

Message Three

Serving God

MC Hymns: 911, 912

Scripture Reading: Exo. 7:16; 5:1, 3; 3:12; 24:8; 3:6; 19:6; 25:8-9

- Exo 7:16 And you shall say to him, Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to you, saying, Let My people go that they may serve Me in the wilderness. But until this very moment you have not listened.
- Exo 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, Thus says Jehovah the God of Israel, Let My people go that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.
- Exo 5:3 And they said, The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to Jehovah our God; otherwise He will fall upon us with pestilence or sword.
- Exo 3:12 And He said, Surely I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God upon this mountain.
- Exo 24:8 So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people and said, Here is the blood of the covenant, which Jehovah has made with you in accordance with all these words.
- Exo 3:6 And He said, I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
- Exo 19:6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel.
- Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
- Exo 25:9 According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, even so shall you make it.

I. “Let My people go that they may serve Me in the wilderness”—Exo. 7:16; 5:1; 4:23; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3:

- Exo 7:16 And you shall say to him, Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to you, saying, Let My people go that they may serve Me in the wilderness. But until this very moment you have not listened.
- Exo 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, Thus says Jehovah the God of Israel, Let My people go that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.
- Exo 4:23 And I said to you, Let My son go that he may serve Me; but you have refused to let him go. I will now slay your son, your firstborn.
- Exo 8:1 Then Jehovah said to Moses, Go to Pharaoh, and say to him, Thus says Jehovah, Let My people go that they may serve Me.
- Exo 8:20 Then Jehovah said to Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and present yourself before Pharaoh as he is going out to the water, and say to him, Thus says Jehovah, Let My people go that they may serve Me.
- Exo 9:1 Then Jehovah said to Moses, Go to Pharaoh, and speak to him, Thus says Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, Let My people go that they may serve Me.
- Exo 9:13 Then Jehovah said to Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and present yourself before Pharaoh, and say to him, Thus says Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, Let My people go that they may serve Me.
- Exo 10:3 And Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh and said to him, Thus says Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go that they may serve Me.
- A. The children of Israel had been usurped by Pharaoh to serve as slaves to carry out the purpose of the Egyptians—14:12.
Exo 14:12 Is this not the very thing that we spoke to you about in Egypt, saying, Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.
- B. Pharaoh signifies not only Satan but also the self and the natural man; our natural mind, will, or emotion may be a Pharaoh who rebels against God or who bargains subtly with Him.
- C. Positively, the wilderness signifies a realm of separation; in His dealing with Pharaoh, God demanded such a separation for His people—7:16.

Exo 7:16 And you shall say to him, Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to you, saying, Let My people go that they may serve Me in the wilderness. But until this very moment you have not listened.

II. “Let My people go that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness”; “let us go and sacrifice to Jehovah”—5:1, 17:

- A. God’s goal was not separation; His goal was that the children of Israel would hold a feast to Him and sacrifice to Him—vv. 1, 3, 8, 17:
- Exo 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, Thus says Jehovah the God of Israel, Let My people go that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.
- Exo 5:3 And they said, The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to Jehovah our God; otherwise He will fall upon us with pestilence or sword.
- Exo 5:8 And the quota of the bricks which they made previously, you shall still place upon them; you shall not diminish any of it, for they are idle; therefore they cry out, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God.
- Exo 5:17 But he said, Idle is what you are, idle; therefore you say, Let us go and sacrifice to Jehovah.
1. God’s demand of Pharaoh was to let the people go a three days’ journey into the wilderness so that they could hold a feast to Him and sacrifice to Him; this is the enjoyment of God’s salvation—vv. 1, 3.

Exo 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, Thus says Jehovah the God of Israel, Let My people go that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.

Exo 5:3 And they said, The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to Jehovah our God; otherwise He will fall upon us with pestilence or sword.
 2. Because of the Lord’s full salvation, we have been delivered from bondage in Egypt in order to serve God, and we are now in the wilderness enjoying the feast and offering sacrifice to God—8:20, 26-27, 29.

Exo 8:20 Then Jehovah said to Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and present yourself before Pharaoh as he is going out to the water, and say to him, Thus says Jehovah, Let My people go that they may serve Me.

Exo 8:26 And Moses said, It would not be right to do so, for we will sacrifice to Jehovah our God what is an abomination to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice what is an abomination to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not stone us?

Exo 8:27 We must go a three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to Jehovah our God just as He commands us.

Exo 8:29 And Moses said, I am now going out from you, and I will entreat Jehovah that the swarms of flies would depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people tomorrow; only do not let Pharaoh deal deceitfully anymore by not letting the people go to sacrifice to Jehovah.
- B. To hold a feast to God is to enjoy God with God and to worship God—5:1:
- Exo 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, Thus says Jehovah the God of Israel, Let My people go that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.
1. The words *to Me* in 5:1 indicate that when God’s people are feasting, He is happy; their feasting is to Him.

Exo 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, Thus says Jehovah the God of Israel, Let My people go that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.
 2. The best and highest relationship man can have with God is to feast to God and with God—23:14-17.

Exo 23:14 Three times a year you shall hold a feast to Me.

Exo 23:15 You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread; as I commanded you, seven days you shall eat unleavened bread at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in it you came out from Egypt. And no one shall appear before Me

- empty.
- Exo 23:16 And you shall keep the Feast of the Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labors from what you sow in the fruit of the field, and the Feast of Ingathering, at the end of the year when you gather in your labors out of the field.
- Exo 23:17 Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord Jehovah.
3. To have a feast to God means that we feast for Him and with Him; the more we feast, the more enjoyment He has and the happier He is.
 4. This feasting to the Lord is dispensational worship; that is, worshipping God according to what has been dispensed into us—John 4:14, 23-24.

John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.

John 4:23 But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.
- C. The children of Israel were to sacrifice to the Lord—Exo. 3:18; 5:3, 8, 17:
- Exo 3:18 And they will listen to your voice. And you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt, and you shall say to him, Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to Jehovah our God.
- Exo 5:3 And they said, The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to Jehovah our God; otherwise He will fall upon us with pestilence or sword.
- Exo 5:8 And the quota of the bricks which they made previously, you shall still place upon them; you shall not diminish any of it, for they are idle; therefore they cry out, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God.
- Exo 5:17 But he said, Idle is what you are, idle; therefore you say, Let us go and sacrifice to Jehovah.
1. *Sacrifice* is a word parallel to *hold a feast*—vv. 1, 3:

Exo 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, Thus says Jehovah the God of Israel, Let My people go that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.

Exo 5:3 And they said, The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to Jehovah our God; otherwise He will fall upon us with pestilence or sword.

 - a. To the children of Israel, the feast was a feast, but to God it was a sacrifice.
 - b. Without the sacrifice, there is nothing to feast on; what the children of Israel were to feast on was the very sacrifice they were to offer to God.
 2. To sacrifice to God is to offer something to Him, and to hold a feast to God is to enjoy with God what is offered to Him—vv. 1, 3.

Exo 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, Thus says Jehovah the God of Israel, Let My people go that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.

Exo 5:3 And they said, The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to Jehovah our God; otherwise He will fall upon us with pestilence or sword.

III. The purpose of God's calling is to bring His chosen people to the mountain, where they may serve Him and sacrifice to Him—3:1, 12, 18; 19:1-2, 11; 24:16-18:

- Exo 3:1 Now Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the back of the wilderness and came to the mountain of God, to Horeb.
- Exo 3:12 And He said, Surely I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God upon this mountain.
- Exo 3:18 And they will listen to your voice. And you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the

- king of Egypt, and you shall say to him, Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to Jehovah our God.
- Exo 19:1 In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai.
- Exo 19:2 And when they had journeyed from Rephidim and had come to the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped in front of the mountain.
- Exo 19:11 And be ready for on the third day; for the third day Jehovah will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.
- Exo 24:16 And the glory of Jehovah settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.
- Exo 24:17 And the appearance of the glory of Jehovah was like consuming fire on the top of the mountain to the eyes of the children of Israel.
- Exo 24:18 And Moses entered into the midst of the cloud and went up on the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.
- A. In Exodus 3:12 God says that His people would serve Him on the mountain of God—cf. v. 1.
- Exo 3:12 And He said, Surely I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God upon this mountain.
- Exo 3:1 Now Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the back of the wilderness and came to the mountain of God, to Horeb.
- B. The mountain of God is where we receive the revelation regarding God's purpose—v. 12; 19:2; 24:9-13, 18:
- Exo 3:12 And He said, Surely I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God upon this mountain.
- Exo 19:2 And when they had journeyed from Rephidim and had come to the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped in front of the mountain.
- Exo 24:9 Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up.
- Exo 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel, and under His feet there was something like a paved work of sapphire, even like heaven itself for clearness.
- Exo 24:11 And He did not stretch out His hand upon the nobles of the children of Israel. And they beheld God and ate and drank.
- Exo 24:12 And Jehovah said to Moses, Come up to Me at the top of the mountain, and be there; and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and the commandment, which I have inscribed for their instruction.
- Exo 24:13 And Moses rose up with Joshua his attendant, and Moses went up to the top of the mountain of God.
- Exo 24:18 And Moses entered into the midst of the cloud and went up on the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.
1. At the mountain the children of Israel received the revelation concerning what God is and concerning God's desire to have a dwelling place on earth—19:3-6; 20:2; 25:8-9.
- Exo 19:3 And Moses went up to God, and Jehovah called to him out of the mountain, saying, Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel:
- Exo 19:4 You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.
- Exo 19:5 Now therefore if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My personal treasure from among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine.
- Exo 19:6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel.
- Exo 20:2 I am Jehovah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the slave house;
- Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;

- Exo 25:9 According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, even so shall you make it.
- 2, Here on the mountain, where the sky is clear, we see the vision of God's economy; here we come to know what is on God's heart, and we see what God desires to have on earth today—24:10; 25:8.
- Exo 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel, and under His feet there was something like a paved work of sapphire, even like heaven itself for clearness.
- Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
- 3, We realize that God desires to have a people who walk according to His statutes and who build Him a tabernacle so that He may dwell among them.

IV. We must serve God according to the vision of God and of the pattern shown on the mountain—24:10-11; 25:9:

- Exo 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel, and under His feet there was something like a paved work of sapphire, even like heaven itself for clearness.
- Exo 24:11 And He did not stretch out His hand upon the nobles of the children of Israel. And they beheld God and ate and drank.
- Exo 25:9 According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, even so shall you make it.
- A. We need to see a vision of God in a transparent and clear heaven; only when we are in such an atmosphere can we receive the heavenly vision of the building of God's dwelling place—24:10-11; 25:8.
- Exo 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel, and under His feet there was something like a paved work of sapphire, even like heaven itself for clearness.
- Exo 24:11 And He did not stretch out His hand upon the nobles of the children of Israel. And they beheld God and ate and drank.
- Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
- B. "According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, even so shall you make it"—v. 9:
1. Before the tabernacle was built, God showed Moses the pattern of the tabernacle and its furnishings—24:9—25:9, 40; 39:32-43.
- Exo 24:9 Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up.
- Exo 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel, and under His feet there was something like a paved work of sapphire, even like heaven itself for clearness.
- Exo 24:11 And He did not stretch out His hand upon the nobles of the children of Israel. And they beheld God and ate and drank.
- Exo 24:12 And Jehovah said to Moses, Come up to Me at the top of the mountain, and be there; and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and the commandment, which I have inscribed for their instruction.
- Exo 24:13 And Moses rose up with Joshua his attendant, and Moses went up to the top of the mountain of God.
- Exo 24:14 And he had said to the elders, Wait here for us until we return to you. Both Aaron and Hur are here with you; whoever has a cause, let him come near to them.
- Exo 24:15 And Moses went up to the top of the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.
- Exo 24:16 And the glory of Jehovah settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.
- Exo 24:17 And the appearance of the glory of Jehovah was like consuming fire on the top of the mountain to the eyes of the children of Israel.
- Exo 24:18 And Moses entered into the midst of the cloud and went up on the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.
- Exo 25:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Exo 25:2 Tell the children of Israel to take for Me a heave offering. From every man whose heart makes him willing you shall take My heave offering.

- Exo 25:3 And this is the heave offering which you shall take from them: gold and silver and bronze,
- Exo 25:4 And blue and purple and scarlet strands, and fine linen, and goats' hair,
- Exo 25:5 And rams' skins dyed red, and porpoise skins, and acacia wood,
- Exo 25:6 Oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense,
- Exo 25:7 Onyx stones and stones to be set for the ephod and for the breastplate.
- Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
- Exo 25:9 According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, even so shall you make it.
- Exo 25:40 And see that you make them according to their pattern, which was shown to you in the mountain.
- Exo 39:32 Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting was finished, and the children of Israel did according to all that Jehovah had commanded Moses; so they did.
- Exo 39:33 And they brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its furnishings, its clasps, its boards, its bars, and its pillars and its sockets;
- Exo 39:34 And the covering of rams' skins dyed red and the covering of porpoise skins, and the veil of the screen;
- Exo 39:35 The Ark of the Testimony and its poles and the expiation cover;
- Exo 39:36 The table, all its utensils, and the bread of the Presence;
- Exo 39:37 The pure lampstand, its lamps, even the lamps set in order, and all its utensils, and the oil for the light;
- Exo 39:38 And the golden altar and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense and the screen for the entrance of the tent;
- Exo 39:39 The bronze altar, and its grating of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils; the laver and its base;
- Exo 39:40 The hangings of the court, its pillars, and its sockets; and the screen for the gate of the court, its cords, and its pegs; and all the utensils for the service of the tabernacle, for the Tent of Meeting;
- Exo 39:41 The finely worked garments for ministering in the sanctuary, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons for them to serve as priests.
- Exo 39:42 According to all that Jehovah had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did all the work.
- Exo 39:43 And Moses saw all the work; and there it was-- they had done it; just as Jehovah had commanded, so they had done. And Moses blessed them.
2. In order to serve God, we must see the pattern shown on the mountain—Heb. 8:5.

Heb 8:5 Who serve the example and shadow of the heavenly things, even as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to complete the tabernacle; for, "See," He said, "that you make all things according to the pattern that was shown to you in the mountain."
 3. The pattern shown on the mountain is God's plan; if we do not understand God's plan, it will be impossible for us to do God's work—Eph. 3:4.

Eph 3:4 By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,
 4. Because the church as the mystery of Christ was revealed to the apostles and prophets, the revelation they received is considered the foundation on which the church is built—vv. 4-5; 2:20.

Eph 3:4 By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,

Eph 3:5 Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit,

Eph 2:20 Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone;

V. The blood of the covenant enables the believers to serve the living God—Exo. 24:8; Heb. 9:14:

Exo 24:8 So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people and said, Here is the blood of the

covenant, which Jehovah has made with you in accordance with all these words.

- Heb 9:14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
- A. The blood of the covenant has made it possible for God's people, as fallen and sinful persons who have been redeemed, forgiven, and cleansed, to enter into God's presence and remain there to be infused with Him—Exo. 24:9-18; 34:28-29; Lev. 16:11-16; cf. Heb. 10:19-20; Eph. 1:7; 1 John 1:7.
- Exo 24:9 Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up.
- Exo 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel, and under His feet there was something like a paved work of sapphire, even like heaven itself for clearness.
- Exo 24:11 And He did not stretch out His hand upon the nobles of the children of Israel. And they beheld God and ate and drank.
- Exo 24:12 And Jehovah said to Moses, Come up to Me at the top of the mountain, and be there; and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and the commandment, which I have inscribed for their instruction.
- Exo 24:13 And Moses rose up with Joshua his attendant, and Moses went up to the top of the mountain of God.
- Exo 24:14 And he had said to the elders, Wait here for us until we return to you. Both Aaron and Hur are here with you; whoever has a cause, let him come near to them.
- Exo 24:15 And Moses went up to the top of the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.
- Exo 24:16 And the glory of Jehovah settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.
- Exo 24:17 And the appearance of the glory of Jehovah was like consuming fire on the top of the mountain to the eyes of the children of Israel.
- Exo 24:18 And Moses entered into the midst of the cloud and went up on the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.
- Exo 34:28 And he was there with Jehovah forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread, and he did not drink water. And He wrote upon the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.
- Exo 34:29 And when Moses came down from Mount Sinai—and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain—Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone by reason of His speaking with him.
- Lev 16:11 And Aaron shall present the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make expiation for himself and for his household, and shall slaughter the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself.
- Lev 16:12 And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before Jehovah, with his hands full of finely ground fragrant incense, and bring it inside the veil.
- Lev 16:13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before Jehovah, that the cloud of the incense may cover the expiation cover that is over the Testimony, so that he does not die.
- Lev 16:14 And he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger upon the expiation cover toward the east, and before the expiation cover he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.
- Lev 16:15 Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil, and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it upon the expiation cover and before the expiation cover.
- Lev 16:16 And he shall make expiation for the Holy of Holies because of the uncleannesses of the children of Israel and because of their transgressions, for all their sins. And so he shall do for the Tent of Meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses.
- Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus,
- Heb 10:20 Which entrance He initiated for us as a new and living way through the veil, that is, His flesh,
- Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,
- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

- B. The blood of Christ makes it possible for us to serve the living God; through the redeeming blood of Christ, we have life and have been brought into the presence of God to serve Him—Heb. 9:14; Eph. 1:7.

Heb 9:14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,

VI. The basis of our service is God as fire from heaven—Lev. 9:24; 6:13:

Lev 9:24 Then fire came forth from before Jehovah and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they gave a ringing shout and fell on their faces.

Lev 6:13 Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out.

- A. The fire burning out of the midst of the thornbush was the Triune God, the God of resurrection—Exo. 3:2, 4, 6; Matt. 22:31-32.

Exo 3:2 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a thornbush. And when he looked, there was the thornbush, burning with fire; but the thornbush was not consumed.

Exo 3:4 And when Jehovah saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him out of the midst of the thornbush and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here I am.

Exo 3:6 And He said, I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Matt 22:31 But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read that which was spoken to you by God, saying,

Matt 22:32 "I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob"? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

- B. As those who have been gained and are being used by God, we are a thornbush according to our natural man; however, there is a fire in us; God has come to us in the fire:

1. When the fire of God was burning in the thornbush, it was God who was burning—Exo. 3:3-4.

Exo 3:3 And Moses said, I must turn aside now and see this great sight, why the thornbush does not burn up.

Exo 3:4 And when Jehovah saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him out of the midst of the thornbush and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here I am.

2. The strength and brightness of the fire come from the fire itself; the fire is merely resting on us; our purpose is to express the fire.

- C. Our service to God must be based on the fire from the altar of burnt offering—Lev. 9:24; 16:12-13; 6:13; 10:1-2:

Lev 9:24 Then fire came forth from before Jehovah and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they gave a ringing shout and fell on their faces.

Lev 16:12 And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before Jehovah, with his hands full of finely ground fragrant incense, and bring it inside the veil.

Lev 16:13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before Jehovah, that the cloud of the incense may cover the expiation cover that is over the Testimony, so that he does not die.

Lev 6:13 Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out.

Lev 10:1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer, and put fire in them and laid incense on it, and they presented strange fire before Jehovah, which He had not commanded them.

Lev 10:2 And fire came out from before Jehovah and consumed them, and they died before Jehovah.

1. The fire that burned on the altar of the burnt offering came down from the heavens—9:24:

- Lev 9:24 Then fire came forth from before Jehovah and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they gave a ringing shout and fell on their faces.
- a. After coming down from the heavens, that fire burned continually upon the altar—6:13.

Lev 6:13 Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out.
 - b. The divine fire, the burning Triune God, enables us to serve; our service must come out of the burning of God's fire—Rom. 12:11; Exo. 3:2, 4, 6.

Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.

Exo 3:2 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a thornbush. And when he looked, there was the thornbush, burning with fire; but the thornbush was not consumed.

Exo 3:4 And when Jehovah saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him out of the midst of the thornbush and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here I am.

Exo 3:6 And He said, I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
2. The fire from the altar is the genuine motivating power of service—Lev. 6:13; Rom. 12:11.

Lev 6:13 Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out.

Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.

VII. The Lord brought the children of Israel out of Egypt in order to make them a kingdom of priests, a kingdom in which everyone would be a priest, one who serves God continually—Exo. 19:6:

- Exo 19:6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel.
- A. Exodus 29 reveals that we were saved so that we may be sanctified to serve God as priests:

Exo 29 Omitted.

 1. The goal of God's salvation is to make all those who believe in Christ priests of God—Rev. 1:5-6; 5:10; 7:15.

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

Rev 1:6 And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.

Rev 7:15 Because of this they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits upon the throne will tabernacle over them.
 2. The Lord Jesus, the Priest, brought us into the priesthood through His redemption; since we are priests, we should be serving God in whatever we are doing—1:5-6; Rom. 1:9.

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

Rev 1:6 And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
 - B. A priest is a person who serves God by enjoying God in Christ and through Christ as the reality of the offerings—v. 9; Gal. 5:22; 1 Pet. 2:5.

Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

- Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- C. To serve God as priests is to minister Christ to Him as food for His satisfaction; in typology, God's food was the burnt offering presented to Him for His satisfaction—Exo. 29:37-44.
- Exo 29:37 Seven days you shall make expiation for the altar and sanctify it, and the altar shall become most holy; whatever touches the altar shall be holy.
- Exo 29:38 Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs a year old, each day continually.
- Exo 29:39 The one lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight.
- Exo 29:40 And with the one lamb a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering.
- Exo 29:41 And the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; you shall offer it with the meal offering and its drink offering as in the morning, for a satisfying fragrance, an offering by fire to Jehovah.
- Exo 29:42 It shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting before Jehovah, where I will meet with you to speak to you there.
- Exo 29:43 And there I will meet with the children of Israel; and it shall be sanctified by My glory.
- Exo 29:44 And I will sanctify the Tent of Meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will sanctify to serve Me as priests.
- D. The result of the priestly life depicted in Exodus 29 is that God comes to meet with us, eat with us, speak with us, and dwell among us—vv. 42b, 45-46.
- Exo 29 Omitted.
- Exo 29:42b ... where I will meet with you to speak to you there.
- Exo 29:45 And I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel, and I will be their God.
- Exo 29:46 And they shall know that I am Jehovah their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell in the midst of them; I am Jehovah their God.

VIII. God's building is the desire of God's heart and the goal of His salvation— 25:8-9; 40:1-38:

- Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
- Exo 25:9 According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, even so shall you make it.
- Exo 40:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Exo 40:2 On the first day of the first month you shall raise up the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting.
- Exo 40:3 And you shall put the Ark of the Testimony there, and you shall screen the Ark with the veil.
- Exo 40:4 And you shall bring in the table and arrange its setting, and you shall bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps.
- Exo 40:5 And you shall put the golden altar for incense before the Ark of the Testimony and set up the screen of the entrance to the tabernacle.
- Exo 40:6 And you shall put the altar of burnt offering before the entrance of the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting.
- Exo 40:7 And you shall put the laver between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put water there.
- Exo 40:8 And you shall set up the court all around and put up the screen of the gate of the court.
- Exo 40:9 And you shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and sanctify it and all its utensils; and it shall be holy.
- Exo 40:10 And you shall anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and sanctify the altar; and the altar shall be most holy.
- Exo 40:11 And you shall anoint the laver and its base, and sanctify it.
- Exo 40:12 And you shall bring Aaron and his sons near to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and wash them with water.
- Exo 40:13 And you shall put the holy garments upon Aaron, and you shall anoint him and sanctify him that he may serve Me as a priest.
- Exo 40:14 You shall also bring his sons near and put tunics upon them,
- Exo 40:15 And you shall anoint them as you have anointed their father that they may serve Me as priests; and their anointing shall be to them for an everlasting priesthood throughout their

generations.

- Exo 40:16 Thus Moses did; according to all that Jehovah had commanded him, so he did.
Exo 40:17 And in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was raised up.
Exo 40:18 And Moses raised up the tabernacle and put down its sockets and set up its boards and put in its bars and raised up its pillars.
Exo 40:19 And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it from above, as Jehovah had commanded Moses.
Exo 40:20 Then he took the Testimony and put it into the Ark, and he set the poles onto the Ark and put the expiation cover upon the Ark above it.
Exo 40:21 And he brought the Ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil for the screen and screened the Ark of the Testimony, as Jehovah had commanded Moses.
Exo 40:22 Then he put the table in the Tent of Meeting on the north side of the tabernacle outside the veil.
Exo 40:23 And he arranged the bread in order upon it before Jehovah, as Jehovah had commanded Moses.
Exo 40:24 Then he put the lampstand in the Tent of Meeting opposite the table, on the south side of the tabernacle.
Exo 40:25 And he set up the lamps before Jehovah, as Jehovah had commanded Moses.
Exo 40:26 Then he put the golden altar in the Tent of Meeting before the veil,
Exo 40:27 And he burnt fragrant incense on it, as Jehovah had commanded Moses.
Exo 40:28 Then he set up the screen of the entrance to the tabernacle.
Exo 40:29 He also set the altar of burnt offering at the entrance of the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting and offered upon it the burnt offering and the meal offering, as Jehovah had commanded Moses.
Exo 40:30 And he set the laver between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put water there for washing.
Exo 40:31 And Moses and Aaron and his sons would wash their hands and their feet with water from it;
Exo 40:32 Whenever they went into the Tent of Meeting and whenever they came near the altar, they washed; as Jehovah had commanded Moses.
Exo 40:33 And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and put up the screen of the gate of the court. So Moses finished the work.
Exo 40:34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Jehovah filled the tabernacle.
Exo 40:35 And Moses was not able to enter the Tent of Meeting, because the cloud settled on it and the glory of Jehovah filled the tabernacle.
Exo 40:36 And whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel set out on all their journeys;
Exo 40:37 But if the cloud was not taken up, they did not set out until the day that it was taken up.
Exo 40:38 For the cloud of Jehovah was upon the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel on all their journeys.

- A. The pictures in Exodus unveil the desire of God's heart with respect to His chosen people:
1. God wanted the tabernacle to be His dwelling place; this was the desire of His heart—25:8.
Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
 2. The physical tabernacle erected in Exodus 40 was a symbol of a corporate people, the children of Israel as the house of God—Heb. 3:6.
Exo 40 Omitted.
Heb 3:6 But Christ was faithful as a Son over His house, whose house we are if indeed we hold fast the boldness and the boast of hope firm to the end.
- B. The building of God's house is related to the priesthood and depends on the priesthood; priests build up the dwelling place of God and become part of God's dwelling, God's house—Exo. 19:6; 25:8-9; Zech. 6:12-13; Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.
- Exo 19:6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel.
Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
Exo 25:9 According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its

- furnishings, even so shall you make it.
- Zech 6:12 And speak to him, saying, Thus speaks Jehovah of hosts, saying, Here is a man, whose name is the Shoot; and he will shoot forth from his place and will build the temple of Jehovah.
- Zech 6:13 Indeed, it is He who will build the temple of Jehovah; and He will bear majesty and will sit and rule on his throne; and He will be a priest on his throne; and the counsel of peace will be between the two of them.
- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- C. Christ is the redemption, salvation, and supply of God's people and the means for them to worship and serve God so that in Him they may be built up with God together for them and God to meet, communicate, and dwell mutually; this is the central thought of the book of Exodus—12:3; 16:4; 17:6; 29:45-46; 25:8-9.
- Exo 12:3 Speak to all the assembly of Israel, saying, On the tenth of this month each man shall take a lamb according to his fathers' house, a lamb for a household.
- Exo 16:4 Then Jehovah said to Moses, I will now rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My law.
- Exo 17:6 I will be standing before you there upon the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it so that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.
- Exo 29:45 And I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel, and I will be their God.
- Exo 29:46 And they shall know that I am Jehovah their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell in the midst of them; I am Jehovah their God.
- Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
- Exo 25:9 According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, even so shall you make it.