



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 43



A PUBLICATION OF GOD'S THRESHING PLACE
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DAY FORTY-THREE

Exodus 39 - 40

The Glory Filled the House

Everything is finished. The last clasp is fastened. The last golden bell is hung on the hem of Aaron's robe. The last cubit of linen is stretched and the last peg is driven. Nine months of work since the instructions were given on the mountain. Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled worker who gave their hands to this project step back and look at what they have made.

And Moses inspects it. Everything. And the text says, at the close of chapter 39, the same thing it has been saying after every component:

“Moses inspected the work and saw that they had done it just as the Lord had commanded. So Moses blessed them.”

- Exodus 39:43

Just as the Lord had commanded. It is the final time the phrase appears in Exodus - and it echoes the very beginning: God looked at what He had made and it was good. Moses inspects the Tabernacle and what he finds is faithful obedience made visible. And he blesses them.

There is a blessing that comes at the end of faithful work. Not at the beginning, not in the middle when you are exhausted and the project is only half done. At the end. When the inspection reveals that you did it just as He commanded. Hold on through the work. The blessing is at the close.

Chapter 40. God tells Moses the exact date to set up the Tabernacle: the first day of the first month. New year's day. A new beginning. A fresh start. Everything that happened with the golden calf, everything that was broken and repented of, is behind them. The new year begins with the dwelling place of God being raised in the centre of the camp.

Moses does it all. He sets up the frames. He spreads the tent over it. He puts the ark inside. He hangs the curtain. He places the table, arranges the bread, sets up the lampstand and lights the lamps, places the altar of incense and burns fragrant incense. He sets up the altar of burnt offering and the basin and fills it with water. He erects the courtyard around it. Everything in its place. Everything where God said it should be.

- Moses does this alone. The man who was once told by Jethro that he was doing too much, whose arms needed to be held up by Aaron and Hur in battle - on this day, sets up the dwelling place of God with his own hands. Some things you do with a community. Some things God requires you to do alone, in obedience, piece by piece.

And when Moses finishes - when the last element is in place, when the final act of obedient construction is complete - the cloud covers the tent of meeting. And the glory of the Lord fills the Tabernacle.

*“Moses could not enter the tent of meeting
because the cloud had settled on it,
and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.”*

- Exodus 40:35

Moses cannot enter. The glory is so thick, so total, so overwhelming that even the man who spoke to God face to face cannot walk in. The house built for God's presence is now so full of it that there is no room for anything else. Not even Moses.

This is what happens when obedient people build exactly what God asked them to build, using what He gave them, in the way He specified, for the purpose He intended: God shows up so completely that He fills every corner and no one can enter on their own terms. That is the goal. Not a well-run programme. Not an impressive structure. The glory so thick that all human management becomes irrelevant.

The book of Exodus ends on this image: the cloud by day, the fire by night, resting on the Tabernacle. When the cloud lifts, the Israelites set out. When it does not lift, they do not move. Their entire itinerary is determined by the presence of God. They go when He moves. They stop when He stops. Their whole geography is ordered by His presence, not their plans.

The cloud and the fire are still the model. Go when He moves. Stay when He stays. Build what He tells you to build. Obey down to the detail. And when the glory fills the house, step back. Some things are too holy for human management. Learn to recognise when God has entered the building and your only response is to take off your sandals.

Exodus began with a people in chains. It ends with the glory of God living in their midst, guiding their steps, filling their sanctuary. The distance between those two images is forty chapters of miracle, failure, covenant, and grace. And the God who carried them on eagles' wings through every moment of it is the same God who now makes His home among them.

- He brought them out of Egypt so He could dwell among them. He brought you through what He brought you through for the same reason. He wants to live with you. He always has.

Speak this over yourself today:

*I will build what He asks, the way He asks,
using what He gives.*

*And when the glory comes,
I will step back and let Him fill the house.*

TOMORROW - Day 44 Leviticus 1-4

Exodus is finished. Tomorrow we open Leviticus - the book most people skip. But inside the sacrificial system is one of the clearest pictures of substitution and atonement in the entire Bible. Come back tomorrow. The offerings are not dry ritual. They are a language God uses to say: I made a way.

Day 43 of 365



THE THRESH

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Moment of Encounter Dr. John Akpami	11am/9pm	MON/WEDS.
Faithful Insight Mike Mazzalongo	7am/7pm	WEDS./THURS.
Enjoying Grace Ap. Dr. Gordon Osagiede Jr	7am/7pm	MON./FRI.
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