

Faithwalkers – Saturday, April 2, 2022

## Exodus 26

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**Key Verse:** Exodus 26: 33b “The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.”

### Table Questions:

1. Pretty amazing how exact/specific God is in Exodus 26 with His design for the Tabernacle. What part of God’s specificity are you most grateful for? When has God been very specific in your life?
2. Some people feel that certain numbers (3, 7, 12...) have significance because of the number of times or how they’re used in the Bible. What do you think?
3. What is your reaction when you see an opulent tabernacle/church/temple/cathedral today...”Glory to God-what a worthy testimony to His Grandeur...” or, “What a waste, that money could have been put to more practical use feeding the hungry, healing the sick...” or, ... ?

### Exodus 26 - The Tabernacle

*26 Make the tabernacle with ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, with cherubim woven into them by a skilled worker. 2 All the curtains are to be the same size—twenty-eight cubits long and four cubits wide. 3 Join five of the curtains together, and do the same with the other five. 4 Make loops of blue material along the edge of the end curtain in one set, and do the same with the end curtain in the other set. 5 Make fifty loops on one curtain and fifty loops on the end curtain of the other set, with the loops opposite each other. 6 Then make fifty gold clasps and use them to fasten the curtains together so that the tabernacle is a unit.*

*7 Make curtains of goat hair for the tent over the tabernacle—eleven altogether. 8 All eleven curtains are to be the same size—thirty cubits long and four cubits wide. 9 Join five of the curtains together into one set and the other six into another set. Fold the sixth curtain double at the front of the tent. 10 Make fifty loops along the edge of the end curtain in one set and also along the edge of the end curtain in the other set. 11 Then make fifty bronze clasps and put them in the loops to fasten the tent together as a unit. 12 As for the additional length of the tent curtains, the half curtain that is left over is to hang down at the rear of the tabernacle. 13 The tent curtains will be a cubit longer on both sides; what is left will hang over the sides of the tabernacle so as to cover it. 14 Make for the tent a covering of ram skins dyed red, and over that a covering of the other durable leather.*

*15 Make upright frames of acacia wood for the tabernacle. 16 Each frame is to be ten cubits long and a cubit and a half wide, 17 with two projections set parallel to each other. Make all the frames of the tabernacle in this way. 18 Make twenty frames for the south side of the tabernacle 19 and make forty silver bases to go under them—two bases for each frame, one under each projection. 20 For the other side, the north side of the tabernacle, make twenty frames 21 and forty silver bases—two under each frame. 22 Make six frames for the far end, that is, the west end of the tabernacle, 23 and make two frames for the corners at the far end. 24 At these two corners they must be double from the bottom all the way to the top and fitted into a single ring; both shall be like that. 25 So there will be eight frames and sixteen silver bases—two under each frame.*

*26 "Also make crossbars of acacia wood: five for the frames on one side of the tabernacle, 27 five for those on the other side, and five for the frames on the west, at the far end of the tabernacle. 28 The center crossbar is to extend from end to end at the middle of the frames. 29 Overlay the frames with gold and make gold rings to hold the crossbars. Also overlay the crossbars with gold.*

*30 "Set up the tabernacle according to the plan shown you on the mountain.*

*31 "Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim woven into it by a skilled worker. 32 Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases. 33 Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the covenant law behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. 34 Put the atonement cover on the ark of the covenant law in the Most Holy Place. 35 Place the table outside the curtain on the north side of the tabernacle and put the lampstand opposite it on the south side.*

*36 "For the entrance to the tent make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen—the work of an embroiderer. 37 Make gold hooks for this curtain and five posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold. And cast five bronze bases for them.*

## **Introduction**

### **God is Alive (or as the movie titles tell us..."God's Not Dead")**

I love the way Tom opened us in prayer last week when he said "Good morning Father God..."

All too often our or others' prayers are and sound too cold and repetitive and impersonal, as if the person praying doesn't have a personal relationship with the Father through the Son, and yet, isn't that what we as Christians claim makes our "religion" different than all the rest?

The Key Verse that I've selected from Exodus 26 this week is vs 33b "*The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.*" because the curtain symbolizes the separation that used to exist between God and man and only 1 carefully selected person was able to go past the curtain and only on certain days. But praise God the Father that He sent Jesus His Son to pay the price for your sin and mine and at the very moment He died on the cross, that very curtain was rent or torn in two...clearing the way for you and I to enter the very Holy of Holies, into the very presence of God the Father and commune with Him!!!

I wonder, do you think about that often enough?

It made my heart smile...isn't that a great saying? I think I first saw it printed on a t-shirt and I've often thought it best describes how my grandkids make me feel...well it made my heart smile when Chris mentioned last week during our table discussion that he had been thinking about Heaven recently.

One of my favourite passages is Colossians 3:1-2 "*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*" so when Chris shared that he had been thinking about Heaven I thought to myself, YES, attaboy! because doesn't Scripture tell us to edify and encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)?

Another of my favourite verses in Scripture (and yes I have a lot) is Proverbs 3:6 because it gives us the prescription and what will happen if we take that prescription...

The King James Bible puts it probably the most familiar way "*In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.*"

You won't be able to see this unless you are reading my text, but I'm always having to capitalize even Scripture passages that don't have every reference to God capitalized...for example when Scripture refers to "him" but doesn't capitalize the "H"...it's one of my pet peeves (and yes I have many) but also one of its one of my ways that I acknowledge Who God is (and yes, I capitalized the W in Who).

The Amplified Bible puts Proverbs 3:6 this way..."*In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him, And He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way].*"

So what does "acknowledging" the Lord mean?

Other versions say submit, seek His Will, know Him, always let Him lead you, think on Him, remember Him, be mindful of Him...and I like to interpret the word acknowledge as behave as though He is real! Talk about Him, tell others about Him, think about Him, talk to Him, sing to Him, thank Him...!!!!

How about you, how do you "acknowledge the Lord in all your ways"?

I've said it before but it's worth repeating, at least for my sake, but one of the neat things I took away from the controversial book "The Shack" was God the Father telling the main character of the book "I am especially fond of you", because at least that part of the book is true and we all need to be reminded of the personal, intimate relationship that He paid everything to call us into.

Do you not believe that a God who would call David a man after my own heart (Acts 13:22) had favourites? Perhaps you and I would live our lives differently if we started to believe and act that He is in fact especially fond of me...and you!

I once read a quote that said there is one thing that most people want to hear when they go to Church..."Tell me that God is real and what He is doing in your life today...don't just tell me what He did in the past. After all, you Christians claim that your religion is different than all the rest in that your God is alive...so prove it. Don't just give me another history lesson about something that happened 2,000 or more years ago, if I wanted history I could read Shakespeare or Plato or Confucius...".

Well we had a great drive to Texas finally after more than 2 years apart from our eldest son, daughter in law and 3 grandkids now ages 7/5/2. Here is what I sent to a few brothers after we returned as a testimony to God's Faithfulness and Provision and Protection...and how I choose to acknowledge the Lord and interpret what happens in my day to day living....

Praise God that our grandkids didn't grow up too fast during the 2+ years we were apart and still loved to go on picnics with their Opa!!! They live in a beautiful cul de sac in a newer suburb of southwest Austin near Dripping Springs that has numerous natural trails and ponds so our first picnic involved me buying nets at Dollar Tree so the girls could catch their fill of minnows and tadpoles (I call them polliwogs) which we kept in a small aquarium on their patio during our stay.

God was so good in providing a safe weather corridor for us to drive through on the way there and the way home, it was amazing. On the way down there were snow storms along both sides of our route (US

northeast and Colorado) but next to nothing on our roads. We would watch the weather radar reports at night in our hotel room and it was like God had separated the Red Sea.

On the way home we decided at the last minute to leave 1 day early on Sunday instead of Monday to avoid the construction traffic delays in Austin, Waco and Dallas and missed heavy fog in Austin on Monday which caused the schools to close early and heavy freezing rain forecasted for Ontario yesterday but we experienced none of it. There were even tornadoes which touched down in Texas on Tuesday including one in the small village of Wimberley which we visited the week before with the grandkids as they live just north of there in Dripping Springs.

God even intervened with the normally frustrating border crossings as we had no one ahead of us at US Customs when we crossed into the US (which has never happened before) and even though we had 6 cars ahead of us when we crossed back into Canada and had filled out the new ArriveCan app, had gotten our Covid tests done for free at a Walgreens drive through in Louisville (which was amazingly fast with results emailed to us within 2 hours), had both tested negative (even though Wanda was concerned because she had been sick with what turns out to be a bad cold she caught from the 3 grandkids), the Canadian Border agent asked 3 simple questions of us (and I assume each of the cars ahead of us), didn't bother to ask to see the various QR codes which we had saved in several locations on our phones (ArriveCan submission receipt, negative test results and vaccination confirmation), and we were through within less than 5 minutes of arriving!!!

As I said to Chris when we were travelling south, you can all feel proud and thankful for the courteous drivers and good road conditions we experienced all along our 26 hour route from north to south US there and back. And the US isn't resting on its laurels since the amount of road construction we saw brought to mind the Eisenhower era :)

And in case you take my interpretation of our travelling mercies lightly, I challenge you to remember a time when you drove for 46 hours and experienced next to no traffic delays/snarls/accidents/road rage/etc and no, we didn't stick to the dirt roads...we drove through the cities of Buffalo NY, Cleveland/Columbus /Cincinnati Ohio, Louisville KY, Nashville and Memphis TN (and I recommend stopping in to see the Bass Pro pyramid on the shores of the Mississippi in downtown Memphis), Little Rock AR, and Dallas and Austin TX.

And we were blessed when we returned home to find that our neighbours and their kids had done a fantastic job caring for our little farm and the 13 ducks, 11 chickens, 13 partridge, 9 quail and 2 bunnies we have. And even my "cup" was overflowing when I returned home...my 4 litre maple sap jugs were overflowing as we were away during peak sap season but I was still able to collect 125 litres so far and will be doing some evaporating this weekend.

The hundreds of seedlings and plants I have inside for the winter (everything from Chestnut to Lemon to Fig to Pomegranate trees) all survived as well and we look forward to our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Plant Sale coming up in April and May.

As I've said in the past, I am a self-confessed "poly hobbyist" but at least now my wife can't complain that they aren't paying for themselves as we sell all of our extra chicken, duck, partridge and quail eggs and any chicks or ducklings that we hatch and don't need to bolster our flock.

So before you, I praise God for His mercies as they are from Everlasting to Everlasting!

## **Numerology?**

Exodus 26 is full of numbers, specifications about exactly what size or quantity of various things God wants in His Tabernacle. Last week, one of the questions after Dan shared on chapter 25 had to do with God being into the details with His specifications for the Ark, Table and Lampstands...and He clearly doesn't stop there.

Do you assign any significance to numbers in Scripture...perhaps 3 because of the Trinity? Perhaps 7 because God chose that as the number of days in the week/creation? Perhaps 12 because that's how many disciples Jesus chose?

Here's a sampling of the numbers used in this chapter and the number of times each was used...interesting to note that 3, 7 and 12 were not used...

1.5 - 1

2 - 5

4 - 3

5 - 7

6 - 3

8 - 1

10 - 1

11 - 2

16 - 1

20 - 2

28 - 1

30 - 1

40 - 2

50 - 5

## **God's Precision**

As we discussed God's precision at our virtual table last week, a few things came to mind...

God's Creation is incredibly exact...I'm sure you've all read or heard about how exact the Earth's distance from and rotation around the Sun is and how exact the Moon's rotation is around the Earth and the impact that each has on the other for our livelihoods and well being. Incredible!

Closer to home isn't it continually amazing that us humans all expel Carbon Dioxide (some more than others) while all the plants breath in Carbon Dioxide and expel Oxygen... which is what we humans need! Its almost as though there were some master Designer and Builder that put all the pieces of this incredible jigsaw puzzle together and not for it to survive for a short time but for a long time. Just don't get me going on the necessity or purpose of some things like skunks (did I tell you that I've given up on using live traps to try and catch rabbits from eating my fruit trees in winter, well I have because all I catch are skunks....pee yoo!), or the purpose of mosquitoes/black flies/deer flies, or weeds!

And I still have no idea why Elon Musk is so enamoured with the idea of living on a lifeless Mars when we still have so much land available down here...and even if/when we occupy most of the land, then we still have the 75% of the Earth's surface that is water that would be a heck of lot easier to live on or under than getting to and living on Mars! What an amazing planet we live on!

And lastly we need look no further than our own bodies to be extremely thankful that God isn't a generalist...although I will be questioning Him on the wisdom of only giving us 2 sets of teeth and not 3 or 4 when I get to Heaven, or at least giving us what He gave beavers in that they have teeth that just keep growing! But don't get me wrong, I know He will have a profound answer... or at the very least will blame satan for sugar 😊

### **Conclusion/Application...So What?**

So what do we do with what we've heard/read this morning?

How will we apply it to our lives so that we grow closer in Likeness to Him Who saved us?

Well let's start by praying each new day that God tears the curtain that grows in our hearts and minds that separates us from Him. I always find it entertaining and somewhat sad when I hear people asking God to be with them or bless them etc when it is He Who is continually standing at the door and knocking and waiting for us to open it to Him.

Revelation 3:20 reminds us that "*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My Voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.*"

What a promise and what a blessing, the Most High God standing and knocking and waiting on us rather than the other way around (which is what happens with royalty here on earth isn't it).

We not only have the opportunity of an audience with the King of Kings, we have the promise of communion with Him...every minute of every day for ever and ever, Amen.

So what is keeping us from partaking?

I trust for you it is the same as it is for me...setting my heart and my mind on things below rather than on things above.

In closing let me share with you a summary of a talk given by Charles Stanley some years ago that impacted me greatly...its based on Romans 9:20-21...

*"But who are you, O man, to talk back to God?*

*Shall what is formed say to Him who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?"*

*Does not the Potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?"*

Who are we to question the Potter?

- He knows exactly what He has in mind for you
- don't worry about other people's opinion of you.....God's opinion is the only one that counts (everyone else's changes)..... He thinks you're worthy.

Some of us stop or take ourselves off of the Potter's wheel when God isn't finished:

- like an unglazed bowl with no handle.....a bowl instead of a beautiful pitcher....we think we're ready/finished, when God does/is not

God sends or allows pressure in our lives as He molds and shapes:

- the Potter dips his hands in water to lessen the friction as He applies pressure, God dips His hands in pure love

We have to decide..... "Am I going to yield or not?"

The value placed on the vessel indicates how much He thinks you're worth - remember the price He paid.....Jesus, His Son

The Potter .....

1. has Power - He can do what He chooses
2. has Purpose - He has a specific purpose
3. has a Plan - to work daily to conform us to His likeness
4. has Patience - no hurry.... you can't rush Him
5. has Perseverance – He doesn't throw the clay away, ever
6. is Personal - He puts Himself into us
7. is Intimate – wants to deal with you directly (no middle-man)
8. will always make the most of you

"Thou art the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and shape me, day after day."

Amen, Amen and Amen.

### **Wrap Up**

I'm going to close with a song again this week. When I was in business I gave a lot of presentations and often I would have a debate with myself in the hours or even minutes leading up to the presentation as to whether I should include something unconventional or not...and the times I did I was always glad I did as it made the difference between a same old same old presentation and one that was unique and memorable. And so it is this morning.

I came across this song for the first time this week and it made me cry, which is a good thing. It is good for us to have a cry from time to time, especially if it is because of happy memories.

The song is called "I Remember You Singing This Song Ma" and it was written by an old Irish singer named Finbar Furey. This version however is a cover done by another gentleman who I think does an even better job of it. Its about a man remembering his mother and father who have passed on and the song that they sung to each other.

My hope and prayer is that it will bring tears of happy remembrance to your eyes but if it doesn't, then perhaps at the very least it will spur you on to make some happy memories with those you love who are still alive.

My favourite times in Texas earlier this month were having bike rides and picnics with my 3 grandkids after being apart for more than 2 years and singing or listening to my favourite songs with them and I hope and pray they will have happy memories of doing the same with their Opa.

So sit back, close your eyes, hum along as that will help you remember, and enjoy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4XUgXvvS30>