

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## EXODUS 35-40

In chapters 25-31 God instructs Moses to erect a tent. Tonight's chapters, chapters 35-40, record the steps Moses takes to carry out those instructions...

In between, chapters 32-34, are a parenthetical passage... *On the mountain top, Moses basks in God's truth, while at the base of the mountain, trouble brews.*

If you want an outline for the last half of Exodus, here it is: *the truth above, the trouble below, and the tent between.* In fact, this is the outline for all human history. The *truth of God above, the trouble with sin below, and the place where a troubled man can be reconciled to a truthful God* – at the true Tabernacle, Jesus Christ.

Above all, this is what the Tabernacle in the wilderness foreshadowed... the person and work of Jesus. Recall in John 1:14, John draws on this symbolism when he says of Jesus, **“the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us...”**

Hebrews 10:19-20 makes another statement, **“Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh...”** Here we learn that the veil that divided the Tabernacle prefigured the torn and crucified body of Jesus...

In fact the Tabernacle material, furniture, and configuration, all spoke of Jesus.

Before we plunge into tonight's chapters let's review why a study on the Tabernacle is so important... I want to give you at least four reasons...

**First**, the Tabernacle was God's dwelling on the earth. Heaven is God's throne, but the Tabernacle was His footstool. For 500 years the Tabernacle was the one, designated meeting place between man and God.

**Second**, according to Hebrews 9:23 the Tabernacle was a small scale model of heaven. If you want to know what we'll see in heaven study the Tabernacle.

**Third**, the Tabernacle gives us insights into how we should approach God.

The Tabernacle had but one gate, and there's only one way to God – through Jesus... Just inside the outer court, you came straight to the altar of sacrifice. We too become fit for God's presence only when we trust in the sacrifice of Jesus.

We grow in our relationship with God by studying the Tabernacle.

And the **fourth** reason we should study the Tabernacle, as we've already mentioned, is that it speaks to us of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

*It was God's dwelling on earth – as was Jesus...*

*It was unattractive on the outside, but beautiful on the inside – like Jesus...*

*It was the one place where man could meet with God – as was Jesus...*

*It's where sacrifice for sin was made – and Jesus was our ultimate sacrifice...*

*It was at the center of the camp – and Jesus should be the center of our lives...*

*And you had to pass through the tribe of Judah to enter the Tabernacle. Judah camped just outside the gate – likewise, Jesus too was from the tribe of Judah...*

Understand God's priorities are not our priorities. Half a dozen chapters in the Bible talk about the creation of the heavens and earth. Another handful discusses the resurrection of Jesus... We think of those subjects and we'd like more detail.

But God spends nearly 50 chapters in the Bible on the Tabernacle. One author estimates that 10% of the Bible deals with the Old Testament Tabernacle.

Obviously, the tabernacle is a big deal to God and worthy of our study.

Chapter 35 begins, "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: 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." Obviously, this is not the first time Moses communicated the Sabbath laws, but here its placement makes its mention so significant.

Moses is about to organize and mobilize for Tabernacle construction - but even work of such monumental importance is no reason to slough off the Sabbath.

God did not design the human body or psyche to work seven days unabated.

He wired us to rest one day in seven – and if we don't we'll eventually short-circuit. We need one day in seven to worship or we'll lose our spiritual edge.

And notice the punishment for a Sabbath violation, verse 2, **“Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.”** In ancient Israel a Sabbath breaker was executed by stoning. Today, he dies due to high blood pressure and a heart attack.

Guys don't fight God... *If you don't take a break you'll end up broken.*

And note verse 3... Remember this verse when you run across a Seventh Day Adventist, who's taken a common sense principle and turned it into a legalistic trip.

Some people believe we're under the Law, and unless we worship on the Jewish Sabbath - which is Saturday - we're headed for hell... But ask that person, **“How do you get to church?”** And if they say, **“by car”**, then quote Exodus 35:3...

**“You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day.”**

Just because you go to church on Saturday doesn't mean you've kept the Law. Crank your car and you've kindled a fire in the engine. You've worked on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, and broken the Law. Hey, live under the Law, and you've got to keep it all.

*That's why we're saved, not by law, but by grace through faith.*

Verse 4, “And Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying: '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...” Notice the key to all of our giving... “a willing heart.”

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:7, “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” On Sundays when we count our offering our handwriting specialists look for signatures that appear forced or pressured. If you gave under compulsion we’ll send it back.

Whether it’s our money, or our time, or our service God wants only what comes from “a willing heart”. When we give to God let’s do so freely and generously.

Now here’s what the people gave... A total of 15 items: “gold” which speaks of glory - “silver” redemption – “bronze” judgment – “blue” heaven – “purple” royalty – “scarlet thread” reminds us of the sacrificial blood – “fine linen” holiness – “goats' hair” atonement – “ram skins dyed red” substitution – “badger skins” protection - “acacia wood” humanity – “oil for the light” the Holy Spirit – “spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense” that should remind us of prayer –

“onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.” These expensive jewels stood for the tribes of Israel. And even today, God sees us each of His people as His precious stone and expensive jewels. We are His valuables.

Verses 10-19 provide us an itemized list of Tabernacle parts and pieces.

It could be that whenever Israel moved they turned to verse 10 and reviewed this list. They consulted it to make sure all the components had been packed...

“All who are gifted artisans among you shall come and make all that the LORD has commanded: the tabernacle, its tent, its covering, its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets; the ark and its poles, with the mercy seat, and the veil of the covering; the table and its poles, all its utensils, and the showbread;

“also the lampstand for the light, its utensils, its lamps, and the oil for the light; the incense altar, its poles, the anointing oil, the sweet incense, and the screen for the door at the entrance of the tabernacle; the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grating, its poles, all its utensils, and the laver and its base; the hangings of the court, its pillars, their sockets, and the screen for the gate of the court;

“the pegs of the tabernacle, the pegs of the court, and their cords;” All tents have pegs! “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.”

The idea was not to leave a single item behind. *Every detail mattered to God.*

It reminds me of the new surgery room nurse. She was completing her first day on the job. The surgeon was just about to close up the patient when the nurse said, “Doctor, you’ve only removed 11 sponges. You used 12.” The

experienced doctor responded, “No, I removed all the sponges. We’ll close the incision now.”

But the young nurse was insistent, “No, I counted. We used 12 sponges. I only have 11 on my tray.” The doctor was getting frustrated. He said, “Look, I take full responsibility. Suture the patient.” The nurse couldn’t stand it. Risking her job, the rookie nurse argued, “Doctor, you can’t do that. Think of your patient’s welfare.”

That’s when the surgeon smiled, lifted his foot, revealing the 12<sup>th</sup> sponge under his shoe. That’s when he said to the nurse, “Congratulations, you passed the test.”

Some jobs require people who are attentive to detail.

And the same is true with serving God. If the construction of the Tabernacle teaches us nothing else it hammers home the truth that details – little things – seemingly insignificant and trivial points – really do matter to God.

Verse 20, “And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. 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.

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.” We’ve also had people bring their rings and jewelry and donate them to the church as an offering to the Lord.

“And every man, with whom was found blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair, red skins of rams, and badger skins, brought them.” We've also had people donate their threads and clothing that we in turn distributed to the poor. But we usually see a lot more polyester than goats' hair and badger skins.

“Everyone who offered an offering of silver or bronze brought the LORD's offering.” *And they received a receipt they could show the IRS so they could deduct their offering from their taxable income...* No, no... that'll come later.

“And everyone with whom was found acacia wood for any work of the service, brought it. 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. And all the women whose heart stirred with wisdom spun yarn of goats' hair.

The rulers brought onyx stones, and the stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate, and spices and oil for the light, for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense. 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.”

Verse 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; and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to



work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship.” God gave to Bezalel supernatural gifts – spiritual gifts - that enabled him to work with wood and metal and stones - and craft artistic designs.

Hey, when you put together a list of spiritual gifts don't just include prophecy, healing, tongues, teaching, and administration – add woodworking, and metal molding, and stone setting... Craftsmanship can also be a spiritual gift.

A similar gift was given to Aholiab, verse 34, “And (God) has put in his heart the ability to teach, in him and Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.

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.”

Notice also, engraving and sewing and needlepoint were spiritual gifts.

And it's significant that Bezalel was of the tribe of Judah - Aholiab of the tribe of Dan. Neither man was a priest – a Levite. These were ordinary Joes. They didn't preach, sing, or pray, yet they were gifted to serve the Lord in practical ways.

Maybe God has given to you the gift of wiring, or weed-eating, or servicing air conditioners, or running a soundboard, or cooking pancakes, or wiping tables and moving chairs... these gifts can be just as inspired by the Holy Spirit as

leading worship or teaching a Bible Study – *and just as needed in the body of Christ.*

Chapter 36, "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." Notice the Tabernacle design was too important to leave up to man's imagination. Everything was to be done as the Lord had commanded.

This is also true in the Church. It's the Lord who builds the church! He has a plan, and strategy, and blueprint. The Lord doesn't need our creativity.

Our job is to simply follow orders... "all that the LORD has commanded."

"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. 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."

Hey, God supplies the *workers*, but He also supplies the *wealth*.

Remember, when the Hebrews left Egypt the Egyptians were so glad to see them go they gave them gifts of gold and silver. It was more or less, a voluntary plunder. Now, God calls His people to turn over all these gifts for His purposes.

And they're response is incredible and admirable!

Exodus 36:4-7 is one of my favorite passages... "Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing, 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. 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, for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done - indeed too much."

God's people gave so much for the work of the Tabernacle that Moses had too much. He had to tell the people to stop giving. There was more than enough!

Did you hear about the conversation the \$1 bill had with the \$100 bill?

The \$1 bill asked his buddy, "Where ya been lately?" The \$100 bill answered, "Well, I've been hanging out in a few casinos - went on a cruise - got back to the US - made it to a few baseball games - to the mall - that kind of stuff... How 'bout you?" The \$1 bill complained, "Ah, the same ol' same ol' - church, church, church."

Moses had the opposite problem with his congregation - they gave too much.

I look forward to the day at Calvary Chapel when the elders come to me and say, "Pastor Sandy, we've got too much

*money. Just tell the people to stop giving. We've got all we need.*" It thrills God when His people are so in love with Him – so grateful for all He's done – that they give more than enough to support His work.

Guys, there's not a week that goes by that I don't receive an offer in the mail from a professional fundraiser who promises to come into our church, and raise the capital we need to build a gym, or add some Sunday School classes, or expand our radio ministry. And they have their gimmicks and programs.

But I believe if we teach people God's Word, and show God's love, and trust the Spirit to stir up hearts to give – God will provide us what we need. And in 25 years we've never had too much, but we've always had enough. God is faithful.

Verse 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.”** The Holy Place was covered with four traps – each made out of a different material. Colorful linen was covered by goats' hair - then ram's skin dyed red - then an ugly, dark badger skin.

Which means you didn't see its beauty unless you were inside the Tabernacle.

Inside you saw gold boards, and a colorful tapestry made of fine line - with blue, and purple, and scarlet thread. It was embroidered with beautiful angels.

But from the outside all you could see was an ugly, uncouth badger skin.

This was also true of Jesus... Inwardly, He was divine. Yet outwardly, Isaiah 53 provides us this description, “(Jesus) has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.” He was like the Tabernacle.

But the Christian life is also like the Tabernacle. Outsiders - unbelievers - people with only a carnal outlook - wonder why we've pledged our whole lives for the cause of a crucified Christ. It makes sense only after you've been on the inside and you've experienced the spiritual treasures and pleasures that are in Jesus.

Moses continues, “The length of each curtain was 28 cubits,” Remember a cubit was about 18 inches – 1½ feet. “And the width of each curtain 4 cubits; the curtains were all the same size. And he coupled five curtains to one another, and the other 5 curtains he coupled to one another. 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. Fifty loops he made on one curtain, and 50 loops he made on the edge of the curtain on the end of the second set; the loops held one curtain to another. And he made 50 clasps of gold, and coupled the curtains to one another with the clasps, that it might be one tabernacle.”

Verses 14-19 describe the other three coverings that went over the linen.

Next, Moses describes the acacia wood paneling that made up the sides of the Holy Place. Each board was 10 cubits, or 15 feet tall, and 27 inches wide.

Verse 22 describes their tongue and groove connectors, or “**tenons**”. Verse 30 mentions the silver sockets in which they sat. The sockets stabilized the boards.

Verse 31 describes the bars that provided the boards their side support.

I’m scanning a lot of this tonight because we’ve already studied it in-depth. I’ve even showed you pictures and animations. You should be versed in these details.

But make note of this point! God took nothing for granted. Apparently, these details were so important to Him, that He repeated them for emphasis. It’s been said, “**Repetition is the mother of learning.**” And it’s true. Sadly, our tendency is to forget - which is why some truths need to be repeated over and over again.

Toward the end of his ministry, Peter wrote a second letter. And in 2 Peter 1 he says, “**For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the truth.**” They still needed a reminder!

It reminds me of the man who complained to his pastor, “**Every week you preach on the same theme, “Love one another.” Can’t you find anything else to preach on?**” That’s when the pastor responded, “**Good friend, I’ll be happy to preach on another subject as soon as my flock starts to love one another.**”

Verse 35 describes the veil that separated the HP from the Holy of Holies.

Verse 36 the four golden posts that stood outside the Holy of Holies.

Verses 37-38 describes the construction of the door, or screen, that stood as an entrance into the Holy Place - and the five pillars from which it hung.

Chapter 37, “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.” The Ark of the Covenant was 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches high.

“He overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold all around it. 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. He made poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold. And he put the poles into the rings at the sides of the ark, to bear the ark.” Over the Ark dwelt the tangible presence and glory of God. It was too holy to be touched by human hands. Thus it was carried on poles.

Verse 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.” In the Ark, beneath its lid, sat the two tablets of the Law – over the Ark rested the glory of God. And this presented a problem... God loves us, but can't accept us when we fail to keep the law's demands. The answer was found at the blood-splattered mercyseat.

It was here the priest sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice – and it was the blood that satisfied the demands of the Law and at the same time expressed the love of God. It was at that lid that man found God’s mercy and received forgiveness.

This is why 1 John 2:2 calls Jesus our “propitiation” - or place of mercy! Jesus has become our mercyseat. He satisfies the law and bestows God’s mercy.

The Ark of the Covenant was actually a small scale model of God’s throne in heaven – which is surrounded by angels. Thus, on top of the Ark, Moses “made two cherubim of beaten gold; he made them of one piece at the two ends of the mercy seat: 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. 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.” Which is also true in heaven today...

The angels have long been acquainted with God’s might, His glory, His truth, His omniscience. But now in these last days they have seen His amazing grace – and they are captivated with the cross. Heaven’s preoccupation today is not the physics of the universe, or the mysteries of the atom, or the DNA of life... *It’s God’s willingness to suffer for sinners, and bestow mercy on His enemies.*

Verses 10-16 describe the construction of the table of showbread.



Verses 17-23, deal with the golden menorah – or seven branch lamp stand – and the utensils needed for its upkeep. Verse 24 adds an interesting detail, “Of a talent of pure gold he made it...” A talent was a unit of weight equal to 100 pounds.

Verses 25-28 explain the construction of the altar of incense. Verse 29, tells us about the anointing oil and the incense used in the service of the Tabernacle.

38:1-7 describe the construction of the altar of burnt offering. This was the barbecue pit. This was where the animals were slaughtered and sacrificed.

Cleansing from sin occurred at the altar. But washing at the laver prepared the priests for worship. Verse 8 recounts the fabrication of the bronze basin or laver...

“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.” In ancient times mirrors were made from polished brass. Glass did not exist.

So notice what happens... The women turn over their bronze mirrors.

Evidently, they decide it's more important to *prepare for worship* than to *primp their appearance*. Rather than *primp* they chose to *pray* and seek the Lord.

Ephesians 5 instructs us to wash ourselves with the water of God's Word. I hope we spend more time at the laver of the Word than in front of a mirror.

Verses 9-20 describe the construction of the outer court – the white linen fence, and posts, and sockets, and hooks, and bands, and pegs. It's all gets repeated.

Verse 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.

Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the LORD had commanded Moses. 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.” Ithamar even tallied the total materials...

Verse 24, “All the gold that was used in all the work of the holy place, that is, the gold of the offering, was 29 talents and 730 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary.”

Remember a talent is 100 pounds – a shekel is  $\frac{1}{2}$  an ounce.

That's over 46,765 ounces of gold. At \$400 an ounce – that's \$18,706,000 worth of gold. That's just the gold that went into the Tabernacle.

Verse 25 adds up the silver. “And the silver from those who were numbered of the congregation was 100 talents and 1775 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary: 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 603,550 men.” That did not include the women and children. As many

as 3 million Hebrews may've exited Egypt and followed Moses to Mount Sinai.

And they collected over 10,000 pounds of silver... Today silver goes for about \$7 an ounce, so the total value of the silver would amount to \$1.1 million.

Verse 29, “**The offering of bronze was 70 talents and 2400 shekels.**” That's 7000 pounds of bronze – at \$6 an ounce – that totals about \$700,000.

Which gives us a grand total of the gold, silver, and bronze it took to build the Tabernacle... \$20,506,000. For a building that was just 45' long by 15' wide – just 675 square feet - about the size of the Brook. That's over \$30,000 per square foot.

Chapter 39 describes the tailoring of the most important clothes ever made. The priestly garments are designed and fashioned for the High Priest, Aaron.

First, the **ephod**, or smock that covered the High Priest's torso...

Next were the onyx stones that sat on his shoulders...

After that the **breastplate**, and the 12 stones that signified the tribes of Israel... Always remember God sees His children as priceless jewels – objects of value.

Then the chains that hung the breastplate from the ephod...

Then the **robe**, with its hem of bells and pomegranates... The bells speak of the gifts of the Spirit - the pomegranates,

the fruits of the Spirit. And we need both the gifts of the Spirit and the fruits of the Spirit to effectively minister for Jesus.

Then the priest's **tunic** (or undergarment)... and **turban** (or his headdress)...

Then the priestly **pants** (They were actually shorts). And remember the priest was forbidden to sag. Exodus 28:42 says of the pants, **"they shall reach from the waist to the thighs"**. Hey, the only pants God ever designed didn't sag!

Then there's the priestly **sash** (or belt)...

And finally, the **crown**, the gold plate that read **"HOLINESS TO THE LORD"**...

Verse 32 tells us, **"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."** Everything was built according to code...

Every pole, every socket was fabricated precisely as God instructed Moses.

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

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; 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." Everything God ordered was ready on time.

*Oh, if all construction projects went as well...* "According to all that the LORD had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did all the work. Then Moses looked over all the work, and indeed they had done it; as the LORD had commanded, just so they had done it." It all passed inspection.

"And Moses blessed them."

Moses now has all the Tabernacle parts, but in chapter 40 God instructs him on their proper assembly. "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. You shall put in it the ark of the Testimony, and partition off the ark with the veil."

Assembly takes place from the inside out... God starts with the innermost sanctum - the Holy of Holies - then moves outside the veil to the Holy Place.

Verse 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. 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." Now he moves into the outer court.

“Then you shall set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. And you shall set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water in it.

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

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

Ever assembled a lawnmower?

Just because you mount the engine, and connect the crankcase, and release the blade, and attach the safety brake doesn't mean your new mower is ready for operation. You'll have big problems if you try to crank it without filling it with oil.

And that's why Moses anoints everything with oil, before he cranks up the Tabernacle worship. This is a vital lesson to us - everything we do for God needs to be first filled, and greased, and lubricated with the Holy Spirit.

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

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

“Thus Moses did; according to all that the LORD had commanded him, so he did.” It’s interesting, 18 times in two chapters we’re told Moses did “all that the LORD had commanded him.” Moses not only heard God, but he obeyed God.

Lots of people have been to the mountain top and received instructions from God, but what set Moses apart is what he did when he came off the mountain. He followed God’s instructions precisely. He obeyed the Lord in every detail.

Can the same be said of you? “He did all that the LORD commanded him.”

Verse 17, “And it came to pass in the first month of the second year, on the first day of the month (They’ve now been free an entire year.), “that the tabernacle was raised up.” On the anniversary of the Exodus they dedicate a house of worship.

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

He took the Testimony (Ten Commandments) 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. 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.

He put the table in the tabernacle of meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the veil; and he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses. He put the lampstand in the tabernacle of meeting, across from the table, on the south side of the tabernacle; and he lit the lamps before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses. He put the gold altar in the tabernacle of meeting in front of the veil; and he burned sweet incense on it, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

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

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. He set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water there for washing; and Moses, Aaron, and his sons would wash their hands and their feet with water from it.

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

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.” **It’s all assembled.**



The tent has been raised. The furniture is in place. The outer court has been erected. The priests are washed and ready. Everything is anointed with oil.

There's only one missing component... *God!* What good is a place of worship if the God who is supposed to be worshipped never shows up? This is why church is more than coming to a building - singing a few songs - listening to a sermon...

You really haven't worshipped until you've experienced God. It reminds me of the little boy who went home after church, and prayed, "Dear God, we had a good time at church today. I just wish you'd been there."

Verse 34 depicts the Tabernacle's grand opening... and it doesn't disappoint.

**"Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle."** *The Shekinah glory*, as the Hebrews called it – the tangible, visible presence of God fills the Tabernacle. Its precincts are permeated with glory.

**"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."**

God reveals Himself in such a heavy, awesome way – His glory is so thick and overwhelming - Moses can't even enter the Tabernacle he's just constructed.

And I believe this is what God wants to do in our lives. He wants to pour out His glory to such an extent that it's too much to handle. He wants to overwhelm us. He wants to blow

us away with His joy, love, peace, power, goodness, and grace!

And I'm convinced He wants to work the same miracle in this church! *Lord Jesus, show us your glory! Fill this house with your holiness and heaviness.*

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

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."