

Exodus 37

The last several chapters of Exodus (chapters 35-40) record the construction of the tabernacle for worship, along the pattern which God revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai in chapters 25-31. In this chapter, Moses records the building of the furniture.

TRANSLATION - 37:1-5:

1 And Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood, two cubits and a half long and a cubit and a half wide and a cubit and a half high. **2** And he overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside and he made it a border of gold around. **3** And he cast four rings of gold on the four corners and two rings on one side and two rings on the second side. **4** And he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. **5** And he brought the bars in the rings on the side of the ark to lift the ark.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

See Exodus 25:10-20 for the original command.

COMMENTARY:

After recording the construction of the tent itself (chapter 36), Moses records the construction of the furniture within the tent. He begins with the most important piece of furniture, the ark of the covenant (verses 1-5). All this construction is done under the leadership of Bezalel and supervision of Bezalel and Oholiab with many others assisting.

APPLICATION:

See under 25:10-20 for application.

TRANSLATION - 37:6-9:

6 And he made the atonement cover of pure gold two cubits and a half long and a cubit and a half wide. **7** And he made two cherubim of hammered gold; it made it at the two ends of the atonement cover. **8** One cherub from this end and one cherub from that end from the cherubim he made the cherubim at its two ends. **9** And the cherubim were spreading the wings upward, covering their wings on the atonement cover and their wings each to his brother on the atonement cover they were the face of the cherubim.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

See 25:17-22 for the original command for the atonement cover and the cherubim.

COMMENTARY:

This paragraph records the construction of the cover for the ark, on which the sacrifice of atonement would be made. That sacrifice will be detailed in Leviticus 16, a sacrifice made annually on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur).

APPLICATION:

See under 25:17-22 for application.

TRANSLATION - 37:10-16:

10 He made the table of acacia wood two cubits long and a cubit wide and a cubit and a half high. **11** He overlaid it with pure gold and made it a border of gold around. **12** And he made it a rim a handbreadth around and he made it of pure gold for the rim around. **13** He cast four rings of gold and put the rings on the four corners which [were] at the four legs. **14** At the front of the rim they were the rings as holders for the poles to lift the table. **15** And he made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold to lift the table. **16** And he made the utensils

which [were] on the table, its plates, dishes, bowls, and jars which will be poured out from them [offerings], of pure gold.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

See 25:23-29 for the original command to make this table.

COMMENTARY:

The table for the “bread of the Presence” is constructed next.

APPLICATION:

See under 25:23-29 for application.

TRANSLATION - 37:17-24:

17 And he made the lamp stand of pure gold of hammered work; he made the lamp stand, its base and its stand and its cups, its bulbs and its flowers the same they were. **18** And six branches went out from its side, three branches of lights from one side and three branches of lights from the second side. **19** Three cups of almond blossoms in one branch, a knob and a blossom and three cups of almond blossoms in one branch, thus for six branches went out from the lamp stand. **20** And in the lamp stand four cups like almond blossoms, its bulbs and its flowers. **21** And a bulb under two branches from it and a bulb under two branches from it and a bulb under two branches from it for six branches going out from it. **22** Their bulbs and their branches from it were the whole of one hammered work of pure gold. **23** And he made its lights seven and its snuffers and its trays of pure gold. **24** A talent of pure gold he made it and all its utensils.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

The original pattern for the lamp stand is found in 25:31-39.

COMMENTARY:

The lamp stand (*menorah*) is constructed next. This piece of furniture was made of one piece of hammered gold work (ver. 22).

APPLICATION:

See under 25:31-39 for application.

TRANSLATION - 37:25-28:

25 And he made the altar of incense of acacia wood, one cubit long and one cubit wide, square, and two cubits from it there were horns. **26** And he overlaid it with pure gold, its top and its side around and its horns and he made it a rim of gold around. **27** And two rings of gold he made it underneath for its molding on the two sides on the two sides for holders for the bars to lift it with them. **28** And he made the bars of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

The altar for burning incense was originally commanded in 30:1-5.

COMMENTARY:

The last piece of furniture of which its construction is mentioned in this chapter is the altar for burning incense.

APPLICATION:

See under 30:1-5 for application.

TRANSLATION - 37:29:

29 And he made the oil of anointing for holiness and the incense of pure fragrance the work of a perfumer.

THE ORIGINAL COMMAND IS RECORDED IN:

The recipe for the oil for anointing was first given at 30:22-33. The recipe for the incense itself was given in 30:34-38.

COMMENTARY:

The last items to be mentioned (in this chapter) as having been prepared for the proper worship of Jehovah God are the oil for anointing (the people and objects, to set them apart from household items to be used in His service) and the incense to burn on the altar.

APPLICATION:

See under 30:22-33, 34-38 for application.