

THE TABERNACLE AND ITS COURTS

Most information taken from Exodus chapters 25-42

The first ordinance given to Moses, after the proclamation of the law from Sinai, related to the ordering of the tabernacle, its furniture and its service. Moses received an exact pattern of the whole during the forty days of his first retirement with God in Sinai. (Heb. 8:5) (Ex. 25:9, 40; 26:30; 39:32,42,43; Numb 8:4; Acts 7:44)

I. The Tabernacle itself –

A. Its name –

1. The Tabernacle - the tent of Jehovah, called by the same name as the tents of the people in the midst of which it stood
2. The sanctuary- A kadesh, or Holy Place
3. The tabernacle of the congregation, or of meeting

B. Its position in the camp –

1. The tabernacle was pitched in the center of the camp. As leaders in the East always do, for Jehovah was the Captain of Israel. It was an object lesson: God is the center of our life
2. The position of the Tabernacle remained true to North, South, East and West. No matter where the children of Israel were camped, the tabernacle was always in the same position

C. Its Materials

A. Metals that were used throughout the Tabernacle:

1. Gold – godliness
2. Silver – redemption -----It took all three to hold it all together
3. Brass – judgment

B. Fasteners (made of gold, silver & brass)

1. Sockets
2. Pins
3. Loops - connected the curtains together making them one
4. Taches (hooks) in the sides of the curtains were gold and brass
5. Tenans (wood dowl)

C. Textile Fabrics:

1. Badger's skins (only seen from the outside)

2. Ram's skins dyed red
3. Goat's hair – 11 curtains
4. Fine linen, white, scarlet, purple and blue, trimmed with gold and cherubim of cunning work (only seen from the inside) 5 for each side North and South. Each curtain 28 x 4 cubits (42 x 6)

D. Wood

1. Shittim wood, the timber of the wild acacia, the tree of the “burning bush”, This wood was said to be incorruptible

E. Oil – Pure virgin olive oil

F. Spices – myrrh, sweet cinnamon, sweet calamus, & cassia

G. Gems – sardis, topaz, carbuncle, emerald, saffire, diamond, ligure, agate, amethyst, beryl, onyx, jasper Gems – all manner of precious stones were used for the breast plate

H. Designers & Craftsmen – Moses, Bazaleel (Ex. 31:1-6), Aholiab (Ex. 35:30-35)

II. Outer Court

A. Furnishings

1. Brazen Altar

- a. Where sin was dealt with and judged
- b. A continual fire was to burn there
- c. Made of Brass
- d. Everyone had to go by the Brazen altar before anything else was done

2. Brazen Laver

1. Made from the women's looking glasses (mirrors) & brass
2. The Priest used it to look and wash (not one w/out the other)
3. Symbolized sanctification & the washing of the water by the Word

B. Curtains

1. The whole compound was 150 x 75 feet enclosed with tent curtains 7.5 ft high

C. Those admitted within

- a. The Levites
- b. Ceremonially clean Israelites
- c. Certain Gentiles who were ceremonially clean

III. Inner Court - 45 ft long x 15 ft. wide x15 ft high

A. Furnishings

a. Table of Shewbread (pronounced show bread) named for the bread laid on it

1. The table was made of shittim wood, overlaid w/ gold
2. The bread represents the Word of God
3. The bread was eaten by the priests & their families
4. Shewbread means – The bread by which the face of God is seen (revealed)

b. Golden Candlestick

1. Made of one solid sheet of metal, beaten into shape
2. Filled with Anointing oil – symbolic of the Spirit of God
3. The lamp was trimmed morning and evening to keep it burning continually

c. Altar of Incense

1. This altar was made of shittim wood, overlaid w/gold
2. It was placed directly in front of the veil, right before the Mercy Seat
3. Incense was offered morning and evening on it
4. A coal from the brazen altar lit the fire on this altar
5. This altar represents prayer and worship

B. Curtains

- a. Shared the Veil with the Most Holy Place
- b. Made of scarlet, purple, blue and fine linen

C. Those admitted within

- a. The High Priest and his family
- b. Levites

IV. Most Holy Place

A. Furnishings

- a. The Ark of the Covenant
- b. The Mercy Seat (with cherubim)

B. Those admitted within

a. The High Priest – a descendant of Aaron

1. He came alone, once a year on the Day of Atonement, w/blood & w/incense

V. The Caretakers of the Tabernacle (Levites)

a. Gershonites

1. Encamped on the west of the Tabernacle
2. Cared for the curtains, hangings, and coverings of the Tabernacle and Court, which they also bore on the journeys

b. Kohathites

1. Encamped on the South of the Tabernacle
2. Were allotted the charge and carriage of the holy vessels and furniture

c. Merarites

1. Encamped on the North of the Tabernacle
2. Watched over, erected, and carried all the solid framework of the building, the pillars of the surrounding courts, with the sockets of silver and brass
3. The family of Aaron the High Priest

True Tabernacle: TRUE - Alethinós: (al-ay-thee-nos'); Word Origin: Greek, Adjective

that which has not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name, in every respect corresponding to the idea signified by the name, real, true genuine, sincere. Opposite to what is fictitious, counterfeit, imaginary, simulated or pretended. It is opposite to what is imperfect defective, frail, uncertain.

The final outcome involves a tabernacle shared between God and man. Revelation 21:3