EXODUS

Chapter 35

*Sabbath Regulations*

**Moses assembled the whole Israelite community and said to them, “These are the things the Lord has commanded you to do: 2 For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day shall be your holy day, a Sabbath of rest to the Lord. Whoever does any work on it must be put to death. 3 Do not light a fire in any of your dwellings on the Sabbath day.”**

**35:1–3** Just as the Israelites had been reminded of the importance of Sabbath observance immediately after the instructions for building the tabernacle and making the priestly garments (see note on 31:13), so now—just before the fulfilling of those instructions—the people are given the same reminder. (CSB)

**35:2** Third time the Lord teaches about and emphasizes the Sabbath. (TLSB)

**35:3** *kindle no fire*. Fire was used for cooking (work) but was also instrumental in constructing the golden calf. Cf 32:24. (TLSB)

**35:1–3** God calls the people again to share in His Sabbath rest. The soul that forsakes the gift of Sabbath rest remains in torment. Our true rest is in the one true God, who grants life, peace, and all blessings. • We thank You, Jesus, for patiently having had mercy on us, that we can rest in the work of salvation that You have accomplished for us. Amen. (TLSB)

*Materials for the Tabernacle*

**4 Moses said to the whole Israelite community, “This is what the Lord has commanded: 5 From what you have, take an offering for the Lord. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord an offering of gold, silver and bronze; 6 blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; 7 ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows; acacia wood; 8 olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; 9 and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. 10 “All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the Lord has commanded: 11 the tabernacle with its tent and its covering, clasps, frames, crossbars, posts and bases; 12 the ark with its poles and the atonement cover and the curtain that shields it; 13 the table with its poles and all its articles and the bread of the Presence; 14 the lampstand that is for light with its accessories, lamps and oil for the light; 15 the altar of incense with its poles, the anointing oil and the fragrant incense; the curtain for the doorway at the entrance to the tabernacle; 16 the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grating, its poles and all its utensils; the bronze basin with its stand; 17 the curtains of the courtyard with its posts and bases, and the curtain for the entrance to the courtyard; 18 the tent pegs for the tabernacle and for the courtyard, and their ropes; 19 the woven garments worn for ministering in the sanctuary—both the sacred garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons when they serve as priests.” 20 Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses’ presence, 21 and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. 22 All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the Lord. 23 Everyone who had blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen, or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or hides of sea cows brought them. 24 Those presenting an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the Lord, and everyone who had acacia wood for any part of the work brought it. 25 Every skilled woman spun with her hands and brought what she had spun—blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen. 26 And all the women who were willing and had the skill spun the goat hair. 27 The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. 28 They also brought spices and olive oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense. 29 All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offerings for all the work the Lord through Moses had commanded them to do.**

**35:4–39:43** For the most part repeated from chs. 25–28; 30:1–5; 31:1–11 (see notes on those passages), sometimes verbatim, but with the verbs primarily in the past rather than the future tense and with the topics arranged in a different order. Such repetition was a common feature of ancient Near Eastern literature and was intended to fix the details of a narrative in the reader’s mind (see note on Ge 24:34–49). (CSB)

**35:5** *Everyone who is willing.* The voluntary motivation behind the offering of materials and services for the tabernacle is stressed (see vv. 21–22, 26, 29; 36:2–3). (CSB)

Request fulfilled in ch 25. (TLSB)

**35:10** *every skillful craftsman*. Oholiab and Bezalel as designers and leaders (31:2–6). (TLSB)

**35:19** Cf ch 28. (TLSB)

**35:21** *heart stirred* … *spirit moved*. God’s Word caused the people to be generous. (TLSB)

*Tent of Meeting.* See note on 27:21. (CSB)

**35:22** *brooches and earrings and signet rings and armlets*. Jewelry they had plundered from the Egyptians. (TLSB)

*every man*. Everyone whose heart was stirred. (TLSB)

**35:24** *possessed acacia wood*. Cf 25:13. (TLSB)

**35:27** *leaders*. Cf 18:24–26. (TLSB)

**35:29** *moved* … *freewill offering*. Verb and noun have same Hbr root *nadab*, to “urge” or “volunteer.” The expression “freewill” can be confusing, as Scripture does not teach that the human will is free in spiritual matters but is bound due to the fall into sin. We are servants, either of sin or of righteousness (Rm 6:16–18). Good works, such as the offerings described here, are motivated by the Holy Spirit working through the Word (cf v 4). The believer gladly hears and obeys God’s Word (v 21). (TLSB)

**35:4–29** Offerings, materials, and laborers pour into the work site to begin the task. Work begins as an act of faith motivated by God’s Word. • “Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness, Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!” Amen. (*LSB* 578:3). (TLSB)

*Bezalel and Oholiab*

**30 Then Moses said to the Israelites, “See, the Lord has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 31 and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts— 32 to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, 33 to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship. 34 And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. 35 He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them master craftsmen and designers.**

**35:34** Bezalel and Oholiab trained the other workmen and acted as foremen. (TLSB)

**35:35** *embroiderer* … *weaver*. Men were weavers. (TLSB)