

THE BOOK OF EXODUS

“GOD DELIVERS HIS PEOPLE”

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BACKGROUND

AUTHOR: Moses – attested to by O.T. and N.T. (Joshua 8:31, Mark 7:10, 12:26, Luke 2:22,23). Jesus, who frequently used the Old Testament writings in support of his own teachings, referred to the “Law of Moses” as one of the three divisions of the Scriptures which testified to him: “Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms” (Luke 24:44).

DATE: According to 1 Kings 6:1, the exodus took place 480 years before “the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel.” Since that year was about 996 B.C., it has been traditionally held that the exodus occurred around 1446 B.C. The “three hundred years” of Judges 11:26 fits within this time span. Egyptian chronology relating to the 18th dynasty is somewhat uncertain, though recent research tends to support the traditional view that two of this dynasty’s pharaohs, Thutmose III and his son Amenhotep II, were the pharaohs of the oppression and the exodus.

The appearance of the name Rameses in 1:1 has led many to the conclusion that the 19th dynasty pharaoh Seti I and his son Rameses II were the pharaohs of the oppression and exodus. Archeological evidence of the destruction of numerous Canaanite cities in the 13th century B.C. has been interpreted as proof that Joshua’s troops invaded the promised land in that century. These and similar lines of argument lead to a date for the exodus for around 1290 B.C.

TITLE: Exodus means exit or departure. “Exodus” is a Latin word derived from Greek, *Exodos*, the name given to the book by those who translated it into the Greek. In Hebrew the book is named after its first two words, *we’elleh shemoth* (These are the names of). The same phrase occurs in Genesis 46:8, where it introduces a list of the names of those Israelites “who went to Egypt with Jacob (1:1). Thus Exodus was not intended to exist separately, but was thought of as a continuation of a narrative that began in Genesis and was completed in Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The first five books of the Bible are together known as the Pentateuch.

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LESSON 1: God Raises Up Moses (Chapters 1-3)

Introduction: Why does God appoint leaders in his church?

- ___ we need leaders because we have to have someone tell us what to do
- ___ we need leaders because they are the ones that God wants to do all the work
- ___ we need leaders because without them we would lose our direction and focus
- ___ we need leaders because they are God’s gifts to equip the people for service

PART 1: The Israelites are Enslaved in Egypt

***) Read Exodus 1**

1) What happened to the Israelites after the time of Joseph and the other sons of Jacob, v.1-10?

2) How could God use such oppression of his people for their benefit, v.11-14?

- ___ such oppression increased their hatred toward the Egyptians to want to get back at them
- ___ such oppression and hard labor only increased their desire to return to the promised land
- ___ such oppression humbled them before God and made them much more fervent in prayer
- ___ such oppression trained them for their harsh treatment of the people of Canaan

3) Were the midwives justified in deceiving the king with the excuse that Hebrew women delivered their babies too quickly, v.15-22?

PART 2: Moses is Born and Trained for Leadership

***) Read Exodus 2**

4) How did God provide for Moses’ training and leadership from very early on in his life, v.1-10?

5) Why was Moses so intent upon helping his fellow Israelites, even killing an Egyptian, v.11-15?
(Cf. Acts 7:23-29)

6) What was God's purpose in sending Moses away to tend sheep while the Israelites were suffering in their slavery, v.16-24?

PART 3: God Speaks to Moses from the Burning Bush

***) Read Exodus 3**

7) What does Moses mean when he writes that "the angel of the Lord" appeared to him, v.1-6?

___ this was a created angel that God had sent to speak with Moses

___ this was an evil angel that appeared in the fire to keep Moses out of Egypt

___ this was the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus, before his incarnation

___ this was nothing more than a hallucination caused by the intense heat in the desert

8) What does God assure Moses as he speaks to him from the burning bush, v.7-10?

9) How does God answer Moses' reluctance to lead his people out of Egypt, v.11-15?

- "Who am I" - _____

- "What shall I tell them" - _____

10) What does God promise will happen when Moses returns to Egypt, v.16-22?

Conclusion: How can we insure sound spiritual training for our own leaders and people?

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LESSON 2: God Promises Deliverance (Chapters 4-6:27)

Introduction: What does God promise for those who trust in him?

- ___ he promises a life that is carefree, happy, and fun-filled from beginning to end
- ___ he promises a life that is filled with continuous heartache and hardship
- ___ he promises a life that is successful and fortunate with only minor setbacks
- ___ he promises a life that is blessed in every situation and circumstance

PART 1: The Signs for Moses and his Return to Egypt

***) Read Exodus 4**

- 1) What three signs did God give to Moses to prove that the Lord had appeared to him, v.1-9?**

- 2) Why did Moses feel so inadequate to talk to Pharaoh when it was the Lord himself who called him, v.10-17?**

- 3) Why did Moses neglect to circumcise his own son as was commanded by God, v.24-26?**
 - ___ the act of circumcision was so repulsive to Zipporah that Moses refrained from doing it
 - ___ the act of circumcision was not very well established until after the exile from Egypt
 - ___ the act of circumcision was an important ceremony but not really commanded by God
 - ___ the act of circumcision was not something Moses trusted in because his faith was weak

PART 2: The Command for Bricks Without Straw

***) Read Exodus 5:1-21**

- 4) Were Moses and Aaron trying to deceive Pharaoh in asking only for a three-day journey, v.1-3?**

5) How did Pharaoh, king of Egypt, react to the Lord's request for a three-day journey, v.4-9?

6) Why would God allow his people to be oppressed even more after sending their deliverer, v.10-21?

PART 3: The Promise to Bring Israel out of Egypt

***) Read Exodus 5:22-6:27**

7) How does God explain his purpose in allowing the Israelites to suffer even more, 5:22-6:1?

8) What did God want Moses to impress upon the Israelites about their Deliverer, v.2-8?

v. 2 (8b): _____ v.3 (8a): _____

v.4 (7,8a): _____ v.5 (6): _____

9) What did God mean when he said that he did not make himself known before as "the Lord," v.3?

10) What purpose does the list of Moses and Aaron's family record serve, v.13-27?

_____ it demonstrates that God was orchestrating all the events that led up to this point

_____ it emphasizes the Lord's covenant love to Israel in providing leaders to rescue his people

_____ it highlights the important role the Levites served in the administration of the kingdom

_____ it fills up some space in order to round out the chapters with a similar number of verses

Conclusion: What promises of God give us particular comfort when we are suffering?

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LESSON 3: God Sends Plagues on Egypt (Chapters 6:28-9)

Introduction: Why does God send calamities to devastate people’s lives?

- he sends calamities because he enjoys punishing people with what their sins deserve
- he sends calamities because he knows people need a wake up call to think about God
- he sends calamities because he wants people to trust in him always for everything
- he sends calamities because he loves watching people writhe in pain and heartache

PART 1: Moses & Aaron before Pharaoh, the Plague of Blood

***) Read Exodus 6:28 – 7**

1) What would God accomplish with the miraculous signs and wonders displayed in Egypt, v.1-6?

2) How were Pharaoh’s magicians able to perform the same miracles as Moses and Aaron, v.11,22?

- the miracles were not really miracles but merely sleight of hand and magician’s tricks
- the miracles didn’t even happen but were imagined by Pharaoh and his magicians
- the miracles were actual miracles performed through the powerful hand of Satan
- the miracles were actual miracles of God using Pharaoh’s magicians to show his power

3) Why was the first plague, the plague of blood, such an awesome miracle, v.14-24?

PART 2: The Plagues of Frogs, Gnats, and Flies

***) Read Exodus 8**

4) What similarities are there between the plague of blood and the plague of frogs, v.1-15?

5) What is different about the plague of gnats in comparison to the two previous plagues, v.16-19?

6) Why did the plague of flies seem to change Pharaoh's mind about letting God's people journey into the desert to offer sacrifices, v.20-32?

PART 3: The Plagues of Livestock, Boils, and Hail

***) Read Exodus 9**

7) Why would the plague of livestock be such a devastating blow to the Egyptians, v.1-8?

8) After the plague of boils, how did the Lord harden Pharaoh's heart when his heart was already hardened, v.12?

_____ the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart by filling him with intense hatred toward Moses

_____ the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart by making him even more grouchy and cranky

_____ the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart by closing up the arteries that led from his heart

_____ the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart by removing all possibility for him to repent

9) What new twist does the Lord add before he sends the plague of hail, v.13-21?

10) How did the devastation from the plague of hail affect Pharaoh, v.22-35?

- his attitude toward God? _____

- his decision regarding Israel? _____

- his hardness of heart? _____

Conclusion: How do Christians handle devastation and tragedy in their own lives?

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LESSON 4: God’s People Leave Egypt (Chapters 10-12)

Introduction: How does God deliver his people from danger every day?

- ___ he delivers them by sending them his holy angels to protect them from harm
- ___ he delivers them by sparing them from natural disasters and violent storms
- ___ he delivers them by giving them strength to face adversity and hardship
- ___ he delivers them by assuring them of his abiding presence in the face of danger

PART 1: The Plagues of Locusts and Darkness

***) Read Exodus 10**

1) Why would Pharaoh only permit the men to go and celebrate the festival to the Lord, v.1-11?

- ___ Pharaoh knew that it would be hard to get the men to go and worship the Lord
- ___ Pharaoh figured that it would be easier to enslave just the women and children
- ___ Pharaoh wanted the men to have a reason to return – their wives and children
- ___ Pharaoh was a male chauvinist who didn’t want the women to worship the Lord

2) What further devastation did the plague of locusts cause for Egypt, v.12-20?

3) Why would the plague of darkness be so debilitating for Pharaoh and the Egyptians, v.21-29?

PART 2: The Plague of the Firstborn

***) Read Exodus 11**

4) How does the people’s favorable demeanor toward Moses magnify Pharaoh’s hardness of heart, v.1-3?

5) Why was the plague of the firstborn truly the plague to end all plagues in Egypt, v.4-8?

6) How does the Lord himself reveal the good that will result from Pharaoh's hardness of heart, v.9-10?

PART 3: The Institution of the Passover

*) Read Exodus 12

7) How were the Israelites to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, v.1-20?

8) What was the purpose of the blood that the Israelites were to put on their doorframes, v.21-30?

_____ the blood bonded well to the wood frames of their houses for the destroying angel to see

_____ the blood reminded the Israelites how they had escaped God's judgment on Egypt

_____ the blood anticipated the sacrifice the Savior would make as the Lamb of God

_____ the blood symbolized the sacrifice that was offered as a substitute for their lives

9) How had God fulfilled his ultimate promise to the Israelites, v.21-42?

10) What is the significance of the following Passover regulations, v.43-51?

- no uncircumcised male could eat it - _____

- the bones were not to be broken - _____

Conclusion: Why will God's wrath and punishment against sin "passover" us on the last day?

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LESSON 5: God Defeats Pharaoh’s Army (Chapters 13-15)

Introduction: How does God continue to defeat the evil that surrounds us?

- ___ God pacifies the devil by giving him a fairly good share of unbelievers
- ___ God prevents the devil and his evil horde from accomplishing their goals
- ___ God permits the devil only so much freedom to carry out all his evil plans
- ___ God protects his children from the hurt and harm the devil tries to inflict

PART 1: The Consecration of the Firstborn

***) Read Exodus 13**

1) Why did God command all firstborn males, both human and animal be consecrated to him, v.1-16?

- ___ he commanded it to remind the Israelites to wear phylacteries on the forehead and arm
- ___ he commanded it to remind the Israelites of their service to him as his special people
- ___ he commanded it to remind the Israelites that he needed priests from every family
- ___ he commanded it to remind the Israelites of their deliverance by God from Egypt

2) How did this law find its ultimate fulfillment in Mary’s firstborn son? (Luke 2:22-24)

3) What comfort did God give his people with the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire, v.17-22?

PART 2: The Crossing of the Red Sea

***) Read Exodus 14**

4) After all that God had done, why were the Israelites still afraid of Pharaoh’s army, v.1-14?

5) How did God accomplish such a great miracle and part the Red Sea for his people, v.15-22?

6) What did God do to show his mighty power over the world's greatest military force, v.23-31?

PART 3: The Song of Deliverance

***) Read Exodus 15**

7) What is the main emphasis in the song that Moses and the Israelites sang, v.1-18?

8) How do we compare Miriam's song to the one Moses and the Israelites sang, v.19-21?

9) Why is Israel's victory over Pharaoh's army through the Red Sea such a memorable event?

___ it exemplified the power of God to overcome all the enemies Israel would face

___ it solidified Israel as a legitimate world power ready to take over the nations

___ it guaranteed the defeat of Egypt from which they would never really recover

___ it symbolized the victory God would win over the forces of evil for salvation

10) How did the Lord provide for the Israelites even when there wasn't good water to drink, v.22-27?

Conclusion: What similarities are there between Israel's deliverance from Egypt and our deliverance from sin?

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LESSON 6: God Provides for Israel (Chapters 16-18)

Introduction: How should we think of the way that God provides for us?

- ___ God provides us with everything we want whenever we want it
- ___ God provides us with what we need whether we want it or not
- ___ God provides more generously for believers than for unbelievers
- ___ God provides richly and daily with what we need when we need it

PART 1: Manna and Quail

***) Read Exodus 16**

1) How would the Lord provide for his people despite their constant grumbling, v.1-12?

2) Why was the Lord so specific in his regulations regarding the manna, v.13-30?

3) What was the significance of the manna for the generations to come, v.31-36?

- ___ it would remind them of the Lord’s promise to satisfy all their needs
- ___ it would remind them how the Lord provided for his people in the desert
- ___ it would remind them of the true Bread of Life sent from heaven
- ___ it wouldn’t be that significant because it didn’t stay in the ark very long

PART 2: Water from a Rock

***) Read Exodus 17**

4) What does this incident of the water from the rock reveal about Moses’ character, v.1-7?

5) How does the Apostle Paul apply this incident to our spiritual lives? (read 1 Corinthians 10:1-4)

6) What was the symbolism of Moses' raised hands to help defeat the Amalekites, v.8-16?

PART 3: Jethro's Sound Advice

***) Read Exodus 18**

7) Why would Moses send his wife and two sons back to Jethro, v.1-8?

8) Why if both the Midianites and Amalekites were descended from Abraham, did only Midianites believe, even in later history, v.9-12?

_____ that is because the Amalekites were descendants of Esau who abandoned his faith

_____ that is because the Midianites from Abraham's wife Keturah were more God-fearing

_____ that is because God wanted to punish the Amalekites but save the Midianites

_____ that is because the Midianites chose to believe in God and the Amalekites did not

9) What did Jethro suggest that Moses do in order to lead God's people more effectively, v.13-23?

10) How did Moses implement his father-in-law's advice, v.24-27?

Conclusion: Which is more meaningful - when God provides through miraculous means or natural means?

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LESSON 7: God Gives His Law on Mt. Sinai (Chapters 19-21)

Introduction: What makes a good law and what makes a bad law?

- _____ a good law makes perfect sense and a bad law doesn't make any sense at all
- _____ a good law comes from my political party and a bad law from the other party
- _____ a good law applies to my situation and a bad law doesn't affect me
- _____ a good law will always be good and a bad law will always be bad

PART 1: The Lord Appears at Mt. Sinai

***) Read Exodus 19**

1) How does the Lord define the covenant he would be making with the people of Israel, v.1-9?

2) What was God's purpose in his strict regulations about approaching the mountain, v.10-15?

3) Why did the Lord make his presence known through such fearful demonstrations, v.16-25?

- _____ to remind the Israelites that they would be punished for breaking his commands
- _____ to show the Israelites his power as displayed through the forces of nature
- _____ to call attention to his absolute holiness as opposed to Israel's utter sinfulness
- _____ to scare the Israelites into total submission to every one of his commands

PART 2: The Ten Commandments

***) Read Exodus 20**

4) Which commandments does God go into greater detail in their application or meaning, v.1-17?

5) How do we define our fear of God as believers, even as Israel was afraid, v.18-21?

6) Why was God so specific about the kind of altar the Israelites would build for him, v.22-26?

PART 3: Servant & Personal Injury Laws

***) Read Exodus 21**

7) How are we to understand God's law regarding slavery among the Israelites, v.1-11?

___ it was wrong for God to permit slavery and this proves that we can't trust the Bible

___ it was a different time and culture and therefore we have difficulty understanding it

___ it was God's way of punishing his people for their disobedience to his commands

___ it was the way of life that other nations had adopted and Israel was no different

8) What violations of God's law were punished with the death penalty, v. 12-17?

9) What was God's purpose in establishing the law of retaliation – "eye for eye...", v.18-27?

10) What was God's concern when it came to injuries caused by animals, v.28-36?

Conclusion: How far do we push the government for laws that we as Christians can abide by?

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LESSON 8: God Sets Forth Israel’s Constitution (Chapters 22-24)

Introduction: What would be the Christian’s constitution today?

_____ the Ten Commandments

_____ the gospels

_____ the New Testament

_____ the whole Bible

PART 1: Property and Social Laws

***) Read Exodus 22**

1) How did God provide for the Israelites in the case of stolen or damaged property, v.1-15?

2) What social laws did God have for: (v.16-24)

sleeping with a virgin - _____ sorceress - _____

bestiality - _____ sacrificing to another god - _____

foreigners - _____ widows and orphans - _____

3) What was God’s will for Israel regarding lending money, v.25-27?

4) In what ways were the Israelites, in particular, to give honor to God as his holy people, v.28-31?

PART 2: Justice and Sacred Festivals

***) Read Exodus 23**

5) What tendencies in the courtroom does the Lord address that obscure justice, v.1-9?

6) What added law does God give pertaining to the Sabbath, v.10-13?

7) What are the purposes of the three annual feasts that the Lord commands, v.14-17?

- Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover): _____

- Feast of Harvest (Pentecost): _____

- Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles): _____

8) Who or what is the angel, also called the hornet, which God will send ahead of his people, v.20-33?

PART 3: Confirmation of the Covenant

***) Read Exodus 24**

9) What purpose did animal sacrifices and the sprinkling of blood serve in ratifying the covenant, v.1-8?

_____ this was to show Israel what their sacrifices would be like and how they were to be done

_____ this was to make sure that Israel understood the price of atonement in the shedding of blood

_____ this was to forgive Israel for sins they never knew about before the Ten Commandments

_____ this was to establish fellowship with God and formally set Israel apart as his special people

10) What qualities of God do we see as Moses ascends the mountain to receive the tables of stone, v. 9-18?

Conclusion: How can a Christian be a good citizen in matters of conscience?

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LESSON 9: God Gives His Instructions for the Tabernacle (Chapters 25-31)

Introduction: What is the most important thing when it comes to our church building?

- ___ the appearance of the outside of the building and the church grounds
- ___ the beauty of the interior of the building and its ornate-ness
- ___ the focus of people’s attention to the altar and the use of Word and sacrament
- ___ the practical function of the building and its handicap accessibility

PART 1: The Tabernacle Furnishings

***) Read Exodus 25-27**

1) What is the significance of the first three tabernacle furnishings that are described, chapter 25?

- Ark (of the covenant): _____
- Table (of bread of the Presence): _____
- Lampstand: _____

2) What was important about the basic structure of the Tabernacle itself, chapter 26?

3) What was the function of the altar of burnt offering and the courtyard itself, chapter 27?

PART 2: The Priestly Garments

***) Read Exodus 28-29**

4) How did the ephod worn by the priests emphasize their function among the people, chapter 28:6-14?

5) What was the special function of the Urim and the Thummim, chapter 28:30?

6) What other items completed the priest's attire, chapter 28:31-43?

7) What was the significance of the various rites in the consecration of the priests, chapter 29?

- washed, dressed, and anointed (v.1-9) _____

- the sin offering (v.10-14) _____

- the ram of dedication (v.15-18) _____

- the ram of ordination (v.19-28) _____

- the sacrificial meal (v.29-37) _____

PART 3: Other Items of the Tabernacle

***) Read Exodus 30-31**

8) What was the function of the altar of incense, chapter 30:1-10?

9) What can we conclude about the anointing oil and incense that was to be made, chapter 30:22-38?

10) How does God ensure that everything he had commanded would be done well, chapter 31:1-11?

Conclusion: How do our churches, furnishings and pastoral garb compare to Israel's?

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LESSON 10: Israel’s Worship of the Golden Calf (Chapters 32-34)

Introduction: What is the greatest danger of becoming too “confident” in our faith?

- _____ we will have difficulty recognizing our sin and also then confessing our sin
- _____ we will find less and less use for God’s Word, prayer and praise
- _____ we will no longer appreciate the good news of the gospel in Christ Jesus
- _____ we will more easily allow the devil to lull us into spiritual indifference

PART 1: The Golden Calf

***) Read Exodus 32**

1) What happened in the Israel camp while Moses remained up on the mountain, v.1-6?

2) To what does Moses appeal so that the Lord would not destroy his people, v.7-14?

3) What was Moses’ purpose in:

- grounding the calf into powder and making the Israelites drink it: _____

- telling the Levites to go through the camp killing their fellow Israelites: _____

PART 2: The Glory of the Lord

***) Read Exodus 33**

4) Why did the Lord deal so harshly with his people saying that he wouldn’t even go with them, v.1-6?

5) What was the purpose of the Tent of Meeting that Moses set up outside the camp, v.7-11?

- _____ to serve as a temporary tabernacle until the official one could be built
- _____ to have a place where the people could come and speak with God through him
- _____ to show that the relationship between the Lord and Israel had been broken
- _____ to remind the Israelites how buddy-buddy he really was with the Lord

6) Why, after hearing the Lord's promise to go with them, would Moses ask to see God's glory, v.12-23?

PART 3: The Name of the Lord

***) Read Exodus 34**

7) How does the Lord explain the meaning of his own name and who he is, v.5-7?

8) How do we harmonize the grace of God to forgive and the holiness of God to punish?

9) What important points of the Sinaitic covenant does the Lord review with Moses, v.8-28?

10) What was the significance of Moses' radiant face, v.29-35?

- _____ to reveal the glory of those who can live a sinless and holy life before God
- _____ to reveal the glory of the man who was able to speak with God face to face
- _____ to reveal the glory of the Lord that was present among his people through Moses
- _____ to reveal the glory of the Sinaitic covenant even though it was a fading glory

Conclusion: Before we say, "how could they," what must we always remember as sinners?

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LESSON 11: God’s Tabernacle is Built (Chapters 35-40)

Introduction: What is the most important component in a church’s building project?

- ___ getting everyone committed and involved to help whenever needed
- ___ having the financial support to pay for the project when it’s done
- ___ making sure the building will accommodate all the needs of the people
- ___ being strengthened spiritually throughout the project by relying on God

PART 1: The Supplies are Brought

***) Read Exodus 35—36:7**

1) Why does Moses emphasize once again the importance of keeping the Sabbath, v.1-3?

2) How did Moses gather all the materials necessary for building the tabernacle, v.4-29?

3) Who was to build the tabernacle and all its furnishings, 35:30—36:7?

PART 2: The Furnishings are Built

***) Read Exodus 36:8—38**

4) What were the main components of the tabernacle, 36:8-38?

5) What are some things of interest in the construction of the tabernacle furnishings:

- the ark of the covenant: _____

- the table and the lampstand: _____

- the altar of incense and altar of burnt offering: _____

- the basin for washing and the courtyard: _____

PART 3: The Priestly Garments are Made

***) Read Exodus 39**

6) What were the various components of the high priest's sacred garments, v.1-31?

7) What does Moses do after inspecting all the work the Israelites had done, v.32-43?

PART 4: The Tabernacle is Set Up

***) Read Exodus 40**

8) Why was it necessary to anoint the various items of the tabernacle, even Aaron and his sons, v.1-16?

_____ to give them a nice shine and a fragrant smell

_____ to designate them as the specific ones God had chosen

_____ to consecrate or set them apart as holy for the Lord's service

_____ to make the perfumer happy that they were using up his anointing oil

9) How was the tabernacle assembled and where were the various furnishings placed, v.17-33?

10) What was the significance of the cloud, the glory of the Lord, which filled the tabernacle, v.34-38?

Conclusion: What was God's part in the construction of the tabernacle?