

### THE GLORY OF GOD

(Exodus 35-40)

As we come to the end of the Exodus story, we find the Israelites with a decision to make. Should they answer the LORD's wisdom with obedience or go their own way. To their credit and their benefit, they chose to honor God's word to them through Moses.

First, they brought their offerings, the best of their possessions for the building of this sacred space, the Tabernacle. Resisting the temptation to cling to the earthly treasure, they generously gave the plunder of Egypt.

Bezalel and Oholiab, anointed by God with the Spirit, went to work making everything God commanded them to make, doing it all just as He directed. But it's important to note they didn't have to manage this in their own power; they were equipped and empowered for the work by the Holy Spirit.

Moses played the inspector as the people brought their gifts and Bezalel and Oholiab finished their work. In a way reminiscent of the Lord's words at the end of creation, Moses saw that everything was good, and He blessed the people.

Finally, we come to last image of the Exodus, the culmination of everything God intended. More than simply setting a people free, God wanted to dwell with His people. His shekinah glory is in His heart to dwell among His people.

He rescued them from their oppressor.  
He delivered them from their enemies.  
He provided for their needs.  
He blessed them with the gift of the law.  
He patiently endured their failure.  
He equipped them for life together.

This is the glory of God.  
God with us.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

As the story of the Exodus comes to an end, it's clear what God was up to all along. God longed to dwell with His people.

What does this say about the heart of our God?

Why do you think God invites the people to bring the plunder of Egypt for the building of a house to accommodate his holiness and account for the people's wickedness?

Why didn't God just snap his fingers on this deal?

Why do you think God chose to place His Spirit upon Bezalel and Oholiab for the work as master craftsmen?

How do you see echoes of the Garden of Eden in this?

What does this persistent desire to live among His people suggest about the heart of our God?

What does the last vivid scene of the Book of Exodus say about God's ultimate goal?

How can we be a people who faithfully grant Him this desire?

What does it really mean to live free and love the LORD?

Pray for wisdom and the shekinah glory of God, the God of a mighty hand and an outstretched arm living in the midst of His people.