

THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

BIBLE TEXT: Exodus 25:8; 26:1-37; 27:9-21; 40:1-38

LESSON 70 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Hebrews 8:1, 2)

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Exodus 25:8 ⁸ And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Exodus 26:1-37 ¹ Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle *with* ten curtains *of* fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: *with* cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them.

² The length of one curtain *shall be* eight and twenty cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: and every one of the curtains shall have one measure.

³ The five curtains shall be coupled together one to another; and *other* five curtains *shall be* coupled one to another.

⁴ And thou shalt make loops of blue upon the edge of the one curtain from the selvedge in the coupling; and likewise shalt thou make in the uttermost edge of *another* curtain, in the coupling of the second.

⁵ Fifty loops shalt thou make in the one curtain, and fifty loops shalt thou make in the edge of the curtain that *is* in the coupling of the second; that the loops may take hold one of another.

⁶ And thou shalt make fifty taches of gold, and couple the curtains together with the taches: and it shall be one tabernacle.

⁷ And thou shalt make curtains *of* goats' hair to be a covering upon the tabernacle: eleven curtains shalt thou make.

⁸ The length of one curtain *shall be* thirty cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: and the eleven curtains *shall be all of* one measure.

⁹ And thou shalt couple five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves, and shalt double the sixth curtain in the forefront of the tabernacle.

¹⁰ And thou shalt make fifty loops on the edge of the one curtain *that is* outmost in the coupling, and fifty loops in the edge of the curtain which coupleth the second.

¹¹ And thou shalt make fifty taches of brass, and put the taches into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one.

¹² And the remnant that remaineth of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remaineth, shall hang over the backside

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I God's Instructions and Plans for the Building of the Tabernacle

¹ Since the purpose in building the Tabernacle was that God might dwell among Israel, it was important that divine instructions be adhered to, Exodus 25:8, 9;

Exodus 25:9 ⁹ According to all that I shew thee, *after* the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

Acts 7:44-45 ⁴⁴ Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen.

⁴⁵ Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;

Hebrews 8:1-2 ¹ Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

² A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

Hebrews 8:5 ⁵ Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, *that* thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

Hebrews 9:20-26 ²⁰ Saying, This *is* the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

²¹ Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

²² And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

²³ *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

²⁴ For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

²⁵ Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

²⁶ For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

² The first and inside layer of the four Tabernacle coverings was to be of linen, with woven cherubims for ornamentation, Exodus 26:1-6

³ The second layer was to be made of goats' hair, with seams so arranged that they would overlap those of the first layer, Exodus 26:7-13

⁴ The third and fourth layers were to be rams' *skins* dyed red, and badgers' skins, Exodus 26:14

⁵ All four layers were to be supported by a framework of boards that were overlaid with gold, supported by foundation blocks of silver, and held together by wooden bars overlaid with gold, passing through rings of gold, Exodus 26:15-30;

Exodus 30:12-16 ¹² When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when *thou* numberest them.

¹³ This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel *shall be* the offering of the LORD.

¹⁴ Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the LORD.

¹⁵ The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when *they* give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.

¹⁶ And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.

Exodus 38:25-28 ²⁵ And the silver of them that were numbered of the congregation *was* an hundred talents, and a thousand seven hundred and threescore and fifteen shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary:

²⁶ A bekah for every man, *that is*, half a shekel, after the shekel of the

of the tabernacle.

¹³ And a cubit on the one side, and a cubit on the other side of that which remaineth in the length of the curtains of the tent, it shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle on this side and on that side, to cover it.

¹⁴ And thou shalt make a covering for the tent *of* rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above *of* badgers' skins.

¹⁵ And thou shalt make boards for the tabernacle *of* shittim wood standing up.

¹⁶ Ten cubits *shall be* the length of a board, and a cubit and a half *shall be* the breadth of one board.

¹⁷ Two tenons *shall there be* in one board, set in order one against another: thus shalt thou make for all the boards of the tabernacle.

¹⁸ And thou shalt make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards on the south side southward.

¹⁹ And thou shalt make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards; two sockets under one board for his two tenons, and two sockets under another board for his two tenons.

²⁰ And for the second side of the tabernacle on the north side *there shall be* twenty boards:

²¹ And their forty sockets *of* silver; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board.

²² And for the sides of the tabernacle westward thou shalt make six boards.

²³ And two boards shalt thou make for the corners of the tabernacle in the two sides.

²⁴ And they shall be coupled together beneath, and they shall be coupled together above the head of it unto one ring: thus shall it be for them both; they shall be for the two corners.

²⁵ And they shall be eight boards, and their sockets *of* silver, sixteen sockets; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board.

²⁶ And thou shalt make bars *of* shittim wood; five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle,

²⁷ And five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle, for the two sides westward.

²⁸ And the middle bar in the midst of the boards shall reach from end to end.

²⁹ And thou shalt overlay the boards with gold, and make their rings *of* gold *for* places for the bars: and thou shalt overlay the bars with gold.

³⁰ And thou shalt rear up the tabernacle

sanctuary, for every one that went to be numbered, from twenty years old and upward, for six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty *men*.

²⁷ And of the hundred talents of silver were cast the sockets of the sanctuary, and the sockets of the veil; an hundred sockets of the hundred talents, a talent for a socket.

²⁸ And of the thousand seven hundred seventy and five shekels he made hooks for the pillars, and overlaid their chapiters, and filleted them.

6 The veil which would divide the Tabernacle into its two parts was to be made of the finest linen, woven with a design of cherubims, Exodus 26:31-35;

Matthew 27:51 ⁵¹ And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

Hebrews 10:19-20 ¹⁹ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

²⁰ By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

7 A hanging for the front of the Tabernacle was also to be of linen and and to have an embroidered design upon it, Exodus 26:36, 37

8 The court around the Tabernacle was to be enclosed with a linen curtain, supported by pillars of brass trimmed with silver, with a gate curtain of embroidered colored linen, Exodus 27:9-19

II The Erection of the Tabernacle and Placing of the Furnishings

1 The Ark was to be placed in the Holy of Holies behind the veil, Exodus 40:1-3, 17-21; **Hebrews 9:3-10** ³ And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

⁴ Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein *was* the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

⁵ And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

⁶ Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service *of* God.

⁷ But into the second *went* the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and *for* the errors of the people:

⁸ The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

⁹ Which *was* a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

¹⁰ Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

2 The table, candlestick., and golden altar were to be placed in the Holy Place, Exodus 40:4, 5, 21-28; 27:20, 21;

Leviticus 24:1-9 ¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

² Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually.

³ Without the veil of the testimony, in the tabernacle of the congregation, shall Aaron order it from the evening unto the morning before the LORD continually: *it shall be* a statute for ever in your generations.

⁴ He shall order the lamps upon the pure candlestick before the LORD continually.

⁵ And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake.

⁶ And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD.

⁷ And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon *each* row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, *even* an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

⁸ Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, *being taken* from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant.

⁹ And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the LORD made by fire by a perpetual statute.

Hebrews 9:1-2 ¹ Then verily the first *covenant* had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.

² For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein *was* the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

3 The brazen altar and laver were to be in the court in front of the Tabernacle entrance, Exodus 40:6-8, 29-33

4 The Tabernacle and furnishings were to be anointed and sanctified for holy usage, Exodus 40:9-12;

Hebrews 9:19-23 ¹⁹ For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

²⁰ Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

²¹ Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

according to the fashion thereof which was shewed thee in the mount.

³¹ And thou shalt make a vail *of* blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made:

³² And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim *wood* overlaid with gold: their hooks *shall be of* gold, upon the four sockets of silver.

³³ And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy *place* and the most holy.

³⁴ And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy *place*.

³⁵ And thou shalt set the table without the vail, and the candlestick over against the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south: and thou shalt put the table on the north side.

³⁶ And thou shalt make an hanging for the door of the tent, *of* blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework.

³⁷ And thou shalt make for the hanging five pillars *of* shittim *wood*, and overlay them with gold, *and* their hooks *shall be of* gold: and thou shalt cast five sockets of brass for them.

Exodus 27:9-21 ⁹ And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle: for the south side southward *there shall be* hangings for the court *of* fine twined linen of an hundred cubits long for one side:

¹⁰ And the twenty pillars thereof and their twenty sockets *shall be of* brass; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets *shall be of* silver.

¹¹ And likewise for the north side in length *there shall be* hangings of an hundred cubits long, and his twenty pillars and their twenty sockets *of* brass; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets *of* silver.

¹² And *for* the breadth of the court on the west side *shall be* hangings of fifty cubits: their pillars ten, and their sockets ten.

¹³ And the breadth of the court on the east side eastward *shall be* fifty cubits.

¹⁴ The hangings of one side *of the gate shall be* fifteen cubits: their pillars three, and their sockets three.

¹⁵ And on the other side *shall be* hangings fifteen cubits: their pillars three, and their sockets three.

¹⁶ And for the gate of the court *shall be* an hanging of twenty cubits, *of* blue, and

²² And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

²³ *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

5 The priests were to be cleansed, anointed, and sanctified for their office, Exodus 40:12-16

6 The glory of God filled the Tabernacle, as God had promised that it would, Exodus 40:34, 35:

Exodus 25:21-22 ²¹ And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.

²² And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which *are* upon the ark of the testimony, of all *things* which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

7 The pillar of a cloud by day and pillar of fire by night was Israel's guide, through their years in the wilderness, Exodus 40:36-38;

Numbers 9:15-23 ¹⁵ And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, *namely*, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning.

¹⁶ So it was alway: the cloud covered it *by day*, and the appearance of fire by night.

¹⁷ And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents.

¹⁸ At the commandment of the LORD the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they rested in their tents.

¹⁹ And when the cloud tarried long upon the tabernacle many days, then the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD, and journeyed not.

²⁰ And so it was, when the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle; according to the commandment of the LORD they abode in their tents, and according to the commandment of the LORD they journeyed.

²¹ And so it was, when the cloud abode from even unto the morning, and *that* the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they journeyed: whether *it was* by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed.

²² Or *whether it were* two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud tarried upon the tabernacle, remaining thereon, the children of Israel abode in their tents, and journeyed not: but when it was taken up, they journeyed.

²³ At the commandment of the LORD they rested in the tents, and at the commandment of the LORD they journeyed: they kept the charge of the LORD, at the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

Isaiah 4:5-6 ⁵ And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory *shall be* a defence.

⁶ And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.

NOTES:

The Purpose of the Tabernacle

Even before the Children of Israel had reached their land of promise, while they were wandering in the wilderness, God wanted to have a dwelling place, or habitation, among them. He wanted to have a place where His table was always spread, where His lamps were always lighted, and where the priests — His attendants — were always in waiting. By these means He wanted to draw near to His people, that He might teach them, guide them, and protect them. It was His purpose and intent that they might serve Him better, and through this service fulfill the commission for which He had ordained them as a nation; that they, to whom "were committed the oracles of God," would be the means by which the sovereign will, law, and love of God could be made known to the whole world.

To bring this to pass God gave His servant, Moses, a set of laws and ordinances for their instruction. Included was a ceremonial worship which would point to the coming to earth of Heaven's most priceless Jewel who would pay the price of man's redemption and satisfy the demands of divine justice. So great was the plan that the people had to be led step by step until the heights and depths of God's will could be revealed to mankind. One step of this great plan was the erection of this place of worship, or habitation of God, which could fill the spiritual needs of the people of Israel at that time.

God's Dwelling Place

The Tabernacle, then, as a dwelling place for God among His people, was a token of His presence among men, and here atonement could be made for their sins. It was a means of access to God's presence. But it was substantially more than that. It was a type, or picture, of the three Christian experiences — salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire — that God has promised and provided for those who seek for His best. And as such it naturally foreshadowed Christ who tabernacled among men, and the great sacrifice He was to make, as well as the mediatorial office which He

purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework: *and* their pillars *shall be* four, and their sockets four.

¹⁷ All the pillars round about the court *shall be* filleted with silver; their hooks *shall be of* silver, and their sockets *of* brass.

¹⁸ The length of the court *shall be* an hundred cubits, and the breadth fifty every where, and the height five cubits *of* fine twined linen, and their sockets *of* brass.

¹⁹ All the vessels of the tabernacle in all the service thereof, and all the pins thereof, and all the pins of the court, *shall be of* brass.

²⁰ And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.

²¹ In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which *is* before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the LORD: *it shall be* a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel.

Exodus 40:1-38 ¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

² On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

³ And thou shalt put therein the ark of the testimony, and cover the ark with the vail.

⁴ And thou shalt bring in the table, and set in order the things that are to be set in order upon it; and thou shalt bring in the candlestick, and light the lamps thereof.

⁵ And thou shalt set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the testimony, and put the hanging of the door to the tabernacle.

⁶ And thou shalt set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

⁷ And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein.

⁸ And thou shalt set up the court round about, and hang up the hanging at the court gate.

⁹ And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that *is* therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the vessels thereof: and it shall be holy.

¹⁰ And thou shalt anoint the altar of the burnt offering, and all his vessels, and

would assume after He had paid the price of our redemption. it, in itself, was as much a type of the "good things to come," as the priests who officiated in it were types of the Great High Priest, Jesus Christ, or as the services themselves were types of the various ways in which God meets with His people in this period of Grace.

It set before Israel — and also us — two sides of Truth: God's approach to men, and the correct manner of man's approach to God. Man's approach to God, through the visible means of worship furnished in the Tabernacle, was made through a limited few during the period of the Dispensation of the Law. These men were the High Priests, the direct descendants of Aaron. But in the Dispensation of Grace everyone can make his approach to God, by a new and living way — the Blood of Jesus — and receive additional blessings and benefits which no one in the Old Dispensation could possess.

There was no possible entrance to the Holy Place of the Tabernacle without passing through the court, where the altar of burnt offering was situated at which transgressions were pardoned and guilt of sins washed away. And there was also no possible entrance into the Holy of Holies without first passing the golden altar in the Holy Place, where inbred sin and inward depravity were cleansed. We can then see that no one can be sanctified who is not first justified; and no one can receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost without first being sanctified.

The Details of Construction

From a careful consideration of the incidents recorded as happening after the exodus from Egypt (**Exodus 12:2** ² This month *shall be* unto you the beginning of months: it *shall be* the first month of the year to you. **Exodus 13:4** ⁴ This day came ye out in the month Abib. **Exodus 19:1** ¹ In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. **Exodus 20:18** ¹⁸ And all the people saw the thunders, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw *it*, they removed, and stood afar off. **Exodus 34:28** ²⁸ And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.), it has been computed that the work on the Tabernacle was begun about six months after Israel left Egypt. That being true, six months were occupied in its building. The materials were contributed voluntarily by the people (**Exodus 25:1-8**; **Exodus 35:4** ⁴ And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This *is* the thing which the LORD commanded, saying,

Exodus 35:21-29 ²¹ And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, *and* they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments. ²² And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, *and* brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered *offered* an offering of gold unto the LORD. ²³ And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins, brought *them*. ²⁴ Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the LORD'S offering: and every man, with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought *it*. ²⁵ And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, *both* of blue, and of purple, *and* of scarlet, and of fine linen. ²⁶ And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair. ²⁷ And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate; ²⁸ And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense. ²⁹ The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the LORD had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses. **Exodus 30:12-16** ¹² When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when *thou* numberest them. ¹³ This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel *is* twenty gerahs:) an half shekel *shall be* the offering of the LORD. ¹⁴ Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the LORD. ¹⁵ The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when *they* give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls. ¹⁶ And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls) and we read that they manifested extraordinary enthusiasm in the matter and actually brought more than was required. The cost of the structure has been estimated in the neighborhood of \$1,500,000 of our money.

It will be seen, from the lesson text, that the structure was composed of several distinct parts. The first was an oblong enclosure of boards, set in sockets of silver, and bound together by bars of wood passing through rings of gold. All the wooden boards and bars were overlaid with pure gold.

Covering this framework was a number of curtains. The first one was the Tabernacle cloth, made of ten blue, purple, and scarlet linen curtains fastened to each other by special fasteners. This was of a size to cover the top, back, and two sides to

sanctify the altar: and it shall be an altar most holy.

¹¹ And thou shalt anoint the laver and his foot, and sanctify it.

¹² And thou shalt bring Aaron and his sons unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and wash them with water.

¹³ And thou shalt put upon Aaron the holy garments, and anoint him, and sanctify him; that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

¹⁴ And thou shalt bring his sons, and clothe them with coats:

¹⁵ And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office: for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.

¹⁶ Thus did Moses: according to all that the LORD commanded him, so did he.

¹⁷ And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first *day* of the month, *that* the tabernacle was reared up.

¹⁸ And Moses reared up the tabernacle, and fastened his sockets, and set up the boards thereof, and put in the bars thereof, and reared up his pillars.

¹⁹ And he spread abroad the tent over the tabernacle, and put the covering of the tent above upon it; as the LORD commanded Moses.

²⁰ And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy seat above upon the ark:

²¹ And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up the vail of the covering, and covered the ark of the testimony; as the LORD commanded Moses.

²² And he put the table in the tent of the congregation, upon the side of the tabernacle northward, without the vail.

²³ And he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD; as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²⁴ And he put the candlestick in the tent of the congregation, over against the table, on the side of the tabernacle southward.

²⁵ And he lighted the lamps before the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses.

²⁶ And he put the golden altar in the tent of the congregation before the vail:

²⁷ And he burnt sweet incense thereon; as the LORD commanded Moses.

²⁸ And he set up the hanging *at* the door of the tabernacle.

²⁹ And he put the altar of burnt offering

within one cubit from the ground. Designs of cherubims were woven into the cloth.

Over the Tabernacle cloth was next laid a tent-cloth of goats' hair. This was larger than the Tabernacle cloth, consisting of eleven pieces instead of ten. It hung to the ground and completely covered the exquisitely designed interior-hanging, which was then visible only from the inside. The seams of the goats' hair covering were staggered with the seams of the Tabernacle cloth by folding the curtain at the front of the Tabernacle, which made the first half curtain one of double thickness. This closed all the seams and helped to keep out light, dust, and moisture. The two final coverings were of rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, which closed the interior to all outside elements.

The front of the structure was closed by a vail of linen, in colors the same as the Tabernacle cloth, embroidered with a design shown to Moses on Mount Sinai.

A vail hung in the Tabernacle dividing it into two parts, one part being called the Holy Place and the other the Holy of Holies. The priests went into the Holy Place for their daily ministrations. The Holy Place was lit by a great golden candlestick. Only the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies, and that but once a year, on the Day of Atonement. This room was illuminated by the Shekinah glory of God; and the outside, natural light was never allowed to come into it.

Around the outside of the Tabernacle was a court, the curtain for which was made of linen, five cubits high. This court was 100 cubits long and 50 cubits wide. The Tabernacle was 10 cubits in height so it could be seen over the top of the curtain as the Israelites approached to offer their sacrifices or pray at the times of daily worship. The gate in front of the court was also closed with an embroidered linen curtain, the same color as the curtain which hung on the front of the Tabernacle. This court was a type of conviction for sin.

The Furnishings and Their Significance

In the court was placed the altar of burnt offering, called the brazen altar. Between this altar and the Tabernacle proper, stood the laver. Since an approach to the altar of burnt offering was an acknowledgment of sin and of a need for forgiveness, as it was there that the sacrifices for sin were slain and offered, the brazen altar is easily seen to be a type of justification, or salvation from sin. The laver is a type of water baptism.

The silver for the foundations of the Tabernacle and the trimmings (In the pillars supporting the linen curtain around the court, was obtained in a way that shows us that it is a type of the price of our redemption. Those who came to God as true worshipers must be redeemed. This is seen in **Exodus 30:11-16** ¹¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹² When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when *thou* numberest them. ¹³ This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs;) an half shekel *shall be* the offering of the LORD. ¹⁴ Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the LORD. ¹⁵ The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when *they* give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls. ¹⁶ And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls. Here is a confession of the fact that all are lost, all on equal footing, and all need redemption. The rich could give no more than the stipulated sum which was a half-shekel (approximately 50 cents in our money), and the poor could give no less. This was called the atonement money. In the Gospel we all have to pay the same price for salvation — a complete surrender of ourselves and our ways to God. None are favored by a lower price and none can pay more.

The Holy Place speaks of the second definite experience of God's grace: entire Sanctification (**Hebrews 13:11-13** ¹¹ For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. ¹² Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. ¹³ Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach). Blood from certain sacrifices was applied to the horns of the golden altar, from which a continual smoke of incense ascended to God. This continual burning of incense was typical of the prayer and sacred communion that is set up in the heart of the truly sanctified, impossible in the heart that still has in it the root of carnality and sin (**Psalms 141:2** ² Let my prayer be set forth before thee *as* incense; and the lifting up of my hands *as* the evening sacrifice). No strange fire or incense was ever placed on the golden altar. If it needed replenishing at any time the coals were taken from off the brazen altar, where the fire never was allowed to go out, being first kindled by the hand of God.

Upon the golden table, was placed the shewbread, which was typical of the spiritual food that comes as a result of the communion established when we enter the Holy Place — the experience of entire Sanctification. This bread never became old or stale, because it was replenished each Sabbath. This shows us that we must continually come to the Lord's table for food. This week's blessings will not do for next week, but we must continually obtain a new supply. How significant this is also; for every Lord's Day, especially, we come to the place set aside and honored by God *as* the place where His Spirit dwells, to receive fresh food from Him.

The golden candlestick was typical of the light of the Word and the

by the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the meat offering; as the LORD commanded Moses.

³⁰ And he set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and put water there, to wash *withal*.

³¹ And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat:

³² When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the LORD commanded Moses.

³³ And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.

³⁴ Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁶ And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys:

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

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

QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did God order the Tabernacle built?
- 2 Name the four coverings of the Tabernacle.
- 3 What divided the Tabernacle proper?
What great event in later times caused a change in this division?
- 4 What did the silver sockets, or foundations, signify? Where did the metal come from?
- 5 What constituted the court? How was it separated from the camp of Israel?
- 6 What furnishings were in the court? in the Holy Place? in the Holy of Holies?
- 7 How did Israel know when to start their journey each time?
- 8 Who encamped in front of the Tabernacle? On each side of it?
- 9 How did Israel know that God was pleased with them and was among them?
- 10 Describe the various offices of the Levites and priests.

measure of the Holy Spirit given to each member of the true Church, that he might be a light to the world (**Revelation 1:12** ¹² And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; **Revelation 1:20** ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches. **Matthew 5:14** ¹⁴ Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid). Its light never went out but was kept burning by diligent and faithful care twice daily. Only the purest olive oil furnished as a freewill offering by the Children of Israel was used in the lamps of this candelabra.

Next came the great vail whose gorgeous folds were never moved or lifted during the year, until the Day of Atonement. It served to separate the Holy of Holies, where God's glory rested, from the Holy Place where the blood was brought that served to atone for mankind's depravity and inbred sin. How the ministering priests must have been filled with holy reverential fear as daily they came up to the curtain, realizing that on the opposite side dwelled the majestic, holy, and awesome presence of the Almighty God!

Behind the vail was the Ark of the Covenant, a chest of wood covered with gold, in which were placed the tables of the Law. Later the golden pot containing manna and Aaron's rod that budded were placed in the Ark (**Hebrews 9:4** ⁴ Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein *was* the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant). The cover of the Ark was pure gold and was called the Mercy Seat. Over it two golden cherubims spread their wings, their faces turned downward toward the Ark and its contents.

The Holy of Holies is a type of the third great Christian experience, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, made accessible when the Temple vail was rent at the death of Christ, and first given in the Upper Room at Pentecost. The Lord, in promising this Comforter to us, said that when He came into our hearts He would guide us into all truth. The Ark of the Covenant, with the tables of stone, becomes, then, a type of the Word of God in our hearts. The cherubims are a type of the execution of God's law; and the Mercy Seat is a type of Christ as He stands between God's justice and law and the execution of it, that mankind may not forever perish.

Where the Tabernacle Was Placed

The Tabernacle was set up in the center of the camp of the Israelites. The opening always faced toward the east. The Lord told Moses to pitch his tent and the tents of Aaron and the other priests in front of the court opening. The Levites were to encamp around the court on the other three sides, to prevent unsanctified people from coming too near the sacred edifice at an improper time or treating it in too casual a manner. The other tribes were to encamp on the four sides, three tribes on each side.

When the Lord wanted Israel to march onward, the cloud lifted from the Tabernacle and moved ahead. The priests went into the Tabernacle and packed the sacred vessels and instruments, wrapping them in the various hangings and cloths of the Tabernacle. Then the Levites came forward and each one took the item that God had ordered him to carry, according to his family. At the next encampment the Levites immediately set up the Tabernacle, their place in the marching column being such that when the Tabernacle was set up, the Israelites could encamp in the places designated for them without confusion or disorder.

When the Tabernacle was erected for the first time how the fainting Israelitish heart must have revived and the interest of the moment intensely increased, and the tide of joy swelled in every bosom *as* that cloud was seen majestically to descend to the Tabernacle on the plain below! God had then a dwelling place among His people; and as long as they continued in the fear of the Lord the glory of His presence "filled the tabernacle" (Exodus 40:34), and they knew they had an unfailing Guide and safe Refuge.