

“Bezalel! Bezalel!” called Oholiab “Where are you off to so fast?”

“I’m going to Moses’ tent,” responded Bezalel. “He wants to talk with me.”

“He asked me to come as well,” said Oholiab.

“I wonder what he wants to tell us? I’m sure it has something to do with building the tabernacle,” said Bezalel while they hurried to meet Moses.

They knew that God had given plans to Moses to build the tabernacle. This would be a place for the whole city to unite and praise God. Moses told Bezalel and Oholiab that God had chosen them to lead the construction of the tabernacle. This would be a huge mobile tent, since the Israelites traveled so much. Therefore, the tabernacle would look like a tent on the outside but would be amazingly beautiful on the inside.

When Bezalel and Oholiab got to Moses’ tent, he greeted them.

“Welcome! I’ve asked you to come so I can tell you what God told me when I was on Mount Sinai,” Moses said. “The Lord said to me, ‘Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give. Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I’ll dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I’ll show you.’ God has promised that if we do everything exactly as He has instructed us that His presence will descend upon the tabernacle and He will dwell there,” continued Moses.

“The city has brought many offerings,” said Bezalel.

“Yes,” agreed Moses, “we have all the materials that we need.

The city was very happy to give what they had for the construction of the tabernacle.

“They’ve brought, gold, silver, wood, and fine linen,” said Oholiab.

“Now we are ready to get started on building the Tabernacle, just like God showed us,” continued Moses.

“What would you like us to do?” Bezalel asked.

“When I was on Mount Sinai,” responded Moses, “the Lord also told me, ‘See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, to help him.’”

Bezalel and Oholiab were happy to have been chosen by God for this job, but they were scared.

When he noticed this, Moses said, “Don’t be afraid, God has chosen you for this construction, and he’s given you the talents and ability to do so.”

“This is such a huge job,” said Oholiab, “can we really do it?”

“Yes,” replied Moses. “God and the people will help you so you know what to do.”

Some artists worked on the wood. Others made decorations out of gold and silver for the inside of the tabernacle. Some sewed animal skins together for the outside of the sanctuary. Others made curtains and still others made clothes for the priests.

(This story is found in Exodus 25 and 31.)