

THE
OLD TESTAMENT
TABERNACLE

Description of Deity

Blue-Print of the Believer

Manifestation of the Mediator

Shadow of Salvation

Characteristic of the Church

Picture of Purity

INTRODUCTION TO THE TABERNACLE

Hebrews 7:23 – 8:5

Many people become confused when they study the four Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John - because they do not understand that much of what the Lord Jesus was using to teach the Jews was based on the Tabernacle. Please bear with me as I endeavor to explain the meaning of his statement without going into an in depth theology lesson!

The “Four Gospels” are part of the New Testament Cannon of Scripture. However, almost the entire “content of the Four Gospels” is not part of “New Testament theology.” You see, at the time that Christ was on earth, there was no “New Testament.” Hebrews 9:15-17 makes it clear, beyond debate, that the “New Testament” did not begin until the death of Christ.

“And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.”

If you will understand, and keep in mind, as you read and study the Four Gospels, that the Lord Jesus was: (1) Dealing primarily with the Jews – not Gentiles (John 1:12): (2) He was using “what the Jews knew” in order to teach them and to endeavor to “open their eyes” to the truth that “He was their Messiah.” What did the Jews know? Since the day they were born, Jews were taught about the Tabernacle. Later, the furniture of the Tabernacle was moved to Solomon’s Temple, but the “teaching” remained the same. The Tabernacle/Solomon’s Temple WAS THE CENTER of the religion and worship of the Israelites or the Jews!

The Jews HAD NEVER HEARD OF THE CHURCH! There was not a church at that time. There had never been a church. All they knew was the Tabernacle. Therefore, everything Christ talked with the Jews about was related in some way or another, to the Tabernacle. If you will remember this simple Bible truth, you will begin to see the “Tabernacle” in almost every part of the Four Gospels. If you will remember this simple Bible truth, it will help you to “rightly understand” the Scriptures.

Also, many people have a difficult time understanding the Book of Hebrews. That may be because much of the book of Hebrews is directed to the Jews - who fully understood the illustrations used by the "human penman." of the book: illustrations and teachings which came from the Tabernacle.

This is especially true of chapters 7 through chapter 10. In these four chapters the writer referred to and used "The Tabernacle," which the Jews were familiar with, to show the work of our LORD Jesus Christ.

The same kind of teaching which the Jews had received concerning the Tabernacle in the Old Testament is available to us; and also innumerable truths about many things about the Christ, the church, its believers, and their daily life applications. To understand "The Tabernacle" helps us to understand the Book of Hebrews and to understand the Book of Hebrews enables us better understand to a greater degree, The Tabernacle and its many applications.

It is for this reason, that the Holy Spirit, on at least four occasions in Scripture (Exodus 25:9, 25:40, 26:30, & Hebrews 7:23), clearly stated to Moses that he was to build the Tabernacle

“according to the pattern God showed him!” God left NOTHING to ANYONE to change His pattern.

1. Nothing was left to the "imagination" of Moses in the design of the Tabernacle!
2. Nothing was left to the "preferences" of the workmen who built the Tabernacle!
3. Nothing was left to the "desires of the people" who worshipped in the Tabernacle!

In the same manner, God has given us a pattern, an exact pattern to follow, both in worship of Him and in our service to Him.

Our “service to God” is not left to "our imagination – to our preferences or – to our desires"

It is “especially” true that NOTHING should be changed to “please the people.”

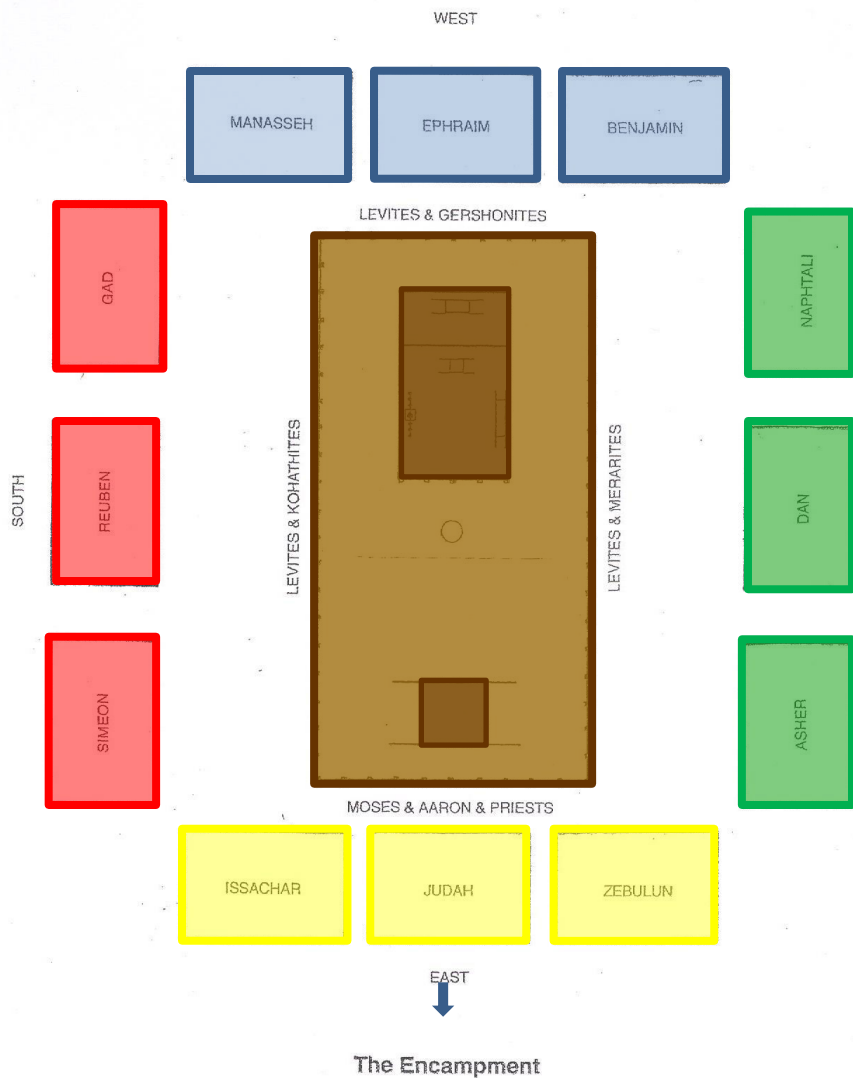
God's "Word" and God's "Work" are to be conducted according to His instructions. Of the Tabernacle and other illustrations and teachings in the Old Testament, it is said,

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:20)

BIBLE NUMBERS AND THEIR MEANING
MAIN NUMBERS

1	Unity	John 17:22
2	Division	Matthew 6:24; Romans 7:14-25; James 1:8
3.	Deity - Divine Perfection	Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
4	Creation	Matthew 24:31 (Winds - Seasons – Compass - Moon)
5	Grace	5 Names (Isaiah 9:6) 5 Gifts to Church (Ephesians 4:11) 5 Ingredients (Exodus 30:23-24)
6	Man – Weakness – Sin	
7	Complete & Perfection	Genesis 2:2 – Seven Churches (Revelation 2 & 3)
8	New Beginning	Genesis 7:13 – Eight people began new earth
9	Divine Blessings	9 Fruits of Spirit (Gal. 15:22-23) 9 Gifts to Church (I Cor. 12:8-10) 9 Beatitudes (Math 5:3-11)
10	Law	Exodus 20
11	Judgment	10 Plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7-14)
12	Government perfection	12 Apostles 12 Judges sitting on thrones to rule
15	Rest	Feast of Unleavened Bread – Began on 15 th day of the month Feast of Tabernacle – Began on 15 th day of the month Both were declared a "day of rest"
30	Dedication/Service	Christ begin public ministry at 30 years of age Priest in Old Testament began priesthood at age of 30



According to God's Instructions to Moses, when the Tabernacle was set up, the entrance way to the Outer Court was to always face to the East. (Numbers 2:3).

The New Testament of the Tabernacle facing the east is found in Matthew 24:27. *"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."* For you and me today, this indicates that each morning, when we wake up, we should be "looking toward the eastern sky" expecting the Lord Jesus to return today! If Christians were honestly expecting Jesus Christ to return TODAY, before the sun goes down, I think it is safe to say, "we would live our lives TODAY differently than if we were not looking for His return!"

THE TABERNACLE #1

EXODUS 25:1-9

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Intro: [Exodus 25:8 & 9](#) - "... after the pattern – even so shall ye make it." (Follow the Pattern)

A. Repeated: [Exodus 25:40, 26:30, 27:8](#)

B. Three things that God said to Moses about building the Tabernacle:

I am leaving.....

- a. NOTHING to your personal discretion – DO NOT change anything I tell you!
- b. NOTHING to the discretion of the workman, and
- c. NOTHING to the desires of the people!

1. No not change ANYTHING to "please the wants of the people!"

[Hebrews 8:12](#) - "...The high priest of the Tabernacle is a picture of Christ – our High Priest"

1. [Hebrews 10:10-12](#) – Christ – offered a sacrifice "ONCE FOR ALL."

THE DIMENSIONS

Exodus 27:18

I. Outer Court 75" wide X 150" Long

A. Fence – 7' tall ([27:18](#))

B. Gate – 30" wide ([27:16](#)) (A Blue, Purple, Scarlet, & White vail at the entrance)

1. Always set up so the gate will be on the east side ([Exodus 27:12-15](#))

2. Prophetic

a. [Matthew 24:27](#)

b. [Ezekiel 43:1,4, & 7](#)

3. Christians are to start each day "looking for the Lord's return!"

a. [1 Timothy 4:8](#)

C. There were two pieces of furniture in the outer court.

1. Brazen Altar – 7' x 7' x 4 ½ high ([Exodus 27:1](#)) - Brass

2. Brazen Laver – Wash basin - ([Exodus 30:18](#)) - Brass

II. The Inner-Court (The Holy Place – The Most Holy Place) – Exodus 26:18

A. Entire structure – 15' wide x 45' long x 15' high ([Exodus 26:16](#))

B. The "Inner-court" was divided into two sections:

1. **The Holy Place** – (First section of the Inner-court)

a. 15' X 30' X 15' high

b. A Blue, Purple, Scarlet, & White vail covered the entrance.

d. There were three pieces of furniture in the Holy Place

1. Table of Shewbread

2. Golden Lamp stand

3. Alter of Incense

2. **Holy of Holies** (Second section of the Inner-Court)

a. 15' X 15' X 15' high

b. A Blue, Purple, Scarlet, & White vail covered the entrance.

c. There were two pieces of furniture in the Holy of Holies

1. The Ark of the Covenant

2. The Mercy Seat

THE FIVE MAJOR TRUTHS PICTURED IN THE TABERNACLE
(They will all be developed in detail in later lessons)

I. Blue Print of the Believer – Man

- A. The Tabernacle is a “three-part” blue print
 - 1. Man is a “three-part” being (I Thess 5:23)
- B. The Outer court – **Picture of body**
 - 1. It is what you view from the outside
 - 2. The Altar is the place where sacrifice is made (Romans 12: 1-2)
- C. The Inner court – **Picture of our soul**
 - 1. You cannot see the “real” me.
 - 2. Place where we worship
- D. The Inner-most court (The Holy of Holies) – **Picture of our spirit**
 - 1. Place where God dwells
 - 2. Today – God dwells within us. We are the Tabernacle of God.
 - 3. John 14:17 “...for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”
 - a. We worship God in our spirit (John 4:24)

II. Shadow of Salvation – How we come to Christ

- A. John 1:14 “...dwelt (tabernacled) among us!
 - 1. The Door – John 10:9
 - a. Altar
 - b. Laver – Daily Washing –
 - 2. The Holy Place
 - a. Table of Showbread – Right or North side – Jesus is the Bread of Life
 - b. Golden Candlestick – Left or South side – Jesus is the Light of the World
 - 1. We are the light of the world – through the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Altar of Incense - Prayers – Odor of Sweet smell
 - 3. The Holy of Holies
 - a. Ark of the Covenant
 - 1. Ten Commandments
 - 2. Moses Rod that budded
 - 3. Pot of Manna
 - b. The Mercy Seat
 - 1. Where **God** sees the blood and has mercy on the people
 - a. Therefore, He meets with his people – “THERE”!
 - b. Meets where the blood is sprinkled and applied!

III. Characteristics of Christ (Salvation + Pattern for Christian Life & Service)

- 1. Altar **He is our Sacrifice** - Christ’s sacrifice and blood
- 2. Laver **He is our Sanctification** – Washing of water by the Word
- 3. Showbread **He is our Substance** – Man shall not live by bread alone.
- 4. Candle **He is our Sight** – Jesus gives us light
- 5. Altar Incense **He is our Supplication** - Jesus makes intercession
- 6. The Ark **He is our Satisfaction** – Intimate relationship with God
- 7. The Mercy Seat **He is our Sin-Bearer**

IV. Manifestation of The Mediator (Jesus Christ is pictured in every part of the Tabernacle)

A. This will be developed as we study the various parts of the Tabernacle.

V. Numerous Pictures of the New Testament Church.

A. The ENTIRE Tabernacle is “a complete pattern” of God’s plan under which the church is to carry on the work which God assigned it to do.

B. This will also be developed as we study the various parts of the Tabernacle.

THE VIEW FROM THE OUTSIDE

A. When viewed from the outside (Plain, simple, no beauty)

B. Covered with badger skins!

C. Inside one would say, “This is the most beautiful place I’ve ever seen!

1. [Isaiah 53:2](#): From the out-side - “No beauty that we should desire him.”

a. Unbelievers cannot understand what we see in Jesus

b. You must come “inside” to see and understand his beauty.

THE TABERNALE IS PICTURED IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

A. John 1:29	Jesus is the Lamb of God	Our Sacrifice
B. John 3:5	Washing of water by the Word	Our Sanctification
C. John 6:35	Jesus is the Bread of Life	Our Substance
D. John 9:5-6	Jesus is the light of the world	Our Sight - Light
E. John 14:13	Prayer made in His Name.	Our Supplication - Intercessor
F. John 17:20	Mercy Seat – Made Perfect	Our Satisfaction

EVERYTHING IN THE TABERNACLE SPEAKS OF AND IS SYMBOLIC OF SOME NEW TESTAMENT TRUTH.