

REFLECTIONS OF THE TABERNACLE IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST



Life-size model of the tabernacle in Timna Park, Arabah Valley, Negev Israel
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TABERNACLE FLOOR PLAN

"MAKE EVERYTHING ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN I HAVE SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN"
EXODUS 25:40

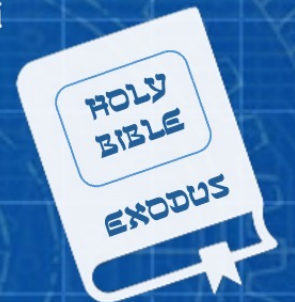
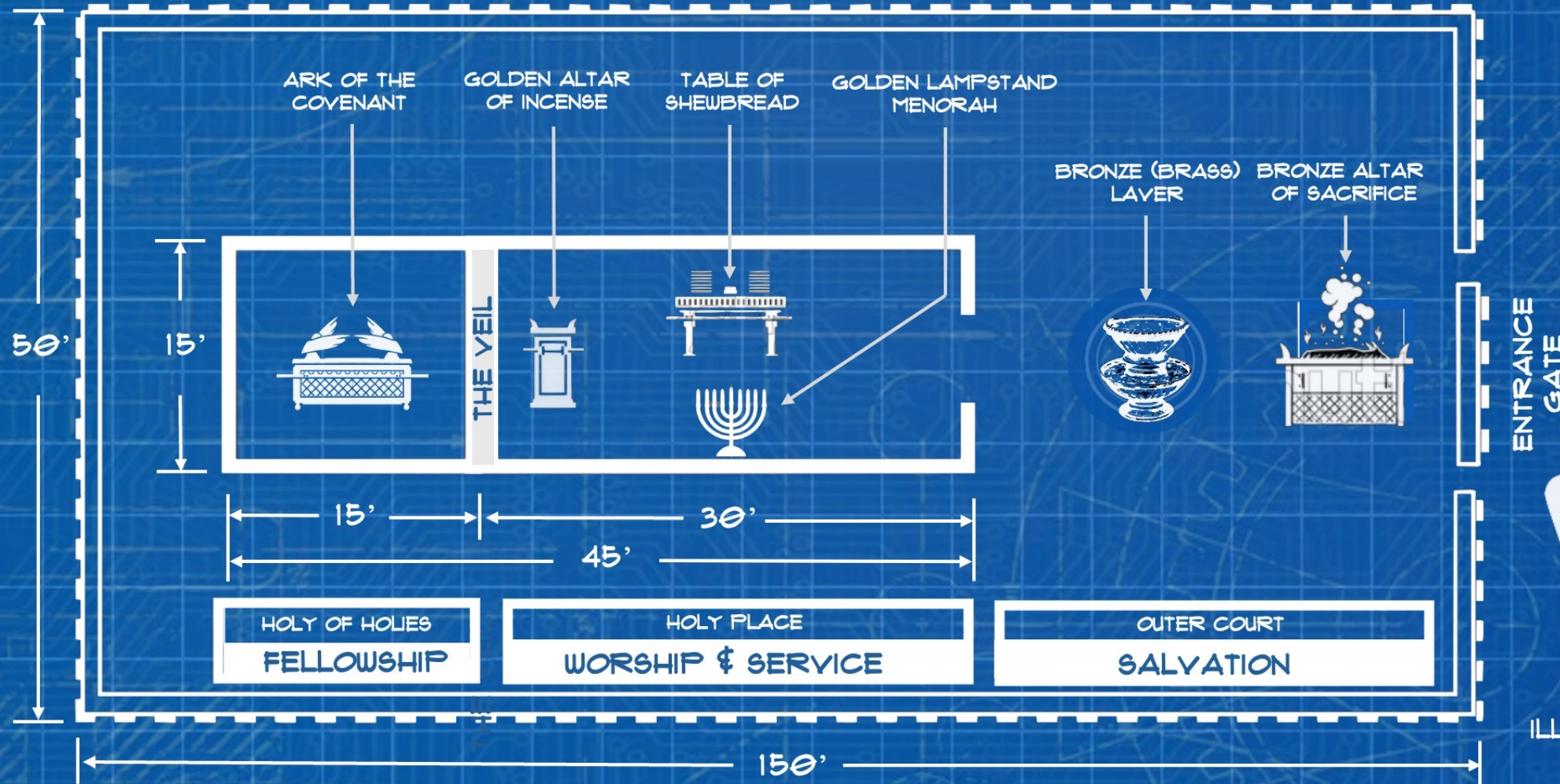
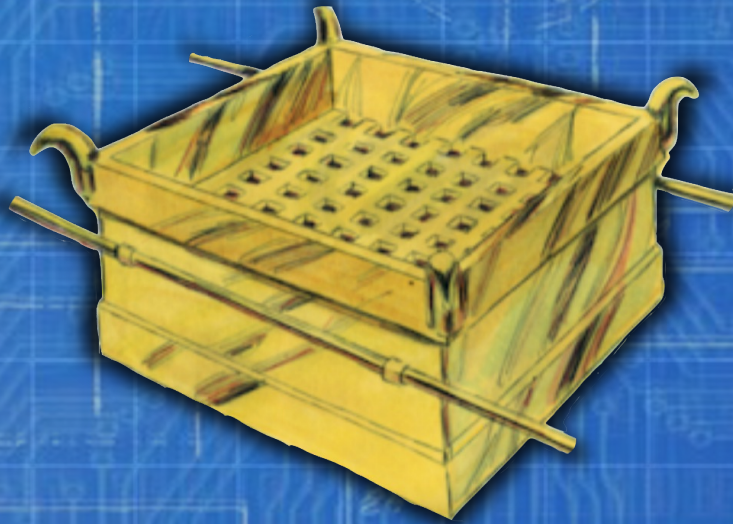


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BRONZE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE



¹ “You shall make an altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide—the altar shall be square—and its height *shall be* three cubits. ² You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay it with bronze. ³ Also you shall make its pans to receive its ashes, and its shovels and its basins and its forks and its firepans; you shall make all its utensils of bronze. ⁴ You shall make a grate for it, a network of bronze; and on the network you shall make four bronze rings at its four corners. ⁵ You shall put it under the rim of the altar beneath, that the network may be midway up the altar. ⁶ And you shall make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze. ⁷ The poles shall be put in the rings, and the poles shall be on the two sides of the altar to bear it. ⁸ You shall make it hollow with boards; as it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make *it*. **Exodus 27:1-8**

He made the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood; five cubits *was* its length and five cubits its width—*it was* square—and its height *was* three cubits. **Exodus 38:1**

“The position of the altar, just inside the gate - easily accessible, unavoidable, and unmistakable to the truly penitent inquirer.”

Slemming, *Made According to Pattern*, 1938, p. 97

BRONZE LAYER



¹⁷ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ¹⁸ “You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, ¹⁹ for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. ²⁰ When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, lest they die. ²¹ So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them—to him and his descendants throughout their generations.”. **Exodus 30:17-21**

He made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze, from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. **Exodus 38:8**

Jesus said to him, “He who is bathed needs only to wash *his* feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.” **John 13:10**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:9**

TABLE OF SHEWBREAD



²³ “You shall also make a table of acacia wood; two cubits *shall be* its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. ²⁴ And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a molding of gold all around. ²⁵ You shall make for it a frame of a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a gold molding for the frame all around. ²⁶ And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that *are* at its four legs. ²⁷ The rings shall be close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table. ²⁸ And you shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be carried with them. ²⁹ You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold. ³⁰ And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always. **Exodus 25:23-30**

⁵ “And you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it. Two-tenths *of an ephah* shall be in each cake. ⁶ You shall set them in two rows, six in a row, on the pure *gold* table before the LORD. ⁷ And you shall put pure frankincense on *each* row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, an offering made by fire to the LORD. **Leviticus 24:5-7**

But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’ ”

Luke 4:4, Deuteronomy 8:3

GOLDEN LAMPSTAND (MENORAH)



³¹ “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. **Exodus 25:31-40, Exodus 37:17-24**

GOLDEN LAMPSTAND (MENORAH)



¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ² “Command the children of Israel that they bring to you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually. ³ Outside the veil of the Testimony, in the tabernacle of meeting, Aaron shall be in charge of it from evening until morning before the LORD continually; *it shall be* a statute forever in your generations. ⁴ He shall be in charge of the lamps on the pure *gold* lampstand before the LORD continually. **Leviticus 24:1-4**

⁴ Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. **Revelation 2:4-5**

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:14-16**

“We often blame the enemy for attacks which are possibly the trimmers of the Lord seeking to refine us that we may bear a better light.”

Slemming, *Made According to Pattern*, 1938, p. 124

GOLDEN ALTAR OF INCENSE



¹ “You shall make an altar to burn incense on; you shall make it of acacia wood. ² A cubit *shall be* its length and a cubit its width—it shall be square and two cubits *shall be* its height. Its horns *shall be* of one piece with it. ³ And you shall overlay its top, its sides all around, and its horns with pure gold; and you shall make for it a molding of gold all around. ⁴ Two gold rings you shall make for it, under the molding on both its sides. You shall place *them* on its two sides, and they will be holders for the poles with which to bear it. ⁵ You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. ⁶ And you shall put it before the veil that *is* before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that *is* over the Testimony, where I will meet with you. ⁷ “Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it. ⁸ And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations. ⁹ You shall not offer strange incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it. And you shall put it before the veil that *is* before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that *is* over the Testimony, where I will meet with you. **Exodus 3:1-10**

GOLDEN ALTAR OF INCENSE



³ Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw *it* to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.. **Revelation 8:3-5**

²⁴ But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. **Hebrews 7:24-25**

How long oh Lord? The cry of the saints throughout time

How long of Lord will you hide your face from me? **Psalms 131**

How long of Lord will people treat me with contempt? **Numbers 14:11**

How long of Lord will the wicked be jubilant and gloat? **Psalms 94:3**

How long of Lord will your wrath keep burning? **Psalms 89:46**

How long of Lord will you not hear? **Habakkuk 1:2**

How long of Lord will your anger smolder? **Psalms 80:4**

How long of Lord will the enemy blaspheme your name? **Psalms 74:10**

THE VEIL



³¹ “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.

According to apocryphal historical sources, the veil of Herod’s temple was 60’ long, 30’ wide, the thickness of a man’s palm width (4” inches), consisted of 72 squares sewn together, and was so heavy that it took 300 hundred priests to lift and hang it in place.

Jesus changed the veil from a barrier to a gateway

Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

John 15:38

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **Hebrews 10:19-22**

ARK OF THE COVENANT



¹⁰ “And they shall make an ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits *shall be* its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. ¹¹ And you shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and shall make on it a molding of gold all around. ¹² You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put *them* in its four corners; two rings *shall be* on one side, and two rings on the other side. ¹³ And you shall make poles *of* acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. ¹⁴ You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them. ¹⁵ The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. ¹⁶ And you shall put into the ark the Testimony which I will give you. **Exodus 25:10-16**

“...the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which *were* the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant (10-commandments).” **Hebrews 9:4**

God’s law contained inside the ark is not the avenue in which mankind is to approach the Lord. For in doing so, this only results in death.

Then He struck the men of Beth Shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the Lord. He struck fifty thousand and seventy men of the people, and the people lamented because the Lord had struck the people with a great slaughter. **1 Samuel 6:19**

ARK OF THE COVENANT



¹⁷ “You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits *shall be* its length and a cubit and a half its width. ¹⁸ And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. ¹⁹ Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it *of one piece* with the mercy seat. ²⁰ And the cherubim shall stretch out *their* wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim *shall be* toward the mercy seat. ²¹ You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. ²² And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which *are* on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel. **Exodus 25:17-22**

The Hebrew word אָרוֹן translated into English as “ark” is a box, chest, or coffin. The word is used in **Genesis 50:26** and is translated as coffin.

Similarity with Noah’s Ark

“But I will establish **My covenant** with you; and you shall go into **the ark** - you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.” **Genesis 6:18**

ARK OF THE COVENANT



The Hebrew word כַּפֹּרֶת translated into English as “mercy seat” is the only acceptable covering provision for the atonement of our sins. The mercy seat is the only approved avenue, which the Lord has instructed mankind to approach meeting with Him. If we come through the blood of Jesus Christ the Lamb of God, then by God’s mercy and grace mankind may fellowship with our Creator.

¹¹ But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down *and looked* into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. **John 20:11-12**

Could it be that the coffin-shaped ark represents the atoning death of Jesus Christ and the mercy seat with its two angels represents the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Ultimately the symbolism of ark of the covenant, and the totality of the tabernacle with all its features, clearly paints this picture:

“Fellowship with the Lord God Creator of the universe is only possible through the means of the person and work of Jesus Christ, specifically by His death and resurrection.”