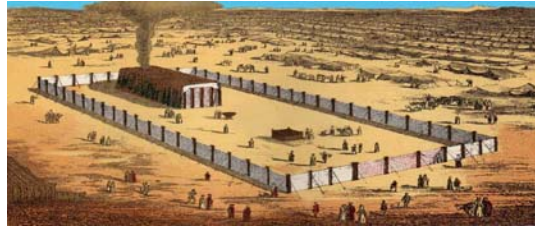


An Overview of The Tabernacle – Exodus 25:25-31:34; 35:1-40:38

Key Verse: Exodus 25:8 – God chose the Tabernacle as the place to _____ with Israel.



Key Observation: God chose to reveal many things about His character, the _____, and worship through the Tabernacle.

Exodus 25:1-31:34 – The Tabernacle blueprints gave God’s precise plan.

- A. Exodus 25:1-9 – God commanded that specific materials be used in His dwelling and given by those motivated to give – 2 Corinthians 9:7.
 1. Exodus 25:1 – The plans for the Tabernacle were direct _____ revelation from God.
 2. Exodus 25:3-7 – These expensive building materials came from the riches they took from _____. Exodus 12:33-36.
 3. Exodus 25:8a – God the Holy Spirit devoted fifty chapters of the Bible to this divine dwelling place.
 4. Exodus 25:8b – The purpose of this structure was to provide a place for the _____ Glory of holy God to dwell with His people.
 5. Exodus 25:9 – Moses had to follow God’s plan exactly because the divine design created a shadow (an earthly copy) of the heavenly Tabernacle. Hebrews 9:1



- B. Exodus 25:10-22 – The Ark of the Covenant was the _____ of the Tabernacle.
 1. Exodus 25:10-11 – This small box was made with Acacia wood, overlaid with gold inside and out, and fitted with a gold molding.
 2. Exodus 25:12-15 - To carry it, two poles made of the same materials were inserted in four gold rings fastened at the bottom of the box. The Ark was only to be carried by the priests with these poles – 2 Samuel 6.
 3. Exodus 25:16 – The Ark eventually held three specific objects – Hebrews 9:4.
 - a. The manna was a sufficient, satisfying, and sustaining food provision. Exodus 16:18, 31, 35.
 - b. Aaron’s rod that budded symbolized that Aaron and his descendants were God’s chosen priesthood. Numbers 16-17.
 - c. The tablets symbolized the moral law, which humanity is unable to obey perfectly.

4. Exodus 25:17-21 – The Mercy Seat, which was the top of the chest, supported two golden Cherubim (intelligent, powerful, winged, angelic creatures often associated with God’s presence) – Genesis 3:24.
5. Exodus 25:22 – After the tabernacle was finished exactly as God instructed, Moses talked to Him in the Holy of Holies, the location of the Ark.
6. The ark’s significance related to symbolizing the presence of eternal God with His people, Israel.
 - a. The ark’s costly materials pictured the integrity (holy character) of God.
 - b. Interestingly, God designed the ark of His presence of two materials, one prone to decay (wood) and one with endurance (gold). Christ, who was God present among men, is both human (Philippians 2:6-7; Hebrews 2:14-15, 4:15) and eternal God.



C. Exodus 25:23-30 – The Table of Showbread

1. Exodus 25:23 – Because this description came immediately after God’s announcement of meeting and speaking, the table of showbread focuses on fellowship.
2. Exodus 25:24-29 – Like the ark, the table had a gold molding and four rings for carrying it with poles; the serving vessels used by the priests were made of pure gold.
3. Exodus 25:30 – The unleavened bread came from the sacrificial giving of the people and was kept continually before the Lord.
4. The Table of Showbread pictured continual _____ with God, who had established a contract with them.
 - a. Typologically the table, like the Ark, emphasized the combined humanity and _____ of Jesus, and the bread pictured Him as the bread of life – John 6:35-58.
 - b. Faith comes from hearing the word of life about the bread of life – Romans 10:17.
 - c. Maintaining fellowship with the Lord requires continual feasting on the Word of God – 1 John 1:1, 10.



D. Exodus 25:31-40 – The golden lampstand provided light for the Holy Place.

1. Exodus 25:31a – The pure gold lampstand was the most ornate furnishing in the Tabernacle and its uniqueness sets it apart from the other articles of furniture.
2. Exodus 25:31b-36 - The lampstand resembled an olive tree but had almond blossoms on it which are often associated with God’s faithfulness – Jeremiah 1:11-12.
3. Exodus 25:37-39 – Like the other tools in the Holy place, the lamps, snuffers, and trays were made of pure gold highlighting the presence of God.
4. Exodus 25:40 – Moses made the Lampstand according to the _____ shown to him by God.

5. The continual burning of the lamps reflected God's _____ presence over Israel.
 - a. The primary feature of the lampstand was light. The light shone in the darkness so the priests could see to perform their priestly duties.
 - b. The lampstand pictures Jesus, the Light of the world (John 8:12). He brings spiritual light to the spiritual darkness of this world and gives light (the ability to see the truth). John 1:4-5.
- E. Exodus 26:1-30 – The walls of the Tabernacle, which were made of interlocking, wood planks, surrounded two rooms and had a three-layer fabric roof spread tightly over the top.
 1. Exodus 26:1-6 – The inner curtains, were made of skillfully _____ cloth in three colors (blue, purple, and scarlet) with cherubim worked into the fabric.
 2. Exodus 26:7-14 – The slightly larger, protective curtains were made of goat hair, ram skins, and porpoise skins which were connected with loops of bronze – the materials less in value the farther removed from the inner Tabernacle.
 3. Exodus 26:15-29 – The wall boards and bars provided stability for the Tabernacle along with easiness of disassembling and assembling.
 4. Exodus 26:30 – God not only gave Moses a verbal description of the tabernacle but showed him what it looked like – Hebrews 8:5.



- F. Exodus 26:31-37 – The veil and the arrangement of the furniture
 1. Exodus 26:31-33 – The Veil, which was made of one piece of cloth, separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.
 2. Exodus 26:34 - The ark was inside the Most Holy Place, a small, inner room separated from the Holy Place by the veil.
 3. Exodus 26:35 – The table of showbread was on the north side of the Holy Place, and the Lampstand, on the south side.
 4. Exodus 26:36 - The outside screen (or curtain door), which was the work of a skilled weaver, was different from the inside curtain (the veil).
 5. Exodus 26:37 - The posts for the outside screen (curtain door) were set in sockets of bronze while the inside curtain called the Veil was set in silver sockets.
 6. The Tabernacle was a copy of the heavenly structure seen by Moses, making it a piece of heaven on earth.
 - a. God designed the entire structure to show His absolute _____ character, which demands respect.
 - b. Typologically, the work of Christ removed the veil so that anyone can come into the presence of the Father through Him – Matthew 27:50-51.



- G. Exodus 27:1-8 – The Israelites were most familiar with the _____ of sacrifice.
1. Exodus 27:1-2 – Made of bronze, the altar of sacrifice could withstand the heat of the fires of the sacrifices.
 2. Exodus 27:3-5 – The altar's utensils and grating were also made of bronze.
 3. Exodus 27:6-8 – The altar of sacrifice had to be portable like the other pieces of the Tabernacle; therefore, it was hollow.
 4. God is holy and those with whom God identifies Himself must be holy – Leviticus 11:44-45.
 - a. Typologically, the sacrifices on the altar foreshadowed the Lamb of God who would be sacrificed to take away the sins of the world. John 1:29.
 - b. The altar continually reminded of the need for a _____ to enter God's holy presence and impressed upon them the seriousness of sin.
- H. Exodus 27:9-19 – The courtyard fence served as another boundary, separating those on the outside from God's holiness on the inside.
1. Exodus 27:9-11 – A fence of woven linen hangings enclosed the outer court large enough for the operation of the Tabernacle
 2. Exodus 27:12-15 – The only entrance into the Tabernacle was on the eastern side, meaning those entering walked away from the east toward the west.
 3. Exodus 27:16-18 – The gate, which was 9 meters (30') wide, was made of the same fabric as the inner curtain of the Tabernacle providing a connection between the two entrances.
 4. Exodus 27:19 – Ropes secured by a hook on each post stabilized the courtyard fence.
 5. The Tabernacle structure allowed God to dwell in the midst of His people Israel without _____ His holiness because a barrier separated holy God from sinful man.
 - a. Separation is a key theme running through the Tabernacle structure: the closer one comes to God's presence the greater grandeur one encounters.
 - b. Typologically, the one entrance reflected the reality of only one _____ to God.
 6. Exodus 27:20-21 – The priests' responsibility to care for the lamp and the people's responsibility to provide the oil were necessary for the lamp to keep burning and God's presence to remain with them.
 - a. The oil provided the fuel for the Lampstand which gave the _____ for the Holy Place.
 - b. Aaron and his sons were responsible to keep the lamps _____ 24/7.



- I. Exodus 28:1-43 – The priesthood would perform the services in the Tabernacle.
1. Exodus 28:1-5 – Moses described the clothing for Aaron and his sons briefly here and in more detail later – the specific clothing signified authority in the ancient world.
 2. Exodus 28:6-14 – The ephod, a type of apron worn on the priest's chest, was made of the same material as the curtains in the Tabernacle and the stones served as a reminder that the high priest did not just represent himself but all the sons of Israel.
 3. Exodus 28:15-30 – The breast piece was ornamental, connected to the ephod, and held the stones by which the priest sometimes received special revelation for the Nation Israel – Leviticus 8:8; Numbers 27:21; 1 Samuel 28:6.
 4. Exodus 28:31-35 – The blue robe enhanced the ephod without drawing attention from it with bells alternating with cloth pomegranates making a beautiful garment to be worn by the mediator for Israel.
 5. Exodus 28:36-38 – The unique headgear emphasized the exclusivity of the office of the high priest set apart unto the Lord's service.
 6. Exodus 28:39 – The tunic was a shirt worn under the other clothing made of fine quality linen for the priests serving in the presence of the King of the Universe
 7. Exodus 28:40-43 – The uniform of the attending priests was simple compared to the clothing of the High Priest but still made of the same fine linen.
 8. The special clothing of the priests reflected their special _____ in a special place called the Tabernacle. Psalm 132:9; Zechariah 3.
 - a. Our God is a God of detail and order as illustrated by the organization of the priesthood's clothing – 1 Corinthians 14:40.
 - b. Typologically, the High Priest as a mediator between God and man foreshadowed the great High Priest, Jesus Christ. Hebrews 4:15-16.
- J. Exodus 29:1-46 – Aaron and his sons were inducted into (officially included in) the priesthood of Israel.
1. Exodus 29:1a – The responsibility of the priest was to serve Yahweh in faith obedience.
 2. Exodus 29:1b-9 – All the ceremony and details better qualified these men for God's service.
 3. Exodus 29:10-14 – Laying their hands on the substitute sacrifice identified them with it.
 4. Exodus 29:15-18 – Burning the whole animal (the burnt offering) pictured its sufficiency and complete satisfaction as an atoning sacrifice.
 5. Exodus 29:19-30 – The initial wave offering went to Moses as a one-time gift. Later, the wave offering went to the priest who performed the sacrifice.

6. Exodus 29:31-34 – The ritual of eating the flesh emphasized identification. The person believed that the sacrifice represented him.
7. Exodus 29:35-37 – The entire ceremony continued for one week.
8. Exodus 29:38-46 – Sacrificing a one year old, male lamb in the morning and one in the evening totaled 720 lambs sacrificed each year.
9. Old Testament priests had to be identified with a blood sacrifice to be acceptable to God - Identification with the divinely appointed substitute is necessary before service can be possible.
 - a. The sacrifice of the Great Mediator Jesus Christ provided the positional cleansing that makes us acceptable to God. Titus 3:5-7.
 - b. As the anointed oil set the Priests apart for service, the Holy Spirit sets us apart for service – 2 Thessalonians 2:13.



- K. Exodus 30:1-10 – The altar of incense was connected to the priests duties as mediator.
 1. Exodus 30:1 - The altar of incense was made in the same way as the other articles in the Tabernacle except the solid gold lampstand.
 2. Exodus 30:2-5 - The altar of incense was much smaller than the altar of sacrifice, but similar with its four horns pointing in every direction.
 3. Exodus 30:6 - The altar was in front of the veil – Exodus 40:5; Hebrews 9:1-5.
 4. Exodus 30:7-10 – Aaron, the High Priest, burned the incense every morning and evening when he trimmed the lamps.
 - a. Comparing these verses with Exodus 29:38-42 shows that the burning of incense coincided with the morning and evening _____.
 - b. These sacrifices and the trimming and burning of incense occurred about every twelve hours.
 5. Exodus 30:34-38 – A priest ground the incense ingredients together into a powder and set it apart (sanctified it) unto the Lord.
 6. The burning of incense illustrated prayer – Luke 1:8-10.
 - a. The continual burning of incense should remind us of the mandate to pray without _____ . 1 Thessalonians 5:16.
 - b. Our great High Priest Jesus Christ prays for those who are *in Christ* through faith alone in Him alone – 1 John 2:1.
- L. Exodus 30:11-16 – The census was needed to raise money for the operation of the Tabernacle.

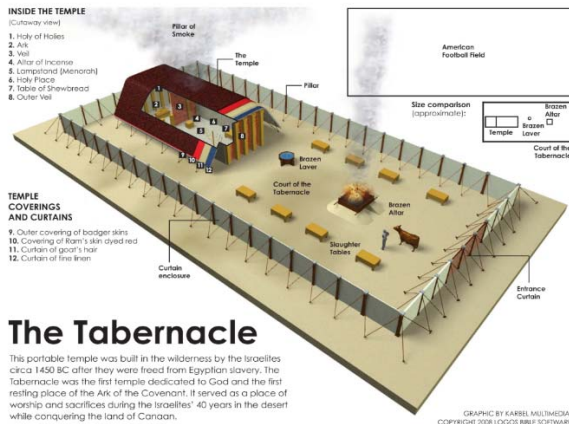
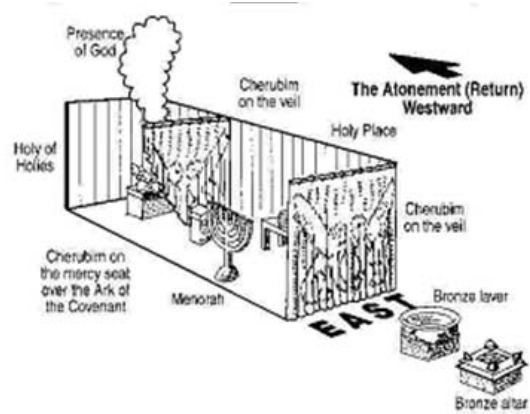
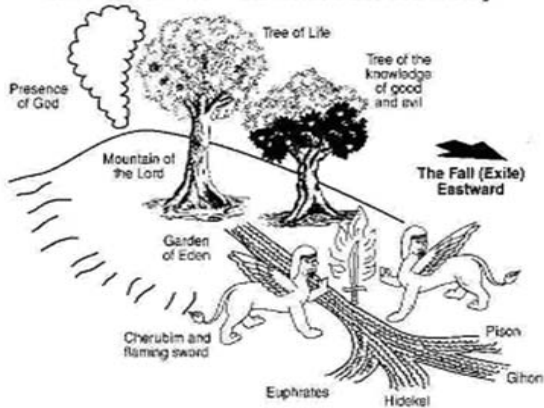


- M. Exodus 30:17-21 – The final piece of furniture was the bronze laver whereby the priests were experientially cleansed for service.
1. Exodus 30:17 – Moses reminded the Israelites that every detail of the Tabernacle came from the very Word of God.
 2. Exodus 30:18 – The washings provided a constant visualization of the concept of _____.
 3. Exodus 30:19-21 – The danger of _____ constantly looming over the priests served as a constant reminder to treat God as holy.
 4. Only the cleansed believer can approach the throne room of God and serve Him; therefore, he must confess his sins to serve God – 1 John 1:9.
 - a. The focus of 1 John 1:9 is on cleansing as mentioned above in 1 John 1:7.
 - b. The condition for cleansing is based on confessing sins as per 1 John 1:9 as indicated in other parts of the New Testament with different terminology for the concept of confession – 1 Peter 2:1-2; James 1:21; Hebrews 12:1-2.
- N. Exodus 30:22-33 – The anointing oil also emphasized the importance of _____.
- O. Exodus 31:1-11 – Only the best materials were used in the Tabernacle, and only the best _____ could fulfill God’s plan.
- P. Exodus 31:12-18 – Just as the rainbow was the sign of God’s covenant with Noah, so the Sabbath was the sign of His covenant with Israel. Exodus 35:1-3.
1. Exodus 31:12-13 - The observance of the Sabbath served as a weekly reminder of Israel’s set-apart status (sanctification) as a nation unto God.
 2. Exodus 31:14-17 – Profaning the Sabbath with normal, daily work resulted in death.
 3. Exodus 31:18 – The tablets of law introduced here played a role in the golden calf events that follow in chapter 32.

Q. Closing Thoughts:

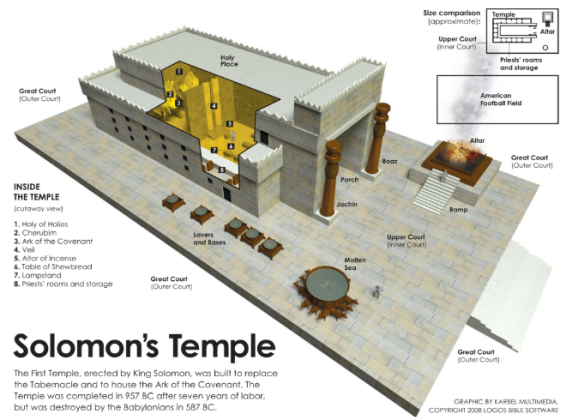
- a. The Tabernacle was a piece of Heaven on earth since the structure was made in such a way as to pattern the _____ plans in the Heavens.
- b. The Tabernacle serves as a microcosm of the _____ designed to demonstrate the absolute holy character of God.
- c. Access to Creator/God requires a perfect sacrifice _____ to the Lord – John 1:29.
- d. The work of Christ has removed the _____ of access so that anyone can come into the presence of the Father through Christ – 1 Timothy 2:5-6.
- e. The same God who dwelt in the Tabernacle is the same Creator Who _____ creation today and dwells in you as a believer in Christ – 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20.

The Garden of Eden and the Sanctuary



The Tabernacle

This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1450 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifices during the Israelites' 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan.



Solomon's Temple

The First Temple, erected by King Solomon, was built to replace the Tabernacle and to house the Ark of the Covenant. The Temple was completed in 957 BC after seven years of labor, but was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC.