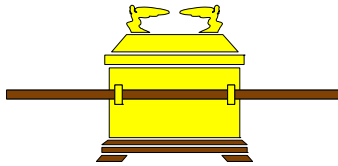


THE TABERNACLE



TOPIC	MAIN IDEA
1. BACKGROUND, OVERVIEW	Overview, motivate to study
2 . FENCE (Entrance 1)	Christ our shield, protection
3. GATE (Types)	Christ the Way
4. BRONZE ALTAR	Christ's blood removes sin
5. LAVER	Believers must be clean
6. WALLS (Boards & Bars)	Christ our Atonement
7. CURTAINS	Christ's overall greatness
8. DOOR (Entrance 2)	God's complete provision in Christ
9. LAMPSTAND	Christ the Light
10. TABLE OF SHOWBREAD	Christ the Bread of Life
11. GOLD ALTAR OF INCENSE	Prayer & Praise of believer to God
12. VEIL (Entrance 3)	Body of Christ
13. ARK OF THE COVENANT	God's provision for us in this life
14. MERCY SEAT	Christ's blood shed for us
15. SHEKINAH GLORY	God's glory
16. CAMP, CONCLUSION	God amidst His people

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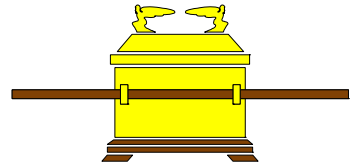
Plans and materials are available to help you build your own model as you study it. Video tapes of when I taught this to our home school group in 1993-1994 are also available.

T H E T A B E R N A C L E

1. BACKGROUND, OVERVIEW

By Jerry Schmoyer

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IMPORTANCE OF THE TABERNACLE

The tabernacle is the most important structure ever built by man: past, present or future. For one thousand years in the past, and another thousand in the future, God's very presence dwelt in it (and the Temple which is really just a permanent tabernacle). More space is given to it and its function than any other single subject in the Bible - 50 long chapters (the creation of the whole universe and earth is given just 2 chapters). In order to understand the Jewish sacrificial system, feasts, priesthood, etc., one must understand the tabernacle. The best part about the tabernacle, though, is that is the most complete, detailed, beautiful picture/type of salvation and the Christian life in Scripture. All of it speaks of and glorifies Jesus in a way children as well as adults can understand. Learning the tabernacle makes it much easier for children to understand and apply Bible truths like salvation, Jesus' work on the cross, confession of sin, obedience, fellowship, praise and worship.

BACKGROUND OF THE TABERNACLE

God created man perfect in Eden, but sin entered and man could not be in God's presence. Mankind from Adam on continued to sin and rebel against God, despite the flood and Babel. Eventually, when it was obvious mankind as a whole would not follow God, He chose one man, Abraham, to form a nation that would obey Him. The Jews were to be God's special people but Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants sinned, too. To keep them from intermarrying and not becoming a nation, God moved the Jews into Egypt during the time of Joseph. They were there for 400 years. After 10 plagues and the death of the Passover Lamb, Moses led the Jews out through the Red Sea and to Mt. Sinai where God revealed His law to the Jews. He was to be their King and the tabernacle His throne. It was where they were to meet with God, and everything about it taught of Him. It was the center of government and worship, the heart and core of the nation Israel.

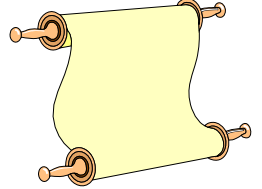
NAMES OF THE TABERNACLE

The tabernacle was the royal residence for the King of Israel. Its names and titles signified that. It was called a "sanctuary" (sacred place), "tabernacle" (dwelling place), "dwelling" (where God's glory dwelt, Ps. 76:2; Song of Sol. 1:8), "tent" (temporary, collapsible dwelling), "tent of the meeting" (where God met with man, Ex. 29:42), and "tabernacle of the testimony" (because of the tablets of law in the Ark of the covenant, Ex. 38:21; Num. 9:15; 17:7,23).

DIRECTIONS FOR BUILDING THE TABERNACLE

The tabernacle was built specifically according to directions given by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 25:1-9, 40; 26:30; 27:8; Num. 8:4; Acts 7:44; Heb. 8:5). God revealed the pattern of it to Moses. Actually, God let Moses see God's throne in heaven which the tabernacle represented. The Bible refers to this often (Ps. 24:3; II Chron 17:12; Heb. 8:2,5; 9:23). John saw the same thing while on Patmos (Rev. 1:12; 2:17; 6:9; 8:3; 11:19; 15:5). He even refers to the furniture in heaven: Ark of Covenant (Rev. 11:19), Lampstand (Rev. 1:12); golden Altar (Rev. 9:13), and Bronze Altar (Rev. 6:9).

The Jews were to freely bring the needed materials (Ex. 25:1-9 - cloth, dye, wood, metals). God even chose the craftsmen to oversee the building, and filled them with His Holy Spirit to enable them to do the work (Ex. 31:1-11). The Jews responded by bringing more material than was needed and Moses had to tell them to stop (Ex. 35:4 - 36:7). This was what the Egyptians had given to the Jews before leaving Egypt (Ex. 12:35-36). God provided what the Jews needed before they even knew they would need it! They really weren't giving anything to God, just returning some of which was really His anyway (the same as when we give to God). All together they gave about \$12 million in gold, silver and bronze alone (Ex. 38:21-31).



AFTER THE TABERNACLE

Following the exact pattern of the tabernacle, which God gave to Moses, the Jews built a permanent tabernacle, called a temple, in Jerusalem. David planned it and Solomon built it. It was one of the wonders of the ancient world! After 300 years, though, Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians destroyed it. Seventy years later Ezra returned from Babylon and let a temple rebuilding program. For 400 years the Jews used this, then Herod enlarged and beautified it until it was once again one of the wonders of the world. After less than 100 years it was destroyed when Jerusalem was conquered by Rome in 70 AD. During the coming tribulation period there will be a temple on the same spot used by the Jews until the Antichrist takes it over and sets himself up to be worshipped in it. It will be destroyed during the battle of Armageddon. A Millennial temple there will become God's throne on earth for 1,000 years (Ezekiel 40-48).

GOD'S TABERNACLE TODAY

When Jesus came to earth He was the place where God and man met, where God dwelt among man. John 1:14 says Jesus "became flesh and made His dwelling among us." Literally the Bible says He became flesh and "tabernacled" among us. Jesus was the tabernacle while on earth. It all pointed to Him and spoke of Him, and He fulfilled it while on earth. Like the tabernacle, Jesus's life on earth was temporary, humble, simple in appearance, God's dwelling place, and the place of sacrifice.

Today God doesn't dwell in a man-made building on earth. His dwelling is in the hearts of those who love Him and have accepted Jesus as Savior. WE are His tabernacle ("dwelling") today (I Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19; II Cor 6:16). Thus the tabernacle speaks of us, too! We are His tabernacle, and we are His royal priesthood (I Pet. 2:5, 9-10). What a privilege we have in serving God in our lives!

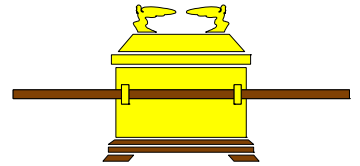
Think of how God prepared and cared for the tabernacle, how He used it to reveal His glory, how it was where He dwelt on earth among men. God prepares and cares for us even more. He uses us today to reveal His glory to others. It is in us that He dwells on earth. What a special blessing that is for us today!

THE TABERNACLE

2. THE FENCE

By Jerry Schmoyer

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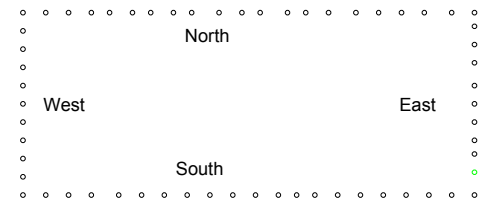


THE FENCE

"STAY OUT!" That's the message a fences gives to those approaching it. It is put there to keep what is on the outside from coming in. The first things the Jews would see when approaching the tabernacle was a high (7'-6") fence keeping them out. You would think God's throne wouldn't have a fence around it but would be open so everyone could easily approach. However God is showing that there is only one way to approach, and that is through the gate. You can't just come into God's presence by any way, only the way He directs. Before you can understand the gate, though, you need to understand the fences.

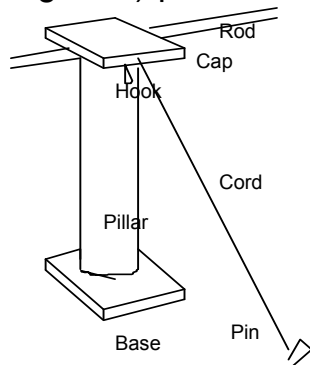
THE PILLARS

God gave detailed instructions about how to make the fence (Ex. 27:9-19) and the Jews carried them out exactly (Ex. 38:9-20). There were to be 60 pillars (20 on north and south sides, 10 on east and west sides). They were to be 7'-6" high and 7'-6" between each, giving it a perfect balance. Everything in the tabernacle has this perfect symmetry, all is made up of squares or cubes. All God does has perfect planning and beauty. It is so simple, yet so elaborate. That is true of nature and the universe as well as us.



These pillars were made of acacia wood, a picture of Jesus' humanity. Both are from the earth, strong but not limitless (Jesus as a human being) and live on earth. They provided support and strength, as Christ is our refuge, strength and sufficiency (Prov. 18:10; Isa. 32:2).

Under the pillars were sockets to hold them up - a bronze (pictures judgment) plate with a hole to receive the tenion on the bottom of the pillar.



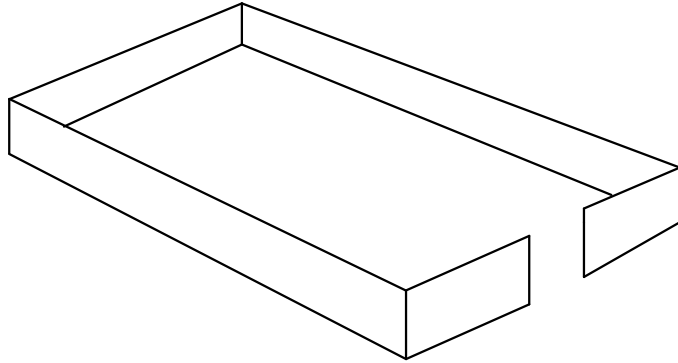
On top was a silver cap, which is a picture of redemption.

Rods of acacia wood covered with silver connected the pillars at the tops to provide stability. Cords of white linen were fasten to the top of the pillar and the ground by a tent peg to stabilize the pillars. There were also silver hooks at the top to hold the curtains, carcasses of sacrificial animals, priests robes, or whatever.

THE CURTAIN

Around the whole outside was a white linen curtain, woven from the flax plant. Except for a space for the gate in front, it went all around the tabernacle. The purpose was to keep people out. They couldn't even see in!

White linen stands for purity and today is used in weddings, christenings, etc., for that same reason. In the tabernacle it shows the holiness of God, for it was in sharp contrast to the dark, rough goats-hair tents of the Jews all around the tabernacle. This shows the contrast of our sins to Christ's righteousness (Rom. 3:32). Jesus was holy, sinless, perfect. Even Pilate could find no fault in Him. To approach God we must be that sinless and perfect, for a holy God can allow no sin in His presence.



However we fall far short and cannot enter, thus the fences keeps us from God's presence. Actually Jesus' perfect earthly life (white linen) as a human being (acacia wood) keeps us from God. It is not His life that redeems us, only His work on the cross. His life points out clearly how we fail. Since He lived a perfect life as a human being, we are accountable to also. We can't, and are under condemnation. Jesus' perfect life seals our doom, keeps us from God (as does the fence).

The fence does show that Jesus's perfect life was for the purpose of providing our redemption, though. Had He not been perfect He couldn't have been our substitute, He would have been guilty of His own sins. Had He not been God He couldn't have bore all the sins of all of us for all eternity condensed in 6 hours of time. No, we can't come to God through the fences for it shows we fall far short. Jesus paid for that, though, and because of His work on the cross we can have His righteousness as our own (II Cor. 5:21; Rom. 3:2; Isa. 61:10, Rev. 19:8). The bronze base under the pillars show God's judgment on sin, but the silver caps and rods show redemption lifted up for all. Redemption (silver) over judgment (bronze) is only by God Himself as a man (acacia wood) being lifted up.

Thus the fence is to keep people OUT. Man can only approach God when perfect and sinless, and comparing ourselves to Jesus shows how far we fail in that. We can never enter God's presence by our own works or goodness. They are as "filthy rags" (menstrual rags - Isa. 64:6). Paul says our good works are like a dung heap in God's sight (Philippians 3:8). That is about our GOOD works. Imagine what our sin looks like in God's sight!

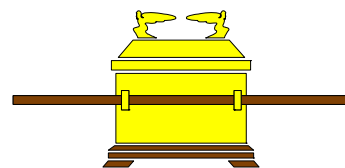
What about you? Are trying to earn God's approval by your righteousness? You'll never make it! God provided Jesus to be your righteousness, that's the only kind God will accept. Have you accepted His gift? Are you coming into His presence by the only way He has provided (the gate)? Have you already made that commitment, begin now within the white linen walls are or you still on the outside trying to work your own way in?

NEXT: THE GATE, The Only Way Into God's Presence

3. GATE & TYPES

By Jerry Schmoyer

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THE NEED OF A GATE

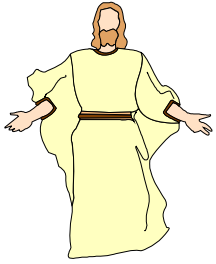
Exodus is the book of Redemption. It opens in the gloom of slavery of a nation born in the brickyards of Egypt. It closes in the glory of the tabernacle. It tells the story of how God came down and delivered a people whose only appeal to His heart of love was their need, suffering and burden. He did not deliver them because they were good folk, moral people, or better than others. This was not true of them, they had no claim on God whatsoever, but they cried and their cry came up to God. Because of their hopelessness and because of His promise to Abraham, God led them out of Egyptian bondage. He led them to Mt. Sinai and there gave them the law. Since the law cannot save, there must be some manifestation of grace, or else there can be no salvation. The Jews were utterly condemned by the law, so it was essential to have a way of grace. The tabernacle was the means of grace, and the way in was the front gate. The fence of white linen kept people out. Without a door there would be no entrance. God, in His grace, made a way into His presence -- the gate through the fence.

THE TABERNACLE AS A TYPE OF JESUS

When the resurrected Jesus appeared on the road to Damascus and talked with the disciples there (and later with all the disciples in the upper room) He showed them what the Old Testament said about Him, starting with Moses' writings (Lk. 24:27, 44). He had earlier said Moses wrote about Him (Jn. 5:39-40,39-40). Much of what He said were what we now call 'types.' A type is an Old Testament event foreshadowing a New Testament event, person or truth. It's sort of like seeing a shadow before you see the real object. Jonah is a type of Jesus (resurrection after 3 days - Mt 12:39-40; Lk 11:29-30). The Passover Lamb is a picture of Jesus (Jn 1:29-30; I Cor. 5:7). The bronze serpent being lifted up foreshadows Jesus on the cross (John 3:14-15). There are many examples. The Old Testament is full of examples and pictures of that which is more fully developed in the New Testament (I Cor. 10:1-6,11; Rom. 15:4; Col. 2:17). In fact, you can't really understand the spiritual truths (theology) of the New Testament without understanding the physical truths (historical happenings) of the Old Testament. This is especially true of the tabernacle. It is God's photograph album of His Son -- hundreds of pictures of Jesus. Some are close-ups, other group pictures. These pictures walk and talk, so really they are more like videos of Jesus before His birth. Understanding the tabernacle brings Jesus' life and work alive in a new and special way, especially for children. The gate through the fence is a perfect example of this.



THE GATE



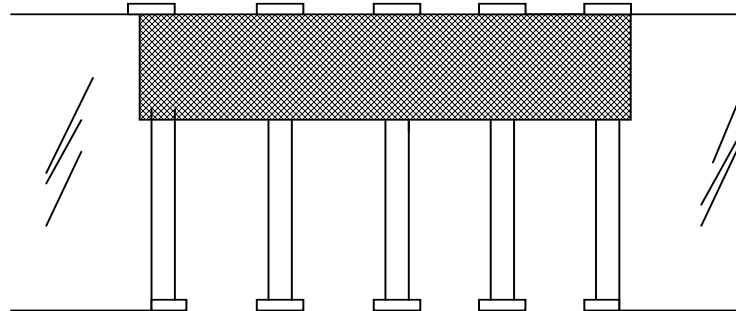
The gate was to be 30 feet wide (4 pillar spaces). It was always open, an invitation to enter. It is a wonderful picture of Jesus as the door, the way to God. In fact, He called Himself the "gate" (John 10:1-9), and the "way" to God (John 14:6). As there is only one gate into the tabernacle, Jesus is the only way to God (Acts 4:12). It is open to all, easy to find, and large enough to admit anyone. All of this speaks of Jesus (John 3:15-16; 6:51; 7:37; 10:9; Rom. 10:13). If one doesn't come in the door they will never enter God's presence and see the glories within. Unless you personally accept Jesus as your Savior you won't enter God's presence or see God's glory. The fence says "stay out," but the gate says "come in." The only entrance requirement was to come with a sacrifice. There is no admission price, no special credentials one must have, no financial or church standing, no educational attainment, and no moral perfection needed (Eph. 2:8-9). Just an innocent blood sacrifice (more about this next time).

THE EAST

The gate was always on the east side of the tabernacle, as was the entrance to the temple Solomon and Herod built. "East" in Hebrew means "front, first." It was where all directions started (like north is the basic direction we usually use). When the people would enter from the east in the morning they would be facing west with their backs to the east and the rising sun. That way there would be worshipping the rising sun as they had done in Egypt (the god 'Ra'). They had to turn their back on their pagan god to worship the true and living God.

THE CURTAINS

The linen above the gate was different from the linen on the fence. It was the same color white, but had blue, purple and scarlet dyed threads woven into it. These colors were used throughout and we will be seeing them often. As in the fence, the white stands for Jesus' holiness and righteousness. Blue stands for heaven (the sky), God's abode. It stands for Jesus as God (Jn. 8:23). Scarlet, the color of blood, stands for Jesus' humanity. As a man He had blood like us (Lev. 17:11). The red dye was made from crushing worms, also of the ground/earth. That speaks of His earthly origin and humility. Thus Jesus is both God (blue) and man (red). When blue and red are combined they produce purple, which is the fourth color used here. Twenty four times these colors are mentioned in connection with the tabernacle, and purple is always listed between red and blue. It speaks of Jesus as both God and man. Purple, the kingly color in ancient times, speaks of Jesus the King. He is the Messiah-King. The Messiah was prophesied to be both God and man in one, as the colors show. This is what Jesus was!



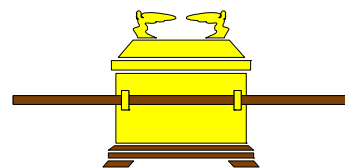
There's more! Silver hooks on the silver cap and tie rods hold this curtain up. The silver was redemption money the first-born males gave in recognition of the price paid for them to keep them from dying. Redemption is what Jesus has done for us as God-Man come to earth.

WHITE	BLUE	SCARLET	PURPLE
Jesus the Perfect Man	Jesus the Son of God	Jesus the Suffering Servant	Jesus the Messiah King
Luke	John	Mark	Matthew

4. BRONZE ALTAR

By Jerry Schmoyer

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If you had been a Jew in Moses' day taking a Gentile through the tabernacle, he would have been very dismayed, confused, and shocked. In all the pagan nations, the idol of their god was the whole idea of their temple, but there was no image of God in the Jews' tabernacle. This was by God's direct command (Ex. 20:4-6). God could have put an impressive image of Himself there, like He revealed to Isaiah, John on Patmos, and others. But an idol would just show outer form and appearance. God was more interested in His people understanding His inward reality. Thus everything in the tabernacle speaks of the person He is. The fence shows man can't enter God's presence unless sinless, and the gate shows how to have sins removed -- coming through Jesus only. What was first encountered upon entering the gate was extremely shocking and revealing. It was the bronze altar (Exodus 27:1-8; 38:1-7).

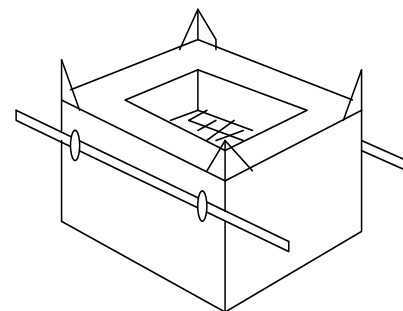
THE MAJESTY OF THE ALTAR

Usually we get a building first, then furnish it. With God's building the furniture is of the most importance, the building is just to house it. The seven (perfection) pieces of furniture are God's main teaching tool. As man approached God the first piece of furniture He encountered was the bronze altar (also called the altar of burnt offering and the altar of sacrifice). It spoke of the first step in man's approach to God.

It was located right by the gate - you couldn't miss it! You had to come by way of it. It was very large - 7'-6" square and 4'-6" high. It was larger than all the other six pieces of furniture put together, showing its great significance.

THE MATERIALS OF THE ALTAR

It was made of acacia wood, which is a very hard, durable, close-grained wood known for its strength. It was used for shipbuilding because it was very resistant to decay. All this speaks of Jesus as a man (Isa. 53:2): from the earth, rooted in dry ground (acacia grew in the desert), short life span, didn't decay, etc.



The wood frame was covered with bronze, which was the most fire-resistant of all metals, because it is so hard. Bronze is used in the Bible as being symbolic of judgment (Rev. 1:15, John 3:14-15; Daniel, etc.). It tells of Jesus who took our judgment (Jn 3:14-15; II Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13). Christ, like bronze, was the One best suited to take our judgment of hell fire. As a man (wood), He was judged on the cross for our sins (bronze). Wood alone would have charred and burned. Bronze alone would have been too heavy to carry, but together they were perfect.

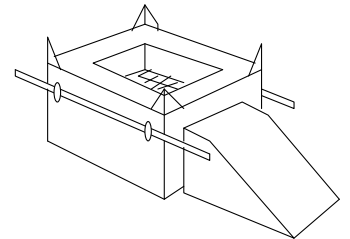
The inside was empty, hollow (as Jesus 'emptied' Himself to become a man (wood) (Phil. 2:7). A grate was placed half way down to hold the animal sacrifices

which were burnt on the altar.

There was a 'horn' on each corner. This was an extension of the corner, turned upwards. It was used to tie the animal down before killing it and to help hold the carcass from falling off the altar when being burnt. Horns were symbolic of strength and power (as horns of an animal). They speak of Jesus' unlimited power and strength. While the animal sacrifice had to be tied down, Jesus went willingly to the cross, held there by His love for us and nothing else (Jn. 10:19; Phil. 2:9). These horns also stood for mercy, for someone wrongly charged with murder could escape revenge by fleeing to the horns of the altar and holding on there where they would be safe (I Ki. 1:50-51; 2:28).

THE MINISTRY AT THE ALTAR

No steps could be built to the altar, for the pagans used them for their godless worship (Ex. 20:26), but a ramp of dirt was built going up to it so the priest could stand and minister. The priest was raised up above the people to offer sacrifice, as Jesus was raised up on the cross to offer His sacrifice.



Also, there were poles of wood covered with bronze slipped through rings so the bronze altar could be carried everywhere with the Jews. Jesus goes with us wherever we go, nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus (Romans 8:35-39). It was portable because the Jews were always on the move, not settling down in one spot. We, too, are strangers and pilgrims on their earth, wandering until we reach our final home in heaven.

THE MAINTENANCE OF THE ALTAR

Fire came from God's presence to light the fire on the bronze altar (Lev. 9:24) and then it never went out. Fire is judgment, sent from God to consume the sacrifices offered there (Isa. 66:15; 30:30; 29:6). Fire destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, disobedient Jews in the wilderness, and will be burning forever in hell! A holy God must judge sin, and when a person placed his hands on an innocent animal, thus identifying that animal with his sin, the animal had to die. Its throat was slit by the altar and after bleeding, the animal was burnt on the fire. Sin causes death and eternity in hell. This is what Jesus went through on the cross for us. That's why He said "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Because He took our death and eternal hell fire we don't have to (Rom 8:1). In the early days of the American West prairie fires would sweep through, killing everyone in their path. The settlers learned from the Indians to set a fire near them before the main fire arrived, then to step in the burnt-over area while the main fire roared past. "Where the fire has been the fire cannot come," the Indians said. That's exactly what happens when we put ourselves under the cross, where God's fire of judgment has already fallen. Our sins are forever paid for and gone!

But what about the innocent animals that died? God's teaching from the Garden of Eden on is that innocent animals must die to cover sin as a picture of Jesus' death on the cross for our sin. It was Jesus Himself before His birth in Eden that killed those animals to cover Adam and Eve, knowing they were a picture of what He would do on the cross. Millions of innocent animals died in the Old Testament, showing the awfulness of sin. They didn't remove sin, but foreshadowed Jesus' blood shed on the cross which does remove sin (Heb. 9:22; I Pt. 3:18; 2:24; Isa. 53:5-6; Mt. 26:28; II Cor.

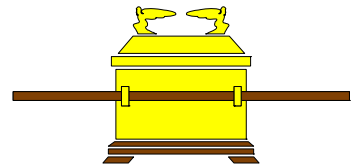
5:21; I Jn. 1:7). Have you come to God by way of the altar of sacrifice, the cross of Jesus? There's no other way to enter but with an innocent blood offering - Jesus' blood shed for you. The tabernacle vividly showed the importance of coming by innocent blood. Upon entering the tabernacle one would see animals, smoke, hear the screams of the dying animals, smell the smoke and burning flesh & hair, feel the mud between their barefooted toes (made from all the blood spilled on the ground) and even taste the burnt meat in the air. Don't forget we come to God the same way today!



5. THE LAVER

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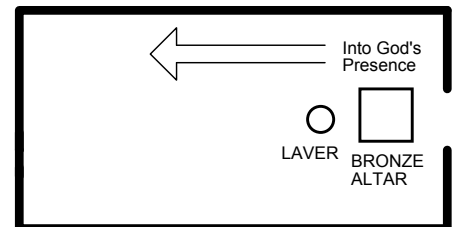
One day years ago the King of England was out for a walk. It started raining so he went to the nearest home, all wet and bedraggled, and asked to borrow an umbrella, saying he would return it the next day. The lady of the house didn't trust him, so she gave him a very old, falling-apart umbrella, thinking she wouldn't see it again. Imagine her surprise the next day when an army officer dressed in his finest uniform came and returned the umbrella! Then she realized it was the king, but she had missed her opportunity to give the king her best. Often we miss an opportunity to give God our best when He comes calling, too. The Laver in the tabernacle shows us how to always be ready and to never miss an opportunity for service.

As priests we must always be clean and ready for God's service. The priests in the tabernacle had to be clean so they could serve. If not opportunities for servicing their sovereign would pass by. The laver was the place of cleansing.

THE LAVER IS FOR CLEANSING

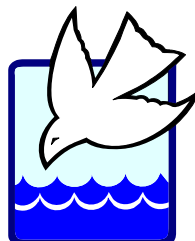
"Laver" is the same as "lavatory" and refers to a place to wash. The laver was for cleansing, because the priests had to be clean in order to serve God. God is a clean (holy) God and those who serve Him must be clean, too (Ps. 24:3-4).

Note that the laver is only for the priests. All Christians today are priests (I Pt. 2:5-9). Although they were once washed at the start of their service (salvation) they continually got dirty in their service to God. The ground was muddy, the fire dirty, blood was everywhere.



THE LAVER FOLLOWS THE BRONZE ALTAR

The only piece of furniture in the outer court besides the bronze altar was the laver. The altar was the once-for-all cleansing of salvation by the blood of Jesus (John 3:16). The laver stands for the moment by moment cleansing needed of sins after salvation (I John 1:9). Both are necessary to serve God (I John 5:6; Titus 3:5). "Rock of Ages," the well-known hymn, refers to this: "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee; Let the water (laver) and the blood (altar), from Thy wounded side which flowed (crucifixion, where cleansing provided for). Be of sin the double cure (sins past - salvation/bronze altar; sins present: confession/laver). Save from wrath (judgment [bronze] not on us but on Jesus at bronze altar) and make me pure (daily cleansing in the laver as we become more Christ like)."

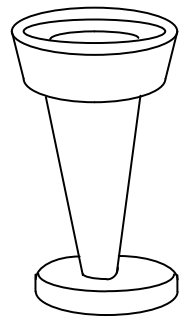


<u>BRONZE ALTAR</u>	<u>LAVER</u>
Meeting place between God & Man, where sacrifice made (cross, Christ's blood)	Place for constant cleansing of hands and feet, necessity of cleansing after salvation.
Fire = judgment on sin	Water = removing later defilement
Used only once (Heb. 9:26-28)	Used constantly, daily I Jn 1:8-10; Jn 13:1-11
Forgiveness of guilt of sin	Cleansing from defilements in life
For unbeliever ("believe")	For believer ("confess")
For sinner - punishment of sin	For sin - cleansing from sin
Death of Christ pictured to remove sin	Resurrection of Christ pictured to forgive, intercede in heaven today
Blood of atonement	Water of cleansing

In John 13:1-11 Jesus clearly explains this to Peter and the other disciples when He washes their feet. He says they are already washed (salvation) but need cleansing (confession of their pride and self-centeredness). Only one has never been washed and that is Judas. They don't need another whole bath (salvation is once-for-all) but do need daily cleansing (confession). The Greek words Jesus uses for 'bath' and 'wash' refer to the public 'bath' where the whole body would be clean, but upon arrival back at home the hands and feet would need to be 'washed' from dust and dirt picked up on the way. This is how it is as we serve God in this life, too.

CLEANSING BY WATER

The laver was made out of bronze - judgment. Christ took our judgment of sin after salvation as well as before! It was made of highly polished bronze which was used for mirrors. The Bible is our mirror, which we are to look in and see our sin (James 1:23-25). Then when 'dirt' is noticed it must be washed away. We wash by the water of the Word (Psalm 119:9; Eph. 5:25-26; Jn. 15:3; Jn. 3:5; Titus 3:5; Heb. 10:22; I Pt. 1:22). God always provides for man's cleansing, and when we confess (admit our sin, agree with God that it is sin and deserving of eternal hell) we are cleansed (I John 1:9). God completely forgets we ever sinned, it is gone forever (Psalm 103). That dirt will never be back. When washed that dirt is gone totally and forever. That's what it means to be washed in the blood of the Lamb!



Four times God told the priests that if they weren't clean they would lose their opportunity to serve Him (Lev. 8:6), for He is serious about His priests being clean. Salvation wasn't at stake for them or us, but daily service opportunities were. Sometimes God removes them from this life prematurely and takes them to heaven. He does that today, too, when a believer repeatedly refuses to submit to God and live a clean life of service for Him (I Jn. 5:16; I Cor. 5:1-5; 11:30; I Chron. 10:13; Acts 5:1-10; Jn. 15:1-5; Num. 20:12; II Cor. 2:5-11; Jer. 7:16; 14:11).

When they traveled the Jews always took the altar with them. Cleansing always is necessary and available. No size is given for the laver. There is no limit to God's cleansing power. The Jews did have to surrender their mirrors (vanity, pride) and humbly come to God for cleansing, as must we.

An interesting side note is that the laver in heaven has no water in it, for there will be no cleansing of sin necessary there (Rev. 15:1-3). Instead of water there is a glass in it to reflect God's glory. He gets the credit and honor for our cleansing, not us!

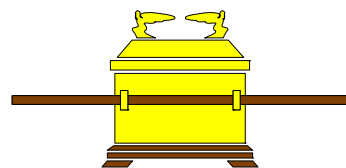
Don't be like the lady who missed serving her king. Always be clean and ready to serve your King. You've come to the altar and accepted Jesus' free gift of salvation, but don't hang around the altar your whole live. Move closer to His presence by continued cleansing whenever necessary. Be a clean priest!

T H E T A B E R N A C L E

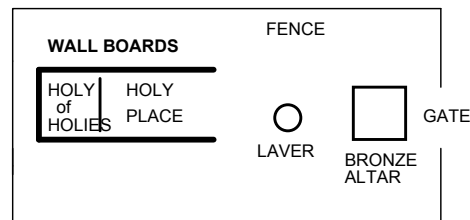
6. THE WALLS

By Jerry Schmoyer

From 1993 – 1995 our home school group studied the tabernacle together. Each one built their own model at home. It was so interesting that I thought I'd write a summary of each session. Building directions, materials, and videos are available. Contact Jerry Schmoyer, 252 W. State St., Doylestown, Pa. 18901



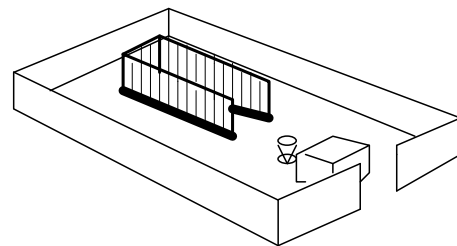
If you've ever gone camping you know what a difficulty it can be setting up and breaking down camp. Suppose you had to do that regularly for 40 years! You'd certainly want a tent that was easy to erect, easy to take down, and easy to move. That's the way God designed the tabernacle. Despite its large size, it was very portable. It was the first pre-fab building! God designed it that way (Exodus 26:15-30; 36:20-34; 30:11-16). It was a building inside the fence, past the laver. It was 45' long, 15' high and 15' wide (3 perfect cubes side by side). The first 2 cubes were called the Holy Place, the inner one the Holy of Holies. This was where the furniture was housed and the priests ministered.



BOARDS

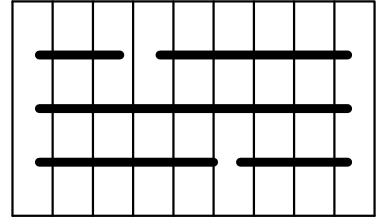
The tabernacle building was made of 48 boards: 20 on north and south wall, 6 on west wall, and one extra in back two corners for extra strength. The boards were 15' by 2'-6" and about 4" thick. They were made of acacia wood. It was hard to get wood that large, and the boards were quite heavy. As we saw before, the wood was a picture of Jesus as a man. He was a man in the full sense of the word (Jn. 1:1,14; Heb. 2:17,14; I Tim. 2:5; I Pt. 2:22; Jn. 3:5; II Cor. 5:21). Acacia wood was hard-grained, wouldn't rot or decay, very sturdy, and had no defects or failures in it. It pictures Jesus, also of the ground (as was wood), with no defects or failures (Heb. 4:15; 7:25; I Pt. 2:22; I Jn. 3:5).

The wooden boards were then covered with gold about the thickness of a postcard. Gold always stands for deity, glory. The wood shows Jesus as man and the gold as God - together they show Jesus as God-man, both in one. The two materials didn't become a third material but stayed what they were, both separate but still one. Jesus was both God and man in one, but those two didn't form a third union. They were separate and distinct, but still one! While the outer court had bronze (altar, laver) now that we are past judgment (altar = salvation; laver = daily cleansing) everything is gold, showing Jesus' glory. You won't be able to see Jesus' glory if there is sin in your life. Jesus came to earth to take on the wood of our humanity so that we might partake of the gold of His deity!



BARS

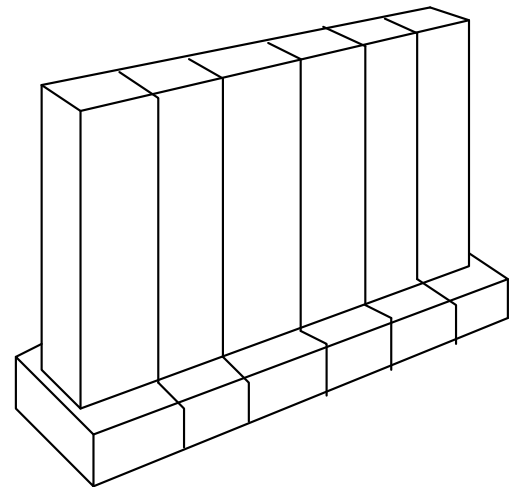
To stabilize these boards and keep them in a straight line there were five bars on each side and the back. One long one went across the middle, two shorter ones above and below. These went from beginning to end, holding everything together. They speak of Jesus, Who was the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End (Rev. 1:8,17) and who holds the universe and everything in it together now (Col. 1:17).



BASE

To anchor the boards and hold them upright there was a large silver base at the bottom of each. Two tenions projected out the bottom of each board to fit into holds in the silver sockets. There was one base for each board, thus they were easier to transport. These supported the weight of the walls, bars and covering curtains. This was the foundation, as Jesus is the foundation on which the church is built. Jesus carried the weight of God's judgment on the cross (Isa. 22:20-25). Being made of silver, which stands for redemption, shows this same thing. All we are and have is founded on Jesus' redemption for us (Jn. 12:24; I Cor. 6:20; I Pt. 1:18-19; Acts 20:28; Heb. 2:9). Redemption is the basis of everything, holds everything up, and allows us to come into God's presence.

To really understand the significance of silver standing for redemption we must go back. When the Jews left Egypt the ransom payment for the first-born to live was the blood of the Passover Lamb on the doorposts. God paid it. From then on, though, and as a reminder that He redeemed them from Egypt, the men regularly had to pay a ransom tax in silver (Exodus 30:11-16). It was the first use of this that brought in the money used for the silver in the tabernacle construction. It was only 62 cents a person, so each could afford it, but each had to pay it himself. No one could pay it for another. It had to be a sanctuary shekel that was used -- it had to meet God's standard. All this speaks of their (and our) redemption. It was a clear reminder that sin demands punishment and a price must be paid for sin to be removed. They knew the silver didn't remove their sin, but was a picture of the price that God would pay to remove it (I Pt. 1:18). Just as the blood of animals didn't cover sin (Heb. 10:4), it pictured the coming sacrifice of Jesus that would do so. The blood shows the mode of atonement, the silver the cost of atonement. Both speak of the same thing. If the men didn't pay a plague would come upon them. In David's day 70,000 died because of this. When the price was paid the man was counted in the census as part of Israel and belonged to God. He was assigned a place in the army to fight the enemy and given a position in the camp. God was His leader. This happens to each believer when He is redeemed by the blood of Jesus today, too!



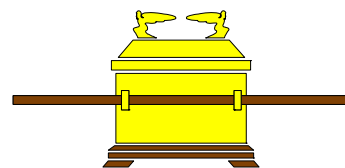
NO FLOOR

Imagine the beauty inside the tabernacle! Gold walls and beautifully embroidered ceiling made it like no other building the Jews had ever seen! The strange thing was that this beautiful building had no floor! Imagine a multi-million dollar building with a dirt floor. When they looked down and saw the dirt they were reminded they were just pilgrims wandering this earth. There was no permanent location for the tabernacle, nor for them (or us), in this life. "This world is not my home, I'm just a passin' through." Besides, they were to look UP to see God's beauty and glory, not look down. When we look down we find nothing that satisfies or beautifies. We only see God's glory by looking up. Which direction are you looking? What are your sights on? Remember the tabernacle, look up, not down, as you travel this pilgrim road.

7. THE CURTAINS

By Jerry Schmoyer

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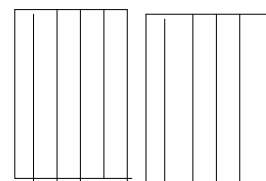
Every time God has appeared to man it has been the Second Person of the Trinity (called Jesus in the New Testament). No one has ever seen God the Father (Jn. 1:18) and the Holy Spirit has no visible form. God the Son was the person of the Trinity who appeared to man in the New Testament, and it only stands to reason in the Old Testament, too. He is the one who walked and talked with Adam & Eve in Eden, then killed the first animals to cover their sin (a picture of what He Himself later would do). He appeared to Hagar in the desert, to Abraham before Sodom was destroyed, and to the 3 Jews in the fiery furnace. He wrestled with Jacob. God always reaches out to man in the Person of the Son. Thus it is no surprise that the tabernacle is a picture of Jesus, the Son of God. Since it is His dwelling place on earth, all of it clearly teaches about Him. We have seen it in the fence, gate, altar, laver, and walls. We will see it in the curtains, too.

ROOF OF THE TABERNACLE

The roof of the tabernacle was made by laying four layers of large pieces of material, one on top of the other, on top of the walls and hanging down the sides. The first was white linen with embroidered cherubim, the second goat's skin, the third ram's skin dyed red, and the fourth dugong skin. Lets look at each one.

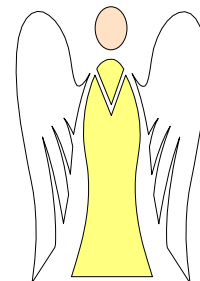
THE LINEN CURTAIN

The first curtain was composed of 10 strips of white linen 42' by 6' (Exodus 26:1-6; 36:8-13). Five were sewed together lengthwise, and so were the other five. Then these two halves were fastened with hoops and clasps. This made a curtain 60' by 42'. The white linen stands for Jesus' purity and righteousness (Heb. 7:26), as in the fence.



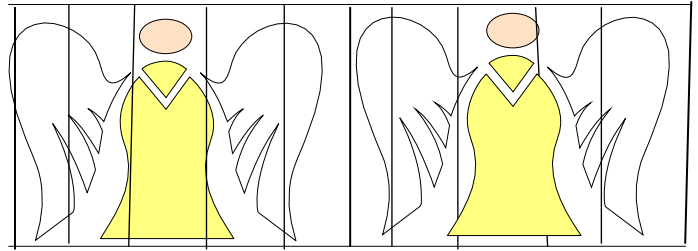
It wasn't left pure white, though, for blue, scarlet and purple thread was embroidered into it. As in the gate, the blue stands for heaven (Jesus as God), the red for earth (made from worms, blood of a man - Jesus as man), and the purple for blue and red together (Jesus as God and man), the kingly/Messiah color.

Instead of the colors being embroidered in any haphazard pattern, as on the gate linen, this linen was to be designed in the form of cherubim. They are the highest order of angels, emblems of the all-mighty God (that is what 'cherub' means; the 'im' ending is plural in Hebrew, like we add 's' at then of a word). They are majestic, kingly, almost limitless in power, the masters of nature's forces, and the executors of judgment (Mt. 13:41-42). They represent God's greatness and protect His holiness (they were placed outside Eden to keep man out). God would not allow a representation of Himself to be made for it would become an idol, so He used the next greatest thing in the universe - cherubim. Since they were created by God



and now bow down and serve God they show that God is even greater than they are! They will also be on the veil and mercy seat. If they worship and serve God, man certainly should, too!

The priests who served in the tabernacle walked beneath these curtains, for they formed the ceiling above them. As they looked up they saw this tremendous manifestation of the glory of God, wings and power everywhere! That's why so many Psalms refer to the safety of being under God's wings (Ps. 61:4, 7; 17:8; 57:1; 91:4; 36:7; etc.). It was a place of security, trust, refuge, comfort and worship. They couldn't be seen from the outside, only by those who entered in and looked up could see them. That is how God's glory is to us, too.



The 50 blue loops (heaven) and gold clasps (deity) that held the two halves together were right above the veil dividing the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. In fact, they helped hold it up. Everything here is a tribute to Jesus' deity and glory and majesty. Seeing that causes praise!

GOAT'S HAIR CURTAIN

Above this curtain was a curtain of goats hair (Ex. 26:7-13; 36:14-18). It was made of 11 strips 45' by 6' sewed together in groups of five and six. The halves were joined by 50 bronze loops and clasps. The bronze, as well as the goats hair, speak of judgment on sin. Goats were used for sin offerings (Lev. 4:23, 27-28; 9:2-3; Num. 7:16; 15:24,27; 28:11, 15). As there were 11 sections of curtain, so there were 11 special sacrifices that required a goat. On the Day of Atonement a goat was offered as a scape-goat (Lev 16; Num. 28:11-15). Jesus was our scape-goat, our sin offering to God (Isa. 53:6, 10; Heb. 9:14, 26, 28; 10:10, 14; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 5:2).

RAM'S SKIN DYED RED COVERING

No detailed information is given about this covering, only that it is to be of rams skin and placed over the goats hair curtain (Ex. 26:14; 39:19). The ram was used as a substitute. One was killed when a man was consecrated to the priesthood. God provided a ram for Isaac's sacrifice when Abraham was about to kill him (Gen. 22:24). It pictures Christ as our substitute (I Pt. 3:18; 2:21; II Cor. 5:21; I Cor. 15:4; Gal. 1:4; Isa. 53:6; Rom. 4:25; 5:8; Jn. 3:16). They were dyed red as a picture of Jesus' blood (Isa. 1:18). Christ, our substitute, shed his blood in our place (ram's skin) as a sin offering for us (goats hair). This is why we glorify Him (linen with cherubim).

DUGONG SKIN COVERING

No details are given, expect that it was to top covering (Ex. 26:14; 36:19). King James translates the word 'badgers,' but they are no where near there! Scholars agree it was a manatee-type animal (seal, porpoise, dugong). It was a thick, tough covering (sandals were made of this). This offered protection to that within (as Jesus does for us). From the outside the tabernacle was unattractive, no different than the other tents around it. As a man Jesus looked like everyone else (Isa. 53:2-3). He couldn't be distinguished from the other disciples, which is why Judas was paid to point Him out. From the outside, in appearance, Jesus looks the same as everyone else. His great beauty can't be seen or appreciated from the outside, only by those who enter in (Jn. 1:10-13).

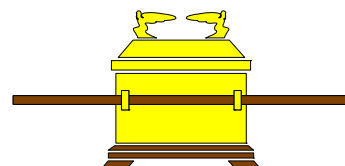
Have you come in by faith? Do you see His glory and majesty? Do you therefore live your life in praise and worship to Him because He was your sin offering, your substitute? You should.

T H E T A B E R N A C L E

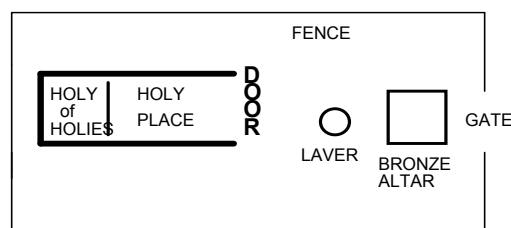
8. THE DOOR

By Jerry Schmoyer

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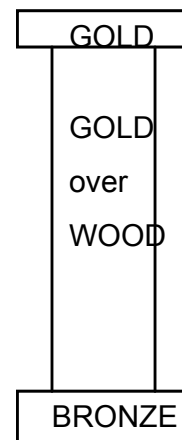


The generation of Jews that left Egypt with Moses was totally uneducated. They were fourth generation slaves. God had to teach deep spiritual truths to 2.5 million illiterate people, so He gave them an object lesson -- the tabernacle. The idea worked so well as a teaching tool that the Jews' pagan neighbors picked up the idea and started building their own temples in the same pattern. In fact, they still use temples in the same basic outline today. These are Satan's counterfeits, to pervert God's truth and keep the Glory from Him. Still, the tabernacle was a tremendous teaching tool and had a profound effect upon the young nation. It got them started in the right direction. It taught those who couldn't read about God. It showed everyone in a very visible way how to have fellowship with God and serve Him. It continues to teach us today, too. This time we will look at the door into the tabernacle building.



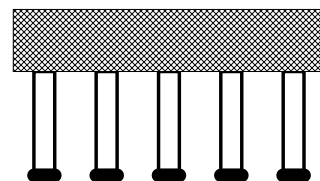
THE PILLARS

The door was built of 5 pillars covered with gold and a curtain across the top. Again, it was made constructed of wood covered with gold (humanity and deity of Jesus). This pillar was put on a bronze base with a silver cap. The bronze shows we can only come into God's presence through judgment -- His judgment of our sins on the cross for salvation (bronze altar) and daily cleansing (laver). Only as the God/man (gold & wood) could Jesus take our judgment. This brought glory to Him. The top of the pillar had a gold cap. To give the five pillars stability a gold-covered wood girder connected the tops.



THE CURTAIN

Over the front of the door was a curtain. In the East rich and elaborately embroidered curtains hung over the doors and entrances of tents which were occupied by the chiefs and princes of the nations. By having a curtain like this over His door, God is saying in unmistakable language that HE is the king, the ruler of His people, Israel. They understood this. God took it further, for the material and colors told about Him as their King.



The while linen showed Jesus as pure and perfect. The colors woven into the curtain were blue (heaven, Jesus as God), red (blood, Jesus as man), and purple (blue & red, Jesus as God-man). Not only do these for aspects of Jesus line up with the four gospels, but also with the robes Jesus wore before His crucifixion.

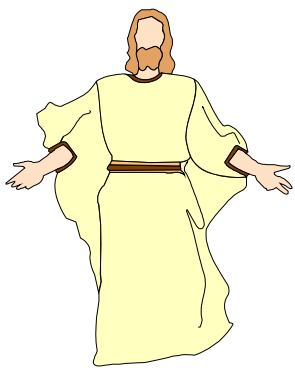
Pilate declared Jesus innocent so he put a white robe on Him before sending Him to Herod (Lk. 23:11). Herod agreed with His innocence and sent Him back to Pilate in the white robe. Then Pilate put a purple robe on Him, mocking Him as being the King of the Jews (Jn. 19:5,14). When He carried the cross to Golgotha He wore a scarlet robe (Mt. 27:28), the traditional color worn when one was executed. What color was Jesus' own seamless robe the soldiers gambled for? The Bible doesn't say, but it certainly could have been blue, the fourth color!

THE SIGNIFICANCE

Actually there are three doors in the tabernacle. One is the gate, two this door, and three the veil. All faced east, all were made of white linen with blue, scarlet and purple embroidery, and all lined up in a straight row. All hid what was in from those without, and led the way into a place closer to God's presence. They are similar because they all speak of the same person - Jesus!

GATE TO THE COURT	DOOR TO THE TENT
Available to any sinner	For those who have come by blood (bronze altar) and water (laver) only.
For those seeking salvation	For those who are saved and continually cleansed and now seek to worship and serve God.
Wider (20 x 5), therefore open for all	More narrow, but higher (10 x 10) showing worship & service is a higher privilege, but narrower because fewer enter that door

This second entrance, the door, was the entrance to the Holy Place. It let worshippers in. It was part of the process of entering God's presence and service (Phil 1:6). This, like the front gate, speaks of Jesus as the way to God. We give thanks to God in the name of Jesus (Eph. 5:20). It is by Him we are to continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise (Heb. 13:15). Our spiritual sacrifices are acceptable to God only by Jesus Christ (I Pt. 2:12). In our service to God, He is to be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ (I Pt. 4:11). There is no worship of God, no service for God, no fellowship with God apart from coming through Jesus.

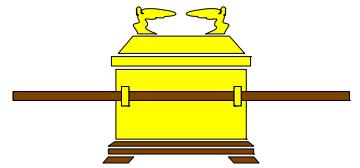


The door was always open, always available for anyone. It was as wide open as could be, the whole width of the building. Still, not many came. Out of all the Jews only a small percentage came through the gate in the fence to the bronze altar (salvation, Heb. 9:14), then only a portion of those moved in further to avail themselves of the daily cleansing at the altar (confession, I Jn. 1:9). Even of those, not many move into deep communion, fellowship, service and worship with God found inside the tabernacle building, through the door. The front gate was 20 cubits wide by 5 high (100 square cubits), while the door into the building was 10 cubits wide by 10 high (100 square cubits). They are the same square cubits, material, colors, etc., for they speak of the same person (Jesus), but the gate is twice as wide (more enter that than the door) while the door is twice as high (service and worship of God is a higher calling than salvation). Have you entered the gate (accept Jesus' free gift of salvation)? I hope so. It means the difference between heaven and hell! But what about the second entrance, the door? Have you entered into a close relationship of service, fellowship and worship with God? I hope so. It means the difference between victory and defeat, peace and emptiness, fruitfulness and barrenness. If you haven't please do enter into the fullness of His presence in all you do (just what that means and how we do it will be described by the furniture inside the building).

9. THE LAMPSTAND

By Jerry Schmoyer

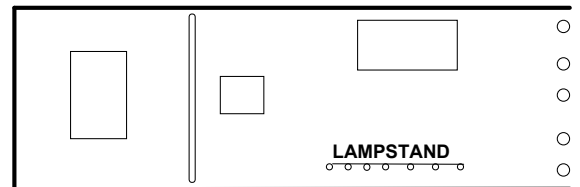
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I love windows! One time I worked in a room without windows and it was awful. Windows let in light. When buying a house people always look at the windows. They are very important. But wait a minute! Where are the windows in the tabernacle building? There aren't any! Did god forget them? Hardly! Then how can the priests see to serve, fellowship and worship? Not by natural light, for natural light (physical or spiritual) doesn't produce these things! Instead God provided His light within, as He does within us (I Cor. 2:14-15). It was a large lampstand (Ex. 25:31-40; 27:20-21; 37:17-24; Num. 8:1-4).

DESCRIPTION OF THE LAMPSTAND

The lampstand was pure gold - total deity of Jesus. When traveling it was to be covered by a blue cloth (also deity of Jesus). No measurements are given as to its size (Jesus' glory and deity can't be measured, they have no limit). Jewish tradition says it was built from about 125 pounds of gold and was about 5 feet high. Actually, it was a large floor lamp. It was located on the south wall (on the left as you enter). "South" in Hebrew means "warmth, light, blessing" for that is the side the sun is usually on.



FUNCTION OF THE LAMPSTAND

The function of the lampstand was to provide light for those serving, fellowshiping and worshipping inside. God is light, and He provides light for man (II Cor. 3:12 - 4:6). Throughout the ages man has worshipped the sun, because of the importance of its light. In Egypt the sun was worshipped as Ra. In the tabernacle God is showing we come to Him by His light, not natural light (I Cor. 2:14-15). When Jesus walked on the earth, He clearly equated Himself with light (John 1:1-9; 8:12; 9:5; 12:46). Jesus, as light, reveals things for what they are (Jn. 3:19-21), guides in the way to go (Jn. 11:9), brings health and growth, and is necessary for life. Light is contrasted with darkness, which stands for sin and evil (Prov. 4:19; Jn. 3:19). The world today is in darkness (Rom. 1:22, 25). Man, like bugs under a rock, tries to hide from the light (Rev. 6:15-17). Light is greater than darkness, though. Light can remove darkness, but darkness cannot remove light (Jn. 11:9). Unfortunately the Jews missed the real meaning of the lampstand. While it is their national symbol today (called the menorah, meaning "lampstand," or "lightbearer") they are in spiritual darkness, having rejected God's light and Messiah. Let that be a lesson for us! We can only function in God's presence as we walk in His light (I Jn. 1:6-7). If we try to live by our light/reasoning/power we will fail.

God Himself is light. His presence in the ark gave Noah and his family light inside. His presence in the cloud provided light (Shekinah glory). In the future there will be no sun, the New Jerusalem will be lit by God's own presence (Rev. 22:5).

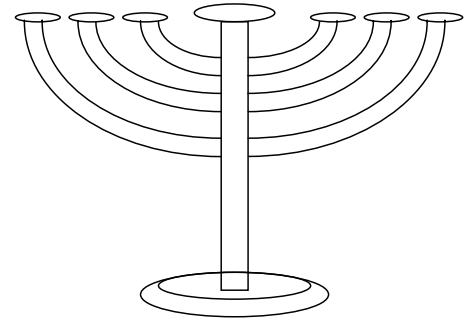
CONSTRUCTION OF THE LAMPSTAND

There is more detail about the lampstand than any other piece of furniture in the tabernacle. Also, it is pictured carved in stone in the Arch of Titus in Rome as a tribute to Titus' defeat of Israel in 70 AD. Thus we know exactly what it looked like.

The center stalk supported and held up the others. It pictures Jesus. The six (number of man) branches stand for us who are attached to Him. As John 15 describes with the vine and branches, we must be in union with Christ to produce fruit. We are to produce His light (Mt. 5:14) for others.

The whole lampstand was formed from one solid piece of gold beaten and pounded into shape. This speaks of the sufferings Christ went through to mold and form Him (Heb. 2:10; Phil. 1:29) and which we must go through, too.

Everything in the lampstand speaks of Jesus' deity: solid gold (deity), 7 (number of perfection) lights, central stalk (Jesus as number one), and producing light (Christ as the light of the world).



DECORATION OF THE LAMPSTAND

The lampstand wasn't just plain gold, it was formed and molded into the shape of a bud, flower and blossom/fruit of an almost plant. Each branch had 3 sets of these (3 = number of deity) and the central stalk, being superior (Christ) had one more, four. The Almond tree was the first to bud in Palestine in spring (like crocus' here) being a sign of coming life. It shows life out of death, resurrection life. The beating wasn't senseless, but for a purpose - to produce resurrection life in us. Aaron's rod that budded was almond, showing the same thing -- God's power over death.

ILLUMINATION BY THE LAMPSTAND

Still, this beautifully formed lampstand has no light of itself! It is just the holder for the oil that burns to produce light. Never call this a 'candlestick,' for candles were unknown then. Each branch held an almond-shaped bowl with oil in it. God commanded they use only pure olive oil (Ex. 27:20; Lev. 24:2; 8:12). All the vessels in the tabernacle were to be anointed with this when first dedicated, as well as the priests and sacrifices. The Bible clearly and repeatedly says that oil is a picture of the Holy Spirit (Zech. 4:2-6; Rev. 4:5; Heb. 1:9; Acts 2:4). It is God's Holy Spirit in us that illuminates us and reveals God's truth to us today (Jn. 16:12-15; 1 Cor. 12:14-15) just as the lampstand did in the tabernacle.

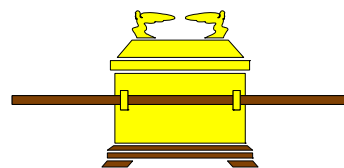
Oil doesn't burn by itself. It needs a wick. These were made from old priests' garments -- white linen which pictured Jesus' purity. The wick had to be maintained so there was light and not smoke in the tabernacle. There were tongs to pull the wick so it could be trimmed and snuff dishes to bring life coals from the bronze altar to start the light (Ex. 25:38). The center one (Jesus) was always lit first. In church today which use candles the altar lights always start with the central/highest candle, as they did in the tabernacle. The lampstand's light was never extinguished, it always burned when the tabernacle was set up and operating.

By the way, how is your light shining for Jesus? It is burning brightly or smoking and giving off a foul odor? If it needs some maintenance work, see to it! Trim away the bad parts (confess your sin) and ask God to fill you with His oil/Holy Spirit so you can shine brightly for Him. Live in His light and let His light shine through you for others!

10. TABLE OF SHOWBREAD

By Jerry Schmoyer

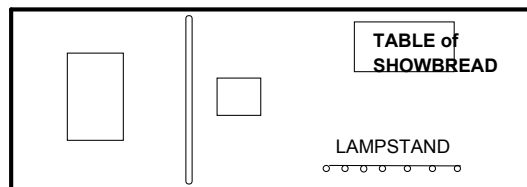
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What is fellowship? We use the word often, even build 'fellowship' halls in our churches. We use the word to refer to eating lunch together, going bowling, having a picnic, or sitting around talking about football and friends. Yet none of that is what true fellowship is. The table of Showbread explains what fellowship really is. God gave Moses the instructions to build it (Ex. 25:23-30; 37:10-16).

THE TABLE ITSELF

The table was on the north wall of the tabernacle building, on your right as you entered, across from the lampstand. It was also carved on Titus' Arch in Rome so we still have a picture of it today.



This is the first mention of a table in the Bible, and it's God's table. It was to be 3' wide, 1'-6" wide, and 2'-3" high. It is far smaller than the altar, because far fewer people come to the table (fellowship with God & others) than come to the altar (salvation). The height of the table is of the same height as the grate on the altar (where the sacrifice was burnt) and the mercy seat, showing that fellowship is paid for by Jesus' blood.

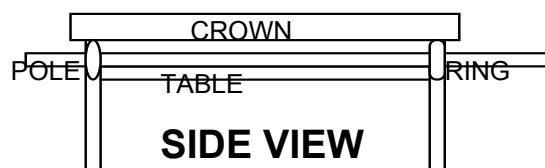
The table was made of wood (humanity of Jesus) covered with gold (deity of Jesus). As a man Jesus ate, spoke, got hungry, thirsty and tired, and shed tears. As God He gave eternal life, raised the dead, forgave sin and healed sickness. As man He was so tired He fell asleep in a boat despite a raging storm. As God He woke up and calmed the storm with a command.

The table was anointed with oil (Holy Spirit) before use, like Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit (dove at baptism) before His ministry.

Around the top of the table was a gold border like a crown (Jesus crowned with glory and honor, Heb. 2:9). It helped keep the articles on the table when it was being carried places. It was 4" high, called a "handbreadth," and reminds us that we are safe in Jesus' hand while traveling through this life (Jn. 10:28).

Like all articles of furniture, the table had rings and poles to carry it everywhere. Wherever we go we can have fellowship with God and man.

There were to be three coverings over the table while traveling (Num. 4:7-8). Blue material (heavenly origin, deity of Jesus), scarlet material (human blood, Jesus a man), and dugong skins for humility as well as protection.



CONTENTS OF THE TABLE

The table held three items: bread, wine and frankincense. The bread was composed of two stacks of 6 loaves each. Twelve is the number of eternal election, God's sovereign choosing. There was one loaf for each of the 12 tribes, each equal before God despite differences (number, wealth, etc.) on earth. We today as believers are all one and equal before God as the bread is all one (1 Cor. 10:17).

Bread is first mentioned in the Bible in Gen. 3:19 where man has to work for it. It was the staple of life, the main (and often only) food item for most people throughout history. It was so important to the Egyptians that they considered it sacred. Bread stood

for nourishment, provision and sustenance. For this reason Jesus called Himself the "Bread of Life" (John 6).

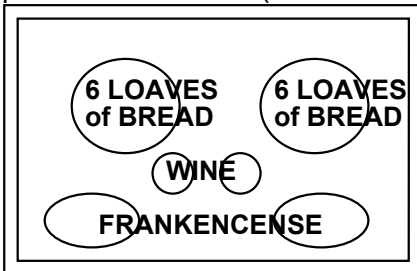


Both Jesus and bread are necessary for life, liked by and suitable for all, and satisfy man's basic needs (one physically, the other spiritually). Jesus is from Bethlehem, the "house of bread." The bread was put on the table to show this about Jesus, thus it is called "Showbread."

At this very time the Jews were fed on manna from heaven, given by God. Jesus compares Himself to manna, saying He is superior to it (Jn. 6:32-33).

MANNA	CHRIST
Needed for life to continue physically	Needed for life to exist spiritually
Sent miraculously from heaven	Miraculous birth from above
Shaped round	Completely perfect
White in color	Totally pure, sinless
Placed on the ground	Took humble form of a man`
Sustainer of life	Savior of live
Appealed to any taste	Meets all man's needs
Benefit varied according to need & condition of eater	Supplies each individual person's own needs
Whatever the eater needed the manna was to him	Whatever mans needs, that Jesus became to him
Supplied while in the wilderness, stopped when entered the Promised Land	Supplied to meet needs & help through our journey this side of 'Promised Land'
Moses the agent, gave directions for collection	God the Father the real giver of manna and Christ
Moses brought the manna to God's people	God gave the real bread of life - Christ Himself
Good for physical nourishment	Good for spiritual nourishment
Manna was found on the ground	Christ, the Bread of Life, was lifted up on the cross (as bread lifted up on Table of Showbread)
Shows God as life-GIVER	Shows Christ as life-SUSTAINER

God gave clear directions as to how this bread was to be made. The grain had to be ground very fine to remove all roughness (Jesus through the mill of suffering, Jn. 12:24, 27). Leaven was prohibited, for it is a picture of sin the way it grows until destroys all unless stopped (I Cor. 5:8; Mt. 16:12; Ex. 12:15, 19; 13:7; Lev. 2:11; Dt. 16:4; Mt. 16:6; Mk. 8:15; Lk. 12:1; Gal. 5:9). This speaks of Jesus' sinlessness. This matzo is what the Jews used and still use at Passover. Before baking it was 'pierced' (Lev. 2:4), a picture of Jesus' suffering on the cross for us. Jewish tradition says each loaf was anointed with oil in the shape of a cross! Then it was put into fire to bake (Jesus took our fire of judgment (Jn. 12:31-32).



TOP OF TABLE

The purpose of the bread was for the priests to eat, nourishing themselves in God's presence (I Sam. 21:6). That is what fellowship is -- nourishing on Jesus in His presence, along with other believer/priests (I Cor. 10:16-17). Individually we do this in private worship and devotions. This is fellowship with God, nourishing ourselves on Jesus. When we gather with other believers and Jesus is the central focus of our time together that is true fellowship, singing, Bible study, worship, sharing what He has done in our lives, encouraging each other in the Lord, etc. -- this is true fellowship. This is what happened around the table of Showbread in the tabernacle,

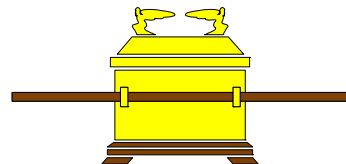
but those who came by way of the altar (salvation) and laver (daily cleansing) into God's service and presence (tabernacle building

Besides the two stacks of bread on the table there were 2 bowls of frankincense and two glasses of wine. Two stands for unity, oneness: man with man (Gal. 3:28) and man with God. Frankincense was made from gum from a tree and, when mixed with other substances, made the odor stronger and more pleasing. It speaks of Jesus being pleasing and acceptable to God. It was given to Jesus as His birth, and rubbed on His body at His death. Also two cups of wine were there. Years later Nebuchadnezzar stole these and God wrote His judgment on the wall when the Babylonians used them in mockery (Daniel 5). The wine, the blood of the grape, was symbolic of blood and was used instead of the blood of a lamb at many occasions. We use two of these elements in the Lord's supper today: unleavened bread and juice from a grape. The symbolism is the same. Our closest fellowship with God and each other is around Jesus' work for us (as symbolized by the elements which show His work for us).

11. ALTAR OF INCENSE

By Jerry Schmoyer

From 1993 – 1995 our home school group studied the tabernacle together. Each one built their own model at home. It was so interesting that I thought I'd write a summary of each session. Building directions, materials, and videos are available. Contact Jerry Schmoyer, 252 W. State St., Doylestown, Pa. 18901

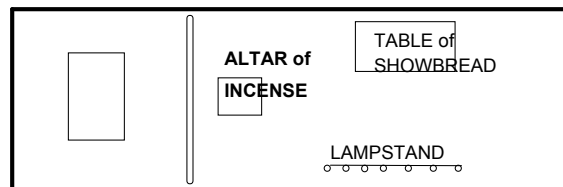


One day an old priest named Zacharias was taking his turn serving in the temple in Jerusalem. He was chosen by lot to offer the incense on the golden altar, a once-in-a-lifetime (if you got to do it at all) privilege! It was the first week of October, 748 A.U.C. (6 BC). His life completely changed because of what happened there. You can read about his encounter with Gabriel in Luke 1.

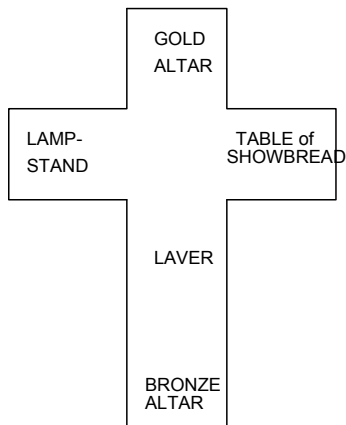
The fact that he was at the Altar of Incense at this time was no coincidence. It was the perfect place for what happened, which is why God made sure the lot fell on him that day. God planned the altar and its function (Ex. 30:1-10; 37:25-29).

THE LOCATION

The altar of incense, or golden altar, was located right in front of the veil, straight ahead as you entered the tabernacle building. To get to this altar you had to come by way of the gate (Christ the only way), bronze altar (blood sacrifice



for salvation), laver (daily cleansing), lampstand (Jesus the Light) and table of showbread (fellowship/nourishment on Christ, Bread of life). The pieces of furniture formed a cross.

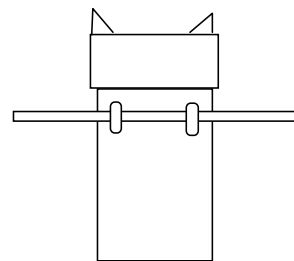


CONSTRUCTION OF THE ALTAR

The altar was a square 1'-6" by 1'-6". It was 3' high. Actually it was two 1'-6" cubes on top of each other. It is higher than the table of showbread, for this is where Jesus is exalted, lifted up.

It is made of wood (humanity of Jesus) covered with gold (deity of Jesus). A

gold crown went around the top to hold the fire in place, speaking of Jesus crowned with glory and honor. In fact, all pieces of furniture that were made of gold had a crown except the lampstand which couldn't have had one. Jesus' deity and being glorified for it go together. There were to be horns on the corners, as with the bronze altar. This was a place of refuge from judgment as well as a symbol of power and strength (able to protect from judgment). Rings and poles assured it would always be with the Jews. It was to be covered with blue material (Jesus' deity) and then dugong (humility, protection).



FUNCTION OF THE ALTAR

The purpose of the altar was to burn incense. No blood offering or sacrifice was ever made on it. Incense was used in those days to offer tribute and homage to kings. The burning incense made a sweet-smelling fragrance to pay tribute to God as well as combating the stink of the butchering and burning meat and hair on the outside bronze altar.

Strict directions for mixing of the incense was given (Ex. 30:34-35). It has to be pure (Jesus' sinlessness) and sweet (Jesus acceptable, precious in God's sight). To use any other incense would bring sudden severe judgment (II Chron. 26:16-23).

The incense could not give off its fragrance unless it came in contact with fire. The fire had to come from the bronze altar. Any other fire used would bring immediate and swift destruction (Lev. 10:1-2; II Chron. 26:16-21). The only thing God accepts is what is provided by the blood of Jesus (bronze altar). Anything coming any way but by the cross is unacceptable to God. Even our good works done in our own strength will burn (I Cor. 3:12).

BRONZE ALTAR	GOLD ALTAR
Bronze: judgment, sacrifice	Gold: deity, worship
Blood of animals placed on it	Incense placed on it
First piece of furniture meet	Last furniture before Holy of Holies
Unbeliever comes to remove sin	Believer comes to worship
Very large, available to all	Much smaller, few come to worship
Christ on earth: death on cross	Christ in heaven: intercession
Fire came directly from God	Fire came from bronze altar

APPLICATION OF ALTAR

Incense in the Bible is used to symbolize prayer and communion with God (Ps. 142:2; 141:2; Lk. 1:10; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4; Ezra 9:5; Dan. 9:21). This is what Zacharias was doing when Gabriel came to tell him his prayers had been answered (Luke 1). The gold altar with fire from Jesus' work on the cross shows the altar is a picture of Jesus, and thus the prayers His prayers ascending to God. What is Jesus doing for us now in heaven? He intercedes for us (Heb. 7:25; 8:1; Rom. 8:34). He prayed for His disciples while He was on earth, and He still prays for His disciples today (Luke 22:31-32). John 17 is an example of how He prays for us.



Before we sin, Jesus intercedes on our behalf. If we sin anyway, He then becomes our advocate (lawyer) and represents our case before God (I Jn. 2:1). He comes to our defense when Satan wants God to enact the death penalty against us after we sin. His defense: our sins were paid for on the bronze altar.

It was the priests who burned the incense as part of their service and worship in the tabernacle. It was to be continually burning as they were to be continually in communion with God (Ex. 30:7-8; Ps. 16:8; 55:17). As believer-priests today we are to be in constant communion and fellowship with God, too (I Thes. 5:17-18; Heb. 13:15). Our continual attitude of communion and communication with God is a sweet-smelling savor to Him today, too. It is utterly pleasing to Him when we live in His presence every moment of our lives. Praying "in Jesus' name" makes our prayers like rich perfume to our Father in heaven.

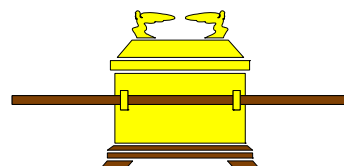
What do we have to thank Him for? Go through the furniture in the tabernacle: that he has provided a way to Himself (gate), He Himself paid for our sins on the cross (bronze altar), He also has provided for daily cleansing of sins after salvation (laver). He is our light (lampstand) and Sustainer/nourishment (table of showbread), where we can have fellowship with Him and others. He allows us to commune with Him whenever we want, He is always there waiting for us. Come in!

T H E T A B E R N A C L E

12. THE VEIL

By Jerry Schmoyer

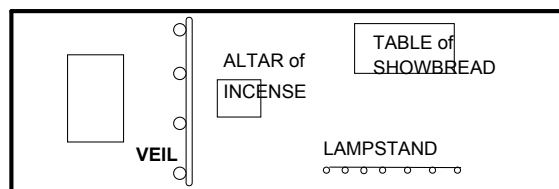
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When my children were younger they loved looking at pictures that had object hidden within. Find 3 fish, 2 balloons and 1 ice cream cone - and they'd look and look until they found it. However you could only do it once. At first you didn't see any of the objects, but once you looked closer and discovered them they were easy to see each time - they just jumped out at you. That's the way it is seeing Jesus in the tabernacle. At first you wonder how this could ever speak of Jesus, but when you look closer and find Him He starts to jump out each time you look. The veil is an example of this. We read about it in Ex. 26:31-35; 36:35-36).

THE PILLARS

Two thirds (2 cubes 10 cubits on a side) of the way back in the tabernacle building the Holy Place stopped and the Holy of Holies (a cube 10 cubits on each side) started. These two were divided by a veil held up by four pillars.



The pillars were wood (humanity of Jesus) covered by gold (deity of Jesus) with silver (atonement price, redemption paid by Jesus - the foundation of all else) sockets to held them upright. The top had no cap like the other pillars but was to be 'cut off,' the same word used of Jesus being cut off for our sins (Isa. 53:8; Ps. 102:34; Dan. 9:25-27). The veil was held up by gold hooks on the top of the pillar as well as being fastened to the hooks above which held the two halves of the linen curtain together.

GOLD
over
WOOD

While there were 5 columns holding the curtain at the outer door, there are 4 here. Four is the number of earthly completion, God's complete provision for man's access to Him on this earth. The four gospels show this, too.

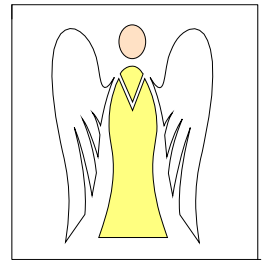
SILVER

WHITE	BLUE	SCARLET	PURPLE
PERFECT MAN Sinless, Holy Life	SON OF GOD Heavenly Origin	SUFFERING SERVANT Of the Earth	MESSIAH-KING God & man in One
WOOD (humanity)	GOLD (deity)	BRONZE (judgment)	SILVER (redemption)
LUKE	JOHN	MARK	MATTHEW
Sinless	Sovereign	Suffering	Savior

This is the third of three entrance ways. They show Jesus as the way, truth and life (Jn. 14:6). The gate (#1) shows Jesus as the WAY to God (not by works, family, etc. Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 2:16). The door (#2) shows Jesus as the TRUTH of God (only Jesus' wisdom suffices, He is our light & nourishment, Jn. 4:25). The veil (#3) shows Jesus as the LIFE of God (I Jn. 1:1-2; Jn. 3). The veil stands for Jesus' life, His body.

THE VEIL

The 15' by 15' square veil hanging from the pillars was of fine linen (the purity and righteousness of Jesus). It was embroidered with red, blue and scarlet thread in the design of a cherubim. The significance is the same as with the curtain above - showing God's majesty and power, His greatness and sovereignty. This third opening is the same size as the second opening, but while that was open this is closed, keeping everyone out.



DOOR #2 VEIL (Door #3)

Way into Holy Place for service, worship	Way into Holy of Holies & God's presence
White linen; scarlet, blue & purple	White linen; scarlet, blue & purple Cherubim
Brass sockets (judgment)	Silver sockets (redemption)
Open to all at all times (way in)	Closed to all at all times (keep out)

The purpose of this veil is to protect God's holiness by keeping sinful man out of His presence, lest man be instantly destroyed. The veil was to show separation of man and God -- but it wasn't a wall (promising that the way would one day be open).

Only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies, past the veil, and then just once a year, the Day of Atonement. Then he had to come with innocent blood (Lev. 16:2; Heb. 9:6-8), access to God is only by blood. Still, he would have a rope tied around his ankle. If the sacrifice was unacceptable to God he was struck dead and would lie there and decay. The rope was used to pull him out. God wasn't being mean, just holy. No sin was allowed in His presence, like no germs are allowed in an operating room.

What does the veil stand for? That's easy, because Hebrews 10:19-20 tells us precisely that it pictures Jesus' body.

VEIL TORN BY CHRIST

The temple Solomon built, and Herod rebuilt, was the same as the tabernacle just larger. The veil in Jesus' day was 30' square and 4" thick. It was a beautiful work of art, gorgeous in design, artistic in color, superb in the minutest detail, and rich in adornment. It was one of the greatest tapestries of the world. It was replaced regularly so as to not weaken. It was tested by oxen pulling on all four corners at once to make sure it was strong. They would take no chance on the barrier protecting man from God's judgment to be broken down.



The very instant Jesus died several things were happening in the temple. For one, the passover lamb for the whole nation was being killed. Also, a priest was at the altar of incense offering prayers to God. right in front of his eyes the large veil tore from top to bottom, born by the hands of God (Mt. 27:46-52; Mk. 15:34-38; Lk. 23:44-46). Jesus had just said "It is finished," referring the work of reconciling God and man. Tearing the veil was God's way of saying, "Now we don't need this any more." As Jesus body was torn, so was the veil in the temple. In the Lord's Supper we 'break' bread, memorializing this very event. The veil was torn from top to bottom, showing God considered Jesus' sacrifice sufficient payment for the sins of the world. It was torn in the middle so it would be obvious to all, like Jesus was crucified publicly before all. It was torn completely, the barrier was removed, not just part way or allowing a peak inside.

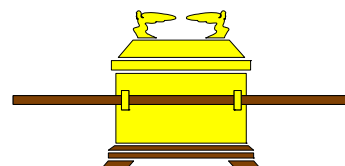
This event ended the old way, the law, and instituted the new -- grace (Heb. 10:19-22). Now we can come into God's presence any time we want. We don't have to wait for one man to represent us, once a year, with a rope around his leg. Every time we pray we come into God's presence as that priest did. Our access is because of what Jesus did on the cross. That's what we say when we pray "in Jesus' name." Our privilege of access is through Jesus. We don't appreciate what a privilege prayer is, or what praying "in Jesus' name" really means. Again we see that all we have comes from Jesus' death. His life condemns us, for it shows our sin & failure. His death opens the way into God for all of us. Thank Him for that each time you enter His presence in prayer!

T H E T A B E R N A C L E

13. ARK of the COVENANT

By Jerry Schmoyer

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While the whole Old Testament speak of Jesus, the Exodus from Egypt is especially rich in significance. Paul recognized this and told the Corinthians (I Cor. 10) so. The closer man got to God's presence, the richer and deeper the spiritual truths got. As we enter God's throne room on earth, the Holy Place, we truly walk on holy ground. Like Moses, we must take off our shoes as we walk on this holy ground!

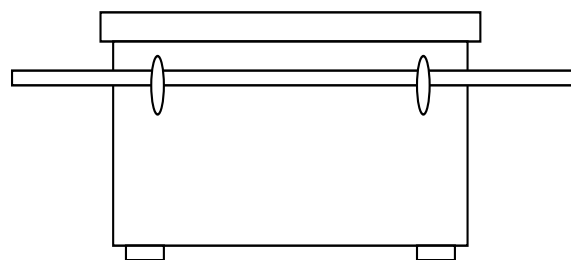
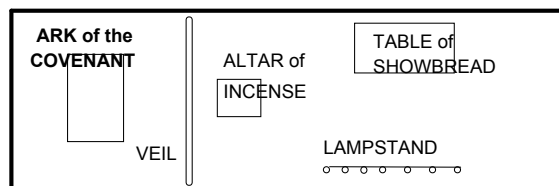
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The only piece of furniture in the Holy of Holies was the ark of the covenant with the mercy seat on top. It is the most important article in the tabernacle, what everything else points to. There are seven different names for the ark (all have 'ark' in them). More is recorded about its history and all the other pieces of furniture combined. The Philistine's god Dagon fell face-down before the ark when it was in his presence, and disease broke out in everywhere they took it (I Sam. 5). It still is talked about today, with movies like "Raiders of the Lost Ark" speculating about its existence (I don't think man will find it unless God allows it to be found for His glory -- like finding Noah's Ark and the Dead Sea scrolls).

The ark always went before the people when they moved. God would lead from the ark, and everyone would follow. It, too, was made as God instructed (Ex. 25:10-16; 37:1-5).

CONSTRUCTION OF THE ARK

"Ark" means "place of safety, security," and thus it was used of a place to keep things safe. It is also used of Noah's ark and baby Moses' ark in the bulrushes. It was made of wood (humanity of Jesus, Isa. 53:2); covered with gold (deity of Jesus, Col. 2:9). It was 2'-3" long and high and 3'-9" wide. It speaks of Jesus as God and man (Jn. 1:1, 14). There was a gold crown (Jesus' glory and honor) around the top to hold the mercy seat in place. Rings and poles assured the Jews it, and therefore God's presence, would be with them wherever they went. It was anointed with oil before traveling, as Jesus by the Holy Spirit before starting His mission (Ex. 30:22-33). While traveling it was covered with the veil which separated the holy place and the holy of holies, then a dugong skin (humility and protection), and a blue cloth on top. It was the only article that wasn't covered with dugong while traveling, showing it contained heavenly (blue) things.



CONTENTS OF THE ARK

As a box for safety and security, what it carried was of the most importance. Hebrews 9:1-5 gives the record of its contents: tablets of the law, golden bowl full of manna, and Aaron's rod that budded. One of the names is the "Ark of the Testimony" because each of these bear testimony to God's holiness and grace and man's sinfulness and disobedience. They testify to man's failure and God's faithfulness.

LAW	MANNA	ROD
Original 10 commandments Exodus 20:1-17	Gold pot full of manna	Aaron's rod that budded Numbers 17:1-11
OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (We live by Christ, not law) Gal 3:24	OUR RESOURCES (Our day-by-day Help) Ex 16:1-36	OUR RESURRECTION (Life from death) Jn 11:25
SINLESSNESS of Christ to overcome the law	DEATH of Christ to be the Bread of Life	RESURRECTION of Christ to provide eternal life
God's Provision for the SOUL	God's Provision for the BODY	God's Provision for the SPIRIT
GOD and His character	CHRIST and His provision	HOLY SPIRIT & His direction
In Tab. & Temple Word of God is eternal	In Tabernacle only-Needed for Wilderness journey, not needed in Promised Land	In Tabernacle only-Needed for Wilderness journey, not needed in Promised Land

Just like we keep important contracts in a safe box, so the Jews kept their contract with God in the ark. The law couldn't bring salvation, it was to show a person how far short they fell from God's standard and thus their need of God's mercy (Gal. 3:24). We are no longer under the law because Christ bore the curse of the law (Gal. 3:13). The law demanded righteousness, but God gives us righteousness by His grace (Jn. 1:17; Rom. 3:21-22; I Cor. 1:30).

The pot of manna was a memorial of God's goodness to Israel (Ex. 16:3). It reminds us of Christ, the Bread of Life. God provided it as nourishment for the Jews in their wilderness wanderings, as He provides for us in our wilderness wandering through this life (Heb. 9:4).

Aaron's rod that budded shows God's resurrection power. By having Aaron's rod bud when the other rods didn't God showed the Jews that Aaron was His chosen High Priest.

The book of John, showing the deity of Jesus, is structured around the seven (number of perfection) "I am's" in the book. The tabernacle teaches all these same truths:

1. I am the Bread of Life (6:35) - Table of Showbread
2. I am the Light of the World (8:12) - Lampstand
3. I am the Door of the Sheepfold (10:9,11) - Gate through Fence
4. I am the Good Shepherd (10:11) - Bronze Altar, Gate
5. I am the Resurrection and the life (11:25) - Aaron's rod, almond shapes on lampstand
6. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life (14:6) - 3 entrances: gate, door, veil
7. I am the True Vine (15:5) - Lampstand and gold branches

The law was also placed in the temple when Solomon built it, in the same ark. The rest of the furniture was remade, usually more and larger, but they used the same ark. The law, God's Word, will continue for all eternity. The manna and rod, though, weren't put into the temple. They are only needed for this wilderness life. Do you avail yourself of them? Do you feed on Him and depend on His life? They are as available for you as they were for the Jews. Just reach out in faith and receive all God has for you: His Word, His nourishment, and His eternal life.

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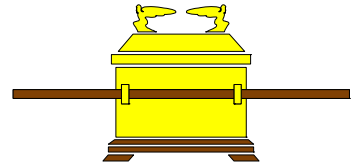
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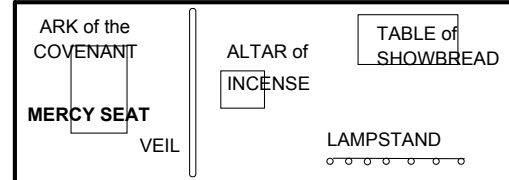
14. THE MERCY SEAT

By Jerry Schmoyer

From 1993 – 1995 our home school group studied the tabernacle together. Each one built their own model at home. It was so interesting that I thought I'd write a summary of each session. Building directions, materials, and videos are available. Contact Jerry Schmoyer, 252 W. State St., Doylestown, Pa. 18901



The blood of Christ is a theme that runs throughout the whole Bible. It starts with innocent blood being shed to cover sin in Eden (Gen. 3) and ends with Christ the Lamb slain and resurrected, in heaven, worshipped by believers in heaven who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 22). The blood is of special significance in the tabernacle. It is shed at the bronze altar and then poured on the mercy seat. To understand the use of the blood on the mercy seat we must first of all understand the mercy seat itself.

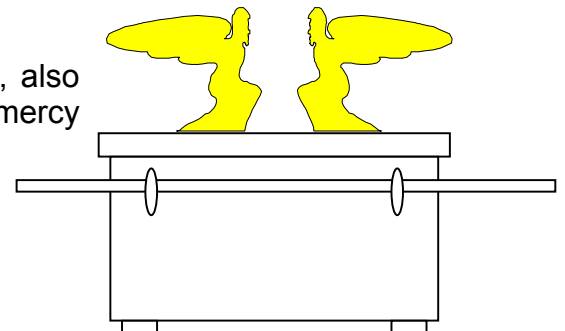


THE GOLD

The mercy seat was to be made of solid gold (Ex. 25:17-22; 37:6-9). It was a flat piece of gold that was actually the lid of the ark of the covenant. The only other piece of furniture that was solid gold was the lampstand, and this was much larger. It was 2'-3" by 3'-9". Therefore it was the most valuable piece of furniture, the most precious in God's sight. As valuable as the gold was, it was the precious blood (picturing Jesus' blood) that really gave it its value.

THE CHERUBIM

On top of this lid were two cherubim, also beaten out of the same piece of gold as the mercy seat. Cherubim were also embroidered on the roof curtain and veil. They symbolize God's power and majesty. They spring up from the mercy seat showing God's power and majesty come from His mercy. They are one with the mercy seat, showing God's power and majesty can't be separated from His other attributes (like forgiveness and holiness), all rooted in His deity (solid gold). The cherubim shows God's power and majesty, and being gold intensifies the deity and greatness of God. These cherubim are described seven times (the number of perfection - Ex. 25:17-22).



GOD'S DWELLING PLACE

The space between these cherubim was the most important place in the tabernacle, actually the most important place on earth, for that is where God's presence was (I Sam. 4:4; II Sam. 6:2; II Ki. 19:15; Ps. 80:1; 99:1). It was His throne (Rev. 11:19). Called the 'Shekinah' glory (meaning God's 'Presence'), this is where God was and from where He spoke to man (Num. 7:8-9; Ex. 25:22).

In New Testament times God's presence was in Christ, who was God. He 'tabernacled' on earth (Jn. 1:1-14). Jesus was called 'Immanuel' meaning 'God with

us' (Isa. 7:14; Mt. 1:23).

When the blood was poured there was the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) - Lev. 17. Aaron offered one goat on the burnt altar, catching his blood in a gold basin. Some was sprinkled on a second goat (the 'scape goat') and the rest brought into the Holy of Holies by the high priest, with a rope tied around his ankle. If the offering was rejected by God the priest was struck dead. The blood was then sprinkled on the mercy seat (Lev. 16:14). This was done seven times (sacred perfection). There is no way man could enter God's presence without the innocent blood (Heb. 9:22). The writer of Hebrews says Christ (symbolically) took His blood to God to offer as the final sacrifice for all sin (9:24-28). Christ's sacrifice on Calvary was what the Day of Atonement pointed to. He fulfilled, it was never needed again. That's why the veil was torn by God, it wasn't needed any more.

CHRIST'S BLOOD

Everything in the tabernacle is a picture of Jesus' sacrifice for us (Heb. 9:11-14). The tabernacle, especially the mercy seat, was where God man. The lid on top of the ark of the covenant was called the "mercy seat" because that is what it did. It is used 26 times in the Old Testament and 4 in the New Testament. The New Testament uses are especially significant: I Jn. 2:2; 4:10; Heb 9:5; Rom. 3:21-25. The word translated "mercy seat" in the Old Testament is here translated "atonement" or "propitiation." Literally this means "to cover," for Jesus' blood covers our sins, pictured by the blood covering the mercy seat in the tabernacle. It means He satisfied God's demands on sin. He paid the price of judgment on sin so we can approach God free and clear. This is what makes Christ our mercy seat (Heb. 10:19-22).



Everything depends on the blood. That is why the Cherubim are pictured looking down at the blood. They are interested in the unfolding of God's redemptive purpose. They never experienced grace and redemption themselves, they only see it in us. Because of what it shows about God, they are deeply intrigued (I Pt. 1:11-12; I Cor. 4:9; Eph. 3:10). They are amazed at God showing us mercy - and that's what the "mercy" seat is all about! It shows God's goodness bestowed on the unworthy and undeserving sinner.

The only way to approach God is through Jesus' blood. Trying to come into His presence without the innocent blood brought immediate death and destruction (50,070 men died because of this, I Sam. 6:19-21). Apart from the blood there is no mercy, only judgment.

MERCY 'SEAT'

Notice there are no chairs, stools, benches, etc., anywhere in the tabernacle. The only seat is in the Holy of Holies: the 'mercy seat.' It is a seat because Christ's work is finished (Hebrews 9; 10). Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God the Father (Heb. 10:11-12). That rest is available to us today, too.

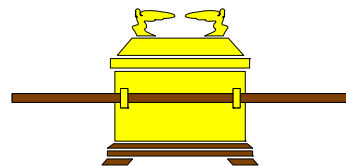
The tabernacle is great in what it shows. It is a beautiful picture of the one we love: three dimensional, moving, brilliant color, sound, just everything. Still, no matter how great a picture may be, it is nothing compared to the real thing! We don't have to just rely on a picture today, we have the real thing! What young man would sit around looking at a picture of his girl friend when she was sitting along side him? He'd look at her. We have the real thing today, Jesus Himself living inside of us. Spend time with Him, enjoy Him, worship and praise Him, trust and obey Him, thank Him for His blood shed for us. We enter His presence because of the blood, there is nothing we can add to it. God wants us to come "Just As I Am." Have you come? The blood is available for all!

T H E T A B E R N A C L E

15. SHEKINAH GLORY

By Jerry Schmoyer

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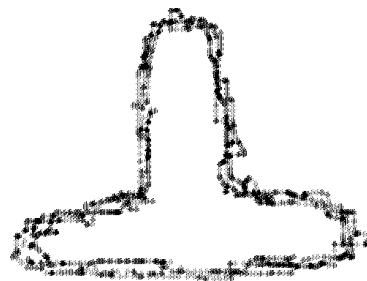
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1 - Jesus is God, as shown by the gold, blue, linen in the tabernacle). The Word became flesh and made his dwelling (lit. 'tabernacled') among us. (John 1:14a - Jesus as man, as shown by the wood and scarlet in the tabernacle). We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14b - all is to show Jesus' glory, as in the tabernacle).

The tabernacle wouldn't be anything without God's presence, His Shekinah glory. He dwelt between the cherubim on the mercy seat. His presence was also in the cloud that rose directly above the mercy seat, the cloud that had led the Jews out of Egypt and through the Red Sea.

Following a cloud during the day or fire at night was not unknown to people in ancient times. Generals would carry fire in the front of their armies, giving off much smoke during the day and lost of flame at night. This way everyone in the back and to the sides could see which direction to travel as they followed the cloud/light. Darius and Alexander the Great both did this. Arabs today going on caravans do similar things. God was showing He was Israel's general and king.

GOD IN THE CLOUD

God led Israel out of Egypt by this cloud (Ex. 13:20-22; 14:19-20; Neh. 9:12). The cloud provided direction for the people followed the cloud during the day and the fire at night. It was shaped to give them shade, too, for there was none in the hot desert (doesn't God think of everything!). The light in the cloud was God's glory (Ex. 33:7-11, 14, 19-23; 34:29-35). Mt. Sinai shook when the cloud descended on it (Ex. 19:16-18; 20:18-21; Dt. 9:15; 5:23-26). The cloud was miraculous: it never dissipated, didn't move according to normal meteorological functions, had fire in it at night, and God talked out of it. When God wanted the Jews to move camp during their 40 years of wandering, His cloud would move and therefore the Jews had to move camp, setting up so the mercy seat was right under the cloud when it stopped (Ex. 40:36-38; Num. 9:17-23).



GOD'S GLORY

God has manifested His glory in creation (Ps. 19:1), supernatural intervention in history (II Ki. 19:34-35,19), through the nation Israel (Isa. 46:13; 43:7; 44:23) and through the fire (in the burning bush and then in the cloud). We are here to bring Glory to God, too.

The Hebrew (Old Testament) word for glory is 'kabod' כבוד which means "heavy." It was the word used for the liver, too - the heaviest organ. They would weigh a person down with gifts, money, praise and complements. Paul uses this play on words (II Cor. 4:17). In the New Testament the word for glory is

'doxa' (our word 'doxology' comes from it). It means to hold an opinion. The opinion we have of God gives Him glory. Often 'glory' is used of heaven (Col. 1:27; II Pt. 1:3; Heb. 2:10; Jn. 17:24). When Stephen was stoned he saw God's glory (Acts 7:55). Paul, on the road to Damascus, saw Jesus' glory. In the New Jerusalem there will be no sun for Jesus' glory will be the light. Moses saw this at the burning bush and whenever he met with God (Ex. 33:7-11, 14, 19-23; 34:29-35). This was seen at Jesus' transfiguration, too.

GOD'S GLORY IN THE TABERNACLE

When the tabernacle was finished and dedicated, God's glory went from the cloud down into the tabernacle, on the mercy seat (Ex. 40:34-35; Num. 9:15-16). The fire on the bronze altar to consume sacrifices came from the cloud (Lev. 9:23-24). From then on they kept coals alive and used them for the lampstand and altar of incense, too. When Aaron's sons used fire from another source, they were immediately killed (Lev. 10:1-2).



GOD'S GLORY AFTER THE TABERNACLE

When Solomon built the temple God's glory went into it (II Chron. 7:1-2; 5:14; I Ki. 8:11). Israel was protected and prospered as long as God was there. Because of Israel's repeated sin & rebellion God's presence left the temple (Jer. 52:3; Eze. 11:22-23). He waited on the Mt. of Olives 1 1/2 years, then ascended ("Icabod" I Sam. 4:21) - from the same place Jesus ascended and will return to. God's presence ("Shekinah") will again be in the Millennial Temple (Eze. 43:4-7; Rev. 21:22-24), and God will dwell with His people for all eternity (Isa. 4:5-6).

THE CLOUD SPEAKS OF THE TRINITY

It speaks of God the Father. He speaks from the cloud, offers guidance and protection, and shows His sovereignty. It speaks of God the Son. Whenever God appeared to man or revealed Himself to man, it was the Second Person of the Trinity (Jesus before His birth). It was Jesus before His birth revealing Himself to man (I Cor. 10:9; Jn. 1:1-14; Mt. 17:1-5; II Pt. 1:17; Acts 1:8-9).

Finally, the cloud speaks of God the Holy Spirit. The coming of the Holy Spirit's Shekinah into the tabernacle is similar to the Holy Spirit's coming on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) when the fire came down again. Neither were given until God's people left Egypt (the world) after the innocent blood was shed (Passover Lamb - Jesus on cross). Both were God's free gift (Jn. 4:16), given as a guide (Ex. 13:21; Rom. 8:14; Jn. 16:13-15). They provided light (Ex. 13:21; Neh. 9:12; I Cor. 2:3; Isa. 11:2; Jn. 16:13-14), were a shield & covering (protection) (Ps. 105:39). It was God's vehicle for speaking to man (Ps. 99:7; Ex. 33:9; Num. 12:5; Rev. 2:7, 17, etc.). To unbelievers the cloud was darkness (Ex. 14:20). God stayed faithful to His people despite their sin (Neh. 9:19; Jn. 14:6; Rom. 8:11; Eph. 4:30).

Thus the cloud speaks of the Trinity: God the Father in sovereign control, God the Son giving the light, and God the Holy Spirit providing guidance.

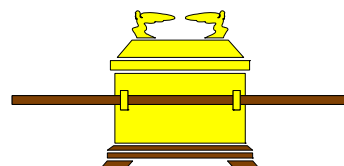
God said to Moses: "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." (Exodus 33:14). Do you have God's presence with you and in you? That is the only way to have rest, peace, and victory in Jesus. Make sure His presence is in you, and remember His main purpose in your life is to show His glory through you. Are you allowing Him to do that? Are you committed to serving Him whatever He would have for you, or do you try to get Him to serve you, doing your will instead of His? He is God. He deserves the glory. Give Him His due!

T H E T A B E R N A C L E

16. CAMP, CONCLUSION

By Jerry Schmoyer

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When you are familiar with the tabernacle on earth, you can better understand what heaven will be like, for the tabernacle is patterned after heaven (Rev. 11:19). In heaven there is an ark and mercy seat (Rev. 11:19), lampstand (Rev. 1:12), golden altar of incense (Rev. 9:13) and bronze altar (Rev. 6:9).

FINISHING THE TABERNACLE

The final finishing details of the tabernacle are given in Exodus 39:32 - 40:33. Again, everything was done exactly according to God's precise standards.

FURNITURE	SYMBOL	TYPE
BRONZE ALTAR	Atonement through Sacrifice	Atonement of Christ
BRONZE LAVER	Spiritual renewal	Regeneration & renewal by the Holy Spirit
TABLE OF SHOWBREAD	Spiritual sustenance	Christ the Bread of Life
LAMPSTAND	Spiritual illumination	Christ the light of the world, esp. His people
ALTAR OF INCENSE	Acceptable supplication	Prayer in the name of Jesus
THE ARK	Access through covenant	Christ as our covenant access
MERCY SEAT	Acceptance at the throne of God	Acceptance with God in Christ

THE TABERNACLE AND JOHN

There is amazing similarity between the tabernacle and the Gospel of John, as seen before in the seven "I Am's." Both reveal Jesus.

BRONZE ALTAR: John 1 "Behold the Lamb of God which takes away sin."

LAVER: John 3 "Except a man be born by water and the Spirit..."

TABLE OF SHOWBREAD: John 4-6 Jesus the bread of life

GOLDEN LAMPSTAND: John 8-9 Jesus the light of the world

ALTAR OF INCENSE: John 14-16 Jesus teaches disciples to pray

John 17 Jesus' High Priestly prayer of intercession

ARK & MERCY SEAT: John 18-19 Christ sacrificed, blood poured out

CAMP AROUND THE TABERNACLE

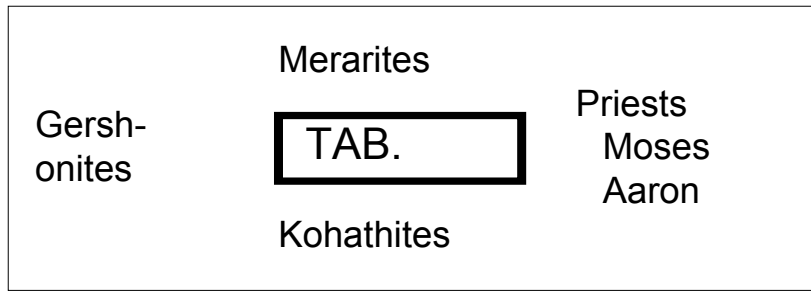
God planned exactly how everyone was to camp around the tabernacle (Num. 1:1 - 2:34). He was in the midst of His people, as He is today (Mt. 18:20).

NORTH

Asher Dan Naphtali

WEST

Manasseh
Ephraim
Benjamin



EAST

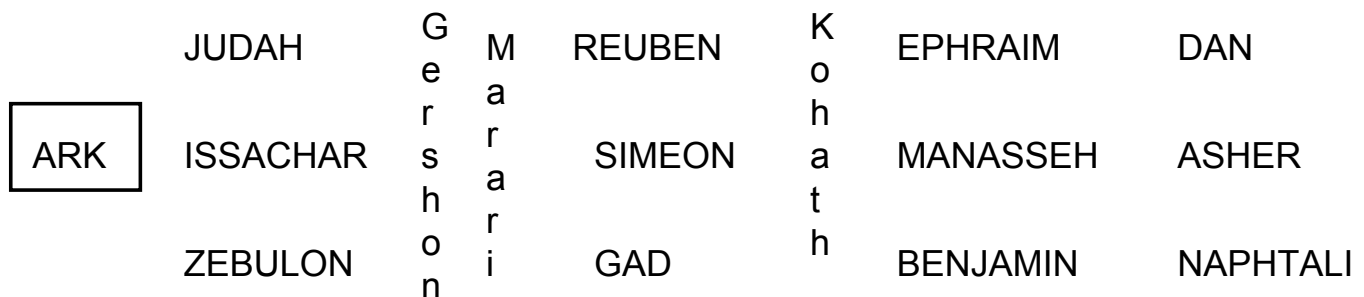
Zebulon
Judah
Issachar

Simeon Reuben Gad

SOUTH

TRAVEL WITH THE TABERNACLE

Duties and responsibilities for traveling were spelled out, too (Num. 3:1 - 4:33). Even the distribution of wagons was given (Num. 7:3-9) as well as the order of march (Num. 10:11-28). The Levites were spread throughout the 12 tribes. Each family of the Levites has special responsibility. Aaron's family was the priests. The oldest son of the oldest son was the high priest. Kohathites carried the furniture while traveling (Num. 4:1-20). Gershonites took down, carried and put up the material pieces (fence, doors, curtains & coverings) (Num. 4:21-28). The Merarites carried wood and metal items: boards, fences, bars, pillars, sockets, pins and cords (Num. 4:29-33). When the cloud would lift everyone would break camp. When all were ready to leave two blasts on a silver trumpet would signal the start (Ex. 32:26-27). The cloud would slowly move out (God's guidance) and the priests carrying the ark would follow, keeping the ark under it. When God had them where He wanted them the cloud would stop and descend and the tabernacle would be set up around the mercy seat. The walls would be built, the pillars put in separating the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies, and priests would lift the veil off the mercy seat and back out of the Holy of Holies, hanging the curtain on the pillars. Taking it down was done just the opposite. This way there was never a person between the veil and the mercy seat (except on the Day of Atonement).



This shows how organized and systematic God is. It reminds us, too, that we are strangers and pilgrims in this world, with no permanent home until we reach our Promised Land - heaven!

I would be interested in hearing from you about any comments, suggestions or questions you might have. If you teach the tabernacle let me know how it goes. If you discover any resources or truths that are helpful, PLEASE let me know. I'm just learning, too. Jerry Schmoyer, 252 W. State St., Doylestown, Pa. 18901 (215-348-8086). God bless you!