

**September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Gifts, Commandments, and the Glory of the LORD**  
**Exodus 35 – 40**

**BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN**

August 30 Ezekiel 1-4	Sept 3 Ezekiel 16-17
August 31 Ezekiel 5-8	Sept 4 Ezekiel 18-20
Sept 1 Ezekiel 9-12	Sept 5 Ezekiel 21-22
Sept 2 Ezekiel 13-15	Sept 6 Ezekiel 23-24

**Lesson Introduction:** As our study of Exodus comes to a close, we see the building of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, as well as the making of the priestly garments, an alter for burnt offerings, the lampstand, and, among other things, the Ark of the Covenant. As we overview these six chapters, we will see some significant things that we as the people of God should consider. First, we will see how God gives each of us skills and gifts, and that those gifts are to be used for His glory and the building up of His Kingdom. We will also consider how our stewarding of God's gifts should be done cheerfully and willingly. From there we will consider how the Israelites did **"as the LORD had commanded Moses,"** and we will see the orderly way the LORD operates through the building of the tabernacle. Finally, we will dwell on the Glory of God, and consider how being in His presence is where we find our hope and strength.

**FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS:**

- **Everything we have is given to us by the Lord, and we are called to be faithful stewards of those gifts (35:4 – 36:7)**
- **The LORD is a God of order, and we are called to follow all that He has commanded of us (35:4, 10; 36:1; 38:22; 39:1, 5, 7, 21, 26, 29, 31-32, 42; 40:16, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32)**
- **The Glory of the LORD is overwhelming, and the presence of His glory is where we find our hope and strength (40:34-38)**

Read Exodus 35 – 40

**Discussion Section 1: Stewarding the Giver's Gifts (35:4 – 36:7)**

-What does **35:31 – 36:1** teach us about where all our giftedness stems from?

-What does this passage teach us about the way our skills and talents are best used?

-What do we learn in this passage about the approach to giving that God expects of His people?

-What was the result of God's people being faithful stewards of all that God had blessed them with? (**36:6-7**)

**Note:** *The call to the people to come together to build the tabernacle (among other things) began with the LORD calling on all of those who were of "a generous heart" to bring their contributions (35:5). This introduces the theme, which is carried throughout the rest of the passage, of gladhearted, cheerful giving. In 35:21 we see that all those whose hearts were stirred, and whose spirit moved them made contributions. We see a similar statement made in 35:26 and in 35:29. The repetition of these types of statements show us clearly the lesson that God is teaching His people, namely that He desires gifts and sacrifices to be given freely and cheerfully from the heart. This is a theme that is repeated time and time again throughout the Scriptures (Micah 6:6-8, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Hebrews 11:4).*

*One of the ways this passage teaches us how to give cheerfully from the heart is by reminding us where all of our giftedness comes from in the first place. 35:31 – 36:1 mentions different men who were skilled in engraving, designing, craftsmanship, and who were men of intelligence, that they might know how to do the work required to build the tabernacle. Throughout those few verses it is made clear that it was God who had filled them with His Spirit, giving them all of their skills, and knowledge. What a humbling thought that every bit of skill that we have is from the LORD!*

**James 1:17** tells us, **"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."** When we truly begin to grasp this reality, we become compelled to leverage all the gifts that God has given us for His Kingdom's sake. God has given us every musical skill, money making skill, management skill, wood working skill, thinking skill, and any other skills we may possess. As people who have been gifted by God, we are called to steward that which He has blessed us with. This means that we strive to faithfully bring glory to Him with all our resources and skills because we recognize that it is all from Him and that it all belongs to Him in the

first place. What an incredible blessing and privilege it is to get to be a steward of the gifts of God Almighty!

In **36:5-7** we see the result of God's people faithfully and cheerfully stewarding the blessings that God had granted them. They were told to stop giving their gifts, for they had given much more than enough to do the work that needed to be done! Can you imagine this happening in our church? When God's people understand that everything they have belongs to God, and that He has lavished us with all kinds of resources, the result is always a cheerful desire to give. May we catch the same cheerful spirit of the Israelites, that we might see God do incredible things through the gifts and talents of His people at Faith Baptist Church.

**Discussion Section 2: All That the LORD Commanded (35:4, 10; 36:1; 38:22; 39:1, 5, 7, 21, 26, 29, 31-32, 42; 40:16, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32)**

-Why is the phrase, "**as the LORD had commanded Moses**" repeated so many times throughout these chapters?

-What can we learn about the LORD's nature from the incredibly detailed description of all that He commanded regarding the building of the tabernacle?

-Why is it important that we follow all that the LORD commands of us?

**Note:** Throughout these chapters we see the phrase "**as the LORD commanded**" repeated nineteen times. It is clear once again that the LORD is trying to teach us something about Himself and what our response to Him should be. One of the things that stand out as you read these chapters in their entirety is the incredible detail that is given in regard to the building of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, as well as the making of the priestly garments, an alter for burnt offerings, the lampstand, and, among other things, the Ark of the Covenant. It is easy to feel bogged down as you read these details, but it is important that we realize that in these details we are able to learn some things about God's nature and character.

One of the main things we learn about God is that He is a God of order. We are told in **1 Corinthians 14:33** that "**God is not a God of confusion but of peace.**" And in verse 40 of the same chapter, Paul tells the church in Corinth that all things (within the church) should be done in an orderly fashion. Indeed, God is orderly in all that He

does. We see this orderly and detail-oriented nature throughout the Scriptures, beginning with the creation account in Genesis 1.

As we consider all that the LORD commanded in these verses, we should be encouraged to follow God's commands ourselves, knowing that all of His commandments are steeped in order, well thought out, for our good and His glory. He does not act flippantly or call on us to do anything that is useless or meaningless. Every last thing that He has called us to obey is well thought out by Him, and when we heed His commandments we flourish. We do not serve a God who is out of control, or who is making up plans as He goes. He is a God of detail, and His orderly nature and well thought out plans point us to His holiness. He is set apart in that He is perfectly wise, perfectly ordered in all His ways. Although things may seem chaotic in our lives, we serve the God who not only presided over the building of the tabernacle with precision and order, but the One who rules the universe from His throne (**Psalms 103:19**). May we rejoice that He has given us detailed commandments for our flourishing, and may we obey them, that He may receive more and more glory from our lives.

**Discussion Section 3: The Glory of the LORD (40:34-38)**

-What does **40:35** teach us about God's glory?

-What does this section teach us regarding our greatest need?

-Are you content to dwell in the presence of God and wait on Him to move in your life?

**Note:** As we close out this lesson and our study of the book of Exodus, may we do so by dwelling on the glory of God and our need for His presence in our lives. God's glory is a heavy thing, and we are unable to even comprehend the weight of it. Moses was not even able to enter the tent when God's glory had filled the tabernacle, as the weight of His glory would have crushed him. Yet even as we consider the magnitude of the glory of God, we should also consider our desperate need for His glorious presence. In all our journeys may we look to the LORD for direction, strength and hope, recognizing that without His leadership we have none of the above. Praise God that through Christ we can enter into the presence of the glory of God, and that He is leading us to that day when we will be in His presence face to face for all eternity (**Psalms 23:6**)!