

Lenten Devotional 2020

Friday, April 10, 2020
Good Friday
Day 39, Exodus 39

New Creation

Moses inspected the work and saw that they had done it just as the Lord had commanded. So Moses blessed them. (Exodus 39:43)

We have noted throughout this lenten series the way elements of creation are woven into Israel's worship. But, in this chapter, we have more cues of a new creation occurring. We have the elements like the lamp stands as trees from the garden and the ceiling of the tent which match the robes are like the heavens above. But, even more we have the rehearsal of the creation. Now instead of the light and animals and humans we have walls and altars and clothes. In the Genesis account God ceases from his work, examines it, and declares it very good. Here, Moses—on behalf of God (think Adam)—looks over all that has been created and declares it good. As a result, this new humanity—Israel—is blessed.

Why should there be such a parallel? Because, what a lot of us Christians miss in the Genesis account is that the garden was the temple and the human couple were the priests. So, this creation of the Tabernacle is literally a new creation tied to and pointing to the first creation. So, when Israel sinned with the golden calf, this was a reenactment of the sin of Adam and Eve.

I think this is why this chapter says seven times (seven days of creation) that this creation happened according to all the Lord had commanded. Where Israel had been disobedient, they are now obedient. This means they are now appropriately living into the role (image of God) they have been called, to be a Holy nation, a kingdom of priests. Of course, there is more to Israel's story which reminds us that this Tabernacle only points to the new creation. A more complete Exodus still needs to occur.

Which, of course, brings us to the importance of this day. Good Friday. When God's Messiah, true obedient Israel, obediently humbles himself to death on a cross. We stand watching and waiting for what comes next. The sacrifice has been made and we are left longing for the new creation to come.

Prayer

God, the prince of glory has died on a Roman cross as a sin offering for us. Thank you for your sacrifice and love. We long for the new creation to arrive and be complete. Help us to seek it with love and obedience. Amen.