

# Torah Studies

The Tabernacle: Part 5  
*Final Instructions*  
Exodus 30 – 31

## Exodus: *Shemot* or Names



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Torah Studies

Delighting in God's Word

- Psalm 119:21-24 (NKJV)

21 You rebuke the proud--the cursed,  
Who stray from Your commandments.

22 Remove from me reproach and contempt,  
For I have kept Your testimonies.

- Psalm 119:21-24 (NKJV)

23 Princes also sit [and] speak against me,  
[But] Your servant meditates on Your statutes.

24 Your testimonies also [are] my delight  
[And] my counselors.

The Tabernacle – Part 5

Exodus 30 – 31

Introduction

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Previously in Exodus:

# The Tabernacle – Part 5

## Exodus 30 – 31

## Introduction

Previously in Exodus:

- In Exodus 24:15-18, Moses went up into the cloud on Mt. Sinai where he stayed forty days and forty nights.
- Since that time, we have gone through several chapters of the instructions that Moses received.
- The last chapter dealt with the consecration – the ordaining – of the priests.

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Exodus 30 – 31

Introduction

What to expect in Exodus 30 – 31:

# The Tabernacle – Part 5

## Exodus 30 – 31

## Introduction

What to expect in Exodus 30 – 31:

- These are the final instructions that God gave to Moses on Mt. Sinai.
- It is kind of a mix – from incense to a census to the Sabbath Day.
- We also see God setting aside craftsmen that he chose and gifted to accomplish all this work.

# The Tabernacle – Part 5

## Exodus 30 – 31

## Message Outline



# The Tabernacle – Part 5

## Exodus 30 – 31

## Message Outline

- I. The Altar of Incense 30:1-10
- II. The Census Tax 30:11-16
- III. The Bronze Basin 30:17-21
- IV. The Anointing Oil 30:22-33
- V. The Holy Incense 30:34-38
- VI. The Craftsmen 31:1-11
- VII. The Sabbath 31:12-18



# I. The Altar of Incense

30:1-10

## I. The Altar of Incense

30:1-10

- Zechariah the priest was serving at the altar of incense when Gabriel appeared to him.
- Let's read Luke 1:5-17.

## I. The Altar of Incense

30:1-10

- David connects the burning of incense with prayer.
- Psalm 141:2

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,  
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening  
sacrifice!

# I. The Altar of Incense

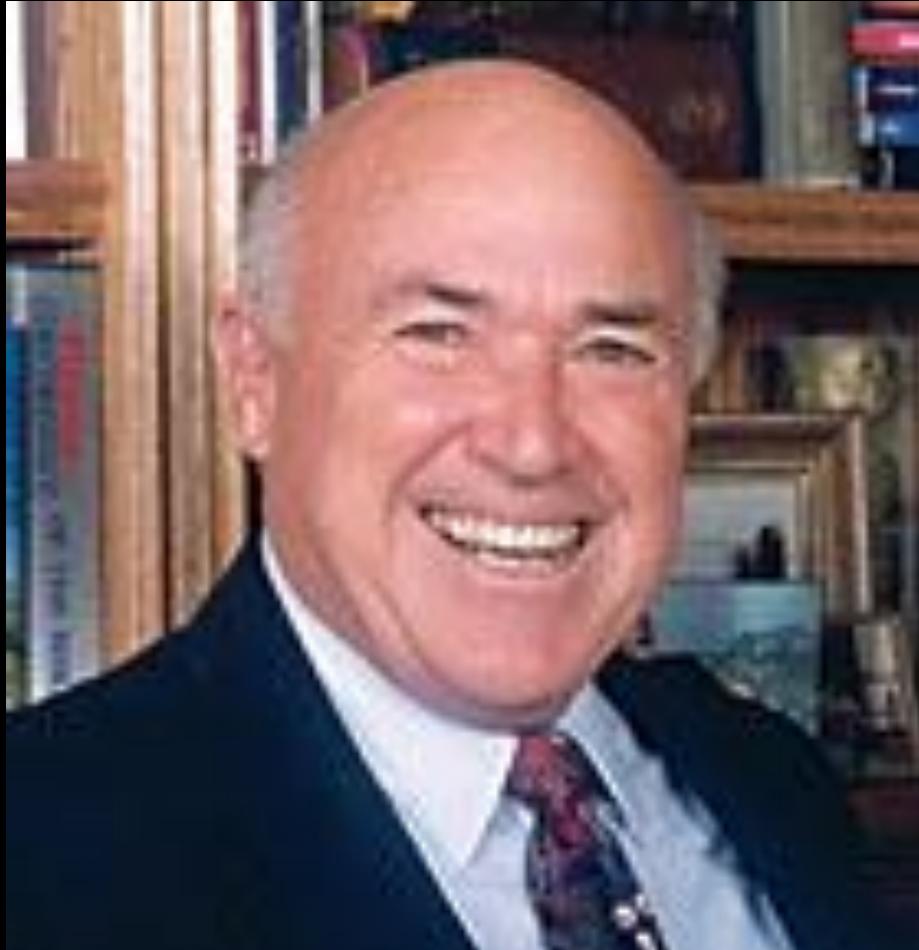
30:1-10

- John makes the same connection in
- Revelation 8:3-4

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, 4 and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

## I. The Altar of Incense

30:1-10



*Incense in the Scriptures is always a type [symbol] of prayer, our prayers ascending to God as sweet incense. In other words, your prayers are to God pleasant ... The prayers of the saints come before God as a pleasant aroma.*

– Chuck Smith,  
*Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

## I. The Altar of Incense

30:1-10

- God regards your prayers to him as a pleasant thing—a sweet smelling aroma.
- Consider this when you get tired of praying—or when your prayers seem to go unanswered.
- God enjoys your prayers.

## II. The Census Tax

30:11-16

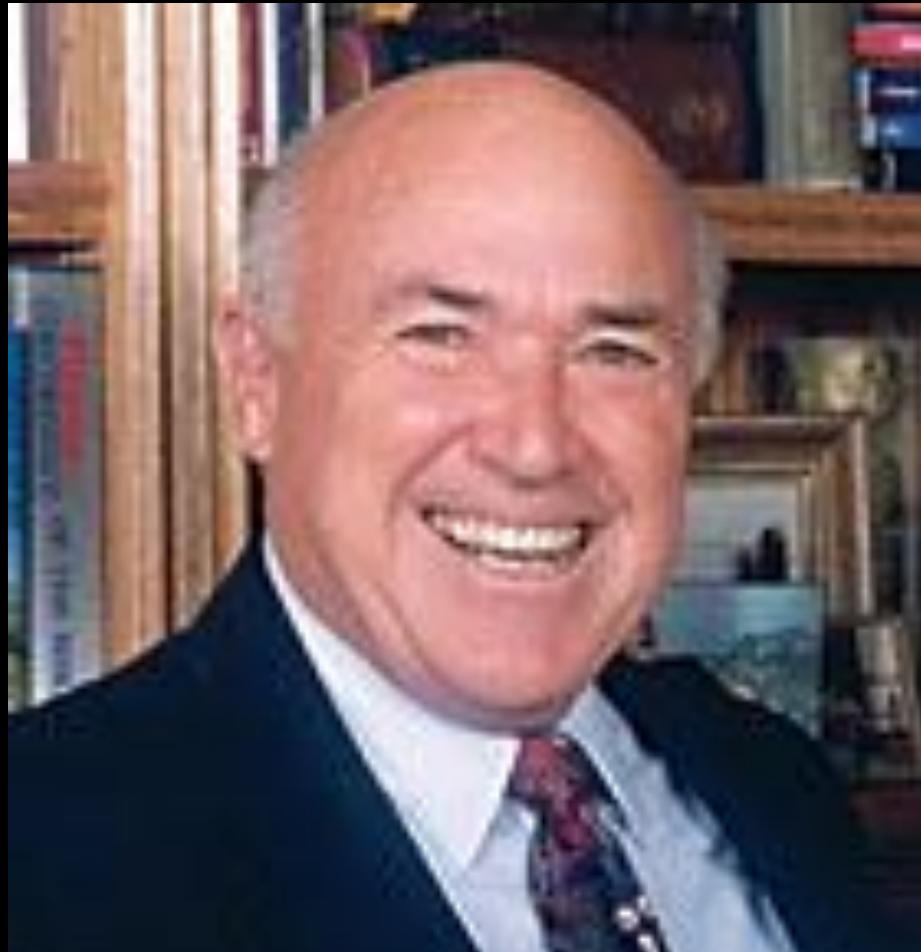
## II. The Census Tax

30:11-16

- This is the tax that Jesus and Peter paid with a shekel from the mouth of a fish.
- See Matthew 17:24-27.

## II. The Census Tax

30:11-16



*The fact that everyone had to give the same amount was indicative of the fact that every man is equal in the sight of God. God has no special favors for the rich, nor for the poor. Every man stands before God ... equal.*

*– Chuck Smith,  
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

## II. The Census Tax

30:11-16

- And so, we stand before God equal.
- This is perhaps most clearly seen in Ephesians 6:5-9.

### III. The Bronze Basin

30:17-21

### III. The Bronze Basin

30:17-21

- The bronze basin held the water for ceremonial washing.
- The priests would wash their hands and feet every time they came in to serve in the tabernacle.
- In **Psalm 24** David asks an important question.

### III. The Bronze Basin

30:17-21

- Psalm 24:3-4

3 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.

### III. The Bronze Basin

30:17-21

- Clean hands were symbolic of righteous living and ethical conduct.
- This is what God expects from all his people.

## IV. The Anointing Oil

30:22-33

## IV. The Anointing Oil

30:22-33

- This special anointing oil was only to be used for the priests and for the items pertaining to their service.
- No one was allowed to make it for personal use.
- You couldn't use it for perfume or after shave.

## V. The Holy Incense

30:34-38

## V. The Holy Incense

30:34-38

- The same principle applied that applied to the anointing oil applied to the holy incense.
- No one could make it for personal use.
- You couldn't burn it like a scented candle to make your tent smell nice.

## VI. The Craftsmen

31:1-11

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31:1-11

- When we think of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we most often think of the New Testament.
- Yet this is the first place in the Bible that men gifted by the Holy Spirit appear.

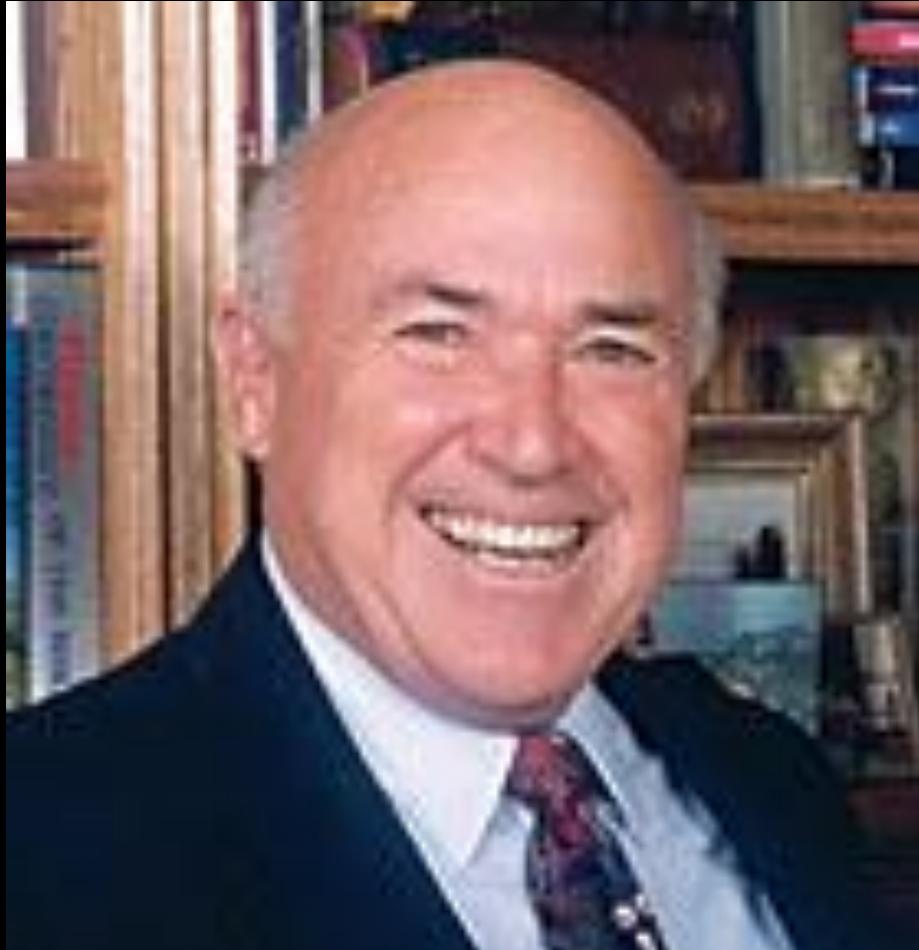
## VI. The Craftsmen

31:1-11

- Someone had to oversee the making of all these items once Moses came down from the mountain.
- **Bezalel and Oholiab** were chosen by God and gifted for this specific ministry.
- Moses and Aaron surely had special gifts—but these men had gifts that Moses and Aaron did not have.

## VI. The Craftsmen

31:1-11

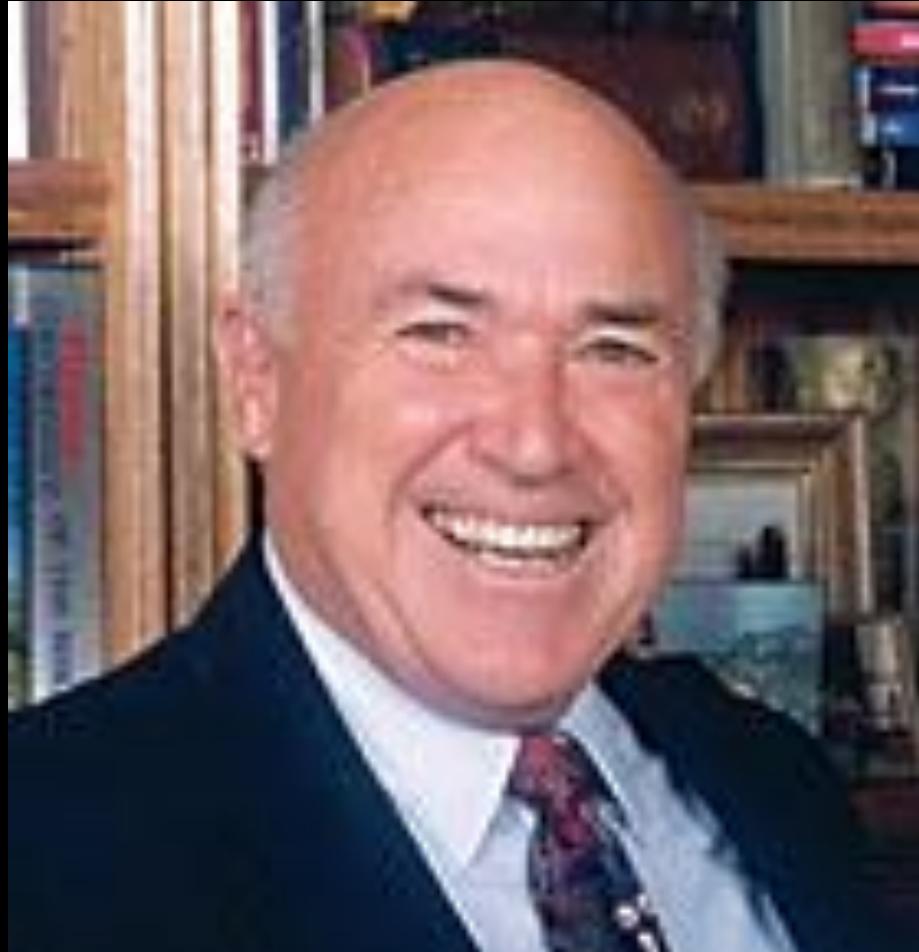


*God gave Bezalel special skills in craftsmanship, the ability to work with his hands. There are people who are gifted in this area, artisans, those who just have that natural capacity in furniture making...*

*– Chuck Smith,  
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

## VI. The Craftsmen

31:1-11



*... and in other artistic crafts. They have this capacity because God has gifted them. The tabernacle needed to be built, so God anointed these men with His Holy Spirit to do the job.*

*– Chuck Smith,  
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

## VI. The Craftsmen

31:1-11

- This passage gives us a clue that the lists of gifts in the New Testament are samples.
- We need not consider them to be complete or exhaustive lists.
- God gives people differing skills so that all his work can be accomplished.

## VII. The Sabbath

31:12-18

## VII. The Sabbath

31:12-18

- So why place a section on the Sabbath at the end of all of these other commands?
- Maybe because the last several chapters have all been about instructions to build or make things.
- The Israelites would now have to do a lot of work—but God's Sabbath still had to be respected.

The Tabernacle – Part 5

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Conclusions

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On Spiritual Gifts

Conclusions

# The Tabernacle – Part 5

Exodus 30 – 31

Conclusions

## On Spiritual Gifts

- It is easy to connect the idea of spiritual gifts with prominent people like Moses or Paul.
- We might not so easily think of Bezalel and Oholiab.
- But God thought of them.

# The Tabernacle – Part 5

Exodus 30 – 31

Conclusions

## On Spiritual Gifts

- God chose them and filled them with His Spirit and gave them special skills and abilities to do this work.
- A lot of people have incredible abilities that may not look supernatural.
- And you may be one of them.

The Tabernacle – Part 5

Exodus 30 – 31

On Clean Hands

Conclusions

# The Tabernacle – Part 5

Exodus 30 – 31

Conclusions

## On Clean Hands

- The priests would have to wash their hands and feet whenever they came into the tent to serve.
- This is a reminder that we need repeated cleansing from our faults and offenses.

# The Tabernacle – Part 5

Exodus 30 – 31

Conclusions

## On Clean Hands

- So, the Lord instructs us when we pray to always ask for and offer forgiveness.
- Matthew 6:12

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

# The Tabernacle – Part 5

Exodus 30 – 31

Conclusions

## On Clean Hands

- And John reminds us in his first letter,
- 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

# The Tabernacle – Part 5

Exodus 30 – 31

Conclusions

## On Clean Hands

- We need to remember to (figuratively) wash our hands and feet whenever we come into God's space.
- Whenever and wherever we serve.
- Wherever and whenever we pray.
- Let's remember to ask God to forgive us of our sins.

The Tabernacle – Part 5

Exodus 30 – 31

Conclusions

Speaking of Prayer

# The Tabernacle – Part 5

Exodus 30 – 31

Conclusions

## Speaking of Prayer

- Remember that God wants to hear your prayers.
- They are like sweet smelling incense to Him.
- Let them come up before His throne—early and often—so that He can enjoy them.

# The Tabernacle – Part 5

Exodus 30 – 31

Conclusions

## Speaking of Prayer

- Tell Him what concerns you.
- Tell Him your fears, your hopes and your desires.
- He already knows them, of course.
- But the exercise is beneficial for us and exceedingly pleasing to Him.

# Torah Studies

# Exodus: *Shemot* or Names



The Golden Calf  
Exodus 32

Rabbi Learning – Boris Dubrov