

Do All That the Lord Has Commanded

International Bible Lesson

Exodus 40:16-31, 34, 38

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“Thus did Moses: according to all that the LORD commanded him, so did he” (Exodus 40:16—KJV).

“Moses did everything just as the LORD had commanded him” (Exodus 40:16—NRSV).

As the end of the Israelites first year of freedom drew near, Moses had successfully delivered the Ten Commandments to them and enforced their obedience after they had rebelled against God (see Exodus 19-32). He had also completed the construction of the tabernacle, all the implements used for sacrifices and worship inside the tabernacle, and the vestments for the priests. Therefore, “In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was set up” (Exodus 40:17).

As the Book of Exodus draws to a close, we see that the Holy Spirit inspired these words repeatedly, “Moses did everything as the LORD had commanded him” (Exodus 40:16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32). These words commend everything Moses did from the time he met God at the burning bush up to the close of Moses’ first year leading God’s people. Though Moses later sinned against God, these words of commendation mean that we can trust that the Ten Commandments are the true word of God and God will enforce obedience to His moral law. We also see that God in mercy established a path for repentance and forgiveness that He would complete with the sending of His Son into the world to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).

Though everyone has sinned, the Lord will help believers do “just as the LORD has commanded,” whether in the Ten Commandments or in the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles; then, someday the Lord may say to us, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave” (Matthew 25:23). Jesus declared, “The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good” (Luke 6:45).

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Thinking Further

1. Why would it be important to these Israelites that “Moses did everything just as the LORD commanded”?
2. Why would it be important to all of those who entered into and lived in the Promised Land that “Moses did everything just as the LORD commanded”?
3. Why should it be important to us that “Moses did everything just as the LORD commanded”?
4. Why do you think God appeared to the Israelites in the cloud and in the pillar of fire, and then visibly entered the tabernacle?
5. Why do you think it was important for God to remain in the cloud and in the pillar of fire above the tabernacle instead of just disappearing inside the tabernacle and talking to Moses inside the tabernacle so Moses could then tell the people when God wanted them to move and where God wanted them to move?