

## Exodus 25-26

Last week we learned about the Ark and the Table of Showbread. Even on Sunday, we learned that the ark was a shadow of the True Throne of God that had a covering of Cherubim. On earth mercy was sought by the High Priest on behalf of Israel. At the throne of God in heaven we can cry out “Abba, Father” in our time of need. The table of “Showbread” was a shadow of God’s ever-present involvement in the lives of His Children. The “Bread of Faces” shows the Father always seeking out the best for His own. It was also a shadow of the coming Bread of Life, Jesus the Son of God.

We will finish Chapter 25 tonight where the earthly Lampstand is described.

(Exodus 25:31 NKJV) "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*. (32) 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. (33) Three bowls *shall be* made like almond *blossoms* on one branch, *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. (34) On the lampstand itself four bowls *shall be* made like almond *blossoms*, *each with its ornamental knob and flower*. (35) And *there shall be* a knob under the *first* two branches of the same, a knob under the *second* two branches of the same, and a knob under the *third* two branches of the same, according to the six branches that extend from the lampstand. (36) Their knobs and their branches *shall be of one piece*; all of it *shall be* one hammered piece of pure gold. (37) You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it. (38) And its wick-trimmers and their trays *shall be* of pure gold. (39) It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. (40) And see to it that you make *them* according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.



An example of the Temple Menorah fashioned for the Third Temple in Jerusalem.

The lamp or “menorah” was to be kept lit all the time. We will read about this in our next weekly lesson. In [Exodus 27:20](#), the LORD commanded Moses. "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**. Nearly every Jewish synagogue has what is called a “neer Talmid” which mean a lamp that never is extinguished. This is easy as long as the electric bill is paid and the bulb is replaced!

The Lampstand was the source of light for the Holy Place and a light to guide the High Priest to the veil in front of the Most Holy Place (a.k.a., the Holy of Holies).

### **That the light represents Jesus is certainly borne out of Scripture.**

[\(Psalms 119:105 NKJV\)](#) Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

[John 1:1 NKJV](#) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

[\(John 1:4 NKJV\)](#) In Him was life, and **the life was the light of men.** (5) And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

*Darkness is symbolic of misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness and obscurity.*

[\(John 3:19 NKJV\)](#) And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (20) For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. (21) But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

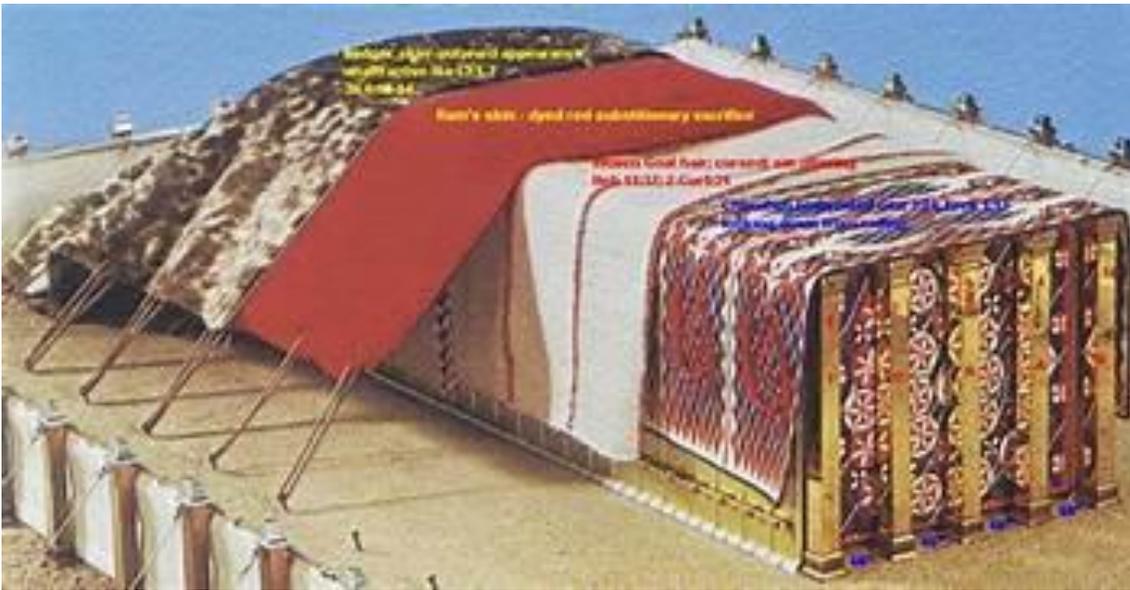
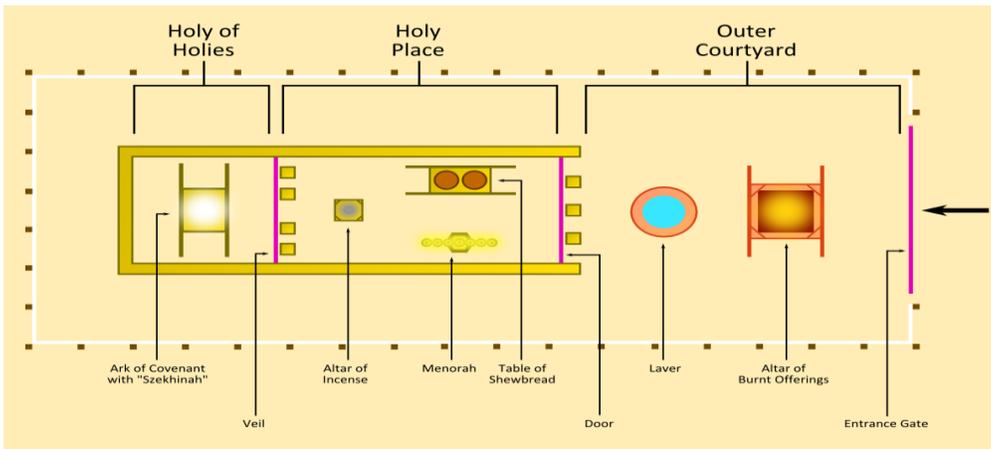
[\(John 8:12 NKJV\)](#) Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "**I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.**"

[\(Revelation 21:23 NKJV\)](#) The **city** had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light. (24) And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

[\(Revelation 22:5 NKJV\)](#) There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

**In Chapter 26, we read about the Tabernacle.** The Tabernacle usually refers to the 2 Sanctuaries, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. But it can refer to the structures and the courtyard where the laver and bronze altar stood.

(picture)



The tabernacle was fairly large structure. We will describe the curtains, the framework, the veil, and the screen.

One note to keep in mind; We have discussed the Ark, the table, and the Lampstand. These, plus the Altar of Incense described in Chapter 30, are the **innermost furnishings**. Just as God works from the inside out in us, the design of the Tabernacle is told to Moses in the same way. More on this later.

**First, the Tabernacle itself.**

**The “inner curtains” are described first:**

(Exodus 26:1 NKJV) "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. (2) 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. (3) Five curtains shall be coupled to one another, and *the other* five curtains *shall be* coupled to one another. (4) And you shall make loops of blue *yarn* on the edge of the curtain on the selvedge of *one* set, and likewise you shall do on the outer edge of *the other* curtain of the second set. (5) 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. (6) And you shall make fifty clasps of gold, and couple the curtains together with the clasps, so that it may be one tabernacle.

The inner curtains are only seen by the priests who minister in the Holy Place and Holy of Holies. Fine linen is a symbol of purity. These were woven with colorful threads with images of the Cherubim. Even the loops and clasps that held the curtain sections together were made of gold! God is offered the best!

Working inside out, you can see the priority of the curtains over the construction of the framework: inner is better than outer.

### The Roof and Curtains are next:

(Exodus 26:7 NKJV) "You shall also make curtains of **goats' hair**, to be a **tent over the tabernacle**. You shall make eleven curtains. (8) The length of each curtain *shall be* thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; and the eleven curtains shall all have the same measurements. (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. (10) 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. (11) And you shall make fifty **bronze clasps, put the clasps into the loops**, and couple the tent together, that it may be one. (12) The remnant that remains of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remains, shall hang over the back of the tabernacle. (13) 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. (14) "You shall also make a covering of ram skins dyed red for the tent, and a covering of sea-cow skins above that.

The first layer of the roofing is goat's hair. This is a reminder of the daily sin offerings of a goat kid and our cleansing of from sin by the blood. Next is the dyed-red ram's hides. This is symbolic of separation of the priesthood from others by blood. Finally, the outer layer were sea-cow hides which provided protection from the elements. In a sense, there is a separation between God's dwelling place and the fallen world.

Note that there was extra material (remnant) that would hang over the sides of the Sanctuary walls. This gave the structure a tent-like appearance and I assume it would help with proper draining of rain waters.

### The Walls are designed

(Exodus 26:15 NKJV) "And for the tabernacle you shall make the boards of acacia wood, standing upright. (16) Ten cubits *shall be* the length of a board, and a cubit and a half *shall be* the width of each board. (17) Two tenons *shall be* in each board for binding one to another. Thus you shall make for all the boards of the tabernacle. (18) And you shall make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards for the south side. (19) You shall make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards: two sockets under each of the boards for its two tenons. (20) And for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, *there shall be* twenty boards (21) and their forty sockets of silver: two sockets under each of the boards. (22) For the far side of the tabernacle, westward, you shall make six boards. (23) And you shall also make two boards for the two back corners of the tabernacle. (24) 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. (25) So there shall be eight boards with their sockets of silver—sixteen sockets—two sockets under each of the boards. (26) "And you shall make bars of acacia wood: five for the boards on one side of the tabernacle, (27) 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. (28) The middle bar shall pass through the midst of the boards from end to end. (29) You shall overlay the boards with gold, make their rings of gold as holders for the bars, and overlay the bars with gold. (30) And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain.

The tabernacle/sanctuary walls of materials (and ceilings) were to be hung on a framework of wood. Some believe that these were large sections of walls, but a better rendering might be trellis-like so that the inner linen curtains would not be obscured from sight. The "boards" and the crossbars were also overlaid with gold. The sections were put into 40 bases of silver. Silver was used for money whereby each person had to give a "half-shekel" silver offering to the LORD. This was considered "atonement" or "ransom" money to the LORD. Therefore, this is a picture of the tabernacle structure resting on a foundation of redemption. We too must consider our redemption and ransom-paid, not by us, but by the precious blood of Christ which He carried into the heavenly Holy of Holies.

### The arrangement of the Sanctuary and Furnishings

(Exodus 26:31 NKJV) "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. (32) You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia *wood* overlaid with gold. Their hooks *shall be* gold, upon four sockets of silver. (33) 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. (34) You shall put the mercy seat upon the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy. (35) 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. (36) "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. (37) And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia *wood*, and overlay them with gold; their hooks *shall be* gold, and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them.

Finally, there was to be made an "inner veil" to divide the Holy Place with the Most Holy Place. We know that only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies and only once a year on the Day of Atonement. The "regular" priests would take care of the furnishings of the Holy Place every day.

There was also an outer screen at the entrance to the Sanctuary. No one was allowed to see into the Holy Place other than the priests. Note that this entrance screen sat in bases of bronze, not gold. There was a distinction between what was "outer" and what was "inner".

**For tonight**, the first lesson is still the earthly vs the heavenly. We see things here and call them real. But the True reality is in heaven.

The earthly priesthood only served "**the copy and shadow of the heavenly things**". **The Mosaic Covenant was a shadow of the New Covenant established in eternity by the Father and Son. The Law Covenant was temporary. The LORD** "made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away." **Hebrews 8:13.** The earthly copies could only be effective because of the faith one had in the Grace and Mercy of God who accepted a substitutionary

atonement for sin, “For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, **how much more** shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:13-14 NKJV)

Our Christ came *as* the True High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Jesus entered the True Holy of Holies with His own blood, once for all and secured an eternal redemption for His own. (Hebrews 9:11-12). And He opened this same Way for us. This is called “a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh”. See Hebrews 10:20.

Another lesson is in relation to what Jesus did when He came 2000 years ago. Put simply, Jesus turned the “religious” world upside down and especially inside out. It would be the inner realm of a person that mattered to God. The outer realm of religious observances was superficial and created by man to attempt to show God just how good and pious he was.

Matthew 23:5-7 NKJV But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. (6) They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, (7) greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.'

Matthew 23:27-28 NKJV "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men's* bones and all uncleanness. (28) Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

What mattered was a circumcised heart not circumcised flesh. And, unlike all religions that promote outward appearances, the inner person could only be changed by God so that none could boast. So, instead of dead religion, God sent His Holy Spirit to dwell in the hearts of His Children. The Spirit would, in effect, make all of the changes desired by the LORD. Our only part is to be willing to allow Him access to our inner lives to mold us, conform us and to empower us for the “good works” He wants us to do. Even those works are birthed inside rather than imposed from the outside (other people, leaders, culture). They aren’t done out of obligation, out of a desire for reward, or out of a desire to be known, but they are motivated by the Love of God poured into our heart to then be poured out on others!