THE INVESTIGATOR

(In search of that which was lost)

Presented by REC. Norman McEvoy Volume 3 No 7 September 2011

Fraternal Greetings Companions:

In July's edition I shared with you a summary of the events and personalities that have gone into the creation of what we affectionately refer to as Holy Royal Arch Masonry and, working from that base, it is now my intent, over as many editions as are required, to deal with clarifications on People ; Places & Things we encounter in our ceremonies.

In this issue I have decided to deal with the answer given by the Third Sojourner in the closing of the Chapter, when he is asked "***Where was the First or Holy Lodge held***?" and again ***"Who presided? "***

The answer to the first question (in my ritual book) states ***"At the foot of Mount Horeb in the wilderness***" and to the second question, ***" Moses ; Aholiab & Bezallel"***

Now the question I have asked myself is this:
What are we talking about??, Who are these people,?? & Why them????

Question 1. What are talking about???
To answer this question adequately it is necessary to refer to the Bible, specifically Exodus Chapter 25 right through to Chapter 31.
In these passages the whole story of God calling on Moses to build a **Tabernacle** in his name is spelt out, including HOW it was to built and WHO would be called upon to do it.
Rather than me trying to capsulize these writings may I suggest that you, the reader, take the time to read them personally.

Comment
I have found in my research, that it is essential to get to the very beginning, and understand same, before attempting to build further. This is a wonderful example of what I mean, because, were it not for Moses being given the "Ten Commandments" and TOLD to build a **Tabernacle** to house them, we would not have the Jewish Religion; the Christian Faith that followed and there could be no Holy Royal Arch as we know it today.

Currently I am reading " The Spirit of Masonry" written by William Hutchinson in 1775 with Editorial Notes by the Rev George Oliver DD. In his Chapter on "Design" he offers this quote:-

" See, I have called by name Bezallel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in understanding, and in all manner of workmanship. to devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass. And in cutting of to stones to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. And in the hearts of all that are wise-hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee.
The Tabernacle of the Congregation.
The wrought Bezallel 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.
And Moses called Bezallel and Aholiab, and every wise-hearted man, in whose heart the Lord had out wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him to come unto the work to do it" (Exodus xxxi2-7; xxxvi 1,2.)

The next question to be dealt with is what is a **"Tabernacle"** and to answer that question I have referred to The Lexicon of Freemasonry by Albert G. Mackey and I quote as follows: (with small modifications)

Tabernacle

The tabernacle was the place of worship, representing a Temple, which God commanded Moses to construct in the wilderness for the religious service of the Jews, and in which the ark of the covenant and sacred vessels were kept until Solomon removed them into the Temple at Jerusalem.
The Tabernacle was in the shape of a parallelogram fronting the East. thirty Cubits (forty five feet) in length, ten Cubits (Fifteen Feet) in height and breadth.
The inside was divided by a richly embroidered veil of fine linen into two parts, the holy place and the holy of holies, in the latter of which was placed the ark of the Covenant.
Besides this Veil of linen which separated the most holy place, the Tabernacle was furnished with other veils of divers (different) colours, namely, of blue and purple, and scarlet and fine twined linen, from which are derived the emblematic colours of the several degrees of Masonry. (see Note below)
The room in which a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons meets, is called the Tabernacle, and is a representation of that temporary Tabernacle which was erected by Zerubbabel near the ruins of the Old Temple while the Jews, under his direction, were constructing the New One.

Note
According to the writings of Josephus, the Tabernacle was a symbol of the Universe.
The 12 loaves placed on the table were emblematic of the 12 months of the year; the 70 branches of candlesticks represented the 70 *decani* or divisions of the planets and the 7 lamps the 7 Planets.
The veils of the Tabernacle composed of four different colours, were emblematic of the 4 elements; the fine linen, made of flax, the produce of the Earth, represented the Earth; the purple represented the sea, because it was stained by the blood of marine shell-fish, the murex; the blue represented the air, it being of the colour of the sky; and the scarlet represented Fire.

Comment
With this information before us it should be easier to understand our Rituals better and therefore make them more meaningful and easier top present.
To me this also enforces my opinion that the building in which we meet could never be referred to as a Masonic Hall etc. but only as a **"Temple".** To do otherwise diminishes who we are and what we do.

Conclusion

Once again I wish to thank you for the opportunity to share my findings and the joy of learning together.

Have a wonderful day & God Bless

Norm

PS. Hopefully I will have the pleasure of meeting you all, in person, in Victoria on the 16/17th of September OR on my travels about the Jurisdiction.