

The Book of Exodus

The Building of the Tabernacle

Text: Exodus 35 – 40

- I. The Offering of the People (Exodus 35:1 – 36:7)
 - A. The last chapters of the book of Exodus show how the Israelites followed the instructions of God in establishing the Tabernacle.
 - B. First, they brought a free-will offering to the Lord.
 - C. This was to provide the materials for building the Tabernacle, making the priests' garments, and beautifying these things with gold and jewels.
 - D. Note that they had a "willing heart" (vs. 5), a "heart stirred" (vs. 21), and working hands (vs. 25).
 - E. So great was their devotion that they brought more every day (36:3).
 - F. Finally, Moses had to command them to stop bringing things because there was sufficient material to finish the work (36:5-7).

- II. The Construction of the Tabernacle (Exodus 36:8 – 38:31)
 - A. The making of the curtains (36:8-18)
 - B. The making of the coverings, boards, pillars, door, and veil (36:19-38)
 - C. The making of the Ark of the Covenant (37:1-9)
 - D. The making of the furniture of the Tabernacle (37:10-29)
 - E. The making of the altar of sacrifice (38:1-7)
 - F. The making of the laver of water (38:8)
 - G. The arrangement of the outer court (38:9-21)
 - H. The account of materials used (38:22-31)

- III. The Making of the Priests' Garments (Exodus 39:1-31)

- IV. The Tabernacle Put in Order (Exodus 39:32 – 40:33)
 - A. In constructing the Tabernacle, they did everything that Moses commanded.
 - B. Everything was brought before Moses for inspection and was met with approval.
 - C. God gave them instruction for how everything was to be arranged (40:1-8).
 - D. He commanded that everything should be anointed with oil (40:9-11).
 - E. He commanded the priests to be washed, then clothed, then anointed for their service in the Tabernacle (40:12-15).
 - F. Moses obeyed the commands of the Lord in every respect.
 - G. Finally, on the first day of the first month of the second year, the Tabernacle was set up as God had commanded.
 - 1. This was the first day of their first year as a nation, free from Egypt.
 - 2. It was 14 days before the anniversary of their departure from Egypt (cf. 12:18).
 - 3. Thus, they had spent almost 9 months at Mount Sinai (cf. 19:1).
 - 4. This means that it took about 6 months to construct the Tabernacle.
 - H. "So Moses finished the work."

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- V. The Glory of God Fills the Tabernacle (Exodus 40:34-38)
- A. When the Tabernacle was reared up, a cloud covered it and God's glory filled it.
 - 1. This demonstrated God's approval of their obedience.
 - 2. It represented His forgiveness of their sin.
 - 3. It showed the fellowship that existed between God and His people.
 - 4. It reminded them of His guidance and protection.
 - B. When the cloud would lift up from the Tabernacle, it was time for the Israelites to begin the next phase of their journey.
 - C. When the cloud stopped, it was time for the people to stop and encamp – until the cloud moved again.
 - D. This pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night was seen by Israel every day throughout their journey in the wilderness.

Conclusion:

- 1. Thus, the time had arrived for the Israelites to begin their journey to the Promised Land.
- 2. They would face many more challenges and obstacles; yet, God would be there to protect and guide them along the way.
- 3. Sadly, they would often reject Him and His Word – causing an entire generation to die in the wilderness.
- 4. But, eventually, the people of God would reach their home in Canaan.