

BFF306 Pillar of Fire and Cloud

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast, with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I'm well. How are you?

Scott: Better now that we're together.

Steve: Amen. Are you doing Christmassy things?

Scott: We're trying, yeah. My kids are all in a Christmas musical that's coming up this weekend, like a concert kind of thing. That's been keeping all of us very busy. Then we're trying to do Christmas business things and stuff too, so we're crazy. How about you?

Steve: Little bit last night, we had an event. A local church, once a month, has something for adults with special needs, so I dropped Johnny off at that. He was dressed unbelievably. He had a black shirt, black pants, red bow tie and a sport coat with black background covered with Christmas decorations.

Only in the transcription do you get to see John :-).



Scott: That's sharp.

Steve: I dropped him off at the event and he was quite excited. Then I picked up my son and two granddaughters, and we went on an adventure to see Christmas lights.

We drove all around to new areas that I didn't know of. We saw Christmas lights, and I said, "How about if we rate them?" It's important to keep these girls engaged. Each house, 1 to 10, we would holler out, "Four! Three! 10 out of 10!"

By the time we came home they were all wound up, and the windows were open and we were singing to anybody we saw on the sidewalk. That was fun.

Scott: Did you deck out your house in lights?

Steve: Yes, but I would give us a three.

Steve: I've got these nets, because we got a bunch of bushes in the front of your our Johnny likes to help me set him up. This time the grandkids helped me set them up. That was fun.

Today we're going to talk about what held the curtains up, the pillars and bases, etc. Exodus 27:10 "its pillars shall be twenty, with their twenty sockets of bronze; the hooks of the pillars and their bands shall be of silver "

Let's pray:

Father help us today in this wonderful time of the year as we prepare for celebrating Your Advent, and Your coming to this earth. Thank You for coming to the children of Israel, in a tent of the tabernacle, into the tabernacle of testimony. As we work our way into the most holy place, I pray that You'll give us ears to hear what Your Spirit is saying to us. Eyes to see things perhaps we haven't seen before. Ultimately, we want to see more of Jesus because He is the reason for the season. He's the reason for the tabernacle. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: We know where the material came from. The material came from Exodus 25 when the Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the people of Israel that they take for Me a contribution. "From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for Me. This is the contribution that you shall receive from them, gold, silver, and bronze."

We saw in the past when we were talking about the fabric, that God had raised up a man named Oholiab, who was gifted in embroidery and working with all these different kinds of fabrics.

His name means ohel, which is tent, ab, father. His name means father's tent, which touches my heart to think that the man that was working on God the Father's tent, that was his name.

When we're talking about the metal, now, we have another craftsman. Exodus 31 says, "See, I have called by name, Betzalel, the son of Uri, son of Hur of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge in all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs to work in gold, silver, and bronze." Same words, same order.

The people of Israel, God said, "These people, when their heart moves them, receive their contribution of gold, silver, and bronze." Then God raised up a man named Betzalel.

We don't want to read over this quickly, because we have this funny dichotomy, that there are certain things that are spiritual and certain things that aren't. Preaching the word is spiritual but making items for the tabernacle is not.

However, notice that this man was filled with the Spirit of God, not to prophesy, not to preach, not to do what we would call spiritual work, or study the law like Ezra. He was filled with ability and intelligence, with knowledge in all craftsmanship to devise artistic designs and work with his hands.

This is a testimony of how everything that we do, whether we eat or drink, we do all to the glory of God. This man used his talents and gifts and the Spirit's anointing to build the tabernacle.

His name, Betzalel, comes from two words. El means God, but etsel, T-S-E-L, in English, stands for shadow. His name means the shadow of God. The word shadow is the same one that's used in, "He that dwells in the shadow of the Almighty," in Psalm 91:1.

I'm going to test your Bible knowledge here, Scott. I'm giving you 20 seconds to gird your loins and let the adrenaline kick in. We just read who he was related to. He was the son of Hur of the tribe of Judah. You remember that name, Hur?

Scott: Yeah.

Steve: Hur was his grandfather. He was the son of Uri, and he was the son of Hur. Who was he?

Scott: Not a clue.

Steve: You remember when Moses was up on the mountain and they were fighting Amalek. Joshua was down on the plane, and Moses was up in the mountain.

As long as Moses kept his hands raised -- he was holding the rod of God -- then Israel on the plane, led by Joshua, prevailed. When his hands drooped, two people were up there on both sides of him helping to hold up his hands. It was Aaron and Hur, this would have been Betzalel's grandfather.

Back to our study. He had 20 pillars. The word pillar comes from "ammûd" which is a pillar or a column. You can visualize this. I have an advantage because we have a reproduction of the tabernacle here in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I've been there many times.

I can see these pillars, and in between them, the curtains hanging. These pillars or columns come from the root word, "amad," which is to take one's stand.

This word is used primarily describing the courtyard and later the temple.

The first four times "ammûd" appears in scripture is in Exodus 13:21–22. "The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them along the way. By night in a pillar or column of fire, to give them light that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people."

I learned a word. You may have heard it, "theophany." It's a manifestation of God in the Bible that's tangible to the human senses.

The people of Israel saw God with their eyes. That's what it means. "Theo" is God. "Phany," appears, like epiphany or Christophany. The children of Israel saw God. He was there. He never left them, whether it was day or night. He didn't just appear in the morning, He was there all night by fire, He was there all day by cloud.

Jesus made a similar promise "I will never leave you nor forsake you." These people were in the wilderness. They had been in Egypt for 400 years. They were in a foreign place. Yet, God was with them. He was not only with them by faith, they could see Him. Pretty cool.

Now, when I'm imagining being inside the courtyard I'm seeing curtains made of fine linen, which had probably come from Egypt, it was fancy cloth. Then, I see the gate coming in, and on each side, the purple, the red, the blue woven cloth. Makes me think of truth and royalty and sacrifice. These are the shoulders.

Then, I see these columns. These columns remind me that God is their pillar. They were following Him. I remember the pillar of fire and cloud.

These words ammud and amad in Hebrew, also have a corresponding New Testament Greek word through the Septuagint connection.

Galatians 2:9 talks about James and Cephus and John, who are reputed to be the pillars of the church. **1 Timothy 3:15**, speaks of how one is to conduct themselves in the temple of God, in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar in support of the truth.

Revelation 3, "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God." Some of us are going to be made pillars in God's temple, by overcoming in the situation that we find ourself in.

Pillars, these pillars were rooted or they had bases, sockets. Most translations are sockets, but it can be base, a pedestal, or a foundation. In the Greek, it's the word for feet.

E-H-D-E-N, which comes from the root word "adon," which is what we translate Lord or master. It's sense of strength. This is the foundation for these pillars, these pedestals, these sockets. Most of the time, again, only used in describing the tabernacle or the temple.

One verse that I thought was really interesting, was Job 38:4-6, where He says, "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me if you have understanding who set these measurements since you know, who stretched the line on it? On what were its bases sunk?"

That's the same word. "Who laid this cornerstone, these pedestals, these bases, these sockets," is what the pillars were sitting in. They were made out of copper or bronze. Now, the King James translates it, brass. Most translations, it's bronze. Bronze is an alloy. It's made of copper and tin in varying proportions. It's harder and less malleable than copper.

It's more suited for casting because they probably had to make casts to make all of these pedestals so they would be the same. Bronze is better for casting. Bronze is used all the time, in the Old Testament.

Exodus 30 said, "You shall also make a base in a bronze with its stand of bronze for washing. You shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar." We're going to come to this later.

There was also a bunch of bronze that was donated. It even tells us in terms of shekels, but a modern translation translates this to pounds. There was 5,310 pounds of bronze brought as a special offering, and this is Exodus 38, which was used for casting the bases for the posts at the entrance to the tabernacle, and for the bronze altar where this bronze grading, and all the altar utensils, etc.

Bronze was used a bunch in building this tabernacle in the courtyard. Bronze also appears though, if you remember at one point, children of Israel sinning badly, and serpents began to appear. The serpents were stinging the people and they were dying.

They finally turned from their sins and they repented. God said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent. Set it on a pole and everyone who is bitten when he sees it shall live." Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. If a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Of course, that is a picture of Jesus. We look to Jesus, we turn from our sin. We look up at the Savior and we live. A bronze serpent, a picture, an image getting us ready for Jesus.

I was also surprised to learn how much bronze Goliath was wearing. When Goliath appeared out on the battlefield, it said he had a helmet of bronze on his head, he was armed with a coat of mail.

The weight of the coat was 5,000 shekels of bronze. He had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. That guy must have been a beast just to be able to walk.

You know why David had to hit him in the head? It was the only thing that was unprotected because everything else was covered with bronze, bronze mail, coat, armor on his legs, and a huge bronze javelin.

It says in 1 Kings 7 when King Solomon was filling the temple, he sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. His father was a man of Tyre, a worker in bronze, and he was full of wisdom understanding of a skill for making any work in bronze. He came to King Solomon and did all his work. He built pillars. He built the brazen sea, and the bases. Bezalel who was building you might say the mobile tabernacle. When they built the temple, then Hiram from Tyre appears.

There were hooks for hanging the curtains. They just hook over some kind of a rope or something that was holding between the pillars and the curtains were hung up on them. Then there was these fillets or rings. The Amplified version, translate them joinings and they're made of silver.

These were a narrow, flat band running down a shaft or along a molding that these silver, flat bands, these rings were for attaching the curtains to whatever they needed to be held up with.

It's from "chashuq." Even though it's used eight times and it means a fillet or a ring, nothing fancy. It's made of silver. It's a band. It's something that wraps around. It can be a headband but it wrapped around the pillars, attached the curtains.

Interesting that this is really closely related to a word called "chashaq" which means to be attached, but it also means to cling, or to join, or to love.

I know I'm reading way more into it than just a fillet or a ring here, but this is the kind of stuff that when you study, you start seeing these words. If you remember in Deuteronomy 7, God's talking to the Israelites and He says: "It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set His love." That's the word, "And chose you for you were the fewest of all peoples but it's because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that He swore to your fathers that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery."

You can see how they would be connected. It's to cling, to be attached, to join, but it also means to love, so...They're made out of silver which is "kesef," and is used a couple hundred times in the Bible. 252 times it just means silver, 100 times it means money. As I read through all...I think I tried to read all these verses where silver appears, or money, I discovered Joseph was sold for 20 shekels of silver.

Joseph goes to Egypt. His brothers appear. He's concerned. These are the guys that had betrayed him in the first place for 20 shekels of silver. Remember, they were heading home and they opened up their sack, and what do you think they found there?

Steve: It wasn't gold. It wasn't bronze. It was silver. Yeah. I don't know if Joseph did it on purpose or if it's just plain money? I thought that was interesting, too. So, there you go. What do you think of that?

Scott: Again, this is all new to me to dive this deep into the stuff. It's funny because there's the idiot world side of me that's like, "This is weird, man. Why are we talking about all this stuff?" But then there's a part of me that's awakening, that's saying, "This is actually of God." You can choose to focus on stuff the world focuses on, like all the meaninglessness.

There's so much. TV shows, whatever, and think that's cool. Or you can see love in a curtain that represents God's love, too, and that can set your heart alive. This is new to me, but it's really cool.

Steve: It's new to me. If I didn't feel God's direction to pursue this, I would have given up.

Scott: We're all glad to hear that.

Steve: I feel a divine unction. Next time we're going to talk more about Psalm 100 because God opened that up to me. Yet, that opened up a way for me to get closer to God, but it's enter into His courts with praise and His gates with thanksgiving.

That's a picture of David drawing close to God. This tabernacle is a way for the children of Israel to draw near to God.

Steve: It's interesting that we're studying at the very same time as Christmas when God came down. God has been coming down for a long time, and He came down in the tabernacle, He came to them in the temple.

It's amazing when you think about...Take these two men, Betzalel and Hiram, and God says, "I filled these guys with the Spirit of God. I gave them all this knowledge and intelligence. I anointed them so they could build these figures and their names."

Shadow of God, Father's tent. That, in itself, shows you that this is important to God.

I know I was a little bit, maybe too deep on a couple of those things, but it is really interesting. The more you get into these original languages, what you see, and with these connections that you make. Amen.

Lets pray:

Father, thank You for Your Word. We know that every word is full of power. Man does not live by bread alone but by every word. Thank You for giving us these words. Thank You for glimpses, theophanies. Thank You for appearing to the children of Israel, pillar of fire, of cloud. Thank You for appearing in the tabernacle.

I pray that You will appear to us, especially people will be listening now and probably by January, but still, I pray that as this new year it gets rolling along, that You will continue to point us to Yourself and reveal to us in Your word. Reveal to us more about You in Your word. Jesus name, Amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme.

If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@Gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.