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EXODUS 36:1 "Bezaleel and Oholiab shall work with every wise-hearted man, in whom the LORD has put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all the work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD has commanded."

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Moses appoints Bezaleel, Aholiab, and their associates, to the work, and delivers to them the free-will offerings of the people, Exo 36:1-3. The people bring offerings more than are needed for the work, and are only restrained by the proclamation of Moses, Exo 36:4-7. The curtains, their loops, taches, etc., for the tabernacle, Exo 36:8-18. The covering for the tent, Exo 36:19. The boards, Exo 36:20-30. The bars, Exo 36:31-34. The veil and its pillars, Exo 36:35, Exo 36:36. The hangings and their pillars, Exo 36:37, Exo 36:38.

#### Verse 1

Then wrought, etc. - The first verse of this chapter should end the preceding chapter, and this should begin with verse the second; as it now stands, it does not make a very consistent sense. By reading the first word וַעֲשֶׂה *veasah*, then wrought, in the future tense instead of the past, the proper connection will be preserved: for all grammarians know that the conjunction *vau* is often conversive, i.e., it turns the preterite tense of those verbs to which it is prefixed into the future, and the future into the preterite: this power it evidently has here; and joined with the last verse of the preceding chapter the connection will appear thus, Exo 36:30-35, etc.: The Lord hath called by name Bezaleel and Aholiab; them hath he filled with wisdom of heart to work all manner of work. Exo 36:1 : And Bezaleel and Aholiab Shall Work, and every wise-hearted man, in whom the Lord put wisdom.

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EXODUS 36:2 Moses called Bezaleel and Oholiab, and every wise-hearted man, in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, even everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to the work to do it:

EXODUS 36:3 and they received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, with which to make it. They brought yet to him freewill offerings every morning.

EXODUS 36:4 All the wise men, who performed all the work of the sanctuary, each came from his work which they did.

EXODUS 36:5 They spoke to Moses, saying, "The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the LORD commanded to make."

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#### Verse 5

The people bring much more than enough - With what a liberal spirit do these people bring their free-will offerings unto the Lords! Moses is obliged to make a proclamation to prevent them from bringing any more, as there was at present more than enough! Had Moses been intent upon gain, and had he not been perfectly disinterested, he would have encouraged them to continue their contributions, as thereby he might have multiplied to himself gold, silver, and precious stones. But he was doing the Lord's work, under the inspiration of the Divine Spirit, and therefore he sought no secular gain. Indeed, this one circumstance is an ample proof of it. Every thing necessary for the worship of God will be cheerfully provided by a people whose hearts are in that worship. In a state

where all forms of religion and modes of worship are tolerated by the laws, it would be well to find out some less exceptionable way of providing for the national clergy than by tithes. Let them by all means have the provision allowed them by the law; but let them not be needlessly exposed to the resentment of the people by the mode in which this provision is made, as this often alienates the affections of their flocks from them, and exceedingly injures their usefulness. See Clarke's note on Gen 28:22, in fine, where the subject is viewed on all sides.

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EXODUS 36:6 Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, "Let neither man nor woman make anything else for the offering for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing.

EXODUS 36:7 For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.

EXODUS 36:8 All the wise-hearted men among those who did the work made the tabernacle with ten curtains; of fine twined linen, blue, purple, and scarlet, with cherubim, the work of the skilful workman, they made them.

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#### Verse 8

Cherubims of cunning work - See on Exo 25:18 (note). Probably the word means no more than figures of any kind wrought in the diaper fashion in the loom, or by the needle in embroidery, or by the chisel or graving tool in wood, stone, or metal; see Clarke on Exo 25:18 (note). This meaning Houbigant and other excellent critics contend for. In some places the word seems to be restricted to express a particular figure then well known; but in many other places it seems to imply any kind of figure commonly formed by sculpture on stone, by carving on wood, by engraving upon brass, and by weaving in the loom, etc.

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EXODUS 36:9 The length of each curtain was twenty-eight cubits, and the breadth of each curtain four cubits. All the curtains had one measure.

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#### Verse 9

The length of one curtain - Concerning these curtains, see Clarke on Exo 26:1 (note), etc.

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EXODUS 36:10 He coupled five curtains to one another, and the other five curtains he coupled one to another.

EXODUS 36:11 He made loops of blue on the edge of the one curtain from the edge in the coupling. Likewise he made in the edge of the curtain that was outermost in the second coupling.

EXODUS 36:12 He made fifty loops in the one curtain, and he made fifty loops in the edge of the curtain that was in the second coupling. The loops were opposite one to another.

EXODUS 36:13 He made fifty clasps of gold, and coupled the curtains one to another with the clasps: so the tabernacle was a unit.

EXODUS 36:14 He made curtains of goats' hair for a covering over the tabernacle. He made them eleven curtains.

EXODUS 36:15 The length of each curtain was thirty cubits, and four cubits the breadth of each curtain. The eleven curtains had one measure.

EXODUS 36:16 He coupled five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves.

EXODUS 36:17 He made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that was outermost in the coupling, and he made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain which was outermost in the second coupling.

EXODUS 36:18 He made fifty clasps of brass to couple the tent together, that it might be a unit.

EXODUS 36:19 He made a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering of sea cow hides above.

EXODUS 36:20 He made the boards for the tabernacle of acacia wood, standing up.

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Verse 20

And he made boards - See Clarke's note on Exo 26:15, etc.

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EXODUS 36:21 Ten cubits was the length of a board, and a cubit and a half the breadth of each board.

EXODUS 36:22 Each board had two tenons, joined one to another. He made all the boards of the tabernacle this way.

EXODUS 36:23 He made the boards for the tabernacle: twenty boards for the south side southward.

EXODUS 36:24 He made forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards; two sockets under one board for its two tenons, and two sockets under another board for its two tenons.

EXODUS 36:25 For the second side of the tabernacle, on the north side, he made twenty boards,

EXODUS 36:26 and their forty sockets of silver; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board.

EXODUS 36:27 For the far part of the tabernacle westward he made six boards.

EXODUS 36:28 He made two boards for the corners of the tabernacle in the far part.

EXODUS 36:29 They were double beneath, and in the same way they were all the way to its top to one ring. He did this to both of them in the two corners.

EXODUS 36:30 There were eight boards, and their sockets of silver, sixteen sockets; under every board two sockets.

EXODUS 36:31 He made bars of acacia wood; five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle,

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Verse 31

He made bars - See on Exo 26:26 (note), etc.

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EXODUS 36:32 and five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the tabernacle for the hinder part westward.

EXODUS 36:33 He made the middle bar to pass through in the midst of the boards from the one end to the other.

EXODUS 36:34 He overlaid the boards with gold, and made their rings of gold for places for the bars, and overlaid the bars with gold.

EXODUS 36:35 He made the veil of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen: with cherubim. He made it the work of a skilful workman.

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Verse 35

He made a veil - See Clarke on Exo 26:31 (note), etc.

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EXODUS 36:36 He made four pillars of acacia for it, and overlaid them with gold. Their hooks were of gold. He cast four sockets of silver for them.

EXODUS 36:37 He made a screen for the door of the tent, of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen, the work of an embroiderer;

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Verse 37

Hanging for the - door - See Clarke on Exo 26:36 (note), etc.

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EXODUS 36:38 and the five pillars of it with their hooks. He overlaid their capitals and their fillets with gold, and their five sockets were of brass.

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Verse 38

The five pillars of it with their hooks - Their capitals. See Clarke on Exo 26:32 (note), etc.

There is scarcely any thing particular in this chapter that has not been touched on before; both it and the following to the end of the book being in general a repetition of what we have already met in detail in the preceding chapters from Exodus 25 to 31 inclusive, and to those the reader is requested to refer. God had before commanded this work to be done, and it was necessary to record the execution of it to show that all was done according to the pattern shown to Moses; without this detailed account we should not have known whether the work had ever been executed according to the directions given.

At the commencement of this chapter the reader will observe that I have advanced the dates a. m. and b.c. one year, without altering the year of the exodus, which at first view may appear an error;

the reason is, that the above dates commenced at Tisri, but the years of the exodus are dated from Abib.