

## Out of Bondage onto Promise

### Exodus 40:1-38

- We've reached the end of the book of Exodus just as Moses and the children of Israel having received the instructions from the Lord and all the materials from the people, have built the Tabernacle and are readying themselves to journey into the promise land. But first there is going to be some instructions given about three important things > **1<sup>st</sup>** The arrangement of the sanctuary from the interior to the exterior, and the courtyard, **2<sup>nd</sup>** Consecration of the Tabernacle and everything in it, **3<sup>rd</sup>** The washing, dressing and anointing of the Priesthood.

#### V1-38

- **V1-8** is the arrangement of the Sanctuary and Courtyard, this happened on the first day of the first month which indicates that it's been a whole year since Israel came out of Egypt. This also shows that God keeps track of time > **Ps 90:12** tells us to number our days, to keep track of the great works of God in our lives this will help us to measure our own spiritual growth as well.
- I believe it is fair to use the passing of time to see how far we've come with God, some believers never grow much beyond their initial experience with God, as after **10** years still have the maturity of a one year old Christian, or twenty years a two year old, for they simply repeat their first year over and over again, unable to get past the complete surrender to God part.
- God tells them exactly where He wants the furniture to be situated inside the sanctuary, from the lampstand to the lamps, the table and the shewbread, the partition and veil that separates the holy of holies, and to the altar and Ark of Testimony where the Ten Commandments will be placed. Afterward He tells them where He wants the Altar for the burnt offerings in the Courtyard, the Laver to clean the Priests, and the screen door at the courtyard gate. God is a God of order and He pays attention to detail expecting everything to be in its proper place.
- **V9-11** next you see the anointing oil, and utensils, everything inside and around the Tabernacle was to be anointed as being consecrated to God, Remember the oil represents the Holy Spirit, and anything that has to do with God that is pleasing to Him must also be accompanied by The Holy Spirit, nothing of the flesh will be acceptable to God, so everything was anointed. This is why everything a Christian is involved in should be set apart to God in order to be acceptable to Him, if its to glorify self, to gratify me, and God is an afterthought, there's something wrong!
- **V12-16** The Priesthood, the full description of the dedication ceremony for the Priests is found in Leviticus 8-9, here we see the preparation for the High Priest and his sons. First we read how they are washed with water indicating they are spiritually cleaned, then they are anointed with oil showing that they have been separated by God for His service and His purposes.

- Moses also is told that this is how God wants it and that man is not to change it no matter what. The Lord knows how man in his fickleness will attempt to anoint others as priest, declare who they like as ministers of God, despite them not being qualified or set apart by the Lord, so He tells them that Aaron, and his sons, with their lineage are the Priests He's called in this service.
- **V17-21** we see how the Tabernacle is raised up, and the Ark of the Covenant is set in the Most Holy Place with the veil put in its place. **V21-28** then you see the Table of Shewbread, The Lampstand, and The golden altar of incense put in its places, with the screen hung at the entrance of the Tabernacle. **V29-32** The Brazen Altar and the Laver for washing is placed between the altar and the tent, notice a description is given how the Priest used the Laver.
- **V33** although the project was immense, the people difficult, and the spiritual warfare suffocating, we read that "**Moses finished the work**". **Heb 3:5** says Moses was faithful in all his house, in other words he was faithful in all that he did. As I read this I can't help but think of people like Noah who despite it taking one hundred years he also finished the work, Nehemiah being called to go back to Jerusalem and finish the wall was ridiculed by Tobiah and Sanballet, and told by his own workers that the job was too difficult and yet he completed it > **Neh 4:3-6**.
- **2 Tim 4:7-8** the Apostle Paul who despite enduring so much said at the end of his life that "**he has fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith**", and afterward he knew that there was a great reward awaiting him that would be given to him by the Lord Himself. **V34-35** after finishing the work then The Glory of the Lord appears and fills the Tabernacle, obedience produces blessings, and after Israel's obedience we see God's Presence.
- There is a real connection between our obedience and God's Glory, for when we want the Lord to be lifted up you can believe you will see His Presence. The same thing happened when Solomon completed the Temple, as the Glory of God filled the temple to the point that they couldn't stay in it > **1Kings 8:10-11**. Without The Glory of The Lord this was just a fancy tent, and the same can be said of a glamorous, laid out church or home, or human tent, its just fancy looking without the Presence of the Lord dwelling inside of it Amen!
- **V36-38** The Pillar of cloud began to hover over the Tabernacle by day and a pillar of fire was over it by night, signifying that the Lord was watching over, protecting and guiding Israel at all times. This is the beautiful evidence that God answered Moses prayer in **Ex 33:14** after that golden calf debacle, and it proves what **Ex 29:45** says "**that God will dwell among the children of Israel and be their God**". God is a God Who fulfills His promises to His people. It took Israel getting out of Egypt (type of the world) before they truly got to meet and fellowship with the Lord.