

before Jehovah." The lamps were to be positioned in such an arrangement that they would give light toward the opposite side of the room.

39:40 - Regarding the "hanging of the court," see 27:9-15; 38:9-17.

39:42 - Credit was given to all the children of Israel, not just to the principal craftsmen.

39:43 - How Moses must have rejoiced to see the tabernacle completed! Less than two years before he had been a fearful shepherd. Now he has lived to see the fulfillment of God's promise: "Ye shall serve God upon this mountain" (3:12).

The work of building the tabernacle had been brief, but probably arduous. In a little over five months all the work had been done. See 19:1; 24:18; 34:28; 40:2.

The words "as Jehovah had commanded" describe ALL the work done. It was necessary to make the tabernacle according to HIS directions. Only God knew what was His plan to redeem man. Only God knew what pleased Him.

Jewish tradition attributes Psalm 90 to this occasion of completing the tabernacle. (J. H. Hertz, *Pentateuch and Haftorahs*, p. 388.) Note Psalm 90:17, the closing words of the psalm: "Establish thou the work of our hands upon us; Yea, the work of our hands, establish thou it." The Psalm is attributed to Moses by its title, but the idea that it was composed for this occasion is not a certainty.

THE TEXT OF EXODUS TRANSLATION

40 And Je-ho-vah spake unto Mo-ses, saying, (2) On the first day of the first month shalt thou rear up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. (3) And thou shalt put therein

the ark of the testimony, and thou shalt screen the ark with the veil. (4) And thou shalt bring in the table, and set in order the things that are upon it; and thou shalt bring in the candlestick, and light the lamps thereof. (5) And thou shalt set the golden altar for incense before the ark of the testimony, and put the screen of the door to the tabernacle. (6) And thou shalt set the altar of burnt-offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. (7) And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of meeting and the altar, and shalt put water therein. (8) And thou shalt set up the court round about, and hang up the screen of the gate of the court. (9) And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that is therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the furniture thereof: and it shall be holy. (10) And thou shalt anoint the altar of burnt-offering, and all its vessels, and sanctify the altar: and the altar shall be most holy. (11) And thou shalt anoint the laver and its base, and sanctify it. (12) And thou shalt bring Aar-on and his sons unto the door of the tent of meeting, and shalt wash them with water. (13) And thou shalt put upon Aar-on the holy garments; and thou shalt anoint him, and sanctify him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office. (14) And thou shalt bring his sons, and put coats upon them; (15) and thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office: and their anointing shall be to them for an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations. (16) Thus did Mo-ses: according to all that Je-ho-vah commanded him, so did he.

(17) And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was reared up. (18) And Mo-ses reared up the tabernacle, and laid its sockets, and set up the boards thereof, and put in the bars thereof, and reared up its pillars. (19) And he spread the tent over the tabernacle, and put the covering of the tent above upon it, as Je-ho-vah commanded Mo-ses. (20) And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy-seat above upon the ark: (21) and he brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up the veil of the screen, and

screened the ark of the testimony; as Je-ho-vah commanded Mo-ses. (22) And he put the table in the tent of meeting, upon the side of the tabernacle northward, without the veil. (23) And he set the bread in order upon it before Je-ho-vah; as Je-ho-vah commanded Mo-ses. (24) And he put the candlestick in the tent of meeting, over against the table, on the side of the tabernacle southward. (25) And he lighted the lamps before Je-ho-vah; as Je-ho-vah commanded Mo-ses. (26) And he put the golden altar in the tent of meeting before the veil: (27) and he burnt thereon incense of sweet spices; as Je-ho-vah commanded Mo-ses. (28) And he put the screen of the door to the tabernacle. (29) And he set the altar of burnt-offering at the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered upon it the burnt-offering and the meal-offering; as Je-ho-vah commanded Mo-ses. (30) And he set the laver between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water therein, wherewith to wash. (31) And Mo-ses and Aar-on and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat; (32) when they went into the tent of meeting, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as Je-ho-vah commanded Mo-ses. (33) And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the screen of the gate of the court. So Mo-ses finished the work.

(34) Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of Je-ho-vah filled the tabernacle. (35) And Mo-ses was not able to enter into the tent of meeting, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of Je-ho-vah filled the tabernacle. (36) And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Is-ra-el went onward, throughout all their journeys: (37) but if the cloud was not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. (38) For the cloud of Je-ho-vah was upon the tabernacle by day, and there was fire therein by night, in the sight of all the house of Is-ra-el, throughout all their journeys.

EXPLORING EXODUS: CHAPTER FORTY
QUESTIONS ANSWERABLE FROM THE BIBLE

1. After careful reading, propose a brief title or topic for the chapter.
2. Who designated the day for the setting up of the tabernacle? (40:1-2)
3. On what day was it to be set up? (40:2, 17). How long had it been since Israel left Egypt? (12:6-8, 29-33)
4. By what name is the ark called in 40:3?
5. Where was the altar of burnt-offering placed? (40:6, 29)
6. Where was the laver placed? (40:7, 30)
7. What was the anointing to cause the tabernacle to be? (40:9)
8. What was to be done to Aaron and his sons? (40:12-15). Is this the same ritual described in 29:1-37 and Lev. chapter eight?
9. Who set up the tabernacle? (40:18)
10. What did Moses put into the ark? (40:20; Compare Deut. 10:4-5.)
11. On which side of the Tent of meeting was the table placed? (40:22)
12. Who performed the first priestly work of setting bread in order, lighting lamps, and burning incense? (40:22-29)
13. Who washed at the laver? (40:31) What parts of their bodies were washed?
14. What covered the tent of meeting when the tabernacle was finished? (40:34; Compare I Kings 8:10-11.)
15. What is the "glory of Jehovah"? (40:34; 24:17; Num. 16:43; Luke 2:9; Rev. 21:23)
16. Why could not Moses enter the tent of meeting for a time? (40:35)
17. How did the cloud signal for Israel to prepare to move? How did the cloud direct their journeys? (40:36-37; Num. 9:15-23)
18. How did the cloud appear by day and by night? (40:38)
19. Who could see the cloud? When? (40:38)

EXODUS FORTY: TABERNACLE SET UP! GLORY OF THE LORD!

1. Command to set up the tabernacle; 40:1-15.
 2. Compliance of Moses; 40:17-33.
 3. Cloud of glory! 40:34-38.
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GOD'S INVOLVEMENT IN HIS SANCTUARY (40:1-16, 34)

1. He determines who sets it up. (40:2)
 2. He determines when it is set up. (40:2)
 3. He directs the arrangement of all parts. (40:3-8)
 4. He commands the anointing of all parts. (40:9-11)
 5. He requires the consecration of its priests. (40:12-15)
 6. He covers the tent with glory. (40:34)
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"AS THE LORD COMMANDED"! (40:16-33)

An overview of obedience! A chronicle of compliance!
See 40:16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32 - eight statements of obedience!

THE GLORY OF THE LORD! (40:34-38)

- A. At the tabernacle.
 1. Filled God's house; 40:34; II Chron. 7:1; Ezek. 43:5.
 2. Kept men at a distance; 40:35; II Chron. 7:2.
 3. Directed God's people; 40:36-37.
 4. Was visible to all! 40:38.
- B. At other places and times.
 1. Indicated God's presence when the law was given; Ex. 24:16-17.
 2. Indicated God's presence in anger; Num. 16:19, 42; 14:10; 20:6; Ex. 16:7, 10.
 3. Indicated God's presence in blessing; Lev. 9:23, 6.

4. Revealed to Moses; Ex. 33:18, 22.
5. Revealed to Ezekiel; Ezek. 1:28; 3:23; 9:3; 43:4-5.
6. Shone the night Christ was born; Luke 2:9.
7. The glory of the Lord is upon his people; Isaiah 60:1-2.
8. Christians behold it as in a mirror; II Cor. 3:18.
9. Will lighten the New Jerusalem. Rev. 21:23.

“Let the glory of Jehovah endure for ever!” (Ps. 104:31)

EXPLORING EXODUS: NOTES ON CHAPTER FORTY

1. *What is in Exodus 40?*

The chapter deals with the setting up of the tabernacle. It tells God's commands about how it was to be set up (40:1-15), and tells of Moses' compliance (40:16-33). The chapter closes excitingly with information about the cloud of God's glory filling the tabernacle and leading Israel through their journeys.

Note that eight times in the chapter the statement is made that Moses did just as the Lord commanded him.

The chapter is composed in accordance with the technique frequently used in various Biblical sections, and in general with the literary tradition of the Ancient East: one paragraph tells of the divine command, and the next records its implementation. (See Cassuto, *op. cit.*, p. 478.) Skeptical critics accuse it of being made of three parallel literary layers (40:1-17, 18-33, 34-38), each written separately, and all being additions to "P." (See Martin Noth, *op. cit.*, pp. 282-283.)

2. *When was the tabernacle to be set up? By whom? (40:1-2, 17)*

It was to be set up by Moses on the first day of the first month of the second year after their departure from Egypt. It had been eleven and a half months since they left Egypt, nine months since they arrived at Mt. Sinai, and less than

six months since Moses came down from Sinai after his second forty-day stay. Compare 12:2, 6.

3. *What was to "screen" (or cover) the ark? (40:3, 21)*

The VEIL was to "screen" the ark. The other "screen" at the entrance of the Holy Place is referred to in 40:5. Although the Hebrew verb translated "screen" (*sakak*) may mean "cover," it does not here indicate that the veil lay over the ark like a cover. The mercy-seat did that. But the veil did screen the ark from view from the Holy Place.

4. *What did Moses set on the table? (40:4, 23)*

He set the showbread in order upon it. Compare 25:30. It surely appears that the instructions about the showbread in Lev. 24:5-9 are here presupposed, and must have been issued before the tabernacle was set up.

Exodus 40:4 reads literally, "And thou shalt arrange its arrangement" (referring to the showbread).

5. *Where were the altar of burnt-offering and the laver located? (40:6-7)*

The altar was in the court, in front of the entrance to the tent of meeting (the Holy Place). The laver was between the altar and the tent of meeting. Note that the laver had water in it; but there is no indication that water was in its base. Compare 30:17-18. The translation "water therein" appears to be a little too definite; the Hebrew just says "You shall put water there." Note the separate anointing of the laver and its base (40:11).

6. *What effect was the anointing to have on the tabernacle and its furniture? (40:9-10)*

It was to make it "holy." The "it" in 40:9 refers to the tabernacle and all its equipment. On anointing, see 30:26-28.

Exodus 40:10 says that the altar of burnt-offering would be "MOST holy" after its anointing. Because all of the tabernacle equipment is said to be "most holy" in 30:29, we suppose that in 40:9-10 "holy" and "most holy" are parallel terms and not distinctions.

7. *Does 40:12-15 refer to the consecration ritual of the priests?*

Although both this passage and the passages about the priests' consecration mention washing, robing, and anointing the priests, it still does not seem that 40:12-15 refers to the consecration ritual described in detail in Ex. 29 and Lev. 8. There is no allusion in Ex. 40 to the elaborate program of sacrifices described in the other passages, nor to the application of the blood, nor to the seven-day stay at the tabernacle. Also it seems that Nadab and Abihu died during the consecration ritual (Lev. 10). There is no hint of such an event in Ex. 40. The consecration of 40:12-15 must have been preparatory and preliminary to the full ritual.

Concerning the "everlasting priesthood" (literally, "priesthood of eternity"), see 29:9 and Numbers 25:13.

8. *How fully did Moses carry out the instructions about setting up the tabernacle? (40:16-17)*

He obeyed in all points. The order in which his acts of obedience are listed (in 40:17-33) corresponds to that of the directions, in accordance with usual ancient literary practice. (Cassuto, *op. cit.*, p. 481)

9. *What did Moses place in the ark? (40:20)*

He placed the "testimony" in the ark, the tablets of the ten commandments. This verse seems to indicate that the pot of manna (16:33) and Aaron's budded rod (Num. 17:10) were not actually inside the ark, but were kept beside it. Compare Heb. 9:4. In the time of Solomon nothing was in the ark except the ten commandments (I Kings 8:9).

10. *What did Moses do with the lamps? (40:25)*

He "lighted" the lamps before Jehovah. Some translations (A.S.V. margin) have rendered this to mean "he set up" the lamps. But the verb used here refers to *lighting* the lamps in Num. 8:3 and Lev. 24:2, and probably means that here.

Needless to say, the lighting was not done the instant the lampstand was set in place, but after the erection and anointing of the tabernacle.

11. *What sacrifices did Moses offer? (40:29)*

He offered the burnt-offering and the meal-offering. Compare 20:24; 29:39-41. Moses himself performed the first priestly ceremonies in the tabernacle. After that the priests (the family of Aaron) and the Levites performed these functions. Observe that Moses offered incense (40:27), another priestly function.

12. *Who washed at the laver? (40:30-32)*

Moses, Aaron, and Aaron's sons. Compare 30:19-21. The detail of *Moses'* washing is not given in 30:19.

13. *What command and what promise were fulfilled when Moses finished the work? (40:33)*

The words of Ex. 25:8 were fulfilled: "Let them *make a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.*"

See notes on 39:32 concerning the expression "finished." See the outline on the Glory of the Lord near the start of the notes on this chapter.

14. *What covered the tent of meeting and the tabernacle? (40:34)*

The cloud of the glory of the Lord covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

This verse is quite poetic in wording (in Hebrew), and the two clauses show parallelism. (The second line repeats the thought of the first in slightly different words.)

The presence of the cloud was a fulfillment of the promise in 29:43, 45. God showed His approval of the Tent by descending in a cloud of glory. God's approval was based on what the tabernacle showed about the hearts of the people and about Himself, rather than on the material magnificence of the building.

God's glory had previously descended on Mt. Sinai (24:15-16). In a similar way the glory came upon the tabernacle. As Mt. Sinai had been a holy place where Israel met God, the tabernacle was to be a portable holy place (a portable Mt. Sinai!) where they would meet with God wherever they might be.

15. *Why could not Moses enter the tabernacle? (40:35)*

LATER HISTORY OF THE TABERNACLE

1. It was probably set up at Gilgal after Israel crossed the Jordan into the promised land. (Josh. 4:19; 5:10; 9:6; 10:6, 43).
2. It was erected at Shiloh in the center of the land, and remained there through the period of judges. (Joshua 18:1; 19:51; I Samuel 1:3; 4:3, 12).

While at Shiloh, it was altered so as to have "doors" (I Sam. 3:15); and it came to be called the "temple." (I Sam. 1:9; 3:3).

3. The ark was captured by the Philistines (I Sam. 4:10-11), but was returned to Israel to Kiriath-Jearim west of Jerusalem. (I Sam. 7:1).

Shiloh seems to have been destroyed about 1050 B.C., possibly in the time of Samuel and Eli. (Jer. 7:12-14)

4. After the time of Eli it was removed to Nob (probably just north of Jerusalem). (I Sam. 21:1-9) The ark remained at Kiriath-Jearim till the time of David. (I Sam. 7:1-2; I Chron. 13:5-6)
5. By the time of David (about 1000 B.C.) the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, and the altar of burnt-offering had been moved to Gibeon, located five miles northwest of Jerusalem. (I Chron. 21:29; 16:39-40; II Chron. 1:3; I Kings 3:4; 9:2)
6. David brought the ark to Jerusalem, where he had prepared a new tent for it. (II Sam. 6:17; I Chron. 16:1)
7. Solomon built the temple, and replaced every part of the tabernacle except the ark of the covenant, which he placed in the Oracle (Holy of Holies) of the temple. (I Kings 8:4, 6)
8. Solomon's temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. After this we hear no more of the ark of the covenant. It was not replaced in the second temple by Zerubbabel (516 B.C.) II Maccabees 2:4-8 has a fanciful tale about how the prophet Jeremiah hid the ark of the covenant and the altar of incense in a cavern on Mt. Sinai.