

Pekudei “Accounts”

Torah Reading: Exodus 38:21 - 40:38

Haftarah Reading: 1 Kings 7:51 - 8:21

Study Notes

God’s Apparent Aloofness and God’s Personal Residence

When Exodus begins we might easily assume that God is quite aloof. We have no evidence that God was anything but silent. We learn that God saw them and remembered His covenant but to them He was silent.

However, God was not as they might have perceived Him. Even though they were not aware of it God was working for their good and His purposes. This is the story behind the book of Exodus.

1. God’s Thoughts - We learn about His thoughts in Shemot 2:24-25. Even though the average Israelite would not have known this was what He was thinking it was true none the less. We must not let circumstances destroy our faith.
2. God’s Name - There is also a progression of revelation of God’s name. Chapters 3 and 6.
3. God’s Actions - They saw the plagues, Passover, the Red Sea and the provision for their needs. God showed Himself mighty, great and supreme. Worthy of following and trusting.
4. God’s Character - Chapters 15 and 34 reveal more and more of God’s character. These characteristics have become known as God’s “Thirteen Attributes”.
5. God’s Words - God also gave His Word to them. The Lord saw to it that He recorded the revelation and had Moshe write down the rest in a completely faithful and accurate way.
6. God’s Presence - Finally, the last stage of the progression was that God Himself would come to live among His people. (Shemot 40:34). God’s presence in the Mishkan is known as the Shekinah. When the Mishkan was finished God came to dwell there in a special and unparalleled way.

Exodus opens with a tale of misery and oppression and closes on an auspicious note.