



## A Closer Look at Exodus

You can watch Pastor Andy's introduction to this study [here](#).

### **Exodus 40:16-38: Tabernacling: Living in the Presence of God**

We skipped a lot of chapters between last week and this week. Moses remains on the mountain and receives a lot more instructions from God. Meanwhile, the Israelites get impatient and decide to build a golden calf. Moses has to talk God down from God's anger, and eventually God relents from wrath and punishment.

The remainder of the book is basically detailed instruction of how to build the tabernacle and the account of Moses and the people actually building it.

Under all that, though, is God's desire to dwell with the people, and for the people to constantly be in God's presence. Not only is God calling on Moses to build a place where God's presence can be felt on earth, but God asks Moses to make that dwelling portable so that the Israelites and God can move together.

This assures the people that God is going to be with them no matter what they do and where they are. Eventually, when they are scattered into exile, they can be assured that God goes with them. When Christians in Jerusalem are eventually threatened to the point they have to leave the city, they can be assured that God goes with them to small towns and rural communities.

In a year that has seen us scattered to our homes and unable to join together in community, we can be assured that God has been fully present with us the entire time. God continues to tabernacle with us.

### ***Read Exodus 40:16-38***

<sup>16</sup> Moses did everything GOD commanded. He did it all.

<sup>17-19</sup> On the first day of the first month of the second year, The Dwelling was set up. Moses set it up: He laid its bases, erected the frames, placed the crossbars, set the posts, spread the tent over The Dwelling, and put the covering over the tent, just as GOD had commanded Moses.

<sup>20-21</sup> He placed The Testimony in the Chest, inserted the poles for carrying the Chest, and placed the lid, the Atonement-Cover, on it. He brought the Chest into The Dwelling and set up the curtain, screening off the Chest of The Testimony, just as GOD had commanded Moses.

<sup>22-23</sup> He placed the Table in the Tent of Meeting on the north side of The Dwelling, outside the curtain, and arranged the Bread there before GOD, just as GOD had commanded him.

<sup>24-25</sup> He placed the Lampstand in the Tent of Meeting opposite the Table on the south side of The Dwelling and set up the lamps before GOD, just as GOD had commanded him.

<sup>26-27</sup> Moses placed the Gold Altar in the Tent of Meeting in front of the curtain and burned fragrant incense on it, just as GOD had commanded him.

<sup>28</sup> He placed the screen at the entrance to The Dwelling.

<sup>29</sup> He set the Altar of Whole-Burnt-Offering at the door of The Dwelling, the Tent of Meeting, and offered up the Whole-Burnt-Offerings and the Grain-Offerings, just as GOD had commanded Moses.

<sup>30-32</sup> He placed the Washbasin between the Tent of Meeting and the Altar, and filled it with water for washing. Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and feet there. When they entered the Tent of Meeting and when they served at the Altar, they washed, just as GOD had commanded Moses.

<sup>33</sup> Finally, he erected the Courtyard all around The Dwelling and the Altar, and put up the screen for the Courtyard entrance.

Moses finished the work.

<sup>34-35</sup> The Cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the Glory of GOD filled The Dwelling. Moses couldn't enter the Tent of Meeting because the Cloud was upon it, and the Glory of GOD filled The Dwelling.

<sup>36-38</sup> Whenever the Cloud lifted from The Dwelling, the People of Israel set out on their travels, but if the Cloud did not lift, they wouldn't set out until it did lift. The Cloud of GOD was over The Dwelling during the day and the fire was in it at night, visible to all the Israelites in all their travels. (*The Message Translation*)

### ***Questions for reflection and discussion***

- What about this story resonates most with you? Why do you think that is?
- What pieces of the tabernacle are most similar to our church? What have we lost or changes since the days of Moses?
- What is a place you think about when you think of being "in God's presence"?
- What do you think was the point of all the specific and detailed instruction for the construction of the tabernacle?
- What ways have you grown through the course of this study on Exodus?

***Prayer:*** *God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we give you thanks for tabernacling with us now and forever. Continue to show us signs of your presence. Lead by cloud and fire, voice and sign, to walk in your way. Give us courage to follow even when the going gets tough. As we look toward Holy Week, quiet our hearts and our lives to focus on the cross, and your life-giving sacrifice for all of us. Amen.*

***Next week:*** Join us for Holy Week worship Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7:00 PM (online).

To be part of our Zoom Bible Study Wednesday's at 7:00 PM, click here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5596136118?pwd=SStXODZYdk4yOXdYTVdEYWJpUFBFQT09>