

## The Tabernacle - Part I

The Old Testament is a progressive unfolding of God's plan for the redemption of mankind from the power of the devil.

Genesis 3:15 gives the general outline:

1. I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed.
  2. It shall bruise thy head and
  3. thou shall bruise his heel.
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1. We see a person in the seed of the woman,
  2. suffering in the bruised heel,
  3. victory in the bruising of the serpent's head.

The tabernacle is a part of the law. It was shown to Moses at the time he received the stone tablets on which God had written the law for His people Israel.

It provided a temporary hiding place, a cover, for the sinner in the presence of God until the promise was fulfilled.

### Moses - a man called of God

Exodus 2:1ff

Acts 7:17-46

1. Birth and preparation
2. Saved by Pharaoh's daughter
  - a. brought up and educated in the Egyptian palace.
  - b. nursed and taught by his own mother.
3. Flight into Midian
  - a. Midian, a son of Abraham by Keturah Genesis 25:1,2
4. Kept flocks on the "backside" of the desert 40 years
  - a. The mountain of God, Horeb  
Exodus 3:1; Acts 7:30
  - b. To "serve God upon this mountain" when he had brought the people out of Egypt Exodus 3:12
5. Preparation for material needed to build the tabernacle Exodus 3:21,22; Exodus 11:2,3b
  - a. This wealth had been brought into Egypt by Joseph during the famine Genesis 14:56,59

### The New Beginning - The Beginning of Months

Exodus 12:1

The Passover - a picture of God's plan of protection

Preparation of the children of Israel to bring them out of bondage into the land promised to Abraham,  
Exodus 12:12,13; Genesis 13:14-17

which they didn't believe God to receive because of fear.  
Numbers 13:30,31

Sanctification of all the firstborn  
Exodus 13:2,12-15; Numbers 3:13; 18:15-17

Protection  
The angel of God stood between them and the Egyptians, the cloud by day, the pillar of fire by night.  
Exodus 14:19,20; Exodus 13:21,22

#### The Journey

One month after they came out of Egypt they arrived at the Wilderness of Sinai which is between Elim and Sinai.

Exodus 16:1

In the third month they came into the Wilderness of Sinai.

Exodus 19:1

and camped before the mount.

Exodus 19:2

Moses ascends the Mount of God

Exodus 19:3

On Moses' fifth ascent of the mount, God gave him the written law on two tables of stone and the pattern for the tabernacle.

God spoke the law to the people first.

Exodus 20:1ff

Moses was in the mount 40 days and 40 nights.

Exodus 24:18

The number 40 in scripture is the number of trial and probation.

Three 40 year periods in Moses' life:

40 in Egypt

40 in Midian

40 in the wilderness

Two 40 day periods

40 days in the mount to receive the tables of the law and pattern of the tabernacle.

40 days in the mount after the episode of the golden calf to receive the second set of tables of the law.

Part II

The Tabernacle - God's Portrait of the Savior

- I. The beginning of the covering
  - a. Adam and Eve - coats of skins  
Genesis 3:21
  - b. Cain's and Abel's sacrifice  
Genesis 4:4
  - c. Noah's sacrifice  
Genesis 3:20
  - d. Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac - a picture of the substitution.  
Genesis 22:2,8,13,14
  
- II. The wages of sin is death  
Romans 6:23
  
- III. The Life is in the blood  
Leviticus 17:11  
It is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.  
The contaminated blood had to be replaced with perfect blood in order to attain that which God in the beginning had purposed for man, i.e. eternal life with Him.
  
- IV. The Tabernacle is a picture in detail, with all its services, sacrifices, its physical composition, of what needed to be accomplished and of the promised one who would make it possible for it to be accomplished.

Part III

The Tabernacle

I. Physical Set-up

- A. An offering from the children of Israel. Exodus 25:1,2
  - a. of every man that giveth willingly with his heart
  - b. List of things required Exodus 25:3-7
  - c. Purpose - a sanctuary that I may dwell among them. Exodus 25:8
  - d. A "pattern" which God showed Moses. "tupos" Exodus 25:9; Hebrews 8:5
- B. Description and directions for making furniture.
  - a. The ark Exodus 25:10-15
    - 1. Its use Exodus 25:16
  - b. The mercy seat (Masoretic text - ark cover) Exodus 25:17-21
    - 1. Its use Exodus 25:22
  - c. The table of shew bread (bread of faces - Hebrew) Exodus 25:23-29
    - 1. Its use Exodus 25:30
  - d. The candlestick (light-holder) Exodus 25:31-36
    - 1. Its use Exodus 25:37
    - 2. tongs, snuffers Exodus 25:38-40
- C. Directions for making the cover of the tabernacle (mishkan)
  - a. The curtain of blue, purple, and scarlet Exodus 26:1-6
  - b. The curtain of goat's hair Exodus 26:7-13
  - c. The curtain of ram's skin Exodus 26:14
  - d. The "covering above" of badger skins. Exodus 26:14
- D. Directions for making the building
  - a. The boards Exodus 26:15-29
    - 1. The sockets of silver Exodus 26:19,21,25
    - 2. The bars Exodus 26:26-29
    - 3. Gold rings Exodus 26:29
- E. Directions for making the veil with the cherubims
  - a. the colors, the material, and decoration Exodus 26:31
- F. Directions for hanging the veil Exodus 26:32
  - a. the pillars
    - 1. number and material
    - 2. hooks
    - 3. sockets
  - b. the purpose Exodus 26:33b
- G. Directions for placing the furniture inside the tent.
  - a. The ark and mercy seat in the most holy place Exodus 26:34
  - b. the table, the candlestick in the holy place Exodus 26:35

*inside only seen by priests - dyed red*

- H. The hanging for the door of the tent Exodus 26:36
  - a. the colors
  - b. the material
  - c. the pillars Exodus 26:37
    - 1. gold - pillars and hooks
    - 2. brass bases

II. The Court Exodus 27:1-18

- A. The Brazen Altar Exodus 27:1-8
- B. The Court Hangings Exodus 27:9
  - 1. material and size
  - 2. pillars Exodus 27:10
  - 3. sockets Exodus 27:10
  - 4. gate and hanging Exodus 27:16
  - 5. silver fillets and hooks, brass sockets Exodus 27:17
  - 6. all vessels - brass Exodus 27:19
- C. Oil for "the light" Exodus 27:20,21
  - 1. to burn always

Chapter 28 The priest's garments

Chapter 29 The requirements to hallow the priests to minister in the tabernacle

III. The golden altar Exodus 30:1-6 Given after the consecration of the priests

- A. materials used Exodus 30:1
- B. direction for making Exodus 30:2
- C. place Exodus 30:6
- D. use Exodus 30:7-10

Exodus 30:11-16 Atonement Money

- IV. Brazen Laver Exodus 30:18-21
  - A. material Exodus 30:18a
  - B. place Exodus 30:18b
  - C. use Exodus 30:19-21

Assignment: Read Exodus 25,26,27,30

## Part IV

### God's Portrait of the Saviour

#### Court

The white hangings of the court wall are symbolic of righteousness.

Revelation 19:8; Psalm 118:15, 18-20; Psalm 97:1,2; Matthew 17:2; Mark 9:2,3; I Corinthians 1:30

The gate with it's hangings of "blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen" was the only way into the court, into the presence of God.

John 14:6; John 10:7,9; Deut. 12:5

Brass is a symbol of judgement

Daniel 10:6; Rev. 1:5; Rev. 2:18

Silver is a symbol of redemption

Ex. 30:6; 12:14; Numbers 3:49-51; 18:14-16

#### The Brazen Altar

The brazen altar was the only place an Israelite could present his offering to be acceptable before God.

Deut. 12:11

The object of the sacrifice was it's substitution for the sinner.

Genesis 22:5-8; John 1:29; II Corinthians 5:21; I John 2:2;

Leviticus 1:4

The altar is a picture of Christ as the place of sacrifice.

John 3:16,17

He is the Judge of Israel in the future but we shall also stand before the judgement seat of Christ.

Romans 14:10

The altar stands for judgement.

The sacrificial animal is a picture of Christ as a substitute standing judgement for the whole world.

Fire from heaven kindled the first fire laid on the brazen altar.

Leviticus 9:24

The fire is a picture or symbol of judgement also.

Leviticus 10:1,2; Numbers 16:35; Revelation 20:14; I Cor. 3:14,15

### The Brazen Laver

The brazen laver is a figure of the work of Christ.

It was for cleansing of the hands and feet in the service of worship.

Exodus 30:20,21

It is Christ who cleanses from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:9

The laver, made from the mirrors of the women, reflects condition.

Exodus 38:8

Christ loved the church and gave himself for it that he might sanctify and cleanse it by the washing of water by the Word.

Eph. 5:25,26

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken to you.

John 15:3

The laver was for cleansing hands and feet. Hands speak of service before the Lord, feet of walk or conduct.

### Colors in the Tabernacle

Blue pictures Christ as the upholder of the law, the judge who brings peace as the result of his righteous judgement.

Purple pictures Christ as King. Purple is a product of the blending of blue and scarlet, righteous judgement with love.

Scarlet pictures Christ as High Priest. A priest stands before God in place of man and stands before man in place of God. He is a mediator, the intercessor, he carries the blood, which has been shed to cover sin, into the presence of God; he substituted for the sinner before God.

Purple, being a combination of the scarlet of love and the blue of peace produces a heavenly kingship.

Blue as Righteous Judge.

Purple as King of Kings.

Scarlet as Redeemer Priest.

White pictures the righteousness that Christ was made for us.

I Corinthians 1:30

Gold pictures the purity and holiness that He is.

### The Three Veils (John 14:4)

- 1st Veil: Christ, the Way.  
Entrance into the court, the shadow of righteousness  
surrounding the dwelling place of God.  
Matthew 6:33
- 2nd Veil: Christ, the Truth.  
Entrance into the holy place, the place of worship.  
John 4:24
- 3rd Veil: Christ, the Life.  
The cover for the ark and the mercy seat.  
The entrance into the holy of holies, God's throne  
room.  
Hebrews 10:19-23

### The Covers for the Tabernacle

The first cover was of the three prominent tabernacle colors, "blue, and purple, and scarlet," embroidered with cherubims of gold.

A picture of God's grace, Christ as Judge, Priest and King.

The second cover was of goat's hair, a picture of Christ as a substitute, of his humiliation and sorrow.

The third cover was of ram's skin dyed red. The ram was used as the trespass offering for a specific sin against the holy things of the Lord and against the brethren.

The fourth cover was of badger skin used for protection against the world elements.

### The Holy Place

Everything here is gold except the tri-colored cover for the tent and the two tri-colored veils; one at the entrance to the tent and the other veiling at the Holy of Holies where the ark and the mercy seat, God's throne, were set.

### Meaning of the metals used in the tabernacle

Gold is used to picture holiness, purity.

1. It is most resistant to corrosion.
2. It is chemically inactive.
3. It is not a part of the earth though in it.
4. It is found everywhere in the world.
5. It is easy to work with.



Silver is a picture of redemption. Exodus 30:16

Copper (brass) judgement. Daniel 10:6, 14

Iron - man's power. It is an indispensable part of man's body.  
Daniel 2:40-43

The tent of worship is set in silver sockets (Ex. 30:12-16).  
It rests on the redemption money paid by every man to make an atonement for their souls.

The foundation of this gift from God - His habitation among His people, was redemption, the price paid by Jesus Christ for the sinners of the world. Galatians 3:13

This room held three golden pieces of furniture:

1. The table of shew bread

A wooden table covered with gold.  
It held 12 loaves of unleavened bread, one representing each of the tribes of the Children of Israel, before the Lord always.  
It was a prefigure of Christ as the sustainer of spiritual life. John 6:32,33,35

The sons of Kohath, Levi's son, were appointed to prepare the bread every sabbath (I Chron. 9:32) and to take care of the table and all of its implements on the march.

The priests ate the shewbread.

No imperfect one, no stranger, no defiled could eat at the table. Worship is the privilege of believers only, those who are made perfect in Christ.

2. The golden candlestick

The light-holder was a perfect picture of Christ.  
It was made of one piece of pure gold,  
no measurements were given for it,  
it held the only light in the holy place,  
and it was to burn continually.  
The light revealed the beauty of the light-holder.

"I am the light of the world." John 18:12

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.  
I John 1:5

Christ held forth that light that all might see.

3. The golden altar

The second altar in the tabernacle but different from the first in:

- a. the kind of material from which it was made.
- b. its location.
- c. its size.
- d. the kind of offering made on it.

It was placed before the veil which screened the Holy of Holies from the rest of the tent of worship. No strange incense (not ordained of God), nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat (meal), nor drink offering was to be offered on it.

The high priest made atonement on it once a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement. Lev. 16:12

The incense to be burned on the altar each morning and evening was made after God's specific direction. It had five ingredients (5 is the number of grace).

Incense is the symbol of prayer and praise.  
Rev. 8:3,4; Psalm 141:2; Heb. 7:25; Luke 1:9,10

The golden altar is where God deals with the cleansed one; the brazen altar where God deals with the sinner.

Gold speaks of grace; brass of judgement.

The brazen altar speaks of what Christ did for us on earth; the golden altar of what he does for us in the heavenlies.

The golden altar rightly belongs in the holy of holies and in the holy place. In the holy of holies it suggests the intercessory work of Christ (Rom. 8:34); in the holy place it suggests the place of prayer and praise in worship toward God. (Heb. 10:19,20)

We have no merit apart from Christ that makes our prayers acceptable to God. Our prayers are acceptable because Christ died for our sins and God raised him from the dead and has made us "acceptable in the beloved." (Eph. 1:6)

Positionally to pray in the name of Christ means to present all his merit, worth, and work as the basis of acceptance and cause of answering our prayers.  
Hebrews 13:15; Romans 8:34

Aaron was told to offer perpetual incense upon the altar. Paul told us to "pray without ceasing." I Thes. 5:17

Incense was offered with the prayers of the saints. Rev. 8:3,4

Our prayers are to be offered in the name of Jesus Christ who was a sweet savour unto the Lord. Col. 3:17; Eph. 5:2

The Holy of Holies

A 15 foot cube.

Two golden articles of furniture

1. the ark holding the laws
2. the mercy seat with golden cherubims arched over it.

God's throne was above the ark between the two cherubims which were on the mercy seat Exodus 25:22; Psalm 99:1

The ark was just a simple wooden box covered, inside and out, with gold with a golden lid. (the mercy seat)

In Hebrews 9:4 the ark held three things:

1. the tables of law - Christ the judge
2. the golden pot of manna - Christ the prophet - the living bread. John 6:51
3. Aaron's rod that budded - Christ the priest  
Numbers 17

The ark was made to hold the law. Deut. 10:1,2

The mercy seat covered the law. It was a covering of mercy that God gave His people that they might draw near to Him and live.

The mercy seat was where God was found.

Atonement was made on the mercy seat each year for the priesthood and the nation of Israel. Heb. 9:8; Lev. 16

Christ is the mercy seat for the world today.  
Rom. 3:25; I John 2:2; 4:10