

Exodus 38-40

Bible Study

Review

Chapter 35

Moses gathers Israel and cautions them not to work [on the tabernacle] on the Sabbath

- Moses then begins to give the instruction regarding building the tabernacle to Israel
- Skilled work is involved in the construction, inspired by God

Chapter 36

The people bring so much materials as an offering they are told not to bring anymore

v. 8 the work begins

Curtains...frames and crossbars...the veil

Chapter 37

The work of the ark of the covenant

The work of the mercy seat

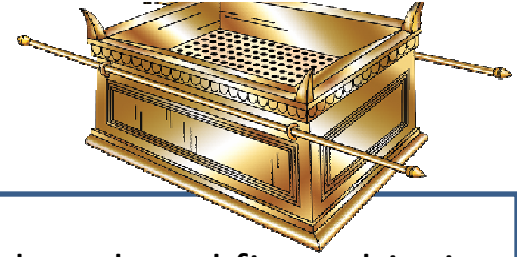
The work of the table of showbread

The work of the lamp stand

The work of the incense altar

Chapter 38

v. 1-7 Work of the altar of burnt offering [Ch. 27:1-8]



¹He made the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood; five cubits *was* its length and five cubits its width—*it was* square—and its height *was* three cubits.

²He made its horns on its four corners; the horns *were of one piece* with it. And he overlaid it with bronze.

The altar of burnt offering was the largest piece of equipment of all the furnishings and the first thing a worshipper saw upon entering the courtyard

³He made all the utensils for the altar: the pans, the shovels, the basins, the forks, and the firepans; all its utensils he made of bronze.

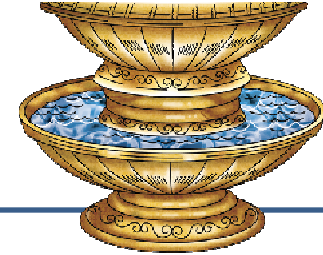
⁴And he made a grate of bronze network for the altar, under its rim, midway from the bottom.

⁵He cast four rings for the four corners of the bronze grating, *as* holders for the poles.

⁶And he made the poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with bronze.

⁷Then he put the poles into the rings on the sides of the altar, with which to bear it. He made the altar hollow with boards.

v. 8 Work of the bronze laver (also located in the courtyard)
[Ch. 30:18]



⁸He made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze, from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

‘from the bronze mirrors’

(Tyndale) “This is an interesting new piece of information, as to the **source** of the copper used in the manufacture of the laver....women gave mirrors (always made of burnished metal in early days).” [to denote a quality of copper]

‘the serving women’ [OKJ]— “assembling”

(Strong's) [Heb. *saba*]= to mass (an army or servants)

(Theological wordbook OT) “it has a wider use in the sense of rendering service”

It is not stated what kind of service was done—some commentaries say it was related to fasting and praying for the congregation

The work of the tabernacle courtyard v. 9-17

⁹Then he made the court on the south side; the hangings of the court *were of* fine woven linen, one hundred cubits long.

¹⁰There *were* twenty pillars for them, with twenty bronze sockets. The hooks of the pillars and their bands *were* silver.

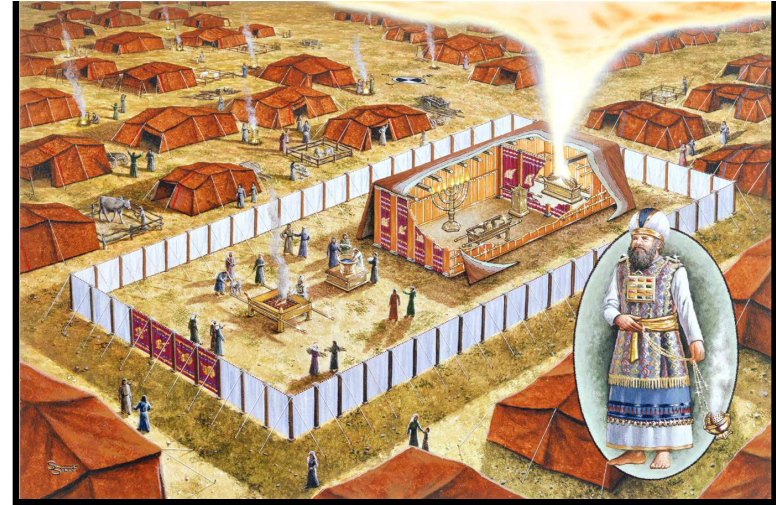
¹¹On the north side *the hangings were* one hundred cubits *long*, with twenty pillars and their twenty bronze sockets. The hooks of the pillars and their bands *were* silver.

The courtyard

(Expositors) "Its purposes were fourfold:

- 1) it was a barrier in that it prevented unlawful approach
- 2) It was a protection, keeping out all wild animals
- 3) It was a positive line of demarcation between the world and the holy presence of God
- 4) With its single gate, it was a way of approach to God"

Courtyard continued:



¹²And on the west side *there were* hangings of fifty cubits, with ten pillars and their ten sockets. The hooks of the pillars and their bands *were* silver.

¹³For the east side *the hangings were* fifty cubits.

¹⁴The hangings of one side *of the gate were* fifteen cubits *long, with* their three pillars and their three sockets,

¹⁵and the same for the other side of the court gate; on this side and that *were* hangings of fifteen cubits, *with* their three pillars and their three sockets.

¹⁶All the hangings of the court all around *were of* fine woven linen.

¹⁷The sockets for the pillars *were* bronze, the hooks of the pillars and their bands *were* silver, and the overlay of their capitals *was* silver; and all the pillars of the court had bands of silver

Gate/Screen for the court
[partial picture of the gate]



¹⁸The screen for the gate of the court *was* woven of blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and of fine woven linen. The length *was* twenty cubits, and the height along its width *was* five cubits, corresponding to the hangings of the court.

¹⁹And *there were* four pillars *with* their four sockets of bronze; their hooks *were* silver, and the overlay of their capitals and their bands *was* silver.

²⁰All the pegs of the tabernacle, and of the court all around, *were* bronze.

v. 21-30 The inventory of materials used

²¹This is the inventory of the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the Testimony, which was counted according to the commandment of Moses, for the service of the Levites, by the hand of Ithamar, son of Aaron the priest.

²²Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the Lord had commanded Moses.

²³And with him *was* Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an engraver and designer, a weaver of blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and of fine linen.

v. 21 'This is the inventory'—the tally of donations...conducted by the Levites

v. 21 Ithamar—the fourth listed of Aaron's sons

He supervised the inventory of materials and afterwards along with his father and brothers were ordained into the priesthood.

Ithamar was made overseer of the various tabernacle services performed by the Gershonites and Merarites [Num. 3 and 4]

²⁴All the gold that was used in all the work of the holy *place*, that is, the gold of the offering, was twenty-nine talents and seven hundred and thirty shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary.

²⁵And the silver from those who were numbered of the congregation *was* one hundred talents and one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary:

^{26a}a bekah for each man (*that is*, half a shekel, according to the shekel of the sanctuary), for everyone included in the numbering from twenty years old and above, for six hundred and three thousand, five hundred and fifty *men*.

(Tyndale) “Reckoned in round figures, all the amounts of precious metals mentioned run into tons (one ton of gold, four tons of silver, and three tons of copper)”

v. 25 ‘from those who were numbered’
(Companion) “The sanctuary was thus made (in part) out of the redemption money”

²⁷And from the hundred talents of silver were cast the sockets of the sanctuary and the bases of the veil: one hundred sockets from the hundred talents, one talent for each socket.

²⁸Then from the one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five *shekels* he made hooks for the pillars, overlaid their capitals, and made bands for them.

²⁹The offering of bronze *was* seventy talents and two thousand four hundred shekels.

³⁰And with it he made the sockets for the door of the tabernacle of meeting, the bronze altar, the bronze grating for it, and all the utensils for the altar,

³¹the sockets for the court all around, the bases for the court gate, all the pegs for the tabernacle, and all the pegs for the court all around.

v. 27 'talent' = 75 pounds

v. 27 Sockets of silver for the sanctuary and bases for the veil--cast from the census offering [30: 11-16]

Chapter 39

v. 1-30 The work of the garments for the priests

¹Of the blue, purple, and scarlet *thread* they made garments^f of ministry, for ministering in the holy *place*, and made the holy garments for Aaron, **as the Lord had commanded Moses.**

The garments for the priests were made according to the instructions God had given Moses in chapter 28

²He made **the ephod** of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and of fine woven linen.

³And they beat the gold into thin sheets and cut *it into* threads, to work *it in with* the blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and the fine linen, *into* artistic designs.

v. 3 'they beat the gold into thin sheets'

(Tyndale) "This method (not mentioned elsewhere in the Old Testament) is an interesting technical detail, explaining how Israel produced the gold thread needed to work into the priestly fabrics to produce extra richness"



⁴They made shoulder straps for it to couple *it* together; it was coupled together at its two edges.

⁵And the intricately woven band of his ephod that *was* on it *was* of the same workmanship, *woven of* gold, blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and of fine woven linen, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

⁶And they set onyx stones, enclosed in settings of gold; they were engraved, as signets are engraved, with the names of the sons of Israel.

⁷He put them on the shoulders of the ephod *as* memorial stones for the sons of Israel, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

v. 5 [OKJ] 'And the curious girdle of the ephod'
(Companion) "curious"= embroidered

'as the Lord had commanded Moses'—that everything had been done exactly as
God commanded
➤ Is repeated seven times

v. 9-21 The breastplate



⁹They made the breastplate square by doubling it; a span *was* its length and a span its width when doubled.

¹⁰And they set in it four rows of stones: a row with a sardius, a topaz, and an emerald was the first row;

¹¹the second row, a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond;

¹²the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;

¹³the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. *They were* enclosed in settings of gold in their mountings.

¹⁴*There were* twelve stones according to the names of the sons of Israel: according to their names, *engraved like* a signet, each one with its own name according to the twelve tribes

Left out here is the placing of the Urim and Thummim in the breastplate, which will take place in Leviticus 8:8

- ¹⁵And they made chains for the breastplate at the ends, like braided cords of pure gold.
- ¹⁶They also made two settings of gold and two gold rings, and put the two rings on the two ends of the breastplate.
- ¹⁷And they put the two braided *chains* of gold in the two rings on the ends of the breastplate.
- ¹⁸The two ends of the two braided *chains* they fastened in the two settings, and put them on the shoulder straps of the ephod in the front.
- ¹⁹And they made two rings of gold and put *them* on the two ends of the breastplate, on the edge of it, which *was* on the inward side of the ephod.
- ²⁰They made two *other* gold rings and put them on the two shoulder straps, underneath the ephod toward its front, right at the seam above the intricately woven band of the ephod.
- ²¹And they bound the breastplate by means of its rings to the rings of the ephod with a blue cord, so that it would be above the intricately woven band of the ephod, and that the breastplate would not come loose from the ephod, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

‘as the Lord had commanded Moses’

(JSB, Tanakh) “echoes the seven-fold repetition of the formula ‘and it was so’ in Gen.1, indicating that all happened as God commanded”

The Robe

²²He made the robe of the ephod of woven work, all of blue.

²³And *there was* an opening in the middle of the robe, like the opening in a coat of mail, *with* a woven binding all around the opening, so that it would not tear.

²⁴They made on the hem of the robe pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet, and of fine woven *linen*.

²⁵And they made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates on the hem of the robe all around between the pomegranates:

²⁶a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, all around the hem of the robe to minister in, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

²⁷They made tunics, artistically woven of fine linen, for Aaron and his sons,

²⁸a turban of fine linen, exquisite hats of fine linen, short trousers of fine woven linen,

²⁹and a sash of fine woven linen with blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, made by a weaver, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

³⁰Then they made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote on it an inscription *like* the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE Lord.

³¹And they tied to it a blue cord, to fasten *it* above on the turban, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

³²Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished. And the children of Israel did according **to all that the Lord had commanded Moses**; so they did.

³³And they brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its furnishings: its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets;

³⁴the covering of ram skins dyed red, the covering of badger skins, and the veil of the covering;

³⁵the ark of the Testimony with its poles, and the mercy seat;

³⁶the table, all its utensils, and the showbread;

³⁷the pure *gold* lampstand with its lamps (the lamps set in order), all its utensils, and the oil for light;

³⁸the gold altar, the anointing oil, and the sweet incense; the screen for the tabernacle door;

³⁹the bronze altar, its grate of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils; the laver with its base;

⁴⁰the hangings of the court, its pillars and its sockets, the screen for the court gate, its cords, and its pegs; all the utensils for the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of meeting;

⁴¹and the [£]garments of ministry, to minister in the holy *place*: the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and his sons' garments, to minister as priests.

⁴²According to all that the Lord had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did all the work.

⁴³Then Moses **looked over all the work**, and indeed they had done it; as the Lord had commanded, just so they had done it. And Moses blessed them.

(Expositors) "The statement 'all the work of the tabernacle was finished [v.32] is reminiscent of Gen. 2:1-2, the concluding words of the creation account. v. 43 'Moses looked over all the work' is parallel to the expression in Gen. 1:31"

Chapter 40

The completion of the tabernacle

¹Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:
²“On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.

(BKC) “The tabernacle was erected about a year after the Exodus from Egypt”

The first day of the 1st month, Abib or Nisan on the Hebrew calendar, of the 2nd year of their journey from Egypt...nearly two weeks before keeping their 2nd Passover

(Expositors)

“v. 17 adds that this was the beginning of the 2nd year of the wilderness wanderings. Since Israel entered the Sinai Desert in the 3rd month after the Exodus [19:1] and Moses was on Mt. Sinai for two forty day periods....the building of the tabernacle took less than six months.

v. 3-8 The arrangement of the sanctuary and courtyard

³You shall put in it the ark of the Testimony, and partition off the ark with the veil.

The ark is 1st to be mentioned, the most important object of the tabernacle—it represented God's throne in the midst of Israel

⁴You shall bring in the table and arrange the things that are to be set in order on it; and you shall bring in the lampstand and light its lamps.

⁵You shall also set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the Testimony, and put up the screen for the door of the tabernacle.

⁶Then you shall set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.

⁷And you shall set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water in it.

⁸You shall set up the court all around, and hang up the screen at the court gate.

v. 9-11 Consecration of the tabernacle and its components

⁹“And you shall take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle and all that *is* in it; and you shall hallow it and all its utensils, and it shall be holy.

¹⁰You shall anoint the altar of the burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar.
The altar shall be most holy.

¹¹And you shall anoint the laver and its base, and consecrate it.

v. 12-16 The washing, dressing and anointing of the priesthood

¹²“Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the tabernacle of meeting and wash them with water.

¹³You shall put the holy garments on Aaron, and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.

¹⁴And you shall bring his sons and clothe them with tunics.

¹⁵You shall anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may minister to Me as priests; for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.”

¹⁶Thus Moses did; according to all that the Lord had commanded him, so he did.

With the completion of the garments for the priests, the work of the tabernacle was done

v. 17-33 Setting up the tabernacle according to God's instructions

¹⁷And it came to pass in the first month of the second year, on the first *day* of the month, *that* the tabernacle was raised up. (parallels verse one)

¹⁸So Moses raised up the tabernacle, fastened its sockets, set up its boards, put in its bars, and raised up its pillars.

¹⁹And he spread out the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent on top of it, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

²⁰He took the Testimony and put *it* into the ark, inserted the poles through the rings of the ark, and put the mercy seat on top of the ark.

²¹And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, hung up the veil of the covering, and partitioned off the ark of the Testimony, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

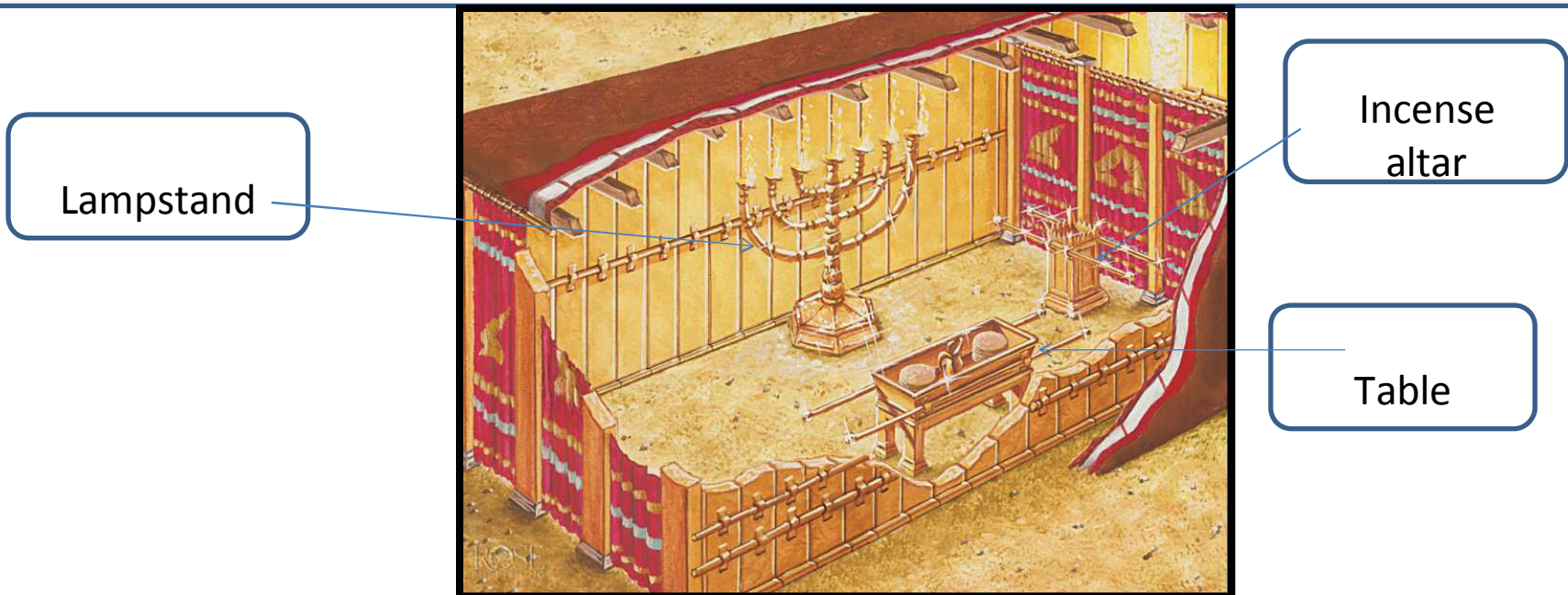
Seven times it is repeated in this chapter: "as the Lord had commanded Moses"

²²He put the table in the tabernacle of meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the veil;

²³and he set the bread in order upon it before the Lord, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

²⁴He put the lampstand in the tabernacle of meeting, across from the table, on the south side of the tabernacle;

²⁵and he lit the lamps before the Lord, as the Lord had commanded Moses.



²⁶He put the gold altar in the tabernacle of meeting in front of the veil;

²⁷and he burned sweet incense on it, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

²⁸He hung up the screen *at* the door of the tabernacle.

²⁹And he put the altar of burnt offering *before* the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the grain offering, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

³⁰He set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water there for washing;

³¹and Moses, Aaron, and his sons would wash their hands and their feet *with water* from it.

³²Whenever they went into the tabernacle of meeting, and when they came near the altar, they washed, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

³³And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So **Moses finished** the work.

Hebrews 3:5

⁵And Moses indeed *was* **faithful** in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*,

³⁴Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the **glory** of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

The glory of the Lord filling the tabernacle was a demonstration of God's presence with the people of Israel

"glory" — *shekinah* glory (Heb. 'to dwell')



John 1:14

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.



Revelation 21:2-3

²Then I, [£]John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

³And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.

³⁵And Moses was **not able to enter** the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

Exodus 24:16-17

¹⁶Now the **glory** of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.

¹⁷The sight of the glory of the Lord *was* like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.

Hebrews 12:29

²⁹For our God *is* a consuming fire.

³⁶Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys.

³⁷But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up.

³⁸For the cloud of the Lord *was* above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

(Tyndale) “the theology of the presence of God has become the fact of his presence”

v. 36 (last part) “the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys”

- They would not begin their march until Numbers 10: 11...until that time they are still at Sinai receiving God’s instructions much of it covered in the book of Leviticus

Lessons

Moses final inspection of the work—it had been done just as God had instructed

- We should work to please God in our lives and service to him

The tabernacle was a glorious shrine that symbolized God's presence among the people

- We remember it was a copy of the heavenly things

Exodus ends with God's assurance to accompany Israel to the land of Canaan

- A fulfillment of his promise to Abraham (Gen. 13:15)

God presence and glory in the tabernacle—points to:

John 1:14

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.