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## ***A God of Detail***

**Many a Bible reader, having begun with *Genesis 1:1*, has been turned aside from further study once they open the book of *Leviticus*. What they are missing!**

by James McBride

Such superficial readers are put off by the seemingly tedious and endless detail. Yet it is in the detail that we unmask the very purpose of the Creator for mankind.

This detail permeates the whole of Scripture. Take, for example, the construction of the ark by Noah. The type of wood is specified. The overall dimensions [still fundamental to modern boat-building] are spelled out, as is the location of the doors and windows with their dimensions. And the number of floors. How to waterproof the construction, too.

Then there's the Tabernacle which would be the center of God's worship on earth, where God would dwell: *'...According to all which I am going to reveal to you, the plan of the tabernacle, and the plan of all its vessels, even so you shall do'* (Exodus 25:9). Several times God tells them to *'...see that they are made by their patterns which you were caused to see in the mountain'* (v.40).

Several chapters in *Exodus* are devoted to detailed descriptions of the Tabernacle and its contents—materials, dimensions, methods, the official garments for ministering priests. And in *Leviticus* follows the intricacies of the various sacrifices—what should be allowed, how to sacrifice and their timing on the calendar date throughout the year *etc.* Every dimension, every material, every procedure is carefully explained.

All was carried out - by Noah, by Moses—with due diligence.

Some five hundred years later towards the end of his life King David desired (but was forbidden by God) to build a more permanent structure, a Temple, for His worship. He delegated the task to his son Solomon whom God had set aside as his successor.

The same principles apply, for David was guided by God's Spirit in its construction: *'...David gave his son Solomon the pattern of the porch, and of its houses, and of its treasuries, and of its upper rooms, and of its innermost rooms, and of the house of the mercy-seat; and the pattern of all that he had by the Spirit, for the courts of the house of Jehovah, and for all the rooms all around, for the treasuries of the house of God, and for the treasuries of the things dedicated;* (1Chronicles 28:11-12). And, v.19: *'...All was in writing from the hand of Jehovah. He caused me to understand all the work of the pattern'*.

### **Annual Festivals**

Looking further afield we see the imprint of God's hand in His round of annual festivals. Again, all are of huge significance and subject to detailed planning.

The heavenly bodies themselves, fresh from the hand of the Creator, set the pattern: *'...God said, Let luminaries be in the expanse of the heavens, to divide between the day and the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons (Heb. mo'ed), and for days and years'* (Genesis 1:14-18). The same word *mo'ed* is used of the festivals: *'...These are the feasts (Heb. mo'ed) of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons (mo'ed)* (Leviticus 23:4). The Lord's festivals are rooted in the very creation itself, in the precise detailed location of the

heavenly bodies.

### **Sacrifices**

There are seven of these festivals, clustered around the three harvest seasons of *spring, summer and autumn*, each with its associated sacrifices.

These ‘boring’ sacrifices are detailed in Leviticus 23 as they applied to Israel. It’s that intricate system that induces sleep in the casual reader—but so detailed it has drawn numerous Bible students to write myriad books expounding their vital significance.

And how vital they are to the *Christian’s* life! For each and every one is part of an interlocking panorama of the person and mission of Jesus Christ, the world’s one and only Saviour, and revealing him in his many-faceted characteristics.

### **Prophecy**

The Bible prophecies at first glance are a tangled web of inter-related strands—again, it’s the detail that unravels it.

The detail has thwarted the efforts of countless Bible students down the centuries—and to this day— to predict ‘the end’.

Yet some of that detail is clear. Where Jesus would be born: ‘...*Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel* (Micah 5:2). The time of his appearance among us, for example: ‘...*when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman*. (Galatians 4:4) His three and a half year ministry and mid-week death at Passover: ‘... *he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease*’ (Daniel 9:27). His suffering (Isaiah 53, Psalm 22 *etc*).

The Scriptures are a golden treasure chest stocked with precious jewels of truth, and inviting us to examine it with care—and to do it

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