

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

Exodus 35–38

### Work on the Tabernacle Does Not Trump the Sabbath

35:1 Moses assembled the whole community of the Israelites and said to them, “These are the things that the LORD has commanded you to do.

2 In six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there must be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of complete rest to the LORD. Anyone who does work on it will be put to death.

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

### A Call for Contributions

4 Moses spoke to the whole community of the Israelites, “This is the word that the LORD has commanded:

5 ‘Take an offering for the LORD. Let everyone who has a willing heart bring an offering to the LORD: gold, silver, bronze,

6 blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, fine linen, goat’s hair,

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

8 olive oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense,

9 onyx stones, and other gems for mounting on the ephod and the breastpiece.

10 Every skilled person among you is to come and make all that the LORD has commanded:

11 the tabernacle with its tent, its covering, its clasps, its frames, its crossbars, its posts, and its bases;

12 the ark, with its poles, the atonement lid, and the special curtain that conceals it;

13 the table with its poles and all its vessels, and the Bread of the Presence;

14 the lampstand for the light and its accessories, its lamps, and oil for the light;

15 and the altar of incense with its poles, the anointing oil, and the fragrant incense; the hanging for the door at the entrance of the tabernacle;

16 the altar for the burnt offering with its bronze grating that is on it, its poles, and all its utensils; the large basin and its pedestal;

17 the hangings of the courtyard, its posts and its bases, and the curtain for the gateway to the courtyard;

18 tent pegs for the tabernacle and tent pegs for the courtyard and their ropes;

19 the woven garments for serving in the holy place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments for his sons to minister as priests.”

20 So the whole community of the Israelites went out from the presence of Moses.

### Men and Women Give Generously

21 Everyone whose heart stirred him to action and everyone whose spirit was willing came and brought the offering for the LORD for the work of the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments.

22 They came, men and women alike, all who had willing hearts. They brought brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments, all kinds of gold jewelry, and everyone came who waved a wave offering of gold to the LORD.

23 Everyone who had blue, purple, or scarlet yarn, fine linen, goats’ hair, ram skins dyed red, or fine leather brought them.

24 Everyone making an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the LORD, and everyone who had acacia wood for any work of the service brought it.

25 Every woman who was skilled spun with her hands and brought what she had spun, blue, purple, or scarlet yarn, or fine linen,

26 and all the women whose heart stirred them to action and who were skilled spun goats’ hair.

27 The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted for the ephod and the breastpiece,

28 and spices and olive oil for the light, for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense.

29 The Israelites brought a freewill offering to the LORD, every man and woman whose heart was willing to bring materials for all the work that the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do.

### Moses Appoints Bezalel, Oholiab and Other Craftsmen

30 Moses said to the Israelites, “See, the LORD has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.

31 He has filled him with the Spirit of God—with skill, with understanding, with knowledge, and in all kinds of work,

32 to design artistic designs, to work in gold, in silver, and in bronze,

33 and in cutting stones for their setting, and in cutting wood, to do work in every artistic craft.

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

35 He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, as designers, as embroiderers in blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and in fine linen, and as weavers. They are craftsmen in all the work and artistic designers.

36:1 So Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person in whom the LORD has put skill and ability to know how to do all the work for the service of the sanctuary are to do the work according to all that the LORD has commanded.”

### Generosity That Must Be Restrained

2 Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person in whom the LORD had put skill—everyone whose heart stirred him

to volunteer to do the work,

3 and they received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to do the work for the service of the sanctuary, and they still continued to bring him a freewill offering each morning.

4 So all the skilled people who were doing all the work on the sanctuary came from the work they were doing

5 and told Moses, “The people are bringing much more than is needed for the completion of the work which the LORD commanded us to do!”

6 Moses instructed them to take his message throughout the camp, saying, “Let no man or woman do any more work for the offering for the sanctuary.” So the people were restrained from bringing any more.

7 Now the materials were more than enough for them to do all the work.

### **Crafting the Curtains**

8 All the skilled among those who were doing the work made the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twisted linen and blue and purple and scarlet; they were made with cherubim that were the work of an artistic designer.

9 The length of one curtain was forty-two feet, and the width of one curtain was six feet—the same size for each of the curtains.

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

11 He made loops of blue material along the edge of the end curtain in the first set; he did the same along the edge of the end curtain in the second set.

12 He made fifty loops on the first curtain, and he made fifty loops on the end curtain that was in the second set, with the loops opposite one another.

13 He made fifty gold clasps and joined the curtains together to one another with the clasps, so that the tabernacle was a unit.

14 He made curtains of goats' hair for a tent over the tabernacle; he made eleven curtains.

15 The length of one curtain was forty-five feet, and the width of one curtain was six feet—one size for all eleven curtains.

16 He joined five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves.

17 He made fifty loops along the edge of the end curtain in the first set and fifty loops along the edge of the curtain that joined the second set.

18 He made fifty bronze clasps to join the tent together so that it might be a unit.

19 He made a covering for the tent out of ram skins dyed red and over that a covering of fine leather.

### **Crafting the Framing**

20 He made the frames for the tabernacle of acacia wood as uprights.

21 The length of each frame was fifteen feet, the width of each frame was two and a quarter feet,

22 with two projections per frame parallel one to another. He made all the frames of the tabernacle in this way.

23 So he made frames for the tabernacle: twenty frames for the south side.

24 He made forty silver bases under the twenty frames—two bases under the first frame for its two projections, and likewise two bases under the next frame for its two projections,

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

26 and their forty silver bases, two bases under the first frame and two bases under the next frame.

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

28 He made two frames for the corners of the tabernacle on the back.

29 At the two corners they were doubled at the lower end and finished together at the top in one ring. So he did for both.

30 So there were eight frames and their silver bases, sixteen bases, two bases under each frame.

31 He made bars of acacia wood, five for the frames on 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 of the tabernacle for the back side on the west.

33 He made the middle bar to reach from end to end in the center of the frames.

34 He overlaid the frames with gold and made their rings of gold to provide places for the bars, and he overlaid the bars with gold.

### **Crafting the Veil and the Screen**

35 He made the special curtain of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine twisted linen; he made it with cherubim, the work of an artistic designer.

36 He made for it four posts of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold, with gold hooks, and he cast for them four silver bases.

37 He made a hanging for the entrance of the tent of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine twisted linen, the work of an embroiderer,

38 and its five posts and their hooks. He overlaid their tops and their bands with gold, but their five bases were bronze.

### **Crafting the Ark of the Testimony**

37:1 Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood; its length was three feet nine inches, its width two feet three inches, and its height two feet three inches.

- 2 He overlaid it with pure gold, inside and out, and he made a surrounding border of gold for it.
- 3 He cast four gold rings for it that he put on its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other side.
- 4 He made poles of acacia wood, overlaid them with gold,
- 5 and put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark in order to carry the ark.

#### **Crafting the Cover of the Ark**

- 6 He made an atonement lid of pure gold; its length was three feet nine inches, and its width was two feet three inches.
- 7 He made two cherubim of gold; he made them of hammered metal on the two ends of the atonement lid,
- 8 one cherub on one end and one cherub on the other end. He made the cherubim from the atonement lid on its two ends.
- 9 The cherubim were spreading their wings upward, overshadowing the atonement lid with their wings. The cherubim faced each other, looking toward the atonement lid.

#### **Crafting the Table of the Bread of the Presence**

- 10 He made the table of acacia wood; its length was three feet, its width one foot six inches, and its height two feet three inches.
- 11 He overlaid it with pure gold, and he made a surrounding border of gold for it.
- 12 He made a surrounding frame for it about three inches wide, and he made a surrounding border of gold for its frame.
- 13 He cast four gold rings for it and attached the rings at the four corners where its four legs were.
- 14 The rings were close to the frame to provide places for the poles to carry the table.
- 15 He made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold, to carry the table.
- 16 He made the vessels which were on the table out of pure gold, its plates, its ladles, its pitchers, and its bowls, to be used in pouring out offerings.

#### **Crafting the Golden Lampstand**

- 17 He made the lampstand of pure gold. He made the lampstand of hammered metal; its base and its shaft, its cups, its buds, and its blossoms were from the same piece.
- 18 Six branches were extending from its sides, three branches of the lampstand from one side of it, and three branches of the lampstand from the other side of it.
- 19 Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms were on the first branch, and three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms were on the next branch, and the same for the six branches that were extending from the lampstand.
- 20 On the lampstand there were four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms,
- 21 with a bud under the first two branches from it, and a bud under the next two branches from it, and a bud under the third two branches from it; according to the six branches that extended from it.
- 22 Their buds and their branches were of one piece; all of it was one hammered piece of pure gold.
- 23 He made its seven lamps, its trimmers, and its trays of pure gold.
- 24 He made the lampstand and all its accessories with seventy-five pounds of pure gold.

#### **Crafting the Altar of Incense**

- 25 He made the incense altar of acacia wood. Its length was a foot and a half and its width a foot and a half—a square—and its height was three feet. Its horns were of one piece with it.
- 26 He overlaid it with pure gold—its top, its four walls, and its horns—and he made a surrounding border of gold for it.
- 27 He also made two gold rings for it under its border, on its two sides, on opposite sides, as places for poles to carry it with.
- 28 He made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold.

#### **Crafting the Oil and Incense**

- 29 He made the sacred anointing oil and the pure fragrant incense, the work of a perfumer.

#### **Crafting the Altar of Burnt Offering**

- 38:1 He made the altar for the burnt offering of acacia wood seven feet six inches long and seven feet six inches wide—it was square—and its height was four feet six inches.
- 2 He made its horns on its four corners; its horns were part of it, and he overlaid it with bronze.
- 3 He made all the utensils of the altar—the pots, the shovels, the tossing bowls, the meat hooks, and the fire pans—he made all its utensils of bronze.
- 4 He made a grating for the altar, a network of bronze under its ledge, halfway up from the bottom.
- 5 He cast four rings for the four corners of the bronze grating, to provide places for the poles.
- 6 He made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with bronze.
- 7 He put the poles into the rings on the sides of the altar, with which to carry it. He made the altar hollow, out of boards.

**Crafting the Washbasin**

8 He made the large basin of bronze and its pedestal of bronze from the mirrors of the women who served at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

**Crafting the Courtyard and Its Curtains**

9 He made the courtyard. For the south side the hangings of the courtyard were of fine twisted linen, one hundred fifty feet long, 10 with their twenty posts and their twenty bronze bases, with the hooks of the posts and their bands of silver.

11 For the north side the hangings were one hundred fifty feet, with their twenty posts and their twenty bronze bases, with the hooks of the posts and their bands of silver.

12 For the west side there were hangings seventy-five feet long, with their ten posts and their ten bases, with the hooks of the posts and their bands of silver.

13 For the east side, toward the sunrise, it was seventy-five feet wide,

14 with hangings on one side of the gate that were twenty-two and a half feet long, with their three posts and their three bases,

15 and for the second side of the gate of the courtyard, just like the other, the hangings were twenty-two and a half feet long, with their three posts and their three bases.

16 All the hangings around the courtyard were of fine twisted linen.

17 The bases for the posts were bronze. The hooks of the posts and their bands were silver, their tops were overlaid with silver, and all the posts of the courtyard had silver bands.

18 The curtain for the gate of the courtyard was of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine twisted linen, the work of an embroiderer. It was thirty feet long, and like the hangings in the courtyard, it was seven and a half feet high,

19 with four posts and their four bronze bases. Their hooks and their bands were silver, and their tops were overlaid with silver.

20 All the tent pegs of the tabernacle and of the courtyard all around were bronze.

**Summary of Craftsmen and Materials Used**

21 This is the inventory of the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the testimony, which was counted by the order of Moses, being the work of the Levites under the direction of Ithamar, son of Aaron the priest.

22 Now Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made everything that the LORD had commanded Moses;

23 and with him was Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an artisan, a designer, and an embroiderer in blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine linen.

24 All the gold that was used for the work, in all the work of the sanctuary (namely, the gold of the wave offering) was twenty-nine talents and 730 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel.

25 The silver of those who were numbered of the community was one hundred talents and 1,775 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel,

26 one beka per person, that is, a half shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, for everyone who crossed over to those numbered, from twenty years old or older, 603,550 in all.

27 The one hundred talents of silver were used for casting the bases of the sanctuary and the bases of the special curtain—one hundred bases for one hundred talents, one talent per base.

28 From the remaining 1,775 shekels he made hooks for the posts, overlaid their tops, and made bands for them.

29 The bronze of the wave offering was seventy talents and 2,400 shekels.

30 With it he made the bases for the door of the tent of meeting, the bronze altar, the bronze grating for it, and all the utensils of the altar,

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

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