

Week 14: Filled with the Spirit of God - Exodus Ch 35- 38

Pre-Work

- So now that the faithful intercessor (Moses) has offered his life to save the unfaithful people, what happens next? A work of God's Spirit, of course! Please watch the following video from the Bible Project on the Person of the Holy Spirit.

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/holy-spirit/>

- Please read Exodus Chapters 35-38 in the translation of your choice. What stands out to you in these chapters? What questions arise in your mind when you read them?

Class Notes

35 Then Moses assembled all the congregation of the sons of Israel, and said to them, “These are the things that the LORD has commanded *you* to do:

² “For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a holy *day*, a Sabbath of complete rest to the LORD; whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.

³ You shall not kindle a fire in any of your dwellings on the Sabbath day.”

- From now on, life under the Covenant will be a recognition of the 7 days of Genesis 1 - creation from chaos, order from disorder, inhabitants to populate the newly ordered space/ Cosmic Temple of all creation/ the image and the 7th day rest of the Creator
- Why no fire? The making of fires was typically done by servants so they could cook food. Eat leftovers on this day (as with the manna) so that the day not only benefits the heads of households, but every person in the household.

⁴ Moses spoke to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, “This is the thing which the LORD has commanded, saying, ⁵ ‘Take from among you a contribution to the LORD; whoever is of a willing heart is to bring it as the LORD’S contribution: gold, silver, and bronze, ⁶ and violet, purple, and scarlet *material*, fine linen, goats’ *hair*, ⁷ and rams’ skins dyed red, and fine leather, and acacia wood, ⁸ and oil for lighting, and spices for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense, ⁹ and onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

- Why a “willing heart”? (2 Cor 9:7 - God loves a cheerful giver) - compelled or grudging contributions violate the sanctity of sanctity of the “spiritual marriage home” between God and people

¹⁰ ‘Have every skillful person among you come and make all that the LORD has commanded: ¹¹ the tabernacle, its tent and its covering, its hooks and its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its bases; ¹² the ark and its poles, the atoning cover, and the covering curtain; ¹³ the table and its poles, and all its utensils, and the bread of the Presence; ¹⁴ the lampstand also for the light and its utensils and its lamps, and the oil for the light; ¹⁵ and the altar of incense and its poles, and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense, and the curtain for the doorway at the entrance of the tabernacle; ¹⁶ the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grating, its poles, and all its utensils, the basin and its stand; ¹⁷ the hangings of the courtyard, its pillars and its bases, and the curtain for the gate of the courtyard; ¹⁸ the pegs of the tabernacle and the pegs of the courtyard and their ropes; ¹⁹

the woven garments for ministering in the Holy Place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, to serve as priests.”

²⁰ Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel departed from Moses’ presence. ²¹ And everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him came *and* brought the LORD’s contribution for the work of the tent of meeting and for all its service, and for the holy garments. ²² Then all whose hearts moved them, both men and women, came *and* brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and bracelets, all articles of gold; so *did* everyone who presented an offering of gold to the LORD. ²³ Everyone who was in possession of violet, purple, or scarlet *material* or fine linen or goats’ *hair*, or rams’ skins dyed red or fine leather, brought them. ²⁴ Everyone who could make a contribution of silver and bronze brought the LORD’s contribution; and everyone who was in possession of acacia wood for any work of the service brought it.

- In addition to materials for the tabernacle, the Lord also received skills

²⁵ And all the skilled women spun with their hands, and brought what they had spun, *in* violet, purple, *and* scarlet *material*, and *in* fine linen. ²⁶ And all the women whose heart stirred with a skill spun the goats’ *hair*. ²⁷ The rulers, moreover, brought the onyx stones and the stones for setting for the ephod and for the breastpiece; ²⁸ and the spice and the oil for the light and for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense. ²⁹ The Israelites, all the men and women, whose heart moved them to bring *material* for all the work, which the LORD had commanded through Moses to be done, brought a voluntary offering to the LORD.

- Reversal of ANE expectation that the men would volunteer their wives’ services
- Women, rulers, then all

³⁰ Then Moses said to the sons 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, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all craftsmanship; ³² to create designs for working in gold, in silver, and in bronze, ³³ and in the cutting of stones for settings and in the carving of wood, so as to perform in every inventive work. ³⁴ He also has put in his heart to teach, both he and Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. ³⁵ He has filled them with skill to perform every work of an engraver, of a designer, and of an embroiderer, in violet, purple, *and* in scarlet *material*, and in fine linen, and of a weaver, as performers of every work and makers of designs.

- Principle of first mention - who is the first person the Bible says was “filled with the Spirit of God”? A woodcarver, craftsman, and teacher from the tribe of Judah

36 “Now Bezalel, Oholiab, and every skillful person in whom the LORD HAS put skill and understanding to know how to perform all the work in the construction of the sanctuary, shall perform in accordance with everything that the LORD has commanded.”

² Then Moses called Bezalel, Oholiab, and every skillful person in whom the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him, to come to the work to perform it. ³ They received from Moses every contribution which the sons of Israel had brought to perform the work in the construction of the sanctuary. And they still *continued* bringing to him voluntary offerings every morning. ⁴ And all the skillful people who were performing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work which they were performing, ⁵ and they said to Moses, “The people are bringing much more than enough for the construction work which the LORD commanded *us* to perform.” ⁶ So Moses issued a command, and circulated a proclamation throughout the camp, saying, “No man or woman is to perform work any longer for the contributions of the sanctuary.” So the people were restrained from bringing *any more*. ⁷ For the material they had was sufficient and more than enough for all the work, to perform it.

- Contrast with the people’s work for Pharaoh

The Chiasmic Structure of Exodus 24–40

A - God’s glory on Sinai (24:12-18)

B - Patterns for the Tabernacle and Priests (25:1-30:38)

C - Bezalel called (31:1-11)

D - Sabbath directed (31:12-17)

E - Covenant broken (31:18-33:11)

X - Intercession and God’s Character revealed (33:12-32:9)

E` - Covenant Renewed (34:10-35)

D` - Sabbath confirmed (35:1-3)

C` - Bezalel filled with the Spirit (35:4-36:7)

B` - Building of Tabernacle and making of Priestly garments (36:8-39:43)

A` - God’s Glory fills the Tabernacle (40:34-38)

⁸ All the skillful people among those who were performing the work made the tabernacle with ten curtains; of fine twisted linen and violet, purple, and scarlet *material*, with cherubim, the work of a skilled embroiderer, Bezalel made them. ⁹ The length of each curtain was twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; all the curtains had the same measurements. ¹⁰ He joined five curtains to one another, and *the other* five curtains he joined to one another. ¹¹ And he made loops of violet on the edge of the outermost curtain in the first set; he did likewise on the edge of the curtain that

was outermost in the second set. ¹² He made fifty loops in the one curtain, and he made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that was in the second set; the loops were opposite each other. ¹³ He also made fifty clasps of gold, and joined the curtains to one another with the clasps, so that the tabernacle was a unit.

¹⁴ Then he made curtains of goats' *hair* for a tent over the tabernacle; he made eleven curtains *in all*. ¹⁵ The length of each curtain *was* thirty cubits, and four cubits *was* the width of each curtain; the eleven curtains had the same measurements. ¹⁶ He joined five curtains by themselves, and *the other* six curtains by themselves. ¹⁷ Moreover, he made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that was outermost in the *first* set, and he made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain *that was outermost in* the second set. ¹⁸ He also made fifty clasps of bronze to join the tent together so that it would be a unit. ¹⁹ And he made a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering of fine leather above.

²⁰ Then he made the boards for the tabernacle of acacia wood, standing upright. ²¹ Ten cubits *was* the length of each board, and one and a half cubits the width of each board. ²² *There were* two tenons for each board, fitted to one another; he did this to all the boards of the tabernacle. ²³ So he made the boards for the tabernacle: twenty boards for the south side; ²⁴ and he made forty bases of silver under the twenty boards; two bases under one board for its two tenons, and two bases under another board for its two tenons. ²⁵ Then for the second side of the tabernacle, on the north side, he made twenty boards, ²⁶ and their forty bases of silver; two bases under one board, and two bases under another board. ²⁷ And for the back of the tabernacle, to the west, he made six boards. ²⁸ He made two boards for the corners of the tabernacle at the back. ²⁹ They were double beneath, and together they were complete to its top, to the first ring; he did this with both of them for the two corners. ³⁰ There were eight boards with their bases of silver, sixteen bases, two bases under every board.

³¹ Then he made bars of acacia wood, five for the boards of one side of the tabernacle, ³² and five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the tabernacle for the back *side* to the west. ³³ And he made the middle bar to pass through in the center of the boards from end to end. ³⁴ Then he overlaid the boards with gold, and made their rings of gold *as* holders for the bars, and overlaid the bars with gold.

³⁵ Moreover, he made the veil of violet, purple, and scarlet *material*, and fine twisted linen; he made it with cherubim, the work of a skilled embroiderer. ³⁶ And he made four pillars of acacia for it, and overlaid them with gold, with their hooks of gold; and he cast four bases of silver for them. ³⁷ He also made a curtain for the doorway of the tent, of violet, purple, and scarlet *material*, and fine twisted linen, the work of a weaver; ³⁸ and

he made its five pillars with their hooks, and he overlaid their tops and their bands with gold; but their five bases were of bronze.

37 Now Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood; its length was two and a half cubits, its width one and a half cubits, and its height one and a half cubits; ² and he overlaid it with pure gold inside and out, and made a gold molding for it all around. ³ He cast four rings of gold for it on its four feet; two rings on one side of it, and two rings on the other side of it. ⁴ And he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. ⁵ He put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, to carry it. ⁶ He also made an atoning cover of pure gold, two and a half cubits long and one and a half cubits wide. ⁷ And he made two cherubim of gold; he made them of hammered work at the two ends of the atoning cover: ⁸ one cherub at the one end and one cherub at the other end; he made the cherubim of one piece with the atoning cover at the two ends. ⁹ And the cherubim had their wings spread upward, covering the atoning cover with their wings, with their faces toward each other; the faces of the cherubim were toward the atoning cover.

¹⁰ Then he made the table of acacia wood, two cubits long, a cubit wide, and one and a half cubits high. ¹¹ He overlaid it with pure gold, and made a gold molding for it all around. ¹² And he made a rim for it of a hand width all around, and made a gold molding for its rim all around. ¹³ He also cast four gold rings for it and put the rings on the four corners that were on its four legs. ¹⁴ Close by the rim were the rings, the holders for the poles to carry the table. ¹⁵ And he made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold, to carry the table. ¹⁶ He also made the utensils which were on the table, its dishes, its pans, its libation bowls, and its jars, with which to pour out drink offerings, of pure gold.

¹⁷ Then he made the lampstand of pure gold. He made the lampstand of hammered work, its base and its shaft; its cups, its bulbs, and its flowers were of one piece with it. ¹⁸ There were six branches going out of its sides; three branches of the lampstand from the one side of it and three branches of the lampstand from the other side of it; ¹⁹ three cups shaped like almond blossoms, a bulb and a flower on one branch, and three cups shaped like almond blossoms, a bulb and a flower on the other branch—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. ²⁰ And on the lampstand there were four cups shaped like almond blossoms, its bulbs and its flowers; ²¹ and a bulb was under the first pair of branches coming out of it, and a bulb under the second pair of branches coming out of it, and a bulb under the third pair of branches coming out of it, for the six branches coming out of the lampstand. ²² Their bulbs and their branches were of one piece with it; the whole of it was a single hammered work of pure gold. ²³ And he made its seven lamps with its tongs and its trays of pure gold. ²⁴ He made it and all its utensils from a talent of pure gold.

²⁵ Then he made the altar of incense of acacia wood: a cubit long and a cubit wide, square, and two cubits high; its horns were *of one piece* with it. ²⁶ And he overlaid it with pure gold, its top and its sides all around, and its horns; and he made a gold molding for it all around. ²⁷ He also made two golden rings for it under its molding, on its two sides—on opposite sides—as holders for poles with which to carry it. ²⁸ And he made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. ²⁹ Then he made the holy anointing oil and the pure, fragrant incense of spices, the work of a perfumer.

- Bezalel = “The protection of God”
- Bezalel, filled with the Spirit of God, the carpenter and teacher, made the ark out of wood, the cover of atonement, the table of wood where the bread was placed, the lampstand/tree of life image, the altar of incense/intercession image, and the anointing oil, and more in ch 38. (Luke 24)

38 Then he made the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood, five cubits long, and five cubits wide, square, and three cubits high.² And he made its horns on its four corners, its horns being *of one piece* with it, and he overlaid it with bronze. ³ He also made all the utensils of the altar, the pails, the shovels, the basins, the meat-forks, and the firepans; he made all its utensils of bronze. ⁴ And he made for the altar a grating of bronze netting beneath, under its ledge, reaching halfway up.⁵ He also cast four rings on the four ends of the bronze grating *as* holders for the poles. ⁶ He made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with bronze. ⁷ Then he inserted the poles into the rings on the sides of the altar, with which to carry it. He made it hollow with planks.

⁸ Moreover, he made the basin of bronze with its base of bronze, from the mirrors of the serving women who served at the doorway of the tent of meeting.

⁹ Then he made the courtyard: for the south side the hangings of the courtyard were of fine twisted linen, a hundred cubits; ¹⁰ their twenty pillars, and their twenty bases, *were made* of bronze; the hooks of the pillars and their bands *were* of silver. ¹¹ For the north side *there were* a hundred cubits; their twenty pillars and their twenty bases *were* of bronze, the hooks of the pillars and their bands *were* of silver. ¹² For the west side *there were* hangings of fifty cubits *with* their ten pillars and their ten bases; the hooks of the pillars and their bands *were* of silver. ¹³ For the east side, fifty cubits. ¹⁴ The hangings for the *one side of the gate were* fifteen cubits, *with* their three pillars and their three bases, ¹⁵ and so for the other side. On both sides of the gate of the courtyard *were* hangings of fifteen cubits, *with* their three pillars and their three bases.¹⁶ All the hangings of the courtyard all around *were* of fine twisted linen.¹⁷ And the bases for the pillars *were* of bronze, the hooks of the pillars and their bands, of silver; and the overlaying of their tops, of silver, and all the pillars of the courtyard were furnished with silver bands. ¹⁸ Now the curtain of the gate of the courtyard was the work of the weaver, of violet,

purple, and scarlet *material* and fine twisted linen. And the length *was* twenty cubits and the height *was* five cubits, corresponding to the hangings of the courtyard. ¹⁹ Their four pillars and their four bases *were* of bronze; their hooks *were* of silver, and the overlaying of their tops and their bands *were* of silver. ²⁰ All the pegs of the tabernacle and of the courtyard all around *were* of bronze.

²¹ This is the number of the things for the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the testimony, as they were counted according to the command of Moses, for the service of the Levites, by the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. ²² Now Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made everything that the LORD had commanded Moses. ²³ With him *was* Oholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an engraver and a skilled embroiderer, and a weaver in violet, in purple, and in scarlet *material*, and fine linen.

- Note that God by His word ordered the Cosmos in Genesis 1 - Here by His command He builds the Tabernacle *through His imagers*

²⁴ All the gold that was used for the work, in all the work of the sanctuary, which was the gold of the wave offering, was twenty-nine talents and 730 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary. ²⁵ And the silver of those of the congregation who were counted was a hundred talents and 1,775 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary; ²⁶ a beka a head (*that is*, half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary), *assessed* to each one who passed over to those who were counted, from twenty years old and upward, for 603,550 men. ²⁷ The hundred talents of silver were *used* for casting the bases of the sanctuary and the bases of the veil; a hundred bases for the hundred talents, a talent for a base. ²⁸ And of the 1,775 *shekels*, he made hooks for the pillars, and overlaid their tops and made bands for them. ²⁹ And the bronze of the wave offering was seventy talents and 2,400 shekels. ³⁰ With it he made the bases to the doorway of the tent of meeting, and the bronze altar and its bronze grating, and all the utensils of the altar, ³¹ and the bases of the courtyard all around and the bases of the gate of the courtyard, and all the pegs of the tabernacle and all the pegs of the courtyard all around.

- Why does God “need” a tent?

“My husband and I celebrated our twentieth anniversary in the Colombia River Gorge. The Colombia forms a boundary between Oregon and Washington and is home to some of the most breathtaking views on the continent. We revisited our favorite honeymoon spot, Bridal Veil Lodge, a short walk from Bridal Veil Falls, one of many stunning waterfalls along the Gorge. Each morning we would step out our door, cross the scenic highway on foot, and wind our way through the trees to the overlook. From that vantage point we could see the Colombia River, the busy interstate that traces the river’s southern banks, and the tree-laden mountains to the north on the Washington side. We were a good one hundred feet above the freeway, which lay at the bottom of steep cliffs. Wise park rangers installed a strong fence along the edges of the overlook. Rather from preventing our enjoyment of the view, these fences made it possible for us to soak it all in without fear of falling. We could safely get right up to the edge. The tabernacle was like this. The hot spot of Yahweh’s presence was hidden in the innermost chamber of the tabernacle, guarded by the outer tent, which only the priests could enter. The entrance to the holy place was further protected by an outer boundary of curtains with an entrance near the altar. No toddler could accidentally wander into sacred space and tip over the menorah with its seven burning lamps. No sin-stained Israelite would suffer a violent death by getting too close to God’s holy presence. The outer boundary of the tabernacle kept them from danger while enabling them to live in close proximity. The layout of the tabernacle allows them to gaze at Yahweh’s glory from a safe distance and have the assurance of his attentive presence without constant fear of ritual violation. Just like the law, the tabernacle offers grace by putting up protective fences. ~Carmen Imes, *Bearing God’s Name: Why Sinai Still Matters*

Reflections