EXODUS

Chapter 40

*Setting Up the Tabernacle*

**Then the Lord said to Moses: 2 “Set up the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, on the first day of the first month. 3 Place the ark of the Testimony in it and shield the ark with the curtain. 4 Bring in the table and set out what belongs on it. Then bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps. 5 Place the gold altar of incense in front of the ark of the Testimony and put the curtain at the entrance to the tabernacle. 6 “Place the altar of burnt offering in front of the entrance to the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting; 7 place the basin between the Tent of Meeting and the altar and put water in it. 8 Set up the courtyard around it and put the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. 9 “Take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and everything in it; consecrate it and all its furnishings, and it will be holy. 10 Then anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils; consecrate the altar, and it will be most holy. 11 Anoint the basin and its stand and consecrate them. 12 “Bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and wash them with water. 13 Then dress Aaron in the sacred garments, anoint him and consecrate him so he may serve me as priest. 14 Bring his sons and dress them in tunics. 15 Anoint them just as you anointed their father, so they may serve me as priests. Their anointing will be to a priesthood that will continue for all generations to come.” 16 Moses did everything just as the Lord commanded him. 17 So the tabernacle was set up on the first day of the first month in the second year. 18 When Moses set up the tabernacle, he put the bases in place, erected the frames, inserted the crossbars and set up the posts. 19 Then he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering over the tent, as the Lord commanded him. 20 He took the Testimony and placed it in the ark, attached the poles to the ark and put the atonement cover over it. 21 Then he brought the ark into the tabernacle and hung the shielding curtain and shielded the ark of the Testimony, as the Lord commanded him. 22 Moses placed the table in the Tent of Meeting on the north side of the tabernacle outside the curtain 23 and set out the bread on it before the Lord, as the Lord commanded him. 24 He placed the lampstand in the Tent of Meeting opposite the table on the south side of the tabernacle 25 and set up the lamps before the Lord, as the Lord commanded him. 26 Moses placed the gold altar in the Tent of Meeting in front of the curtain 27 and burned fragrant incense on it, as the Lord commanded him. 28 Then he put up the curtain at the entrance to the tabernacle. 29 He set the altar of burnt offering near the entrance to the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, and offered on it burnt offerings and grain offerings, as the Lord commanded him. 30 He placed the basin between the Tent of Meeting and the altar and put water in it for washing, 31 and Moses and Aaron and his sons used it to wash their hands and feet. 32 They washed whenever they entered the Tent of Meeting or approached the altar, as the Lord commanded Moses. 33 Then Moses set up the courtyard around the tabernacle and altar and put up the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. And so Moses finished the work.**

**40:2** *first day of the first month.* The tabernacle was set up almost a year after the institution of the Passover (see v. 17; 12:2, 6). (CSB)

Nearly one calendar year has passed since the Passover, established on the 10th day of the first month. (TLSB)

**40:3–33** Working from the Most Holy Place outward (25:8). (TLSB)

**40:4** *table*. Cf 25:23–30. (TLSB)

 *lampstand*. Cf 25:31–39. (TLSB)

**40:5** *altar*. Cf 30:1–10. (TLSB)

 *screen*. Cf 26:36–37. (TLSB)

**40:6**. Cf 27:1–8. (TLSB)

**40:7** *tent of meeting*. Cf 25:8. (TLSB)

**40:8** *court*. Cf 27:9–19. (TLSB)

 *screen*. Cf 27:16. (TLSB)

**40:9–15** Anointing was by sprinkling. (TLSB)

**40:9** *anointing oil*. Oil was a preservative (e.g., oilcloth). (TLSB)

**40:10** *most holy*. Both the altar of burnt offering (27:1–8) and the altar of incense (30:1–10) are mentioned. Cf Lv 8:11. (TLSB)

**40:12** *wash*. Cf 30:17–21. (TLSB)

**40:13** *garments*. Cf ch 28. (TLSB)

 *anoint*. Cf ch 29. (TLSB)

**40:16** *Moses did … just as the Lord commanded.* Moses’ obedience to God’s command is a key theme of the final chapter of Exodus (see vv. 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32). It was the people who provided all the resources and made all the components, but it was the Lord’s servant Moses who was authorized to erect the tabernacle and prepare it for the Lord’s entry. (CSB)

**40:16–33** Repetition affirms that all was done according to the Lord’s directive (38:22). (TLSB)

**40:18** *frames*. Cf 26:15–25. *poles*. Cf 26:26–30.(TLSB)

 *pillars*. Cf 26:32.(TLSB)

**40:19** *tent*. Cf 26:7–13. (TLSB)

 *covering*. Cf 26:14. (TLSB)

**40:20** *the testimony*. The Ten Commandments. (TLSB)

 *ark*. Cf 25:10–11.(TLSB)

 *poles*. Cf 25:12–15. (TLSB)

 *mercy seat*. Cf 25:17.

**40:21** Cf ch 26. (TLSB)

**40:22** *table*. Cf 25:23–30. (TLSB)

**40:23** *bread*. Cf Lv 24:5–9. (TLSB)

**40:24** *lampstand*. Cf 25:31–39. (TLSB)

**40:26** *golden altar*. For incense. (TLSB)

**40:27** *incense*. Cf 30:34–38. (TLSB)

**40:29** *offered* … *burnt offering*. Moses offered the first sacrifice because the priesthood was not yet ordained, See Lv. 8. (TLSB)

 *grain offering*. Offered along with the burnt offering. (TLSB)

**40:30** *basin*. Cf 30:17–21. (TLSB)

**40:33** *Moses finished the work.* See note on 39:32. (CSB)

He oversaw the work. Cf Gn 2:2. The creation of the tabernacle ushered in new life through faith in the shed blood. Cf 39:42–43. (TLSB)

**40:1–33** The Lord lives among His people in the tabernacle and leads them to life and salvation. Today, the Lord blesses us in the means of grace, leading us to life and salvation through His shed blood, which covers our sin. • Thank You, Jesus, for these OT types that find their fulfillment in You. Amen. (TLSB)

*The Glory of the Lord*

**34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 36 In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; 37 but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. 38 So the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their travels.**

**40:34** *cloud*. The cloud and glory of the Lord were present on Sinai (24:15–18) (TLSB)

With the glory of the Lord entering the tabernacle, the great series of events that began with the birth of Moses and his rescue from the Nile, foreshadowing the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, comes to a grand climax. From now on, the Israelites march through the desert with the Lord tenting among them and leading them to the land of fulfilled promises. (CSB)

**40:35** Though Moses was not a priest, he typically worked alongside them and had special access to God’s presence. But not even Moses could enter on this occasion, when God sanctified and blessed the tabernacle. (TLSB)

**40:36** The cloud testified that the Lord was protecting and leading His people (14:19–20). (TLSB)

**40:38** See note on 13:21. (CSB)

 *cloud*. Cf v 34. (TLSBB)

 *fire*. The Lord lived in the pillar of fire by night and cloud by day (13:21–22). (TLSB)

 *house of Israel.* The nation, viewed as an extended family household. (CSB)

**40:34–38** In the tabernacle, the glory of the Lord is seen. We do not choose God, His location, or the form of worship. God reveals this in His gracious mercy so that we may be with Him for all eternity. The glory of the Lord continues in Word and Sacrament, through which Christ lives in and with us. • “Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible hid from our eyes, Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.” Amen. (*LSB* 802:1) (TLSB)