

# Introduction of God's Covenant

## **God's Promise: *A Redeemer will Come***

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

## **God's Plan: *The Sacrifice of Shed Blood***

Adam and Eve: Blood is shed to cover man's shame as a result of sin.

- Genesis 3:21

Abel: God desires a blood sacrifice as atonement for sin and nothing else.

- Genesis 4:4-5

Noah: God views the sacrificial death of clean animals as soothing and acceptable worship.

- Genesis 8:20-21

Tabernacle: God establishes a formal system of worship based upon the shed blood of animals.

- Leviticus 1-7

*Interesting Note:* The basic plan and means of redemption was laid out prior to God calling out His people Israel. This should confirm in our hearts that although God chose the Israelites to be the carriers of the Message and the Messenger, His plan for redemption is for all people.

### **Application for Today**

"life is in the blood" - Leviticus 17:11,14

God demands death as a payment for sin (Romans 6:23). Jesus' shedding of blood (the loss of His life) made it possible for us (the dead) to have eternal life. Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:22; 1 Peter 1:14-21

## **God's Purpose: *To Dwell Among His People***

Exodus 25:8 (Declared in the Instructions for the Building of the Tabernacle)

Exodus 29:45-46 (Declared in the Consecration of the Tabernacle)

Leviticus 26:11-12 (Declared in the Blessings of Obedience)

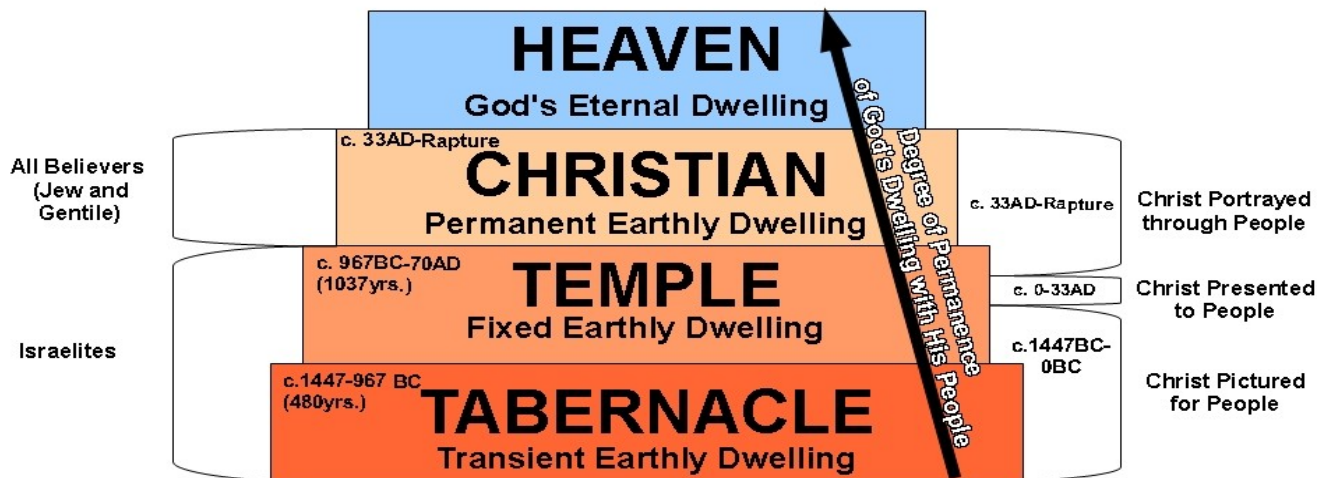
The Tabernacle was a **tent**, the Temple was a **building**.

- A tent signifies a temporary dwelling, a transient dwelling.

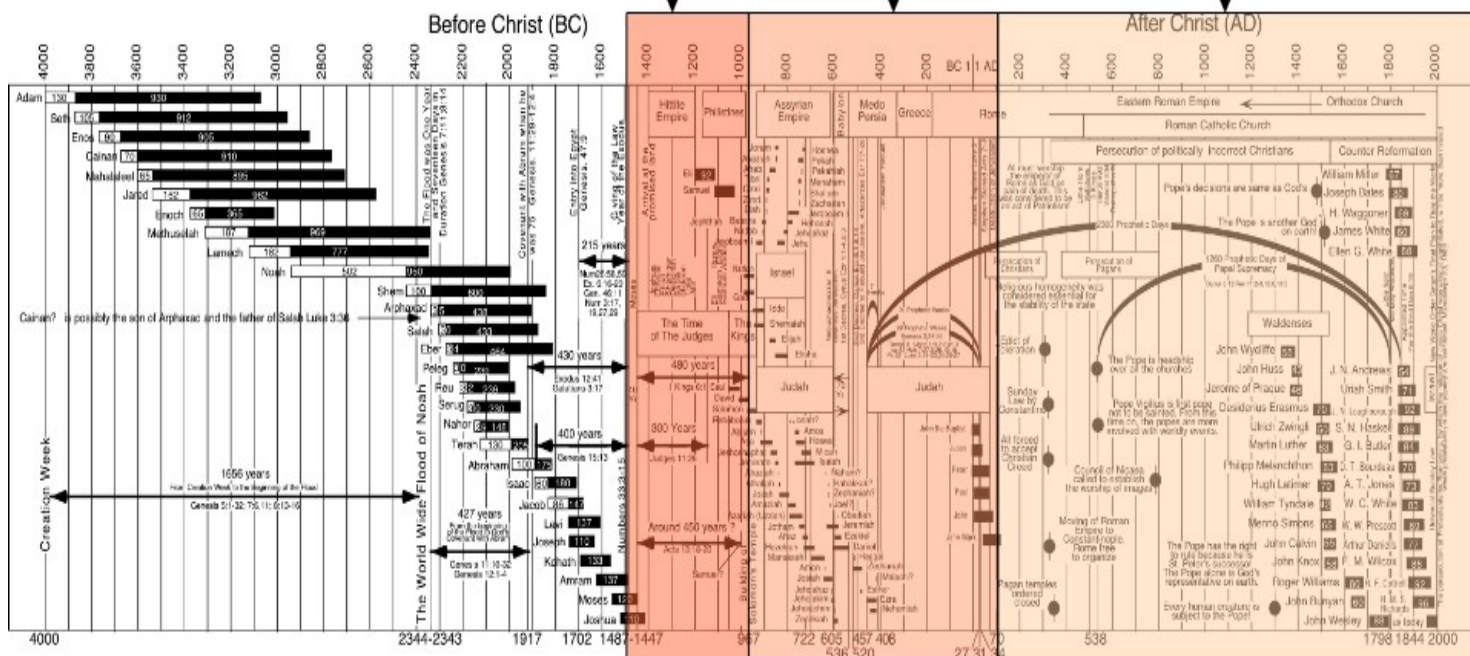
The Erecting of the Tabernacle displays God's dissatisfaction with the location of Israel and their need to claim their permanent home.

- Temple signifies a permanent dwelling, a stationary dwelling.

The Establishment of the temple displays God's satisfaction with the location of Israel. They were now in their promised land.



TEMPLE  
CHRISTIAN  
TABERNACLE



### **God's Presence Before His People – To Lead Them**

Exodus 13:21-22

The Pillar of Cloud by Day

The Pillar of Fire by Night

### **God's Presence Behind His People – To Protect Them**

Exodus 14:19-20

### **God's Presence Among His People – To Dwell with Them**

Exodus 25:8,22

Exodus 40:34-38

#### **Application for Today**

Jesus Dwelt among People: John 1:14

The Believer is also Called God's Dwelling Place: 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:21-22; Hebrews 3:6; 1 Peter 2:5,9

The “New Jerusalem” will be God's Eternal Dwelling Place among Men: Revelation 21:1-4

### **God's “Special” People (Exodus 19:3-6)**

*“House of Jacob”* - humble beginnings, a mere 70 people who came down to Egypt, while it was under Joseph's rule, to escape the famine. (Genesis 46:27)

*“Children of Israel”* - All of one blessed heritage, a nation

*“Peculiar Treasure”* - cf. Deuteronomy 7:6-11; 26:18-19; Malachi 3:16-4:6 (application to the Church, Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 2:9-10)

*“Kingdom of Priests”* - Their King is God Himself. They are His kingdom. They are all priests for they are the link between the Gentiles and God.

*“Holy Nation”* - Set apart from all other nations of the world. Only the Israelites are God's chosen people.

#### **Application for the Church Today:**

- Each Christian is called “a temple of God” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:19-22)
- Each Christian is called a priest (1 Peter 2:5,9-10; Revelation 1:6)
- Each Christian is called to do the work of a priest (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:5)
- Jesus Christ is our High Priest (Hebrews 2:17-3:1; 4:14-16)
- The Picture of the veil being torn (Matthew 27:51)
- All Christians must take notice of how Hebrews makes application using the picture of the tabernacle (Hebrews 9:1-14; 10:19-22).

# Time-line of Sinai Encampment

**Note:** The dates are given as close approximations for careful Bible Students will find various dating methods and time lines. The exact dates are something scholars do not agree on.

**Note:** The included time line begins on the day of the Exodus from Egypt. The following background information may be helpful in setting the context. There are two differing views as to the dates surrounding the Israelites' sojourn in Egypt. For the sake of consistency in our study, option 2 has been chosen.

## **Option 1 (A sojourn in Egypt of 215 years):**

- c. 1917 BC – God makes His covenant with Abraham (Genesis 11:24-12:4)
- c. 1702 BC – The seventy of Jacob's family come to live in Egypt under Joseph's rule (Genesis 47:9,28)
- c. 1487 BC – The Exodus and the giving of the Law to Israel at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 12:1,40-41; Galatians 3:17)
- c. 1447 BC – Arrival at the Promised Land (Numbers 14:34)
- c. 967 BC – Solomon begins building the temple (1 Kings 6:1)
- Significance of these dates
  - There are 430 years between the giving of the covenant unto Abraham and the Exodus. (Exodus 12:1,40-41; Galatians 3:17) Some other scriptures generalize the years to 400 (Genesis 15:13; Acts 7:7; 13:19).
  - There are 215 years of Israel living in Egypt leading up to the Exodus. (This can be calculated using the dates and ages of the men as detailed in the four generations from Jacob to Moses. Exodus 6:16-20) This interpretation takes the passages that speak of the sojourn of the Israelites as the time it took for them to go from being promised a nation to finally establishing themselves in the Promise Land (notice the KJV rendering of Exodus 12:40-41 to see how this could be true).
  - There are 40 years between the Exodus / Giving of the Law and the entrance into the Promised Land (Numbers 14:34; Acts 7:36; 13:18).
  - There are 480 years between the initial construction of Solomon's temple and the entrance into the Promised Land (1 Kings 6:1). This view interprets 1 Kings 6:1 as referring to when the Israelites finally cross out of foreign soil( including Egypt and the Wilderness) into the Promised Land.

## **Option 2 (A sojourn in Egypt of 430 years):**

- c. 2092 BC – God makes a covenant with Abram (Genesis 11:24-12:4)
- c. 1877 BC – The seventy of Jacob's family come to live in Egypt under Joseph's rule (Genesis 47:9,28)
- c. 1447 BC – The exodus and the giving of the Law to Israel at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 12:1,40-41; Galatians 3:17)
- c. 1407 BC – Arrival at the Promised Land (Numbers 14:34)
- c. 967 BC – Solomon begins building the temple (1 Kings 6:1)
- Significance of these dates
  - There are 215 years from when Abram receives the covenant and Jacob entering Egypt. (Genesis 11:29-12:4) This is calculated using the ages of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when they had their respective sons. (see also Genesis 47:9,28)
  - There are 430 years of Israel sojourning in Egypt (Exodus 12:40-41; Galatians 3:17). This is most likely the exact number while there are some other passages that refer to this time as only 400 years (Genesis 15:13; Acts 7:7; 13:19). The 400 years is probably a generalization of this time period. This rendering chooses to view Joshua's genealogy in 1 Chronicles 7:22-27 as more complete than the one given for Moses and Aaron in Exodus 6:16-20.
  - There are 40 years between the Exodus / Giving of the Law and the entrance into the Promised Land (Numbers 14:34; Acts 7:36; 13:18).
  - There are 480 years between the Exodus/Giving of the Law and Solomon's initial construction of the Temple (1 Kings 6:1).

**Note:** The Hebrew Calendar typically used months of 30 days in length. A thirteenth month would be periodically added to make up for the difference between the lunar and solar years. See quote below for a possible explanation.

"Generally [the ancient Jews] months were 30 days long. But since each month was counted from a new-moon day, the calendar sometimes called for a 29-day month. The lunar calendar was 11 days shorter than the solar year and yet had to match the seasons, so the Israelites sometimes had to add a thirteenth month to the year. This gave them some leap-year days. Their pattern of inserting leap-year days repeated itself in a 19-year cycle." - The Bible Almanac, Packer, Tenney, and White, editors, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, 1980, pg. 44

1<sup>st</sup> month, Abib (Nisan) day 15, c. 1447 BC

3<sup>rd</sup> month, Sivan 1, c. 1447 BC

Possibly 3<sup>rd</sup> day of camp, 3<sup>rd</sup> month,  
Sivan 3, c. 1487 BC

Possibly the 4<sup>th</sup> day of camp, 3<sup>rd</sup> month,  
Sivan 4, c. 1447 BC

Possibly the 5<sup>th</sup> day of camp, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
month, Sivan 5, c. 1447 BC

Possibly the 11<sup>th</sup> day of camp, 3<sup>rd</sup> month,  
Sivan 11, c. 1447 BC

Possibly the 51<sup>st</sup> day of camp, 4<sup>th</sup>  
month, Tammuz 21, c. 1447 BC

Possibly the 52<sup>nd</sup> day of camp, 4<sup>th</sup> month,  
Tammuz 22, c. 1447 BC

Possibly the 53<sup>rd</sup> day of camp, 4<sup>th</sup>  
month, Tammuz 23, c. 1447 BC

Possibly the 93<sup>rd</sup> day of camp, 6<sup>th</sup> month,  
Elul 3, c. 1447 BC

Possibly the 315<sup>th</sup> day of camp, 1<sup>st</sup>  
month, Abib (Nisan) 1, c. 1446 BC

45 days

2 days 1 day

1 day

6 days

40 days

1 day

1 day

40 days

222 days (7 months, 12 days)

Exodus of Israel – Exodus 12:2,40-41; Numbers 33:3

Moses ascends Mt. Sinai for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. Israel Arrives at Sinai – Exodus 19:1-2

Moses ascends Mt. Sinai for a 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> time. God Appears to Israel, 10 Commandments declared – Exodus 19:3-24:4

Moses ascends Mt. Sinai a 5<sup>th</sup> time. Covenant confirmed with blood – Exodus 24:12-15

Moses ascends Mt. Sinai a 6<sup>th</sup> time to receive the stone tablets – Exodus 24:12-15

Moses meets with God for 40 days and 40 nights. Tabernacle and Priesthood instructions given – Exodus 24:16-31:17

Moses descends with stone tablets. Israel found to be in idolatry, punished and purified – Exodus 31:18-32:29

Moses ascends Mt. Sinai a 7<sup>th</sup> time. God's judgment declared, the "tabernacle of the congregation" is moved outside the camp – Exodus 32:30-34:3

Moses ascends Mt. Sinai an 8<sup>th</sup> time. God passes before Moses, God renews the covenant with Israel, Moses is on the mountain for 40 days and 40 nights – Exodus 34:4-28

Moses descends from Mt. Sinai glowing, tabernacle construction begins – Exodus 34:27-39:43

The Tabernacle is completed and the Lord fills it with His presence – Exodus 40:1-38

# Time Line of Sinai Encampment

- **1<sup>st</sup> month, Abib (Nisan) 15, c. 1447 BC** – Israel leaves Egypt following the night of the death angel in Egypt (the Exodus)
- **3<sup>rd</sup> month, Sivan 1, c. 1447 BC** – Israel arrives at Mt. Sinai
  - ◆ Third Month (Sivan) after leaving Egypt (possibly 45 days since the actual exodus which happened on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the first month, c.1447 BC)
    - Israel camps in the Wilderness of Sinai at the foot of Mt. Sinai (19:1-2)
    - Moses ascends Mt. Sinai to receive God's covenant with Israel (19:3-6) **#1**
    - Moses communicates the covenant to Israel (19:7-8)
- **The third day of camp at Mt. Sinai, Sivan 3, c. 1447 BC**
  - ◆ Moses again meets with God and God says He will show Himself to Israel (19:9-15) **#2**
  - ◆ God appears to Israel at Mt. Sinai (19:16-19)
  - ◆ Moses ascends the Mountain for a probable third time (God issues warnings to the people) (19:20-25) **#3**
  - ◆ God declares the Ten Commandments to the people of Israel from Mt. Sinai (20:1-17)
  - ◆ The Israelites are afraid and appeal to Moses (20:18-21)
  - ◆ Moses ascends Mt. Sinai a fourth time to meet with God where he receives ordinances from God for the people (20:21-24:2) **#4**
  - ◆ Moses returns from the mountain to relay the words of God to the people (He writes them all down) (24:3-4)
- **A new day at Mt. Sinai (possibly the fourth day), Sivan 4, c. 1447 BC**
  - ◆ Moses rises early and builds an altar at the foot of the mountain to affirm the covenant with God through animal sacrifices (24:4-8)
  - ◆ Moses reads the book of the covenant to all the people and sprinkles them with the blood of the sacrifices (24:7-8)
  - ◆ Moses ascends the mountain a fifth time bringing with him Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel – God appears to them (24:9-11) **#5**
- **A new day at Mt. Sinai (possibly the fifth day) (first of the seven days), Sivan 5, c. 1447 BC**
  - ◆ Moses goes up a sixth time upon the mountain for God desired to give him “stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written” for Israel. He does not ascend entirely (24:12-15) **#6**
- **The seventh day after Moses ascends Mt. Sinai for the Sixth time (possibly the 11<sup>th</sup> day of camp at Mt. Sinai), Sivan 11, c. 1447 BC**
  - ◆ Moses goes up higher to meet with God in a cloud that looked like devouring fire. (24:16-18) This meeting lasts 40 days and 40 nights. It is during this time that God gives the instructions for the tabernacle and the priesthood. (25:1–31:17)
- **Possibly the 51<sup>st</sup> day of camp at Mt. Sinai (the morning of day 41 of Moses' time on the mount with God), 4<sup>th</sup> month - Tammuz 22, c. 1447 BC**
  - ◆ Moses descends the mountain with the stone tablets of the testimony (31:18-32:18)
  - ◆ The Israelites in the middle of carnal worship and idolatry (32:1-6,17-18)
  - ◆ Moses displays great anger by throwing the tablets of stone and breaking them, he rebukes the people, seeks to purify them. (32:19-29)
- **The next day following Moses's descent and the judgment for the idolatry (possibly day 52 of camp at Mt. Sinai, Tammuz 23, c. 1447 BC**
  - ◆ Moses ascends Mt. Sinai a seventh time to try and “make atonement for [the Israelites'] sin” (32:30-35) **#7**

- ◆ God instructs Moses to go ahead and lead the people to the promised land, only He (God) was not going to be in the midst of them. (33:1-3)
- ◆ Moses descends from meeting with God and relays God's message to the people (33:4-6) The Israelites strip themselves of all decorative ornaments as a sign of mourning God's declaration of not abiding amongst them.
- ◆ Moses takes and sets up the “tabernacle of the congregation” out away from the camp. It is here that people could come to worship God or where Moses would commune with God. This was a sign of God's desire to not abide amongst His people. (33:7)
- ◆ Moses meets with God in the “tabernacle of the congregation” where he beseeches God on behalf of the people to come and lead them, to be gracious unto them. He also asks God to show him His glory. God instructs Moses to hew two new tablets of stone and then meet Him on the mountain in the morning. (33:8-34:3)
- **A new day at camp below Mt. Sinai (possibly day 53), Tammuz 24, c. 1447 BC**
  - ◆ Moses ascends Mt. Sinai a 8<sup>th</sup> time with the tablets of stone he cut himself. He goes to meet with God. (34:4-5) #8
  - ◆ God passes by before Moses and Moses bows in worship. He pleads with God to go amongst his people. (34:6-9)
  - ◆ God renews the covenant with Israel (34:10-26) Moses is with God again for 40 days and 40 nights; he had no food or water and he wrote out the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.
- **Possibly the 93<sup>rd</sup> day of camp at Mt. Sinai (possibly the beginning of the month Elul, the 6<sup>th</sup> month of the Hebrew calendar) (the morning of day 41 of Moses' time on the mount with God), 6<sup>th</sup> month – Elul 3, c. 1447 BC**
  - ◆ Moses descends the mountain. He is shining and wears a veil. He communicates to the people what God had said to him upon the mountain. (34:27-35:20)
  - ◆ The people begin bringing the necessary items for the tabernacle its construction follows. (35:21-39:43) – According to the approximate time-lines that we are given, it appears as if the construction took somewhere between 6-7 months to complete. (approximately 222 days or 7 months and 12 days)
- **The first day of the first month (Abib – 13:4, Also called Nisan) of the second year (c. 1446 BC) since the day declared by God to be the beginning of the Hebrew year (12:2). (possibly day 315 of camp at Mt. Sinai), Abib (Nisan) 1, c. 1446 BC**
  - ◆ The tabernacle is set up and the LORD filled it with His presence (40:1-38)

# Directions for the Tabernacle's Construction

## God's Design for the Tabernacle – Exodus 25:1 – 31:17

1. Notice the Source of the Supplies – Exodus 25:1-9
  - α) The supplies were to come as offerings from the people.
  - β) The people received these supplies when they left Egypt (Exodus 12:31-36)
  - χ) Ultimately, these supplies were from the provisional hand of God.
2. Notice the Specific Instructions
  - a) God wanted this to be built according to His standards and plan.
  - b) Details of God's Instructions (Exodus 25:1-9)
    - This was to be built based upon the contributions of the people. God says unto Moses “Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.” (Exodus 25:2) Notice the emphasis on the willingness of their hearts. This was not a taking from the people but a giving by the people.
    - God asked for the following items: (25:3-7)
      - Gold
      - Silver
      - Bronze
      - Woolen Yarn Dyed in Various Colors
        - Blue
        - Purple
        - Scarlet
      - “When the female of the scarlet worm species was ready to give birth to her young, she would attach her body to the trunk of a tree, fixing herself so firmly and permanently that she would never leave again. The eggs deposited beneath her body were thus protected until the larvae were hatched and able to enter their own life cycle. As the mother died, the crimson fluid stained her body and the surrounding wood. From the dead bodies of such female scarlet worms, the commercial scarlet dyes of antiquity were extracted. What a picture this gives of Christ, dying on the tree, shedding his precious blood that he might “bring many sons unto glory” (Hebrews 2:10)! He died for us, that we might live through him! Psalm 22:6 describes such a worm and gives us this picture of Christ (cf. Isaiah 1:18).” (from page 73, “Biblical Basis for Modern Science,” 1985, Baker Book House, by Henry Morris)
    - Fine Linen (such as was used in Egypt, Genesis 41:2 and for the priests, Leviticus 6:10)
    - Goats Hair
    - Ram's skins dyed red
    - Porpoise (or seal) skin (presumably taken from the Red Sea. A leather that is used for sandals.) KJV translates this term “badger” but this is an unclean animal and probably not what is being referred to here.
    - Shittim wood (acacia wood, “a shrub which grows plentifully in the deserts of Arabia, yielding a light, strong, and beautiful wood, in long planks.”- JFB, “ It flourishes in the driest situations, and is scattered more or less numerous over the Sinaitic Peninsula. It appears to be the only good wood produced in the wilderness. No other kind of wood was employed in the tabernacle or its furniture. In the construction of the temple cedar and fir took its place.” - Barnes
    - Oil for the light (lamps and candlesticks), Exodus 27:20
    - Spices for the anointing oil (to anoint the priests and tabernacle utensils (Exodus 30:23-33)
    - Spices for the sweet incense (Exodus 30:34-38)



- Onyx stones – precious stones or gems of some kind (cf. Exodus 28:9-14,20)
  - Other precious stones – According to Exodus 28:17-21, the breast plate of the High Priest was to have 12 different precious stones set into it.
  - The People were to be responsible to build this sanctuary, not God. And the purpose of was so that God “may dwell (tabernacle) among them”. (25:8)
    - Sanctuary – a holy place, comes from the Hebrew word for holy or set apart. The sanctuary was to be a place totally set aside for God to dwell in.
  - The People were to build it and all its' furniture according to God's specific instructions (the pattern as designed by God, plans, form etc.). God now calls this sanctuary, “the tabernacle”. (25:9)
    - מִשְׁכַּן mishkan mish-kawn' - a dwelling place, a place to settle and abide
    - תְּבִינָה tabniyth tab-neeth' - Pattern, plan, form. Same word used in 1 Chronicles 28:11-ff when David gave the plans for the temple to his son Solomon.
  - c) Only God can design a system of worship that would satisfy His justice and holiness.
3. Notice the Purpose
- α) God said “And let them make me a sanctuary; **that I may dwell among them.**” (v. 8)
  - β) Note: The idolatrous worship of the calf by the Israelites took place immediately following God giving all these instructions to Moses. Imagine how Moses must have felt after having received God's offer of mercy in these instructions and then witnessing the people's gross unfaithfulness.

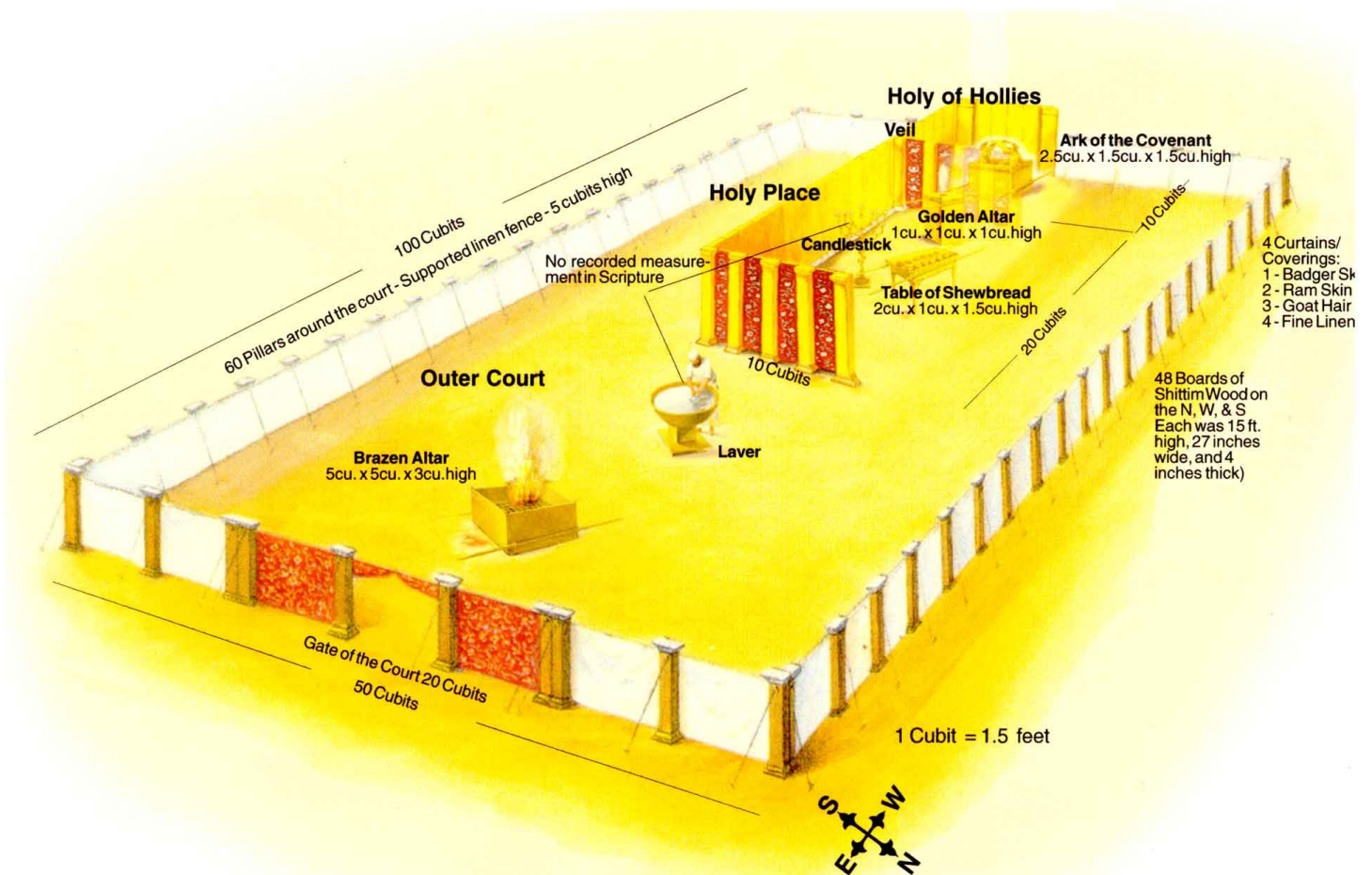
## **The Construction of the Tabernacle – Exodus 35:1 – 39:43**

1. Moses Relays God's Instructions to the People – Exodus 35:1-19
2. The people respond with willing hearts – they gave for the work. (Exodus 35:22,29; 36:4-6)
  - α) The Census Offering (Exodus 30:11-16) – This was utilized as a means of collecting the silver for the tabernacle (Exodus 38:25-26). The census included all men twenty years and older except for the Levites. The total number came to 603,550 men which matches the later count of Numbers 1:46 (This census in Numbers was taken on the first day of the second month of the second year following the Exodus.)
3. The people worked with wise hearts – they used their God-given skills for the work. (Exodus 35:25,30-35; 36:1-2,8)
4. The Project Manager: Moses (Exodus 35:4,29-30; 36:2-3)
5. The Project Foreman: Bezaleel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah
  - Bezaleel (bets-al-ale') = "in the shadow (i.e. protection) of God" / a skilled Judahite artisan in all works of metal, wood, and stone and one of the architects of the tabernacle
  - Called of God to do the work (Exodus 31:2-6; 35:30)
6. The Assistant Foreman: Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan
  - α) Aholiab (o'-hol-e-awb') = "Father's tent" / chief assistant of Bezaleel in construction of the tabernacle
  - β) Given by God to do the work alongside Bezaleel (Exodus 31:6)

### **The Value of the Tabernacle – Exodus 38:21-31**

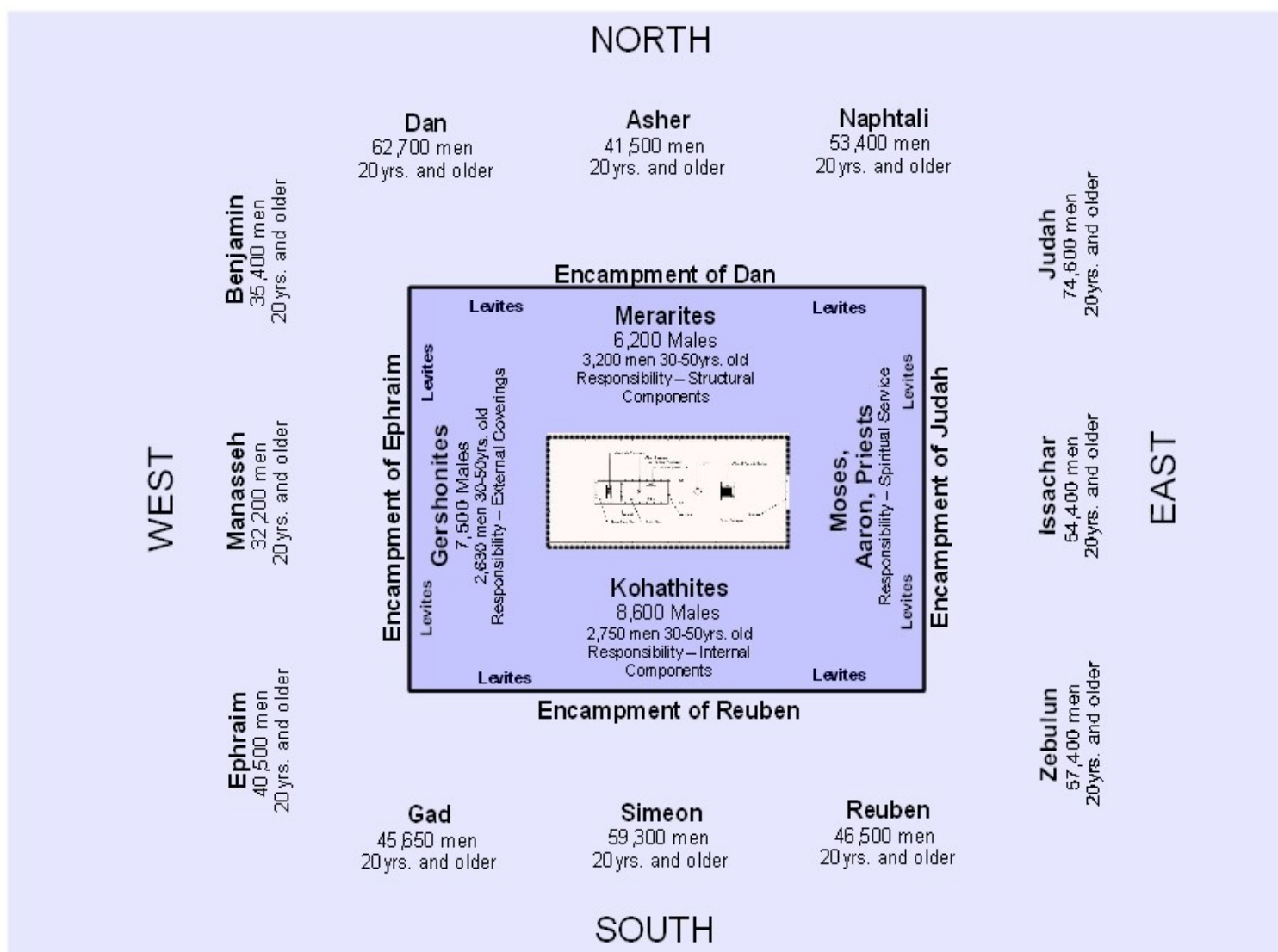
1. Gold = 29 talents, 730 shekels (Exodus 38:24)
  - 2,193 lbs = \$48,591,265 (12-02-10, Gold = \$1,384.84/oz)
2. Silver = 100 talents, 1,775 shekels (Exodus 38:25)
  - 7,544 lbs = \$3,442,478 (12-02-10, Silver = \$28.52/oz)
3. Brass (copper and zinc alloy) = 70 talents, 2,400 shekels (Exodus 38:29)
  - 5,310 lbs = \$382,320 (12-02-10, Brass = \$4.50/oz)

# Details of the Tabernacle's Structure



## The Tabernacle in the Israelite Encampment – Numbers 1-3 (See attached Diagram)

- God had a specific order (for travel and encampment).
  - ◆ The Encampment of Judah (Numbers 2:3-9)
  - ◆ The Encampment of Reuben (Numbers 2:10-16)
  - ◆ The Levites and the Tabernacle (Numbers 1:53; 2:17)
  - ◆ The Encampment of Ephraim (Numbers 2:18-24)
  - ◆ The Encampment of Dan (Numbers 2:25-31)
- God established Himself in the Center (Numbers 1:53; 2:2)
- God assigned specific tasks for the Levites (Numbers 1:47-54; 3:1-39)



# The Tabernacle's Purposeful Design

## The Outer Court

- The Linen Fence (Exodus 27:9-19)
  - ◆ Made of fine twisted linen
  - ◆ Supported by 56 pillars
  - ◆ Fence was 100 cubits (150') on the North and South, 50 cubits (75') on the West and East.
  - ◆ Fence was 5 cubits (7.5') high
  - ◆ The Gate opening was on the East toward the sunrise.
  - ◆ Note of Application
    - The Tabernacle and its gate faced the East which required all people coming to God to face the West. This is significant for the Lord did not desire to share any worship with the sun. The worship of the sun was a popular form of idolatry, as exemplified by the Egyptians. God will not share any glory with another. (cf. Ezekiel 8:16-18; Deuteronomy 4:17-19; 1 Peter 1:13-21)
- The Gate of the Court (Exodus 27:16)
  - ◆ Made of fine twisted linen with the woven colors of blue, purple, and scarlet.
  - ◆ Supported by 4 pillars
  - ◆ The linen gate was 20 cubits (30') wide and placed directly center of the Eastern side of the courtyard.
  - ◆ This gate was also 5 cubits (7.5') high.
  - ◆ This was the sole entry into the Tabernacle
  - ◆ Note of Application
    - God makes sure that man cannot behold His glory without having properly dealt with sin. The fence proves to be the boundary that sin creates between us and God. There is no way to God except through His prescribed way. (cf. John 14:6)
- The Brazen Altar (Exodus 27:1-8)
  - ◆ Made of Acacia wood
  - ◆ The altar was 5 cubits (7.5') long, 5 cubits (7.5') wide, and 3 cubits (4.5') high.
  - ◆ The altar was to have horns on each corner, firmly attached to the main frame of the altar.
  - ◆ There was a bronze grate inside the altar that held the animal and the wood but allowed the ashes to fall through.
  - ◆ The entire wooden structure was covered with bronze (copper and zinc alloy) so as to protect the wood from the flames.
  - ◆ There were two poles attached to the main part of the altar that enabled transportation of this large and heavy object.
  - ◆ This altar was located just inside the gate of the courtyard; it was the first thing any one entering the courtyard would encounter. This was where the blood sacrifices were offered to the Lord.
  - ◆ The Offerings Explained
    - The Sin Offering (Leviticus 4; 5:1-13; 6:24-30; 8:14-17; 16:3-22)
    - The Burnt Offering (Leviticus 1; 6:8-13; 8:18-21; 16:24)
    - The Trespass (Guilt) Offering (Leviticus 5:14-19; 6:1-7; 7:1-6)
    - The Meat (Grain) Offering (Leviticus 2; 6:14-23)
    - The Peace offering (Leviticus 3; 7:11-34)
  - ◆ Significance of Bronze in Scripture

- It speaks of judgment (Deuteronomy 28:23; Numbers 21:8-9)
- ◆ Note of Application
  - The first step for salvation and communion with God is being confronted with your sin. The tabernacle illustrates this with the placement of this altar. The blood of animals would be shed to atone for the sin of the people. This pictures for us Christians the incredible value of the blood of Jesus. (cf. Matthew 26:28; Acts 20:28; Romans 5:9; Ephesians 1:7)
- The Laver (Exodus 30:17-21)
  - ◆ The basin was made of bronze.
  - ◆ It is not given specific dimensions, only that it must be adequate enough for washing the hands and feet of the priests.
  - ◆ Its' placement is between the brazen altar and the tabernacle itself. This is significant for it showed the importance of cleanliness and purity. The priests had to be cleansed before entering into God's presence.
  - ◆ Note of Application
    - This washing basin reminds us of our need to be cleansed of our sin in order to enter into God's presence. God provides this cleansing for us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. (cf. Hebrews 10:19-22; Ephesians 5:25-27)
- The Outer Coverings (Exodus 26:1-14)
  - ◆ Layer #4 – Covering made of “badgers' skins” (KJV), “Porpoise skins” (NASB) (Exodus 26:14)
    - for protection from weather
    - thought to have been fairly water resistant
    - “... and "badgers' skins," rather "the skins of the "tahash," supposed to be the dugong, or dolphin of the Red Sea, the skin of which is still used by the Arabs under the same appellation." [GOSS]. - JFB
  - ◆ Layer #3 – Covering made of “rams' skins dyed red” (Exodus 26:14)
    - “... skins that had all the wool removed and then were dyed red; it was like our morocco leather.” - TEBC, vol. 2, pg 453
    - A protective covering
    - The color red possibly another reference to Christ and His shed blood.
  - ◆ Layer #2 – Curtain of “goats' hair” (Exodus 26:7-13)
    - Eleven curtains total (each measuring 45' long and 6' wide) , combined into two sections (5 sections for the back half; 6 sections for the front half)
      - ✓ These two sections were joined by 50 bronze clasps
      - ✓ The front section hung part way over the door of the tabernacle
    - Made from long haired goats, the material was coarse and scholars say is resembles our modern day felt. It was the common material for tents.
    - It's color is debated, some thinking it was black, others white.
  - ◆ Layer #4 - Curtain of “fine twined linen” (Exodus 26:1-6)
    - Ten curtains total (each measuring 42' long and 6' wide), combined into two sections (5 sections for the back half; 5 sections for the front half)
      - ✓ These two sections were joined by 50 gold clasps
      - ✓ They are made of blue, purple and scarlet thread
        - Blue is from dye of a shellfish.
        - Purple “is derived from the secretion of a gland of the murex snail and was supplied primarily by the Phoenicians” It appears as a purple-red. -

TEBC, vol. 2, pg 452

- Scarlet “or crimson, is derived from the eggs and bodies of the worm *coccus ilicis*, which attaches itself to the leaves of the holly plant. Their maggots are collected, dried, and pulverized; and the powder produces a bright red (or yellow-red) dye.” - TEBC, vol. 2, pg 453
- ✓ There were cherubim woven into the curtains signifying the protection of God's holiness.
  - Notice that this forms the ceiling of the tabernacle.
  - Notice also that again, only Gold is used here, not bronze.

Note: The Tabernacle is 15' high, 15' wide, and 45' long. Layer #1 would have covered the entire structure except for the front and 1.5' of the footings. Layer #2 would have covered the entire structure including the top portion of the front and it would have gone to the ground on the sides and rear. Layer's #1 and #2 were covering that must have exceeded the dimensions of the curtains at least on the sides and rear.

### The Holy Place

#### ➔ The Outer Curtain (Exodus 26:36-37)

- ◆ Doorway to the Holy Place
- ◆ Made of fine, twisted linen woven together
- ◆ Blue, Purple, and Scarlet in color
- ◆ Supported by five pillars
  - Acacia wood covered in gold
  - Hooks made of gold
  - Bases made of brass
- ◆ Note of Application: As we have seen, the entrance into the courtyard and the entrance into the tabernacle both are covered by these curtains of blue, purple and scarlet. We know God and His Word to be specific and purposeful, we ask the question, why these colors? There really are no clear explanations in scripture. Some scholars have proposed the following ideas:
  - Blue – being the color of the heavens, it points people to the divine plan of God as laid out in this tabernacle. Others suggest it symbolizes the “heavenly character of Christ” - TEBC, vol 2, pg 452
    - ✓ Do people accept the divinity of Christ?
    - ✓ Salvation is only possible if Jesus was fully God, yet fully man.
  - Purple – being the color of royalty for it was very expensive to make, it points to the kingship of God, the theocratic rule of God over His people.
    - ✓ Do people accept the kingship of Christ?
    - ✓ Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the promised King of Israel and will rule someday on the throne of David fulfilling all the prophecies in Himself.
  - Scarlet – being the color of blood, it points to the significance of shed blood for the atonement of sin. Others suggest it symbolizes the “earthly aspect of the Son of Man” - TEBC, vol 2, pg 452
    - ✓ Do people accept the fact that blood must be shed for the forgiveness of sins?
    - ✓ Entrance into God's presence demands that sin be covered by blood. This is what Christ did for us upon the cross as the perfect sacrifice.
- ◆ Note of Application: It might better benefit us to focus on the fact that there is a door to this Holy Place. The priests had to pass through this curtain whenever they

entered to care for the oil in the Menorah, care for the bread, burn incense upon the altar, or to enter the Holy of Holies. A door always acts as a reminder of separation. One must enter a door because they are separated from something. The curtain was a constant reminder to the priests of their need to be covered by the blood of the sacrifice and to be cleansed by the water. Could it be that the colors provide that very reminder? Purple is the combination of blue and red. The combination of the blood of the animal and cleansing water reflecting the sky brought about entrance unto the holiness of the King and the becoming an heir of Him.

- **Ephesians 1:7** In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
- **Ephesians 5:23-27** For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
- **Hebrews 9:11-14** But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

#### → The Menorah (Exodus 25:31-40)

- ◆ Located on the left (south side) of the Holy Place opposite the Table of Showbread.
- ◆ It was made as one piece, from a talent of pure gold weighing 100-125lbs.
- ◆ Trimming the wicks of this lamp was one of the daily duties of the priests. It was to always remain lit. (Leviticus 24:1-4)
- ◆ This was made up of one main stem with three branches coming off either side.
- ◆ It had almond blossoms engraved as part of the sculptor.
- ◆ The light most likely came from a wick that was in the special oil designed by God. It was these wicks that needed trimming and the oil that needed filling.
- ◆ This was the only source of the light in the Holy Place apart from the small fire that would be burning on the altar of incense.
- ◆ Note of Application
  - We are reminded of Jesus who is the Light of the World and how we are to be reflections of that Light. (Matthew 5:14-16; John 1:9; 8:12; 9:5; 11:9; 12:46)
  - Notice the similarities to Jesus remarks about the Vine and we are branches. The Menorah had one main stem with branches coming off of it. We are to abide in Christ and find our value in Him (John 15:5; Ephesians 5:8)

#### → The Table of Showbread (Exodus 25:23-30)

- ◆ Located on the right (north side) of the Holy Place opposite the Menorah.
- ◆ It was a table made of acacia wood, then covered with gold.
- ◆ It was 2 cubits (3') long, 1 cubit (1.5') wide, and 1.5 cubits (2' 3") tall.
- ◆ It had a ornate border along the top edge and another around the legs.
- ◆ It's Purpose
  - It held 12 loaves of bread (unleavened).
    - ✓ These loaves were replaced every Sabbath with fresh ones.
    - ✓ They were covered with frankincense which was burned every Sabbath before the Lord.
    - ✓ Each loaf represented one of the tribes of Israel.
    - ✓ These loaves were to be food for the priests.
  - It was God displaying His constant care for His people.



- ✓ There was always to be bread upon the table.
- ✓ It was eaten by the priests in God's presence, displaying fellowship between man and God. (The priests representing the people before God.)
- ◆ Note of Application
  - A picture of man being able to fellowship with God.
    - ✓ Sharing bread is a picture of fellowship through the scriptures
      - Genesis 14:18 – Melchizedek brings bread
      - Genesis 18:6 – Abraham provided bread for the Angels
      - The Last Supper
    - ✓ Sharing bread is a picture of provision throughout the scriptures
      - Widow and Elijah
      - The Devil's temptation of Christ
      - Manna in the wilderness
      - Jesus as the Bread of Life
- ➔ The Golden Altar of Incense (Exodus 30:1-10,34-38)
  - ◆ Made of Acacia wood overlaid with pure gold
  - ◆ It was 1 cubit (1.5') square, 2 cubits (3') high
  - ◆ It has four horns, all “one piece with it”.
  - ◆ It has a golden molding or crown around it, decorating the top.
  - ◆ There are rings on either side of it where poles would be inserted for transport.
  - ◆ Located “in front of the veil that is near the ark of the testimony...”
  - ◆ The high priest is instructed to burn “sweet incense” on the altar every morning and evening when he is trimming the lamps of the Menorah. It was to constantly offer up a fragrance before the Lord.
    - The Incense had a very specific recipe and was only to be used for this one purpose (Exodus 30:34-38)
  - ◆ It was specifically for the burning of the prescribed incense. (v. 9) See Leviticus 10:1-ff for an example of how God handles those who do not follow His instructions.
    - No strange incense
    - No burnt offering
    - No grain offering
    - No drink offering
  - ◆ Application
    - The incense rises to God as our prayers.
      - ✓ Revelation 8:3-4
    - The perpetual fragrance is as Christ's continual intercession for us with the Father.
      - ✓ Hebrews 7:24-25
      - ✓ Hebrews 9:24
      - ✓ Romans 8:34
    - It stands as the closest object to the presence of God. It's fragrance would have wafted into the Holy of Holies as a expression of man's worship.

### The Holy of Holies

- ➔ The Veil (Exodus 26:31-35)
  - ◆ The main reason for this veil was to provide separation between the Holiness of God and the sinfulness of man.

- ◆ This term is used in the OT only to speak of the veil that separates the two rooms of the tabernacle and/or temple.
- ◆ The other coverings and doorways were called by a different term “curtain”.
- ◆ It was supported on four pillars of Acacia wood overlaid with gold.
- ◆ It enclosed the Holy of Holies, the dwelling place of God. The Holy of Holies was a cube being 10 cubits (15') in height, length, and width.
- ◆ It was used to cover the ark of the Covenant when in transit (Numbers 4:5-6)
- ◆ Cherubim
  - Genesis 3:24 – They guarded the Garden of Eden
  - Exodus 25:20 – They are described as having wings covering the mercy seat (1Kings 6:27)
  - 2 Chronicles 3:11-13 – They are described as having feet and standing
  - Isaiah 37:16 – Between them is God's dwelling place
  - Ezekiel 10:1,14,21 – They are described as having heads with four faces,
    - ✓ First Face – cherub
    - ✓ Second Face – man
    - ✓ Third Face – lion
    - ✓ Fourth Face – Eagle
  - Ezekiel 10:21 – They are described as having four wings with hands under each wing
  - Ezekiel 10:18 – They accompany the glory of the Lord
- ◆ Note of Application
  - Hebrews 10:19-20 – Through Jesus, we are able to come into God's presence.
  - Mark 15:37-38 – At Jesus' death, the veil in the temple ripped, showing that the way was now made for all mankind to come to God through him.

## → The Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:10-16; Hebrews 9:3-5)

- ◆ Structure
  - Box made of Acacia wood and covered with gold, both outside and inside.
  - 2.5 cubits (3'9”) long, 1.5 cubits (2'3”) wide, 1.5 cubits (2'3”) high
  - Had a crown around the top edge made of gold
  - Each corner had a ring cast out of gold which held the poles for carrying.
    - ✓ The poles were also acacia wood covered in gold.
    - ✓ The poles were to always remain in the rings. (possibly because it had to be able to be moved and no one could look upon or touch it (2 Samuel 6:6). So on the day that they would be packing up to leave, the veil would be draped over the Ark and the poles would be ready for the priests to carry it.)
- ◆ It's Name
  - “ark”
    - ✓ 0727 אֹרֶן ‘arown aw-rone’ or אֲרֹן ‘aron aw-rone’ (Online Bible Hebrew Lexicon)
      - AV-ark 195, chest 6, coffin 1; 202
        - 1) chest, ark
        - 1a) money chest
        - 1b) Ark of the Covenant
        - 2) (TWOT) coffin
  - “of the covenant”

- ✓ “an alliance or pledge between two parties”. In this context, it is an divine ordinance designed by God for man's benefit and well-being. God's blessing upon His people was directly related to His covenant with them.
- ✓ This draws attention to the purpose or intent behind this ark. God very clearly instructed Moses to put the tablets of stone in it making it the holder of God's commands – the stipulations of His covenant. (Exodus 25:16; 40:20)
- Other terms for this piece of furniture
  - ✓ THE ARK (term used for construction purposes, Exodus 25:10; 25:12)
  - ✓ ARK OF THE TESTIMONY (first used in Exodus 25:22 designating its purpose)
  - ✓ THE TESTIMONY (Exodus 16:34; 27:21 - This term used to speak of the Law given to Moses by God. It literally means witness showing how God's Law is the witness of His covenant with His people)
  - ✓ THE ARK OF THE COVENANT
    - Most frequently in Deuteronomy and the other books of the Old Testament
    - First used in Numbers 10:33 when the people of Israel picked up camp at Sinai and moved to Paran – Numbers 10:12.)
  - ✓ THE ARK OF THE LORD (Joshua 6:6-13)
  - ✓ THE ARK OF GOD (1 Samuel 3:3)
  - ✓ THE ARK OF THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD (2 Chronicles 5:41; Psalm 132:8)
  - ✓ THE HOLY ARK (2 Chronicles 35:3)
- ◆ It's Purpose
  - God designed a chest for a reason: to contain important reminders for the people of Israel.
  - The ark provided the foundation upon which God dwelt – the Mercy Seat. God dwelt amongst His people because He had established a covenant with them (Exodus 19:5-8). It was God's presence that completed the covenant being pictured by the Mercy Seat being the lid that completed the chest.
- ◆ It's Articles (Hebrews 9:3-4)
  - Two Tablets of Stone containing the Law (Exodus 25:16; 40:20; Deuteronomy 10:5; 31:26; 1 Kings 8:9)
    - ✓ These prove to remind the people of God's Covenant with them.
  - Jar of Manna (Exodus 16:32-34)
    - ✓ Omer = a dry measurement equally approximately 3.5 liters
    - ✓ This reminds the people of God's provision for them.
  - Aaron's Rod that budded (Numbers 17:10-11)
    - ✓ This reminded the people that God will choose their leaders, namely Aaron and his family as the priests and leaders of Israel.
  - Note of Explanation
    - ✓ When Solomon set up the Temple in Jerusalem and moved the Ark into the Holy of Holies, it is noted that the ark contained only the two tablets of the Law. (1 Kings 8:9)
    - ✓ Some believe that the manna and the rod were never actually placed within the ark but rather “before” the ark in the Holy of Holies. This fits the wording of the text but is difficult to square with Hebrews 9:4.

- See the wording of Exodus 16:33-34 concerning the Manna: “laid it up before the Testimony”
  - See the wording of Numbers 17:10 concerning the Rod: “Bring...before the testimony” which is the same as “before the Lord” in verse 7.
  - ✓ Others believe that the Manna and Rod had been lost by the time that Solomon received the Ark into the Temple. This fits well with Hebrews 9:4 for the context is the Tabernacle and not the temple, thus allowing for the articles to be in the Ark but it does not fit the wording of the accounts in Exodus and Numbers.
  - ✓ Conclusion
    - The point is, regardless of whether they were in or “before” the ark, the Lord wanted them directly associated with the Ark. They each were to be memorials of God's relationship with His people.
    - There is no question concerning the Tablets of the Law since these were found in the Ark during Solomon's day. The fact that this remained showed God's preservation of His Covenant.
    - The Rod and the Manna proved to be object lessons most valuable to the wondering Israelites in the wilderness. It was during those years that God knew they would struggle the most with authority and provisions. God indeed showed the Israelites His ability to provide for them by aiding them in conquering Canaan and giving them the fruit of the land. God showed His control of authorities by establishing judges and then prophets and finally kings who held absolute authority over them as a people.
- The Mercy Seat [Atonement Cover] (Exodus 25:17-22; 37:6-9)
- ◆ Description
    - Made of pure gold
    - 2.5 cubits (3'9") long, 1.5 cubits (2'3") wide
    - Two Cherubim were upon it made of beaten gold. (see also Hebrews 9:5)
      - ✓ One on either end of the mercy seat.
      - ✓ Their wings were stretched out covering over the center of the mercy seat.
      - ✓ Their faces are looking inward at the place where God dwelt.
      - ✓ Again, they are seen as guarding the Holiness of God.
    - Placed as lid upon the ark.
  - ◆ God's dwelling place (see also 2 Samuel 6:2; 2 Kings 19:15; Psalm 80:1; 99:1; Isaiah 37:16)
    - In the space above the mercy seat and between the wings of the cherubim.
    - This was God's covenant dwelling amongst His people.
    - God's voice would come from this place (Numbers 7:89).
    - God's holiness demanded absolute obedience.
      - ✓ Nadab and Abihu's sin – Leviticus 10:1-7
      - ✓ God's instructions to Aaron – Leviticus 16:1-2
  - ◆ Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:3-34)
    - The High priest would sprinkle blood from the offerings upon the mercy seat showing that it was the blood that satisfied God's wrath. (Leviticus 16:11-15)
    - Stranger on the Road to Emmaus
      - ✓ Disc 4, Chapter 9, Section 1 Supplement = 11 minutes

## Design of the Priesthood

### → The Lineage of the Priesthood (Exodus 27:21)

- ◆ Aaron and his sons
  - Aaron's leadership confirmed (Numbers 16-17)
  - Aaron's priesthood confirmed (Numbers 18:1-7)
- ◆ Other "Priests" mentioned in the Scriptures
  - Melchizedek (Genesis 14:17-24; Hebrews 7:1-4) – This priest appeared to Abram after he rescued Lot and his family from the enemy. Melchizedek is described as the King of Salem, "the priest of the most high God". He embodied both the offices of king and priest and there is no record of any descendants. He was one of a kind. What is significant is that Abram gives tithes to Melchizedek as a form of worship much like the requirements in the law would later dictate.
  - Jesus Christ (Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:8-10; 7:14-28) – Jesus is likened unto Melchizedek by the writer of Hebrews for He also bears the title both of King and Priest. He also has no beginning nor end. He also is of a different lineage than that of the Priesthood of the Law. Jesus is the better Priest, according to Hebrews.
  - The Nation of Israel (Exodus 19:6) – God expected the people of Israel to be holy and different the other nations just as the priests were among them. (see also Deuteronomy 7:6; 26:19; 28:9)
  - The Church – Believers in Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5,9-10): Peter is exhorting believers of their roles as priests offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God and showing forth the praises of God to the world. This speaks to the holiness and peculiarity of God's people. (see also Revelation 1:6)

### → The Purpose of the Aaronic Priesthood

- ◆ Their first officially declared responsibility was maintaining the menorah in the tabernacle. (Exodus 27:21)
  - Notice they were to "order it" from evening to morning before the LORD. This means they kept it working in it's proper fashion.
  - Notice also that the priest's role was a "statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel." This speaks of purpose or need of a priesthood. They took care of these things to benefit all the nation of Israel.
- ◆ That they might "minister unto [the LORD] in the priest's office" or as a priest (Exodus 28:1,3,4)
- ◆ "...that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel." (Numbers 18:1-5,7)
- ◆ Meaning of "Priest"
  - Hebrew - 03548 כֹהֵן kohen ko-hane'
    - One who mediates in religious services
  - Greek - 2409 ἱερεὺς hierēus hee-er-yooce'
    - "one who offers sacrifices and in general in busied with sacred rites" (Online Bible Greek Lexicon)
  - A priest is one who goes to God on behalf of the people. He has a holy position and responsibility of helping people maintain a right relationship with God.
  - This is best understood when looking at how Jesus Christ is our High Priest.
    - ✓ To Reconcile the Relationship between God and Man - Hebrews 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

- ✓ **Appointed by God**
    - **Hebrews 3:1** Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;
    - **Hebrews 5:5** So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.
  - ✓ **To be understanding of the Frailty of Man and the Holiness of God**
    - **Hebrews 4:14-15** Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.
    - **Hebrews 5:1** For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:
  - ✓ **Our Forerunner - Hebrews 6:19-20** Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.
  - ✓ **Intercession for people through sacrifice - Hebrews 7:25-26** Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. 26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;
  - ✓ **To serve the people by offering gifts according to the Law - Hebrews 8:2-4** A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. 3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. 4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law:
  - ✓ **Offers the Blood for Redemption - Hebrews 9:7-12** But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: 9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; 10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. 11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.
  - ✓ **Appear Before God for the People - Hebrews 9:24** For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:
  - ✓ **Offering the Sacrifice to God - Hebrews 10:10-12** By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;
  - **Special Note: Notice the Purpose of the Sacrifice**
    - ✓ **Purification and Exhort to Faithful Living - Hebrews 9:13-14** For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
    - ✓ **To Bear the Sins of the People - Hebrews 9:28** So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.
- ➔ **The Organization of the Priesthood**
- ◆ **High Priest**
    - Aaron was the first, after which it would pass to the eldest son. (Exodus 28:1; 29:29-30; Leviticus 16:32; Numbers 20:26; Deuteronomy 10:6)
    - Designated the head of all the Levites (Numbers 3:9; 17:3)
    - Garments unique for the role.
    - Only one able to go into the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:1-ff)
  - ◆ **Priest**
    - Sons of High Priest
    - Responsible to carry out the sacrifices and other workings of the tabernacle
- ➔ **The Garments of the Priesthood (Exodus 28:1-43; 39:1-31)**

# The Garments of the High Priest

“...for glory and for beauty.”

Exodus 28

**Golden Head Band**  
"Holiness to the LORD"  
Exodus 28:36-38

**Miter**  
Exodus 28:37,39

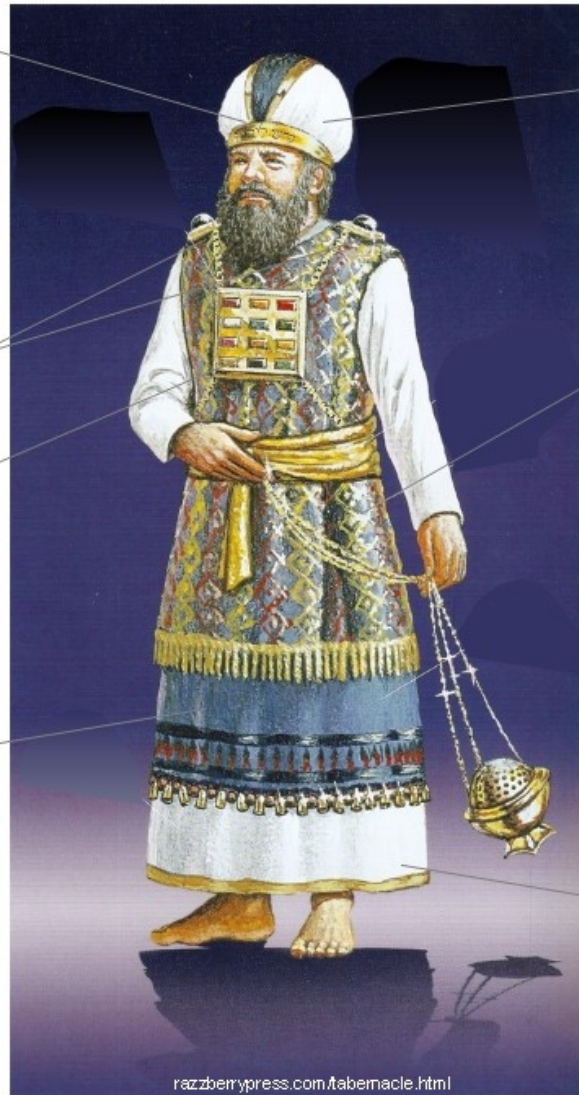
**Onyx Stones**  
Exodus 28:9-14

**Ephod**  
Exodus 28:5-8

**Breastplate**  
Urim and Thummin  
Exodus 28:15-30

**Robe (of the Ephod)**  
Exodus 28:31-35

**Coat (Tunic)**  
Exodus 28:39



- ◆ The Purpose of the Special Garments (Exodus 28:43)
  - To set the priests apart as holy.
  - To show submission to God's commands and perfection.
  - To show that they “bear not iniquity, and die”.
- ◆ The High Priest's Garments (Exodus 28:2-39,42) - “for glory and for beauty”
  - The Ephod (Exodus 28:6-14)
    - ✓ Made of brilliantly colored materials
      - gold (see Exodus 39:3)
      - blue
      - purple
      - scarlet
      - fine linen
    - ✓ Had two pieces that were joined together over the shoulder
    - ✓ A girdle held the pieces together
    - ✓ On each shoulder, an onyx stone was placed in a gold setting. These precious gems were engraved with the the names of the twelve tribes of Israel according to their birth, six on one onyx and six on the other.
    - ✓ Gold chains were then attached from these shoulder settings to the breastplate.
    - ✓ Purpose: a memorial unto the children of Israel, Aaron bears them before the LORD (vs. 12)
  - The Breastplate (Exodus 28:15-30; 39:9)
    - ✓ Called the “Breastplate of Judgment” for it testified to how God would look to the High Priest for leadership and discernment (see also the discussion on the Urim and the Thummim)
    - ✓ Crafted of colored materials folded over creating two layers acting as a pocket for the Urim and Thummim (Leviticus 8:8)
      - Urim (“lights”) and Thummim (“perfection”) - Exodus 28:30; Numbers 27:21; 1 Samuel 28:6
        - “It may suffice us to know that this was a singular piece of Divine workmanship, which the high priest was obliged to wear upon solemn occasions, as one of the conditions upon which God engaged to give him answers; which answers God might give to him either by inward suggestion to his mind, or by a vocal expression to his ear. But which of those ways, or whether by any other way, it is needless now to search, and impossible certainly to discover.” Matthew Poole Commentary
        - These two items seem to be provided by God to the high priest for the purpose of discerning God's will on certain matters. Some believe they may have been used as lots. It is possible that they were used to bring to “light” God's “perfect” will.
        - They were placed upon Aaron's heart showing the intimacy between God's will and this representative of the people.
        - Exodus 28:30 declares the purpose of these being a part of Aaron's garment – Aaron “bears the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the Lord continually”
    - ✓ It was one span square (distance from thumb to little finger on an outstretched hand)



- ✓ This square piece of cloth contained gold settings for twelve precious stones. These stones were placed in four rows of three each. The twelve stones engraved with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- ✓ This breastplate was attached to the Ephod with a blue cord.
- ✓ Purpose of the Breastplate: It was to be a memorial of the twelve tribes always upon the High Priest's heart. It would prove to remind the high priest of the people he is representing before the Lord continually.
- The Robe (Exodus 28:31-35; 39:22-26)
  - ✓ This robe was made entirely of one continuous woven piece of blue cloth.
  - ✓ It had one hole in it for the head with a sturdy collar to keep it from ripping.
  - ✓ It had a hem along the bottom which had pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet alternating with golden bells. The bells would jingle alerting the other priests of the High Priest's whereabouts and would prove he was still alive ministering inside the Tabernacle. (28:35)
  - ✓ This robe is a reminder of the robe that Christ wore during His trial and persecution (John 19:23).
- The Coat (Exodus 28:39; 39:27) – Both for the High Priest and his sons
  - ✓ This coat was embroidered of fine linen, most likely white in color.
  - ✓ This acted as the inner tunic, being much the same as the typical clothes of the sons of the high priest.
- The Linen Miter (Turban) (Exodus 28:37,39; 39:28)
  - ✓ This was some sort of headdress worn to cover the head of the high priest and to hold the golden head band.
  - ✓ This was made of the same material as the coat and most likely white in color.
- The Engraved Head Band (Exodus 28:36-38; 39:30-31)
  - ✓ Made from gold that was beaten flat. Gold representing the purest and most valuable of all elements. The only element to be used in the Most Holy Place.
  - ✓ This was attached around the Miter with a blue ribbon.
  - ✓ Engraved with this truth “Holiness to the LORD”.
  - ✓ Purpose of this Golden Head Band: “that [the high priest] may bear the iniquity of the holy things” (Exodus 28:38)
    - The high priest is the only one to go before the Lord. In all of the ordinances and cleansing, there still remained this one fact: all of the clothes, the gifts, and the materials given to the work of the tabernacle were from unholy people. It was this golden plate that stood as a reminder that the high priest in his role as mediator between God and man, enabled unholy objects to be used before the holiness of God. Aaron absorbed in his position as high priest, the sins of the people, that their gifts may be accepted by the Lord.
    - This can be likened unto the prophecies and writings of the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus, took upon himself the sins of the world in that cosmic dual role as Priest and sacrifice, enabling us to be accepted by God.
      - **Isaiah 53:11** He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.
      - **Romans 5:1** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;

- **Romans 5:19** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.
- **Hebrews 5:8-9** Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;
- **Hebrews 7:25-27** Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. 26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; 27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.
- **Hebrews 9:28** So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.
- **Hebrews 10:12-22** But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. 15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. 19 ¶ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.
- **The Linen Girdle (Exodus 28:39; 39:29; Leviticus 8:7) – Both for the High Priest and his sons**
  - ✓ This was a fine piece of needlework involving the white linen and woven threads of blue, purple and scarlet.
  - ✓ The term “girdle” used in Exodus 28:39 is a different Hebrew word than the term used for the “girdle” of the Ephod (28:8). This term used here has been described by scholars and early historians as a long piece of fabric wrapped several times around the body, then tied in the front and the ends left to hang. It is this girdle that the priests would pick up and put over their shoulders while working.
- ◆ **The Common Priest's Garments (Exodus 28:40-43) - “...for glory and for beauty”**
  - The Linen Coat and Girdle – These would have been the same as that described above for the High Priest.
  - The Linen Bonnets – These would have been similar to a turban worn to cover the head.
  - The Linen Breeches (undergarments) – The primary purpose of these was to “cover their nakedness”. Public nakedness being a shameful thing ever since the sin of Adam and Eve. (Genesis 3:7-11,21)
- ➔ **The Consecration of the Priesthood (Exodus 28:41; 29; 40:12-16)**
  - ◆ There was a specific process that the priests had to go through to be purified and prepared for this ministry.
  - ◆ They were to be anointed (28:41) – smeared with oil marking them as called one's of the LORD
  - ◆ They were to be consecrated (28:41) – their hands were to be filled and their minds equipped for the ministry. Other translations use the word “ordain” for this term.
  - ◆ They were to be sanctified (28:41) – they were set apart for the work and dedicated unto God.
  - ◆ Application Scriptures: 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; 5:23
- ➔ **The Blessings of the Priesthood (Numbers 18:6, 8-24)**
  - ◆ The Tribe of Levi (6)

- This tribe was given as a gift to Aaron and his family.
- They were to be the support base and maintenance crew.
- They enabled Aaron and his sons to concentrate all their effort on doing the priestly duties in the tabernacle.
- ◆ The Heave Offerings (8-11)
  - Portions of the offerings that were given by the Israelites would go to Aaron and his sons.
  - This would involve portions of the meal (grain, flour, olive oil) offerings (Leviticus 2:3), the peace (meat or bread) offerings (Leviticus 7:31-34), the sin (meat or flour) offering (Leviticus 5:13; 6:26), and the Trespass (meat) offering (Leviticus 7:6).
- ◆ The First Fruits (12-14)
  - The tithes of the people would include the first of every crop.
  - This would provide the priests with regular food since they had no farms or land.
- ◆ The First Born (15-19)
  - The people of Israel were to offer their first born children and animals (Exodus 13:2; 22:29-30). The children would be redeemed for a price. The animals would be kept by the priests for food.
  - This offering of the first born displays an exaltation of the LORD and obedience to His commands. The LORD wanted their best and their first for Himself.
- ◆ The Personal Care of the LORD (20-24)
  - The LORD told Aaron "...I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel."
  - The LORD would look out for His ministers.
  - Aaron and the tribe of Levi were all to be cared for by the tithes of the other 11 tribes. They were given no inheritance of their own.

## Supplement Material

GoodSeed International has put together a Sunday School curriculum on the Tabernacle. It can be found free of charge at the website for GoodSeed International. This resource proved very helpful in designing this study. Below is the link to the PDF versions of GoodSeed's 12 lesson curriculum.

<http://www.goodseed.com/learning/tabernacle-lessons/>

# The Tabernacle to the Cross

A Picture of God's Redemption Plan



# **The Tabernacle to the Cross**

**A Picture of God's Redemption Plan**

## Table of Contents

I. Introduction of God's Covenant.....	1
II. Time-line of Sinai Encampment.....	4
III. Directions for the Tabernacle's Construction.....	8
III. Details of the Tabernacle's Structure and Furnishings.....	11
IV. Design of the Priesthood.....	21
V. Supplement Material – <u>The Tabernacle: A Twelve Lesson Study</u> by GoodSeed.....	28