

=THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL=
Lesson 6
Building God's House (Tabernacle)

AIM: to show my pupils the need for God's people to give to any building program of our church.

POINT OF CONTACT: Explain to the pupils that God led the Israelites to build His first house on their journey from Egypt to Canaan.

- I. THE WAY TO BUILD. Not only did God tell the Israelites to build for Him a house (Exodus 25:8), but God also told Moses who should give the materials (Exodus 25:2).
 1. The Christians were to build the house for God. There were others in the camp, a mixed multitude, but only God's children were to bring an offering for His house. They were to bring it willingly with their hearts. See II Corinthians 9:7. It is estimated that in values of that day, the tabernacle must have cost at least two million dollars.
 2. The people were to bring offerings every morning, Exodus 36:3.
 3. The people brought so much that they were restrained from bringing more. "For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much," Exodus 36:7.

- II. THEIR FAITH. You will bear in mind that all of the tabernacle materials were brought by the children of Israel—the gold, the precious stone, the badger skins, and the silver. Everything was brought by the people as gifts. There were no stores from which to order the material; it all was brought by the people of God. You will bear in mind several things about these people:
 1. They were homeless. They could have said, "Let's build our homes first." Not so! The church came first.
 2. They were without incomes. They had no jobs. They could have used this for an excuse.
 3. They did not know how much farther they had to go. They were on a trip and had no idea of the distance of their trip. They could have used this excuse.
 4. They did not know their future. They were traveling day by day by faith. This too could have been an excuse. The truth is, they simply knew God had provided manna every morning and quail every evening. They knew they could trust Him for the future, and meanwhile, they contributed generously for His work.

- III. GOD'S PROVISIONS. This is shown more beautifully in the offering of the badger skins than in anything else. Ezekiel 16:10 says the badger skins were used for shoes. God literally asked these traveling people for the shoes off their feet, and they gave so willingly that He had to restrain them. In Deuteronomy 29:5 we read that He made their shoes last forty years. God always makes up to His children manifold for every gift made to Him willingly from the heart.

- IV. GOD PROMISES BLESSING UPON THOSE WHO GIVE. Tithes and offerings have always been the program used. In fact, from early times and among many ancient peoples there was a custom of offering a tenth to their deity. There are records of this observance in Babylon and in Egypt hundreds of years before Christ. Also, the false religion of the Phoenicians, the Persians, the people from Carthage, the Greeks, the Romans, the Chinese, the Britons, and others used the tithe to support their deity. In South Arabia tithes were paid to temples on special occasions. A tenth of the flock, fruits, and all possessions were given to gods. This was a Babylonian institution to pay to the temple. The Arabians and Ethiopians paid their tithes to the god Sabis. Other pagans gave their tithes. Should not the Christian then give more? Let us notice a few of the blessings God promises those who give:
 1. He promises us plenty, Proverbs 3:9, 10.
 2. He promises to increase us and make our souls fat, Proverbs 11:24, 25.
 3. He promises to open the windows of Heaven and pour out a blessing that we have not room to receive, Malachi 3:10.
 4. He promises to run us over with blessing, Luke 6:38.
 5. He promises that we shall reap bountifully, II Corinthians 9:6.