



## Exodus - Chapter Thirty Seven

- II. [Exodus 19:1-40:38 - The Covenant at Sinai \(continues\)](#)
- II.g [Exodus 35:1-40:38 - The Tabernacle: Preparation for the Presence \(continues\)](#)
- II.g.ii [Exodus 36:8-39:43 - Tabernacle Construction \(continues\)](#)

### Summary of Chapter Thirty Seven

This chapter deals with the making of the Ark of the Covenant, the Table of the Bread of the Presence, the Lampstand, the Altar of Incense and the making of the oil and the incense itself.

#### II.g.ii.2 [Exodus 37:1-9 - Making the Ark of the Covenant](#)

The ark will become the Ark of the Covenant once Moses fulfils the Lord's command to put the testimony, i.e. the tablets of the Ten Commandments, in the ark when the tabernacle is finally assembled. The importance of the ark as the central piece of the tabernacle and the place where the Lord will meet with Moses is signified further by the explicit reference to Bezalel as the one who made it, since he was specifically called and filled with divine spirit to oversee the work.

<sup>1</sup> Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood; it was two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. <sup>2</sup> He overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a moulding of gold round it. <sup>3</sup> He cast for it four rings of gold for its four feet, two rings on one side of it and two rings on its other side. <sup>4</sup> He made poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold, <sup>5</sup> and put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, to carry the ark.

### Exodus 37:1-5

The Ark of the Covenant, which will become so important to the nation of Israel, is constructed according to the command and description in 25:10-16.

<sup>6</sup> He made a mercy-seat of pure gold; two cubits and a half was its length, and a cubit and a half its width. <sup>7</sup> He made two cherubim of hammered gold; at the two ends of the mercy-seat he made them, <sup>8</sup> one cherub at one end, and one cherub at the other end; of one piece with the mercy-seat he made the cherubim at its two ends. <sup>9</sup> The cherubim spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy-seat with their wings. They faced one another; the faces of the cherubim were turned towards the mercy-seat.

### Exodus 37:6-9

The mercy seat, i.e. the golden lid to the Ark of the Covenant, is constructed according to the command and description in 25:17-22.

### **II.g.ii.3** Exodus 37:10-16 - Making the Table for the Bread of the Presence

The table is constructed here, but the Bread of the Presence that is central to its function will be placed on it only when the tabernacle is finally assembled (40:23).

<sup>10</sup> He also made the table of acacia wood, two cubits long, one cubit wide, and a cubit and a half high. <sup>11</sup> He overlaid it with pure gold, and made a moulding of gold round it. <sup>12</sup> He made around it a rim a handbreadth wide, and made a moulding of gold round the rim. <sup>13</sup> He cast for it four rings of gold, and fastened the rings to the four corners at its four legs. <sup>14</sup> The rings that held the poles used for carrying the table were close to the rim. <sup>15</sup> He made the poles of acacia wood to carry the table, and overlaid them with gold. <sup>16</sup> And he made the vessels of pure gold that were to be on the table, its plates and dishes for incense, and its bowls and flagons with which to pour drink-offerings.

### Exodus 37:10-16

The Table for the Bread of the Presence along with its utensils are made according to the command and description in 25:23-30.

#### **II.g.ii.4 Exodus 37:17-24 - Making the Lampstand**

The lampstand was to be the only source of light in the Holy Place and was to be constructed of pure gold. Its design was also described in 25:31-40.

<sup>17</sup> He also made the lampstand of pure gold. The base and the shaft of the lampstand were made of hammered work; its cups, its calyxes, and its petals were of one piece with it. <sup>18</sup> There were six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it; <sup>19</sup> three cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with calyx and petals, on one branch, and three cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with calyx and petals, on the other branch – so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. <sup>20</sup> On the lampstand itself there were four cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with its calyxes and petals. <sup>21</sup> There was a calyx of one piece with it under the first pair of branches, a calyx of one piece with it under the next pair of branches, and a calyx of one piece with it under the last pair of branches. <sup>22</sup> Their calyxes and their branches were of one piece with it, the whole of it one hammered piece of pure gold. <sup>23</sup> He made its seven lamps and its snuffers and its trays of pure gold. <sup>24</sup> He made it and all its utensils of a talent of pure gold.

#### **Exodus 37:17-24**

The gold lampstand, which will illuminate the Holy Place, is made according to the command and description in 25:31-40.

#### **II.g.ii.5 Exodus 37:25-28 - Making the Altar of Incense**

The altar of incense was introduced in 30:1-5. It was to be located in the Holy Place and was used for burning incense to create a pleasing odour to the Lord.

<sup>25</sup> He made the altar of incense of acacia wood, one cubit long, and one cubit wide; it was square, and was two cubits high; its horns were of one piece with it. <sup>26</sup> He overlaid it with pure gold, its top, and its sides all round, and its horns; and he made for it a moulding of gold all round, <sup>27</sup> and made two golden rings for it under its moulding, on two opposite sides of it, to hold the poles with which to carry it. <sup>28</sup> And he made the poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold.

### Exodus 37:25-28

The Altar of Incense is made according to the command and description in 30:1-10.

### II.g.ii.6 Exodus 37:29 - Making the Anointing-Oil and the Incense

The anointing oil was to be used in the ordination of the priests and the incense was to be burned on the altar of incense. Both were made according to specific instructions and were to be used for no other purpose. Refer to the comments made on 30:22-38.

<sup>29</sup> He made the holy anointing-oil also, and the pure fragrant incense, blended as by the perfumer.

### Exodus 37:29

The anointing oil and incense are produced and blended according to the command and description in 30:22-38.