
EXODUS 35:1 Moses assembled all the congregation of the children of Israel, and said to them, "These are the words which the LORD has commanded, that you should do them."

Moses assembles the congregation to deliver to them the commandments of God, Exo 35:1. Directions concerning the Sabbath, Exo 35:2, Exo 35:3. Free-will offerings of gold, silver, brass, etc., for the tabernacle, Exo 35:4-7. Of oil and spices, Exo 35:8. Of precious stones, Exo 35:9. Proper artists to be employed, Exo 35:10. The tabernacle and its tent, Exo 35:11. The ark, Exo 35:12. Table of the shew-bread, Exo 35:13. Candlestick, Exo 35:14. Altar of incense, Exo 35:15. Altar of burnt-offering, Exo 35:16. Hangings, pins, etc., Exo 35:17, Exo 35:18. Clothes of service, and holy vestments, Exo 35:19. The people cheerfully bring their ornaments as offerings to the Lord, Exo 35:20-22; together with blue, purple, scarlet, etc., etc., Exo 35:23, Exo 35:24. The women spin, and bring the produce of their skill and industry, Exo 35:25, Exo 35:26. The rulers bring precious stones, etc., Exo 35:27, Exo 35:28. All the people offer willingly, Exo 35:29. Bezaleel and Aholiab appointed to conduct and superintend all the work of the tabernacle, for which they are qualified by the spirit of wisdom, Exo 35:30-35.

Verse 1

And Moses gathered - The principal subjects in this chapter have been already largely considered in the notes on chapters 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31, and to those the reader is particularly desired to refer, together with the parallel texts in the margin.

EXODUS 35:2 'Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of solemn rest to the LORD: whoever does any work in it shall be put to death.

EXODUS 35:3 You shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations on the Sabbath day.'"

Verse 3

Ye shall kindle no fire - The Jews understand this precept as forbidding the kindling of fire only for the purpose of doing work or dressing victuals; but to give them light and heat, they judge it lawful to light a fire on the Sabbath day, though themselves rarely kindle it-they get Christians to do this work for them.

EXODUS 35:4 Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying,

EXODUS 35:5 'Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, the LORD's offering: gold, silver, brass,

Verse 5

An offering - A terumah or heave-offering; see Lev 7:1, etc. , Exo 35:6

See, on these metals and colors, Exo 25:3 (note), Exo 25:4 (note), etc.

EXODUS 35:6 blue, purple, scarlet, fine linen, goats' hair,

EXODUS 35:7 rams' skins dyed red, sea cow hides, acacia wood,

Verse 7

Rams' skins, etc. - See Exo 25:5.

EXODUS 35:8 oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense,

Verse 8

Oil for the light - See Exo 25:6.

EXODUS 35:9 onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod and for the breastplate.

Verse 9

Onyx stones - See Exo 25:7.

EXODUS 35:10 "Let every wise-hearted man among you come, and make all that the LORD has commanded:

EXODUS 35:11 the tabernacle, its outer covering, its roof, its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets;

Verse 11

The tabernacle - See Exo 25:8.

EXODUS 35:12 the ark, and its poles, the mercy seat, the veil of the screen;

Verse 12

The ark - See Exo 25:10-17.

EXODUS 35:13 the table with its poles and all its vessels, and the show bread;

Verse 13

The table - See Exo 25:23-28.

EXODUS 35:14 the lamp stand also for the light, with its vessels, its lamps, and the oil for the light;

Verse 14

The candlestick - See Exo 25:31-39.

EXODUS 35:15 and the altar of incense with its poles, the anointing oil, the sweet incense, the screen for the door, at the door of the tabernacle;

Verse 15

The incense altar - The golden altar, see Exo 30:1-10.

EXODUS 35:16 the altar of burnt offering, with its grating of brass, its poles, and all its vessels, the basin and its base;

Verse 16

The altar of burnt-offering - The brazen altar, see Exo 27:1-8.

EXODUS 35:17 the hangings of the court, its pillars, their sockets, and the screen for the gate of the court;

Verse 17

The hangings of the court - See Exo 27:9.

EXODUS 35:18 the pins of the tabernacle, the pins of the court, and their cords;

EXODUS 35:19 the finely worked garments, for ministering in the holy place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office.”

Verse 19

The clothes of service - Probably aprons, towels, and such like, used in the common service, and different from the vestments for Aaron and his sons. See these latter described Exo 28:1, etc.

EXODUS 35:20 All the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses.

EXODUS 35:21 They came, everyone whose heart stirred him up, and everyone whom his spirit made willing, and brought the LORD's offering, for the work of the Tent of Meeting, and for all of its service, and for the holy garments.

Verse 21

Every one whose heart stirred him up - Literally, whose heart was lifted up - whose affections were set on the work, being cordially engaged in the service of God.

EXODUS 35:22 They came, both men and women, as many as were willing-hearted, and brought brooches, earrings, signet rings, and armlets, all jewels of gold; even every man who offered an offering of gold to the LORD.

Verse 22

As many as were willing-hearted - For no one was forced to lend his help in this sacred work; all was a free-will offering to the Lord.

Bracelets - חַח chach, whatever hooks together; ornaments for the wrists, arms, legs, or neck.

Ear-rings - נֶזֶם nezem, see this explained Gen 24:22 (note).

Rings - טַבַּעַת tabbaath, from טָבַא taba, to penetrate, enter into; probably rings for the fingers.

Tablets - כֹּמֵז cumaz, a word only used here and in Num 31:50, supposed to be a girdle to support the breasts.

EXODUS 35:23 Everyone, with whom was found blue, purple, scarlet, fine linen, goats' hair, rams' skins dyed red, and sea cow hides, brought them.

EXODUS 35:24 Everyone who offered an offering of silver and brass brought the LORD's offering; and everyone, with whom was found acacia wood for any work of the service, brought it.

EXODUS 35:25 All the women who were wise-hearted spun with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, the blue, the purple, the scarlet, and the fine linen.

Verse 25

All the women that were wise-hearted did spin - They had before learned this art, they were wise-hearted; and now they practice it, and God condescends to require and accept their services. In building this house of God, all were ambitious to do something by which they might testify their

piety to God, and their love for his worship. The spinning practiced at this time was simple, and required little apparatus. It was the plain distaff or twirling pin, which might be easily made out of any wood they met with in the wilderness.

EXODUS 35:26 All the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun the goats' hair.

EXODUS 35:27 The rulers brought the onyx stones, and the stones to be set, for the ephod and for the breastplate;

Verse 27

The rulers brought onyx stones - These being persons of consequence, might be naturally expected to furnish the more scarce and costly articles. See how all join in this service! The men worked and brought offerings, the women spun and brought their ornaments, the rulers united with them, and delivered up their jewels! and all the children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord, Exo 36:29.

EXODUS 35:28 and the spice, and the oil for the light, for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense.

EXODUS 35:29 The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the LORD; every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all the work, which the LORD had commanded to be made by Moses.

EXODUS 35:30 Moses said to the children of Israel, "Behold, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.

Verse 30

The Lord hath called by name Bezaleel - See this subject discussed at large in the note on Exo 28:3 (note), where the subject of superseding the work of the hand by the extra use of machinery is particularly considered.

1. From the nature of the offerings made for the service of the tabernacle, we see of what sort the spoils were which the Israelites brought out of Egypt: gold, silver, brass, blue, purple, scarlet, fine linen, rams' skins dyed red, what we call badgers' skins, oil, spices, incense, onyx stones, and other stones, the names of which are not here mentioned. They must also have brought looms, spinning wheels, instruments for cutting precious stones, anvils, hammers, furnaces, melting-pots, with a vast variety of tools for the different artists employed on the work of the tabernacle, viz., smiths, joiners, carvers, gilders, etc.

2. God could have erected his tabernacle without the help or skill of man; but he condescended to employ him. As all are interested in the worship of God, so all should bear a part in it; here God employs the whole congregation: every male and female, with even their sons and their daughters, and the very ornaments of their persons, are given to raise and adorn the house of God. The women who had not ornaments, and could neither give gold nor silver, could spin goat's hair, and the Lord

graciously employs them in this work, and accepts what they can give and what they can do, for they did it with a willing mind; they were wise of heart - had learned a useful business, their hearts were lifted up in the work, Exo 36:21, and all felt it a high privilege to be able to put only a nail in the holy place. By the free-will offerings of the people the tabernacle was erected, and all the costly utensils belonging to it provided. This was the primitive mode of providing proper places for Divine worship; and as it was the primitive, so it is the most rational mode. Taxes levied by law for building or repairing churches were not known in the ancient times of religious simplicity. It is an honor to be permitted to do any thing for the support of public worship; and he must have a strange, unfeeling, and ungodly heart, who does not esteem it a high privilege to have a stone of his own laying or procuring in the house of God. How easily might all the buildings necessary for the purpose of public worship be raised, if the money that is spent in needless self-indulgence by ourselves, our sons, and our daughters, were devoted to this purpose! By sacrifices of this kind the house of the Lord would be soon built, and the top-stone brought on with shouting, Grace, grace unto it!

EXODUS 35:31 He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of workmanship;

EXODUS 35:32 and to make skilful works, to work in gold, in silver, in brass,

EXODUS 35:33 in cutting of stones for setting, and in carving of wood, to work in all kinds of skilful workmanship.

EXODUS 35:34 He has put in his heart that he may teach, both he, and Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.

EXODUS 35:35 He has filled them with wisdom of heart, to work all kinds of workmanship, of the engraver, of the skilful workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of those who do any workmanship, and of those who make skilful works.
