
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 4, Bible Truth 6

The Case of the Tent that Had to Be Just So Exodus 25-31,35-40; Leviticus 8

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. The people of Israel praised the LORD. He had rescued them from the king of Egypt and given them riches to take with them. They were on their way to Sinai, where they would make special promises with the LORD. They would be His people, and He would be their God.
2. "I am the LORD, the holy God. I'm giving you My good rules to live by. Obey them, and be blessed by Me. Obey them, and the world will see I am purely good and powerful... HOLY!" the LORD told them.
3. "Build a travelling worship tent, so we can have special fellowship together wherever you go," the LORD told them. "Make it from the riches you brought out of Egypt. I'll give Bezalel and Oholiab wisdom to build everything just right."
4. The people happily brought their riches to make the tent. Bezalel and Oholiab went to work making everything as the LORD told them to. Outside the tent, they built a big, bronze altar to burn worship gifts, and a place for the priests to wash and put on their special clothes.
5. Inside the tent, there were two rooms: the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. The Holy Place had golden lampstands and nice-smelling incense. Only the priests in their special, white clothes could go in to make worship gifts and pray for the people there.
6. The Holy of Holies was hidden behind a special curtain. It was where the golden Ark of the Covenant with God's laws was kept. Once a year, the high priest went in with a worship gift to keep the people in fellowship with the LORD.
7. "I am the holy God, but you are sinners," the LORD told the people. "You must do these things, so I can live with you, and you can be My people," He said.
8. For hundreds of years, this was the only way the LORD, the holy God, could be with His sinful people. But then, EVERYTHING changed! Ripppp! The curtain between the big and small room was torn in two by God, Himself. It wasn't needed anymore.
9. Why? Because this was the day Jesus paid for the sins of God's people on the cross. On Day Three, Jesus rose from the dead. He had beaten sin and death for God's people. Jesus' life meant God's people could go to God, themselves, without anyone else in between.
10. Jesus had made the way for the LORD to be with His people in a far better, far closer place than a worship tent. Now, the LORD, through His Holy Spirit could come live inside their hearts. Amazing!
11. And one day, God's people will live with the LORD forever in heaven. There, they will know God and enjoy Him in all His glory. It will be Perfect Wonderfulness! Ask God to help you become one of His people! He loves to answer this prayer.