

Exodus Chapter 35 Commentary

Ex 35:1 ¶ "And Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said unto them, These are the words which the LORD hath commanded, that ye should do them."

Moses has come down from the mount where God met him, and God wrote the Ten Commandments on the two tables of stone that Moses had made, in accordance with God's command.

2 "Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death. 3 Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day."

"a sabbath of rest to the LORD:" Notice, God intended the sabbath day, to be a day consecrated to the Lord, and not just a day for the natural body to rest. This is why we find in the new Testament **Heb 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**" So many people believe that our Sunday is a day for them, and do not recognize that it is a day to be dedicated to God. Even among people who profess to be Christians this is often manifested by their actions. Some people will automatically say, but the ox was in the ditch. To which we reply: was the ox fallen into ditch, or did you push him in the ditch as an excuse to disobey God?

4 "And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying, 5 Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass, 6 And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, 7 And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, 8 And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and for the sweet incense, 9 And onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and for the breastplate."

Moses tells Israel that God has commanded, that with willing hearts, you offer to God the things necessary to build the tabernacle of God and its furnishings. Remember, when Israel came out of Egypt, God had given them favor in the eyes of the Egyptians and they came out laded with all the riches of Egypt. Wherefore, God had already providentially provided that they would have the resources needed to do what God commanded.

This tabernacle was to be the center piece of Israel's worship of God, once the ark of the covenant of God was placed in the completed project, and God had descended upon it in a pillar of the glory of God.

"whosoever is of a willing heart," What does this have to do with us today? Our worship of God, with Christ being represented by the mercy seat, can only come from willing hearts. Where do willing hearts come from? They come from the new birth and the implantation of the Holy Ghost in the mind, body, and soul, of an individual. As Israel was brought out of Egypt, laded with all the things they needed for the trip to the land of promise, in the new birth, we are brought out of the dark night of our inherited sin nature, into the marvelous light, and new nature, of Jesus Christ. We are given, by Christ, all the things we need to worship God in Spirit and Truth, which includes a willing heart as seen in **Ps 110:3 "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth."**

Now, we can rightly presume that all of Israel did not give of a willing heart. Neither does every child of God willing become disciples to Jesus Christ, their King. Many people, who are God's chosen people, when they are given the new birth, do not make the choice of becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. They do like our cows when we filled the crib with corn. They lick through the cracks on the sides of the crib and all they get to eat are the shucks and nubbins, which are small enough to go through the crack. They do not get the full ear of corn and the richness of being fed with the true bread of life. Thus, they miss the many benefits of making their public profession of faith and eating at the table of the LORD. Pray that God would give all his people willing hearts.

10 "And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the LORD hath commanded; 11 The tabernacle, his tent, and his covering, his taches, and his boards, his bars, his pillars, and his sockets, 12 The ark, and the staves thereof, with the mercy seat, and the vail of the covering, 13 The table, and his staves, and all his vessels, and the shewbread, 14 The candlestick also for the light, and his furniture, and his lamps, with the oil for the light, 15 And the incense altar, and his staves, and the anointing oil, and the sweet incense, and the hanging

for the door at the entering in of the tabernacle, 16 The altar of burnt offering, with his brasen grate, his staves, and all his vessels, the laver and his foot, 17 The hangings of the court, his pillars, and their sockets, and the hanging for the door of the court, 18 The pins of the tabernacle, and the pins of the court, and their cords, 19 The cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office. 20 ¶ And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses."

God further gives instructions for those who were wise hearted, in the different fields necessary, to make all the things God required. This demonstrates that it takes all of those with willing hearts to make the organized church function properly.

21 "And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments. 22 And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered, offered an offering of gold unto the LORD. 23 And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins, brought them. 24 Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the LORD'S offering: and every man, with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought it."

We see that God stirred the hearts of some and gave willing spirits to them. These brought forth all the things needed, to do all the work required by God, for the tabernacle and its furnishings. This imagery gives us a prophetic picture of the founding and growth of the New Testament Church, as seen in *Ac 2:41-47; 41 "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 42 ¶ And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. 44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. 46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, 47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."* How does this give us a prophetic picture of the growth of the New Testament Church? The souls that were added to the New Testament Church were given willing hearts, and they had all things in common. We remind the readers: the hearts of the about three thousand added to the church had been pricked by the work of the Holy Spirit. This is what gave them willing hearts to follow Christ in discipleship.

It also gives us the picture, of the necessity of each individual part, which was required to make the tabernacle and its furnishings complete. Thus, we see that it is necessary for every child of God to come forward, with willing hearts, to be a part of the new Testament Church, and be found in their proper place. Understand, that if any part of the tabernacle and its furnishings were missing, the tabernacle was incomplete and could not properly be set up to be inhabited by the cloud of the glory of the LORD. So, it is with the New Testament Church, every child of God has a place and position to fill that it may be completely assembled, that the cloud of the glory of the LORD may descend upon it, and bring glory and honor to the name of Christ our King.

25 "And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen. 26 And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair. 27 And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate; 28 And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense. 29 The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the LORD had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses."

We notice that the wise women had a large part to do in preparing the things needed to make garments and things for the tabernacle service. This is a prophetic picture of the work of the women in the New Testament Church. Though women are forbidden by scripture to be ordained ministers, they do have a ministry that is God given, which is in their homes to train up their children in the admonition and nurture of the Lord. This does not exclude the husbands from their duties, for they are to teach their wives and children the truth of God.

Ex 35:27 "And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate; 28 And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense." This gives us a picture of the things needed for the service of the priesthood, and the high priest. Here is set forth a prophetic picture of the Ministers of The Gospel of Jesus Christ, who are to bring forth the truths of the Gospel, adorning themselves in the word of God, acknowledging that all are under the headship of our High Priest, Jesus Christ.

Do you remember why the church ordained deacons? **Ac 6:1-4; 1 ¶ "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."** The ministry of the deacons is to see to every need of the church so that the ministers are free to spend their time in prayer, to studying the Word of God, and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The deacons are to visit the sick and minister to them, to be in constant contact with the church body to know there needs, and if necessary, make the ministers aware of the needs. Pastors, and Ministers, are only required the duty of ministering to the sick, when they are called for by those who are sick, seen in **Jas 5:14 "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: 15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."** This is a reminder to all the people of God to serve the Lord, in the church, in their respective and proper places. They are all to come with willing hearts to their duty to God and Christ. Each is required to come with the things needed to fulfill their duty, which is usually the need to be well studied and filled with the Word of God, and ministering in Spirit and Truth, and be ready to contribute to the expense of the church.

30 ¶ "And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the LORD hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship; 32 And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, 33 And in the cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work. 34 And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, both he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. 35 Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work."

We see that God called and chose Bezaleel, and filled him with wisdom, understanding, and knowledge, in all manner of workmanship and set him over all the work. God also put it in his heart to be willing and able to teach others to do the work as he presided over them. God gave Bezaleel an assistant, Aholiab, whom God also filled with the same wisdom. Thus, we have the prophetic picture of the coming of Jesus Christ the first time to build the New Testament Church, being head over all things. God gave to Jesus an assistant, the Holy Spirit to take Jesus's place on earth when Jesus had resurrected his body and ascended back to heaven. The Holy Spirit descended upon the twelve apostles, who built upon the foundation stone of the New Testament Church, which is Jesus Christ, as Jesus had taught them.

A good example of this ongoing work was the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended and sat upon the apostles, and through the preaching of the gospel, the church had about three thousand souls added. Even today, those whom God has chosen and called forth with willing hearts, are bringing the materials and skills needed to maintain the continued growth of the New Testament Church, through the Holy Spirit power. It takes every Child of God to make the New Testament Church complete. God will give willing hearts to those who are to take part in the organized church and become disciples of Christ. What a wonderful Saviour we serve.

This is why we are told in **Joh 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."** With the return of King Jesus, and the resurrection of the dead in Christ, and the change of those who are alive and remain; we shall see the complete fulfillment of this prophetic picture. There will not be one missing, when we are resurrected and transformed into glorified and immortal bodies, and we are transported to the immortal heaven, the place that Jesus has gone to prepare for us. Hallelujah! Amen!