

“Prepare” Series

Echo Church | Week 45 | November 9, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr. |

“Part 2: “Prepare for the Glory” | Exodus 40:34–38 (NKJV)

33 And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.

34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

35 And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

36 Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys.

37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up.

38 For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

Introduction

God is preparing us for His Presence even as He prepares His Presence for our stewardship. In our busy world, it's easy to get caught up chasing our own dreams, mapping out our next steps, and hustling to make things happen on our timeline. But if we charge ahead without God's leading—if we start new jobs, launch new projects, or build relationships just because it makes sense to us—we risk creating successes that God never called us to and walking down detours He never meant for us.

On the flip side, when God starts nudging us toward new seasons—when relationships shift, jobs change, or fresh opportunities arise—it's tempting to dig in our heels and stay put, clinging to what feels familiar. But comfort can turn yesterday's blessing into today's prison if we refuse to follow where God is leading. The real danger isn't just being in the wrong situation—it's missing God's presence while we're there. Look at what happened in Moses' day: when the Tabernacle was finished, God's glory—it wasn't just an abstract feeling, but a real, overwhelming presence—rushed in so strongly that even Moses had to step back.

That's the difference between something we make for God and something God truly inhabits. As believers today, our calling is to be “cloud-dependent”—to stay tuned in to God's direction, willing to step out when He calls and just as willing to stay put if He hasn't moved. Let's focus not on keeping up appearances or maintaining the status quo, but on stewarding the places and opportunities where God's presence is real, alive, and leading us forward.

Point 1: Move When God Moves—Don't Miss Your Moment

The text is clear: when the cloud was taken up, Israel journeyed. When it settled, they stayed put. Their movement was not determined by committee, popular opinion, or what seemed logical; it was synchronized with the visible initiative of God. In our world, the pressure to make a move—in your career, relationships, or ministry—is constant.

We poll our friends, analyze the market, and follow the crowd. But God's people are called to a different rhythm. Our direction isn't found in a spreadsheet but in His presence. The key is building rhythms to check the 'cloud'—dedicated time in prayer, Scripture, wise counsel, and waiting for His peace. It's about learning to discern His leading over the noise of our own ambition and anxiety.

"Your next move is not a strategy to be designed, but a presence to be discerned. Stop trying to figure it out and start learning to follow it."

Additional Scriptures

Proverbs 3:5-6

Psalm 32:8

Isaiah 30:21

John 10:27

Point 2: Making Room—Turning Your Everyday Into God's Sacred Space

The glory of the LORD didn't just visit the Tabernacle; it filled it, transforming it from a mere tent into a holy habitation. This glory was so potent it created a boundary; its holiness was so absolute that even Moses was kept outside. This shows us a critical truth: God's presence demands a space that has been set apart, a life consecrated for His exclusive use.

We cannot expect a Sunday-morning visitation to occupy a Monday-morning compromise. You must decide if your heart, your habits, and your home are common ground or consecrated space. To host His glory, you have to create sacred rhythms—dedicated prayer, intentional holiness, swift confession, and real obedience—that send a clear signal: this area is reserved for God alone.

"God will not cohabit with what He cannot consecrate. The weight of His glory will collapse the weak structures of your compromise."

Additional Scriptures

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

2 Corinthians 6:16-17

Romans 12:1-2

1 Peter 1:15-16

Point 3: The Manifestation — Public Proof Over Private Preference

God's presence wasn't a secret whispered among a chosen few. It was a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, visible "in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys." His guidance is not meant to be a hidden mystery but a public testimony that declares whose you are and where you are going.

Your faith can't be a private preference you tuck away for convenience. If God is truly leading your life, it should be the most obvious thing about you. It shows up in your character, your choices, and your courage. This week, choose one public practice that makes His presence known—visibly serve someone, initiate reconciliation, boldly share your story, or obey Him when it costs you something. Let your life be the evidence.

"You cannot claim to be led by a public God while living a private faith. His presence in your life should be the most obvious thing about you."

Additional Scriptures

Matthew 5:14-16

Philippians 2:14-15

Exodus 13:21-22

Acts 1:8

Conclusion

We started with a vital truth: God is simultaneously preparing us for His Presence while preparing His Presence for our stewardship. We've seen that this divine process demands a response from us. It requires a clear **Indication**, a radical **Occupation**, and an undeniable **Manifestation**. We are called to follow His direction over our decision, to offer Him consecrated space over common place, and to live a life of public proof over private preference. It all comes back to the moment the Tabernacle was complete. The ordinary became extraordinary. The work finished, the glory fell, and God moved in. This wasn't a building dedication; it was a divine occupation.

And the call for us today is the same. The question is, will you prepare a place for His glory to occupy? Or will you keep building things He never sanctioned and camping where He has already left? Some of us need to repent for moving without the cloud, driven by ambition and anxiety. Others need to repent for refusing to move when the cloud lifted, chained by comfort and fear.

I want us to create a space for Him. For the next 30 seconds, I want you to be silent and 'check the cloud.' Ask Him: "God, are you in this? Am I moving with you? Am I staying with you?"

Now, make a decision. What is one area you will consecrate this week, pulling it from common ground and making it holy? What is one public act of obedience you will take to make His

presence in your life the most obvious thing about you? Don't leave here with just inspiration; leave with an instruction.