

Ex. 39:32

Thus was completed all the work of the Tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting. The Israelites did so; just as the Lord had commanded Moses, so they did.

Jeffrey Tigay, “Exodus,” *Jewish Study Bible*

Thus was completed all the work of the Tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting: The phraseology (see also 40:33 n.) alludes to the completion of the creation of the world in Gen. 2:1, 3, one of several echoes of the Priestly source’s account of creation here in the Priestly account of the creation of the Tabernacle (see 25:1–31:17 n.). The leitmotif of this section, mentioned seven times, that each item was made exactly “as the Lord had commanded Moses” echoes the sevenfold repetition of the formula “and there/it was (so)” in Gen. ch 1, indicating that all happened as God commanded (see also vv. 17–33 with reference to setting up the Tabernacle). The section ends with Moses inspecting (“seeing”) everything that was made and blessing the people (cf. Gen. 1:31; 2:3; see v. 43 n. regarding phraseology), and the Tabernacle is completed on New Year’s day (10:1). See also 40:11 n. All of these allusions reflect the view that the sanctuary and the world mirror each other and that actions of the priests officiating in the sanctuary mirror God’s actions in creating the world (note esp. the role of dividing/discriminating [“havdel”] in creation and in the priests’ duties, Gen. 1:4, 6, 14; Lev. 10:10).

“as the Lord had commanded Moses”

Exod 39:1, 5, 7, 21, 26, 29, 31

Exod 40:19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32

“And there was [אור] light” / “And it was [אור] so.”

Gen 1:3, 7, 9, 11, 15, 25, 30

“God saw that it was [very] good.”

Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31

Ex. 39:43

And when Moses saw that they had performed all the tasks—as the Lord had commanded, so they had done—Moses blessed them.

Gen. 2:3

And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because on it God ceased from all the work of creation that He had done.

Ex. 40:33

When Moses had finished the work ...

Gen. 2:2

On the seventh day God finished the work ...

Ex. 40:34

... the Presence of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.

Gen. 2:15

The Lord God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden, to till it and tend it.