

8. *Is the division between chapters 35 and 36 correct?*

It is not correct if chapters are expected to be rather complete blocks of subject matter. The discussion about the workmen in chapter 35 goes right on to 36:7, or at least to 36:1.

Possibly one reason for separating chapters 35 and 36 at the point where they are divided was the faulty translation of 36:1 in the Greek Bible (which is followed in the K.J.V.). It translates the verb "work" as a past (aorist), "wrought." The Hebrew very plainly gives it as a future (a perfect with *waw* consecutive), which should be rendered "shall work."

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THE TEXT OF EXODUS  
TRANSLATION

**36** And Be-zal-el and O-ho-li-ab shall work, and every wise-hearted man, in whom Je-ho-vah hath put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all the work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that Je-ho-vah hath commanded.

(2) And Mo-ses called Be-zal-el and O-ho-li-ab, and every wise-hearted man, in whose heart Je-ho-vah had put wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it: (3) and they received of Mo-ses all the offering which the children of Is-ra-el had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, wherewith to make it. And they brought yet unto him freewill-offerings every morning. (4) And all the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his work which they wrought; (5) and they spake unto Mo-ses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which Je-ho-vah commanded to make. (6) And Mo-ses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from

bringing. (7) For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.

(8) And all the wise-hearted men among them that wrought the work made the tabernacle with ten curtains; of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, with cher-u-bim, the work of the skilful workman, *Be-zal-el* made them. (9) The length of each curtain was eight and twenty cubits, and the breadth of each curtain four cubits: all the curtains had one measure. (10) And he coupled five curtains one to another: and *the other* five curtains he coupled one to another. (11) And he made loops of blue upon the edge of the one curtain from the selvedge in the coupling: likewise he made in the edge of the curtain that was outmost in the second coupling. (12) Fifty loops made he in the one curtain, and fifty loops made he in the edge of the curtain that was in the second coupling: the loops were opposite one to another. (13) And he made fifty clasps of gold, and coupled the curtains one to another with the clasps: so the tabernacle was one.

(14) And he made curtains of goats' *hair* for a tent over the tabernacle: eleven curtains he made them. (15) The length of each curtain was thirty cubits, and four cubits the breadth of each curtain: the eleven curtains had one measure. (16) And he coupled five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves. (17) And he made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that was outmost in the coupling, and fifty loops made he upon the edge of the curtain which was *outmost in* the second coupling. (18) And he made fifty clasps of brass to couple the tent together, that it might be one. (19) And he made a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering of sealskins above.

(20) And he made the boards for the tabernacle, of acacia wood, standing up. (21) Ten cubits was the length of a board and a cubit and a half the breadth of each board. (22) Each board had two tenons, joined one to another: thus did he make for all the boards of the tabernacle. (23) And he made the boards for the tabernacle: twenty boards for the south side southward; (24) and 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. (25) And for the second side of the tabernacle, on the north side, he made twenty boards, (26) and their forty sockets of silver; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board. (27) And for the hinder part of the tabernacle westward he made six boards. (28) And two boards made he for the corners of the tabernacle in the hinder part. (29) And they were double beneath; and in like manner they were entire unto the top thereof unto one ring: thus he did to both of them in the two corners. (30) And there were eight boards, and their sockets of silver, sixteen sockets; under every board two sockets.

(31) And he made bars of acacia wood; five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle, (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. (33) And he made the middle bar to pass through in the midst of the boards from the one end to the other. (34) And he overlaid the boards with gold, and made their rings of gold for places for the bars, and overlaid the bars with gold.

(35) And he made the veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen: with cher-u-bim, the work of the skilful workman, made he it. (36) And he made thereunto four pillars of acacia, and overlaid them with gold: their hooks were of gold; and he cast for them four sockets of silver. (37) And he made a screen for the door of the Tent, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, the work of the embroiderer; (38) and the five pillars of it with their hooks, and he overlaid their capitals and their fillets with gold; and their five sockets were of brass.

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#### EXPLORING EXODUS: CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX

(Questions over 36:1-7 are included in the notes on chapter 35.)

1. *Topic:* It is helpful to remember the contents of this chapter

under the title of ENCLOSINGS, because it tells of the curtains, boards, bars, etc. that enclosed the tabernacle.

2. *Outline:* (1) Workmen called; 36:2.  
 (2) Excessive materials donated by people; 36:3-7.  
 (3) Tabernacle curtains made; 36:8-13.  
 (4) Tent of goats' hair made; 36:14-19.  
 (5) Boards; 36:20-30.  
 (6) Bars; 36:31-34.  
 (7) Veil and screen; 36:35-38.
3. *Parallel passages:* (See the notes on the earlier parallel passages.)  
 (1) 36:2-7 (Offering) - 25:1-7; 35:4-9, 20-29.  
 (2) 36:8-19 (Curtains) - 26:1-14.  
 (3) 36:20-30 (Boards) - 26:15-25.  
 (4) 36:35-38 (Veil and screen) - 26:31-37.

4. *Notes:*

36:1 - The A.S.V. translation "shall work" is a better translation than the King James translation "wrought." "According to all" is more clearly translated "with respect to all."

36:3 - The offering is pictured as having been brought and placed in a heap before Moses. The craftsmen then came and took from it whatever they needed.

The people brought offerings every morning. The Hebrew idiom is picturesque: "In the morning, in the morning."

36:4 - "Wrought" is an old past tense form of the verb "work." The Hebrew text emphasizes the continuity of the work: they "were doing" it.

36:5 - The generosity of the Israelites reminds us of that of the churches of Macedonia (II Cor. 8:2, 3). These people are examples for us.

36:8 - The subject of the last verb ("made") in 36:8 is not stated, but the verb is singular: "he made them." The same is true of numerous verbs in the following verses (36:10, 11, 13ff). It is probable that the subject is "Bezalel" (as in 37:1). The A.S.V. supplies this reading

in italics. Possibly the subject is indefinite, and refers to whichever craftsman did each work.

36:8 does not indicate that the items were made in the exact order in which they are mentioned. Probably they were all being made simultaneously.

36:16 - The instructions in 26:9b about doubling back the sixth curtain (the one that lay at the front of the tabernacle) is not repeated here, because chapters 36-39 do not give details about how the tabernacle parts were positioned. Similarly 26:12-13 is not repeated after 36:18.

36:38 - "He overlaid their capitals and fillets with gold." In the passage parallel to this (26:37) it says only that he was to "overlay them (the pillars) with gold." This is an example of the infrequent but interesting variations between chapters 26-31 and 36-39.

#### THE TEXT OF EXODUS TRANSLATION

**37** And Be-zal-el made the ark of acacia wood: two cubits and a half was the length of it, and a cubit and a half the breadth of it, and a cubit and a half the height of it. (2) And he overlaid it with pure gold within and without, and made a crown of gold to it round about. (3) And he cast for it four rings of gold, in the four feet thereof; even two rings on the one side of it, and two rings on the other side of it. (4) And he made staves of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold. (5) And he put the staves into the rings on the sides of the ark, to bear the ark. (6) And he made a mercy-seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half *was* the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. (7) And he made two cherubim of gold; of beaten work made he them, at the two ends of the mercy-seat; (8) one cherub at the one end, and one cherub at the other end: of one piece with the mercy-seat made he the