

Tabernacle Construction (c. September 1446–March 1445 BC)

Exodus 35–38

Work on the Tabernacle Does Not Trump the Sabbath

35:1 And Moses assembled all the community of the Israelites, and he said to them, “These are the words that Yahweh has commanded *for us* to do them.

2 *On* six days work can be done, and on the seventh there will be for you a holy *day*, a Sabbath of complete rest, for Yahweh; anyone doing work on it will be put to death.

3 You will not kindle a fire in any of your dwellings on the day of the Sabbath.”

A Call for Contributions

4 And Moses said to all the community of the Israelites, saying, “This is the word that Yahweh has commanded, saying,

5 ‘Take from among you a contribution for Yahweh, anyone willing of heart, let him bring Yahweh’s contribution—gold and silver and bronze,

6 and blue and purple and crimson *yarns*, and fine linen and goat hair,

7 and red-dyed ram skins, and fine leather, and acacia wood,

8 and oil for the lamp, balsam oils for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense,

9 onyx stones and stones for mountings on the ephod and the breast piece.

10 “And let all *the* skilled of heart among you come and make all that Yahweh has commanded:

11 The tabernacle, its tent, and its covering; its clasps and its frames; its bars, its pillars, and its bases;

12 the ark and its poles; the atonement cover and the curtain of the screen;

13 the table and its poles and all its equipment; and the bread of the presence;

14 and lampstand of the light and its equipment and its lamps and the oil for the light;

15 and the altar of incense and its poles; and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense and the entrance curtain for the entrance of the tabernacle;

16 the altar of the burnt offering and the bronze grating that *is* for it, its poles and all its equipment; the basin and its stand;

17 the hangings of the courtyard, its pillars, and its bases, and the screen for the courtyard gate;

18 the pegs of the tabernacle and the pegs of the courtyard and their cords;

19 the woven garments for serving in the sanctuary—the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons to serve as priests.”

20 And all the community of the Israelites went out from before Moses.

Men and Women Give Generously

21 And they came—every man whose heart lifted him and every man whose spirit impelled him—they brought Yahweh’s contribution for the work of the tent of assembly and for all its service and for the holy garments.

22 And they came, the men in addition to the women, all *who were* willing of heart; they brought brooches and jewelry rings and signet rings and ornaments—every *variety* of gold object—every man who waved a wave offering of gold for Yahweh,

23 and every man with whom was found blue and purple and crimson *yarns* and fine linen and goat hair and red-dyed ram skins and fine leather brought *it*.

24 All *who were* presenting a contribution of silver and bronze brought Yahweh’s contribution, and all with whom was found acacia wood for all the work of service brought *it*.

25 And every woman *who was* skilled of heart with her hands they spun, and they brought yarn—the blue and the purple, the crimson and the fine linen.

26 And all the women whose heart lifted them with skill spun the goat hair.

27 And the leaders brought the onyx stones and stones for mountings for the ephod and for the breast piece

28 and the balsam oils and the oil for light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense.

29 Every man and woman whose heart impelled them to bring for all the work to be done that Yahweh had commanded by the agency of Moses—the Israelites brought freely to Yahweh.

Moses Appoints Bezalel, Oholiab and Other Craftsmen

30 And Moses said to the Israelites, “See, Yahweh has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri the son of Hur, from the tribe of Judah.

31 And he has filled him *with* the Spirit of God, with wisdom and with skill and with knowledge and with every *kind of* craftsmanship,

32 and to devise designs, to work with the gold and with the silver and with the bronze,

33 and in stonecutting for setting and in cutting wood, for doing every *kind of* design craftsmanship.

34 And he has put *it* in his heart to teach—he and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach, from the tribe of Dan.

35 He has filled them *with* skill of heart to do every work of a craftsman and a designer and an embroiderer with the blue and with the purple, with the crimson *yarns* and with the fine linen and a weaver; *they are* doers of every *kind of* craftsmanship and devisers of designs.

36:1 And Bezalel and Oholiab and everyone *who is* skilled of heart in whom Yahweh has put wisdom and skill to know and to do all

the work for the service of the sanctuary—*they will do it*, according to all that Yahweh has commanded.”

Generosity That Must Be Restrained

2 And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and everyone skilled of heart, in whose heart Yahweh had put skill, all whose heart lifted him to come near to the work in order to do it.

3 And they took from Moses all the contributions that the Israelites had brought for the work of the service for the sanctuary in order to do it, and they still brought to him voluntary offerings every morning.

4 And all the skilled *workers who were* doing all the work for the sanctuary came, each from his work that they were doing.

5 And they said to Moses, saying, “The people are bringing more than enough for the service of the work that Yahweh has commanded to be done.”

6 And Moses commanded, and they proclaimed the message in the camp, saying, “Let no man or woman again make anything for the sanctuary contribution.” And so the people were restrained from bringing.

7 And the material was enough for doing all the work, and it was left over.

Crafting the Curtains

8 And all who were skilled of heart among the doers of the work made the tabernacle *with* ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue and purple and crimson *yarns, with* cherubim; he made them, the work of a skilled craftsman.

9 The length of the one curtain *was* twenty-eight cubits, and the width *was* four cubits *for* the one curtain; one measurement *was* for all the curtains.

10 And he joined five of the curtains one to another, and five curtains he joined one to another.

11 And he made loops of blue on the edge of the one curtain, at the end in the set; so he did on the edge of the end curtain in the second set.

12 He made fifty loops on the one curtain, and he made fifty loops on the end of the curtain that *was* in the second set; the loops were opposite one to another.

13 And he made fifty gold clasps and joined the curtains one to another with the clasps, so that the tabernacle was one.

14 And he made curtains of goat hair for a tent over the tabernacle; he made them eleven curtains.

15 The length of the one curtain *was* thirty cubits, and the width *was* four cubits *for* the one curtain; one measure *was* for *the* eleven curtains.

16 And he joined five curtains together and six curtains together.

17 And he made fifty loops on the edge of the end curtain in the set, and he made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain *in* the second set.

18 And he made fifty bronze clasps for joining the tent to become one.

19 And he made a covering for the tent of red-dyed ram skin and a covering of fine leather *to go* above.

Crafting the Framing

20 And he made the frames for the tabernacle of acacia wood *as* uprights.

21 The length of the frame *was* ten cubits, and the width of the one frame *was* one and a half cubits.

22 He made two pegs for the one frame *for* joining one to another *and* likewise for all the frames of the tabernacle.

23 And he made the frames for the tabernacle *with* twenty frames for the south side.

24 And he made forty silver bases under the twenty frames, *with* two bases under the one frame for its two pegs and two bases under the next frame for its two pegs.

25 And for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, he made twenty frames

26 and their forty silver bases, *with* two bases under the one frame and two bases under the next frame.

27 And for the rear of the tabernacle on the west he made six frames.

28 And he made two frames for the tabernacle corners at the rear.

29 And they were double at the bottom, and they were completely together on its top to the one ring; he did likewise for the two of them, for the two corners.

30 And there were eight frames and their sixteen silver bases, two bases, two bases under the one frame.

31 And he made five bars of acacia wood for the frames on the one side of the tabernacle,

32 and five bars for the frames on the second side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the frames at the rear on the west.

33 And he made the middle bar to run in the midst of the frames from end to end.

34 And he overlaid the frames with gold, and he made their rings of gold *as* holders for the bars, and he overlaid the bars with gold.

Crafting the Veil and the Screen

35 And he made the curtain of blue and purple and crimson *yarns* and finely twisted linen, *the* work of a craftsman; he made it *with* cherubim.

36 And he made for it four acacia pillars, and he overlaid them with gold, *with* their gold hooks, and he cast for them four silver bases.

37 And he made for the entrance of the tent a screen of blue and purple and crimson *yarns* and finely twisted linen, *the work* of an embroiderer,

38 and the five pillars and their hooks, and he overlaid their tops and their connections *with* gold, and their five bases *were* bronze.

Crafting the Ark of the Testimony

37:1 And Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood, two and a half cubits its length and a cubit and a half its width and a cubit and a half its height.

2 And he overlaid it *with* pure gold inside and outside, and he made for it a gold molding all around.

3 And he cast for it four gold rings on its four feet; and two rings were on its one side, and two rings were on its second side.

4 And he made poles of acacia wood, and he overlaid them *with* gold.

5 And he put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark.

Crafting the Cover of the Ark

6 And he made an atonement cover of pure gold, two and a half cubits its length and a cubit and a half its width.

7 And he made two cherubim of gold; he made them of hammered work at the two ends of the atonement cover.

8 One cherub *was* at one end, and one cherub *was* at the other end of the atonement cover; he made the cherubim at its two ends.

9 And the cherubim were *with* outspread wings above, covering with their wings over the atonement cover and facing each other; the faces of the cherubim were toward the atonement cover.

Crafting the Table of the Bread of the Presence

10 And he made the table of acacia wood, two cubits its length and a cubit its width and a cubit and a half its height.

11 And he overlaid it *with* pure gold, and he made for it a gold molding all around.

12 And he made for it a handbreadth rim all around, and he made a gold molding for its rim all around.

13 And he cast for it four gold rings, and he put the rings on the four corners where its four legs *were*.

14 The rings were near the rim as holders for the poles to carry the table.

15 And he made the poles of acacia wood, and he overlaid them *with* gold to carry the table.

16 And he made the vessels that *were* on the table—its plates and its ladles, and its bowls and its pitchers with which *libations* were poured—*of* pure gold.

Crafting the Golden Lampstand

17 And he made the lampstand of pure gold; he made the lampstand of hammered work—its base and its branch, its cups, its buds, and its blossoms were all part of it.

18 And six branches *were* going out from its sides, three branches of the lampstand from its one side and three branches of the lampstand from its second side.

19 Three almond-flower cups *were* on the one branch *with* a bud and a blossom, and three almond-flower cups *were* on the one branch *with* a bud and a blossom—likewise for the six branches going out from the lampstand.

20 And on the lampstand *were* four almond-flower cups, *with* its buds and its blossoms.

21 And a bud *was* under the two branches *that came* from it, and a bud under the two branches from it, and a bud under the two branches from it, *likewise* for the six branches coming out from the lampstand.

22 Their buds and their branches were from it, all of it one *piece* of pure gold, hammered work.

23 And he made its seven lamps and its snuffers and its fire pans of pure gold.

24 He made it *from* a talent of pure gold and all its *pieces* of equipment.

Crafting the Altar of Incense

25 And he made the incense altar of acacia wood, a cubit its length and a cubit its width—a square—and two cubits its height; its horns were of one piece with it.

26 And he overlaid it *with* pure gold—its top and its sides all around and its horns—and he made for it a gold molding all around.

27 And he made for it two gold rings under its molding on two opposite sides as holders for poles to carry it with them.

28 And he made the poles of acacia wood, and he overlaid them with gold.

Crafting the Oil and Incense

29 And he made the holy anointing oil and the pure fragrant incense—work of a perfumer.

Crafting the Altar of Burnt Offering

38:1 And he made the burnt-offering altar of acacia wood; its length *was* five cubits, and its width *was* five cubits—*it was* square—and its height *was* three cubits.

2 And he made its horns on its four corners; its horns were of one piece with it; and he overlaid it *with* bronze.

3 And he made all the equipment of the altar—the pots and the shovels and the sprinkling bowls and the forks and the fire pans—all

its equipment he made *with* bronze.

4 And he made for the altar a grating, a work of bronze network under its ledge, below, up to its middle.

5 And he cast four rings on the four ends of the bronze grating *as* holders for the poles.

6 And he made the poles of acacia wood, and he overlaid them *with* bronze.

7 And he put the poles into the rings on the sides of the altar to carry it with them. He made it hollow with boards.

Crafting the Washbasin

8 And he made the basin of bronze and its stand of bronze from the mirrors of the serving women who served *at* the entrance of the tent of assembly.

Crafting the Courtyard and Its Curtains

9 And he made the courtyard; for the south side *were* the hangings of the court of finely twisted linen, one hundred cubits,

10 *with* their twenty pillars and their twenty bases of bronze *and with* the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver.

11 And for the north side *the hangings were* one hundred cubits *with* their twenty pillars and their twenty bases of bronze *and with* the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver.

12 And for the west side fifty cubits *of* hangings *with* their ten pillars and their ten bases *and with* the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver.

13 And for the eastward side, toward sunrise, fifty cubits;

14 fifteen cubits of hangings *were* to the shoulder, *with* their three pillars and their three bases,

15 and for the second shoulder on each side of the gate of the courtyard *were* fifteen cubits of hangings, *with* their three pillars and their three bases.

16 All the hangings of the courtyard all around *were* finely twisted linen,

17 and the bases for the pillars *were* bronze, the hooks of the pillars and their bands *were* silver, and the overlay of their tops *was* silver, and all the pillars of the courtyard *were* banded *with* silver.

18 And the screen of the gate of the courtyard *was* the work of an embroiderer, *with* blue and purple and crimson *yarns* and finely twisted linen; *it was* twenty cubits long and five cubits high, like the hangings of the courtyard,

19 and *with* their four pillars and their four bases of bronze, *with* their silver hooks and *with* their tops and their bands of silver.

20 And all the pegs for the tabernacle and for the courtyard all around *were* bronze.

Summary of Craftsmen and Materials Used

21 These are the records of the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the testimony, which *were* recorded at the command of Moses, the work of the Levites, in the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

22 And Bezalel the son of Uri the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, did all that Yahweh commanded Moses.

23 And with him *was* Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan, a skilled craftsman and a designer and an embroiderer with the blue and with the purple and with the crimson *yarns* and with the linen.

24 And all the gold used for the work, in the work of the sanctuary, it was the gold of the wave offering—twenty-nine talents and seven hundred and thirty shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel.

25 And the silver recorded from the community *was* a hundred talents and a thousand seven hundred and seventy-five shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel.

26 *It was* a beka for the individual, the half shekel according to the sanctuary shekel, for everyone who was counted, from twenty years old and above, for six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty.

27 And it was one hundred talents of the silver to cast the bases of the sanctuary and the bases of the curtain—one hundred bases for one hundred talents of silver, a talent for *each* base.

28 And *from* the thousand seven hundred and seventy-five *shekels* he made hooks for the pillars, and he overlaid their tops, and he made bands *for* them.

29 And the bronze of the wave offering *was* seventy talents and two thousand four hundred shekels.

30 And he made with it the bases of the entrance of the tent of assembly and the bronze altar and the bronze grating that belonged to it and all the equipment of the altar

31 and the bases of the courtyard all around and the bases of the gate of the courtyard and all the pegs of the tabernacle and all the pegs of the courtyard all around.