

Adult Bible Class  
Study of Exodus, Lesson 19  
July 13, 2025

## Exodus Chapter 35 (continued) - Offerings for the Tabernacle

**Exodus 35:4 (NKJV)** 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.

In Exodus chapters 25-31, God showed Moses on the mountain how to build the Tabernacle. He explained to him exactly how to build the tent structure, all the furniture, the priest's garments, and how to make the anointing oil and incense. However, when Moses came down off the mountain, he was sidetracked by the golden calf incident. Now that the incident was resolved and Moses had again gone on the mountain of God and come back again, the people were ready to actually build the Tabernacle for the worship of God. God is going to state again what Moses is to do regarding the Tabernacle. Because of the golden calf incident, it needed to be restated.

God's fund-raising technique is revealed here in the above Scripture. Whoever had "*a willing heart*" was to bring the items needed for the building of the Tabernacle and its furniture and supplies. God could have provided the supplies miraculously - He had done many miracles so far to supply their need. However, regarding God's place of worship, God wanted the people to be involved. God wants His people to be a giving people.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7** But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **7** *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

### Articles of the Tabernacle

**Exodus 35:10** '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.'"

Here we are given a list of all the items for the Tabernacle that God previously showed Moses in chapters 25-31. Not just anyone could make these items. These

items must be made skillfully. Only those who had a talent or a gift for doing a certain craft were allowed to make the items for the Tabernacle.

### The Tabernacle Offerings Presented

**Exodus 35:20** 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, and 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.

The people left Moses, and those who were stirred in their hearts to give brought materials that were needed for the Tabernacle. It was very simple with no coercion. God - and the great need for a great work - stirred their hearts and they gave from their hearts. Some gave gold. Others gave goats' hair. All could give something if they wanted to give.

The thing about giving is that you can only give what you have. Notice in Exodus 34:20b-21 that God ties giving together with working. One reason we work is so that we can give. We are not to come to the Lord empty-handed. We will not be empty-handed if we work.

To whom were the children of Israel giving? Were they giving to Moses? They did bring the items to Moses, but they knew they were giving to the Lord. It was "*the Lord's offering*" (verse 21, 24).

### The Artisans Called by God

**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.

**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.

The Tabernacle was to be a very special place for the worship of God. Its types would reflect the future New Testament plan of salvation. It was extremely important that it be built correctly and with great skill. God named the two men who would be in charge of the building. Bezalel and Aholiab were filled with the Spirit of God to have the talent and ability to do the work.

Where do our talents and abilities come from? They come from God. It is important that we seek God for His will for us and that we use the talents and abilities that He has given us. When we do what He wants us to do, then we will be truly content, and God will be pleased with us. Sometimes people veer off the course of God's will for them, and they vainly seek a path that would bring *them* glory instead of bringing glory to God. Sometimes people are not realistic about their talents and abilities. Seeking God for His will is extremely important to the forward motion of the church.

Bezalel was also given the ability to teach. He was able to teach others how to do skilled labor. He was the overseer of the project. Bezalel, Aholiab, and their team of well-taught craftsmen and women would together build the Tabernacle for the glory of their great God who had delivered them from Egypt.

## Exodus Chapter 36

**Exodus 36:1 (NKJV)** "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."

### 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.

God's fund raising method (giving from a willing heart) is so effective that it provides plenty for the work of the Lord. Bezalel knew how much was needed and he knew when they had enough to finish the project. When they had enough, the people were told to stop giving. Not only was the need presented to the people, but when the need was met, this was also told to the people.

This brings up an important point - there is *a time* to give, and that is when there is a need. When the need is met, then our opportunity to give will be over. Those in the camp who perhaps waited to give might have been disappointed to learn that their offering was no longer needed. If you want to be a blessing, give *when there is a need*. It may sound obvious, but it is still true.

## Building the Tabernacle and Its Furniture

The rest of the Book of Exodus deals with the building of the Tabernacle and its furniture. It deals with the construction of the garments worn by the High Priest and the making of the anointing oil. This is explained in Exodus 36:8 through 39:31. We will not read these chapters because they are so similar to what we read in

chapters 25 through 31. The earlier chapters were the command - the later chapters are the carrying out of the command.

Bezalel and Aholiab guided the work of creating:

- Curtains of linen* for the Holy Place with blue, purple and scarlet embroidery and clasps of gold, (ten of them, six feet wide, 42 feet long)
- Curtains of goats' hair to cover the tent-building in the Tabernacle complex that housed the Holy Place and Holy of Holies, with clasps of bronze, (eleven of them, six feet wide, 45 feet long)
- Coverings* of ram skins dyed red and badger skins for the tent-building
- Acacia wood *boards for the framework* of the Tabernacle with silver bases and pegs to secure it to the ground (boards overlaid with gold) (54 boards, 15 feet high and 27 inches wide)
- A *veil* of blue, purple, and scarlet thread on fine linen (worked with a design of cherubim) The curtain hung from hooks of gold from posts overlaid with gold, set in silver bases. This was the inner curtain or veil. We are not told the thickness of the veil here, but tradition says that the veil in the Temple (later in Israel's history) was four inches thick, or as "thick as a man's hand."
- Another *curtain for the door* to the tent-building (of linen with beautiful designs of blue, purple, and scarlet) It hung from hooks of gold from posts overlaid with gold, set in bronze bases.
- The Ark of the Covenant* was made of acacia wood, overlaid with gold inside and out, with four gold rings in the corners for carrying, with carrying poles of wood overlaid with gold, with a lid called the "mercy seat" or "atonement cover" which was solid gold, with two gold cherubim facing each other on top of the lid, made of one piece of solid gold (45" long, 27" wide, 27" high)
- The Table of Showbread*, made of wood overlaid with gold, with gold rings and poles for carrying (wood overlaid with gold), with containers that the priests used for pouring out liquid offerings (made of gold) (36" long, 18" wide, 27" high)
- The Gold Lampstand*, made of solid gold, hammered into its shape of seven branches, with cups on it shaped like almond blossoms, with snuffers and other accessories all of solid gold
- The Incense Altar*, made of wood overlaid with gold, with horns on the four corners of pure gold, with rings and poles, overlaid with gold, with the sacred anointing oil and the special incense, (36" high, 18" square)
- The Altar of Burnt Offering*, 7 1/2 feet wide and long, and 4 1/2 high, made of wood overlaid with bronze, with four horns at the corners that were a part of the bronze work, with bronze grating and utensils like buckets, shovels, basins, meat forks, etc., rings of bronze and wood carrying poles overlaid with bronze
- The Laver or Washbasin*, made of bronze with a bronze stand from the

- bronze mirrors donated by the women who served at the entrance of the Tabernacle
- Curtains for the Courtyard, made of fine linen, 450 feet of them, 7 1/2 feet high with sixty posts in bronze bases, with silver hooks and rings, with a curtain entrance, decorated beautifully, 30 feet long and 7 1/2 feet high, with tent pegs made of bronze

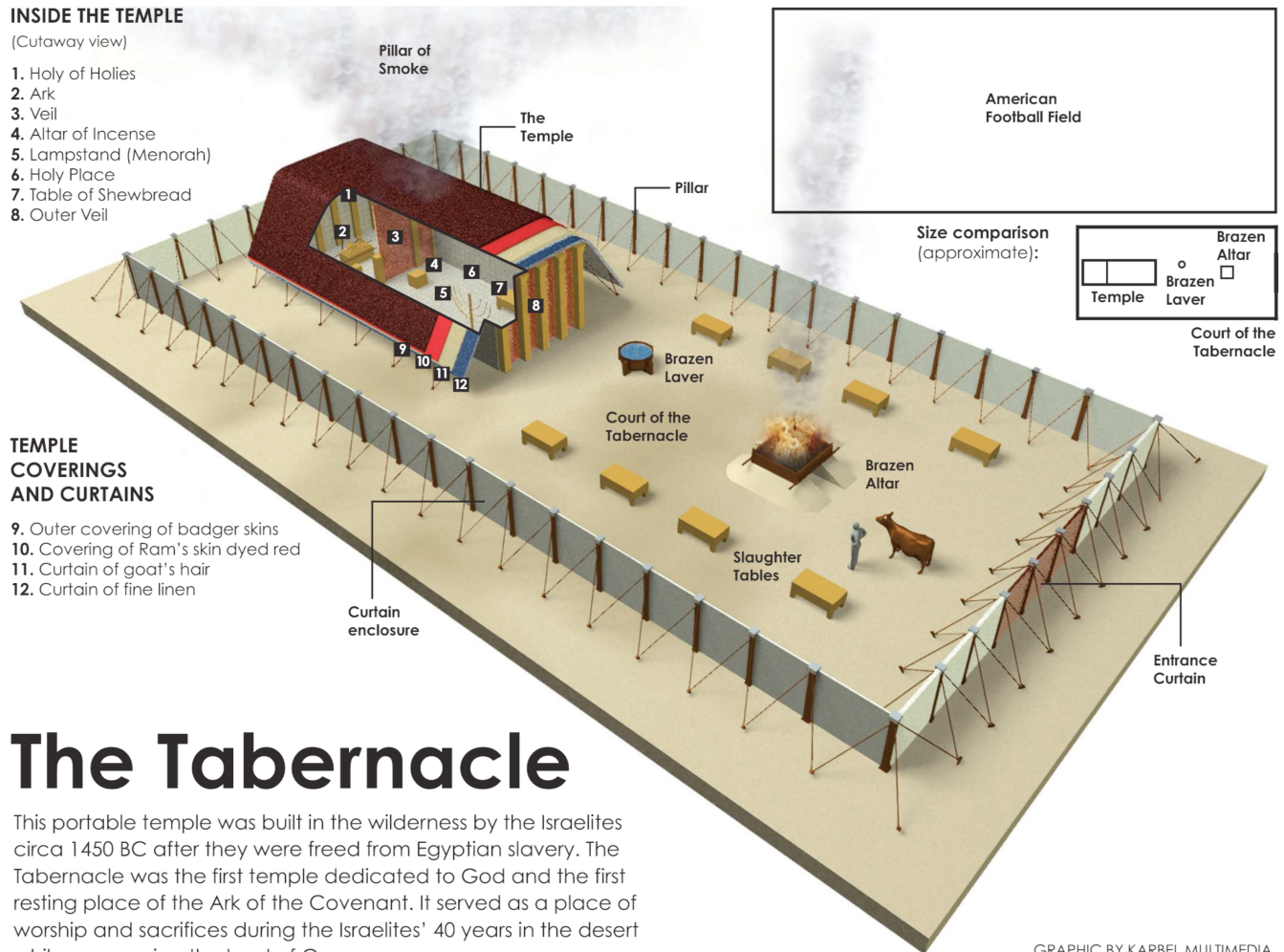
#### INSIDE THE TEMPLE

(Cutaway view)

1. Holy of Holies
2. Ark
3. Veil
4. Altar of Incense
5. Lampstand (Menorah)
6. Holy Place
7. Table of Shewbread
8. Outer Veil

#### TEMPLE COVERINGS AND CURTAINS

9. Outer covering of badger skins
10. Covering of Ram's skin dyed red
11. Curtain of goat's hair
12. Curtain of fine linen



## The Tabernacle

This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1450 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifices during the Israelites' 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan.

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An inventory of all the materials used in building the Tabernacle is given next:

**Exodus 38:21 (NLT)** This is an inventory of the materials used in building the Tabernacle of the Covenant. The Levites compiled the figures, as Moses directed, and Ithamar son of Aaron the priest served as recorder. **22** Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made everything just as the Lord had commanded Moses. **23** He was assisted by Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, a craftsman expert at engraving, designing, and embroidering with blue, purple, and scarlet thread on fine linen cloth.

**24** The people brought special offerings of gold totaling 2,193 pounds, as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel. This gold was used throughout the Tabernacle.

At today's gold valuation, the gold would be worth about \$117,100,000.

**Exodus 38:25** The whole community of Israel gave 7,545 pounds of silver, as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel. **26** This silver came from the tax collected from each man registered in the census. (The tax is one beka, which is half a shekel, based on the sanctuary shekel.) The tax was collected from 603,550 men who had reached their twentieth birthday. **27** The hundred bases for the frames of the sanctuary walls and for the posts supporting the inner curtain required 7,500 pounds of silver, about 75 pounds for each base. **28** The remaining 45 pounds of silver was used to make the hooks and rings and to overlay the tops of the posts.

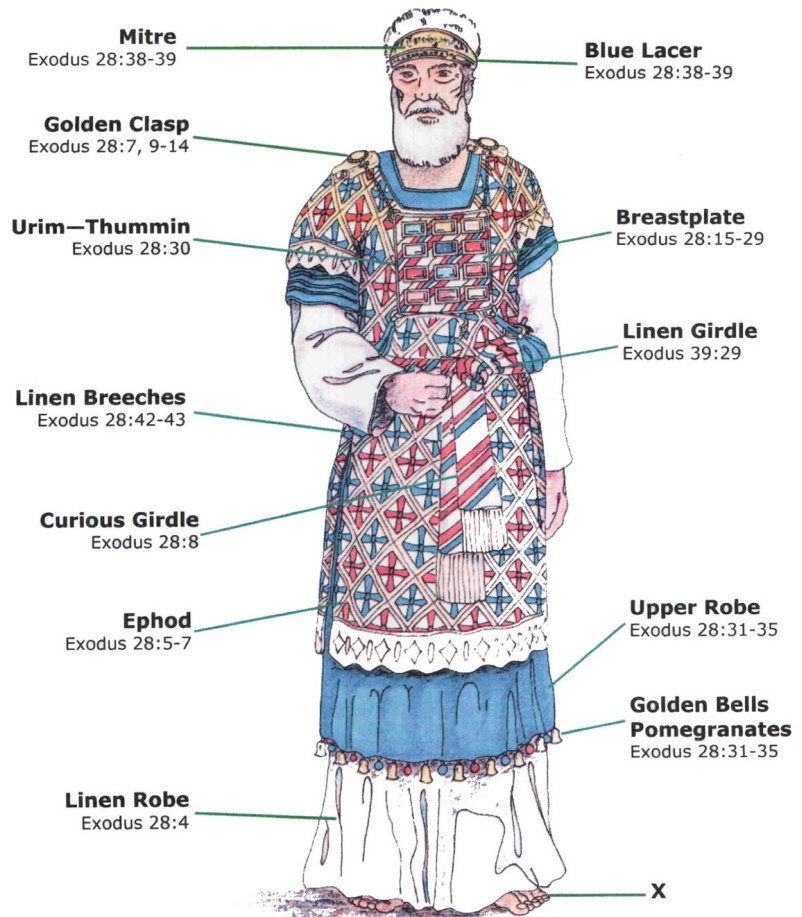
At today's silver valuation, the silver would be worth about \$4,200,000.

**29** The people also brought as special offerings 5,310 pounds of bronze, **30** which was used for casting the bases for the posts at the entrance to the Tabernacle, and for the bronze altar with its bronze grating and all the altar utensils. **31** Bronze was also used to make the bases for the posts that supported the curtains around the courtyard, the bases for the curtain at the entrance of the courtyard, and all the tent pegs for the Tabernacle and the courtyard.

Bezalel also guided the creation of the High Priest's (Aaron's) garments for his ministry in the Holy Place. He made the ephod (which was a kind of overlay over the top of his tunic). The ephod was of blue, purple and scarlet thread with threads of beaten gold woven into the material. It was a front and a back with shoulder straps to hold it together. The chestpiece went on top of the ephod and had twelve stones that were a memorial of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Bezalel also made the robe that was worn under the ephod, made of a single piece of blue cloth with an opening for Aaron's head. On the hem were sewn pomegranates made of yarn and thread, alternating with bells of pure gold.

Bezalel and his workers also made tunics for Aaron and his sons of fine linen, with turbans, undergarments, and sashes. Aaron had a special turban with a medallion on it of gold with an engraving that said, "Holiness to the Lord."



## Vestments

**Exodus 28:2-4**



**Exodus 39:32 (NLT)** And so at last the Tabernacle was finished. The Israelites had done everything just as the Lord had commanded Moses. **33** And they brought the entire Tabernacle to Moses:

the sacred tent with all its furnishings, clasps, frames, crossbars, posts, and bases;  
**34** the tent coverings of tanned ram skins and fine goatskin leather [KJV: badger skins];  
the inner curtain to shield the Ark;  
**35** the Ark of the Covenant and its carrying poles;  
the Ark's cover—the place of atonement;  
**36** the table and all its utensils;  
the Bread of the Presence;  
**37** the pure gold lampstand with its symmetrical lamp cups, all its accessories, and the olive oil for lighting;  
**38** the gold altar;  
the anointing oil and fragrant incense;  
the curtain for the entrance of the sacred tent;  
**39** the bronze altar;  
the bronze grating and its carrying poles and utensils;  
the washbasin with its stand;  
**40** the curtains for the walls of the courtyard;  
the posts and their bases;  
the curtain for the entrance to the courtyard;  
the ropes and tent pegs;  
all the furnishings to be used in worship at the Tabernacle;  
**41** the beautifully stitched garments for the priests to wear while ministering in the Holy Place—the sacred garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments for his sons to wear as they minister as priests.  
**42** So the people of Israel followed all of the Lord's instructions to Moses. **43** Then Moses inspected all their work. When he found it had been done just as the Lord had commanded him, he blessed them.

## Exodus Chapter 40 - The Book of Exodus Concluded

**Exodus 40:1 (NLT)** Then the Lord said to Moses, **2** "Set up the Tabernacle on the first day of the new year. **3** Place the Ark of the Covenant inside, and install the inner curtain to enclose the Ark within the Most Holy Place. **4** Then bring in the table, and arrange the utensils on it. And bring in the lampstand, and set up the lamps.

**5** "Place the gold incense altar in front of the Ark of the Covenant. Then hang the curtain at the entrance of the Tabernacle. **6** Place the altar of burnt offering in front of the Tabernacle entrance. **7** Set the washbasin between the Tabernacle and the altar, and fill it with water. **8** Then set up the courtyard around the outside of the tent, and hang the curtain for the courtyard entrance.

**9** "Take the anointing oil and anoint the Tabernacle and all its furnishings to consecrate them and make them holy. **10** Anoint the altar of burnt offering and its utensils to consecrate them. Then the altar will become absolutely holy. **11** Next anoint the washbasin and its stand to consecrate them.

**12** "Present Aaron and his sons at the entrance of the Tabernacle, and wash them with water.  
**13** Dress Aaron with the sacred garments and anoint him, consecrating him to serve me as a priest.  
**14** Then present his sons and dress them in their tunics. **15** Anoint them as you did their father, so they may also serve me as priests. With their anointing, Aaron's descendants are set apart for the priesthood forever, from generation to generation."

**16** Moses proceeded to do everything just as the Lord had commanded him. **17** So the Tabernacle was set up on the first day of the first month of the second year. **18** Moses erected the Tabernacle by setting down its bases, inserting the frames, attaching the crossbars, and setting up the posts.  
**19** Then he spread the coverings over the Tabernacle framework and put on the protective layers, just as the Lord had commanded him.

**Exodus 40:20** He took the stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant and placed them inside the Ark. Then he attached the carrying poles to the Ark, and he set the Ark's cover—the place of atonement—on top of it. **21** Then he brought the Ark of the Covenant into the Tabernacle and hung the inner curtain to shield it from view, just as the Lord had commanded him.

**22** Next Moses placed the table in the Tabernacle, along the north side of the Holy Place, just outside the inner curtain. **23** And he arranged the Bread of the Presence on the table before the Lord, just as the Lord had commanded him.

**24** He set the lampstand in the Tabernacle across from the table on the south side of the Holy Place. **25** Then he lit the lamps in the Lord's presence, just as the Lord had commanded him. **26** He also placed the gold incense altar in the Tabernacle, in the Holy Place in front of the inner curtain. **27** On it he burned the fragrant incense, just as the Lord had commanded him.

**28** He hung the curtain at the entrance of the Tabernacle, **29** and he placed the altar of burnt offering near the Tabernacle entrance. On it he offered a burnt offering and a grain offering, just as the Lord had commanded him.

**30** Next Moses placed the washbasin between the Tabernacle and the altar. He filled it with water so the priests could wash themselves. **31** Moses and Aaron and Aaron's sons used water from it to wash their hands and feet. **32** Whenever they approached the altar and entered the Tabernacle, they washed themselves, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.

**33** Then he hung the curtains forming the courtyard around the Tabernacle and the altar. And he set up the curtain at the entrance of the courtyard. So at last Moses finished the work.

### **The Lord's Glory Fills the Tabernacle**

**34** Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. **35** Moses could no longer enter the Tabernacle because the cloud had settled down over it, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.

**36** Now whenever the cloud lifted from the Tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out on their journey, following it. **37** But if the cloud did not rise, they remained where they were until it lifted. **38** The cloud of the Lord hovered over the Tabernacle during the day, and at night fire glowed inside the cloud so the whole family of Israel could see it. This continued throughout all their journeys.

### **Concluding Remarks on Exodus**

The Book of Exodus is the story of the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egyptian slavery by the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is also the story of God revealing Himself to His people through His written Word (for the first time), and it is the story of God dwelling among them through His Tabernacle plan. God is very specific through His Word about what He wants His people to be, how He wants them to behave, and how He wants them to worship and approach Him.

The Tabernacle plan in Exodus also speaks to us of the work of Jesus Christ, His person, and His character. Veiled beneath the colors, the fabrics, the metals, and the layout of the Tabernacle, we see Jesus Christ and His plan of salvation.

From Genesis 3 when Adam and Eve sinned against God and brought sin into the human race - to this point in Exodus, God has been bringing mankind back to Him through His own special plan. As the Bible student proceeds through the Word of God, it will be evident that God continues His plan to bring man back to Himself. Here is some of the progression viewed from the "big picture:"



# God Restores Mankind Back to Himself - the Steps

Man sins in the garden. He attempts to cover sin his way:

**Genesis 3:6 (NKJV)** . . . the woman . . . took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

**8** And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

God covers Adam and Eve's sin, drives them from the garden and His presence:

**Genesis 3:21** Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

**22** Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" . . . **24** So He drove out the man.

The tendency of mankind left to his own conscience is to follow wickedness, and over the years, mankind became exceedingly wicked. God destroys mankind by a Flood; only Noah and his family find grace:

**Genesis 6:5** Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. **6** And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth... **7** So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth..." **8** But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Years after the Flood, God calls a faithful man to be the Father of a nation dedicated to Him. He makes a covenant with Abraham:

**Genesis 12:1** Now the Lord had said to Abram:

"Get out of your country,  
From your family  
And from your father's house,  
To a land that I will show you.  
**2** I will make you a great nation;  
I will bless you  
And make your name great;  
And you shall be a blessing.  
**3** I will bless those who bless you,  
And I will curse him who curses you;  
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."  
**4** So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him . . .

God makes promises to Abraham, prophesies the future for his descendants, and gives the land of Canaan to his descendants:

**Genesis 15:5** Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

**6** And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness . . . **13** Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is not theirs*, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. **14** And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions . . . **16** But in the fourth generation they shall return here . . . **18** On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying:

"To your descendants I have given this land...

The descendants of Abraham go down into Egypt to escape famine:

**Genesis 46:2** Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!"

And he said, "Here I am."

**3** So He said, "*I am* God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. **4** I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up *again* . . ."

The children of Israel are eventually enslaved in Egypt after Joseph dies. However, they grow greatly in number:

**Exodus 1:8** Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. **9** And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel *are* more and mightier than we; **10** come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply... **11** Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens . . . **12** But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. **13** So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. **14** And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field . . .

The people cry to God, and He promises to deliver them. He uses Moses:

**Exodus 2:23** Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. **24** So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. **25** And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged *them*.

**Exodus 3:4** So when the Lord saw that he [Moses] turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!"

And he said, "Here I am." . . .

**7** And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. **8** So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey . . . **10** Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

God delivers His people, Israel, from Egyptian bondage. As He delivers them, He intertwines His laws and His solemn feasts into their culture and society. It begins with killing a lamb and eating it (Passover), it continues with other feasts and laws:

**Exodus 12:1** Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, **2** "This month *shall be* your beginning of months; it *shall be* the first month of the year to you. **3** Speak to all the

congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household . . . 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year . . . 6 Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. 7 And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. 8 Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it . . . 11 And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover . . . 50 Thus all the children of Israel did; as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. 51 And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the Lord brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt . . .

God delivers His people by the miracle of parting the Red Sea so they could walk across, then closing the Red Sea over their enemies to drown them. He leads them through the wilderness, feeding them manna and quail and providing them with water - all miraculously. He leads them to Mt. Sinai where He gives them His laws:

**Exodus 19:3** And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: **4** 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. **5** Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. **6** And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'..."

**7** So Moses came and ... laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. **8** Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do."

God speaks to Moses concerning the building of the Tabernacle. Meanwhile, the people grow impatient waiting on Moses. They offend God greatly by making a golden calf to worship as their god who brought them out of Egypt.

**Exodus 32:1** Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

**2** And Aaron . . . received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf.

Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

**5** So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord." **6** Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play . . . **30** Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." **31** Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! 32 Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."

**33** And the Lord said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.

**34** Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin."

**35** So the Lord plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made.

God is greatly offended and even threatens to destroy everyone but Moses. However, through Moses intercession, God restores His fellowship and His covenant:

**Exodus 34:10** And He said: "Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord. For it *is* an awesome thing that I will do with you. **11** Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. **12** Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. **13** But you shall destroy their altars, break their *sacred* pillars, and cut down their wooden images **14** (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God), **15** lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and *one of them* invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, **16** and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.

God will continue to lead His covenant people into the Promised Land. There, they will obey and serve Him at times, but forget Him and His laws at other times. Eventually, idol worship and the worship of false gods becomes the downfall of the people of Israel. Centuries later, God calls heathen armies to attack His people and carry them away captive. However, God has a plan in mind which will fulfill his promise to Abraham. The Lord Jesus Christ will come from the tribe of Judah and will be the Lamb slain for the whole world - not just the children of Israel, but everyone. God's plan will reach to every person on earth. Through the seed of Abraham, all the nations of the earth will be blessed.