

The Village Church – Rancho Santa Fe
Week #29 – Adult Bible Study

Exodus 35:1 – 40:38

May 7 & 8, 2024

Exodus 35:1 – 40:38

1. This section discusses with great detail how Moses (and the people) fulfilled God’s commands for building the Tabernacle
2. Note that the whole enterprise begins with keeping the Sabbath.
3. Worship is grounded in the commandment to set aside time, space, and energy for God
4. Whereas the people, in making the Golden Calf, broke their relationship with God, here, after God has restored the relationship, the people now respond faithfully and willingly
5. Note the DIFFERENCES in the people’s creation of the Golden Calf and in God’s creation of the Tabernacle:
 - a. Calf:
 - i. People’s initiative
 - ii. Aaron commands gold
 - iii. No planning
 - iv. Made quickly
 - v. Immediate accessibility
 - vi. Visible god
 - vii. Impersonal object
 - b. Tabernacle:
 - i. God’s initiative
 - ii. A willing offering requested
 - iii. Painstaking preparations
 - iv. Lengthy building process
 - v. Safeguarding of divine holiness
 - vi. Invisible God
 - vii. Personal, active God
6. God makes the peoples’ obedience possible through God’s gracious provision of all that is needed for the Tabernacle and for worship therein
7. The point of the Tabernacle is not the “thing” per se, but the relationship that the thing presupposes and then nurtures
8. Notice that GOD is the one who is the originating source of all that now happens – and when the Tabernacle is complete, there is not even room for Moses inside
9. Though God is present everywhere, still, God provides a particular place, space, and time for his presence
10. God is now present with the whole community (not just Moses & Aaron)
11. God will make himself known, and will do what he will do
12. Though God’s presence is mysterious and not controlled by human action, still God’s presence is also knowable, and unmistakable
13. God is present in a moveable worship space – God is “on the move” with a people who are “on the move”

Questions for Your Life Today

- A. How might your own worship of God in the present day be enriched by this knowledge of Israel’s ancient worship?
- B. Are there items in your life that are particularly precious and meaningful in your relationship with God?
- C. Where is God with you today – and where are you with God today – as your life moves forward?

Notes by The Rev. Dr. Jack Baca, Senior Pastor, The Village Church, Rancho Santa Fe, California

Resources:

- a. Interpretation Commentary on Exodus, Terence E. Fretheim, John Knox Press, Louisville, Kentucky, 1991
- b. The Communicator’s Commentary Series, Old Testament, Exodus, Maxie D. Dunnam, Word, Inc., Waco, TX, 1987
- c. The Old Testament Library: Exodus, Brevard S. Childs, The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, PA, 1974