

## Exodus 40

King James Version (KJV)

**40** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

<sup>2</sup> On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation. (Their year began on the Spring Equinox <March 21>. Fifteen days later was Passover <our April 5>)

(They were preparing the tabernacle for the coming Passover Feast. They used this tabernacle to worship God for centuries, until King Solomon built the first temple in Jerusalem)

<sup>3</sup> And thou shalt put therein the ark of the testimony, and cover the ark with the vail. (This is the Ark of the Covenant – containing the 10 Commandment tablets, a pot of manna, and the budding rod of Aaron)

<sup>4</sup> And thou shalt bring in the table, and set in order the things that are to be set in order upon it; and thou shalt bring in the candlestick, and light the lamps thereof. (the table – this table is for the menorah) (The candlestick is the 7 bowl menorah)

<sup>5</sup> And thou shalt set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the testimony, and put the hanging of the door to the tabernacle. (The incense was symbolic for the peoples' prayers that rise to heaven. The hangings were heavy curtains that would serve as the walls and ceiling of the tabernacle. That type of construction made the entire tabernacle portable; while the people were migrating through the wilderness, on their way to the Promised Land)

<sup>6</sup> And thou shalt set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation. (This altar was outside the tabernacle, in the courtyard. The priests would offer the peoples' best animals to God. This ritual was like sharing a meal with God)

<sup>7</sup> And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein. (This laver is where priests cleaned themselves before entering the tabernacle)

<sup>8</sup> And thou shalt set up the court round about, and hang up the hanging at the court gate. (These are the heavy curtains that were hung around the courtyard of the Tabernacle)

<sup>9</sup> And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that is therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the vessels thereof: and it shall be holy. (The anointing oil is pure olive oil that was blessed by God)

NOTE: (Today, Christians should also use this blessed olive oil to anoint the doors of their homes, in the name of Jesus Christ. Ask God to expel any evil spirits back to hell, in the name of Jesus. Keep your house and car spiritually clean and you will be much happier there)

See James-5:13-15 (Anoint the sick, anoint the well, and anoint your homes, like Moses anointed this tabernacle)

(Christ = Christos <Greek> = the anointed One)

<sup>10</sup> And thou shalt anoint the altar of the burnt offering, and all his vessels, and sanctify the altar: and it shall be an altar most holy. (This is because the sacrificed animal was symbolic for sharing a meal with God. Anointing the altar of burnt offerings sanctified the offered animal to be received by God)

<sup>11</sup> And thou shalt anoint the laver and his foot, and sanctify it.

<sup>12</sup> And thou shalt bring Aaron and his sons unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and wash them with water. (They were the first priests. They needed to cleanse themselves and anoint themselves as well. They would be serving God in the sanctuary)

<sup>13</sup> And thou shalt put upon Aaron the holy garments, and anoint him, and sanctify him; that he may minister unto me in the priest's office. (Aaron became the first chief priest to Yahoveh)

<sup>14</sup> And thou shalt bring his sons, and clothe them with coats: (These garments were symbolic for the Gospel armor) see Ephesians-6

<sup>15</sup> And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office: for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations. (The priesthood of Melchizedek – King of the Elect)

(Today, this is Jesus Christ and His Elect) see Hebrews-7:3

<sup>16</sup> Thus did Moses: according to all that the LORD commanded him, so did he. (Moses always obeyed God)

<sup>17</sup> And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was reared up. (They tabernacle needed to be ready for the first Passover in the wilderness)

(God wanted us to celebrate a yearly Passover; to remind the future generations of how He freed them from Egypt. That was when the angel of death passed over the houses that were anointed with the blood of the lamb)

<sup>18</sup> And Moses reared up the tabernacle, and fastened his sockets, and set up the boards thereof, and put in the bars thereof, and reared up his pillars.

<sup>19</sup> And he spread abroad the tent over the tabernacle, and put the covering of the tent above upon it; as the LORD commanded Moses.

<sup>20</sup> And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy seat above upon the ark: (The mercy seat is the seat of Jesus Christ. It is above the Ark, because it represents forgiveness through God's mercy, for people who have broken the law and have repented)

<sup>21</sup> And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up the vail of the covering, and covered the ark of the testimony; as the LORD commanded Moses.

<sup>22</sup> And he put the table in the tent of the congregation, upon the side of the tabernacle northward, without the vail. (See diagram below)

(The entrance was on the East side. When entering the tabernacle, the priest was facing west. On his right hand was the north. Jesus, the office of Savior, is the Bread of Life and sits on the right hand of the throne of God. The showbread was symbolic for the bread of life)

<sup>23</sup> And he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD; as the LORD had commanded Moses. (The showbread was symbolic for communion today)

<sup>24</sup> And he put the candlestick in the tent of the congregation, over against the table, on the side of the tabernacle southward. (side = Yarek <Hebrew> = the opposite side)

(The menorah is symbolic for the truth of God's Word. It brings the light of knowledge and wisdom into this dark confused world)

<sup>25</sup> And he lighted the lamps before the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses. (Jesus said – I am the Light of the World) John-8:12

<sup>26</sup> And he put the golden altar in the tent of the congregation before the vail:

<sup>27</sup> And he burnt sweet incense thereon; as the LORD commanded Moses. (The incense was symbolic for the prayers of the people, going up to heaven)

<sup>28</sup> And he set up the hanging at the door of the tabernacle.

<sup>29</sup> And he put the altar of burnt offering by the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the meat offering; as the LORD commanded Moses.

<sup>30</sup> And he set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and put water there, to wash withal.

<sup>31</sup> And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat:

<sup>32</sup> When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the LORD commanded Moses. (The tent of the congregation – this was the courtyard outside of the Holy of Holies. Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies, once a year; to repent for all sins for the people, on Passover) - see diagram below

<sup>33</sup> And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.

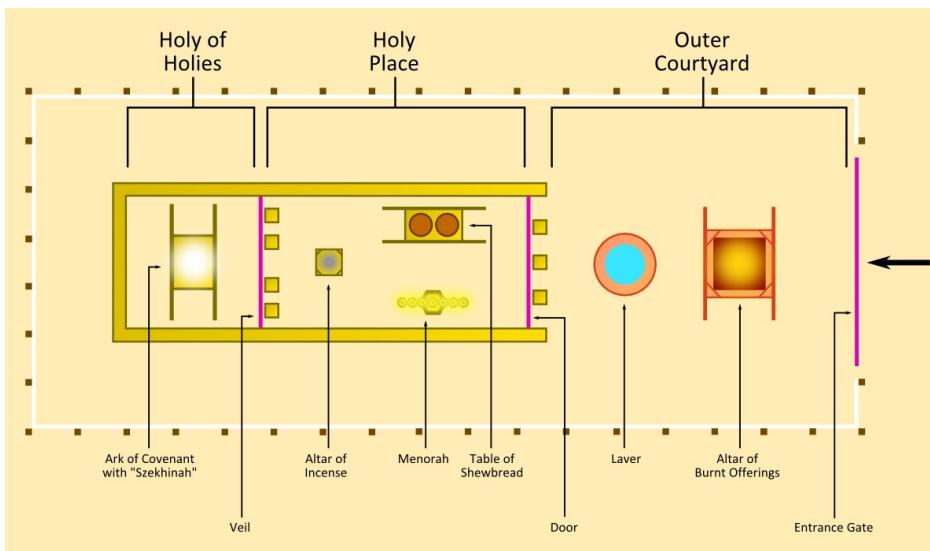
<sup>34</sup> Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. (God was there)

<sup>35</sup> And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. (God blessed the tabernacle after Moses finished setting it up)

<sup>36</sup> And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: (God led them, as they traveled through the wilderness. He is with us today as we go through our lives – IF we love Him and obey His laws)

<sup>37</sup> But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. (They stayed put)

<sup>38</sup> For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys. (This was a comfort to the Israelites that God was there, with them. It was also a warning to other nations that God was protecting Israel at this time)



The Tabernacle that Moses set up. This Tabernacle was used until the temple in Jerusalem was built by King Solomon. The tent of the congregation is that outer courtyard)