

The Tabernacle



Exodus 25-40

What is the tabernacle?

The tabernacle was a movable “tent of meeting” that God Commanded Moses to build. God wanted to dwell among his people, the Israelite. He wanted to have fellowship with them and be able to communicate with them.

The tabernacle and its courtyard were constructed according to a pattern set by God, not by Moses. We study the tabernacle to understand the steps the Lord laid out for a sinful people to approach a Holy God. The tabernacle was built approximately 1440 BC. And was a place where God dwelt

The Tabernacle (Exodus 25:1-9)

If Moses was here, his testimony would be "I have to the mountain, and I have seen the glory of the Lord". Think how Moses must have felt when he heard the voice of God commanding him to come up to the mountain "Come up to me". How he must sensed the drawing power of God when he left Aaron, Hur, Joshua and the elders of Israel to ascend in to the presence of God. What awe must have filed being, when, at the summit, he experienced the envelopment of God's glory.

For six days, Moses sat in silent contemplating waiting for direction from God. Then suddenly, the silence was broken on the 7th day when God spoke to Moses out of the cloud, "Speak into the house of Israel...and let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the furnishings thereof, even so shall you make it" (Ex 25 2:8-9)

The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. We see in the Tabernacle, the picture of Jesus and His ministry, the picture of the true pattern of the Christian faith walk, and the true pattern and realities of our New Testament priesthood in Christ hidden in the Old Testament priesthood types and service.

The New Testament Church

All over the world God's Spirit is moving today to call out a people for His name. God is preparing the world for the second coming of Jesus. He is ordering world

events and watching over His Word with a careful eye. God is at the same time preparing the Bride of Christ for a marriage that is not too far off in the distant future.

That Bride is the Church of Jesus Christ. God is moving by His Spirit in these days to get the Church ready for the coming of the Lord. The Bride that Jesus returns for will have to be a prepared bride.

The Bride that He returns for is to be a glorious, wrinkle-free Bride that reflects the glory and image of her heavenly Husband. In these days of preparation, God wants to bring the Church to strength and power. He wants the Church actually become all that she was intended to be. He wants to use the Church as His powerful instrument in the earth to extend His Kingdom and achieve His purpose.

Our seminars are intended to help the Body of Christ better understand God's glorious purpose in the Church and their individual part in that purpose. They are intended to give the people of God a vision from God's perspective rather than man's. They are intended to expound on God's Plan from the beginning.

The Church - The Mystery

A Mystery before, but now revealed. Part of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to let God's people in on what He plans to do. He is the One who reveals the deep things of God, the things that God has prepared and the very purposes of God, to the spirit of man (**1 Cor.2:9-11**). He is the One, whose ministry includes showing us the things of the Lord even the things which are to come (**John 16:15-16**).

He is the One who will lead us and guide us in all truth. Even as God by His Spirit revealed His plans and purposes to the faithful Simeon prior to the first coming of the Lord (**Luke 2:26**), so also we can expect God by His Spirit to give the faithful insight into His plans and purposes in these days prior to the second coming, that we stand with Simeon in terms of preparedness to meet the Lord when He comes not as the Lamb of God again, but as the Bridegroom Who returns for His Bride.

It is so important for us to recognize that God wants to have a special relationship to His people. He wants to reveal Himself in a special way. He wants to entrust us with stewardship over the "mysteries" of God (**I Cor.4:1**).

Mysteries in the bible; there are many.

God's plan culminates in His purpose from the beginning. His eternal purpose was, is and will be accomplished by the church, the many-membered body of Jew and gentile, based on the acceptance of the sacrifice of His Son, to be prepared as the eternal companion of His Son, to rule with Him.

The mystery of God that Paul refers to involves the eternal purpose of God. God gave Paul an understanding in his area that had been hidden in times past. The revelation that Paul received totally transformed his life and ministry. When we come to a revelation of what God for all time has been moving toward, we too, will be changed in our perspective and life motivations, for God has a glorious purpose for His people.

Too often when seeking to understand the purposes of God:

† We have looked at God's dealings with the Jew and made that the whole.

† We have looked at God's dealings with the believer and have made that the whole.

† We have looked at God's desire to destroy the works of darkness and have made that the whole.

† We have looked at God's desire to make us worshippers and have made that the whole.

But the thing that God is wanting us to do is to come up and sit with Him in heavenly places, where we can get a true perspective of His eternal purpose. When we do this we will see that all of the aspects or portions of truth have a place and fit beautifully into the whole.

There is a place for the church; there is a place for character development and worship. They are all important. There is no contradiction. They all relate to the whole. Everything God has done has been essential for the ultimate realization of the divine purpose. When we see that one purpose, all of God's dealing with man come into proper perspective, and we begin to see how we as individuals fit into the plan of God that he has had from before the foundation of the world.

The Church - Gods eternal plan - the many-remembered body - the revelation of the mystery (Jew and gentile in one body) - to be prepared as a Bride (that is the GREAT MYSTERY) revealed in the times.

1. Determined by God. (1Joh.5:7/ 2Cor. 13: 1/ Eph. 1:9)

The plan God originates in God; is determined by God; it is a plan made after the model of God, the model of heaven itself. That plan God gave unto Moses as a blueprint even for us on whom the end of ages is coming.

2. Established before time began. (**Eph. 1:4/ 2 Tim. 1:9/ Tit. 1:2**)

Before God did anything He had a plan. He had a blueprint. He had a goal in mind to which all His creative energy would move. All of God's actions and doings are in perfect harmony.

3. Hidden in ages past. (**Eph.5:5/ Matth.13:7/ 1 Petr.1:10-12/ Rom.16:25-26**) The patriarchs and the prophets were living in days of shadow and form when the revelation of the mystery was kept secret. '

4. Made manifest in the present age. (**Eph.3:1-5/ Rom.16:26-26/ Col.1:26**)

Particularly Paul reminds us constantly that God's purpose is now made manifest. We live no longer in the age of shadows, we are living in the light of the Holy Spirit who is ready to illuminate our understanding.

God's plan will be accomplished through the Church, **Eph.3:8-11**. It is the Church where all of God's intended purposes will come to realization.

The Church is God's final instrument that He is using to bring about everything that He intended. He is going to use the Church and His operation through the Church to bring us to completion, maturity, perfection and to the lost image (**Eph.4:12-16/ Col.3:10/ Rom.8:28-30**). He is going to use the Church meet His desire for a bride for His Son (**2Cor.6:14/ Eph.5:32**).

† He is going to use the Church to rule and reign with Him for eternity
(**Rev.20:6**).

† He is going to use the Church to bring back mankind into the right relationship to God in fellowship and priestly function (**1Pet 2:5-9/1 John 1:3**).

† He is going to use His Church to fulfill His desire for multiplicity of seed and sinless offspring (**Rev.12**).

When we realize this, it makes the process of God's dealings in our lives so precious and exciting. He is preparing us by His Spirit for eternity! The Plan was initiated on the first pages of Genesis and it is achieved in the closing pages of the Book of Revelation.

The Tabernacle - Exodus 25-30

The Tabernacle (Hebrew: **מִשְׁכָּן**, mishkan, "residence" or "dwelling place"), according to the Hebrew Bible, was the portable dwelling place for the divine presence from the time of the Exodus from Egypt through the conquering of the land of Canaan.

John1:14 "and the word became flesh and dwelt among us..." to read it biblically according to the Hebrew bible, "and the word became flesh and **TABERNACLE** among us"

In the Old Testament days God gave the Tabernacle to the Israelites so He could LIVE among them. Exod. 25:8 "And let them make Me a Sanctuary, that I may DWELL among them." Exod. 29:45 "And I will DWELL among the children of Israel, and will be their God."

Let me put it this way. 1 Cor 6:19 "...do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God. And that **you are not your own?**" The Tabernacle was the focal point of israel's community and life, with the tribes dwelling around its four sides (Num 2).

God Himself was the Architect and Chief-Consultant.

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

Moses was the master builder of this plan, and God gave Moses two assistants.

Men filled with wisdom. Exod. 31:1-6 " Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the **son of Hur**, of the tribe of

Judah. ³ And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *manner of workmanship*, ⁴ to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, ⁵ in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all *manner of workmanship*. ⁶ “And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you”

The Tabernacle was made after the pattern in Heaven, God showed this to Moses on Mount Sinai, while he fasted there for forty days and forty nights. God spoke to Moses and said "**Make Me a Tabernacle after the pattern which I showed you in Heaven**" - **Exod. 25:8-9; Hebr. 8:1-5**. Even so the instruments had to be made.

Exod. 25:1-9 Materials needed for the Tabernacle, had to be collected.

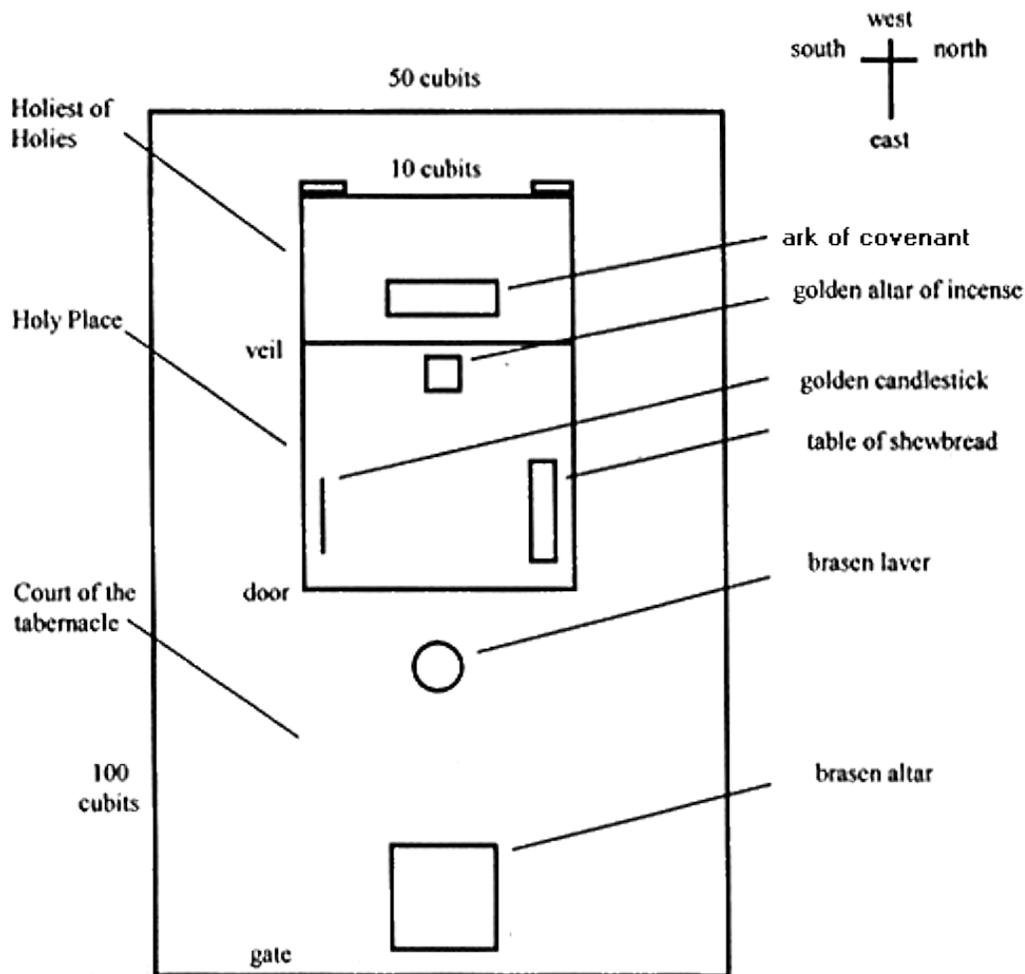
For this God asked an offering from every man who would give it willingly with his heart - verse 2; compare with 2 Cor.9:5-8.

2 Cor.9:5-8	Exodus 25 : 2
Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which <i>you had</i> previously promised, that it may be ready as <i>a matter of</i> generosity and not as a grudging obligation.	“Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering

This tells us of the love of God, through which we should be moved to give all for the benefit of a Tabernacle in Heaven, verses 3-7 what this offering consisted of, and verses 8-9 Meant for the Tabernacle.

In the desert wilderness high top of Mt. Sinai God gave Moses two things for us. At least it appeared that they were two things. What were they? Well, He gave Moses the Ten Commandments including judgments and ordinances: the law. He also gave Moses the pattern of the tabernacle.

Two gifts. These both are gifts so-called for they are given by God that we may live. As we shall presently see, these two gifts are really one. Both the law and the tabernacle were given to us in linear form, and became spatial. The law lives through the tabernacle. God birthed the tabernacle. He was the Father. The earthly parent was the willing (Ex 25:1, 2, 8) married wife (Isa 54:1; Jer 3:1, 14, 20) corporate body of the children of Israel. Conception (Ex 19:1) to birth (Ex 40:17) was nine months.



MEASUREMENTS

The measurements of the structure of the tabernacle of Moses were originally given by God in cubits. There has never been a **standard**** cubit known to man. A cubit is generally thought to be the distance from the elbow to the finger tip. Now you think about that for a while, and tell me how standard that could possibly be.

That particular fact is interesting in itself. The glory of God cannot be known. Most scholars assign from 18 inches to 25 inches in length to the cubit. This allows a great deal of flexibility when one considers that the long side of the court of the tabernacle enclosure/fence measured 100 linear cubits. That converts to between 150 to 208 feet. If the exact linear measurements were important for us to know,

God would have given them to us for this present time. What can best be said is that the tabernacle of Moses was a large structure.

The fine-twined linen curtain was held in place by 60 pillars made of acacia wood and covered with bronze; they were spaced seven and a half feet apart. Each pillar was secured in a bronze socket with cords fastened at the top and tied to the ground with a bronze stake.

The pillars were made more secure by a silver bar that connected them near the top, from which the linen curtains were hung. Each pillar was crowned with a silver capital. When entering the court, people were overwhelmed at the beautiful furnishings of gold and brass, which were dazzling to the eye.

The furniture and its placement— from the brazen altar to the mercy seat— typified the various ministries of Christ on our behalf. The Tabernacle with its ordinances was only “a figure for the time then present” (Heb. 9: 9) but looked toward Christ’s sacrificial death, which was to mediate a new covenant by means of His shed blood for the redemption of mankind (Heb. 9: 11– 22). The earthly Tabernacle was only a figure of the true Tabernacle in heaven, where Christ is enthroned in His high priestly ministry (Heb. 9: 23– 24).

The brazen altar stood in the outer court just inside the gate facing the Tabernacle (Ex. 40: 6). The sacrificial animals were offered on this altar, and their blood was shed for the sins of the people. The brazen altar typifies Christ’s redemptive work on the cross on our behalf, whereby all who put their faith in His shed blood are justified and receive remission of sins (Rom. 3: 24– 25).

Just as it was impossible for the Israelites to come into God's presence without sacrificing at the brazen altar, so it is impossible today for people to come into the presence of God except by the ministry of the cross. The brazen laver stood in the outer court between the brazen altar and the Tabernacle.

The laver was provided only for the priests, who had to wash before entering the Tabernacle. As they washed in the laver, mirrors reflected their images, reminding them of how God saw them. The laver speaks of Christ as our sanctification.

As believer-priests, we are reminded that Christ has sanctified us for His service and is sanctifying us by cleansing us from the daily defilement of sin “with the washing of water by the word” (Eph. 5: 26).

From the laver, the priest walked a few paces to the Tabernacle, drew back the curtain, and entered into the holy place, where he could have fellowship with God. The Tabernacle proper was 15 feet wide, 45 feet long, and 15 feet high.

It was divided into two sections, the holy place (15 feet wide and 30 feet long) and the holy of holies (15 feet square). Forty-eight boards comprised the walls, 20 each on the north and south sides, six on the west side, and two corner boards. Each board was 15 feet long and 27 inches wide, covered with gold, and set on two golden tenons, which were secured in silver bases. The boards were held together by five golden rods, four on the outside and one on the inside.

The whole structure had four coverings: first, an inner lining of embroidered, fine-twined linen; second, a woven goat hair covering over the linen; third, a ram skin covering, dyed red, over the goat hair; and fourth, a waterproof porpoise skin

covering placed on the top. Most likely the ceiling was flat, although some scholars believe it may have made a peak, like a present-day tent. The holy place was entered through a hanging called the “door,” and the holy of holies was entered through a veil.

There were three pieces of furniture in the holy place, and they typify our fellowship with Christ. The table of showbread stood on the right side in the holy place. The 12 loaves of bread on the table were a meal offering, representing the 12 tribes of Israel. The showbread typified Christ, who came down from heaven, and all who partake of Him have eternal life (Jn. 6: 51).

As the bread of life, Christ sustains the believer-priests who feed on Him. On the left side of the holy place stood the seven-branched golden lampstand, which spoke of Christ as the light of the world (Jn. 9: 5). All who trust in Him are given the light of life (Jn. 8: 12). We are to hold forth the light of God’s Word in this darkened world (Phil. 2: 15-16) so that men can see our good works and glorify the Father (Mt. 5: 14– 16).

The glory of God will light up the New Jerusalem, which will be our dwelling place throughout eternity (Rev. 21: 23). The altar of incense stood in the holy place right in front of the veiled holy of holies. Burning coals from the brazen altar were placed on the altar of incense, over which sweet incense was poured daily.

The smoke from the incense curled upward, representing the prayers of God’s people (Ps. 141: 1; Rev. 5: 8). The altar typified Christ our high priest, who intercedes for us before the Father’s throne (Jn. 17; Heb. 7: 25), and the believer-

priests, who offer up “the sacrifice of praise to God” (Heb. 13: 15). The heavy veil that hung between the holy place and the holy of holies separated a holy God from a sinful people.

Christ represents the veil, separating people from God. At His death on the cross, the veil was rent from top to bottom (Mt. 27: 51), opening the way to God through His shed blood (Heb. 10: 19) so that we can “come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy” (Heb. 4: 16). Inside the holy of holies sat the Ark of the Covenant, a rectangular box covered with gold inside and out. On top of the ark stood two cherubim of God, facing each other but looking down toward the mercy seat, with their wings stretched out over it. It was on the mercy seat that the high priest sprinkled blood on the Day of Atonement, which enabled God to cover the sins of the high priest and the people.

The people waited patiently outside the Tabernacle, their eyes fixed on it, wondering whether the high priest would reappear. If he reappeared, God had accepted the blood atonement, and their sins were covered for another year. Christ, as the believers’ high priest (Heb. 7: 24– 25), offered His own blood to put away sin. He is the believers’ propitiation (Rom. 3: 25; 1 Jn.