

Message Eleven  
**The Workers of the Tabernacle  
and the Sabbath in Relation to the Building Work**

EM Hymns: 839

Scripture Reading: Exo. 31:1-17

- Exo 31:1 And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,  
Exo 31:2 See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.  
Exo 31:3 And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom and with understanding and with knowledge and with all kinds of workmanship,  
Exo 31:4 To fashion skillful designs, to work in gold and in silver and in bronze,  
Exo 31:5 And in the cutting of stones for setting and in the carving of wood, to work in all kinds of workmanship.  
Exo 31:6 And now, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the heart of all who are wise in heart I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded you:  
Exo 31:7 The Tent of Meeting, and the Ark of the Testimony and the expiation cover that is on it, and all the utensils of the tent,  
Exo 31:8 And the table and its utensils, and the pure lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense,  
Exo 31:9 And the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base,  
Exo 31:10 And the finely worked garments, both the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons for them to serve as priests,  
Exo 31:11 And the anointing oil, and the incense of fragrant spices for the sanctuary. According to all that I have commanded you, they shall do.  
Exo 31:12 And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,  
Exo 31:13 Speak also to the children of Israel, saying, You shall surely keep My Sabbaths; for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am Jehovah who sanctifies you.  
Exo 31:14 Therefore you shall keep the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.  
Exo 31:15 Six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day there is a Sabbath of complete rest, holy to Jehovah; whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall surely be put to death.  
Exo 31:16 Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.  
Exo 31:17 It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.

**I. “...See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom and with understanding and with knowledge and with all kinds of workmanship, to fashion skillful designs, to work in gold and in silver and in bronze, and in the cutting of stones for setting and in the carving of wood, to work in all kinds of workmanship. And now, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the heart of all who are wise in heart I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded you...”—  
Exo. 31:1-17:**

A. Bezalel was a master builder, a leader in God’s building—cf. 1 Cor. 3:10:

1 Cor 3:10 According to the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds upon it. But let each man take heed how he builds upon it.

1. His name means “in the shadow of God,” indicating that as a master builder, Bezalel was a man under the shadow of God’s grace—cf. Psalms 91:1; 1 Cor. 3:10a; 2 Cor. 12:9.  
Psa 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High / Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

- 1 Cor 3:10a According to the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds upon it. ...
- 2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.
2. Uri, the name of Bezalel’s father, means “light of Jehovah,” and Hur, the name of Bezalel’s grandfather, means “free, noble, white” (signifying clean and pure); these three names indicate what kind of persons the builders of God’s dwelling place should be:
- a. If we are not under the shadow of God’s grace, many things may come to disturb us, but the shadow of God the Almighty will keep these things away from us and cause us to remain in a peaceful situation and condition to do the building work—Isa. 30:15a.
- Isa 30:15a For thus says the Lord Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel, / In returning and rest you will be saved; / In quietness and in trust will be your strength; ...
- b. All the builders of God’s dwelling place should be full of light, not having any dark part—Luke 11:33-36; Eph. 5:8-9; Matt. 5:14.
- Luke 11:33 No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it in the cellar or under the bushel, but on the lampstand, in order that those who enter in may see the light.
- Luke 11:34 The lamp of the body is your eye. When your eye is single, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is evil, your body also is dark.
- Luke 11:35 Watch out therefore that the light which is in you is not darkness.
- Luke 11:36 If therefore your whole body is full of light and does not have any dark part, the whole will be full of light as when the lamp with its rays illuminates you.
- Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light
- Eph 5:9 (For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),
- Matt 5:14 You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city situated upon a mountain to be hidden.
- c. All the builders of God’s dwelling place should be free, noble, and clean and pure—Gal. 2:4 and footnote 2; 5:1, 13; Matt. 5:8; 1 John 1:9; 1 Tim. 5:22b; 1 John 5:18.
- Gal 2:4 And this, because of the false brothers, brought in secretly, who stole in to spy out our <sup>2</sup>freedom which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into slavery.
- note 2 Freedom from the bondage of the law. This freedom in Christ Jesus includes (1) release from the bondage of the law, implying liberation from obligation to the law and its ordinances, practices, and regulations; (2) full satisfaction, with a rich, supporting supply; (3) the enjoyment of true rest, without being under the heavy burden to keep the law; and (4) the full enjoyment of the living Christ.
- Gal 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not be entangled with a yoke of slavery again.
- Gal 5:13 For you were called for freedom, brothers; only do not turn this freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
- Matt 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- 1 Tim 5:22b ... keep yourself pure.
- 1 John 5:18 We know that everyone who is begotten of God does not sin, but he who has been begotten of God keeps himself, and the evil one does not touch him.
3. The building up of God’s dwelling place, the church, is a noble work to be done by all God’s people (1 Cor. 3:10; Eph. 4:12, 16); however, the wisdom, understanding,

knowledge, and skill for this work must be God Himself as the Spirit to us (cf. Col. 1:28-29).

1 Cor 3:10 According to the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds upon it. But let each man take heed how he builds upon it.

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

Col 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;

Col 1:29 For which also I labor, struggling according to His operation which operates in me in power.

4. Only the Spirit of God can build His own dwelling place through us—Zech. 4:6; Eph. 4:4a, 30.

Zech 4:6 And he answered and spoke to me, saying, This is the word of Jehovah to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says Jehovah of hosts.

Eph 4:4a One Body and one Spirit, ...

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.

5. To build up the church all the believers must know how to use the divine nature as the gold, the redemption of Christ as the silver, and God's righteous judgment as the bronze (cf. 1 Cor. 3:12) as the materials for God's work.

1 Cor 3:12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

6. To cut stones for setting is to help the saints to be transformed into stones and to be adjusted to fit into God's building.

7. To carve wood is to work on the humanity of the saints for the sake of God's building.

8. To work in all kinds of workmanship is to produce finer virtues in human character with the uplifted humanity of Christ, which are needed for the building up of the church as God's dwelling place—Eph. 4:2 and footnote.

Eph 4:2 With all <sup>1</sup>lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love,

note 1. To be lowly is to remain in a low estate, and to be meek is to not fight for oneself. We should exercise these two virtues in dealing with ourselves. To be long-suffering is to endure mistreatment. We should exercise this virtue in dealing with others. By these virtues we bear (not just tolerate) one another; that is, we do not forsake the troublesome ones but bear them in love. This is the expression of life.

These virtues are not found in our natural humanity but are in the humanity of Jesus. The fact that the virtues are mentioned here, before the oneness of the Spirit in v. 3, indicates that we must have these virtues in order to keep the oneness of the Spirit. This implies that in the uniting Spirit there is the transformed humanity, the humanity transformed by the resurrection life of Christ.

- B. Oholiab was Bezalel's co-master builder; his name means "the tent or tabernacle of my father"; Ahisamach, the name of Oholiab's father, means "a brother of strength or support"; these two names signify that Oholiab was a man for God's tabernacle with strength and support—Exo. 31:6:

Exo 31:6 And now, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the heart of all who are wise in heart I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded you:

1. Bezalel was of the tribe of Judah (v. 2), the kingly tribe (Gen. 49:10), the tribe of the Lord Jesus (Heb. 7:14), and Oholiab was of the tribe of Dan (Exo. 31:6), a lowly tribe (Gen. 49:17).
    - Exo 31:2 See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.
    - Gen 49:10 The scepter will not depart from Judah, / Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, / Until Shiloh comes, / And to Him shall be the obedience of the peoples.
    - Heb 7:14 For it is evident that our Lord has risen out of Judah, concerning which tribe Moses spoke nothing about priests.
    - Exo 31:6 And now, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the heart of all who are wise in heart I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded you:
    - Gen 49:17 Dan will be a serpent in the way, / A viper on the path, / That bites the horse's heels, / So that his rider falls backward.
  2. The same principle is seen in the building of the temple under Solomon, who was of the tribe of Judah, and Hiramabi, whose mother was a Danite woman—2 Chron. 2:11-14.
    - 2 Chron 2:11 And Hiram the king of Tyre answered by letter, sending it to Solomon, saying, Because Jehovah loves His people, He has made you king over them.
    - 2 Chron 2:12 Hiram also said, Blessed be Jehovah the God of Israel, who made the heavens and the earth, who has given King David a wise son endowed with discernment and understanding, who will build a house for Jehovah and his royal palace.
    - 2 Chron 2:13 And now I have sent a skillful man, endowed with understanding, Hiram-abi,
    - 2 Chron 2:14 The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, whose father is a man of Tyre, who knows how to work in gold and in silver and in bronze and in iron, in stones and in wood, in purple, in blue cloth, and in fine linen and in crimson cloth and who knows how to make all kinds of engraving, and to fashion any design which is given to him, to work with your skillful men and the skillful men of my lord David your father.
  3. This indicates that the work of God's dwelling place must be done by all God's people, including those of high estate and those of seemingly low estate—Eph. 4:11-16.
    - Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,
    - Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
    - Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
    - Eph 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,
    - Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
    - Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- C. The workers of the tabernacle need to be wise in heart, receive wisdom, understanding, and grace from God, and be stirred up in their heart to do the noble work of building up the church, God's dwelling place on earth—Exo. 36:1-2; Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:9-10; 15:10, 58; cf. 2 Chron. 1:10; 1 Cor. 14:4b:
- Exo 36:1 And Bezalel and Oholiab and every man who is wise in heart, in whom Jehovah has put wisdom and understanding to know how to do all the work for the service of the sanctuary, shall work according to all that Jehovah has commanded.

- Exo 36:2 And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every man who was wise in heart, in whose heart Jehovah had put wisdom, even everyone whose heart lifted him up to come to the work to do it.
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- 1 Cor 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.
- 1 Cor 3:10 According to the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds upon it. But let each man take heed how he builds upon it.
- 1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.
- 1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
- 2 Chron 1:10 Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?
- 1 Cor 14:4b ... but he who prophesies builds up the church.
1. If we would build God's dwelling place, we must be a people filled with the Spirit of God—Exo. 31:3.  
Exo 31:3 And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom and with understanding and with knowledge and with all kinds of workmanship,
  2. In order to be filled with the Spirit of God, we need the willingness to do something for God's building (v. 6b; cf. Mal. 3:14, footnote 1), we need to abandon our natural capacity, and we need to empty ourselves to have the absolute openness to God in prayer (Matt. 5:3).  
Exo 31:6b And now, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the heart of all who are wise in heart I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded you:  
Mal 3:14 You say, It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge and have walked <sup>1</sup>mournfully before Jehovah of hosts?  
note 1 This word indicates that the children of Israel worshipped and served God, but they did it mournfully, not at all happy that they were required to do these things.  
Matt 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.
  3. Every day and all the time we need to be freshly filled with the Triune God through prayer; the Christian life is a life of prayer; if we are short of prayer, we will be short of the Spirit—Col. 4:2.  
Col 4:2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,
  4. It is when we are willing and empty and continuously praying that we have the wisdom to work in the divine nature and to minister to the needy ones the particular Christ that they need for their growth in life and God's building.

## II. The Sabbath follows the charge for the building of the tabernacle—Exo. 31:12-17:

- Exo 31:12 And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Exo 31:13 Speak also to the children of Israel, saying, You shall surely keep My Sabbaths; for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am Jehovah who sanctifies you.
- Exo 31:14 Therefore you shall keep the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.
- Exo 31:15 Six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day there is a Sabbath of complete rest, holy to Jehovah; whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall surely be put to death.
- Exo 31:16 Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.
- Exo 31:17 It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days Jehovah made

heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.

- A. Exodus 31:13 and 16 through 17 say, “You shall surely keep My Sabbaths; for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am Jehovah who sanctifies you...Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed”:
1. On the seventh day God “rested and was refreshed”; He looked at man and said, “Very good,” resting from His work of creation—Gen. 1:31.  
Gen 1:31 And God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
  2. Man was God’s refreshment—God created man in His own image with a spirit so that man could fellowship with God and be God’s companion and counterpart—v. 26; 2:7, 22.  
Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.  
Gen 2:7 Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.  
Gen 2:22 And Jehovah God built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman and brought her to the man.
  3. Man’s first day was a day of rest and enjoyment—1:31—2:2:  
Gen 1:31 And God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.  
Gen 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth and all their host were finished.  
Gen 2:2 And on the seventh day God finished His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.
    - a. God rested because He had finished His work and was satisfied; God’s glory was manifested because man had His image, and His authority was about to be exercised for the subduing of His enemy, Satan; as long as man expresses God and deals with God’s enemy, God is satisfied and can rest.
    - b. Later, the seventh day was commemorated as the Sabbath (Exo. 20:8-11); God’s seventh day was man’s first day; after man was created, he did not join in God’s work, but he entered into God’s rest.  
Exo 20:8 Remember the Sabbath day so as to sanctify it.  
Exo 20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,  
Exo 20:10 But the seventh day is a Sabbath to Jehovah your God; you shall not do any work, you nor your son nor your daughter, your male servant nor your female servant, nor your cattle nor the sojourner with you, who is within your gates.  
Exo 20:11 For in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore Jehovah blessed the Sabbath day and sanctified it.
    - c. Man was created not to work but to be satisfied with God and rest with God (cf. Matt. 11:28-30); the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath (Mark 2:27).  
Matt 11:28 Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.  
Matt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.  
Matt 11:30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.  
Mark 2:27 And He said to them, The Sabbath came into being for man, and not man for the Sabbath.
    - d. The rest in Genesis 2:2 is a seed that develops through the Bible and is harvested

in Revelation; the development of this seed includes the rest of the Sabbath day (Exo. 20:8-11) and the rest of the good land (Deut. 12:9; Heb. 4:8) in the Old Testament, the rest of the Lord's Day in the New Testament (Rev. 1:10; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2), and the rest of the millennial kingdom (Heb. 4:1, 3, 9, 11).

Gen 2:2 And on the seventh day God finished His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

Exo 20:8 Remember the Sabbath day so as to sanctify it.

Exo 20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

Exo 20:10 But the seventh day is a Sabbath to Jehovah your God; you shall not do any work, you nor your son nor your daughter, your male servant nor your female servant, nor your cattle nor the sojourner with you, who is within your gates.

Exo 20:11 For in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore Jehovah blessed the Sabbath day and sanctified it.

Deut 12:9 For until now you have not come to the rest and to the inheritance that Jehovah your God is giving you.

Heb 4:8 For if Joshua had brought them into rest, He would not have spoken concerning another day after these things.

Rev 1:10 I was in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

Acts 20:7 And on the first day of the week, when we gathered together to break bread, Paul conversed with them since he was to go forth on the next day; and he extended his message until midnight.

1 Cor 16:2 On the first day of the week each one of you should lay aside in store to himself whatever he may have been prospered, that no collections be made when I come.

Heb 4:1 Let us fear therefore, lest, a promise being left of entering into His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.

Heb 4:3 For we who have believed enter into the rest, even as He has said, "As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter into My rest!" although the works of creation were completed from the foundation of the world.

Heb 4:9 So then there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

Heb 4:11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter into that rest lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience.

- e. The consummation of rest is the rest of the new heaven and new earth with the New Jerusalem, in which all the redeemed saints will express God's glory (Rev. 21:10-11, 23) and reign with God's authority (22:5b) for eternity.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

Rev 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Rev 22:5b ... and they will reign forever and ever.

- B. Man's first day being a day of rest established a divine principle—God first supplies us with enjoyment, and then we work together with Him; we need to be one with God in His work (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1); this requires that we enjoy Him.

1 Cor 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.

2 Cor 6:1 And working together with Him, we also entreat you not to receive the grace of God in vain;

- C. At Pentecost the disciples were filled with the enjoyment of the Lord at 9 A.M. (Acts 2:13, 15); then Peter and the eleven stood to work together with the Lord.

Acts 2:13 But others jeered and said, They are full of new wine!

Acts 2:15 For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is the third hour of the day;

- D. With God it is a matter of working and resting; with man it is a matter of resting and working; then we work with the Lord by being one with Him.
- E. When we take Him and enjoy Him as our real Sabbath rest, He will be our strength to work and our energy to labor—1 Cor. 15:10, 58.  
 1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.  
 1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
- F. As God’s people, we should bear a sign that we need God to be our strength, energy, and everything so that we may be able to work together with Him for the building up of the church as Christ’s Body; this honors and glorifies Him.
- G. When we work for God without enjoying Him and without being one with Him, the result is spiritual death and the loss of the fellowship in the Body—Exo. 31:14.  
 Exo 31:14 Therefore you shall keep the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.
- H. The sign that we bear is that we rest with God, enjoy God, are refreshed with God, and are filled up with God first (v. 17); then we work together with the very One who fills us in oneness with Him.  
 Exo 31:17 It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.
- I. He is our rest, our refreshment, our energy, our strength, and our everything for ministering the word of God—1 Pet. 4:10-11; 2 Cor. 2:17; 13:3.  
 1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.  
 1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, as speaking oracles of God; if anyone ministers, as ministering out of the strength which God supplies; that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.  
 2 Cor 2:17 For we are not like the many, adulterating the word of God for profit; but as out of sincerity, but as out of God, before God we speak in Christ.  
 2 Cor 13:3 Since you seek a proof of the Christ who is speaking in me, who is not weak unto you but is powerful in you.
- J. This is an eternal covenant, an eternal contract with God—Exo. 31:16:  
 Exo 31:16 Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.  
 1. Keeping the Sabbath is an eternal covenant assuring God that we will be one with Him by first enjoying Him and then working with Him, for Him, and in oneness with Him.  
 2. The mentioning of the Sabbath here indicates that everything related to the tabernacle and its furniture leads us to God’s Sabbath, with its rest and refreshment in the enjoyment of what God has purposed and done.