



Exodus

THE TABERNACLE **Exodus 36:8-39:43**

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Covenant Worship (Exodus 25:1-31:18; 35:1-39:43)

Exodus 25-31 contains specific instructions from God to Moses concerning the construction of the Tabernacle. After a brief historical interruption, Exodus 35 commences with the actual implementation of the construction of the Tabernacle. Exodus 39 ends with the completion of the project. These two sections of Scripture are highly repetitive but have enough nuance to merit examination separately.

Construction of the Tabernacle

Moses had received specific instructions regarding the actual construction of the Tabernacle. God had gifted people with the needed skills to complete the construction. God's people had donated the needed materials for the project. It was time to build! Exodus 36-38 records the construction of this special tent:

- The Tent Itself - Exodus 36:8-38
- The Ark of the Covenant - Exodus 37:1-9
- The Table - Exodus 37:10-16
- The Lampstand - Exodus 37:17-24
- The Altar of Incense - Exodus 37:25-29
- The Altar of Burnt Offering - Exodus 38:1-7
- The Basin - Exodus 38:8
- The Courtyard - Exodus 38:9-20
- Summary of the Materials - Exodus 38:21-31

The Priestly Garments

Israel did not have a “royal” family as such. It had no king. However, the priests would function as God’s representatives to the people. Their adornment was intended to represent the important role they played in the life of the people.

- The Ephod - Exodus 39:2-7
- The Breastpiece - Exodus 39:8-21
- Vestments - Exodus 39:22-31

The Inspection by Moses

Reminiscent of the story of creation, Moses reviews all of the work and pronounces a blessing. The work was completed just as God had desired.

Things to Consider

1. The Tabernacle represents the reality of God’s presence with His people --- and it communicates His desire to fellowship with His people.
2. The Tabernacle offers the people of God a tangible place to meet, interact with, respond to, demonstrate devotion to, obey, love, and publicly express acknowledgment of Yahweh.
3. The Tabernacle was to be seen as the intersection between heaven and earth.
4. The Tabernacle would be moved through the years: It was moved to Shiloh (Joshuah 18:1), Nob (1 Samuel 21), Gibeon (1 Chronicles 16:39) and eventually to Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:4).