

Exodus 36

Beginning in chapter 35, Moses begins recording the actual construction of the tabernacle and its furniture. In that chapter, Moses reemphasized that the Sabbath was still a day of rest, despite the need to build the tabernacle (35:1-3). Then Moses details the gifts donated (35:4-9), the workmen who served (35:10-19), and the gifts given by various individuals and groups (35:20-29). Finally, Moses mentions Bezalel and Oholiab who would serve as leaders of the construction (35:30-35).

Chapter 36 begins with Bezalel and Oholiab, who oversee the construction (36:1-7). This chapter records the construction of the tabernacle and its covering of tents. Chapters 37-38 will record the construction of the furniture for the tabernacle. Chapter 39 will record the creation of the clothes for the priests. Chapter 40 will summarize the construction, noting that the Israelites did everything that God commanded Moses and God sending His glory to fill the tabernacle (40:34).

TRANSLATION - 36:1-2:

1 And Bezalel did, and Oholiab, and every man [with] wisdom of heart whom Jehovah gave wisdom and understanding in them to know to do all the work of building the sanctuary for all which Jehovah commanded. **2** And Moses called to Bezalel and to Oholiab and to every man [with] wisdom of heart whom Jehovah gave wisdom in their heart, all which their heart stirred them to approach to the work to do it.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

Compare 31:2-11.

COMMENTARY:

Bezalel was first mentioned in 31:2. Here, he does what Jehovah had commanded, with the help of Oholiab, first mentioned in 31:6. The verb “to make, do” is used 37 times in this chapter. These men were assisted by those who had “wisdom of heart,” to whom Jehovah gave further wisdom and understanding. Observe in verse 1 (36:1, 3, 4, 6) that the “tent” is called the “sanctuary.” This term was found first in 3:5; it is used with various denotations, referring to anything that is “holy.” Here, it refers to the tent as “holy” due to God’s presence. The term refers to the *place* of holiness 154 times in the OT, 13 times in Exodus (note 15:17; 25:8).

Observe again, as we noted in chapter 35 (35:21, 22, 26, 29), how the “heart” is emphasized in this text (verses 1 and 2). God expected Israel to put their heart into their service to Him.

APPLICATION:

NT writers - Concerning giving generously in the NT, see: Matthew 10:8; Luke 14:28; 1 Corinthians 3:9; 4:7; 2 Cor. 8:7.

TRANSLATION - 36:3-7:

3 And they took from before Moses all the contribution which the sons of Israel brought for the work of the building of the sanctuary to make it and they brought to him the voluntary gifts from morning to morning. **4** They came all the craftsmen making all the work of the sanctuary, man by man, his work which they were doing. **5** They spoke to Moses saying, “Increasing the people to bring from their hand for the service for the work which Jehovah commanded them to do.” **6** And Moses commanded and they proclaimed their voice in the camp saying, “A man and a woman will not do still the work for a contribution of the sanctuary.” And the people were refrained from bringing. **7** And the work was sufficient for all the work to do it and it was too much.

HEBREW WORDS:

“Voluntary gifts” (ver. 3) was used earlier at 35:29. This is its last use. The verb “to proclaim” (ver. 5) was used earlier at 12:12, 23. This is the only use of “to refrain” (ver. 6) in the book of Exodus. It is used 17 times in the OT. The word “sufficient” (ver. 7) is used here and verse 7 in Exodus, out of 39 uses. The verb “to be much” was used earlier at 10:15.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

The rest of this chapter is found, in the future tense, originally in 26:1-37.

COMMENTARY:

As God had commanded in 25:1-9, so Israel did: they gave freely and voluntarily, morning after morning after morning. Apparently, they were so thankful that God would continue His covenant with them that they gave abundantly. Finally, the men in charge (ver. 4) came to Moses to say that they had sufficient supplies. So, Moses sent word through the camp for Israel to quit giving (ver. 6). In fact, the text says the people had to be “restrained” from giving (ver. 6). What they had given was sufficient; in fact, it was more than sufficient to create the tabernacle.

APPLICATION:

For points of application, see the original description of the structures in chapter 26.

TRANSLATION - 36:8-13:

8 And they did, all [with] wisdom of heart the work the tabernacle with ten curtains of linen blue and purple and worms of scarlet, cherubim the work of craftsmen made it. **9** The length of each curtain twenty eight cubits and the width four cubits the curtain, each measure one for all the curtains. **10** And he joined five curtains, one to one, and five curtains he joined one to one. **11** He made for loops on the edge of the curtain the first from the end of the coupling; thus they did at the edge of the curtain from the outside of the second coupling. **12** Fifty loops he made in the curtain, the first and fifty loops he made in the edge of the curtain what [was] in the second coupling opposite the loops, one to one. **13** He made the fifty gold hooks and connected one curtain to the other with the clasps and the tabernacle was one.

HEBREW WORDS:

“Cherubim” (ver. 8) were first mentioned in Exodus at 25:18-20. “Tent of worship” was used earlier at 25:9.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

The rest of this chapter is found, in the future tense, originally in 26:1-37.

COMMENTARY:

Observe in this text that the “sanctuary” is now referred to as a “tabernacle.” This word for tabernacle (*mishkan*) was first mentioned in 25:9. The word is used 139 times in the OT, 58 times in Exodus. The noun is related to the verb “to dwell,” so that the noun literally means “dwelling place,” referring to God’s presence there. Again, those whose heart moved them worked on the tabernacle (ver. 8).

This paragraph notes the creation of the curtains that formed the walls around the dwelling place of God’s glory. Compare Exodus 26:1-14.

APPLICATION:

For points of application, see the original description of the structures in chapter 26.

NT writers - The verb “to dwell in a tent” refers to the action which Jesus did when He became human (John 1:14). In Him dwells the fulness of the glorious Godhead (Col. 2:9).

TRANSLATION - 36:14-19:

14 He made the cloth of goat hair for the tent on the tabernacle; eleven cloths he made them. **15** The length of one curtain, thirty cubits; four [cubits] the width of one curtain, one measure, eleven cloths. **16** And he joined the five curtains apart and the six curtains apart. **17** And he made fifty loops for the edge of the curtain, the outermost in the coupling and fifty loops he made for the edge of the curtain connecting the second. **18** And he made fifty hooks of bronze to join the tent to be one. **19** And he made coverings of the tent of skins of rams dyed red and skins of leather from the top.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

The rest of this chapter is found, in the future tense, originally in 26:1-37.

COMMENTARY:

This paragraph describes the construction of the covering over the tabernacle, made of goat hair. See the original command in Exodus 26:7-14. While the structure is called a “sanctuary” because it would contain the holy presence of God’s glory (36:1, 3, 4, 6), and a “tabernacle” because it would be the dwelling place of God’s glory (36:8, 13, 14, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32), so it was also called the “tent” (36:18, 37) because that was the type of structure it was physically. The word “tent” is used 346 times in the OT. It is found 62 times in Exodus, beginning at 16:16.

APPLICATION:

For points of application, see the original description of the structures in chapter 26.

TRANSLATION - 36:20-30:

20 And he made the frames for the tabernacle of acacia wood standing upright. **21** Ten cubits the length of the board and a cubit and a half the width of one board. **22** Two hands for one board joined one to one, thus he did for all the boards of the tabernacle. **23** He made the frames for the tabernacle twenty boards for the side toward the south. **24** And forty sockets of silver he made, below the twenty boards, two sockets beneath the board, one for the two pegs and two sockets under the one frame for the two pegs. **25** And for the side of the tabernacle the second to the north corner he made twenty boards. **26** And forty of their sockets of silver, two sockets under the one frame and two sockets under the one frame. **27** And to the back of the tabernacle toward the west he made six boards. **28** Two boards he made for the corner of the tabernacle toward the rear. **29** And they were double at the bottom and they were together complete at their head to the first ring; thus he made for their two corners. **30** And there were eight boards with their sockets of silver, sixteen - two bases, two sockets and two sockets under each board.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

The rest of this chapter is found, in the future tense, originally in 26:1-37.

COMMENTARY:

This paragraph describes the frame and structure of the tent itself. See its plans first revealed at 26:15-29.

APPLICATION:

For points of application, see the original description of the structures in chapter 26.

TRANSLATION - 36:31-34:

31 And he made bars of acacia wood, five for the boards to the side of the one tabernacle. **32** And five bars for the frame to the side of the tabernacle, the other and the five

bars for the frames of the tabernacle to the side toward the sea. **33** And he made the bar in the middle to pass through in the midst of the frames from the edge to the edge. **34** And the frames he overlaid with gold and their rings he made of gold for holders for the bars and he overlaid the bars with gold.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

The rest of this chapter is found, in the future tense, originally in 26:1-37.

COMMENTARY:

This short paragraph reveals the construction of the bars that provided support for the tent and its curtains and coverings. It's original plan was revealed in 26:26-29.

APPLICATION:

For points of application, see the original description of the structures in chapter 26.

TRANSLATION - 36:35-38:

35 And he made the veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarn and linen woven by a skillful weaver he made it with cherubim. **36** And he made it four pillars of acacia and he overlaid it with gold and their hooks of gold and he cast them in four sockets of silver. **37** And he made a screen for the door of the tent blue and purple and scarlet yarn and linen woven, the work of a weaver. **38** And its pillars five and its hooks and he overlaid the tops and the bands with gold and their five sockets of bronze.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

The rest of this chapter is found, in the future tense, originally in 26:1-37.

COMMENTARY:

In this final paragraph, Moses records the construction of the veil which separated the holy place from the most holy place. The original plan was revealed in 26:31-37.

APPLICATION:

For points of application, see the original description of the structures in chapter 26.