

Exodus 35

Israel committed idolatry in Exodus 32, an event which is the focus of chapters 33-34 also. Once Israel repented, God renewed His covenant with Israel, having given a new copy of the Law to Moses (34:27-28). Now that the relationship is restored, Israel can build the tent for worship so that God can dwell in their presence (25:8). Chapters 35-40 record the construction of that tent of worship with God's glory dwelling in it, once it is built according to the Spirit's directions (40:34). The content of most of these six chapters have already been discussed in the discussion of chapters 25-31 when God first set out the pattern. We will limit our thoughts as we move through these last chapters.

TRANSLATION - 35:1-19:

1 Then Moses assembled all the assembly of the sons of Israel and he said to them, "These [are] the words which Jehovah commanded to do them. **2** Six days you will do work and in the seventh day it will be for you holiness, a Sabbath rest to Jehovah. Everyone who works in it will be killed. **3** You will not kindle a fire in all your dwellings in the seventh day."

4 And Moses spoke to all the assembly of the sons of Israel, saying, "This [is] the matter which Jehovah commands, saying, **5** "Take from among you a contribution for Jehovah, all generous in his heart let him bring it, the contribution of Jehovah: gold and silver and bronze. **6** And blue and purple and [from] the worm of scarlet and linen and goat hair. **7** And the skins of rams dyed red and skins of leather and trees of acacia. **8** And the oil for a light and spices for oil of anointing and for fragrant incense. **9** And onyx stones and stones for settings for the ephod and for the breast piece." **10** And every one wise in heart among you let him come and let him do all which Jehovah commands. **11** The sanctuary tent and its covering and its clasps and its boards, its bars, its pillars and its sockets. **12** The ark and its atonement cover and the curtain of the screen. **13** The table and its poles and all its utensils and the bread of the presence. **14** The lamp stand and its utensils and its lamps and the oil for the lights. **15** And the altar of incense and its poles and the oil of anointing and the fragrant incense and the curtain for the door at the entrance of the sanctuary. **16** The altar of burnt offering and the grate of bronze which [is] for you its poles and all its utensils and the basin and its stand. **17** The hangings of the court, its pillars and its sockets and the screen of the gate of the courtyard. **18** The pegs of the sanctuary and the pegs of the courtyard and their cords. **19** The garments finely woven to serve in the holy place, the garments of holiness for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons to serve as priest."

HEBREW WORDS:

The verb "to assemble" (ver. 1) was used earlier at 32:1. This is its last use in Exodus. "Holiness" (ver. 2) is a noun in Hebrew; it is used earlier at 3:5. The verb "to die" was used earlier at 1:6. "To kindle" (ver. 3) was used earlier at 3:2-3. "Dwellings" was used earlier at 10:23. "Contribution" (ver. 5) was used earlier at 25:2-3. "Generous" is used only here in Exodus: 35:5, 22. It is used 26 times in the OT.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

Verses 1-3 are a repetition of 31:13-17.

Verses 4-9 are a repetition of 25:1-7.

Verses 10-19 are a repetition of 31:6-10.

COMMENTARY:

Verses 1-3 is the seventh time God has emphasized the importance of the Sabbath laws: 16:23-30; 20:8-11; 21:2; 23:11-12; 31:14-15; 34:12. Moses speaks to the holy assembly of Israel (ver. 1) and reminds them that the following discussion is commanded by Jehovah (ver. 2). Then he reminds them again to respect the Sabbath law. Whoever does not respect the

Sabbath law will be put to death. In this text, Moses adds the comment that no fire should be “kindled” on the Sabbath, a reference to work that would be required to prepare food. That food should be prepared on Friday.

In verses 4-9, Moses again commands the entire assembly to give for the construction of the tent of worship with the items to be given listed as they were given in 25:1-7. Verses 20-29 will detail the actual giving of the items by the various groups of Israelites.

Beginning in verse 10, running through verse 19, Moses will command “every skillful man” do make what Jehovah had commanded. Following that command, Moses gives a list of all the items of the tent of worship which had been detailed in 31:6-10 and then its pattern given in the preceding chapters.

APPLICATION:

Moses’ contemporaries - This chapter emphasizes the obedience of Israel to the Lord’s commands. See also: 39:1, 5, 7, 21, 26, 29, 31; 40:19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32. It was only because Israel obeyed the Lord in constructing the tent of worship that Jehovah God could dwell within the tent: 40:34.

NT writers - The New Testament also emphasizes the need for people to obey Jesus Christ: Matthew 7:21-23; Hebrews 5:8-9.

TRANSLATION - 35:20-35:

20 And they went out, all the assembly of the sons of Israel from the presence of Moses. **21** And they came every man whose heart stirred him and each whose spirit urged him, brought a contribution of Jehovah for their work of the tent of meeting and for all their service and for the holy garments. **22** Both men and women all whose heart moved brought hooks and rings and earrings and bracelets all the utensils of gold and every man who presented an offering of gold to Jehovah. **23** And every man who found it, blue and purple and worm of scarlet and linen and goat skins and skins of rams dyed red and skins of leather, they brought [them]. **24** All taking up the contribution of silver and bronze brought the contribution of Jehovah and all who found it wood of acacia and all the work of the service brought [it]. **25** And every man wise in heart in his hands spun and brought yarn, blue and purple and worm of scarlet and linen. **26** And all the women whose heart lifted him whose wisdom spun the goat hair. **27** And the leaders brought the stones of onyx and stones for the settings for the ephod and for the breast piece. **28** And the spices and the oil for the lights and the oil of anointing and for the fragrant incense.

29 Every man and woman whose heart urged them to bring to all the work which Jehovah commanded to do by the hand of Moses brought the sons of Israel a voluntary gift to Jehovah.

30 And Moses said to the sons of Israel: “See, Jehovah called by name Bezalel son of Uri, son of Hur of the tribe of Judah. **31** And there was found in him the Spirit of God, wisdom, understanding, and knowledge and in all work **32** and to design plans to make of gold and silver and bronze. **33** And in cuttings of stone for settings and in carving of wood to make in all the work of the plans. **34** And to teach he gives his heart even Oholiab, son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. **35** He filled them with the wisdom of heart to do all the work of a craftsman and a designer and a embroiderer in blue and purple and the worm of scarlet and in linen and a weaver, doers of all the work and designers of work.

HEBREW WORDS:

“Spirit” (ver. 21) was used earlier at 6:9. “Hooks” (ver. 22) might be brooches; it is used only here in Exodus and is used only 7 times in the OT. “Earrings” is used only here and Numbers 31:50. “Offering” was used earlier at 29:24. The verb “to spin” is used only in this context: 35:25-26. “Yarn” is only used here in the OT. “Voluntary gift” (ver. 29) is used 26 times;

in Exodus, only at 35:29; 36:3. The verb “to teach” (ver. 34) was used earlier at 4:12, 15. It is related to the noun *torah* or “law.”

HEBREW GRAMMAR:

The direct object marker is used 61 times in this chapter. This object marker begins the following verses: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 28. The word “all” is used 28 times in this chapter, eleven times in nine verses, to denote the completeness of Israel’s offerings for the tabernacle. Sometimes the word is translated “each,” sometimes as “every.”

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

Verses 30-35, are a repetition of 26:1; 31:1-11.

COMMENTARY:

Having received the command of Moses (which was Jehovah’s command; 35:4, 10), the whole assembly left Moses’ presence in order to see what they had to give, to gather it, and to bring it to him for the construction of the tent of meeting. The giving began in their hearts (ver. 21), when their spirit compelled them to give “Jehovah’s contribution,” that is, what Jehovah had motivated them to give and what they had chosen to give to Jehovah. Both men and women (ver. 22) gave generously. The gold they gave was often, if not exclusively, in the form of jewelry. Earlier it had been used for making a false god (32:2-3). Now it is given in service to the true God.

Men brought the materials to be used for the curtains and the clothing (ver. 23). Silver and bronze were donated (ver. 24). If any man had acacia wood in his possession, he brought it for Jehovah. The emphasis in this passage seems to be two-fold: 1) Everyone gave; 2) Everyone gave something. The women took the colorful material - blue, purple, and scarlet - and spun the material to make the curtains and garments (ver. 25). They also spun the goats’ hair. Notice the emphasis on the heart and spirit of the Israelites: verses 21, 22, 26, 29.

The rulers, the elders of Israel and perhaps other leaders, brought the stones for the priestly garments (ver. 27) as well as the spices for making the incense and the anointing oil and the oil for the lamps (ver. 28). Verse 29 summarizes the attitude and the actions of the Israelites: both men and women, whoever was moved by their love for God, gave what they could, in fulfillment of Jehovah’s command (ver. 29). Even though it was commanded, it was also given freely.

Israel had nearly lost their lives, their souls, and their relationship with Jehovah through His covenant because of their idolatry. Having been given a second chance, they respond generously and enthusiastically. Notice the number of times the words “all” and “every” are used in the text from verses 20-29.

Finally, in verses 30-35, Moses turns his attention to the leaders chosen by God to oversee the construction of the tent of worship: Bezalel and Oholiab. Because this tent of worship is supposed to “house” the holy God, its construction must be guided by the Holy Spirit of God, who is given to Bezalel (ver. 31). The Spirit gave Bezalel wisdom, understanding, and knowledge in his craftsmanship in all that he was to oversee (ver. 32-33). The Holy Spirit also guided Bezalel to “teach” (the verbal form of the word for “law;” *torah*) others to do what they could for the tent of worship. Verse 34 notes Oholiab assisted Bezalel. Verse 35 notes that the Holy Spirit guided these two men and their assistants to doing all their work.

APPLICATION:

Moses’ contemporaries - For more on the giving, see 36:1-7.

NT writers - Christians in the NT also exhibited generosity in their giving to Jesus Christ: Matthew 26:6-13; Phil. 4:14-19.