



## Exodus - Chapter Thirty Nine

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/concludes)

### Summary of Chapter Thirty Nine

The last part of the work to be done was to make the ceremonial robes that the priests would wear when ministering in the presence of God. After these were made, all the work required for the construction of the tabernacle and its fittings was completed.

II.g.ii.10 Exodus 39:1-31 - Making the Vestments for the Priesthood

This section describes the garments for Aaron and his sons, including: the ephod (vv.2-7), refer also to 28:6-12; the breastpiece (vv.8-21), refer also to 28:15-28; and the robe (vv.22-26), refer also to 28:31-34; the coats and other pieces of linen (vv.27-29), refer also to 28:39-40; and the plate of the holy crown (vv.30-31), refer also to 28:36-37. After the description of each piece, it is emphasised that it was made as the Lord had commanded Moses.

<sup>1</sup> Of the blue, purple, and crimson yarns they made finely worked vestments, for ministering in the holy place; they made the sacred vestments for Aaron; as the Lord had commanded Moses.

### Exodus 39:1

While the instructions for making the garments is as the Lord had commanded Moses, the subsequent references to 'he made' still refers to Bezalel as the skilled and spirit-filled artisan who led the teams in making the garments.

<sup>2</sup> He made the ephod of gold, of blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and of fine twisted linen. <sup>3</sup> Gold leaf was hammered out and cut into threads to work into the blue, purple, and crimson yarns and into the fine twisted linen, in skilled design. <sup>4</sup> They made for the ephod shoulder-pieces, joined to it at its two edges. <sup>5</sup> The decorated band on it was of the same materials and workmanship, of gold, of blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and of fine twisted linen; as the Lord had commanded Moses. <sup>6</sup> The onyx stones were prepared, enclosed in settings of gold filigree and engraved like the engravings of a signet, according to the names of the sons of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He set them on the shoulder-pieces of the ephod, to be stones of remembrance for the sons of Israel; as the Lord had commanded Moses.

### Exodus 39:2-7

These verses describe the making of ephod for the high priest, made according to the command and description in 28:5-14.

<sup>8</sup> He made the breastpiece, in skilled work, like the work of the ephod, of gold, of blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and of fine twisted linen. <sup>9</sup> It was square; the breastpiece was made double, a span in length and a span in width when doubled. <sup>10</sup> They set in it four rows of stones. A row of carnelian, chrysolite, and emerald was the first row; <sup>11</sup> and the second row, a turquoise, a sapphire, and a moonstone; <sup>12</sup> and the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; <sup>13</sup> and the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper; they were enclosed in settings of gold filigree. <sup>14</sup> There were twelve stones with names corresponding to the names of the sons of Israel; they were like signets, each engraved with its name, for the twelve tribes. <sup>15</sup> They made on the breastpiece chains of pure gold, twisted like cords; <sup>16</sup> and they made two settings of gold filigree and two gold rings, and put the two rings on the two edges of the breastpiece; <sup>17</sup> and they put the two cords of gold in the two rings at the edges of the breastpiece. <sup>18</sup> Two ends of the two cords they had attached to the two settings of filigree; in this way they attached it in front to the shoulder-pieces of the ephod. <sup>19</sup> Then they made two rings of gold, and put them at the two ends of the breastpiece, on its inside edge next to the ephod. <sup>20</sup> They made two rings of gold, and attached them in front to the lower part of the two shoulder-pieces of the ephod, at its joining above the decorated band of the ephod. <sup>21</sup> They

bound the breastpiece by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a blue cord, so that it should lie on the decorated band of the ephod, and that the breastpiece should not come loose from the ephod; as the Lord had commanded Moses.

#### Exodus 39:8-21

These verses describe the making of breastplate for the high priest with its rows of precious stones representing the tribes of Israel, made according to the command and description in 28:15-29.

<sup>22</sup> He also made the robe of the ephod woven all of blue yarn; <sup>23</sup> and the opening of the robe in the middle of it was like the opening in a coat of mail, with a binding round the opening, so that it might not be torn. <sup>24</sup> On the lower hem of the robe they made pomegranates of blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and of fine twisted linen. <sup>25</sup> They also made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates on the lower hem of the robe all round, between the pomegranates; <sup>26</sup> a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate all round on the lower hem of the robe for ministering; as the Lord had commanded Moses.

#### Exodus 39:22-26

These verses describe the making of the robe for the high priest according to the command and description in 28:31-35.

<sup>27</sup> They also made the tunics, woven of fine linen, for Aaron and his sons, <sup>28</sup> and the turban of fine linen, and the head-dresses of fine linen, and the linen undergarments of fine twisted linen, <sup>29</sup> and the sash of fine twisted linen, and of blue, purple, and crimson yarns, embroidered with needlework; as the Lord had commanded Moses.

#### Exodus 39:27-29

These verses describe the making of the tunics, turbans, sashes, trousers, for all the priests, initially Aaron's four sons, made according to the command and description in 28:39-43.

<sup>30</sup> They made the rosette of the holy diadem of pure gold, and wrote on it an inscription, like the engraving of a signet, 'Holy to the Lord.'

<sup>31</sup> They tied to it a blue cord, to fasten it on the turban above; as the Lord had commanded Moses.

### Exodus 39:30-31

These verses describe the making of the turban for the high priest according to the command and description in 28:36-38.

### II.g.ii.11 Exodus 39:32-43 - The Work Completed

This section narrates the fact that the people completed all the work of the tabernacle (v.32) and then brought the pieces to Moses (vv.33-41). The section is framed by repetitive statements that emphasise that the people of Israel did according to all that the Lord had commanded Moses.

<sup>32</sup> In this way all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished; the Israelites had done everything just as the Lord had commanded Moses. <sup>33</sup> Then they brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its utensils, its hooks, its frames, its bars, its pillars, and its bases; <sup>34</sup> the covering of tanned rams' skins and the covering of fine leather, and the curtain for the screen; <sup>35</sup> the ark of the covenant with its poles and the mercy-seat; <sup>36</sup> the table with all its utensils, and the bread of the Presence; <sup>37</sup> the pure lampstand with its lamps set on it and all its utensils, and the oil for the light; <sup>38</sup> the golden altar, the anointing-oil and the fragrant incense, and the screen for the entrance of the tent; <sup>39</sup> the bronze altar, and its grating of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils; the basin with its stand; <sup>40</sup> the hangings of the court, its pillars, and its bases, and the screen for the gate of the court, its cords, and its pegs; and all the utensils for the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of meeting; <sup>41</sup> the finely worked vestments for ministering in the holy place, the sacred vestments for the priest Aaron, and the vestments of his sons to serve as priests.

### Exodus 39:32-41

These verses provide an overview or summary of the entire project.

<sup>42</sup> The Israelites had done all of the work just as the Lord had commanded Moses. <sup>43</sup> When Moses saw that they had done all the work just as the Lord had commanded, he blessed them.

### Exodus 39:42-43

Now that the work is completed, Moses inspects all the items to ensure they have been made to the correct specifications.