of writing, the amount of gold used in the parts of this tent (!) is worth approximately \$70 Million. And the silver used is currently worth around \$3 Million. But even that doesn't do justice to the proportional amount of the wealth of the entire world that was invested in this tent. God generously gave the people the wealth of materials that they needed for the most valuable thing a people can have: the presence of God in His public worship.

Responsibility. The first thing that we see is that Bezalel (v22), together with assistant Aholiab (v23), completed their task. Not only is there the summary statement that it was all according to the commandment of Moses, but there is also the confirmation that the sockets were made as commanded (v27), the hooks were made as commanded (v28), and all of the various bronze items were made as commanded (v30–31). God generously gave the people the wealth of skill that they needed for the most valuable thing a people can have: the presence of God in His public worship.

Reliability. Another word for this is integrity. Integrity in the use of the wealth that God's people give for His work is important (cf. 1Cor 16:1–4; 2Cor 8:19–21). Here, the inventory records the amount given down to the shekel of each: gold, silver, and bronze. The Levites were receiving all of this precious metal, and a son of the high priest was required to account for every bit of it (v21). Many churches' ministries have been greatly harmed either by the negligent use of funds and property, or even the intentional abuse or pilfering of funds and property. But God's Word establishes it as a requirement from God that there be accountability in this matter. God generously gave the people the wealth of integrity that they needed for the most valuable thing a people can have: the presence of God in His public worship.

For Israel, the skill and the honesty were greater provisions than the materials from which the public worship was composed. For us, the common grace of skill, and the special grace of integrity are marvelous provisions indeed. But the presence of God in public worship has now been facilitated not by the provision of the treasures of earth, but by the provision of Him Who is the great Treasure of heaven!

How does your congregation account for what is given for the worship and work of the church? What has God given for that worship and work? How is the value of these things reflected in your level of gratitude? How is the value reflected in the preciousness of public worship to you?

Sample prayer: Our generous Triune God, we thank You for Your indescribable gift, the Lord Jesus Christ, that we might be welcome and blessed in Your presence for worship. Grant that whatever is needed for the church's worship and work on earth would be given with generosity, employed with responsibility, and accounted for with integrity. And make us to treasure You in Your worship, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

ARP24 "The Earth and the Riches" or TPH185 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Exodus 38 versus 21 through 31. These are God's words This is the inventory of the tabernacle. The tabernacle of the testimony which was counted, according to the commandment of Moses. For the service of the Levites by the hand of Ithamar, son of Aaron, the priest. Bezal, well, the son of Uri, son of the tribe of Judah made all that.

Yahweh had commanded Moses. And with him was a holy ab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. An engraver and designer a weaver. Of blue, purple and scarlet. Thread and a finelin and All the gold that was used in all the work of the holy place. That is the gold of the offering was.

29 talents. Then 730 shekels. According to the shekel of the sanctuary. And the silver from those who are numbered of the congregation was 100 talents. And 1775 shekels. According to the circle of the sanctuary. Abeka for each man. That is half a shekel. According to the second of the sanctuary.

For everyone, included in the numbering from 20 years old and above For 603,550 men. And from the 100 talents of silver were cast. The sockets of the sanctuary. And the basis of the veil 100 sockets. From the hundred talents one talent. For each socket. Then from the 10775 shekels.

He made hooks for the pillars. Overlaid their capitals. And made bands for them. The offering of bronze was 70 talents. And 2,400 shekels. And with it, he made the sockets for the door of the tabernacle of meeting. The bronze alter the bronze grating for it. And all the utensils for the altar.

The sockets for the court, all around the bases for the court gate. All the pegs for the tabernacle and all the pegs for the court. All around. So far the reading of gods inspired into their twerk. Notice in verse 21. That this numbering. Uh, that's inventory. Was counted according to the commandment of Moses.

Just as which we see in verse 22. The making of everything. Was as Yahweh had commanded. Moses. Because of the Lord has commanded, not just the construction of the tabernacle. But the inventory, the counting the numbering, the outcounting for and up. All that was given. And how it was used.

One of the first reasons that he does, this is To show us the great wealth, the great riches. That were expended on the making of the tabernacle. At the time of writing. Even though this thing is a tent, The amount of gold used in its construction in the construction of its Furnishings is worth approximately seven million dollars today.

Sorry, 70 million dollars. Today. And the amount of silver that was used. Worth around three million dollars today. Each one of those sockets into which the board would be put. So Uh, the the silver would be formed so that the the board fits snugly into its socket. Each one of those made 75 pounds.

A little silver. So you get the The idea of the structural use. They used silver in a structural application. That is. That is the expense of riches. The word spared. No expense. And this would be true. Of course. And an ultimate sense. Because he who is worth more than all of creation taken together.

Would not be spared. And if God did not spare his own son. But gave him up for us. All. How will he not also together with him freely? Give us all things. And so, the first thing is, The richest. A vastly, great proportion. Of the riches of the world.

Had been concentrated in egypt. Brought out with israel. And now expended on the building of the tabernacle. And even this was just a shadow or a whisper. Of what our worship. Our public worship would be constructed. So that whenever we, Have low thoughts. Or struggling to bring ourselves. To the public worship or attend, well, upon the public collection.

How good it would be for us to remember. What was invested in this tabernacle? As an anticipation of what would be an invested in the true tabernacling? Of god with men. Even our Lord jesus christ. So, that's one reason. It's a great reason. And there's another reason.

And that is, Responsibility.

Bezel and the holy ab. Have. A great responsibility. To take such wealth and put it to. The use in the construction. And because our hearts are sluggish and slow. We don't see the words of god, this according Um, made all that, yahweh had commanded moses in verse 22. Our, our sinfulness the dullness of our hearts and minds.

Keeps us from seeing that how tremendous i responsibility that is I think hopefully for basala and the holy ab, the spirit, helping them and overcoming the donuts of their hearts. The experience of the giving of the ten commandments and the experience. Uh, when mosas returned from the mountain, the first time and the experience of The cloud and the fire and the red sea and all the plagues.

And the experience of Moses is shining faiths. The one who was giving them the details of their Um, creations / construction project. With your shooting light beams out of his cheeks. Hopefully, they had a sense. Of the greatness of the responsibility. To do well with what god had provided then.

But here. He adds a numbering and accounting. Because we understand. More readily. The value of Of earthly wealth. He gives us an account of the earthly wealth. That was expended. So that they would realize the responsibility they have to do right with it. The very thing that of course, judah did not realize.

Then you remember at the very end, the second king says they're going into exile. And you've got this kind of hurried account. Of the last siege. And suddenly in the middle of it, everything grinds. Uh, into slow motion and zooms in. On the pieces of bronze. The grating being removed the capital from the pillar being removed saying, Look at The greatness of god's investment in his people's worship.

To have his presence among them. And they wanted other gods and they worship wanted to worship the way other people. Worship. And they trusted in other hopes for military. Protection and deliverance.

So not only the riches that God has provided for our worship. Put the great responsibility then. If god has consecrated our worship with the blood, Of the lord jesus and constructed his presence. Among us in the body. Of the lord, jesus, the new and living way that is his flesh.

To quote, universe 10. And how we ought to care. To worship rightly in the way that he says. And how we ought to value it. When we come and do it. And resist any profaning of it. And resist any temptation, not to do it. So, there's the riches and then there's the responsibility.

The sockets were made, as commanded verse 27, the hooks remained, as commanded verse 28, All the various bronze items were made as commanded. Verse 30 and 31. God, generously gave the people. The wealth of skill that they needed. To obey. But today has worked. To fulfill the responsibility to worship in the way that he had committed.

And then there's also reliability, or integrity, On account on the part of the men. Who collected the money and the men, he dispersed or the materials? Both in this case, it's real money. It's not invented out of the nearby government. Um, the men who collected the materials, And dispense the materials for their use.

By the craftsman. They kept an account down to the shackle. Of the gold and the silver and the bronze and back down to the backup. Which was a half shekel. And so, Even in the rest of life. But really, especially in That which is collected and dispensed. For all that is necessary.

Earthly, speaking for the worship of god. It is important to keep good account. That everything be done transparently and openly. We see this, even for instance, with the Collection of support. For the jewish christians by the Macedonian christians on the again, christians. You know, paul urging them to Take special care to pick the most.

Most honest trusted person, they have Uh, to be the the one who keeps track of it and to send Um, a trusted appointed almost sounds like elected person. Uh with them when they go to judea so that they can, you know affirm you know, i saw with my own eyes You know, every last denarius that was given Actually made it to judea and was used by the Jerusalem church.

The deacons there. Uh, your progress and nichonor, if they were still there or whoever the deacons were at the time. In the jerusalem church, made sure that it was dispersed in a godly manner. So, you can read about that sometime and First Corinthians 16 verses 1 through 4. Really second Corinthians the entirety of chapter 8 and 9 are divided to that, but chapter 8 and verses 19 through 21 very specifically to how the money was handled accountably.

This should be done in the church. There should be integrity. Transparency. Talking about ability. And here. By the commandment of moses, a particular one. Of the four sons of the high priest for The two who are about to. Die of Uh, the normative principle of worship. Uh, had not yet died, but still one of the four Was selected as the one who had give the accounting.

So the lord cares about integrity and we should care about integrity. So, Why does the lord command this numbering? This inventory. To show us the riches that he invests in our public worship. To press upon us, the responsibility that we To follow his commandments alone with the riches that he has invested.

In the public worship. And to show us how important it is. That we have integrity, that we be reliable and accountable. And how we serve in his church. How we serve others? And then, To a lesser extent. It's still very important and all of the rest of our life as well.

So, let's pray and ask. The spirit to make us to value christ. Then therefore to value God's worship. Really simple. Let's pray.

Will thank you. Lord for helping us. To understand your word. We thank you for giving us this portion of your word. And for what we have learned from it, we pray. That. Just as no profit spoke from himself, but Men whom you had appointed. Carried along by your holy spirit.

To write the words that you are breathing out. Well, that's also your spirit is the one. Who writes its truth upon our hearts. And we pray that he would. And we pray that you'd make us to treasure christ. Appropriately. As greater than all of the wealth and all of the history of all of the creative things.

That you would make us. To value worship that is in him. Corresponding. Way. And we pray that you would make us to No. And Respond rightly to. The weightiness. Of having been given worship in him. And having been given specific commands. That we might conduct the worship. Exactly. According to your words, We do pray, lord that you would give us integrity.

That we would want everyone to see. The uprightness of our god. Reflect it. In the uprightness of how we serve you. Granted. Oh god, we pray in jesus name. Amen.