

EXODUS

Chapter 40

The Tabernacle Erected

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “On the first day of the first month you shall erect the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. 3 And you shall put in it the ark of the testimony, and you shall screen the ark with the veil. 4 And you shall bring in the table and arrange it, and you shall bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps. 5 And you shall put the golden altar for incense before the ark of the testimony, and set up the screen for the door of the tabernacle. 6 You shall set the altar of burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, 7 and place the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it. 8 And you shall set up the court all around, and hang up the screen for the gate of the court. 9 “Then you shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and consecrate it and all its furniture, so that it may become holy. 10 You shall also anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar, so that the altar may become most holy. 11 You shall also anoint the basin and its stand, and consecrate it. 12 Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and shall wash them with water 13 and put on Aaron the holy garments. And you shall anoint him and consecrate him, that he may serve me as priest. 14 You shall bring his sons also and put coats on them, 15 and anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may serve me as priests. And their anointing shall admit them to a perpetual priesthood throughout their generations.” 16 This Moses did; according to all that the LORD commanded him, so he did. 17 In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. 18 Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. 19 And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 20 He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. 21 And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 22 He put the table in the tent of meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the veil, 23 and arranged the bread on it before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 24 He put 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 had commanded Moses. 26 He put the golden altar in the tent of meeting before the veil, 27 and burned fragrant incense on it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 28 He put in place the screen for the door of the tabernacle. 29 And he set the altar of burnt offering at the entrance of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered on it the burnt offering and the grain offering, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 30 He set the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it for washing, 31 with which Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet. 32 When they went into the tent of meeting, and when they approached the altar, they washed, as the LORD commanded Moses. 33 And he erected the court around the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the screen of the gate of the court. 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. (CSB)

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*. 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 And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 36 Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

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

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 *cloud*. Cf v 34. (TLSB)

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)