

Exegetical Notes, Exodus 31:1-11
“Bezalel and Oholiab: Ready and Waiting”

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen, Pastor, Cornerstone Fellowship
101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19329
610-384-1375
charleshjensen@aol.com

Exodus 31:1-11

Verse 1-5

Then YHWH said to Moses, “See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts -- to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver, and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.”

- God informs Moses that he has already chosen and prepared the man who is to be in charge of all the work he has ordered done to make the Tabernacle. This man is named Bezalel. The name means, “in the shadow of God. This man is from the tribe of Judah, the tribe from which the Messiah would come.
- Bezalel is prepared in three specific ways. First, he is spiritually prepared. He is “filled with the spirit of God.” Second, he is given skill and ability to do what he will be asked to do. Third, he is given the knowledge that he needs to accomplish the tasks he will be assigned. This threefold preparation makes him fully prepared. However all of it is God’s gift to him. The words, “I HAVE,” make it clear that everything needed to accomplish the task was provided to Bezalel by YHWH.

Verse 6a

“Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, to help him.”

- Because the assignment is a large one, Bezalel is to have a “helper,” a second in command.

Verse 6b-11

“Also I have given skill to all the craftsmen to make everything I have commanded you: the Tent of Meeting, the ark of the Testimony with

the atonement cover on it, and all the other furnishings of the tent -- the table and its articles, the pure gold lampstand and all its accessories, the altar of incense, the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, the basin with its stand -- and also the woven garments, both the sacred garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons when they serve as priests, and the anointing oil and fragrant incense for the Holy Place. They are to make them just as I commanded you.”

- While Bezalel is to be in charge of the work and Oholiab is to assist him, the task is too large for them to do alone. So God has provided a bunch of skilled people to do the actual work under the guidance of these two. They are to divide the work among all of the skilled craftsmen God has provided.
- The point here is that God has provided everything Israel needed to accomplish the assignment he gave to Moses. God never gives us an assignment without supplying the path for its accomplishment.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Bezalel and Oholiab: Waiting and Ready*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)