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Exodus 26, verses 1 through 14.

These are God's words. Moreover, you shall make the tabernacle with 10 curtains. A fine, woven linen, and blue purple and scarlet Thread. With artistic designs of cherubim, you shall weave them. The length of each curtain shall be 28 cubits. And the width of each curtain, four cubits and everyone.

Of the curtains shall have the same measurements. Five, curtains shall be coupled to one another and the other five curtains shall be coupled to one another. And you shall make loops of blue yarn on the edge of the curtain on the selvage of one set. And likewise you shall do in the outer edge of the other curtain of the second set.

50 loops you shall make in the one curtain and 50 loops You shall make in the edge of the curtain. That is on the end of the second set, that the loops may be clasped to one another. And you shall make 50 clasps of gold. And a couple the curtains together with the clasps.

So that it may be one tabernacle. So also make curtains of Gutierre to be a tent over the tabernacle. You shall make 11 curtains, The length of each curtain shall be 30 cubits. And the, which width of each curtain for cubits. And the 11 curtains shall all have the same measurements.

And you saw couple five curtains by themselves and six cartons by themselves. And you shall double over the sixth curtain at the forefront of the tent. You shall make 50 loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in one set and 50 loops on the edge of the curtain of the second set.

And you shall make 50 bronze clasps. Put the clasps into the loops and couple the tent together. That it may be one. The remnant, that remains of the curtains of the tent. The half carton that remains shall hang over the back of the tabernacle. And a cubit on one side and cubit on the other side of what remains of the length of the curtains of the tent Shah, hang over the signs of the tabernacle on this side and on that side.

To cover it. This will also make a covering of Ramskins dyed red for the tent and A covering of badger skins. Above that. Let's send this reading of God's inspired. And inerrant.

Well, in the previous chapter of the Lord has described for us. Some of the furniture of his tent as Especially in the holy of Holies or as it sometimes translated. The most holy place. Where the Lord? Himself is present in the midst of his people. His testimony. Inside the box.

And The atoning blood of his sacrifice on the lid of the box. With the cherubim, who are the throne? Of the Lord. Built into one piece with it. God himself as prophet and priest and king of His people. And then he would come in the person of our Lord.

Jesus Christ. And we would know. Especially Christ, as The great prophet Christ, as The forever priests after the order of Melchizedek Christ, as The forever king. Promised to David.

From his line. But Christ. As the god, man. Who is prophet and priest. And King. And so God, Ministering his presence.

Picturing to Israel. Declaring to Israel showing forth his presence. In the Holy of Holies and then the benefits. Of that presence immediately outside of the Holy of Holies in the Holy place. With a table that is similar to the ark and And yet as bowls and pitchers and so forth.

Many of you probably not overlaid with pure gold. Will have perhaps a meal on a different set of China. This coming Thursday. Well. The Lord actually used. A table set with. Golden plates and pitchers and bowls. And loaves of bread to communicate to his people. The fellowship that is The fellowship with him that is the benefit of his presence to his people among his people.

We had seen that, of course, on the mountain. Where, They saw the God of Israel and the ate and they drank, the text said, marvelously and how much more for us Who just this, I guess it wasn't this morning by the time we had it it was this afternoon had to table fellowship with and in The Lord Jesus Christ.

At his table, the benefits that we have of God's presence to us in the midst of us in our Lord Jesus. And then not just the food of his fellowship with the light. Of his blessing. As we heard the blessing proclaimed. Upon us at the end of The public worship earlier, the Lord's face shining.

Upon us And a tree lamp, or a lamp tree. One, or the other. With the light of the blessedness. Of the smile of God communicated, even in a way that recalled Eden. Recalled. The time before that fellowship was broken, When old, there was Was blessedness and no curse at all and that too shown forth in that picture of Christ in the tabernacle In.

The Holy place. And now, as he describes the ceiling or the roof, he communicates some things to us. About his presence to his people and the benefits of that presence to His people, namely that he intends to be with them. Wherever they go in. Heavenly blessing and glory. And to be.

So in a way that points them forward to Christ to be so In a way that was appropriate. For the church and that season, as the Spirit, by the Apostle, calls it a church under age, a church in its infancy. Without the The completion of the revelation. Of who Jesus is and what He would do.

And what he now has done. A church that had the tabernacle as it were as a picture book. Before the word himself. Became flesh. And we might grow up in the knowledge of Christ and the gospel and in that living and active union, with him that we get through faith, and In the resurrected and descended.

And enthroned one And so there's much to learn even from these 14 verses. About the nature of God's presence to them and communicating to them, His fellowship with them and the light of his blessing, his benediction. Upon them. Things that are communicated to them. And we learn about in this passage things that have been surpassed in the Lord Jesus, that we might have communicated to us The presence of God with us in Christ.

The fellowship that we have with the Living God, The light of his blessedness even as we were thinking last week about second Corinthians 4 and its relation. To the light of the lamp that the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. Now shines in our hearts, in the face of Jesus Christ, by the work of the Holy Spirit, And the picture that we have here.

Is of a God who is preparing. To wonder with his people who are going to wonder His presence is portable. And yet. And God knows that due to their sin and and how that is going to unfold and his decree. They're not going to take a straight trip to the Promised land, where they can.

Where they can set up his presence in the place. In which he chooses to. Make himself known the place that he chooses for his name. And his presence and he tells us about the fashioning especially of curtains four sets of them Now, because we are Accustomed to modern Western interior decoration.

We see the word curtain and we think of Dust collecting things that are drawn back and forth across windows. And I say dust collecting, because If you're a good housekeeper, you don't want curtains, you want blinds, because you just run the the duster over the blinds done. Getting the dust out of the curtains.

It is a lot of work. But that's not what the word curtains here means The other places we see it used are for the roofs or the the stretchings out of the tents of nomadic people. It's not the sort of thing. A self-respecting God. Would choose to have set up.

At least in the eyes or the minds of mere men. Even David was a mere man and Nathan. Not too much, better than he, because David later is going to come and say, I've got a house and God's got a tent. God, shouldn't live like a nomad. He should live like a king and Nathan doesn't pray about.

It doesn't consider anything. He says, whatever is in your heart King David, you do it. And then the Lord actually has to correct Nathan by vision for his response to David later. But heaven, and the highest heaven. Can't contain God much less. The little house that Solomon would end up building And that's pictured here in the ceiling that you would see from the inside of the tabernacle.

Especially and also to some extent the roof that you might see from the outside. And so he communicates several things about his presence to us, His presence to his people at that time, and his presence to us now already in Christ. And even especially upon the return of Christ.

And we see it in at least these four characteristics. Of the, of the covering of the ceiling of this nomadic Temple as it where this tabernacle is tint. For God First. It's mobile Second. It's Modular third, it's majestic and forth. It's multi-layered. It's mobile. We've already noted The use of the word that has to do with.

With the houses or dwellings the tents. For nomadic. People. And the mercy of God. That he would be as it were mobile two. That he would make this. This knowledge of his presence, this showing forth of his presence to them in fellowship and blessing. To be portable. That's something.

That we have. That we have considered and in past passages. But even the, the use of The the fabric and And so forth, would Would make it more portable and yet God's presence to us as far more portable. Now This is one of the things that the Lord Jesus highlights.

Yes. In a context of his authority for discipline in Matthew, chapter 18, don't quote it out of context, and forget that, that's the first place that he Really says it to us, but we're ever two or three are gathered in his name. There he is, in the midst of them, there He is.

Among them. Indeed, as we were even just now praying, The Lord has sent his spirit. Not As one who is present to his church in one fixed location or even one mobile location. But he has sent His Spirit into the hearts of all. Believers crying out, Abba, Father. And so we know God,

the Father as our Father and the Lord Jesus as our Redeemer by the ministry of the Holy Spirit, not just with us.

He will be with you, says, Jesus, but even in us and He will be in you And so we have not been left as orphans. But even before the return of Christ, the Father, and the Son have come and made their home with us. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us, but he by his Spirit makes our hearts a place.

For the knowledge, for the showing forth of the presence of God, with His people makes our hearts, a place for the enjoyment of fellowship with God and the light of God's benediction. And all of this was displayed in the tabernacle and how they ought to have rejoiced. Their God was not like, the, the gods of the nation to Who are really?

A constrained by location. But that God had communicated to them. His his presence by the mobility of the Tabernacle and even in the particulars of public worship. We have a greater mobility now. We don't need. We don't need. 10 curtains of 28 cubits and 11 curtains of 30 cubits and just wait, you know, we say portable but the priests must have been Fairly fit and strong, not just to slaughter all those animals.

But those gold covered acacia boards. In the next passage or, you know, would be a challenge to Soft week. Modern. Men and a lot of cases. But now think about what you need, even physically. For the worship of God. You need a book. Not a particularly big book considering it has all.

That is necessary for faith and practice. And the more you memorize of the book, the less you even need to have the book with you. You if we had large slots of scripture, we would be able to memorize to we would be able often to worship even even without a copy.

It, we wouldn't want to we'd want the whole thing with us. You need a book. You need a loaf of bread. We need flask of wine. Maybe some cups as you can pour. And hopefully need a flask of water. Or if you were going to have thousands of baptisms, praise God.

You'd need to be in a place where there was much water. But this is very, very portable and we have the knowledge and showing forth of the presence of God with us in Christ Jesus, in even greater Fuller revelation and richness. Although less outward glory. You know, the the book and the bread and the wine and the And the water, you know, don't shine like oil light off of gold and surfaces and fine woven linen with purple and scarlet threads.

Although I've been in worship rooms where the the fuller glory of the invisible Christ was obscured by banners with linen and you know, fancy threads and so forth missing the greater fullness that we have in Christ now So there's that mobility. Where God? Makes us. To see how much he desires to be with his people.

That, that last wonderful, that great statement in the last day, behold the dwelling place of God is with, man. That that has already been said to us in Jesus Christ. And in public worship, that is even more mobile than tabernacle worship was. And the second place that's modular. A part of the mobility here is all all of these parts.

No, there's an entire tribe of Levites who are available for carrying things and A clan. The clan of Aaron which is not. That large at the moment. But, This allows for, A work in. Which many may participate. Now Christ's priesthood, we find, he has a family, too. But as Aaron did with the Levites and different Levites would would have had these different jobs.

You can imagine what it would be like if you are in a Levitical family, it would mean a lot to you. When you got to the part about the goat's hair. Or maybe, you know, you are a rim, skins, dyed, red, curtain carrier and maybe you felt like the goats hair guys got more.

Got more print in Exodus 26, but you'd read verse 14, about the Ramskins diet, dyed red and you'd think the Lord gave me apart in the setup and to take down Of his tabernacle for the worship of his people. And it would be. You would feel the privilege and the honor that has been bestowed upon you.

For that. And The design that went into it, the loops on the edges of the curtains and clasps for holding the, the loops together. And You. You'd. Delight and how you got to be like a well-oiled machine with the other carriers and clasps, and setters up and down and and so forth.

It's designed for rapid setup and rapid takedown, ready to move, ready to set up the public worship of God in a moment's notice. Well, now you all Participate in the priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ. We don't have priestly choirs. We don't have priestly instrumentalists, why? Because Christ is the singer and Christ is the musician and all of His people.

Are the voice of Christ as He sings. In. His father's praise in the midst of the assembly and all of his people. Are the instrument of Christ as he makes you take the the language and Ephesians 5 Colossians 3, the melody of grace, upon the heart. But he he's he lays upon us a responsibility here that that we should take as a privilege and an honor wanting to be ready in an instant for the public worship of God.

It's one of the reasons why many of you children have parents, who help you throughout the week. Prepare, and the passages. And the songs that you will be ready for that public worship of God. That's one of the. It's one of the reasons why it's so important for us.

To keep as it were short accounts with God to be instant on in our repentance and maintain that that walk with God and the private worship at home and the family worship at home and not to allow things that so easily sin that so easily entangles or anything else that would that would weigh us down and distract.

And because we all now, Each each of us and the Church of Jesus Christ are as it were modular components that he assembles for the public worship. And we want to be those who draw near to him not with hearts that are far from him, going through the motions, or, or using, perhaps even traditions of men.

As if they were the instructions of God, for his worship, the way Jesus said, they draw near me with their lips, with their hearts are far from me. But you want to live as someone whose heart is warmed to the Lord and ready. This is one of the reasons.

Why, why we don't? Do the the supper celebrate, the Lord's Supper just once a year. The preponderance of the Bible evidence of course is Is that they did it weekly. But even in the Scott's Presbyterian tradition. Oh, there were many congregations who were just once or twice a year during some of the most faithful times and part of the reason was the, the people that felt that they were unready to take it properly, according to First Corinthians 11, But, We ought always to be ready.

To take it properly. We are always. Be prepared. For the gathering and the carrying out the conduct of The public. Worship of God, be prepared to worship. At any moment. Well, this covering implied, the mobility and the modularity. Able to be rapidly set up rapidly taken out and also was rather majestic Well, in a place that a few men would ever get to see On the inside.

It was majestic layer one. The the one on the inside, finally woven linen, blue, and purple and scarlet, thread embroidered Jeremy and you can You can probably get a mental picture of Of what it would be like with all of the furnishings made out of gold and all of the boards.

As we're gonna Here overlaid with gold and the lampstand with the oil light shining and reflecting off of the gold and then what what do you have on the inside? It's, it's finally woven linen and the finer, the weaving, the more reflective, and it's a light color with the, with the it would look like Something heavenly something otherworldly.

The Lord communicating to them that he is near them in his glory. And in his majesty, But, If you weren't to Levite, You would only ever get to see those things when they were all bundled up in the Levites were carrying them. As, as you went through, you'd only You're for your part.

You would get to see the the dolphin skins. I know it says badger. But but we'll get there. Not only heavenly appearance, but costly and rare materials. This was as we've been thinking about one of the reasons for plundering Egypt. On the way out in the Exodus. And God had prepared for the public worship.

By, by gathering the wealth and wisdom of the world and into Egypt and all of their expertise, in in metal working and textiles. I mean to this day, You, you'll get clothes and I don't know, maybe it's just my bias, but whenever I see the label and it says, you know, made in China like, If I see a label, it says Egyptian cotton.

That's the good stuff. The Lord had brought the wealth of the world and the wisdom of the world into Egypt in part, so that it could go out with Israel for the construction of the Tabernacle. And he did it again, by the way. When he was. When he was assembling his church.

Now in congregations. That would be all over the world from all the nations. What did he do? He used the order and wisdom and military might have Rome. To bring a season of peace and spread. The language of the Greeks, the Romans, you know, stole that or at least they couldn't overcome it with Latin.

He gathered, what would be necessary for? For his public worship to prepare his people to see the glory of Jesus. A glory that is not seen in, finally woven linen. And gold and blue, and purple, and scarlet threads. A glory that is seen by faith. Through the proclaimed, Word, in the gathered worship.

The Lord's worship is majestic His presence to his people and the fellowship and blessing in that presence. Is majestic and therefore, one of the things that we need to do is to maintain and look to God, to maintain in us by his spirit, this faith by which we believe, whatever he says, in his word.

By which that which he says is more real to us than that which reflects off of the rods and cones in our eyeballs. That we might behold the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Through his spirit's blessing upon his word to us. That we would not come into worship that a simpler and say.

I sure wish this was more majestic. More majestic. More majestic. Then led in the worship by God, the Son who became a man and consecrated it with his blood. And actually leads us in the worship more majestic than that. Why? But by making it shiny. Or the making it out of expensive stuff.

No, it's majestic. It's majestic and if we fail to see it, Then what we need is God to give us not the wealth and wisdom of Egypt by which The majesty. Was was prepared to be displayed or even Rome. But by the wealth and wisdom of heaven that we would know that it is.

God himself, given in Christ, the indescribable gift And that the glory that we see plainly by faith as glory from which angels hide their faces. Because of the greatness of its brilliance. In our Lord, Jesus Christ. Finally multi-layer, Do you have Graded holiness, as it were, there's four layers here, He spends a lot of ink on the first two and then the last two just get into into one verse The first layer is out of the best stuff.

The costliest stuff, even the clasps are gold. The second layer. With the With the goat's hair is not. You know, that doesn't sound. Marvelously expensive to us, but it is the Well, probably the dolphin skins were rarer in the wilderness. But the second layer with the bronze clasps. And so on, as you go out and he's Communicating a holiness.

A separateness Of the worship of God, and even of the people of God, to some extent, but especially of the worship and presence of God A separateness that the common people wouldn't have had a full picture of How amazing would it have been. To be one of the priests, one of the sons of Aaron who actually gets to go in there and see it all set up with the light shining and the bread on the table and and the embroidered cherubim in the ceiling.

And yet. It wasn't. Just the common people of Israel. Who didn't have the full picture, It really? It wasn't even the priests Because this was just a showing forth of that, which would that, which would come in the Lord Jesus Christ. Obviously, it was designed to look like heaven had been spread in sign and in the ceiling, but Solomon, got it right.

Who in the when his temple was being inaugurated and he said, heaven in the highest heavens cannot contain you The Lord talks about heaven as a tabernacle too, by the way. And Psalm 104 verse 2. He uses this word for curtain when he says, he stretches out the heavens like a curtain.

It's a reference back to the tabernacle. But even the heavens and the highest heavens. Are an inadequate tabernacle by comparison. To Christ Himself. As the one in whom we have the presence of God, the fellowship of God. The blessing. Of God. And we will have. We will have the picture even fuller, when our Dull weak minds and sinful hearts.

Are not obscuring for us, making dark and like cataracts. Let me see in a mirror dimly. When we are sinless and glorified and mind, What will the picture of? God and Christ. What will the knowledge of God in Christ? Be like unto us in that day? And so we have this increase from tabernacle to temple now, even to worship by faith, and this in our partially sanctified condition.

And it's all pressing forward. To the last. Great and glorious day. When Will have all of these things in final. Fulfillment. And then the dolphin skins, The. The the man with whom Done while he did all the research and we've just got But the one he has most recent commentary he says, sea cow skins.

I don't know how you make the difference. It's not badgers though. It's a waterproof covering You say, well where would you get them? Well, Egypt and God's providence was on the Mediterranean And that would be part of what the Israelites had carried out with them. But God even provided, this weatherproof covering for his tabernacle.

By means of Of that, which it provided in these multiple layers. Protection from the elements. Let's picture to us in Revelation is not. A. A tent with a little bit of gold on the inside, was picture to us in Revelation is an entire city. Where everything is made of gold gold.

So pure that it's transparent.

Things made out of jewels and precious stones. But that itself is a picture, isn't it? Because the city is actually made out of Christ. Because it's Christ. Out of whom God makes Christians, You receive from his life you received from his goodness. It is his life that has worked out in you by His Holy Spirit and that is the heavenly city that comes down.

It's a people. And the glory. That we anticipate. As a glory of Jesus himself. This is what we are destined for. We want to know your destiny earlier today. In the I think it was in the Catechism class. For this is God's will for you. Your sanctification Want to know, what's God's will for my life.

Well, as well for your life, as you That you grow in holiness, that you be sanctified, Well, another thing many of us I want, What is my destiny? Well, you have been predestined. To be conformed to the image. Of his son. That he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

That the glory of Jesus, that this is such a small picture of Believers in their final form. Are the God intended. God planned Picture. In the new heavens and the new earth and creation. Of the glory of His Son as we refract and reflect The glory of him from whom our Christian life has been built.

So, Yeah, it's a ceiling and a roof of a tent. That has long since gone. But it was something by which God communicated to a church under age. His presence with them, the fellowship and blessedness, they would have in it. In Jesus Christ by which he still communicates to us.

Who already have more fully. What his picture next to this 26? And who can be certain because God, Has planned it. That we shall have at one day in perfection. Man, let's pray. Oh Lord, we pray that by your Spirit. You would continue the work of conforming us. To the image of Christ that you would work in us to will, and to work.

According to your Good pleasure. Granting to us, by the means that you have appointed. To work out our own salvation with fear. And Trembling. Marveling at the greatness of the glory. Of what it is, to be a believer who's being made more. Holy So that the presence and worship of God will be Fully known.

In Christ, amidst his brethren. In the last day. So we ask you oh Lord who have begun the work? To give us that confidence of this very thing. That you will complete the work. And give us. Diligence and joy and zeal. We pray for your help as we go throughout our weeks.

We're about to Depart, and Lord, you know how? Quickly our hearts cool and minds forget. And even after the Blessedness of being gathered unto, you and your worship, and your means And yet. Oh Lord. We have just heard from your word that one of The ways that we apply, this is By maintaining, those means of grace and daily life.

That we might be the better prepared for The next time of the public worship. And so we pray that your spirit would keep working in us that you wouldn't allow us. To be those with no root. But that you would help us to meditate upon your word day and night.

That it would be sweet to us in our mouths and rich and nourishing and strengthening Within us, that it would be the implanted word. That rather than being choked out by. The cares are pleasures of this world. Your spirit would help us. That your word would make the fading passing.

Glorious and pleasures. To to pale by comparison. And that you would gather us again. Ready to Worship you. I'm ready to be sanctified more by you, through your means, Even so, come quickly. Lord Jesus. And grant that all of the work would be done in all. Of your left.

For, we ask it in your name, Lord, Jesus. Amen.