

# Tabernacle

- I. Introduction
  - A. Measuring Unit
  - B. Purpose
  - C. Pattern
  - D. Structure
    - 1. Courtyard
    - 2. Walls
    - 3. Covering
    - 4. Door
  - E. Contents
    - 1. Bronze Altar
    - 2. Laver of Cleansing
    - 3. Table of Show Bread
    - 4. Golden Lamp Stand
    - 5. Altar of Incense
    - 6. Veil
    - 7. Arc of the Covenant
  - F. Diagram
  - G. Servants
    - 1. Levites
    - 2. Priests
    - 3. High Priest
- II. Measuring Unit
  - A. A cubit was the length of a forearm (approximately 18 inches)
  - B. A cubit is 6 handbreadths
  - C. An Egyptian cubit is approximately 20 ½ inches
  - D. There is an old standard cubit (2 Chronicles 3:3)
  - E. There is an ordinary cubit (Deuteronomy 3:11)
  - F. There is a cubit consisting of a cubit and a handbreadth (Ezekiel 40:5; 43:13)
- III. Purpose (Exodus 25:8)
- IV. Pattern (Exodus 25:40; 26:30; 27:8; Numbers 8:4; Acts 7:44; Hebrews 8:5)
- V. Structure (Exodus 26:15-30; 27:9-19; 36:8-34, 37-38; 38:9-20; 40:8, 17-19, 33)
  - A. Courtyard
    - 1. One hundred cubits long
    - 2. Fifty cubits wide
    - 3. Fence of the courtyard
      - a. Pillars of acacia wood
        - (1) Five cubits high
        - (2) The bottom held in place by a plate of bronze laid on the ground
        - (3) Tied down with cords, which were fastened to the ground by bronze pegs, both on the inside and outside
      - b. Rails of acacia wood, covered with silver, between the pillars
      - c. Fine twisted linen covered the fence
    - 4. Gate of the courtyard
      - a. It was in the middle of the eastern wall of the fence
      - b. It was needlework of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twisted linen
      - c. It was twenty cubits wide
      - d. It was five cubits high
      - e. The gate/curtain was lifted in order to enter the courtyard

## B. Walls

1. Boards of acacia wood covered with gold
  - a. Ten cubits long
  - b. One and a half cubits wide
2. Twenty boards made up each side (north and south) wall
3. Eight boards made up the rear (west) wall
  - a. Six of the boards were the same dimension as the boards used for the side
  - b. Two boards were half a cubit wide
    - (1) This is assumed
    - (2) The Holy of Holies was most likely a cube (10 cubits around)
    - (3) Six boards would make up 9 cubits
    - (4) Thus, the two boards would make up the remaining 1 cubit
4. Bars were used to keep the boards in place
5. Cords were most likely used to secure the walls to the ground
6. Double blanket of ram skins was used to cover the outside of the walls
  - a. These were dyed red
7. Blanket of badger skins were used to cover the inside of the walls
8. Scholars believe the boards of the wall were not solid, but made like a ladder
  - a. This would allow the light to shine through the ornate curtains on the inside
9. Wall drapery
  - a. It was made of blue, purple, and scarlet material with cherubim
  - b. There were ten curtains, each one 28 cubits tall by 4 cubits wide
  - c. Each wall drapery consisted of five curtains joined together

## C. Covering

1. A canvas of goat hair
2. The material was woven in 11 pieces, each 30 cubits long by 4 cubits wide
3. Five of these were joined to make the inner tent
4. Six of these were joined to form a fly
5. The roof was held up by posts, extending one cubit over the sides

## D. Door

1. The door was a screen like that of the courtyard
2. The screen was made of blue, purple, and scarlet material
3. The screen was supported by 5 pillars overlaid with gold

## E. Observations (record your observations)

## F. Typology (list any typologies)

## VI. Contents

- A. Bronze Altar (Exodus 20:26; 21:14; 27:1-8; 28:42-43; 30:28; 38:1-7; 39:39; 40:6, 29; Leviticus 6:13, 25-26; 7:5-6; 10:1-2; Numbers 16:17, 39; Deuteronomy 18:1; 1 Kings 1:50; 2:28; 2 Chronicles 6:22; Ezra 3:3; Psalm 118:27; Malachi 1:7, 12; Matthew 23:18-20; 1 Corinthians 9:13-14)
  1. It was the altar for burnt offerings
  2. It was also called the table of the Lord

3. The Levites ate from the sin and guilt offerings sacrificed on the altar
4. It was placed between the courtyard entrance and the Holies
5. It was made of acacia wood and was five cubits square by three cubits high
6. It was overlaid with bronze
7. It had four horns, one on each corner for securing the sacrifice
8. All the accompanying utensils were made of bronze
  - a. The pails were for removing the ashes
  - b. The shovel for scooping the ashes
  - c. The basins were for catching the blood from the animal sacrifice
  - d. The forks were for manipulating the flesh of the animal on the altar
  - e. The firepans were censors for burning incense
9. It had a bronze grate
10. It had bronze poles for carrying it
11. There was most likely a dirt mound leading up to the altar
  - a. The altar was 3 cubits high
  - b. Stairs were not permitted
  - c. A mound of dirt, or a ramp of dirt was probably set up around the altar
12. The fire was never allowed to go out
13. Later, the altar was overlaid with the bronze censors in the rebellion of Korah
  - a. This was twenty years after the altar was made
14. The altar was a place that people fled to for protection
15. Oaths were made before the altar
  - a. The scribes and Pharisees changed it to taking an oath by the altar
16. Observations

## 17. Typology

- B. Laver (Exodus 29:1-4, 9-18; 30:17-21; 38:10; 40:7, 30-32; Leviticus 1:9-13; 8:4-6)
  1. The laver was placed between the brazen altar and the tent of meeting
  2. The shape and size of the laver is unknown
    - a. The round shape is just an educated guess
  3. The laver is made of bronze
  4. The laver is overlaid with mirrors from the women serving at the doorway
  5. The laver was used by the priests to wash their hands and feet
    - a. The priests were washed prior to being consecrated to serve
  6. The priests would wash prior to serving either at the bronze altar or inside the tent of meeting
  7. The laver was most likely used to wash the sacrifices
    - a. Although not explicitly stated, this seems to be implied
  8. Observations

## 9. Typology

### C. Table of Showbread (Exodus 25:23-30; 26:35; Exodus 37:10-16; 39:36; 40:4, 22-23; Leviticus 24:5-9)

1. The Table of Showbread was placed against the north wall of the Holies
2. The Table of Showbread was rectangular and its dimensions were 2 cubits long, 1 cubit wide, and 1 ½ cubits high
3. The Table of Showbread was made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold
4. The Table of Showbread had a pure gold molding and rim all the way around it
5. The Table of Showbread had four feet
6. The Table of Showbread had four gold rings on the four corners for carrying it
7. The utensils for making the bread and for drink offerings were kept on the Table of Showbread
8. The bread of the Presence was kept on the Table of Showbread
  - a. *Bread of Presence* = “Bread of face”
  - b. *Showbread* = “row of bread”
9. The bread of the Presence was set in two rows of six cakes
  - a. Jewish tradition indicates these two rows were actually two stacks of bread
10. The bread of Presence was changed once a week, on the Sabbath (1 Samuel 21:6; 1 Chronicles 9:32)
11. The bread of Presence was for the priests to eat
12. Observations

## 13. Typology

### D. Golden Lampstand (Exodus 25:31-40; 26:35; 27:20-21; 30:7; 35:14; 37:17-24; 39:37; 40:4, 24-25; Leviticus 24:1-4; Numbers 8:2; 1 Samuel 3:3; Hebrews 9:2)

1. The Lampstand was placed on the south wall inside the Holies
2. The Lampstand was made of solid gold
3. The Lampstand had a base and shaft
4. The Lampstand had six branches, three on each side
5. Each branch contained three cups shaped like budding almond blossoms
6. The main shaft of the lampstand contained four cups shaped like budding almond blossoms, with three of them being under the intersection of the branches with the shaft
7. There were seven lamps on the lampstand
  - a. Most likely, there was a lamp atop each branch and also atop the main shaft
8. The dimensions of the Lampstand are not given
  - a. Jewish tradition indicates a height of about 3 cubits and a width of about 2 cubits
  - b. These dimensions match the engravings on the arch of Titus
9. The seven lamps were removable
10. The utensils for the lampstand were made of pure gold
11. The lampstand and all its utensils were made from one talent of gold

- a. One talent of gold was approximately 94 lbs (approximations vary widely)
- 12. The lampstand was only a copy of the real lampstand in heaven
- 13. The oil from the lampstand was made from beaten olives
  - a. Beaten olives would give a cleaner burning oil than crushed olives
- 14. The lamps were lit in the evening and extinguished in the morning
- 15. The lampstand was the source of light for the Holies
- 16. Observations

17. Typology

E. Altar of Incense (Exodus 30:1-10, 34-38; 37:25-29; 40:5, 26-27; Leviticus 4:7; 16:12-13; Hebrews 9:3-4)

- 1. The Altar of Incense was made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold
- 2. The Altar of Incense was one cubit by one cubit with a height of two cubits
- 3. The Altar of Incense had horns and a molding all around it
- 4. The Altar of Incense had two gold rings on both sides for carrying it
- 5. The Altar of Incense was located in front of the veil, outside the Holy of Holies
- 6. Incense was burned both morning and evening
- 7. The Altar of Incense was only to be used for the prescribed incense
- 8. Blood from the sin offering was to be put on the horns of the altar
- 9. On the Day of Atonement, some of the blood from the sacrifice was put on its horns
- 10. The Altar of Incense was associated with the sacrifice in the Holy of Holies (on the Day of Atonement)
- 11. Observations

12. Typology

F. Veil (Exodus 26:1-14, 31-37; 36:35-36; 40:3, 21, 28; Leviticus 16:1-2, 15-17)

- 1. The veil was made of blue, purple, and scarlet material
  - a. Twisted linen – tradition says a team of horses could not pull it apart
- 2. The veil had cherubim woven into it
- 3. The veil was hung on four pillars
- 4. The veil separated the Holies from the Holy of Holies
- 5. Only the high priest was allowed behind the veil, and only on the Day of Atonement
- 6. Observations

## 7. Typology

- G. Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 16:32-34; 25:10-22; 26:33-34; 30:6; 31:7; 37:1-9; 40:3, 20; Leviticus 16:2, 13-15; Numbers 7:89; 10:33-36; 17:10-11; Deuteronomy 10:2; 31:9; Hebrews 9:3-5)
1. The ark was made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold
  2. The ark was 2 ½ cubits long, 1 ½ cubits wide, and 1 ½ cubits high
  3. The ark had a gold molding all around it
    - a. This molding was most likely used to hold the mercy seat in place
  4. The ark had four feet with rings for carrying
  5. The poles for carrying the ark were made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold
  6. The poles were to be left in the rings at all times
  7. The ark contained the tablets on which God wrote the commandments
    - a. This is why it is often called the Ark of the Covenant
  8. The ark also contained a golden jar of manna and Aaron's rod that budded
  9. The ark was placed in the Holy of Holies
  10. The ark led Israel in procession when they set out
  11. A chant was made when the ark set out and also when it came to rest
  12. Mercy Seat
    - a. The mercy seat was made of pure gold
    - b. The mercy seat was 2 ½ cubits long and 1 ½ cubits wide
    - c. The mercy seat had two cherubim of hammered gold at the two ends, facing the mercy seat, with their wings spreading up and covering the mercy seat
    - d. The mercy seat was placed on top of the ark
    - e. The Lord would meet with Moses above the mercy seat
    - f. Only the high priest on the Day of Atonement was allowed to come before the mercy seat
    - g. On the Day of Atonement, the high priest would come before the mercy seat to offer the sacrifice
  13. Observations
  
  14. Typology

VII. Diagram (draw the tabernacle in proper proportions)

VIII. Servants

- A. Levites (Numbers 1:47-54; 3; 4; 7:9; 8:7-26; 10:21; 18:1-3)
  - 1. The Levites were first fruits to the Lord
  - 2. Set apart for tabernacle service
  - 3. Consecration
  - 4. The Levites served from age 25-50 (appears to be 5 years of apprenticeship)
  - 5. The Levites served in the tent of meeting
  - 6. The Levites served the priests
  - 7. The Levites duties
  - 8. The Levites were responsible for moving the tabernacle
    - a. The Kohathites were responsible for moving the articles
    - b. The Gershonites were responsible for moving the tapestry (coverings, curtains, etc.)
    - c. The Merarites were responsible for moving the supports (planks, bars, pillars, etc.)
- B. Priests (Numbers 3:1-3, 38; 18:7)
  - 1. Genealogy
    - a. Levi
      - (1) Gershon
      - (2) Kohath
        - (a) Amram
          - 1. Aaron
            - a. Eleazar
            - b. Ithamar
            - c. Nadab
            - d. Abihu
          - 2. Moses
            - (b) Izhar
            - (c) Hebron
            - (d) Uzziel
          - (3) Merari
  - 2. The priest were Levites
  - 3. The priests were the descendants of Aaron
  - 4. The priests camped east of the tabernacle

- C. High Priests (Exodus 28-29; 39:1-31; 40:12-15; Leviticus 8:1-9; Numbers 3:32; 4:16)
  - 1. The high priest had oversight of the priests and tabernacle
  - 2. The garments were holy and for glory and beauty
  - 3. The garments were necessary for the high priest to minister to the Lord
  - 4. Ephod
  - 5. Breast piece of judgment
  - 6. Urim and Thummim
  - 7. Robe
  - 8. Turban
  - 9. Tunic and sash
  - 10. Breeches
  - 11. Consecration of priests
  - 12. Garments were passed down
- D. Observations
  
- E. Typology

## IX. Conclusion

- A. Measuring Unit
- B. Purpose
- C. Pattern
- D. Structure
  - 1. Courtyard
  - 2. Walls
  - 3. Covering
  - 4. Door
- E. Contents
  - 1. Bronze Altar
  - 2. Laver of Cleansing
  - 3. Table of Show Bread
  - 4. Golden Lamp Stand
  - 5. Altar of Incense
  - 6. Veil
  - 7. Arc of the Covenant
- F. Diagram
- G. Servants
  - 1. Levites
  - 2. Priests
  - 3. High Priest