BEZALEEL THE ARTIST WHO MADE THE ARK OF THE COVENANT



Btsal'el's (Bezaleel's) name signifies "In the Shadow i.e. "protection" of God. " He was the son of Uri meaning: the Light of God, light, illumination, enlightenment, "My light, my fire." The "Urim" of the high priests' breastplate is the same term, but plural in number. The son of Hur (Hebrew=Chur, one of Moses trusted companions, who held up the arms of Moses at the battle with the Amalekites. (Exodus 17:10-13) Bezaleel was a man called by God, to make the ark of the covenant. In fact "God called Bezaleel specifically by name," when giving Moses the instructions for the Tabernacle. In Exodus 25:8-9, God instructed Moses to build a tabernacle so that God could dwell with His people as it is written:

Exodus 25:9 - "According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it. "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it."

The book of Hebrews, in the Word of God, instructs us that the tabernacle God told Moses to build was "made according to the pattern of the Tabernacle in heaven."

It is written:

"Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle; for, see, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount." (Hebrews 8:5)

The writer of Hebrews admonishes in chapter 8:5 - "Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount." Again in Acts 7:44, "Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as He appointed, instructing Moses to make it according to the pattern that he had seen..."

1 Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 "Behold, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.

God says to you today: Thus says the Lord:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1)

Bezaleel was an artificer who executed both the work of the tabernacle furniture and musical instruments used in connection with the worship at the tabernacle in the wilderness. (Exodus 31:2; 35:30) He was given wisdom by God, and engaged principally in works of metal, wood, and stone; while Aholiab, who was associated with him and subordinate to him, had the charge of the textile fabric artistry.

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD

"And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship; And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in the cutting of stones, to set [them], and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work. And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, [both] he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, [even] of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work. Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the LORD put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD had commanded." (Exodus 35:31-35; 36:1)
"For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. (Proverbs 2:6)

The Hebrew term **Ruach Elohim,** is rather, *"a spirit of God;"* which is a usual Hebraism, signifying "an excellent spirit." As one would say, "a distinguished genius for the work he was chosen to perform." Where else in scripture do we see God give "a spirit of God?" In Isaiah ll:11, we see the Heavenly Father give to Messiah the fullness of the Godhead, symbolized as the 7 spirits of God. An aspect of this fullness includes "The Spirit of Wisdom." Man may speak of a natural gift, or say that person is a "born artist," and this is true in a sense as to destiny. Although there must be a yielded ness, and all men do not possess the faith to allow God to develop a gift and to set them into the station of life, or influence which He desires.

Moses teaches us to consider it divinely inspired. The prophet Isaiah, (ch. 28:24-29,) pointedly refers to this sort of teaching as coming from God, even in the most common and less difficult arts of life. Dark as the heathens were, yet they acknowledged that all talents and the seeds of all arts came from God.

WHERE DID BEZALEEL COME FROM?

Bezaleel was of the tribe of Judah. Scripture promises: The scepter shall not depart from Judah. Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. (Genesis 49:10).

The promise of leadership coming from the line of Judah stemmed from the prophecy of Jacob. Reuben, the firstborn of Jacob, had sinned against his father and lost the birthright. Simeon and Levi had also disqualified themselves from leadership. This promise of leadership had come to Judah.

Judah was the tribe that David came from. Because of this, when there was a dividing of the one kingdom into the northern and southern kingdoms, Judah remained faithful to the lineage of David. The history of the northern and southern kingdoms would run in parallel courses. Though both of these kingdoms would see periods of rebellion against the Lord, Judah's history would be marked by occasional periods of repentance and revival.

Bezaleel was the son of Uri, and grandson of Hur (Exodus 31:2) He was the great grandson of Caleb (1 Chronicles 2:20). Mention is made in (Ezra 10:30) of another of the same name.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES TO BEZALEEL

- Exodus 31:2 - See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:
- Exodus 35:30 - And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the LORD hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah;
- Exodus 35:32 - And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, Exodus 38:22 - And Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the LORD commanded Moses.
- 1 Chronicles 2:20 - And Hur begat Uri, and Uri begat Bezaleel.
- 2 Chronicles 1:5 - Moreover the brazen altar, that Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD: and Solomon and the congregation sought unto it.
- Ezra 10:24 - Of the singers also; Eliashib: and of the porters; Shallum, and Telem, and Uri.

GOD'S WORK WAS FURTHERED BY THE FREE WILL DONATIONS OF HIS PEOPLE

The list of materials used in the Tabernacle consisted of the metals, gold, silver, copper, brass; as well as textile fabrics, purple, scarlet and white linen, and cloth made of goats hair, and acacia wood. These materials were obtained from the people by means of free will offerings and with them many other articles that were used in the preparing. (Exodus 25:1-40; Exodus 35:1-35). Free will offerings of this sort for the work of the ministry are a tremendous blessing. Sometimes individuals begin a hobby, later deciding that the art or craft begun is not their particular calling. If you are a person with art supplies such as this, you can bless an artist with the materials you no longer need, and he or she will use his talent to evangelize. Give scholarship money to a college of the arts. Or a donation of your time, is every bit as valuable as materials or cash to a church that you know is proclaiming the gospel of Yeshua haMashiach/Jesus Christ. The scriptures state: "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." (I Peter 2:5)

THE WORK COMMITTED TO BEZALEEL



The scriptures state that Bezaleel made (asah=to do or make) the ark (*crown*) of God, The *aron habrit* called the ark of the covenant. These things were made according to the pattern God gave. The ark is described as made of acacia or wood. It was a cubit and a half broad and high and two cubits long (about 130 × 80 × 80 cm). The Ark was clad entirely with the purest gold. The upper surface or covering, called the mercy seat, was surrounded with a rim of gold.

Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood; it was two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. 2) He overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold around it. 3) He cast for it four rings of gold for its four feet, two rings on its one side and two rings on its other side. 4) He made poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold, 5) and put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, to carry the ark. 6) He made a mercy seat of pure gold; two cubits and a half was its length, and a cubit and a half its width. 7) He made two cherubim of hammered gold; at the two ends of the mercy seat he made them, 8) one cherub at the one end, and one cherub at the other end; of one piece with the mercy seat he made the cherubim at its two ends. 9) The cherubim spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seated with their wings. They faced one another; the faces of the cherubim were turned toward the mercy seat. On each of the two sides were two gold rings, to hold staves for "the bearing." In these were placed two wooden poles (with a decorative sheathing of gold), whereby the ark could be carried (Num. 7:9; 10:21; 4:5,19, 20; 1 Kings 8:3, 6). Over the Ark, at the two extremities, were

two cherubim, with their faces turned toward one another (Leviticus 16:2; Num. 7:89). Their outspread wings over the top of the ark formed the throne of God, while the ark itself was his footstool (Ex. 25:10-22; 37:1-9). The Ark was deposited in the "Holy of Holies," and was placed so that one end of the poles whereby it was carried touched the veil separating the two compartments of the tabernacle (1 Kings 8:8,Exodus 35:37).