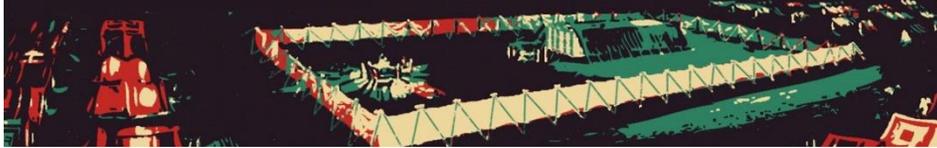


Part 2: "The Major Structure"

Exodus 26 & 30

The Tabernacle of Testimony



I. THE SILVER FOUNDATION OF THE TABERNACLE (EX. 26:19; 38:25-27)

The entire building was resting on 100 blocks of solid silver, and each block of silver weighed approximately 100 pounds. There was more than five tons of silver that made the foundation for this tent.

A. THE SOURCE OF THE SILVER: A REQUIRED TAX (EXODUS 30:11-15)

Notice: "a ransom for his soul" (30:12), and "to make an atonement for your souls" (30:15). The foundation was the only thing in the tabernacle that was not a free will offering. The silver used was a required offering. If it was not made, there was no ransom; there was no atonement; the death plague was upon them.

B. SYMBOLISM OF THE SILVER: ATONEMENT AND REDEMPTION (30:15)

1 Peter 1:18-19, "18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"

Peter is making a contrast between the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and the silver that symbolized that blood.

C. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SILVER: ITS PRECIOUSNESS TIES IT WITH THE BLOOD OF JESUS

The entire tabernacle building rested upon the foundation of redemption; on the foundation of atonement. The foundation of the would-be tabernacle building rested on the desert floor. It rested upon the sand.

Matthew 7:26, "And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:"

1 Corinthians 3:11, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Heb. 9:22, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

Acts 20:28, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

The blood that was given as a ransom on Calvary was precious blood; the blood of God.

II. THE BOARDS THAT ARE BUILT UPON THAT FOUNDATION (26:15-30)

A. THE CUTTING OF THE BOARDS (EXODUS 26:15)

Boards are made from trees. In the Bible, trees symbolize humanity.

Psalm 1:1-3, "1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Psalms 92:12, "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon."

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."

The Lord is symbolizing the humanity that will rest upon that silver foundation of the Tabernacle.

B. THE COVERING OF THE BOARDS (EXODUS 26:29)

The wood speaks of humanity, but the gold speaks of glory and Deity. We receive the golden covering that God gives us. Jesus Christ took the wood of our humanity, that we might take the gold of His glory.

C. THE CONFIGURATION OF THE BOARDS (EXODUS 26:19)

Each board had two feet, and these two feet rested upon a silver foundation.

1. Standing on a Silver Foundation Covered with Gold (Exodus 26:15)

They're no longer standing upon the desert floor, no longer rooted in the earth. They are standing upon a silver foundation covered with gold, representing the stand that we have in Jesus Christ. Both feet are to be placed safely, firmly upon the Lord. You can't have one foot on the sand and the other foot on the silver.

2. All of the Boards were of Equal Height

This shows that, when we rest upon the Lord Jesus Christ, we are all equal in Him.

D. THE CONNECTION OF THE BOARDS (EXODUS 26:26-27)

The boards were all standing up straight and tall all around the foundation. But there were some bars that go horizontal, that are fastened to the perpendicular boards to keep them all standing up straight, side-by-side.

Ephesians 2:21-22, "21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

The five bars that hold the boards represent the redeemed together. All of us are to be fitly framed together, standing side-by-side. And, when we're all "fitly framed together," that's when we make a habitation for God.

II Corinthians 6:16, "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

III. THE COVERING (EXODUS 26:1)

A. THE SYMBOLISM OF THE COLOR AND THEIR CORRELATION TO THE FOUR GOSPELS

1. The Color of Linen—White: The Sinlessness of the Savior

Linen stands for purity in the Bible, and it stands for holiness. The robes of the saints, in the Book of Revelation, are of linen, which stands for the righteousness of the saints. But, this is picturing Jesus, and speaks of His sinlessness.

2. Blue: The Son-ship of the Savior

Blue speaks of Heaven. He came from Heaven. This speaks of His Son-ship.

3. Purple: The Sovereignty of the Savior

Purple is the color that sovereigns wore in that day, and it's the royal color.

4. Scarlet: The Sacrifice of the Savior

In the Gospels, Matthew pictured Jesus as the King of the Jews; Matthew is the purple gospel. Mark pictures Jesus as the suffering servant; Mark is the scarlet gospel. Luke pictures Jesus as the virgin-born Son of God; Mark is the white gospel. John pictures Jesus as the Lord from Heaven; John is the blue gospel.

B. THE CHERUBIM SPEAK OF THE HOLINESS OF GOD

Isaiah 6:3, "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."

Psalms 91:1-2, "1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High (Holy of Holies) shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."

Psalms 91:7-9, "7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. 8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. 9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;"

C. THE CURTAINS

1. Linen Curtain Represents Christ, Our Security (Exodus 26:1).
2. Goats' Hair Curtain Represents Christ, Our Sin-Bearer (Exodus 26:7).

Leviticus 16:19-22, "19 And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel. 20 And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: 21 And

Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: 22 And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness."

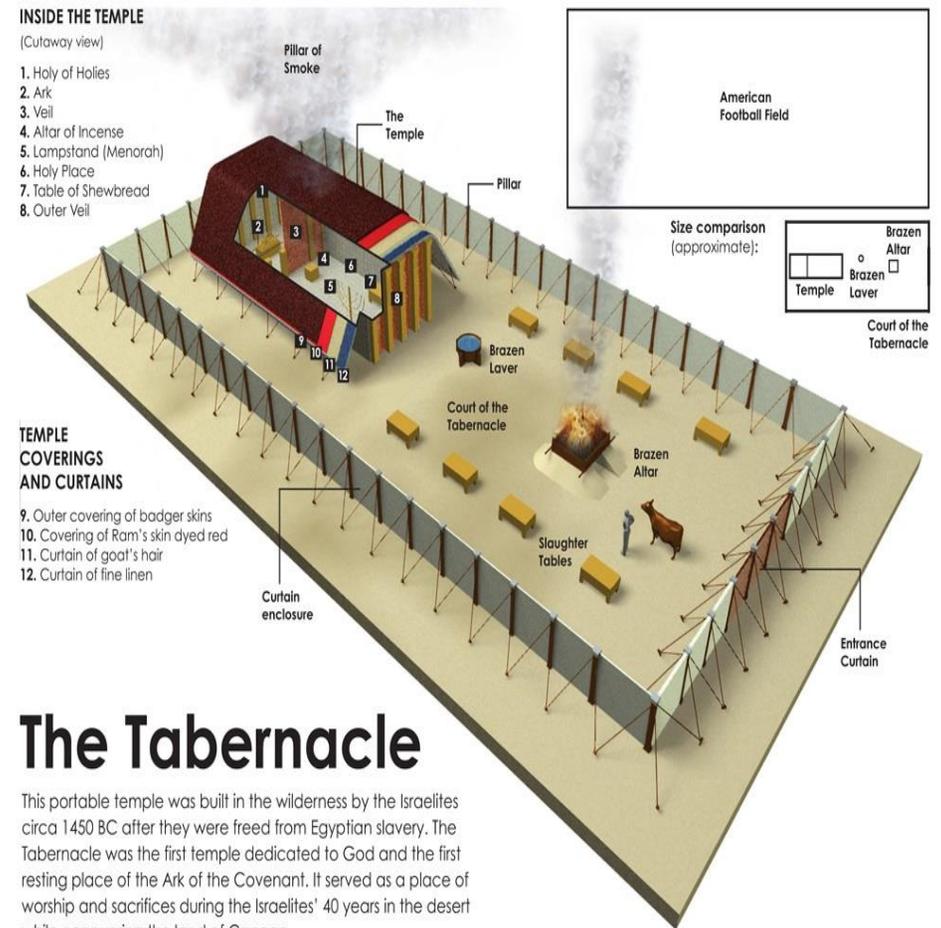
Psalms 103:12, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

3. Rams' Skins Curtain Represents Christ, Our Substitute (26:14).

Rams' skin is not normally red, but it is dyed red for blood; and, it pictures the blood atonement.

4. Badgers' Skins Curtain Represents Christ, the Suffering Servant (26:14).

The badgers' skin was on the outside, taking the storms, taking the abuse, taking the howling winds of the desert.



The Tabernacle

This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1450 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifices during the Israelites' 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan. —