

February 1st

"To make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God"

(Eph. 3.9-10).

When we, by God's grace, are redeemed by the blood of His Son, we are like vessels of clay, which are given into the hands of a Master-Artist. Unknown to us the skilful Hand of God is working out designs, heavenly designs upon us. Day and night He goes on working upon us His heavenly designs. A day is coming when He will present us before all the heavenly angels, and will say: 'come, my angels, look at this vessel called Paul!' And they will say to God: "How did you make him so beautiful?" I am not telling you fairy stories, but the truth from God's Word! When we see our Lord face to face, and become like Him, we will be admired by all the heavenly hosts.

As we read our Bible from Genesis to Revelation we may see how in fact God plans to do so. He is working out that plan even now, for God purposed from eternity past to show forth His glory to us and through us.

Today's calendar bible verse:

They that seek the Lord understand all things. Prov 28: 5.

February 2nd

"And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth.... And in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed"

(Gen. 28.13-14)

Jacob was blind; he could not understand what he saw, and what he heard; but even though he failed completely to comprehend the purpose of God, he did not change them. It was because of fear that Jacob could not understand.

As long as there is fear in our hearts, we will never understand what God is saying. The devil will bring all kinds of fear into our hearts at all times, and through this fear we are kept from understanding God's purpose and plans. Jacob had to learn many very hard lessons before he knew what God meant. It took over 20 years for him to be delivered from fear. But we have the Holy Ghost to teach us all things, so that we can be entirely and immediately free from fear. It is only by the divine understanding of God's house that we can know how much blessing is ours to receive from the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is only through His Church and in His Church that God can give blessing to others.

Today's calendar bible verse:

Whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. John 11:22.

February 3rd

"Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them." (Exodus 25.8).

Some hundreds of years after Jacob's day, what God said to Jacob in Genesis 28 was now made clearer to Moses on the Mount, when he was shown the pattern of the Tabernacle. From the mountain Moses saw many things, and amongst them the House of God in its glory. In Hebrews we see that what Moses was shown on the Mount was but a shadow of that House which is now being built by God. As the apostle says in Hebrews 3.6, we are the House of the Lord Jesus Christ, provided we hold fast our confidence and the rejoicing of our hope to the end.

How can God give us a share in that House? Our Lord Jesus Christ said to Peter; "Whom do you think that I am?" Peter had answered: "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." Then the Lord said to him: "Peter, that revelation has not come to you by flesh and blood. It is my heavenly Father who has revealed to you who I am, and upon that revelation I will build My Church". It is not a bodily revelation of Christ that we want now, but a spiritual revelation, for the more we know our Lord by divine revelation, the more we are able to bring material to build the House of God.

Today's calendar bible verse:

If ye will obey my voice... ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me. Exo 19:5.

February 4th

"Suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven and he fell to the earth and heard a voice."

(Acts.9.3-4).

When Saul of Tarsus was on the way to Damascus, he saw a great light and heard a voice. But he could not go forth and build the Church upon that only. Afterwards he began to see who Lord Jesus Christ was. For this he had to go into the wilderness (Gal. 1.15-17), and it was there that he began to see the spiritual meaning of the Church. Only then could he tell people about the mystery of the Church, for it is something that comes only by revelation from God.

We find the same truth revealed more fully in the book of revelation. There we see the House of God, the heavenly Tabernacle, the Holy City of God coming down from heaven. What is now being built is there complete. But before that day, the old things will have passed away (Rev. 21.5). Only then will you be able to see the full glory of the heavenly Jerusalem, God's Sanctuary, God's House. Are you prepared to give up your old life? Let go every thing of the old life and let Him make you entirely new.

The Lord says: "Behold I make all things new (Rev.21.5). In the House of God, there must be only what is new. May God reveal to us His heavenly plan, and that in His heavenly House all things everywhere are new.

Today's calendar bible verse:

He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him. Psa 145: 19.

February 5th

"They shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof."
(Exodus. 25.10).

Before we can understand the fuller message of the Tabernacle, we need to get a bird's-eye view of its structure. We need to study, verse by verse, chapters 24 and 25, of Exodus. First we read about the Ark, which was in the inner Sanctuary of the Tabernacle (Exodus. 25.10-22). This box, made of shittim wood, was overlaid with gold inside and outside. The cover, or lid, which was made of pure sheet gold, was God's 'Mercy Seat'. Of one piece with this gold plate and overshadowing it were two cherubim, and it was from between these cherubim that God used to speak.

The inner sanctuary where this Ark was placed was called the Most Holy Place, and in front of this was another, larger room called 'the Holy place'. In the later was a candlestick, an altar for incense, and a table for shew bread (Exod.25. 23-39; 30. 1-6). Dividing the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was the veil (Exod.26. 31.33).

Today's calendar bible verse:

Follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace. 2 Tim 2:22.

February 6th

“Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them”
(Exodus. 26.1).

Now mark carefully the coverings of the Tabernacle. In the Tabernacle the walls were boards of shittim wood covered with gold, but the ceiling was made of curtains (Exodus. 26.1). There were fore coverings. The first layer, was made of ten lengths of fine twined lined joined to one another by 50 blue loops and 50 gold taches. Together they formed “one tabernacle” over the sanctuary.

The linen was interwoven with blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and cherubim were embroidered upon it. The same materials were also used for the veil and for the hangings at the door of the Tabernacle and at the gate of the court. Every small detail has something to teach us about the Lord Jesus Christ.

The second set of curtains was woven of goats’ hair, (Exodus. 26. 7-13). In this case there were not ten curtains, but eleven. Together they formed the “ten” of the Tabernacle. Over this was a third covering of rams’ skins dyed red, and on top of this again, was the last covering of badgers’ skins (Exodus. 26.14).

Today’s calendar bible verse:

All things are possible to him that believeth. Mark 9:23.

February 7th

"By His own blood He entered in once into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

(Heb. 9.12).

"Boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh." (Heb.10.19.20).

As we have seen, the inner part was called the Most Holy Place and the outer part was called the Holy Place. The priests could enter the Holy Place every day, to keep the lamps alight and the incense burning day and night and to change the shew bread each week. But only Aaron, the High Priest, might pass through the veil to enter the Most Holy Place and even he could do so only once a year. Others could not enter there at all. Such a veil hung also, in the later temple at Jerusalem, and it was the rending in twain of that dividing veil when our Lord died on the cross that signified that the way into the Holiest is now open through the Blood of Jesus. (Heb.9: 12; 10.19.20).

Today's calendar bible verse:

Cause me to hear thy loving kindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust. Psa 143:8.

February 8th

"Look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount".
(Exod.25.40).

Between the tabernacle and the main entrance of the outer courtyard was an altar 5 cubits long, 5 cubits wide, and 3 cubits high, made of shittim wood, but covered with brass (Exod.27.1-2). Near it there was a brass laver (Exodus. 30.17-21).

The outer walls of the courtyard were of white linen hung on pillars, which stood in sockets of brass (Exodus. 27.9-18). The north and the south walls were 100 cubits long, and 5 cubits high and the west wall was 50 cubits long. The length of the east wall was also 50 cubits, but it had a gate in the center 20 cubits wide, hung with embroidered linen.

The meaning of all these things you must seek in the Bible itself. The Bible is the best commentary we have. But concerning them all God said one thing to Moses very clearly: "Look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount" (Exodus. 25. 40). Surely this says to us that, whether we understand all the details or not, they are meant to speak to us of heavenly realities.

Today's calendar bible verse:

Let us not be desirous of vain glory, ... envying one another.

February 9th

"And all the people answered with one voice, and said; all the words which the Lord hath said will we do."

(Exodus. 24.3)

Moses alone went up the Mount. What God revealed to him, he then came and told the people. The response of the people was, "All the words which the Lord hath said will we do" (Verse 3).

Those who are not prepared to obey the Lord can never understand what the Lord is saying. There is plenty of Bible knowledge, but people will not do the things that they learn, and light that is rejected becomes darkness. Before we can go any further we must give God the promise: 'O God, whatsoever Thou shalt teach us we will obey.'

God was about to make a very important covenant. In preparation, Moses built an altar, upon the altar was laid the sacrifice, the blood of which was sprinkled upon the people. This teaches us that only those who come under the Blood of the Lord Jesus can understand what God is saying. No one will really understand these things who has not been purchased and washed from his sins by the Blood of the everlasting covenant.

Our first step to the understanding of heavenly things is to be brought and kept under the Blood of the everlasting covenant. The blood speaks of two things --- cleansing and life. In this figure of the slain offerings, the elders were seeing (Exodus 24:10) the Lord Jesus Christ suffering and dying for all sinners everywhere. "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

Today's calendar bible verse:

Stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. Col 4:12.

February 10th

"They saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of as sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in its clearness."
(Exodus. 24.10).

From that mountaintop, God was about to give Moses laws, commandments and the pattern of the Tabernacle. But first those seventy nobles of Israel were made to see heaven. Then only did they see Moses go up the mount of God and enter the cloud.

By studying the details of the Tabernacle, we get some idea of God's Spiritual House. Naturally speaking we might say 'Why should we waste time in studying all these details?' But when we recognize that they are things of heaven, reflecting heavenly principles, then we will read them with love and reverence. God has planned to teach us about heaven in this very simple way.

First, Moses was made to see only God's glory on the Mount like a devouring fire for six whole days. Then on the seventh day, God called to Moses, calling him to enter the cloud. The cloud covered him so that no man could see him at all. There followed forty days and forty nights in which Moses heard God speaking to him. Before God could speak to Moses, Moses had to see the glory of God.

Only the humble, contrite heart can truly commune with God. Before Moses could be God's mouthpiece. God's servant, he must go through every test. This again in God's order, it is by learning how to suffer. It is when we are prepared to go through suffering and hardship and tribulation for our Lord's sake, that God will reveal these things to us in a simple way.

Today's calendar bible verse:

I will betroth thee unto me forever .. in lovingkindness. Hos 2:19.

February 11th

"And the Lord spake unto Moses. Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart. Ye shall take my offering."
(Exodus. 25.1,2).

For the work of God and for His Sanctuary, God will not accept any offering that is given by compulsion or from a wrong motive. I ask you: do you know the secret of giving to God all that you have, joyfully, cheerfully, and without holding anything back? Do you know how to give God your very best?

God said: 'I want only a willing offering.' There is a secret hidden here. It is the secret of the willing heart that gives its best to God. If you really want to do any service in the House of God, whether it be praying, or teaching, or visiting, or any other form of service, you must do it joyfully and cheerfully.

Never think that God wants for His work money for which you beg or which you have to get by compulsion. Such money God will never use. Men may accept it, but God will never do so. He will only abhor it, for it is a willing, joyful offering that God wants. As you are constrained by the Holy Spirit, so you must give.

Today's calendar bible verse:

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Prov 3: 16.

February 12th

*"And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass."
(Exodus, 25.3)*

What is the spiritual meaning of gold, silver and brass and shittim wood? And for what reason has God demanded those materials? Gold speaks of the divine nature. We all need divine wisdom, divine strength, and divine knowledge. And God has provided these in His son (1Cor.1.30). When we do things according to the divine plan of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are gathering gold for His Sanctuary.

Silver speaks of redemption. Our Lord was sold for the price of the slave. But He gave His own life-blood to save us. Wherever you see silver in the Tabernacle it speaks of redemption, of the price our Lord paid save us. When we are born again, we become the "Purchased possession" of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our spirits and our bodies now belong to Him. We are "bought with a price" (1Cor.6.20). Now I can no longer say that my hands, my feet, my lips, my eyes are my own. They belong to the Lord Jesus Christ because He has purchased me, and bought me by His own Blood (1 Pet. 1.18-19).

Our bodies are the temples of the His Spirit (1Cor.6.19). That is why we must glorify God with them, through our dress, our habits, our manners, our speech (1 Thess. 4.4-5; 1 Tit. 2.9-10). That is the pure silver. My body and my spirit have become the purchased possession of my Lord, and now I cannot dress as I used to do. Now I cannot waste my money upon worldly things, and upon worldly glory. Now, I must glorify my Lord through my dress, manners and ways. It is the privilege of every believer thus to bring silver to God's House.

The brass speaks of judgment. Those who looked on the serpent of brass, acknowledged thereby that they themselves were under judgment and that it was the devil (the serpent) who was responsible for their disobedience and death. By His Cross our Lord Jesus has defeated our enemy. He has crushed him, and through faith we have the victory in Him.

Gold speaks of the divine nature; the silver of that price of redemption that our Lord has paid for us; while brass speaks of the judgment, which our Lord had to bear on our behalf. All of us are commanded to gather that material, and bring it to Him.

Today's calendar bible verse:

My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. Prov 23:26.

February 13th

"And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen" (Exodus. 25.4)

Ten curtains for the inner covering of the tabernacle (Exodus. 26.1-6), a veil in front of the Most Holy Place (26.31-33) and hangings for the door of the tent (26.36-37), and for the gate of the court (26.16-17). All these together with the garments of the High Priest (28.4-8) were to be of fine twined lined embroidered with needlework in these three colors.

Blue is a heavenly color. So the color blue reminds us of our heavenly vocation while upon earth. A heavenly vocation and a heavenly service are the privilege of every true believer. Are you living up to your heavenly vocation? Are you winning souls for your Savior? Are you telling people about your Lord? Is God's glory being seen through you? Is the devil being defeated through you because of your faithfulness to your heavenly vocation?

Purple is a royal color. It speaks of the kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ. The purple color in the Tabernacle was placed there to remind the people of their royal calling (Exodus. 19.6). The divine plan is that we should actually become kings and princes of God.

The scarlet tells us of that cleansing which we receive by the precious Blood of Jesus (Isa. 1.18, 1 Pet. 1.19, 1 John 1.7). Though your sins be as scarlet, the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ can wash away every guilty stain.

Lastly we come to the fine twined line. The fine linen is the righteousness of the saints (Rev. 19.8). "He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness." We are righteous because we are clothed and covered with the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today's calendar bible verse:

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast. Rev 3:11.

February 14th

"And goats' hair, and rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins" (Exodus. 25. 4-5).

The first additional covering was the "tent" of the tabernacle and was woven of goats' hair. A he-goat can climb the steepest hill. The steepness of the hill does not discourage because it is accustomed to graze at the top. It looks very noble as it climbs upward, seeking heights. That too is how we ought to walk. The Christian life is like climbing a very high hill. Do you want to enjoy the presence of God? Do you want to see the glory of God? You have got to climb hills of difficulty, refusing discouragement and with no turning back.

The next covering of the Tabernacle was of rams' skins dyed red (Exodus. 26.14). It covered the tent completely, and outside where it hung down, you could see only the red. This again is a type of the provision made by our Lord to keep us all covered by His Blood. And in the Old Testament interval we have the long history of the offering for sin of the blood of bulls and of goats and of rams—all pointing forward to Him.

The last covering was of badgers' skins. It covered the whole Sanctuary – the whole Tabernacle. The badger is extremely watchful over its young ones. It is always on the watch, and will not allow any other animal to come near and attack them. So, by the covering of badgers' skins, we learn a further lesson, namely that our Lord watches over us as an eagle over its young (Deut. 32.11-12) or as a shepherd watches over his sheep (Ezek. 34.11).

The sick, the suffering, the needy, the poor, must be shepherded, but where are the men who will be God's true shepherds? We need to pray: 'O God, give to Thy Church true shepherds who, like the badger with her young, will watch over us'.

Today's calendar bible verse:

Remember now thy creator in the days of th youth. Eccl 12:1.

February 15th

"And shittim wood"

(Exodus. 25.5)

The Ark in the Most Holy Place, the alter of incense and the table of shew bread in the Holy Place, the boards and pillars of the Sanctuary, the pillars of the outer court, and the great brazen alter—all were of shittim wood. The shittim wood comes from a tree of the Acacia family. It is the most common wood to be found in any part of the world and is very little used for any thing except firewood.

The Lord Jesus, the Lord of Glory, took upon Himself the form of a common man. As an ordinary man He came and lived amongst the poorest people. The Lord Jesus became as shittim wood—perfect Man—that He might help you in any trial, at any time any where. It is a very difficult job to make a straight board from shittim wood. Yet all the boards of the Tabernacle were straight boards—the crooked was made straight how was this done?

The shittim wood that was used in the tabernacle was of the black acacia tree that grows only in the dry barren deserts of Arabia. This shittim wood is hard tough smooth without knots, and extremely beautiful. It is so hard and solid, as to be almost incorruptible and so large that planks twelve cubits long can be from it.

What a wonderful picture of our Lord Jesus Christ. There was no crookedness, no deviation no corruption in Him. Yet He came as a root out of a dry ground (Isa.53.2). All of us are by nature very crooked. Our Lord became as shittim wood to make us straight.

Today's calendar bible verse:

I will trust in the covert of thy youth. Eccl 12: 1.

February 16th

"Oil for the light"

(Exodus. 25:6).

Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. In Matthew 25:13 we see that we must keep our vessels filled, and our lights burning, as we wait for the coming of the bridegroom. In Ephesians 5:18 we are commanded to be "filled with the Spirit." We have seen that, in the Holy Place, the outer portion, there were three pieces of furniture. On the south side was the golden candlestick having seven branches.

In Zechariah 4, the prophet was made to see in a vision a golden candlesticks being fed continually with oil from two living olive trees (Verses 2,3 and 12). The angels of God said to him: ' My work cannot be done by human minds or human power, but only by my Spirit' (verse 6). Through the seven lamps burning day and night in the Sanctuary, God was saying to His people: 'My work can be done in one way only: not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit.' How clearly and beautifully God was speaking.

God says 'Remember: I have made you to be like a candlestick of pure gold, that My light should shine upon all people, that men may know My greatness and glory.' So these two olive trees speak of a faithful, loyal and true testimony. If you will read Genesis 8:11 and Psalm 52:8, you will see that the olive tree speaks of God's mercy and grace. Through the olive trees God was saying to Zechariah, 'Go and proclaim my message of grace everywhere. Even though I must judge sin, my mercy and grace must never fail or change.'

Unless you shine like golden lamps, burning beautifully day and night, you will never be able to manifest God's glory. That was the main message of the candlestick. We are to shine as lights of God, burning with the living oil of God's Spirit. All the seven lamps were of one piece and speak of true oneness among God's children.

Today's calendar bible verse:

He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. Matt 24:13.

February 17th

"Spices for anointing oil"

(Exodus.25.6).

Special spices were required by God, to be used in making the anointing oil. Read Exodus 30.22-33. That oil could only be used in the temple and in the Sanctuary, and upon those who were serving in the Sanctuary; it could not be used for any other purpose. The spices called myrrh, cinnamon, calamus, and cassia were used, along with olive oil.

In Song of Solomon 4.12-16, the Church is compared to a garden where those spices grow. Imagine a garden where frankincense, myrrh, aloes, cassia and calamus are all growing together. After much careful cultivation the bushes begin to blossom. Then the North and the South wind begin to blow, and the sweet fragrance of mingled spices flows out, giving great joy to the one who walks in the garden. Can you sing to the Lord Jesus Christ! 'Come, Lord Jesus Christ, into my heart, Thy garden of spices'. If you are not a living life to the glory of God, the Lord can smell no spices. But if you are living a life pleasing to Him, then that garden of spices, your heart can give joy to Him. We read in 1 Corinthians 3.9 that "We are God's husbandry", God's garden, and in 2Corinthians 2.14-16, that "We are unto God a sweet savor of Christ". That is how our lives ought to be, so that, when our Lord Jesus Christ walks in His gardens, He may smell their fragrance.

Today's calendar bible verse:

As the body with out the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. James 2:26.

February 18th

"Spices for sweet incense"

(Exodus. 25.6).

Spices were also used to make the incense for burning! Read the instructions for preparing them in Exodus. 30.34-38. The anointing oil speaks of service which we should render in the House of God, and the incense speaks of the intercession which ascends from the hearts of believers before God's throne.

In God's Sanctuary the incense burned day and night on the golden altar in the Holy Place, the whole day and the whole night. "Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice" (Psa. 141.2).

We are God's co-workers; that is why we have to pray. And even though we may never receive an answer to our prayer upon this earth, when we reach heaven we shall know God's answer to every one. No prayer ever goes unanswered. The High Priest had to first burn incense before the Mercy Seat (Lev.16: 12-13). Then only was the blood sprinkled on the Mercy Seat (Lev.16:6, 15-16). All this was a type or shadow of the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He brought His own Blood inside the Most Holy Place, thereby wholly satisfying God. (Heb. 9.11-12).

Today's calendar bible verse:

Hear the word of the Lord... Let the Lord be glorified. Isa 66:5.

February 19th

"Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate".

(Exodus. 25.7)

Firstly, Aaron wore a white coat, over that a blue robe, and thirdly the ephod. The ephod was made of fine twined lined, embroidered with blue purple, scarlet and gold (v.28.6-8). On the shoulder of the ephod were two onyx stones or "stones of memorial unto the children of Israel". They were engraved with the twelve names before the Lord upon his two shoulders" (verses 9-12).

This tells us that our Lord carries us upon His shoulders. Let the Lord Jesus carry your burdens. Cast all your care upon Him, for He careth for you (1Pet. 5.7). When you lean that lesson, and let the Lord carry your burden, you will enjoy His perfect rest and peace.

Over the ephod was the breastplate of embroidered linen with its chains and ouches of gold. Upon the breastplate were twelve stones, upon which also were the twelve names of the twelve tribes (Verse 15-21). These twelve stones were very near the heart of the High Priest. Wherever he went the stones went with him and by them God reminds His people that He wants them to be very close to His heart.

Today's calendar bible verse:

Teach me th way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth. Psalm 86: 11.

February 20th

"O sent out Thy light and Thy truth; let them lead me"

(Psa. 43.3-4).

Underneath the twelve stones, within the breastplate, there were two more stones, one called the Urim and the other the Thummim. Their nature is a mystery, a secret which God has never revealed to us. We only know that with the help of these two stones, the High Priest could discover God's will.

In Psalm 43.3-4, we may see an allusion to these two stones. They can be compared to the Light of God and the Truth of God. God has given these to every believer. Even as the High Priest could find God's will through the help of these two stones, so, with His light and His truth in our hearts, all of us can now find the will of God. Before we go anywhere, before we spend our money, before we make any plans or any decisions, for ourselves, for our children or for the future, we should find out God's will.

Today's calendar bible verse:

Abstain from all appearance of evil. 1 Thes 5:22.

February 21st

"And the walls of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."

(Rev.21: 14)

Here we have a vision of the walls of the Holy City, which have twelve foundations, on which the names of the twelve Apostles are written. These precious stones speak of the strong Apostolic foundation on which we are built (Eph. 2:19-22) Now the Apostles were only ordinary men, they were men of like passions as we are, yet they were made strong by God. We know what kind of a man Simon Peter was, yet, in spite of his failure; he became God's precious stone.

How did Simon Peter become a precious stone? That name 'Peter' means just an ordinary rough stone, but the same rough stone became in the end a very precious, shining foundation stone. "The first foundation was Jasper (Rev 21:19). Peter, the rough stone is now linked to a shining, bright, beautiful, precious Jasper stone. How did he become like that?

Precious stones have to go through extreme heat under the ground to become so brilliant. God asks us to believe in His perfect will and to allow the trials he may send to work His will in us. That is how he can make of us shining stones. If we allow the light and truth of God to work in us, we shall become like precious stones drawn close to the heart of God, to enjoy His full love and affection.

Today's calendar bible verse:

Set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord. 2 Chron 20: 17.

February 22nd

"There was a tabernacle made; the first wherein was the candle stick, and the table, and the shew bread which is called the Sanctuary. And after the second veil the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all". (Heb 9:2,3)

The Sanctuary was a dwelling place of God. Men went to it, not in order to pray, but to do their duties. The great Sanctuary was built to wooden boards. These boards were each 15 feet high and 2 feet 3 inches wide. They were overlaid with gold both outside and inside (Exodus 26:15-25). The Sanctuary was divided into two parts: the front portion, called the Holy Place, and the smaller back portion, the Most Holy Place, the former being twice the size of the latter.

That Sanctuary in the wilderness was a shadow of the true Heavenly Sanctuary of which the Holy Priest is our Lord Jesus Christ Himself (Heb 8:1,2). For this reason God told Moses: "See...that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount" (v 5). Every detail of the Sanctuary and however simple, was given to Moses by God, and it is quiet obvious from the details that such a building and structure would never have been designed by any human architect.

Today's calendar bible verse:

...My father glorified, that ye bear much fruit. John 15:8.

February 23rd

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne; even as I also overcame, and am set down with my father in His throne." (Rev 3:21)

The outer part of the Sanctuary, Holy Place, speaks to us of the earthly vocation of the church the inner part, or the Most Holy Place, tells us of the Heavenly vocation of the same Church. The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ has that double service. Both have to go together, if there is to be manifested the divine plan for the church. Let us look first at our Heavenly vocation.

In Revelation 4 the Apostle John was given a Heavenly vision. He saw in Heaven a central throne, and around it twenty-four seats then he saw a rainbow round about the throne, and seven lamps of fire burning before it. As you know, there are seven colors in the rainbow, violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red. God made seven covenants with mankind. It is because of seven covenants, that we will have a right to share His throne.

Today's calendar bible verse:

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts. I Corin 14:1.

February 24th

"There were seven lamps of fire, burning before the throne which are the seven Spirits of God". (Rev: 4.5).

John saw seven lamps of fire burning the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. They speak to us of the perfect seven-fold work of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8) He indwells the believer (v.9). He quickens (v. 11); He leads (v. 14); He becomes in us the pledge of son-ship whereby we can call God our Father (v. 15); He witnesses in our hearts that we are the children of God (v. 16-17); He intercedes for us according to the will of God (v.27); and He helps us in our infirmities, giving us power to overcome every weakness and to become more than conquerors through Him that loved us (vs. 26 and 37). It is because of that perfect work of the Holy Spirit that we shall be there in Heaven, because of the work of those seven lamps of fire – the indwelling Spirit will deliver us from bondage to the flesh v.9. The quickening Spirit will overcome mortality and corruption (v. 11). The guiding Spirit of God leads us day by day (v. 14). The Spirit of adoption takes away every fear, and gives us a deeper love and knowledge of God. (v.15). The witnessing Spirit helps us to realize the fixed plan of God for us as His children and heirs (16-17). The interceding Spirit teaches us to pray according to the will of God (v. 27). And finally, the Comforter leads us on from victory to victory till we are seated with Christ in His heavenly throne (v. 26, 37).

Behind the throne John saw the rainbow with seven colors. Before the throne he saw the seven lamps of fire. Behind us is the covenant of God. Within us the Holy Spirit working. Thus has God made full provision for His Church in her heavenly and earthly vocations.

Today's calendar bible verse:

Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually. 1 Chron 16:11.

February 25th

"Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of Life". (Rev. 2.10).

We have now to say a word more about our earthly vocation. We have seen that each board was 10 cubits long. The number 10 in the Bible is the number of maturity – spiritual maturity and responsibility attained through testing and trial. Spiritual maturity does not come by head-knowledge. You may have much true knowledge, but it is only after hardships, trials and tribulations that you become spiritually mature, and your life here on earth is your training ground.

Now those wooden boards, they were 10 cubits high and 1 ½ cubits wide, each had two sockets underneath, sockets of silver for their support. God could have used gold for the sockets but He chose to use silver. Why? Because silver is, as we saw, a symbol of redemption in the Bible. It is a symbol of the price our Lord Jesus paid to redeem us to Himself.

The number two in the Bible is a symbol of unity in fellowship (Matt.18.19). Each board had to rest upon two sockets; otherwise it would not be steady. The two tenons resting on the sockets of silver tell us that we have all been bought by the same redemption price, and are all equally precious to the Lord.

Today's calendar bible verse :

Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. 1 Corin 7:20.

February 26th

"And the middle bar in the midst of the boards shall reach from end to end".

(Exodus. 26.28)

Uniting the boards of the Tabernacle there were four rods or bars of wood, overlaid with gold, which were put through golden rings on the boards to bind them together. Four of these rods could be seen from the outside. The fifth rod was made to go through the middle of the boards from end to end, to keep all the boards united (Exodus.26.26-29). All the boards, put together speaks of the whole Church throughout the world. These five tie rods speaks of five spiritual bonds which bind believers together into one. To have real spiritual unity in the Church of God, we require five things. There are four outward bonds and one hidden central bond to unit us all. The central hidden bond is the life of the Lord Jesus Christ which binds together all believers throughout the world.

The four outward bonds are mentioned in Acts 2. 42. We are told that "they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." This is how they grew spiritually in the grace of God. If these four things are manifested in assemblies everywhere we shall see union and strength. We can dispense with none of these. But the chief and the most important bond is that indwelling life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

That is the hidden rod going through the boards from end to end. When the Lord Jesus Christ becomes Lord of our being, we cannot help but love everybody because the love of the Lord Jesus Christ goes out from us to all His children.

Today's calendar Bible verse:

Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Gal 5: 16.

February 27th

"The ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant." (Heb. 9.4).

In the heart of the Sanctuary, the Most Holy Place, the only piece of furniture was the ark of the testimony: a box of shittim wood, measuring 2 ½ x 1 ½ x 1 ½ cubits, overlaid with gold and having a solid gold lid or cover – the Mercy Seat – upon which, and of one piece with it, were two golden cherubim.

From the day on which the children of Israel journeyed into the wilderness until the day they entered the land forty years later, they had a daily supply of bread from heaven. This manna, which looked like dew and tasted like wafers with honey, had to be gathered at sunrise and there was always enough, to satisfy all the people. One omer was put in a golden pot in the Ark of the covenant as a witness that God had made an abundant and sufficient provision of heavenly food for every man.

Secondly, in the Ark there was the rod of Aaron which had budded. This, with its blossoms and fruit, was a reminder of the kind of service that God wanted. He chose only Moses and Aaron, because they had been proved and tested for long years in the wilderness before they were given this great responsibility. Thirdly, in the same Ark were two tables of stone. In Exodus 40.20 they are called "the testimony". The Word of God had to go right into the Ark for safe-keeping. Our life is hid with Christ in God (Col.3.3). Let the Lord Jesus take control, and then hide in Him, and there will be abundant life.

Today's calendar Bible verse:

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God". Matt 5:8.

February 28th

"Over it, the cherubims of glory shadowing the Mercy Seat."

(Heb.9.5).

One with the Mercy seat there were the two golden cherubim (Exodus. 25.18-20). They concern Ministry (Ezekiel 1). God had a very important message, which He wanted Ezekiel to convey to the nations, but before he could understand it, God gave him a vision of the cherubim.

Before Ezekiel could speak on behalf of God or be a true witness, prophet, or servant of God, and that spiritual identification was demonstrated to him through the meaning of the cherubim.

Although these living creatures looked so impressive and inspiring, yet they had the form of a man (v. 4) and the hands of a man (v.8). For though Ezekiel was only a man, God wanted to accomplish through him a great ministry. How much, for example, can be wrought by a single man through prayer. When people learn the secret of how to pray, and how to agonize in prayer, how much power is released through them to all part of the world!

The living creatures also had wings (v.8). They had their wings joined together (v. 9). This meant that, wherever any one creature went, the other three had to follow. That speaks of true spiritual unity. Together they had to move and together they had to rest. They could not just go independently, each in the direction he chose. They could go only as a single unit. And that is how the Church of Christ has to work. As you grow spiritually, you should see the spiritual oneness amongst you as God's co-workers.

Today's calendar Bible verse:

Teach me to do thy will .. lead me into the land of uprightness. Psalm 143:10.