

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## EXODUS 25-27

Most of the world's architectural treasures are temples, churches, or mosques. For example, *England's Westminster Abbey - St. Peter's Basilica in Rome - the Egyptian pyramids - the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem - India's Taj Mahal...* are all religious buildings.

An often overlooked proof that man is by nature a worshipper, is the fact that he has reserved his most ingenious expressions of artistry, and creativity, and engineering for his places of worship. Temples are usually elaborate structures.

Yet the world's highest and holiest house of worship no longer stands. In fact, it never stood in any one place for very long... Believe it or not, *it was a tent!*

In the epic movie "*The Ten Commandments*", producer Cecil B. DeMille shows Moses descending from Mount Sinai holding two stone tablets in his hands – but *that's only partially correct*. Tonight's chapters teach us, under one arm he carried the Ten Commandments, but under the other arm he carried a set of architectural drawings – a roll of blueprints – plans for a tent and its special furnishings.

This holy tent was called the *Tabernacle* – and it became the one place on earth where God agreed to meet with His people. And for the next 500 years the Tabernacle will serve as the focal point for Israel's worship, and their national life.

Chapter 25, “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering.” Notice, the key whenever anyone gives an offering to God... It needs to be given “willingly” and from the “heart”.

2 Corinthians 9:7 tells us, “God loves a cheerful giver.” Rather than give reluctantly or begrudgingly, God would rather you not give at all.

An offering that blesses God comes from a joyful and thankful heart.

Verse 3, “And this is the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair; ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.” The ephod and breastplate are priestly attire. We’ll discuss them later. But the rest of these materials will be used in the tabernacle.

All total the Tabernacle and its furniture consisted of 2200 pounds of gold, 7500 pounds of silver, and 5300 pounds of bronze. A total weight of 19,000 pounds.

The cost the materials at today’s prices would’ve been at least \$15 million.

In verse 8 God says to Moses, “And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.” Compared to most cathedrals and temples this tent was tiny.

Its dimensions were just 15' x 45', a mere 675 square feet. The tabernacle's length was about the size of the Brook - its width about 10' narrower. Its cost per square foot would probably make it the most expensive building ever constructed.

The courtyard surrounding the tent was sector off by a curtain. The entire compound – tent and courtyard – was 150' x 75' – about half a football field.

And the Tabernacle was covered with badger skins. Understand badger skins are not mink. They aren't pretty, fluffy pelts. They're rough and dark. Though it was full of treasure from the outside the Tabernacle looked ugly and insignificant.

But though the Tabernacle was unimpressive in terms of size and appearance what made it stand out was its Occupant. It was God's throne room on the earth.

In verse 9 God says to Moses, “According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.” There was no room from Moses to freelance. God had exact specs for every detail in the Tabernacle. Every pole – every socket was carefully engineered. Every facet of the Tabernacle was there for a reason.

Here's the point, the Tabernacle was *an earthly replica of heavenly realities*. Hebrews 8:5 tells us the tent God had Moses build was “the copy and shadow of the heavenly things.” The Tabernacle was a small-scale model of heaven itself.

Hey, common question people ask is, “*What does heaven look like?*” Well, you can catch a glimpse of heaven by studying the Old Testament Tabernacle.

When we get to Revelation, and we’re given glimpses of heaven we find the same furniture we find in the Tabernacle... *the Ark, the altar of incense, the laver, the golden lamp stand.* We see the originals of which the Tabernacle was a type.

How Moses was actually shown this heavenly pattern is a matter of great speculation among the rabbis. The Talmud comments, “*An ark of fire and a table of fire and a candlestick of fire came down from heaven. These Moses saw and reproduced.*” Some said the angel Gabriel appeared to Moses on the mountain wearing a carpenter’s apron, and holding models of the Tabernacle furniture.

*How, we’re not sure. But wow, what God showed Moses was a heavy revy.*

As if the Tabernacle were not important enough, there’s a verse in the New Testament that gives it even greater significance. John 1:14 tells us, “*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*” The Amplified Version translates it “*the Word (or Jesus) became flesh and tabernacled...*”

In the Old Testament the glory of God was revealed on earth in the Tabernacle. In the New Testament God’s glory is revealed on earth in the person of Jesus.

The tent God had Moses construct is a picture of Jesus, and His sacrificial work. Every detail of its appearance, construction, and ministry speaks of Jesus!

I love to study the Tabernacle because it's a priority adjustment. We tend to *major on what God considers minor*, and *minor on what God considers major*.

The Tabernacle is a good example. One estimate suggests that 10% of the entire Bible is devoted to the Tabernacle, yet how often have we studied it, and tried to grasp its meaning? We have just two chapters on creation. We've got a couple of dozen on the Tabernacle – its priests and sacrifices. We admire the power of creation, but the work heaven values are God's acts of redemption...

In the blueprints God gives to Moses, He begins with the holiest item in the Tabernacle – a throne over which God's glory hovered – the Ark of the Covenant.

Verse 10, **"And they shall make an ark (an ark was a box or basket) of acacia wood; two and a half cubits shall be its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height."** Since a cubit was roughly 18 inches... the Ark was a box that measured 45 inches long - by 27 inches wide - by 27 inches long. The Ark was a rectangular chest approximately 4' long, by 2' high, by 2' deep.

**"And you shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and shall make on it a molding of gold all around."** The Ark was made of two materials: gold and wood. It represents the two-fold nature of Jesus. He was gold or divine - but He was also wood or human. Every Tabernacle detail will point to Jesus.

“You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four corners; two rings shall be on one side, and two rings on the other side. And you shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them. The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it.” The Ark had no handles.

It was too holy to be touched by human hands. The Ark was transported by poles that slid through rings attached to its side. It was handled indirectly.

In 2 Samuel 6 a man named Uzzah reaches out and touches the Ark and God strikes him dead. To be pole-letically correct you moved the Ark with the poles.

Verse 16, “And you shall put into the ark the Testimony which I will give you.”

According to Hebrews 9:4 God actually place three things in the Ark: the two stone tablets on which were written the Ten Commandments, a jar of manna, and Aaron’s rod (the item that represented Aaron’s authority to be priest).

And all three items again speak of Jesus: He is the fulfillment of the Law. He is the bread of life that meets all our needs. And Jesus is our great High Priest.

Verse 17, “You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width.” This was the Ark’s lid. It was made of pure gold. And its significance is revealed in its name, “the mercy seat”.

Here’s the picture - above the lid hover the holiness of God – under the lid sat the demands of the Law. The holiness of

God demands obedience to the law.

Yet who has fully obeyed? It reminds me of a prayer, “Dear Lord, so far today, I’ve done all right. I haven’t gossiped, haven’t lost my temper, been greedy, nasty, grumpy, selfish, or over-indulgent. I’m thankful for that. But in a few minutes, God, I’m going to get out of bed. And from then on, I’ll need a lot more help. Amen.”

We’re all guilty of violating God’s righteous rules, and we’re deserving of His judgment - but between God’s holiness and His law there is a place of mercy.

At the mercy seat the priest came once a year and sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice. That blood-stained mercy seat was the place where God’s holiness was satisfied, and man’s sin forgiven. The mercy seat provided God a resting place, and put a lid on the Law’s condemnation... Today, Jesus is our place of mercy.

This is why 1 John 2:2 calls Jesus our “**propitiation**” – the word means to satisfy or placate. It’s from the Hebrew word, *kipporeth*, or “**mercy seat**”. Jesus has put a lid on the Law. He’s now the place where we can know God and receive mercy.

Also notice the dimensions of the mercy seat indicate it fitted perfectly on top of the Ark. There was no overhang – *for no one outside of Christ can be saved.*

And neither was there any part of the Ark that wasn’t cover by the mercy seat – which means *those who are under Christ Jesus are saved fully and completely.*

Even the lip around the Ark that held the mercy seat secure speaks of our security in Christ. Nothing can jar us loose or separate us from God's love.

There is one dimension of the mercy seat that's not given to us – its thickness. As far as we know it could've been three miles thick – no limit is imposed. I believe God wants us to know there's no limit to the grace and forgiveness in Christ Jesus.

Verse 18, “And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat.” Cherubim are a type of angel.

When John sees into heaven in Revelation 4 he sees cherubim hovering above God's throne. Psalm 80:1 refers to God as “You who dwell between the cherubim”.

Apparently in heaven there are cherubim watching over God's throne – *and from the Ark we glean there are at least two*. Some people believe there were at one time three, but Lucifer sinned, and no longer occupies that important post.

“And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which

are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.” The Ark was God’s seat in the Tabernacle. And apparently, it’s a small scale model of His throne in heaven.

There are prophecy watchers who believe the rediscovery of the Ark will be the catalyst for the Jews to rebuild their Temple. And there are a number of interesting theories on its location... *Some real life Raiders of the Lost Ark are hard at work...*

Some people think Jeremiah hid the Ark in the mountains of Moab – and have launched expeditions to the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea in search of the Ark.

Other scholars believe the Ark is being kept in a monastery in Ethiopia.

The former Rabbi of the Western Wall in Jerusalem, Yehuda Getz, said he saw the Ark of the Covenant in one of the tunnels running under the Temple Mount.

Several years ago, researcher Ron Wyatt, claimed to have see the Ark in a tunnel that ran under Golgotha, north of the Temple Mount. He believes it was under the mountain where Jesus was crucified - so when the blood of Jesus trickled through the crevices it ended up being sprinkled on the mercy seat.

Whether or not the Ark that Moses made is ever discovered we don’t know, but there is a more important Ark that is accessible to us daily... The real Ark is God’s throne in heaven. And we’re encouraged in Hebrews 4:16 to, “**come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**”

The next piece of furniture Moses is to make for the Tabernacle is the table of showbread. Verse 23, "You shall also make a table of acacia wood; two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height."

Here are its dimensions: 3 feet long, by 1½ feet wide, by 2¼ feet high.

"And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a molding of gold all around. You shall make for it a frame of a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a gold molding for the frame all around." This lip kept the bread from sliding off.

"And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that are at its four legs. The rings shall be close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table. And you shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be carried with them." The table of showbread was transported like the Ark – it was carried on golden poles.

Verse 29, "You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold. And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always." The word "showbread" meant literally, "*bread of faces*", or "*presence bread*". This was holy bread because it was eaten before the face of God – in God's presence. Showbread spoke of fellowship with God.

Leviticus 24 tells us 12 loaves sat on the table – one for each of the 12 tribes. Once a week the bread replaced and the priests would eat the old bread.

At the Ark the blood was applied, and our sin was covered. But the point of forgiveness is fellowship. Our sin is cleansed so we can enter the presence of God, and be nourished by God. The showbread spoke of that fellowship.

It's interesting that Jesus called Himself "the bread of life". He has become our showbread. Through Him we become aware of God's presence, and are invited to the table to receive His strength and sustenance. Jesus is our daily bread.

Next is the lampstand, or Menorah. Since the Tabernacle was covered with animal skins the only light inside came from either God's glory or the lampstand.

Verse 31, "You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall be of one piece. And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side." The trunk was one branch so that made it a seven branch lampstand. No dimensions are given so we don't know its actual size.

When John looks into heaven he also saw a seven-branch lampstand. In Revelation 4:5 he says, "Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God." The Holy Spirit is not literally seven Spirits, but He is revealed in seven ways... Isaiah 11 refers to Him as "the Spirit of the Lord - the Spirit of wisdom and understanding - the Spirit of counsel and might - and the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord" He has seven names.

Verse 33, “Three bowls shall be made like almond blossoms on one branch...” The almond was the first tree to blossom in the spring. It speaks of resurrection.

“With an ornamental knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond blossoms on the other branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower - and so for the six branches that come out of the lampstand. On the lampstand itself four bowls shall be made like almond blossoms, each with its ornamental knob and flower. And there shall be a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second 2 branches of the same, and a knob under the third 2 branches of the same, according to the 6 branches that extend from the lampstand.”

That’s a total of 22 bowls, 7 knobs, and 7 flowers. The knobs and flowers were ornamental, while the bowls held the oil that burned and generated the light.

Remember every detail of the Tabernacle spoke of Jesus, and the menorah is no exception. Jesus is the not only the bread of life, He is “the light of the world”.

And not just the light - while on earth Jesus was *the only light* of the world.

And notice the lampstand was to be made out of hammered gold. Jesus was certainly hammered on the cross. Nails were hammered into His hands and feet. He was rejected on earth. He’s no longer visible – but He still shines in heaven’s tabernacle. And He shines in the heart of those who walk with the Holy Spirit.

Verse 36, “Their knobs and their branches shall be of one piece; all of it shall be one hammered piece of pure gold. You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it. And its wick-trimmers and their trays shall be of pure gold.” It’s interesting in Revelation 1 John sees seven lampstands in heaven – which represent the seven churches.

After Jesus ascended to heaven He called His Church the light of the world. Today, we need to be shining the light and love of God into this dark world.

Verse 39 tells us the lampstand “shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils.” A talent was a measurement equal to 100 pounds. And a talent of gold was to be set apart for the lampstand and its utensils. Hey, 100 pounds of gold at \$400 an ounce would make the lampstand itself worth over \$640,000.

There is one more piece of furniture that occupied the Holy Place. The altar of incense sat just in front of the veil... but we don’t get to it until chapter 30

Verse 40 sums up God’s instructions to Moses, “And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.”

Chapter 26 describes the 3 courts of the Tabernacle... An **outer court**... An **inner court**, called the *Holy Place*... And an **innermost court**, known as *the Holy of Holies*. God’s presence resided over the golden Ark in the Holy of Holies.

God starts with the Holy Place – which was a tent with a frame and a series of coverings. The blueprints work their way from the inside out. "Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim you shall weave them."

On the inside of the Tabernacle you'd see curtains with embroidered angels. You'd see angels all around you - which is exactly what you'd see in heaven.

"The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits (42 feet), and the width of each curtain four cubits (6 feet). And every one of the curtains shall have the same measurements. Five curtains shall be coupled to one another, and the other five curtains shall be coupled to one another." Together the drapes were 42' x 60'.

Verse 4 describes how these colorful linen curtains connected. "And you shall make loops of blue yarn on the edge of the curtain on the selvedge (the corner) of one set, and likewise you shall do on the outer edge of the other curtain of the second set. Fifty loops you shall make in the one curtain, and fifty loops you shall make on the edge of the curtain that is on the end of the second set, that the loops may be clasped to one another. And you shall make fifty clasps of gold, and couple the curtains together with the clasps, so that it may be one tabernacle."

The lesson here is *many parts but one tent*. Today, we are the Tabernacle of God on the earth – and we too, are made up of many members, yet one body.

This colorful linen curtain was the innermost layer on the Holy Place, but on top of that were three outer layers... *of goats' hair, of ram's skin, and of badger skin.*

Verse 7, "You shall also make curtains of goats' hair, to be a tent over the tabernacle." Goat's hair was black and coarse. It had the appearance of felt.

So the colorful linen was covered by black, ugly goats' hair. "You shall make eleven curtains. The length of each curtain shall be thirty cubits (45 feet), and the width of each curtain four cubits (6 feet); and the eleven curtains shall all have the same measurements." The second layer was just a little larger than the linen lining. All 11 curtains together totaled 45 feet by 66 feet.

Verse 9, "And you shall couple five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves, and you shall double over the sixth curtain at the forefront of the tent.

You shall make fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in one set, and fifty loops on the edge of the curtain of the second set. And you shall make fifty bronze clasps, put the clasps into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one." The clasps that held the linen together were made of gold. The clasps for the outer curtains were made of bronze.

"The remnant that remains of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remains, shall hang over the back of the tabernacle. And a cubit on one side and a cubit on the other side, of what remains of the length of the curtains of the tent, shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle, on this side and on that side, to cover it." These outer curtains will have a little

overlap to protect the Tabernacle.

Verse 14, “You shall also make a covering of ram skins dyed red for the tent...” The ram’s skin was like fine leather. “And a covering of badger skins above that...” The badger skin was ugly and dark – but it was also durable and waterproof.

According to Ezekiel 16:10 badger skin was used for sandals. The word translated “badger” may even refer to *porpoise skins* – we’re not sure.

The next few verses describe the frame on which these curtains rested...

Verse 15, “And for the tabernacle you shall make the boards of acacia wood, standing upright. Ten cubits (15 feet) shall be the length of a board, and a cubit and a half (2¼ feet) shall be the width of each board. Two tenons shall be in each board for binding one to another. Thus you shall make for all the boards of the tabernacle. The word “tenons” literally means “hands”. They were connectors.

Apparently, these gold-plated boards were like tongue and groove panels.

Verse 18, “And you shall make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards for the south side. You shall make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards: two sockets under each of the boards for its two tenons.” Notice the boards sit in sockets of silver. And throughout the Bible silver speaks of redemption.

In the Old Testament the redemption price was always paid with silver. Thus, it’s no surprise to see the Tabernacle resting

on a foundation of silver.

Verse 20, “And for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, there shall be twenty boards and their forty sockets of silver: two sockets under each of the boards. For the far side of the tabernacle, westward, you shall make six boards.

And you shall also make two boards for the two back corners of the tabernacle. They shall be coupled together at the bottom and they shall be coupled together at the top by one ring. Thus it shall be for both of them. They shall be for the two corners. So there shall be eight boards with their sockets of silver - sixteen sockets - two sockets under each board.” The long sides of the Holy Place consisted of 20 boards each. Since the Tabernacle always faced east – the west side was the back – it consisted of six boards and two corner boards.

Verse 26, “And you shall make bars of acacia wood: five for the boards on one side of the tabernacle, five bars for the boards on the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle, for the far side westward.” These bars provided horizontal support for the side boards.

“The middle bar shall pass through the midst of the boards from end to end.

You shall overlay the boards with gold, make their rings of gold as holders for the bars, and overlay the bars with gold.” Apparently, the bars ran the length of the Tabernacle’s side turning the boards into one wall. “And you shall raise up the

tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain.”

Now let me sum things up... The inner court or “*Holy Place*” was a rectangle. It was 15’ wide, by 45’ long, by 15’ high. We haven’t mentioned it, but its floor was dirt – which reminded the people of Israel this world was not their home. In the Tabernacle the beauty was all above. *There was no reason to look down.*

The ceiling consisted of 4 layers: linen, covered by goat’s hair, ram’s skin, and badger pelts. The walls were made of wooden panels, each overlaid with gold.

When you approached the Tabernacle from outside it looked ugly, and dark, and unimpressive - but from the inside it was beautiful... Angels embroidered on purple, blue, and scarlet linen. It was a kaleidoscope of color, art, and shiny gold.

And remember the Holy Place was a picture of Jesus...

Isaiah 53:2 says of Jesus, “**He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.**” There was nothing attractive about Jesus’ physical appearance. He looked like an ordinary guy, but on the inside He was beautiful. He had an attractive purity, and a golden character.

And the same is true for those of who follow Jesus. On the outside you might be less than impressive – you’re just an ordinary guy - but on the inside - spiritually you’re a new creation in Christ. You’ve been made fit for the very presence of God.

That’s why you can’t size me up by taking my

measurements. Folks look at me and see nothing special - but they don't see who I am in Christ! I'm God's work of art – on the inside He's making me into something beautiful and priceless.

The doors in the Tabernacle are described next...

Verse 31, "You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim.

You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Their hooks shall be of gold, upon 4 sockets of silver. And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil.

The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy."

Thirty feet into the Holy Place God had Moses hang this veil. It separated the Holy Place from the innermost court – the 15' x 15' x 15' cube – the Holy of Holies.

Verse 34, "You shall put the mercy seat upon the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy. You shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand across from the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south; and you shall put the table on the north side." Inside the Holy of Holies sat the Ark - while outside sat the lampstand and table of showbread... And they were separated by a veil.

Only the High Priest could enter through the veil into God's presence and the Holy of Holies – and only once a year. It's

interesting, when Jesus died Matthew 27:51 tells us, “the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom...”

Jesus abolished this limited access. He opened the door into God’s Holiest. In Christ we can now come boldly to His throne of grace, and live in His presence!

According to Hebrews 10:19-20, the veil is also representative the body of Jesus. The only way to God is through the torn and crucified body of Jesus.

Verse 36 describes the door that led from the outer court into the Holy Place.

"You shall make a screen for the door of the tabernacle, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold; their hooks shall be of gold, and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them."

Chapter 27 takes us into the outer court of the Tabernacle. "You shall make an altar of acacia wood..." The Hebrew word translated “altar” means “*killing place*”. This was where they offered their sacrifices to God.

This altar is to be “five cubits long (7½ feet) and five cubits wide - the altar shall be square - and its height shall be three cubits (4½ feet). Over the years millions of animals died on this altar – and they all foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice.

Our *killing place* is no longer this altar, but the cross of Calvary. That’s where Jesus, the Lamb of God, was the sacrifice to gain for us our forgiveness.

“You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it.” You could tie the sacrifice to the horns to help keep it in place.

“And you shall overlay it with bronze.” Throughout the Bible *bronze* always speaks of God’s judgment. And it was here on the altar that sacrifice was made and the Israel’s sin was judged. The wooden altar was also plated with bronze so it could withstand the tremendous heat necessary to burn the sacrifices.

The brazen altar was the equivalent of 7½ feet square barbeque pit.

Verse 3, “Also you shall make its pans to receive its ashes, and its shovels and its basins and its forks and its firepans; you shall make all its utensils of bronze.

You shall make a grate for it, a network of bronze; and on the network you shall make four bronze rings at its four corners. You shall put it under the rim of the altar beneath, that the network may be midway up the altar. And you shall make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze.

The poles shall be put in the rings, and the poles shall be on the two sides of the altar to bear it. You shall make it hollow with boards; as it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make it.” Moses needs to follow the pattern exactly.

Verse 9 addresses the fence that lined the outer court. “You shall also make the court of the tabernacle. For the south side there shall be hangings for the court made of fine woven linen, 100 cubits long for one side (150 feet). And its 20 pillars

and their 20 sockets shall be of bronze. The hooks of the pillars and their bands shall be of silver.” Apparently, a linen fence was hung from 20 posts.

“Likewise along the length of the north side there shall be hangings 100 cubits long, with its 20 pillars and their 20 sockets of bronze, and the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver.” The length of the outer court was half a football field.

"And along the width of the court on the west side shall be hangings of 50 cubits, with their 10 pillars and their 10 sockets. The outer court was 75' wide.

The width of the court on the east side shall be 50 cubits. The hangings on one side of the gate shall be 15 cubits (22½ feet), with their three pillars and their three sockets. And on the other side shall be hangings of fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three sockets.” That meant that on the east side of the court there was a 30' opening. This would be the gate from the camp into the Tabernacle.

Verse 16, "For the gate of the court there shall be a screen 20 cubits long (30 feet), woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. It shall have four pillars and four sockets. All the pillars around the court shall have bands of silver; their hooks shall be of silver & their sockets of bronze.”

The length of the court shall be 100 cubits, the width 50 throughout, and the height 5 cubits (7½ feet tall), made of fine woven thread, and its sockets of bronze.

All the utensils of the tabernacle for all its service, all its

pegs, and all the pegs of the court, shall be of bronze.”

Approach the Tabernacle and all you would see was a white fence made of linen – with posts, brass sockets, and silver bands.

The tents of Israel camped outside the Tabernacle were all made of dark goat’s hair. This fence surrounding the Tabernacle was sparkling white. It made for a striking contrast – this white fence in the middle of the dingy brown tents.

The white fence spoke of God’s righteousness. And it remained a constant reminder to a people stained with sin that they desperately needed God’s purity.

It’s also vital to note, that there was only one door to the Tabernacle. Likewise there is only one way to God. In the New Testament Jesus said “I am the door”...

And it’s also interesting to note, that this one door was 30 feet wide. The wide door conveyed the message that there was plenty of room for everyone to enter.

It’s suggestive too, that the entrance into the Tabernacle was on the east side, where the tribe of Judah camped. You had to pass through Judah to enter the Tabernacle. And it’s no coincidence that Jesus was from the tribe of Judah.

Verse 20, "And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually." He’s talking about fuel to burn in the golden menorah that will light the Holy Place.

"In the tabernacle of meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from

evening until morning before the LORD. It shall be a statute forever to their generations on behalf of the children of Israel.”