

Lesson 11: Exodus Chapters 35-40 AND Numbers 11

PART A: EXODUS 35

FIRST READING: EXODUS 35

A1. a) What are some of the phrases in this chapter that describe those who contributed to the building of the tabernacle? Pick one you like and tell what you think it means.

b) How does this chapter increase your understanding of what could be considered a “gift of the Spirit”?

SECOND READING: EXODUS 36:1-7, SKIM THE REST

A2. a) What was the response of the people when Moses asked for an offering for the tabernacle?

b) This was very soon after the occasion of the golden calf. How might that experience have influenced their attitudes when Moses told them about the temple? (No wrong answers—your thoughts.)

c) Perhaps because of the conditioning of Egypt, or perhaps because it's human nature, it helped the Israelites to have a locus for their worship, *a place* to connect with God, since they couldn't have an image of Him. God also said He wanted *a place* to tabernacle or dwell with them. He said, “And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.” (Ex. 25:8) We do not have power on our own to go up to where God is. He must come down to us. How did the mortal life of Christ fulfill this type or symbol of a tabernacle where God could dwell with His people? (Some hints if you want: D&C 93:4 or John 1:14)

THIRD READING: EXODUS 37, 38, 39 SKIM THESE CHAPTERS

A3. Find one thing you liked and learned from in these chapters and tell how you can liken it to your life.

A4. Consider Exodus 39:43. Why do you think the details concerning worship and the tabernacle are so strict and specific? What are we to learn from that?

FOURTH READING: EXODUS 40

- A5. Please look back at Exodus 12:18, in the chapter that tells how the Israelites are to keep the first Pass-over.
- What day is that? _____ (The first year of the Exodus.)
 - Look at Exodus 19:1. In what month did they get to Mt. Sinai? _____ (of the first year.)
 - How many days did Moses stay on top of Mt. Sinai? ____ x ____.
 - Exodus 40:17 tells when the tabernacle was put up. _____
 - CHALLENGE?: Therefore, building the tabernacle took approximately _____ months.

FOURTH READING: DEUTERONOMY 9

Reading Note: Deuteronomy consists of sermons given by Moses to Israel as they stand on the border of the Promised Land. He recounts their history and explains the lessons they should take from it.

A6. Here Moses retells the story of the golden calf and its aftermath.

- What do you take away from these verses that can apply in our lives today?
- Would the people have *made it*, i.e., could they have become the Nation of Israel, without Moses? What are your thoughts? How did he make it possible?
- Look up the word mediator and tell how it applies in this situation.

SECOND READING: DEUTERONOMY 11: 10-28

Reading Note: In these verses Moses explains the difference between the agricultural year in Egypt and in their new land, Israel. He instructs them in how they will be able to retain the favor of the Lord in their new country.

- A7.
- Egypt depended upon the yearly overflowing of the Nile and thus grew crops along its banks. What would Israel depend upon for successful crops?
 - What is the “if-then” clause the Lord establishes in verses 13 and 14?
 - What is the reverse “if-then” clause set up in verses 16 and 17?
 - Do you think there are similar “if-then” conditions operating in our lives? Explain.

A8. How do you think the blessing and curse that the Lord sets before the people in verses 26-28 is an expression of His love for His people?

A9. a) The Israelites lived under the Old Testament, or Old Covenant. The Old Covenant had only those ordinances and worship forms that could be administered under the Aaronic priesthood. The Old Covenant consisted of promises or covenants sealed by the ordinances of blood sacrifices. What blood sealed this covenant? (Ex. 24:5-8) What did God promise through this covenant? (Ex. 29:45-46)

b) Now read **Jeremiah 31:31-33** and **Ezekiel 36:25-28** (end of the page), which prophesy of the New Covenant which was to come. The New Covenant was about changing a person from the inside out. What Melchizedek priesthood ordinance is required to initiate these kinds of heart-changes? What blood sealed this covenant?

c) Ephesians 3:16 prays, "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man." Is it possible to live the gospel as we should without being so strengthened? _____ Ok, then, how do we get that Spirit to strengthen our "inner-woman"? What reliably works for you?

A10. How could you make Deuteronomy 11:18-20 a reality in your home, and what effect would that likely have on your life?

Jeremiah 31:31-33

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord:

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ezekiel 36:25-28

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

PART B: NUMBERS 11**FIRST READING: NUMBERS 11**

B1. The great sin of the people was a *complaining heart*. We are not told what their original complaining was about.

- a) What possible things did they have to complain about?

- b) Is complaining a function of outward conditions or inward attitudes? Explain.

- c) What do we fail to see when we have a complaining heart? What did they fail to see?

B2. The people correctly interpreted the fire as a punishment for their faithlessness. They immediately sought the help of Moses, who, as usual, was their mediator with God.

- a) Who is our mediator now when we suffer from the effects of our own faithlessness?

- b) God forgives the people every time Moses asks Him to forgive the people. Every time. No exception. However, they still suffer punishment for their sins. Psalm 99:8 says, “Thou answeredst them, O LORD our God: thou wast a God that forgavest them, though thou tookest vengeance of their [sins].” How do you think it shows the love of God to still require a punishment for their sins?

- c) Do we sometimes suffer for sin even though we have been forgiven through the atonement of Jesus Christ? Can you give an example?

B3. The mixed multitude” were non-Israelites who came out of Egypt with Moses. Their dissatisfaction was infectious, and soon general in the camp.

- a) What things did the people lust after?

- b) *Lust* is a stronger word than *want*. What sort of thought patterns are implied by the word “lust”?

- c) What things in our world or environment feed lust for things we don’t have?

B4. Verses 7-9 recap the miracle of manna. Sometimes from our modern mind-set we wonder how they could have been so foolish since they saw God’s miraculous power as they gathered manna every day.

- a) How does the miraculous cease to move us once it becomes commonplace? What miracles do your children take for granted? Do you?

b) Why did their weeping displease both the Lord and Moses?

B5. How would you sum up Moses' complaint in verses 11 through 15?

B6. Was God angry with Moses for his complaint? _____ What response did He give?

B7. a) How did God fit the seventy men for service in the camp of Israel, to help Moses carry the burden of overseeing so many?

b) These men did not hold the priesthood, because in that day only the lineal descendants of Aaron held the priesthood. How is the Spirit of the Lord the key to all church service?

B8. The Lord tells Moses that He will give the people what they want by sending quail for a whole month, until it "comes out their nostrils."

a) What is the key to the Lord's displeasure with the people? Cite verse.

b) Does the Lord sometimes give us what we want so that we can be instructed by hardships we bring upon ourselves through our own unrighteous desires? Explain.

c) PERSONAL: Samuel Johnson, a British author, wrote a famous essay entitled "The Vanity of Human Wishes." He said that human beings lust after things, but once they're obtained, the thrill inevitably wears off and they begin to long for something new. Have you experienced this phenomenon? And do you think it's universal?

B9. Eldad and Medad were apparently chosen to be among the Seventy, but were not present when the sixty-eight others gathered at the tabernacle. God's spirit still came upon them however, and they prophesied too, though in a different part of the camp. Why did this upset Joshua, Moses' faithful lieutenant?

B10. This chapter has many lessons for our day. What was most meaningful to you and why?