

Exodus 40:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Analysis

The LORD spake unto Moses (וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה, vayedaber YHWH el-Mosheh)—the verb דָּבַר (davar, to speak) introduces divine instruction for erecting the completed tabernacle. This formulaic opening appears 38 times in Exodus, establishing Moses' unique prophetic authority as the one to whom YHWH speaks directly (Numbers 12:6-8).

Exodus 40 brings the book full circle: it began with Israel enslaved in Egypt (1:1-14) and ends with God's glory dwelling among them (40:34-38). The simple phrase **saying** (לֵאמֹר, lemor) introduces God's detailed commands for the tabernacle's dedication on the first day of the first month—exactly one year after the first Passover. This marks Israel's transformation from liberated slaves to a nation hosting God's presence.

Historical Context

This occurred in 1445 BC, approximately nine months after the exodus and three months after Moses received the Law at Sinai. The tabernacle construction demonstrates Israel's restoration after the golden calf apostasy—God's willingness to dwell among a redeemed but imperfect people.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does God's continued communication with Moses after Israel's golden calf sin teach about His faithfulness?
2. How should we prepare to meet with God, knowing He desires to dwell with His people?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּדֶבֶר	יְהוָה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	לֵאמֹר:
spake	And the LORD	^{H413}	unto Moses	saying
^{H1696}	^{H3068}		^{H4872}	^{H559}

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