

Hello everyone,

PERCENT OF BIBLE COMPLETED: 10.2%

Weekly Readings will cover: Exodus 35 – Exodus 40

Sunday: Exodus 35

Monday: Exodus 36

Tuesday: Exodus 37

Wednesday: Exodus 38

Thursday: Exodus 39

Friday: Exodus 40

Saturday: "Six Steps to Passover: Part 2"

Current # of email addresses in the group: 576

I hope each of you has had a meaningful week of Bible Study. As of the completion of last week's study, we now sit at over 10% done with our deep-dive study of the Bible! I know I am benefiting greatly from this study, and I hope each of you are as well.

We now start the final week of the book of Exodus and the completion of our third book of the Bible as part of our chronological order.

You will notice much less deep dive material this week as on many days we are essentially going over the production of the Tabernacle, instruments, and garments that God had previously provided Moses with the instructions on. I don't want to duplicate comments on the same essential material.

Website archive location for audio files & PDFs:

<https://www.ucg.org/congregations/san-francisco-bay-area-ca/posts/audio-links-re-three-year-chronological-deep-dive-reading-program-circa-2022-2025-903711>

3-YEAR CHRONOLOGICAL STUDY: Week 20

Read the following passages & the Daily Deep Dive on the daily reading.

Day 113 - SUNDAY: March 5th

Exodus 35

Daily Deep Dive:

Let's begin this week with the UCG reading plan for this chapter:
"Chapter 35 begins with instruction about the weekly Sabbath. God said, "You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath

day" (verse 3). A long-held Jewish interpretation is that it is wrong to start *any* fire on the Sabbath, such as a fire in a fireplace or just lighting a match. On the basis of this verse, some even argue that it is not permissible on the Sabbath to light a stove, turn on an oven or use any electrical device with a heating element, such as a hairdryer. Others go so far as to say that we can't start a car or even turn on a light switch on God's weekly Holy Day.

Yet the context here is important. There certainly may be a need to limit personal fire usage—as major fire maintenance can certainly become a violation of the Sabbath if a great deal of obvious work is involved (for example, moving logs and chopping them up or a major gathering of sticks, such as that in Numbers 15:32). However, this passage, occurring at the beginning of Moses' relaying of the instructions for building the tabernacle, is most likely referring to tabernacle construction. God, it appears, was telling them to not kindle *industrial* fires on the Sabbath—to melt silver or gold or forge other metals for the construction of the tabernacle. No doubt some minor smelting was done in individual homes, which was also forbidden by this proscription. Instead, all industry was to cease, even the special work of building the tabernacle, so people could give full attention to resting and worshiping God on the Sabbath as He commanded.

God has always wanted His weekly Sabbath day to be a blessing and a delight to us (Isaiah 58:13-14), not an intolerable burden as some would later make it out to be through their focus on overly restrictive rules. However, there are certainly general rules we should follow. For instance, as a general rule we must not be conducting our regular business on the Sabbath or using the Sabbath as a time to plan our regular work. Moreover, the Sabbath is not a time for sports and personal hobbies. Instead, the Sabbath is a time to focus on our relationship with God." [END]

Verse 2 – Tells us that this Holy day is “a Sabbath of rest to the Lord”. This word for “rest” is the word we’ve looked at a few times ([shabbâthôn](#)) meaning “Sabbath Observance”. Here they were not just being instructed to pause from work, but that there was a “Sabbath Observance” that was directed somewhere. It was “to the Lord”. As worshipers of the one True God, we are given a day to cease from the cares of weekly work and stress and to observe a Holy worship day directed to God. It’s a day to remember we were created in His image as His children for a purpose. It’s a day for remembering that purpose, that we are called to be children of God, to become like God the Father and our Brother, Jesus Christ. It’s my understanding that no other society took a day off work each week. Why? Because work is how we have food, shelter, etc...so if we are responsible for providing and attaining those things, then we better work every day. Yet, God says, to stop. He says, He is our provider and sustainer and if we seek first His Kingdom, He will make sure our needs are met (Matt 6:33). On each Sabbath day, do we remember that by stopping our work (and we are expected to work hard outside the Sabbath), we are telling and showing God that we trust Him to provide for us. There is much more that could be said, but we should remember that the Sabbath day is not just a day of “rest”, but a day of focused worship, appreciation, trust, obedience, and dedication...it’s a Sabbath Observance.

Verse 3 – Regarding “kindling a fire”, John Gill’s commentary states: “This law seems to be a temporary one, and not to be continued, nor is it said to be throughout their generations as elsewhere, where the law of the sabbath is given or repeated; it is to be restrained to the building of the tabernacle, and while that was about, to which it is prefaced; and it is designed to prevent all public or private working on the sabbath day, in anything belonging to that; having no fire to heat their tools or melt their metal, or do anything for which that was necessary; for it can hardly be thought that this is to be taken in the strictest sense, as an entire prohibition of kindling a fire and the use of it on that day, which

is so absolutely useful, and needful in various cases, and where acts of mercy and necessity require it; as in cold seasons of the year, for the warming and comforting of persons who otherwise would be unfit for religious exercises, and on the account of infants and aged persons, who could not subsist without it; and in cases of sickness, and various disorders which necessarily require it; and even for the preparation of food, which must be had on that day as on others, the sabbath being not a fast, but rather a festival” [END].

Verse 5 – God commanded an offering to be taken up, but notice, it was to be from those who had a “willing heart”. This word for “willing” means “inclined, generous, incited” (BDB). This principle of giving to God has always been based on worshipers who understood that everything they had physically, including their very life and breath, was from God (see Act 17:25), and from that understanding sprung a desire to give back to God in some small way. Paul instructed the Corinthian congregation the same principle in 2 Cor 9:7 “So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

In the next number of verses, God informs Moses of all the items that are needed for the construction of the Tabernacle that He had given Moses the plans to make.

Verse 10 – While certain men (Oholiab and Bezalel – Exodus 31) were given the positions and gifts necessary to oversee the construction of the Tabernacle, more gifted individuals were needed to serve under and alongside those two men. Here others were invited to give of those talents and their time and energy to serve in all the work that was necessary.

Verses 20 – 24: In verse 20, all the people depart from hearing Moses’s instructions, and had some time to consider and decide, if and what to give. Those (men & women) who had a heart inclined to give to God

came and offered. They brought all sorts of gold jewelry (rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings & nose-rings), they brought threads, fabrics, animal skins, acacia wood, bronze & silver.

Verse 25 – People not only donated possessions but also of their time & skills to make all that was necessary.

Verse 34 – Not only did God bless Oholiab and Bezalel with the amplified skills necessary to do and oversee this grand project, but also gave them the ability to teach others. This is another gift that God gives some individuals, even still today. The ability to patiently work with others, communicate effectively and encourage them in their tasks.

Day 114 - MONDAY: March 6th

Exodus 36

Daily Deep Dive:

We'll again begin with the UCG reading plan: "Even though many of the Israelites had stiff necks and hard hearts, those whose hearts were willing gave more than enough for the house of God, which was at that time the tabernacle. *The Nelson Study Bible* notes: "The offerings for the tabernacle are perhaps the most impressive offering ever taken from God's people for any endeavor! The key was the stirring of the *heart* and the willingness of the *spirit* of those who gave. *Both men and women* gave. Even in this patriarchal time, women participated actively in God's work. All people came with gifts that were sumptuous, varied, and abundant. At last they had to be told to stop giving (see Exodus 36:2-7)!" Perhaps they were inspired to be extra generous after receiving God's abundant forgiveness for their idolatry in the golden calf incident. This should give us the example we need to follow when God wants something done—we should have this same willingness of heart and generosity of spirit (see Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7). Like

the Israelites, we should be stirred to give generously when we realize the abundance of mercy God has given to us.

Among the gifts the people brought was the wood for the tabernacle. The wood was from the acacia tree (*shittim* tree in the older King James). *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* makes some interesting comments about it. "Ideally suited for cabinet making, the hard orange-brown wood...is still common in the desert regions of the Negeb and Sinai. These acacias produce a very durable wood."

Although the account of the Israelites' generosity is inspiring, it didn't necessarily mean that they would be just as zealous about opportunities that were more spiritual in nature, and it didn't mean that such zeal would necessarily last for long. Indeed, as we will see, the people would sink into rebellion again and again. For this is the nature of human beings unaided by spiritual conversion from God." [END]

Verse 3 – We don't know if these are new people bringing gifts each day (perhaps inspired by the example of others), or some of the same continuing to bring (or likely a combination of both). For all the faults of God's people, whether we are talking about the nation of Israel, early Christians, or the Church today, God's people are generous. They give generous offerings and often go above and beyond in their generosity to God's people in need, the ministry, and the work of the Church. Thank you!

Verse 6 – How pleased God must have been to see such amazing generosity that Moses was able to command the people to stop bringing any more offerings.

Verse 8 – Since I just recently covered the Tabernacle design, I won't once again list measurements, etc...

Day 115 - TUESDAY: March 7th

Exodus 37

Daily Deep Dive:

Here's what the UCG reading plan states about today's chapter: "The building of the tabernacle and the items God commanded to be in it was a monumental task. In chapters 37 and 38, Bezalel makes the implements of the temple according to the commands God had earlier given Moses. No doubt the details are repeated to show that all was done exactly as God had instructed. And it should be pointed out that Bezalel did not work alone. He was the overseer and had many artisans working under him (see Exodus 36:8). Aholiab and those under *him* did all of the weaving and engraving (Exodus 38:23).

Chapter 37, concerning the furnishings of the sanctuary, begins with the manner in which Bezalel constructed the Ark of the Covenant, including the mercy seat and the cherubim. The text exactly follows the instructions God had given Moses on how the construction was to be done (see Exodus 25:10-22). The only thing left out here is God's instruction that the tablets of the Testimony be put into the ark and that the mercy seat be put on top of it—which we will later find Moses doing once the tabernacle is complete (Exodus 40:20). In the same way, all of the instructions God gave regarding the table of showbread (Exodus 25:23-30) are followed by Bezalel in chapter 37. The only detail not repeated is God's instruction that the showbread be placed on the table—which, again, is something that happens once the tabernacle is finished (Exodus 40:4, 22-23). Then we see here the construction of the lampstand or menorah—also according to God's instructions in chapter 25 (verses 31-40). The only thing left out is the lighting of its lamps, which, still again, is done when the tabernacle is completed (Exodus 40:4, 25). Then we are presented with the making of the altar of incense, following the instructions God gave in chapter 30." [END]

Here are videos that I don't believe I previously shared about both the Ark and the Lampstand:

Ark:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KejXOYayxjU>

Lampstand:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DOOBduPyFk>

Day 116 - WEDNESDAY: March 8th

Exodus 38

Daily Deep Dive:

The UCG reading plan for this chapter states: "Chapter 38 concerns the court of the tabernacle. It begins with the construction of the altar of burnt offering, according to God's instructions in Exodus 27:1-8. Then follows the bronze laver or washbasin, according to God's instructions from Exodus 30:17-21. Finally, we see the construction of the court itself, following what God told Moses in Exodus 27:9-19. Notice that the various furnishings, including those inside the sanctuary, were made with rings to slide poles through for carrying. This was to keep people from touching the holy implements. God's perfection and glory were symbolized by these items, and thus they were not to be profaned.

The chapter ends with a summary of the precious metals that went into the building of the construction of the tabernacle and its furnishings. As a talent weighed about 70 pounds, equaling 3,000 shekels, the weight of all the gold used may have been around a ton. The weight of the bronze was around 2 1/2 tons. And the silver added up to the enormous weight of 3 1/2 tons! Indeed, silver was used in even the most basic elements of the tabernacle and its accoutrements. As *The Nelson Study Bible* notes: "Although the tabernacle was a tent, it was not a makeshift dwelling. It was a glorious shrine that symbolized the presence of the living God in the midst of His people." Lest we think

these are unimportant or insignificant details, Hebrews 8:5 and Hebrews 9:23 remind us that the tabernacle and its furnishings were "the copy and shadow of the heavenly things" and "copies of the things in the heavens." [END]

Here is a video for the Court of the Tabernacle:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d_x5br8Zqc

Day 117 - THURSDAY: March 9th

Exodus 39

Daily Deep Dive:

Here's the UCG reading plan's comments on today's chapter: "The priestly garments were made according to the fashion God had instructed Moses in chapter 28. The only thing left out here is the placement of the Urim and Thummim in the breastplate (see Exodus 28:30)—a step that takes place in Leviticus 8:8. Notice here the short trousers that were part of the priestly uniform. This linen undergarment, God had earlier explained, was for modesty's sake—"over their nakedness" (Exodus 28:42). "Given the sexually preoccupied worship of Israel's neighbor's, this provision was decidedly countercultural" (*Nelson Study Bible*, note on verse 42). "This modesty communicated to the Israelites that human sexuality could not influence God. That idea was a central feature of Baal worship, which continually tempted the Israelites. The priests of Baal would use obscene gestures and actions in the pagan worship of their depraved god" (note on Leviticus 6:10). In stark contrast, "Nothing obscene or unseemly was permitted in the pure worship of the living God" (note on Exodus 20:26).

With the completion of the priestly garments, the work of construction was finally finished. Verses 32-43 of chapter 39 list "all the work" that God had commanded through Moses. It was now finished. "Then Moses looked over all the work" (verse 43)—a final inspection. And the

result? "And indeed they had done it; as the Lord had commanded, just so they had done it" (verse 43). May the same be said of *us* as we strive to please God in our lives. In the end, Moses blessed them, just as Christ will bless us if we follow God's instructions." [END]

Day 118 - FRIDAY: March 10th

Exodus 40

Daily Deep Dive:

This brings us to our final day of reading for the week and the final chapter of the book of Exodus. With this day we will now have completed three books of the Bible (Genesis, Job & Exodus).

Here's the final UCG reading plan for the book of Exodus: "God gave Moses explicit instruction regarding every detail of the building of the tabernacle. And the Bible makes two interesting statements regarding the care with which Moses *followed* these instructions. Verse 16 says, "Moses did according to all that the Lord had commanded him," while verse 33 simply says, "So Moses finished the work." Moses was a faithful man of God. He strove for excellence in everything God gave him to do. The book of Hebrews comments on his faithfulness, "Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant" (Hebrews 3:5).

The tabernacle was finally set up and its furnishings arranged on the first day of the first month, Abib or Nisan on the Hebrew Calendar, of the second year of Israel's journey out of Egypt (verses 2, 17). This was around 10 months after the people had arrived at Sinai and nearly two weeks before their second keeping of the Passover. When everything God had commanded had been completed, He came near in a dramatic descent that manifested His glory among the Israelites, filling the tabernacle with His glory so that even Moses could not enter. The appearance of God's glory is sometimes called the Shekinah or the Shekinah glory, coming from the Hebrew for "to dwell." *The Nelson Study Bible* states: "The glory of the Lord filling the tabernacle

demonstrated His Presence with the Israelites, His significance to them, and His awe-inspiring wonder. The words of John 1:1-18 are appropriate to recall here. In the Incarnation, the glory of God was manifest not in a tent, but in His Son.... How wonderful that the Book of Exodus concludes with this image of the gracious God, hovering protectively over His people.... A faithful Israelite follower of God could see the tabernacle and realize that God was there in His splendor and power. And with Him the people advanced to Canaan, the land He had promised to them." [END]

Here are some final videos that I hope help everyone capture this amazing moment as the Tabernacle was erected for the first time:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75fHH9gPNrg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4a7DuVM-25Y>

Verse 36 – Daily the people of God had to get up and first look to God. They had to watch to determine whether today was a day to move forward or stay put. God set for them when to move and what direction. How about us? Do we look for God to lead us through His spirit and His Word?

Day 119 - SATURDAY: March 11th

Watch Six Steps to Passover – Part 2

Daily Deep Dive:

We encourage everyone to continue this opportunity to deepen our understanding of God, and gain insight as we approach the Passover season together.

This week's study is titled "**Six Steps to Passover—Part 2: Jesus, the Second Adam**" by Gary Petty.

ucg.org/beyond-today/beyond-today-bible-study/six-steps-to-passover-part-2-jesus-the-second-adam

—Peter Eddington, Operation Manager, Media and Communications Services