



Today, we bring our study in the book of Exodus to a conclusion. We hope these past 21 weeks have blessed you in your faith journey. We've covered a lot of ground together, and we trust that God has spoken to you throughout our study. As we move forward, we pray that we are people who seek to be sensitive to the voice of God and the Word of God. In this final chapter of our study, we closely examine the significance of God's presence among His people and what it looks like for us to live each day as His people.

Key Passage: Exodus 40

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the significance of God's instructions to Moses for setting up the Tabernacle in Exodus 40?

Once set up, the Tabernacle serves as the physical manifestation of God's dwelling among the Israelites. It symbolizes God's continual presence and guidance, emphasizing that God is not distant but intimately involved in the lives of His people.

Setting up the Tabernacle is a fulfillment of God's covenant promise to dwell among His people (Exodus 25:8). It marks the culmination of the instructions God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. It reflects God's faithfulness to His promises.

God's dwelling among His people is ultimately fulfilled in the Incarnation, where Christ is seen as the ultimate Tabernacle (John 1:14). Thus, the sacrificial system points to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus.

2. How does the anointing of the Tabernacle and its furnishings in Exodus 40:9-11 symbolize the holiness required for worship?

Anointing with oil consecrates the Tabernacle and its furnishings, setting them apart from ordinary use. This consecration signifies that these objects are now dedicated solely to divine purposes. It underscores the idea that everything associated with the worship of God must be holy and distinct from the ordinary. Anointing sanctifies the objects, making them ritually clean and acceptable for use. This sanctification is necessary because the worship of God requires purity and holiness, reflecting God's holy nature. Furthermore, anointing oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit in biblical theology. Anointing the Tabernacle and its furnishings signifies that they are now under the influence and guidance of the Spirit.

3. What can we learn from Moses' obedience in following God's instructions?

The Israelites demonstrate their obedience and commitment to the covenant relationship with God by following God's detailed instructions. It is a tangible act of worship and fidelity to the divine commands. The detailed instructions for setting up the Tabernacle, including the placement of the Ark of the Covenant, the altar, and other furnishings, underscore the importance of order, purity, and holiness in worship. Each element and its precise placement symbolize different aspects of the Israelites' relationship with God and the holiness required to approach Him.

4. In Exodus 40:34-38, the cloud and the glory of the Lord fill the Tabernacle. What does this tell us about God's presence among His people?

The cloud that covers the Tabernacle and the glory of the Lord that fills it (Exodus 40:34-35) signifies God's divine presence. This glory, often called the Shekinah, is a visible sign of God's holy presence among His people.

5. How does the Tabernacle's mobility reflect God's guidance and provision for the Israelites during their wilderness journey?

The cloud covering the Tabernacle and lifting when it is time to move (Exodus 40:36-38) provides the Israelites with direct guidance from God. It signifies that God directs their journey, and they are to follow His lead. The cloud by day and the fire by night ensure that the Israelites are continually aware of God's presence and guidance, providing comfort and assurance during their wilderness journey. It underscores the importance of obedience, holiness, and God's continual guidance and presence with His people.

6. Aaron and his sons were consecrated and anointed for their priestly duties, emphasizing the importance of holiness in service to God. How can we strive to live a life set apart for God in our various roles and responsibilities, and what steps can we take to ensure our actions and attitudes reflect His holiness?

Living a life set apart for God involves a daily commitment to align every aspect of our lives with His will. By prioritizing our relationship with God, applying biblical principles, cultivating Christ-like character, seeking accountability, consistently self-examining, witnessing to others, living purposefully, and relying on the Holy Spirit, we can ensure that our actions and attitudes reflect His holiness. This holistic approach helps us to honor God in our various roles and responsibilities, shining as lights in the world.

7. How do the events in Exodus 40 illustrate the importance of God's presence to the Israelites, and how can we apply this to our understanding of God's presence in our lives?

Exodus 40 demonstrates the importance of God's presence to the Israelites, serving as a model for us today. We can cultivate a deeper relationship with God by valuing obedience, seeking guidance, making God's presence foundational in our lives, and participating in worship. Just as the cloud and the Tabernacle were central to the Israelites, God's presence should be central to our lives, guiding, validating, and sustaining us.

8. What's one thing you can focus on in the week ahead as a result of today's study?