

**THE TABERNACLE – Part 2**  
**An Old Testament Picture of Christ**  
May 11, 2011; Dr. Jim Eoff

**Last Weeks Lesson**

1. Definition of the Tabernacle
2. Reasons to Study the Tabernacle
3. God designer & architect
4. Introduction to the Tabernacle
5. Contrast with Solomon's Temple
6. Design/Structure of the Tabernacle (outer, inner, & innermost courts)
7. Shekinah Glory
8. **SIGNIFICANCE & APPLICATION of the Tabernacle**

**A. Pattern of a PLACE** = God's Throne Room in Heaven - "*patterns of things in the heavens*" Heb 9:23-24  
Hebrews 8:2; 8:5; 9:11; 9:24; Isaiah 6; Daniel 7 & 10; Ezekiel 1; Revelation 4 & 5

***Where does an "omnipotent" God dwell?***

- 1<sup>st</sup> house- **PRIMARY HOUSE**  
Garden of Eden - Adam & Eve (Gen. 5:24; 6:9)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> house - **PATTERN** of a House  
– The Tabernacle (Ex 25:8; 40:34)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> house – **PROMISED** House  
- The Temple (1 Kings 8:10–11) "The glory dwelt in the temple"
- 4<sup>th</sup> house - **PERFECT** HOUSE  
- The Lord JESUS CHRIST – Diety "clothed" in a flesh
- 5<sup>th</sup> house - **PRESENT** House  
- Believers (1 Cor. 6:19–20) (bodies are a temple)  
- The Church (Eph 2:20–22) (the bride of Christ)
- 6th house - **PERMANENT** House  
- "a new heavens and new earth" Rev 21-22

**B. Description of DIETY** – a "type" (picture or prophecy) of Jesus Christ = the meeting place between man & God  
*Each piece of furniture symbolizes a unique ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ*

1. John 1:14 (the word was made flesh and TABERNACLED among us)
2. John 2:19, 21 (Destroy this temple and in 3 days I will raise it up)

**C. Blueprint of the BELIEVER** (triune nature of man 1 Thes 5:23)

- I Cor 3: 16-17; 6: 19; 2 Cor 5:1; 2 Cor 6:16; Rom 12:1; Phil 3:21; Eph 2:21-22; Rev 21:2-3
1. Outer Court = Body
  2. Inner Court = Soul (mind, will & emotions)
  3. Innermost Court = Spirit

Temple maintenance becomes important to fully glorify God in whose image we were created.

**D. Shadow of SAVLATION** (Plan of Salvation)

1. PAST I was saved from penalty of sin = Justified
2. PRESENT I am being saved from power of sin = Sanctified
3. FUTURE I will be saved from presence of sin = Glorified

**E. Invitation to INTIMACY** - Christians commune with God through the Lord Jesus Christ:

1. Justified through Christ's sacrifice (from the Bronze Altar of Sacrifice)
2. Cleansed through confession & His Word (from the Bronze Laver)
3. Enlightened by the Holy Spirit (from the Gold Lampstand)
4. Spiritually fed by the living Word of God (from the Gold Table of Showbread)
5. Communication through prayer & intercession (from the Gold Altar of Incense)
6. Entering boldly into God's presence (which hovers over the Mercy Seat on top of the Ark of the Covenant)
7. Service to God & others

## The FURNITURE in the "COURTS" of the Tabernacle

### A. OUTER COURT (Courtyard)

#### 1.. Bronze Altar of Sacrifice (Christ our Sacrifice) -(Exodus 27:1-8; 40:6, 10, 29)

Measurements:

5 cubits long (7.5 ft.), 5 cubits wide (7.5 ft.) , 3 cubits high (4.5 ft.)

Characteristics

Made of acacia wood covered with bronze (brass)

Square & the 4 corners had horns overlaid with bronze

Bronze grate put under the bronze altar

Hollow staves (carrying poles, made of acacia wood & covered with bronze)

Utensils:

Bronze pans to receive ashes, Bronze shovels, Bronze basins, Bronze fleshhooks (forks), Bronze firepans

Types of offerings:

1. Burnt offering (bull, sheep, goats without blemish, or birds) (Leviticus 1:1-17)

2. Grain offering (Leviticus 2:1-16)

3. Peace offering (goat or lamb) (Lev. 3:1-17)

4. Sin offering (bull, goat, or lamb) (Lev. 4:1-35)

5. Trespass offering (female of the flock, lamb, goat kid, bird or grain) (Lev. 5 & 6)

Sacrifice was necessary for forgiveness: ATONEMENT

The blood of the animal was important to justify the people before God.

A proper sacrifice was an animal that was valuable & perfect, not flawed.

Sin was serious; only shed blood which stands for life, could pay for sin

By laying his hand on it, the person identified with the animal sacrifice.

Jesus the Ultimate Sacrifice:

The blood of animals made the people of Israel clean and forgiven temporarily. (Hebrews 9:13)

When John the Baptist saw Jesus approaching he informed the people that

Jesus is the "Lamb of God" who will take away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

The Bible says that Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice & his death makes believers clean forever, before God. (Heb 9:11, 12, 14)

#### **Significance of Bronze Altar**

God wants to dwell among people Ex 25:8 *HOW does a HOLY God dwell among SINFUL people?*

God requires a sacrifice for their sins.

God allowed the blood of an animal to atone for sin, making it possible to enter into God's presence. Gen 2:17; 3:21; 4:3-7

#### **Substitutionary Atonement**

The owner lays his hands on head of lamb

Symbolically, they transfer their sin to the animal who dies in their place.

Jesus Christ is our substitute through His death on the Cross = propitiation

Lev 5:5-9; 6:1-13; 1 Peter 1:20; 2 Tim 1:9; 1 Jn 2:2; Hebrews 9:11- 14

What looks like "it's over" is actually "our beginning"

#### 2. Bronze Laver (Basin) (Christ our Sanctification) (Exodus 30:17-21; 40:7, 30-32)

The bronze laver was located between the bronze altar and the Tabernacle.

The bronze laver and its stand were made from the mirrors of the women (Ex 38:8)

The exact size of the bronze laver is not described in Scripture.

The Laver was used for ceremonial washing:

Priests bathed their entire body when they were ordained (Ex 29:4)

Following ordination, the priests had to wash their hands & feet every time they entered the Tabernacle, or they would die (Ex 30:19-21)

Washing hands and feet stood for sanctification, or becoming holy (*set apart for the Lord*)

Serving God requires not just cleansing from sin, but desiring holiness.

The Bible tells believers to cleanse their hearts from guilt before approaching God. (Hebrews 10:22)

We are "cleansed" by the Word of God John 15:3; 17:17; Eph 5:26; Psalm 119:9

Followers of Jesus have accepted his sacrificial death on their behalf.

However, believers must be cleansed from sin and continue to strive for holiness. (James 4:8)

God wants us to purify our hearts so that we can resist evil and be near to God.

## Contrasts

<u>Brass Altar</u>	<u>Laver</u>
First	after sacrifice
for all	only priests
wood & brass	brass only
square	round
specified size	no dimensions
rings to carry	no rings
covered	no covering
Fire	Water
Sacrifice instead of me	Water to wash me
Atonement blood shed for me	Cleansed through water given to me
Died for me	Washed by me

### Significance of the Laver

A place of cleansing through WATER (Symbolizes the Word of God)

Follows peace of sacrifice with holiness = Christ is our Sanctification (Set apart)

We are kept pure by the word Eph 5:25-26; Ps 119:9

God's word is a mirror James 1:23 = reflection & revelation: God's Word 1st reveals; then judges; then cleanses if we repent

**Everyone came to the altar; only priests came to the laver.**

Priestly privileges - 1 Pet 2:5; Priestly duties - Heb 13:15

Priests must wash once fully – Ex 29:4 = done for them; Priests must wash daily, regularly – Ex 30:19 = done by them

Represents subjective cleansing in my life: Is 52:11; Heb 12:24

### B. INNER COURT (The Holy Place) = first division of the "Tabernacle tent"

#### 3. Gold Lampstand (Christ our Sight) Ex 25:31-40

##### Characteristics:

Made of pure hammered gold, one solid piece.; a central shaft with 6 branches, 3 on each side

Each branch had knobs, flowers, & an almond-shaped bowl to hold pure olive oil

**The priest's duty was to trim the wicks and keep the lamps lit.**

The lampstand was designed to provide light for the Tabernacle.

The lampstand was the first item seen upon entering the Tabernacle as a reminder to his people that God is light.

Jesus referred to himself as the light of the world & those who follow him will never walk in darkness (John 8:12; 9:5; 12:46)

The Holy Spirit is a light for believers: It guides them through life, & protects them from evil and darkness.

**Believers are God's light (witness) to the world. (John 12:46)**

##### Significance:

###### 1. THE SAVIOR – Christ our sight

a. Christ is Light (Jn 1:4; 9:5) 21 X in gospels = (7 X 3) During the Feast of Tabernacles, which commemorated the days Israel spent in the wilderness following the cloud and the pillar of fire, Jesus told the people that he was the light of the world and said that if they followed him, they would no longer live in darkness. (John 8:12)

Christians live in supernatural light 1 Cor 2:14

"shaft" Hebrew "yarek" = "thigh" "loins" "side" "body"

b. Christ is Lord

(pure gold = symbol of deity) (beaten = his sufferings)

c. Christ is Life

Buds & flowers & fruit of almond tree = symbolic of the resurrection

###### 2. SAINTS

The number 6 is the man number plus 1 central shaft = 7 (7 is the perfect or complete number)

All one solid piece = bearing fruit "I am the vine, ye are the branches"

Our business is to bear fruit & light - not generators & not producers

We only have to abide in Jesus. We are not to burn out as a candle

###### 3. SPIRIT

Pure olive oil fed in central shaft - Oil represents the Holy Spirit

Pictures the HS energizing Jesus & Christians (Oil flowed into central shaft & flows to others)

= spiritual illumination Rev 2 & 3; Ps 119:105; Ps 36:9

#### **4. Gold Table of Showbread (Christ our Sustenance) Ex 25:23-30**

##### **Measurements**

2 cubits long (3 ft.), 1 cubit wide (1.5 ft.), 1.5 cubits high (2.25 ft.)

##### **Characteristics:**

Made of acacia wood overlaid with gold  
Had a crown of gold around its edge, wide as a man's hand  
Ring of gold put on each of the four legs for the carrying poles  
Carrying poles of acacia wood covered with gold.

##### **Utensils**

Golden Dishes, Spoons, Covers, Pitchers, Bowls

Priests placed 12 loaves of bread made from fine flour on the table

Loaves represented the 12 tribes of Israel & God's everlasting covenant with Israel

Fresh break placed there every Sabbath as a memorial of God's provision of food

Bread was eaten by the priests.

##### ***Jesus said "I am the bread of life" and his death and resurrection provide believers with eternal life.***

Jesus said anyone who believes in him will never hunger or thirst for spiritual nourishment again. (John 6:35)

Jesus said his body is bread from heaven & provides believers with eternal life. (Jn 6:35, 51)

On the night Jesus was betrayed, he told his disciples to remember him & his sacrifice every time they eat bread & drink from the cup of memorial. (Luke 22:19)

- 1. Mana** – sent from heaven, down to earth  
= symbolizes Christ in His humility  
= born in Bethlehem = "house of bread"
- 2. Showbread = Bread of presence (Lev 24:5-9)**  
= symbolizes Christ in His glory  
Priests ate the bread on the Sabbath,  
For believers, every day is Sabbath!

##### **Jesus is the Bread of Life:**

- Food to sustain us (John 6)  
"Eat my flesh" "My words are spirit & life"
- Fellowship to entertain us  
Table = Center of fellowship Acts 2:42; Rev 3:20  
1 Cor 1:9 = called to fellowship  
Lev 24:8 everlasting covenant = communion & fellowship together
- Fullness to maintain us (Lev 24:8)  
Continually represent everlasting Christ  
1 Cor 10:16 – we are what we eat

#### **5 Gold Altar of Incense (Christ our Supplication) Ex 3:1-10; 34-38)**

##### **Measurements:**

1.cubit long (1.5 ft.), 1 cubit wide (1.5 ft.), 2 cubits high (3 ft.)

##### **Characteristics:**

The Altar of Incense was made from shittim (acacia) wood, and stood in front of the veil concealing the Most Holy Place.

Its four corners each had a horn made from one piece.

Its top, sides, and horns were overlaid with gold, with a crown or molding all around the top.

The Altar of Incense had rings on its side for carrying poles.

##### **High priest burned incense upon it every morning & evening**

The fire for the incense came from the Bronze Altar in the outer court

The Lord required a special sweet incense, a mixture of spices, used only for the Tabernacle to be burned on the altar of incense (Ex 30:35-37)

The priest was in danger of death if any other incense was burned or fire was used (Lev 10:1-2)

*Lev 10:1-3 Nadab & Abihu – false fire (another source vs the Altar of sacrifice)*

*2 Chron 26:16-17 King Uzziah – tried to burn incense (struck with leprosy)*

##### ***This reminds us of the importance of prayer – the closest place to God's glory.***

Jesus went away frequently to pray. (Matthew 14:23; Luke 5:16)

Jesus taught his disciples how to pray. (Matthew 6:5-15)

Believers in Jesus are told to pray constantly. (Acts 1:14; Romans 8:26)

## Significance of the Altar of Incense

Incense = prayers of saints Ps 43:1-5; 141:2; Rev 5:8

We pray to the Father; through the Son; in the power of the Spirit.

The mediation of Christ who “ever-lives to make intercession for us” Heb 9:24

The golden altar was a type of Christ interceding in heaven as the brazen altar was a type of Christ dying on earth.

Link the holy place & holy of holies = Just as smoke permeates the veil, our prayers link heaven & earth. Psalm 141:1

**Incense:** The value of the altar was in the incense.

Incense made with equal proportions of stacte, onycha, galbanum & frankincense.

**Intercession:** The great work of Christ: the merit of: (1) His life (2) His death (3) His resurrection (4) His ascension

“there is but one mediator” 1 Tim 2:5b

“& having a high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith” Heb 10:21-22

***We have access Rom 5:1 & We can come boldly to the throne Heb 4:16***

### Contrasts:

<u>Brazen Altar</u>	<u>Golden Altar</u>
On the outside	On the inside
In public	In private
Outer court	Inner Court
Gasly stench	Lovely odor
Blood shed	Tears shed
Plain	Beautiful
Brass – bronze	Gold
No crown	Crown
Turn from sin	Turn to God
Guard - outer door	Guard - inner door
Done for me	Done by me
Real value = blood	Value = incense
Christ finished work	Unfinished work – continuing work
Christ - humiliation	Christ-Exhaltation
Done for sinners	Done for saints
Saved by blood	Kept by prayer
Suffering	Triumph
Death of Christ	Life of Christ
Christ as Savior	Christ our Mediator

### Similiarties to Altar of Sacrifice

Both foursquare, = symmetrical sign of solidity & equality

Both rings & staves of non-isolation,

Both have 4 horns – symbol of universal strength.

Both a place of sacrifice

Both are precious in his sight (every tear in a bottle)

## C. INNERMOST COURT (The Holy of Holies) = second division of the “Tabernacle tent”

### 6. Ark of the covenant (Christ our Security & Sufficiency) Ex 25:10-16

#### **Measurements**

2.5 cubits long (45 in.), 1.5 cubits wide (27 in.), 1.5 cubits high (27 in.)

#### **Characteristics:**

The Ark was made of acacia wood & overlaid with gold, inside & out with a gold crown or molding set around the edge of the top.

Four gold rings, one on each legs, were placed for the carrying poles

The poles were acacia wood overlaid with gold.

The Mercy Seat was on top of the Ark.

## Contents of the Ark -Hebrews 9:4

1. The stone tablets with the Ten Commandments (God protects)
2. A jar of manna (God provides)
3. Aaron's rod which budded & bore fruit (God's power to bring life out of death)

### Christ our Righteousness:

Jesus fulfilled the law, and **protects** all believers with his blood.

### Christ our Resources:

Jesus **provides** us with the bread of life which is eternal salvation. (John 6)

### Christ our Resurrection:

Jesus demonstrated his power over death by rising from the dead.

## Significance of the Ark of the Covenant

Shows Jesus Christ is our security & sufficiency (25:10)

The Ark = chest for safekeeping = Jesus preserves the law (Matt 5:17) - In Jesus, righteousness fulfilled

High priest on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement sprinkles blood on the Mercy seat to atone for the sins of the people.

Deut 10:8; Lev 16; Ex 37:6-9; John 6:44; Eph 2:8-9; Ex 25:10-16; Heb 9:4.

Cherubim look down & worshiped the blood on mercy seat

Then the friendship between god & his people was restored.

God reached out to make it possible for people to know him.

## 7. Mercy Seat (Christ our Satisfaction) Ex 25:17-21

### Measurements

2.5 cubits long (45 in.), 1.5 cubits wide (27 in.)

### Characteristics:

The Mercy seat was made of pure gold. - The Mercy Seat was beaten or hammered from one solid piece of gold.

Winged cherub on each side, facing each other with wings outstretched, towards each other.

It was placed on top of the Ark.

God offered mercy so sinful people could approach Him—to the amazement of angels.

The mercy of God is made evident through the blood of Jesus Christ.

The Bible promises God's mercy & grace when we approach Him. (Hebrews 4:16)

Our efforts to be "good people" are not enough to approach God. - ***Jesus alone is the Way to God. (John 14:6)***

### Significance

Mercy Seat picture of God's Throne Ps 32:1; Ps 80:1; Ps 91:1; Ps 99:1

Where the Shekinah glory dwelt - Ps. 80:1 *"there I will meet with you"* Ex 26:22

Symbolism = Propitiation - Rom 3:24 ; Jesus is our mercy seat - 1 John 4:10

Where priest sprinkled blood on Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

### Through The Veil

The Veil was woven of blue, purple, & scarlet thread, along with embroidered designs of cherubim.

The Veil hung on four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold

The Veil was hung from 4 gold hooks that were put in 4 sockets of silver.

There was no separation in the middle of the veil.

The high priest went around the side of the veil to enter on the Day of Atonement

The Bible says that Jesus' body is the curtain or veil through which we approach God Heb 10:19-20

Because of Jesus & the sacrifice He made, ALL people can now enter the Most Holy Place

## THE CLOUD & PILLAR OF FIRE: "The Shekinah Glory" Ex 25:8, 22; 29; 43; 40:34-3)

The Lord manifested His presence with a cloud by day & a pillar of fire by night.

It would rest above the Tabernacle directly above the Mercy Seat

When the cloud or pillar of fire moved, the children of Israel followed it.

Wherever it stopped, they camped there until it moved again.

## **VI. The HIGH PRIEST Ex 28:1-43; 39:1-31)**

Dedicated to serving the Lord & presenting the people before their God  
High Priest garments an expression of God's righteousness & merciful love for His people  
Jesus is our High Priest Heb 7:25; Heb 4:14-16

The high priest's life was dedicated to serving:

- (1) He represented Jehovah God to the people.
- (2) He represented the people to their God.

### **The design of the priestly garments was an expression of God's righteousness and merciful love for his people.**

1. Tunic: (Exodus 28:39)  
The priest dressed first in a checkered tunic of fine linen.
2. Robe: (Exodus 28:31-34)  
Over the tunic, the priest wore a blue robe with golden bells and pomegranates.
3. Ephod: (Exodus 28:4-6)  
Over the robe, the priest wore an ephod of gold, of blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and of fine twisted linen
4. Breastplate and Urim and Thummim:  
The gold breastplate of judgment hung from chains of pure gold, twisted like cords.  
In the breastplate were the Urim and Thummim.
5. Stones: (Exodus 28:17-21)  
Inside the breastplate were twelve stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel. The first row of stones were a carnelian, a chrysolite, and an emerald; the second row were a turquoise, a sapphire, and a moonstone; the third row were a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; and the fourth row a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper.
6. Shoulder Stones: (Exodus 28:9-12, 39:6,7)  
Set upon the shoulder pieces of the ephod are two onyx stones. The names of the sons of Israel (six names on each stone) are engraved upon the onyx stones.
7. Mitre (Turban): (Exodus 28:4, 39)  
The high priest wore a mitre or turban on his head made of fine linen.
8. The Holy Plate (Exodus 28:36; 29:6)  
A holy plate or crown (diadem) was worn on the turban. Engraved on the plate reads: "Holy to the Lord."
9. The Censer (Exodus 28:36; 29:6)  
On the Day of Atonement, the high priest fills a censer full of coals from the altar as well as crushed incense, and brings it into the Most Holy Place and offers it before the Lord.

The high priest entered the Most Holy Place once a year, on the Day of Atonement, to sprinkle blood on the Mercy Seat (the lid of the Ark) to atone for his sins and the people's sins.

Jesus is our Great High Priest. He is righteous & merciful, & was willing to sacrifice his life for us & now he intercedes for us. The Bible says that anyone is saved if they go to God through Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 7:25)

*"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. For we have not a high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb 4:14-16*

### **Believers are Priests - Exodus 29, 1 Peter 2:5, 9**

- A. We have been washed.  
The blood of Christ has cleansed us (Rev. 1:5-6), by faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 15:9; Titus 3:5).
- B. We have been clothed.  
We stand in the righteousness of Christ (Isa. 61:10; 2 Cor. 5:21) and wear the garments of God's grace (Col. 3:1)
- C. We have been anointed.  
The Holy Spirit lives within us (2 Cor. 1:21; 1 John 2:27), and He enables us to minister.
- D. We belong to God.  
The priests were "marked" by the blood on the ear (hear God), the hand (serve God), and the foot (walk with God).