

In the Details

Our readings this week begin with the story of Moses' lengthy meeting with God on Mt. Sinai and Israel's impatience while waiting for his return. The fashioning of the calf by Aaron and the ensuing revelry angered God enough to want to destroy Israel. It's interesting to note that Aaron played a similar blame game as Adam and Eve. He pointed fingers at others, and he lied. Also, the Levites were the only people to abstain from the detestable worship of the calf. This caused God to set them apart, blessing them, and eventually giving them responsibility to care for the tabernacle.

From there, we launch into the account of very specific plans for the tabernacle and the requirements for sacrifices and offerings. Perhaps because we do not live with the reality of a tabernacle or the need to bring sacrifices (thank you, Jesus!), we may be tempted to gloss over these chapters and deem them irrelevant.

With just a little digging, however, we can learn the fascinating ways in which the details of the tabernacle pointed to Christ. In his book, *Portraits of Christ in the Tabernacle*, Theodore H. Epp describes the symbolism of the material used to construct the tabernacle:

- * Gold: Deity
- * Wood (acacia): Humanity of Christ
- * Silver: Redemption

- * Fine Linen: Righteousness
- * Brass: Judgment
- * Oil: Holy Spirit
- * Blue: Heavenly nature
- * Rams skin: Atonement
- * Purple: Royalty
- * Goat skins: Atonement
- * Scarlet: Sacrifice
- * Badger skins: Humanity of Christ

Reading through these chapters with a small glimpse into the meanings behind these items should enrich your time in the Word and perhaps bring a new appreciation for these seemingly endless details.

The consistency of God's character is displayed when we see that He is a God of order and design, precision and detail. He has a purpose and plan in all that He does. There is nothing that is out of His control. There is nothing He overlooks. There is not a deadline that He ever missed.

Considering these characteristics of God should strengthen our faith in Him. We can bring our needs and requests to His throne of grace and leave them there, trusting in His goodness, His wisdom, and His ability to care for us. How many situations can you recall when God orchestrated and worked out every detail to your benefit in ways you could have never imagined? We truly can rest in God's providential care for us. When we let go of our perceived control, God is free to creatively work in our lives as only He can.

What areas of your life do you need to release to the sovereign control of your loving God? If you struggle with this, recall a time when God was faithful to you. Bring this with you to the throne of grace and lay it before him as a testimony that He is capable and faithful. Then proceed to bring your need before Him, laying it down, with confident anticipation of His movement in every detail of your life.

~ Lori Voss

February 11th Readings

EXODUS 32:1-34:35

February 12th Readings

EXODUS 35:1-36:38

February 13th Readings

EXODUS 37:1-39:31

February 14th Readings

EXODUS 39:32-40:38

NUMBERS 9:15-23

February 15th Readings

NUMBERS 7:1-89

February 16th Readings

NUMBERS 8:1-9:14

LEVITICUS 1:1-3:17

February 17th Readings

LEVITICUS 4:1-6:30