

Part 64 Gifted People and a Worthy Project (35:30-36:7)

• *A record of how God's commands were followed*

The work is to be done by using gifted people

• *Bezalel – a highly gifted craftsman raised up*

• *The Holy Spirit gives special abilities*

The gifted leader - to be recognise - to train others

Levels of leadership were to be recognised

• *Assistants*

Submission to God was necessary

• *Following God's guidance*

Authority was needed as well as anointing

• *Under the leadership of Moses*

These chapters in Exodus are telling us how the commands of chapters 25–31 were actually carried out. God had commanded Israel to build the tabernacle in which He would dwell among His people. Now Israel is actually doing what God said should be done.

The work is to be done by using gifted people^{□1}. One man has been specially called by God to do this work – Bezalel. As is often the case, there is one man only to be in this supreme position. When God has something important to do in the history of the world, He often calls into position one person who is supremely gifted to do what has to be done – one who is vastly more capable in that particular calling than anyone else. Bezalel has gifts of craftsmanship that are greater than those of others. They were special abilities, given to him by the Spirit of God^{□2}. God wants His work to be done under the gifting of the Holy Spirit. He will raise up the people who are necessary to do what has to be done in any particular part of His plans for His kingdom.

The Holy Spirit was at work among Old Testament believers. God is able to give **artistic** ability by the Holy Spirit. We remember that David also was given help by the Spirit in preparing for the building of the temple^{□1}. Something similar happened in the life of Hiram^{□2}.

The gifted leader is to be recognised, and is to train others. 'He has also inspired him to teach others,' says 35:34. Leaders are trainers. What they do in an inspired manner, others copy and imitate. The first impulse for this work came from the Holy Spirit, but then others would be trained in a less directly supernatural manner under the leadership of Bezalel.

Levels of leadership were to be recognised. Bezalel was given special skill; alongside him was a gifted colleague, Oholiab^{□1} and many others^{□2}. These levels of leadership had to be recognised. They were not all on the same level. The primary leadership of Bezalel had to be recognised. Oholiab had to be willing not to be the supreme leader in this work, but to play the part of an assistant to Bezalel.

Submission to God was necessary. There were various kinds of craftsmen, all gifted at different levels by the Holy Spirit^{□1}. Yet they were not totally unguided in their artistry; they were to do all that the Lord had commanded^{□2}. They were not working without guidance but had to follow what God was giving them to do,

Authority was needed as well as anointing. Authority and anointing are not precisely the same. There is a certain kind of authority that comes because a person has the enabling of the Holy Spirit. Yet Bezalel and Oholiab needed the authority of Moses as well! 'Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilful person'^{□1}. They had the anointing of the Holy Spirit but they also had to work smoothly and easily under the leadership of Moses. Their gift and their anointing was to be used along the lines that were laid down by Moses. Some who have gifts from God are

□1 see 31:1-6

□2 35:30-33

□1 see 1 Chronicles 28:11, 12
□2 see 1 Kings 7:13, 14

□1 35:34
□2 31:6b

□1 35:36
□2 36:1

□1 36:2

rather uncooperative in relation to the leaders of the church because they want their gifts to be used in a selfish and unguided manner. Bezalel and Oholiab had to work well under the guidance of a leader who was over them in the Lord. Authority from Moses is needed as well as spiritual anointing^{□2}.

□2 36:2

Unanimity among the people was necessary

• *Materials provided joyfully not dutifully*

• *An utterly unstable people – at one time obedient – at another grumbling and complaining*

• *At times hindering and at times progressing*

Unanimity among the people was necessary. There was no way in which the tabernacle could be built without the people providing the gold and silver and jewellery that was needed. But every morning the people were willingly and freely bringing to Moses what was needed. God's people were fulfilling God's commands not only as a matter of duty, but joyfully and energetically. They even had to be persuaded not to bring so much.

This joyful energy of the people must remind us how unstable these early believers were. At one point they are saying 'Everything that Yahweh has said we shall do'^{□1}. Shortly afterwards they are building a golden calf to worship it. Now they are enthusiastically providing the materials for God's tabernacle, but soon two of Aaron's sons will be executed for their disobedience to the instructions concerning the tabernacle^{□2} and the people's history will be one of grumbling and complaint. They were an utterly unstable people. Yet they were God's people. Despite all of their instability, there were the people who had put faith in the blood of the lamb. At the times when they showed unanimity and enthusiasm the work of God went forward. At the times they were grumbling and complaining the work of God was slowed down and hindered. Unanimity among the people was necessary for progress.

□1 19:8a

□2 Leviticus 10:1-2

The offering for the tabernacle was brought to a clear end

• *Told 'We have enough!'*

• *Not burdened with endless fundraising*

• *An example worth following*

The offering for the tabernacle was brought to a clear end. How one wished something similar happened more often among the churches! The special offering was a temporary matter. It had a clear beginning and a clear ending. The people actually had to be told, 'No more contributions. We have enough!' and the special offering was brought to an end. It would be good in the life of the church if special offerings were not endless and a heavy burden on the churches. Where something special goes on for ever, the people will soon begin to dislike the project for which the contributions are needed. Better something short and sharp with a clear end to it, so that the people are not burdened with fundraising for ever. That is how it was in the case of the tabernacle and it is an example worth following.



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