

Part 1: "The Pattern"

Exodus 25:1-9

The Tabernacle of Testimony



Exodus 38:21, "This is the sum of the tabernacle, even of the tabernacle of testimony . . ."

The tabernacle was a sanctuary for the Jews, as they were in the wilderness—as one man has said, "camping with God." And, the pattern was very important (25:40).

Hebrews 8:1-2, "1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man."

All of these things that happened in the Old Testament are but shadows, types, prophecies, pictures, predictions, illustrations, amplifications, and things that point to great spiritual truth in the New Testament.

THE DIMENSIONS OF THE TABERNACLE:

The outer court was 75 feet by 150 feet in size. The fence around it was 7½ feet high. The Gate was 30 feet wide. There were two pieces of furniture, a brazen altar, and there was a laver, or a great basin, that people washed in.

The inner court, a tent, was 15-feet-wide, 15-feet-high, and 45-feet-long. It was divided into two sections: the front room, or the inner court. The front room was 15-feet-wide, 15-feet-high, and 30-feet-long. There were three pieces of furniture: the table of shewbread, golden candlestick, and the altar of incense.

The Holy of Holies was 15 feet by 15 feet by 15 feet. There were two pieces of furniture: the Ark of the Covenant, and the Mercy Seat.

I. THE TABERNACLE IS A DESCRIPTION OF DEITY

John 1:14, "And the Word was made 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 word **dwelt** in verse 14 literally means, **tabernacled**. So, Jesus was a tabernacle, in which the Shekinah glory of God dwelt.

Had you seen that tabernacle from the outside, it was as plain and drab as it could possibly be. There's just a plain white fence around it; and then, it's covered with drab, dull, ugly badger skin.

But, when you came inside the tabernacle and saw that tabernacle lighted by that seven-pronged candlestick, you would have taken a deep breath and said, "It's beautiful!" All kinds of woven work, and gold, and shimmering beauty, and purple, and scarlet, and blue, and white colors, and needlework.

There are a lot of people who are not impressed with Jesus. Why? They're seeing Jesus from the wrong side.

Isaiah 53:2, "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him."

I Corinthians 2:14, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

The only way to see the tabernacle from the inside is to come in through the door. And, incidentally, Jesus is not only the inside; He's also the door.

John 10:9, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

II. THE TABERNACLE IS A BLUEPRINT OF THE BELIEVER

The tabernacle had three rooms: the outer court, the inner court, and the innermost court. These picture the triune nature of man.

I Thessalonians 5:23, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

With your body you have physical life; with your soul you have psychological life. The Greek word for **soul** is **psuche**; it's the word we get **psychology**, **psychiatry**, **psychic** from. And with your spirit you have spiritual life.

John 4:24, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

A. THE OUTER COURT REPRESENTS THE BODY

In the outer court, there was the brazen altar. The body is the place of sacrifice.

Romans 12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

B. THE INNER COURT REPRESENTS THE SOUL

The inner court, representing the soul, was the place of worship and fellowship.

C. THE INNERMOST COURT REPRESENTS THE SPIRIT

The innermost court, the Holy of Holies was where God's Shekinah glory dwelt.

Romans 8:16, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"

The Holy of Holies was the place of deepest, individual, personal communion.

John 14:17, "Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth (tabernacles) with you, and shall be in you."

D. THE BRAZEN ALTAR SPEAKS OF CHRIST, OUR SACRIFICE

E. THE LAVER SPEAKS OF CHRIST, OUR SANCTIFICATION

Ephesians 5:26, "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,"

F. THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD SPEAKS OF CHRIST, OUR SUSTENANCE

John 6:48, "I am that bread of life."

G. THE CANDLESTICK SPEAKS OF CHRIST, OUR SIGHT

John 8:12, "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

H. THE ALTAR OF INCENSE SPEAKS OF CHRIST, OUR SUPPLICATION

Revelation 5:8, "And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints."

Hebrews 7:25, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

I. THE HOLY OF HOLIES SPEAKS OF CHRIST, OUR SATISFACTION

John 1:29, "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." – Altar: Christ, Our Sacrifice!

John 3:5, "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." – Laver: Christ, Our Sanctification!

John 6:35, "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." – Table of Shewbread: Christ, Our Sustenance!

John 9:6-7, "6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, 7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing."

John 9:39, "And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind." – The Golden Candlestick: Christ, Our Sight!

John 14:13-14, "13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." – The Altar of Incense: Christ, Our Supplication!

John 17:20-23, "20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." – The Holy of Holies: Christ, Our Satisfaction!

