

Exodus 35-40 - “The Tabernacle Completion”

We’ve seen Moses meeting with God and seeing the covenant renewed with new tablets of stone, and now in Chapter 35 through the end of the book we see the implementation of the construction of the tabernacle with its furnishings.

Now much of what we will be looking at tonight is a repetition from the earlier instructions received by Moses on the mountain in Chapters 25-31. Much of these verses are repeated verbatim from those chapters. In fact, it’s quite tempting to just skim over these passages and refer to what was said previously. And though we may do a little bit of that as we tackle 6 chapters tonight, it’s important to know why there’s this repetition. When something is repeated in the Word, it’s usually for a good reason and God wants us to take notice of it.

- First of all, repetition was a common technique in ancient literature to aid in memorization. The nation of Israel was to be very familiar with the layout of the tabernacle and the function of the tabernacle. For us it’s all a picture of Christ and a reminder of our salvation in Him.
- Secondly, this is repeated to show Israel’s obedience in carrying out the work of the Lord. “Remarkably, some twenty times we read that the Israelites did exactly what God commanded them to do (See 39:1, 5, 7, 21, 26, 29, 31, 32, 42, 43; 40:16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 29, 32). We see Moses’ and the people’s total obedience to God’s instructions.”¹ This was a far cry from what we’ve seen through the most part of Exodus. But here they’ve begun to see the importance of obedience, and how God is glorified through it.
- Thirdly we see that with the completion of the tabernacle, God shows His faithfulness. Despite the people’s sins, God still provided a place where His presence would be known. He didn’t give up on the people, He’s a covenant keeping God.

1. The Preparations for the Tabernacle – 35:1-36:7

35:1-3 - *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*

¹ Merida, T. (2014). *Exalting Jesus in Exodus* (p. 216). Holman Reference.

does any work on it shall be put to death. ³ You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day.”

Before any work got started on the construction of the tabernacle, a reminder of the Sabbath goes out. The people were to remember that God wanted them to take a day where they would do no work and just be refreshed in the Lord.

- We can find it so easy to throw out excuses such as we've been working so hard to meet this deadline, or it's the busy season right now, we can even reason that if it's work done for God and He'll understand. This could have all been said regarding the building of the tabernacle. *'This is God's work and we must get it done at all costs.'* But God commanded the people, take a day off each week so you can just rest in Me and get refreshed and re-focused. This is so important and vital for us.

35:4-9 - 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.

The next step was to gather the materials for the building of this tabernacle. And I love how there's no pressure or guilt to step up and start emptying your pockets. Moses just shares with them God's word which is: ***Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord*** (vs.5).

- Moses had every right to tell the people they need to give, but God seeks those who do it willingly, not begrudgingly. **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.”*

Now God no doubt loves it when people are givers. It's one true gauge to see if His people are walking in faithfulness and commitment to Him. Yet if we can't give cheerfully, He doesn't want it. But the verse before this one gives us an important lesson: *“He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”* (**2 Corinthians 9:6**). When you give to God we understand that He is the one that will take care of us. If you are saying, *'If my bank account can get a little bigger I will give'*, or, *'If I didn't have all these bills I could give.'* Well let me say, that bank account will never be big enough,

and there will always be just one more bill. When you decide that all is God's anyways, and you're just going to give cheerfully to Him, you will be blessed. And understand that the offering is the Lord's (vs. 5). Don't try to manipulate your giving to satisfy your desires. Give it to God and surrender it there.

Why should we give?

- 1) **Giving reshapes you.** God is a giver, and giving follows His example.
 - **Luke 16:13**, *"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."*
- 2) **Giving requires trust.** We learn to live dependently on God.
- 3) **Giving rewards you eternally.** We can't take our wealth with us when we go, but we can fill up our account with an eternal value.
 - **Philippians 4:16-17**, *"For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account."*

35:10-19 - '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.' "

Various gifted artisans were called to help in the making of the components for the tabernacle.

35:20-29 - 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.

I like what we read here, everyone came whose *heart was stirred* and *whose spirit was willing*. Moses didn't give some big offering push, or pressure them, or pull on their emotional heart strings. He simply gave the need, dismissed everyone and let them give as they were led. And we see hearts were stirred to contribute to the Lord's work. *The children of Israel brought a freewill offering...* (35:29).

Some people may not have had expensive items to contribute, but some brought thread or fine linen, or goat's hair. These were all needed items and important items in the eyes of the Lord. Everybody who contributed, contributed equally.

35:30-35 - *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. 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 chose Bezalel and Aholiab to be the foreman of this tabernacle project. They were gifted by the Spirit of God for such a task as this. How has God gifted you? Serve Him faithfully in the ways that He has equipped you.

2 key ingredients to serving God: Ability and Availability.

- Sadly, there are many able people out there but not always available.
- And there's many available people without the right ability.

Remember, God doesn't just call the equipped, He equips the called. What has God called you to do? Do it all for His glory (Romans 12:4-8 1 Corinthians 10:31).

36:1-7 - *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.* 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."*** ⁷ ***And the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done—indeed too much.***

How awesome is this? Everyone had such an excitement for what God was doing that they wanted to contribute and it got to the point where the workers had to tell Moses, *'can you tell the people to slow it down a little.'*

I can't ever imagine having to do that! But we see the great things that happen when God is leading and moving, and when people have a heart to take part in how God is leading. ***Indeed too much.*** Love it!

2. The Construction of the Tabernacle – 36:8-38

The Hangings and Coverings (cf. 26:1-14)

36:8-19 - *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 [42' long and 6' wide]; 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.*

This tabernacle was a beautiful sight when you were inside it. The artistic work of angels and the colors on the covering. But the outside coverings had goat hair, ram skins and a covering of badger skins (which is translated as dolphins, or most likely dugong; like a manatee). In other words, the tabernacle didn't really catch your eye from the outside. But once you were in, it was a sight to behold.

- It's that way in our relationship with Christ. There are those that are standing on the outside wondering what the appeal is. But for those of us who are in Christ, we know the attraction. We see His beauty and are so thankful to be found in Him.

The Boards and Bars (cf. 26:15-30)

Next the construction of the boards and sockets. The tabernacle was to be secure and solid, just as our life in Christ is on solid ground.

36:20-34 - *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.

The Veil and Screen (cf. 26:31-37)

36:35-38 - And he made a veil of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen; it was worked with an artistic design of cherubim. [this is the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies] 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.

The screen for the tabernacle door had 5 pillars. Five is the number for grace. The way into God's presence is always by His grace. And there's only one door into the tabernacle. There's only one way to the Father, and that's through Jesus!

3. The Furniture of the Tabernacle – 37:1-38:20

The Ark of the Testimony (cf. 25:10-22)

37:1-9 - 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 ark of the testimony contained the tablets of the law. Yet the mercy seat sat on top as a lid. With the cherubim above. The priest was to come in after offering the sacrifice on behalf of the nation and for their sin, and sprinkle the blood upon the mercy seat. It was to atone for the people's sin. Over the mercy seat hovered the presence of God – under the mercy seat sat the demands of the Law – but between the two, on that blood-stained lid, God's mercy and His justice were reconciled by the blood of a sacrifice. The mercy seat was the one place on earth where men and women could obtain God's mercy.

The Table of Showbread (cf. 25:23-30)

37:10-16 - 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.

The table of showbread was made of wood but overlaid with gold, picturing the humanity and deity of Christ. He is the bread of heaven. 12 loaves of bread would sit on this, representing the 12 tribes of Israel. The bread was kept in place by a moulding of gold all around it (more precisely a crown), just as we are kept secure by the crowned, glorified Christ.

The Golden Lampstand (cf. 25:31-40)

37:17-24 - 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.

Jesus is the light of the world. This lampstand provided the only light in the tabernacle. Jesus is the only source that can remove the darkness in our lives.

The Altar of Incense (cf. 30:1-10)

37:25-28 - 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.

Incense is always a picture of prayer. Once more we see Jesus as our Great High Priest who intercedes for us.

- **Hebrews 7:24–26**, "But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. ²⁶ For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;"

Anointing Oil and Incense (cf. 30:22-28)

37:29 - He also made the holy anointing oil and the pure incense of sweet spices, according to the work of the perfumer."

Altar of Burnt Offering/Bronze Altar (cf. 27:1-8)

38:1-7 - 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.

This was the first piece of furnishing you would come to when approaching the tabernacle. We do not have access to God unless we come via a sacrifice. This altar was covered with bronze. Again, the symbol of judgment. Sin needs to be judged and atoned for. We cannot approach God with any kind of bargaining, thinking we're going to do something to atone for our sins. Only Jesus does that. He took the judgment of God for our sins that we could be reconciled.

The Bronze Laver (cf. 30:17-21)

38:8 - 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.

The laver came after the bronze altar. The issue of sin was taken care of at the altar, yet we as Christians do not live in sinless perfection. We need to be cleansed through regular confession as we come before the Lord.

The Court of the Tabernacle (cf. 27:9-19)

38:9-20 - 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.

Materials of the Tabernacle

38:21-31 - 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.

“Moses also recorded an estimate of the amount of precious metals used (38:21-31). Coined money did not exist until the eighth century B.C., when the Lydians in Anatolia (modern Turkey) invented it. Consequently the "shekel" Moses referred to was a measure of weight (not quite half an ounce).³ The materials included slightly over a ton of gold (v. 24), almost four tons of silver (vv. 25-28), and about two and a half tons of bronze (vv. 29-31). Peter Enns computed the total to be about 15,000 pounds.” (Constable)

4. The Priestly Garments – 39:1-31

The Ephod (cf. 28:6-12)

39:1-7 - *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. 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.*

The names of the children of Israel would be upon the shoulders of the priest (vs. 6).

But then we also see in the breastplate that there were 12 stones representing the nation of Israel (vs. 14). This was over the priest's heart. Jesus not only carries us on His shoulders, but He loves us and has us over His heart.

The Breastplate (cf. 28:15-29)

39:8-21 - *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.*

The Robe (cf. 28:31-34)

39:22-26 - *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.*

Other Accessories (cf. 28:39-40, 42)

39:27-31 - *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.*

The priest would wear a turban; it was a wound linen headpiece. But what was on that turban is of special importance. On that turban was a gold plate with the words: **Holiness to the Lord** engraved upon it.

- What a great thing that would be. It would be a constant reminder that he was to be holy before God. He was to be set apart not just in his actions, but in his thinking too. Quite often the battles are won or lost in the mind.
- And so, the high priest was to be taking every thought captive to the obedience of God. He was to be moving ahead in a way that honored the Lord and caused him to be seen as a worker approved of God.
- There was to be a distinction and reverence in the way He approached God.

Wherever we go, we should realize we have this same reminder across our forehead, we are to be holiness to the Lord. We're to be set apart for Him.

5. The Presentation of the Tabernacle – 39:32-43

39:32-43 - *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.

Here's a summary of that was prepared for the tabernacle.

Notice how often we're seeing the phrase, *as the Lord had commanded...*

This is why we see this repetition, it's to show us that all that the Lord had said to do, was indeed getting done! That's what God expects of us. That we be not just hearers of the Word, but that we'd be doers of the Word!

- **James 1:21–22**, *"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*

And when there was obedience, there was blessing! (*And Moses blessed them*).

6. The Dedication of the Tabernacle – 40:1-38

40:1-38 - *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. 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.” 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. 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. 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.

I love the phrase at the end of vs. 33 – ***So Moses finished the work.*** It doesn't matter how you begin, it matters how you finish. Many great men in the Bible have finished the work – Noah, Nehemiah, Paul finished his race (2 Timothy 4:7). But best of all was Jesus who said: *'It is finished!'* (John 19:30).

Notice in 40:35 that Moses was not able to enter in. Although everything was done according to the command of the Lord, and the work is accepted as the glory of the Lord fills the tabernacle, there is a problem – Moses can't go in. This is a problem that Leviticus will fix. Leviticus sits in the middle of the Pentateuch, the tabernacle sits in the middle of the camp of Israel. It's the center piece to the livelihood of Israel and the sign that God wants to dwell in the midst of His people. The tabernacle provides the place, the book of Leviticus shows the provision – it's through a sacrifice.

The first 7 chapters go through the various offerings available to provide atonement to enter in. And again, these all simply point to the finished work of Jesus by which we have the means to enter in boldly to the presence of God.

Hebrews 10:11–14, 19-23, *"And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."*
¹⁹ *Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."*