

## Life-Study of Exodus Summaries – Messages 82-86

### MESSAGE 82–83 – The Vision of the Tabernacle and Its Furniture Concerning the Materials and the Pattern

In Exodus 25:1-9 the materials are of three categories: **minerals**, **plants**, and **animals**. Concerning **minerals**, we read of gold, silver, bronze, onyx stones, and "stones to be set for the ephod and for the breastplate." The fact that the minerals were mentioned as the first category indicates that whatever Christ is and whatever He has done and is doing are **all for the building**. The **plant** life is for **generating**, for **producing**. Christ is the essential factor of the generating and producing life. Christ's life is also typified by the **animal** life, which is for **redemption**. Sinful man needs the redeeming Christ, the Christ who shed His blood on the cross and sacrificed His life to redeem us. With Christ's redemptive life, we are **nourished**, **fed**, and **sustained** so that we may live. The **pattern** of the tabernacle and of all its furniture signifies the **church** and all the **details** of the church life. We must pay attention to many details indicated by the types in order to have a **proper** church life and the proper fellowship with all the saints. How we need to experience Him, possess Him, and then offer Him to God for the building of His dwelling place! (Life-Study of Exodus, 82–83).

### MESSAGE 84–86 – The Ark of the Testimony

The **rim of gold** around the ark signifies the **glory** of the divine nature, and that the glory of the divine nature as a rim signifies the divine **keeping** power and **holding** strength. With Christ as the embodiment of God's testimony, there is a keeping power and a holding strength. The expressed glory of the Lord's divinity can keep us from **falling**. This glory, this expression, will become a rim that holds us and keeps us. The ark was far from being stationary. In order for the ark to be moved, it had to have the **four rings** and **two poles**. The rings made of gold signify the **linking** factor and power which is the **life-giving eternal Spirit**. The **casting** of the rings signifies that the eternal life-giving Spirit becomes the linking power through the experience of the **cross**. The number **four** signifies the **four corners** of the earth to reach **all men**; the testimony of Jesus should reach all people.

The **two poles** for carrying the ark signify the **move** of Christ as God's **testimony**. The poles were made of acacia wood, signifying that Christ's **human nature** is the **strength** for His move as God's testimony. The Lord's testimony is borne by our transformed humanity with its high character and standard. The acacia wood overlaid with gold signifies that Christ's **divine nature** is the **expression** of His move. The fact that there were **two poles** signifies that Christ's move is not by an individual, but by a **corporate** entity. These poles were **put into the golden rings** to carry the ark. This indicates that the witnesses, those who bear the ark of the testimony, must be **one with the ark**. If we would bear Him as God's testimony, we should be one with Him.

In Exodus 25:17-22, we read about the **propitiatory cover** which was put on the ark. According to Hebrews 2:17, the Lord Jesus made propitiation for our sins to reconcile us to God by satisfying God's righteous demands on us. According to 1 John 2:2 and 4:10, the Lord Jesus is the propitiatory sacrifice for our sins. The propitiatory cover signifies **Christ as the cover of God's righteous law**. It also signifies Him as the place where God speaks to His redeemed people in grace. Hence, the propitiatory cover equals God's **throne of grace**. The propitiatory cover was made of pure **gold** signifying Christ's pure **divine nature**. The **dimensions** of the propitiatory cover signify a **testimony**. The **cherubim** on the propitiatory cover indicate that Christ expresses **God's glory**, that God's glory shines out from Him. The propitiatory cover being put upon the ark **from above** signifies Christ **covering the law** within the ark. Finally, God speaks to His redeemed people from between the two cherubim. This means that God speaks to His people from the glory expressed in the propitiating Christ as His testimony. May we all look to the Lord and pray that He will give us light concerning the propitiatory cover and its significance for our spiritual experience. (Life-Study of Exodus, 84–86).