

Exodus 35-40

Good evening, glad you could make it out this brisk night here in Victorville.

We have been on quite a journey through this book of Exodus.

Tonight we are going to finish the book.

We will go through the last six chapters tonight.

Much of the material tonight is a reproduction of chapters 25-31.

Now I would encourage you to go back and listen to those teachings for the more in-depth look at these commands from God.

Tonight the focus of this repetition will be the obedience and execution of these commands by the nation of Israel.

You see from the opening of the book of Exodus, we have seen two similar story lines happening side by side.

God as we discussed last time was preparing His chosen leader Moses for his enormous calling of leading and motivating this nation of rebels to live out God's purposes.

And as God was testing and preparing Moses, God also was preparing this nation of slaves for the enormous task that is before them.

They have through enormous trial and testing been brought into a humble obedience to the God who brought them out of Egypt.

They have time and time again come up against God and His will for their lives, only to find rebellion leads to death and huge consequences for them as a people group.

They failed miserably when Moses was gone 40 days receiving from God the covenant for this nation.

They grew impatient with God and His servant Moses. Upon Moses' return, he witnessed the climax of their rebellion against the LORD, as they created an image

with their own hands, and had an orgy around a golden calf.

They had broken the covenant before Moses could even finish receiving it on the Mountain Top.

This was not a good start for these rebellious and stiff-necked people.

Or perhaps, as I see it, was the best start for these slaves.

They through the humiliation of their folly, and the severity of God's wrath against them, now have been so humbled before God.

That they now have a depth they did not have before in their understanding and relationship with God.

This nation, as we began to see last time, has been made and readied to receive all that God has in store for them.

And God, so gracious and compassionate renews His Covenant with them, and this time around they are all ears, and their hearts are all in as we will see tonight.

They whole heartily follow the instructions given to Moses.

And these last chapters may seem very repetitive and laborious to go through, but in these chapters try to capture the heart of the Israelites here.

They have been forgiven and renewed.

Their second chance is an opportunity for them to understand and know God more intimately.

They are being prepared for their very calling, and their hearts and minds are aligning with God's will.

If you are a believer here tonight, perhaps you have experienced what this nation has experienced.

You have rebelled, tried to fight against the goads and God's will for your life, you too experienced the chastening of the Lord.

And after the severe time of trials and desperation, when you finally surrender, there is so much joy in obedience to God, your worship is so sweet, as you understand His great love and grace in your life.

It is in those times we have zeal to do the work of God, and we move ahead with excitement and anticipation.

This is where we are at in our study of Exodus, the Nation of Israel cheerfully obey all that God has laid out for them in detail.

So Moses begins the work of giving the instructions...

Sabbath Regulations

35:1 Then Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said to them, "These are the words which the Lord has commanded you to do: 2 Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to the Lord. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. 3 You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day."

Now this is fitting to place this reminder of the Sabbath day right here at the onset of this enormous undertaking of building God's Tabernacle.

Moses is reminding the people how severe this covenant is.

No part or detail can be overlooked.

Because they are laboring for God, building His Sanctuary does not mean they can overlook other parts of this covenant.

They must keep the Sabbath; it is the day the Lord set aside for reflection, to remember what God has done.

They are to rest in thanksgiving.

Now this would be hard for this nation of slaves, they know hard work.

And God has given them a task to complete, and they are wired to work until completion.

But they must be mindful now of their new Master, Yahweh, no longer is the taskmaster in Egypt beating on their backs, but they now work unto the Lord.

As they are working completely and heartily, now with a joyful rigor, the temptation would be to keep working on through their rest.

I know for me, when I get into a project, or I am building something, it is hard for me to stop until it is

completed, my wife and girls will be begging me to cease my mission to at least eat lunch.

But I have a hard time resting in the rush of an uncompleted project.

Even on the jobsite, my crew knew there would be no long lunches, my mind always staying busy on what is next, I would get anxious, and sometimes just start working through the break.

So this check for the nation of Israel, to stop, reflect, it shall be **Sabbath of rest to the Lord**.

Next...

Offerings for the Tabernacle(Ex 25:1-9; 39:32-43)

4 And Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the Lord commanded, saying: 5 'Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord: gold, silver, and bronze; 6 blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair; 7 ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; 8 oil for the light, and spices for the

anointing oil and for the sweet incense; 9 onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.

Moses repeats in this new covenant a similar call for materials.

However, the key to this is found in verse 5.

These offerings would be from a willing heart.

There was no trickery or manipulation to get this offering.

And at this point in Israel's humiliation and understanding of what God has done for them, we will see later, that their grateful hearts will bring more than what could even be used.

What a wonderful thing when God's people give willingly to God's work.

When there is joy in the offering.

You see when people are manipulated, and an atmosphere of Pharisaic giving is created.

It actually hinders the work of God.

Pastor Henry, the pastor here who goes into the prisons, came from a ministry who he says every week; many times in the service, they passed an offering plate.

He said the people would stand in lines in front of the whole church, they had a church deputy of some sort that made sure you got up, and in front of everyone, and they put their offering in.

People in these kinds of atmospheres make pledges, and because of the pressures of their peers, they might pledge large amounts.

Now when time comes for them to write the check, in their hearts, they are thinking, “why did I open my big mouth, now I have to give this amount to the Lord.”

And giving can become such a gloomy time as you begrudgingly put that check in.

2 Cor. 9:7 says...

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

God does not want an offering that angers you.

He loves a cheerful heart.

The nation of Israel sees God for who He is, and they willingly gave to the work.

Now God still today uses His people to give to His work, it is through our giving the ministry moves forward here at Calvary Chapel Victorville.

But we want it to be from a willing heart, a cheerful heart, so we have created an atmosphere that allows for your giving to be between you and God.

No one monitors your giving; we do not have a church deputy checking your amounts on your check.

You give to the Lord's work willingly, what He puts on your heart to give.

What a joy that our giving here is from the willing hearts of God's grateful people.

All the ministry that takes place here is from those God has stirred, and those who joyfully give.

So next the workers are called...

Articles of the Tabernacle

10 'All who are gifted artisans among you shall come and make all that the Lord has commanded: 11 the tabernacle, its tent, its covering, its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets; 12 the ark and its poles, with the mercy seat, and the veil of the covering; 13 the table and its poles, all its utensils, and the showbread; 14 also the lampstand for the light, its utensils, its lamps, and the oil for the light; 15 the incense altar, its poles, the anointing oil, the sweet incense, and the screen for the door at the entrance of the tabernacle; 16 the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grating, its poles, all its utensils, and the laver and its base; 17 the hangings of the court, its pillars, their sockets, and the screen for the gate of the court; 18 the pegs of the tabernacle, the pegs of the court, and their cords; 19 the garments of ministry, for ministering in the holy place — the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, to minister as priests.'"

We see now the people are invited to join in the work according to their gifting's.

Everyone had a place in the work of God.

These skilled workers are invited by Moses to come and help.

Notice, Moses did not call good-hearted volunteers.

You see there are people who are gifted in particular trades, or even arts, like music, even creating works that are beautiful to look at.

We all have our unique place in the body of Christ; however, Moses only invited those who were skilled to the work.

When I was in New Jersey for hurricane Sandy's clean up.

There were many of these well-intended people who were there to help.

But they were not skilled in the labor they were trying to accomplish, they sometimes created more work down the road because of their good intentions.

So it is important that we all find our place in the body and work of God.

If during worship I looked at Josh and the Worship team, and thought, “You know I belong on that team.”

If I went to Josh after service and explained that my intentions were to be on the worship team, “I believe God has called me to be on stage with you as we make sweet sounding music to the Lord.”

Josh would then say, “Okay, what instrument do you play?” I would reply, “None.” “Okay, well what do you want to do?”

“I will sing, maybe give me a tambourine, I can beat one of those things on my leg.”

And my tryout begins, it would be quickly revealed to Josh, that my skills in the art of music are horrible.

He would be very unwise to, on the basis of my well-intentions, to put me on the schedule to play on the worship team.

I would be more of a distraction as I beat this instrument off beat, and sang ridiculously off key.

We all have our place in the body, and here at the building of the tabernacle, those who are gifted artisans were invited to the work.

The Tabernacle Offerings Presented

20 And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. 21 Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the Lord's offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments. 22 They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart, and brought earrings and nose rings, rings and necklaces, all jewelry of gold, that is, every man who made an offering of gold to the Lord. 23 And every man, with whom was found blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, goats' hair, red skins of rams, and badger skins, brought them. 24 Everyone who offered an offering of silver or bronze brought the Lord's offering. And everyone with whom was found acacia wood for any work of the service, brought it. 25 All the women who were gifted artisans spun yarn with their

hands, and brought what they had spun, of blue, purple, and scarlet, and fine linen. 26 And all the women whose hearts stirred with wisdom spun yarn of goats' hair. 27 The rulers brought onyx stones, and the stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate, 28 and spices and oil for the light, for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense. 29 The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the Lord, all the men and women whose hearts were willing to bring material for all kinds of work which the Lord, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done.

This is a nation that has had a change of heart.

They in their repentance have done a 180 degree turn around.

Now the riches that they received from Egypt, the back wages God repaid them with on their departure, have been made into a freewill offering to the Lord.

The very jewelry this rebellious nation made a false God, at the height of their rebellion, is now being

sanctified and set-apart for the worship of the One True God.

Notice, repeatedly, they willing came, with a intentional heart they gave.

Everyone, women and men had a place and purpose in the work.

What a joyous picture we see here in this nation's second chance.

Some brought gold, some the expensive cloth and threads, some brought jewelry and even if they had none of those things, they could bring some acacia wood.

It says their hearts were stirred!

This is my prayer for the work here; that God would stir people's hearts to serve and give to His work.

When a person's heart is stirred by God, then they joyfully join in the work of God.

When someone is manipulated and coerced into serving in a ministry it can become a drag, a hardship on one's life.

We are starting a New Ministry, a Greeter's ministry.

Lonnie and Julie Hendrickson are going to be heading it up, so if you are interested in serving in that ministry find them.

But when they were asked to serve in this capacity, I saw the joy in Julie, and the excitement in Lonnie, and I rejoiced.

Those who serve God with joy and they do it willfully; they tend to have the most fruitful ministries.

It becomes a calling, and not just another task in this life full arduous tasks.

I remember I had a friend who used to help in the youth ministry.

He said all his laboring and striving on the jobsite, all his duty, was there to support his true mission in life, to serve God in the youth.

He joyfully came in, even after working long hours, and he would say, “now my real work can begin.”

And understand, God has a real work for everyone of you here tonight.

He has a place for you to come with a willing heart and join in the life here.

Maybe you are called to bring the acacia wood or provisions; maybe you are called to create the tables from the acacia wood.

Maybe you are the supplier of the gold and silver, maybe you are the goldsmith or metal worker.

We all have our place, if you don't know where it is yet, start serving somewhere, and God will direct your heart to where you belong, just don't sit idle.

My wife Jess and I started serving together in Children's ministry, then she actually served with me as an usher, to this day she was the best usher I have ever see serve in that capacity, she is as we say in our home “streets” all the way. She knows how to read people.

Then after being faithful in those ministries, God moved us to youth, then into pastoral ministry.

But, we never had a season of waiting doing nothing, we served and God moved us around as we served and waited for clarity.

So jump in the work if you have not already.

But only serve if God has stirred your heart, there is nothing that hinders the work of God more than a grumbling servant.

It is better not to give, then to give with a complaining heart.

The Artisans Called by God(Ex 31:1-11)

30 And Moses said to the children of Israel, "See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship, 32 to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze, 33 in cutting jewels for setting, in carving

wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship.

And Moses affirms God calling here in Bezalel. This man is filled with the Creating Spirit of God. God has blessed this man with wisdom and understanding, and he will be entrusted to lead. He is not a novice, but a skilled man.

Now next we see his skill was not just for him to use, but to share with others.

34 "And He has put in his heart the ability to teach, in him and Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. 35 He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work of the engraver and the designer and the tapestry maker, in blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine linen, and of the weaver — those who do every work and those who design artistic works.

God has given Bezalel the ability to teach, and him and his assistant Aholiab lead the other workers.

Now I have been in ministry a little over a decade.

And I have seen different forms of discipleship, different methods of ministry.

But these two men, who lead the work here, as it is written were given the ability to teach.

I have found the most fruitful kind of discipleship is this shoulder-to-shoulder kind of training.

You see you older men and women here this evening, have over the years been blessed by God and given certain skills and gifting's.

I will say something that might upset you, but here goes... if you are using those skills and gifts to only profit you, you are wasting them.

I have found over the years doing sessions in my office through a discipleship book has yielded little fruit.

But I am a carpenter, God has given me the wisdom and understanding to build things.

Now when I take one of these young men, I try to mostly focus on a young man who does not have a father, and I bring them into a project, shoulder to shoulder, and I teach and they learn.

Their hearts open wide as we work, we talk of the Lord, and the issues of their life come out.

I think this is the best kind of discipleship.

My wife, she brings young single mothers, or other young adult age women into our home while I am at church working throughout the week, and she lets them into her life.

Today she went to the doctors for two of our babies, she stopped by the church, and I see she has a young lady in the car with her.

Almost everyday, her discipleship is teaching those girls how to be a mother, how to be a wife, she teaches them budgeting, how to grocery shop, how to meal plan, she does all this shoulder to shoulder through life and not lectures.

We had an electrician here doing work a few days ago, he grabbed one of the young men around here and began to teach him through his work here.

This is our vision as a church, to raise up the next generation, not just in Bible knowledge but to show them how it applies to life!

All of you have something to offer in this kind of discipleship, teach a young man how to change his mom's car oil, and watch his spirit come alive.

If teach a young woman how to cook, and watch her joyfully cook for others.

So Moses has entrusted these two men to teach these who are joyfully coming to serve the Lord.

And now, the work can now finally began, now that this nations heart is willing and ready.

Building the Tabernacle

36:1 "And Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whom the Lord has put wisdom and understanding, to know how to do all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, shall do according to all that the Lord has commanded."

Now Moses has to supervise these artists.

He could get himself in a lot of trouble to let a free spirited artist just go wild on the tabernacle.

This all had to be done just as precisely as God commanded.

There is more detail and more scripture given to the detail of God's Sanctuary here than we had in Genesis on God's creation of the universe.

This tabernacle cannot be given over to the artistic license of these two men.

This is where the logical and the freethinking person complete each other.

The emotional and the firm come together to balance each other out.

Everyone has a place in the body of Christ.

What a dull place church would be if all those who only thought in black and white came here.

If we did not have those who could bring color and design to the worship of God.

If we only had black and white thinkers, you would have me up here clapping my hands off beat, trying to lead you in hymns every week.

But God has brought those like Josh, who can take all these tools on this stage and create the most beautiful of colors and music in our worship.

Now, if Josh started calling for gold dust to fall down from the ceiling, his artistic mind would come up against my logical mind, and we have a deep discussion.

And balance would be brought, we all need each other.

Josh has never even come close to that, he has served with my logical thinking for 8 years now, so we pretty much have each other figured out.

And Moses will make sure these men do all that God has commanded them to do, and they will not get to carried away in their artistic expression.

The People Give More than Enough

2 Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom,

everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work. 3 And they received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of making the sanctuary. So they continued bringing to him freewill offerings every morning. 4 Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing, 5 and they spoke to Moses, saying, "The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the Lord commanded us to do."

6 So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, "Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary." And the people were restrained from bringing, 7 for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done — indeed too much.

Again what an amazing change of heart for this nation who has been given a second chance.

This was a nation of slaves, that was given a great amount of wealth from the Egyptians and through a victory with Amalek.

You would think when someone has nothing, then all the sudden they have much, they would be greedy and stingy, wanting to hold onto their possessions.

But God has readied them for this moment, and He has through the trials worked out humility in them.

They willfully give of all their increase, they understand their God brought them all of these things, and He has not brought them this far to abandoned them, He will continue to provide for them.

They bring so much; Moses has to tell them to stop.

And for those who held out too long, they perhaps were fighting their selfishness, and it took them much longer to let go, well they miss out on being a part of the work here in the tabernacle.

What a horrible thing to be turned around from this joyous moment, to walk back with your head hanging low, because you waited too long to join in the work.

Those who were anxious and gladly came first received the satisfaction and joy of joining in the work of God.

So the nation is in a state of joyful repentance, the worship has spread throughout the camp and is contagious.

So they now will begin the endeavor of putting together everything God commanded back in Exodus 26.

Now I will refer you to our teaching on Exodus 26 to get the details of the material on the tabernacle.

We will not labor through it tonight.

Just note the joyful obedience to all that God commanded Israel here.

They made all that was commanded them...

Building the Tabernacle (Ex 26)

8 Then all the gifted artisans among them who worked on the tabernacle made ten curtains woven of fine linen, and of blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim they made them. 9 The

length of each curtain was twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; the curtains were all the same size. 10 And he coupled five curtains to one another, and the other five curtains he coupled to one another. 11 He made loops of blue yarn on the edge of the curtain on the selvedge of one set; likewise he did on the outer edge of the other curtain of the second set. 12 Fifty loops he made on one curtain, and fifty loops he made on the edge of the curtain on the end of the second set; the loops held one curtain to another. 13 And he made fifty clasps of gold, and coupled the curtains to one another with the clasps, that it might be one tabernacle.

14 He made curtains of goats' hair for the tent over the tabernacle; he made eleven curtains. 15 The length of each curtain was thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; the eleven curtains were the same size. 16 He coupled five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves. 17 And he made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in one set, and fifty loops he made on the edge of the curtain of

the second set. 18 He also made fifty bronze clasps to couple the tent together, that it might be one. 19 Then he made a covering for the tent of ram skins dyed red, and a covering of badger skins above that.

20 For the tabernacle he made boards of acacia wood, standing upright. 21 The length of each board was ten cubits, and the width of each board a cubit and a half. 22 Each board had two tenons for binding one to another. Thus he made for all the boards of the tabernacle. 23 And he made boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards for the south side. 24 Forty sockets of silver he made to go under the twenty boards: two sockets under each of the boards for its two tenons. 25 And for the other side of the tabernacle, the north side, he made twenty boards 26 and their forty sockets of silver: two sockets under each of the boards. 27 For the west side of the tabernacle he made six boards. 28 He also made two boards for the two back corners of the tabernacle. 29 And they were coupled at the bottom and coupled together at the top by one ring. Thus he made both of them for the two corners. 30 So

there were eight boards and their sockets — sixteen sockets of silver — two sockets under each of the boards.

31 And he made bars of acacia wood: five for the boards on one side of the tabernacle, 32 five bars for the boards on the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the tabernacle on the far side westward. 33 And he made the middle bar to pass through the boards from one end to the other. 34 He overlaid the boards with gold, made their rings of gold to be holders for the bars, and overlaid the bars with gold.

35 And he made a veil of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen; it was worked with an artistic design of cherubim. 36 He made for it four pillars of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold, with their hooks of gold; and he cast four sockets of silver for them.

37 He also made a screen for the tabernacle door, of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver, 38 and its five pillars with their

hooks. And he overlaid their capitals and their rings with gold, but their five sockets were bronze.

Verses 8-38 of Chapter 36 is the obedient building of the tent Tabernacle.

And Chapter 37 will be work of making all the holy artifacts that will be placed within the tent for the worship of God.

The first item being the Ark of the Testimony, which we went over in detail in chapter 25.

Moses gave the instructions to the craftsman Bezalel who masterfully created all that God instructed.

The Ark of Testimony held the 10 commandments within it, speaking of the Holy Law of God, which held everyman guilty before His presence.

And upon this Ark, sat the mercy seat where once a year the High Priest would sprinkle the blood of a sacrifice to atone for the people's sins before a Holy God.

This was where God dealt with man, through His Mercy seat.

As God now deals with humanity through the blood of His Own Son's Sacrifice.

We find mercy through Jesus, and God deals with us through His Son.

1 John 2:1-2 says...

And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

We come now through Jesus as our approach to God. Again I refer you to past teachings from Exodus 25 for more detail.

Everything that went into the worship here pointed to Jesus Christ; that is why so much detail and precision went into the instructions of this place.

Making the Ark of the Testimony (Ex 25:10-22)

37:1 Then Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits was its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. 2 He overlaid it

with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold all around it. 3 And he cast for it four rings of gold to be set in its four corners: two rings on one side, and two rings on the other side of it. 4 He made poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold. 5 And he put the poles into the rings at the sides of the ark, to bear the ark. 6 He also made the mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits was its length and a cubit and a half its width. 7 He made two cherubim of beaten gold; he made them of one piece at the two ends of the mercy seat: 8 one cherub at one end on this side, and the other cherub at the other end on that side. He made the cherubim at the two ends of one piece with the mercy seat. 9 The cherubim spread out their wings above, and covered the mercy seat with their wings. They faced one another; the faces of the cherubim were toward the mercy seat.

The next item here is the table of showbread, which speaks of Christ as the Bread of Life upon which we feed.

As Jesus speaks of Himself in...

John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

The detail of this table is again, found in the teaching on Chapter 25...

Making the Table for the Showbread(Ex 25:23-30)

10 He made the table of acacia wood; two cubits was its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. 11 And he overlaid it with pure gold, and made a molding of gold all around it. 12 Also he made a frame of a handbreadth all around it, and made a molding of gold for the frame all around it. 13 And he cast for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that were at its four legs. 14 The rings were close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table. 15 And he made the poles of acacia wood to bear the table, and overlaid them with gold. 16 He made of pure gold the utensils which were on the table: its dishes, its cups, its bowls, and its pitchers for pouring.

Next is the Gold Lampstand, typifying Christ as the Light of the World.

As Jesus speaks of Himself in...

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Again I refer you to chapter 25...

Making the Gold Lampstand (Ex 25:31-40)

17 He also made the lampstand of pure gold; of hammered work he made the lampstand. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and its flowers were of the same piece. 18 And six branches came out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side. 19 There were three bowls made like almond blossoms on one branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond blossoms on the other branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower — and so for the six branches coming out of the lampstand. 20 And on the

lampstand itself were four bowls made like almond blossoms, each with its ornamental knob and flower. 21 There was a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the six branches extending from it. 22 Their knobs and their branches were of one piece; all of it was one hammered piece of pure gold. 23 And he made its seven lamps, its wick-trimmers, and its trays of pure gold. 24 Of a talent of pure gold he made it, with all its utensils.

The next item is the Alter of Incense as the place of prayer.

It speaks of the fact that Christ is our Intercessor.

As **Rom 8:34** tells us

It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

I will refer you to our study in Exodus 30 to get the details of the Alter of Incense.

Making the Altar of Incense (Ex 30:1-5)

25 He made the incense altar of acacia wood. Its length was a cubit and its width a cubit — it was square — and two cubits was its height. Its horns were of one piece with it. 26 And he overlaid it with pure gold: its top, its sides all around, and its horns. He also made for it a molding of gold all around it. 27 He made two rings of gold for it under its molding, by its two corners on both sides, as holders for the poles with which to bear it. 28 And he made the poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold.

Next Bezalel makes the Anointing Oil and the Incense, which could be used for nothing else but in the worship of God.

This too is found in the teaching in Exodus 30...

Making the Anointing Oil and the Incense (Ex 30:22-38)

29 He also made the holy anointing oil and the pure incense of sweet spices, according to the work of the perfumer.

In chapter 38 of Exodus the Artisans move to the items outside the tent.

The first item in the outer court that is built here is the Alter of Burnt Offering or the brazen alter.

The sinner would bring his sacrifice to this Alter and place his hands on the victim, whether it be lamb, goat or ox.

And he would place his right hand on the head of the animal, identifying himself with the victim, and the victim was killed in place of the man, for his sins.

The priest would offer the burnt offering on the Altar, and the priest could only advance any closer, as he represented man before God.

From the Brazen Altar the sinner would depart, this was as far as the sinner could go.

The sacrifice speaks of Christ atoning work on the cross, settling the sin issue before man and God.

I will refer you to our teaching in Exodus 27 for more detail on this.

Making the Altar of Burnt Offering (Ex 27:1-8)

38:1 He 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. 2 He made its horns on its four corners; the horns were of one piece with it. And he overlaid it with bronze. 3 He 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. 4 And he made a grate of bronze network for the altar, under its rim, midway from the bottom. 5 He cast four rings for the four corners of the bronze grating, as holders for the poles. 6 And he made the poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with bronze. 7 Then 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.

The next item built was the Bronze Laver, that would remind the priest of his filth from this world, and he would need to cleanse himself before ministering before God.

We see here what it is made of here in Exodus 38:8

Making the Bronze Laver

8 He 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.

We see woman have not changed over the years, they carried mirrors with them as they do today.

The mirror here represents the Word of God; it is the Word of God that shows the person his need to be cleansed.

The Word points us to the cleansing work of Christs blood.

As **1 John 1:7** tells that is

the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

The laver was there so the priest could cleanse himself.

The next item built was the Court of the Tabernacle.

This court was made with fined linen; it stood tall enough that you could not look over it.

There was only one entrance, through one gate.

Only one way to come and meet with God, this speaks of the One Way today, through Jesus.

As Jesus spoke of Himself in **John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

You will find all the details of this court in the teaching on Exodus chapter 27.

Making the Court of the Tabernacle(Ex 27:9-19)

9 Then he made the court on the south side; the hangings of the court were of fine woven linen, one hundred cubits long. 10 There were twenty pillars for them, with twenty bronze sockets. The hooks of the pillars and their bands were silver. 11 On 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. 12 And 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. 13 For the east side the hangings were fifty cubits. 14 The hangings of one

side of the gate were fifteen cubits long, with their three pillars and their three sockets, 15 and 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. 16 All the hangings of the court all around were of fine woven linen. 17 The 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. 18 The 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. 19 And 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. 20 All the pegs of the tabernacle, and of the court all around, were bronze.

We will pick up our reading here in verse 21 of chapter 38...

Where we see good stewardship of God's provision...

Materials of the Tabernacle

21 This 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.

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

23 And 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.

24 All 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. 25 And 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: 26 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. 27 And 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. 28 Then from the one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five shekels he made hooks for the pillars, overlaid their capitals, and made bands for them.

29 The offering of bronze was seventy talents and two thousand four hundred shekels. 30 And 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, 31 the 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.

So we have here about 1 ton of gold, 4 tons of silver and 3 tons of copper. Cole

So just in the gold today the tabernacle would be worth over 35 million dollars.

And even though there was so much provision brought into the work of God, Moses accounts for every penny.

They are not wasteful, even at the abundance of precious metals brought in.

Moses and the artisans hold each other accountable to God.

And again this is all a part of the renewal of this nation, they now have a Holy Fear of God.

This is a good model for a ministry as the Lord brings in the increase to operate in such a way, that it is above reproach.

Now next they get to work on the Garments of the Priests.

All of the details that go into the clothing of the High Priest spoke of the person of Christ.

I will refer you to the teaching on Exodus 28 on our Website if you are interested in more detail here.

Making the Garments of the Priesthood(Ex 28)

39:1 Of the blue, purple, and scarlet thread they made garments of ministry, for ministering in the holy place, and made the holy garments for Aaron, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Making the Ephod

2 He made the ephod of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and of fine woven linen. 3 And 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. 4 They made shoulder straps for it to couple it together; it was coupled together at its two edges. 5 And 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.

6 And they set onyx stones, enclosed in settings of gold; they were engraved, as signets are engraved, with the names of the sons of Israel. 7 He put them on

the shoulders of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Making the Breastplate

8 And he made the breastplate, artistically woven like the workmanship of the ephod, of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and of fine woven linen. 9 They made the breastplate square by doubling it; a span was its length and a span its width when doubled. 10 And they set in it four rows of stones: a row with a sardius, a topaz, and an emerald was the first row; 11 the second row, a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond; 12 the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; 13 the 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. 15 And they made chains for the breastplate at the ends, like braided cords of pure gold. 16 They also made two settings of gold and two gold rings, and put the two rings on the

two ends of the breastplate. 17 And they put the two braided chains of gold in the two rings on the ends of the breastplate. 18 The 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. 19 And 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. 20 They 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. 21 And 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.

Making the Other Priestly Garments

22 He made the robe of the ephod of woven work, all of blue. 23 And 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. 24 They made on the hem of the robe pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet, and of fine woven linen. 25 And they made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates on the hem of the robe all around between the pomegranates: 26 a 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.

27 They made tunics, artistically woven of fine linen, for Aaron and his sons, 28 a turban of fine linen, exquisite hats of fine linen, short trousers of fine woven linen, 29 and a sash of fine woven linen with blue, purple, and scarlet thread, made by a weaver, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

30 Then 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.

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

We will pick up our reading in verse 32 of Exodus 39.

The Work Completed(Ex 35:10-19)

32 Thus 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. 33 And they brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its furnishings: its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets; 34 the covering of ram skins dyed red, the covering of badger skins, and the veil of the covering; 35 the ark of the Testimony with its poles, and the mercy seat; 36 the table, all its utensils, and the showbread; 37 the pure gold lampstand with its lamps (the lamps set in order), all its utensils, and the oil for light; 38 the gold altar, the anointing oil, and the sweet incense; the screen for the tabernacle door; 39 the bronze altar, its grate of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils; the laver with its base; 40 the 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; 41 and 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.

42 According to all that the Lord had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did all the work. 43 Then 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.

The making of the tabernacle is finally complete.

And it would be foolish to erect the tabernacle without first getting everything inspected by the one person God gave the instructions too.

I have had many buildings built only to have that pesky inspector come and find some error that required more work in the tearing down of our structure to fix the little issue.

But here Moses inspects before they build, and he approves and blesses their work.

What a relief, and what a joyful place to be for all who are involved.

They are working heartily unto the Lord, and God's hand is blessing their endeavors, there is peace and blessing as they are now humbly obeying their God that delivered them out of Egypt.

Moses and the people have reached the place God was bringing them too all along.

Their two separate story lines have now come together as one, and God has through great circumstances joined their hearts in one work.

Moses has been accepted as their leader, and Moses is able to bless them, and the ministry can now move forward.

And next they erect the structure...

The Tabernacle Erected and Arranged

40:1 Then 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. 3 You shall put in it the ark of the Testimony, and partition off the ark with

the veil. 4 You 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. 5 You 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. 6 Then you shall set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. 7 And you shall set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water in it. 8 You shall set up the court all around, and hang up the screen at the court gate.

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. 10 You shall anoint the altar of the burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar. The altar shall be most holy. 11 And you shall anoint the laver and its base, and consecrate it.

Moses has the responsibility as God's chosen vessel to anoint every piece of furniture and every utensil that will be used for the worship in God's Holy Sanctuary.

He would be responsible for setting everything where it should be as commanded by the Lord.

God would not dwell in their midst in the tabernacle unless everything was done just as He instructed Moses on the mountain.

And next Moses will establish the perpetual priesthood through his brother Aaron's line.

12 "Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the tabernacle of meeting and wash them with water. 13 You shall put the holy garments on Aaron, and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. 14 And you shall bring his sons and clothe them with tunics. 15 You 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."

And the priesthood is established and the instructions will be carried out next...

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

17 And 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.

So we have here, exactly 1 year after they left Egypt, the tabernacle was erected.

They arrived in Sinai in the 3rd month of the year according to **Ex. 19:1 In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai.**

This does not give much of a timeline for these men to build all the intricate utensils and this impressive structure.

However, they are finally working in unity, and they are in the will of God.

I have witness many impossibilities and amazing feats accomplished by saints of God who were wholly committed to God and His Work.

A people group wholly under the subjection of the will of God is an unstoppable force.

I pray that is the testimony of this ministry; of that of a people group that was sold out to bring God Glory.

So next Moses will do all that was commanded him... and we will pick it up in verse 33...

18 So Moses raised up the tabernacle, fastened its sockets, set up its boards, put in its bars, and raised up its pillars. 19 And 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. 20 He 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. 21 And 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.

22 He put the table in the tabernacle of meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the veil; 23 and he set the bread in order upon it before the Lord,

as the Lord had commanded Moses. 24 He put the lampstand in the tabernacle of meeting, across from the table, on the south side of the tabernacle; 25 and he lit the lamps before the Lord, as the Lord had commanded Moses. 26 He put the gold altar in the tabernacle of meeting in front of the veil; 27 and he burned sweet incense on it, as the Lord had commanded Moses. 28 He hung up the screen at the door of the tabernacle. 29 And 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. 30 He set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water there for washing; 31 and Moses, Aaron, and his sons would wash their hands and their feet with water from it. 32 Whenever they went into the tabernacle of meeting, and when they came near the altar, they washed, as the Lord had commanded Moses. 33 And 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.

This is a historic moment for this servant of God.

We see his personal excitement into the ministry that he was called too, as he oversaw and participated in every detail of construction of this house of worship.

I can feel the fervor and excitement in Moses actions here, as every piece of the masterful design came together.

And alas, the Word of God was written So, Moses finished the work.

The task God had given him was complete, and done according to all God commanded him.

And when a work of God is done the way God has called someone to do it, well we find what Moses found out next... God shows up in our obedience.

The Cloud and the Glory(Ex 13:21,22; Num. 9:15-23)

34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 And

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. 36 Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. 38 For 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.

Now, we see the great Narrator explains this nation was made here.

Finally after all their trials and tribulations, they have learned obedience.

They build exactly as God had instructed, God shows up, and now that God has renewed His covenant with this nation.

He leads once again.

This nation on a whole only moves when God tells them too, they without complaint stay when He stays.

They have learned that blessing comes through their obedience.

They have their past failures to reflect on, that golden calf in the back of their minds, they know now that total obedience is the way forward for them.

And we have witnessed through this Book of Exodus, the journey not just of a leader, Moses, but the journey of a nation, chosen out of slavery to carry a noble purpose.

This nation will fit in God's narrative to save humanity from their sins.

Their first worship sanctuary speaks of the very Christ God will send one day through this Hebrew nation.

Now this nation was chosen not because they did anything special, or did they achieved some great feat for God.

They were set apart because of who their God was.

God had a plan for them to be the nation who brought His Word through the many generations and centuries

to come, they were chosen to bring the Messiah to humanity.

They, after the mistakes of their past, have a healthy understanding that this privilege is not because of anything they have done, but what God has done in them.

Now, for us here tonight, in this moment in History, God too is still at work, and He has chosen us in this time and place to do His work.

To step out in obedience and faith, trusting God will bless us, because of Who He Is, not because of who we are, or what we have done.

Many of us here tonight, God found like this nation, in bondage and slavery to this world.

We broke our promises and covenants with God, yet in His loving mercy, He extended to us a second chance.

And we gather weekly now under His grace and mercy and we worship whole heartily and joyfully.

Like this Nation, we have been established and strengthened in the grace that has been extended to us.

I believe God wants to use this church for great things; He has a purpose for us as a body of believers as well as individuals.

There is a lot ahead for us as a church body.

And I believe when we understand that in ourselves we are nothing, we are just slaves to our own selfish passions and desires, when we have that healthy understanding.

That we, when left to ourselves are too, found dancing around a golden calf in obstinate rebellion.

When we understand this about ourselves, it gives us a clearer picture of who God is, it completely removes us out of the picture, and our lives are given over to the One Who has delivered us and is leading us.

This nation knows what would happen if they chose not to follow that pillar of fire and cloud, and they are humbly going to follow wherever God leads now.

And we too, if we are too experience all that God has for us, must see ourselves for who we are, and see God for who He is.

This nation has been prepared for the next step in their journey, but we will see as we follow them in the books to come, they have more lessons to learn.

God is not done with them yet.

God is not done with us yet.

I pray, as we as a church set out to embark into new steps of faith, new territory, and new lands, that we never take our eyes off the God who is leading us.

This ministry is not about a man, or man's program, this church is a place where the Most High God meets with His people weekly.

And through His Word speaks to us His Divine will and plan for our individual lives and He speaks to us corporately as a church as well.

So ready your hearts and minds, prepare yourself, I believe God moving in our midst here Victorville.

I believe He is going to move once again in our nation.
Let us join Him in this work... Amen?