

Exodus 40:1-38 The Anointing, Consecration and The Glory

The construction of the Tabernacle, the Most Holy Place, the Holy Place, and the Tabernacle Courtyard had all been completed along with the items that would be placed in them. All of this was for the work of the service that would be commanded and performed by the High Priest, the Priests, and the Levites.

The holy garments of the High Priest and Priests had been made according to the pattern Moses was given by YeHoVaH. Everything that had been made, under the oversight of Bezaleel and Aholiab, had been brought to Moses to be inspected. After Moses had inspected the work, saw that they had done it just as YeHoVaH had commanded, Moses blessed them.

In this final portion of Exodus, Moses receives instructions from YeHoVaH to set up the Tabernacle, the Tent of Meetings, and have everything that had been made placed in the appropriate location in the Tabernacle according to the instructions and setup pattern Moses had been given.

The significance of the opening verses seems to tell us when Moses was instructed to set up the Tabernacle.

Moses had been instructed how to set up the Tabernacle in previous chapters.

Ex 40:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Ex 40:2 On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

Month – 02320 חֹדֶשׁ chodesh {kho'-desh}

Meaning: 1) the new moon, month, monthly 1a) the first day of the month 1b) the lunar month

Usage: AV - month 254, new moon 20, monthly 1, another 1; 276

The first month of the year would be called Abib.

The first day would be the New Moon.

The Tabernacle was set up on the 1st New Moon of the Abib.

According to Numbers, this was done to be able to celebrate the Passover at the appointed time.

Nu 9:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying,

Nu 9:2 Let the children of Israel also keep the passover at his appointed season

What this should tell us is that Israel had been out of Egypt for almost a year. It was at least eleven months and some days since they left Egypt on the 15th day of Abib, the first day of Unleavened Bread, a future Sabbath Day.

Ex 12:15 Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

Ex 12:16 And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you;...

...no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.

Ex 12:17 And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.

Ex 40:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Verse 1 seems to indicate that after Moses blessed them, in the previous Chapter, he had another conversation with YeHoVaH. However, he had already been given the instructions on how to set things up. Therefore, either YeHoVaH is telling Moses again the things He had already spoken, or Moses is recounting what YeHoVaH had said.

YeHoVaH had commanded Moses, in previous chapters, where these items were to be placed. As we go through Chapter 40, we will reflect on what YeHoVaH had previously instructed Moses concerning setting up the Tabernacle.

Ex 26:30 And thou shalt rear up the tabernacle according to the fashion thereof which was shown thee in the mount

Ex 40:3 And thou shalt put therein the ark of the testimony, and cover the ark with the veil

Ex 26:33 And thou shalt hang up the veil under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.

Ex 26:34 And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place.

Ex 26:35 And thou shalt set the table without the veil, and the candlestick over against the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south: and thou shalt put the table on the north side.

Ex 40:4 And thou shalt bring in the table, and set in order the things that are to be set in order upon it; and thou shalt bring in the candlestick, and light the lamps thereof.

Ex 40:5 And thou shalt set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the testimony, and put the hanging of the door to the tabernacle.

Ex 30:6 And thou shalt put it before the veil that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee.

Ex 30:7 And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it.

Ex 40:6 And thou shalt set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

Ex 40:7 And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein.

Ex 30:18 Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein.

Ex 40:8 And thou shalt set up the court round about, and hang up the hanging at the court gate.

Ex 40:9 And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that is therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the vessels thereof: and it shall be holy.

Ex 40:10 And thou shalt anoint the altar of the burnt offering, and all his vessels, and sanctify the altar: and it shall be an altar most holy.

The Altar of Burnt Offerings was recognized as Most Holy.

Ex 40:11 And thou shalt anoint the laver and his foot, and sanctify it.

Ex 40:12 And thou shalt bring Aaron and his sons unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and wash them with water.

Ex 29:4 And Aaron and his sons thou shalt bring unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water.

Ex 40:13 And thou shalt put upon Aaron the holy garments, and anoint him, and sanctify him; that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

Ex 29:5 And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the curious girdle of the ephod:

Ex 29:6 And thou shalt put the mitre upon his head, and put the holy crown upon the mitre.

Ex 29:7 Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour it upon his head, and anoint him.

Ex 40:14 And thou shalt bring his sons, and clothe them with coats:

Ex 29:8 And thou shalt bring his sons, and put coats upon them. Ex 28:40 And for Aaron's sons thou shalt make coats, and thou shalt make for them girdles, and bonnets shalt thou make for them, for glory and for beauty.

Ex 28:41 And thou shalt put them upon Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him; and shalt anoint them, and consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office.

Ex 40:15 And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office: for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.

Ex 40:16 Thus did Moses: according to all that the LORD commanded him, so did he.

Ex 40:17 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.

Setting up the Tabernacle

The following verses can lead one to think that Moses did the setup himself, with his own hands, but Moses supervised the erection of the Tabernacle. It would have been too much work for Moses, alone, to do all by himself.

Ex 40:19 And he spread abroad the tent over the tabernacle, and put the covering of the tent above upon it; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Ex 40:20 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:

Ex 40:21 And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up the veil of the covering, and covered the ark of the testimony; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Ex 40:22 And he put the table in the tent of the congregation, upon the side of the tabernacle northward, without the veil.

Ex 40:23 And he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD; as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Ex 40:24 And he put the candlestick in the tent of the congregation, over against the table, on the side of the tabernacle southward.

Ex 40:25 And he lighted the lamps before the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Ex 40:26 And he put the golden altar in the tent of the congregation before the veil:

Ex 40:27 And he burnt sweet incense thereon; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Ex 40:28 And he set up the hanging at the door of the tabernacle.

Ex 40:29 And he put the altar of burnt offering by the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the meat offering; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Ex 40:30 And he set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and put water there, to wash withal.

Ex 40:31 And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat:

Ex 40:32 When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Ex 40:33 And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.

Ex 40:34 Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Ex 40:35 And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

The cloud covered the tent and the glory of YeHoVaH filled the Tabernacle.

The glory was distinct from the cloud and the fire.

Ex 40:36 And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys:

Ex 40:37 But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up.

Ex 40:38 For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

According to other Bible versions of this verse, the fire was in the cloud.

EX 40:38 For throughout all their journeys, the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel. NASB

Ex 40:38 For the cloud of Jehovah was upon the tabernacle by day, and there was fire therein by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys. ASV

Ex 40:38 For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, before the eyes of all the house of Israel at each stage of their journey. NRSV

Ex 40:38 For throughout all their journeys the cloud of the Lord was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel. AMP

Ex 40:38 For the cloud of Jehovah was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, before the eyes of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys. Darby