

## The Journey

### Series 03: Covenant

#### Week 25: God's House – The Tabernacle

*\*We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons\**

#### Review (Where We Have Been)

Last week we discussed how *man can find his way back to God* and discovered that it is impossible since *man is incapable to keep God's commandments*.

#### BIG Idea

**Where does man go from here if it's impossible to meet the demands of the Law? God alone determines how we can find our way back to Him.**

The Israelites would **never** be able to keep their agreement to obey God's Law, although they thought they could.

**Exodus 24:3 (ESV)** Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do."

**Don't forget God is *merciful* and *gracious*. He made a way for Israel to come to Him.**

God's instructions to approach Him were clear, and He expected Israel to obey them.

#### Information (What We Need to Know)

##### ***Two Action Steps After the Ten Commandments were Given...***

- Write the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone (so Israel wouldn't forget)

**Exodus 24:12 (ESV)** The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."

- Build a special place (Tabernacle) for God to dwell

**Exodus 25:8 (ESV)** And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.

**"The Tabernacle was not only where God would dwell, but also the place where Israel would bring sacrifices and worship Him. Israel could come to the Tabernacle to receive God's forgiveness and mercy to be saved from the punishment they deserved for breaking His laws." – Firm Foundations**

## **Instructions for Building the Tabernacle...**

**Exodus 25:9 (ESV)** Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

- It needed to be **portable**

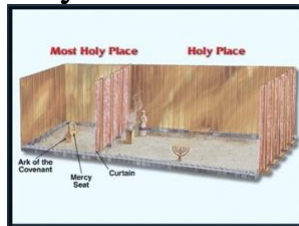
“Israel would travel great distances, so the outer covering of the Tabernacle was to be constructed of animal skins and materials woven from goat’s hair. Whenever God told Israel to pitch their tents, the Tabernacle was to be set up in the center of their camp.” – Firm Foundations

- It needed to have **two rooms**

**Exodus 26:33 (ESV)** ...And the veil shall separate for you the Holy Place from the Most Holy.

- ✓ **Holy Place** - this room was entered from the courtyard through curtains, which hung at the front of the Tabernacle

- ✓ **Most Holy Place** - God would dwell here with His people. It was a sacred place set apart only for God. The only entrance was through the Holy Place.



- The Most Holy Place needed to contain the **ark of the covenant**

**Exodus 25:10 (ESV)** “They shall make an ark of acacia wood.... **11** You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside shall you overlay it, and you shall make on it a molding of gold around it.”

- ✓ **Mercy Seat (lid of the ark)**

**Exodus 25:17 (ESV)** “You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold.”

“This was the specific place where God’s presence would be manifested and where He would show mercy to the nation of Israel.” – Firm Foundations

- ✓ **Cherubim** (face one another; wings outstretched toward each other; faces looking downward at the mercy seat; represents God’s presence and holiness)

**Exodus 25:19 (ESV)** Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end.

- ✓ **Two Tablets of Stone** (placed inside the ark)

**Exodus 25:21 (ESV)** ...in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. **22** There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

- The Most Holy Place and the Holy Place needed a **curtain** dividing them  
**Exodus 26:33 (ESV)** And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in there within the veil. And the veil shall separate for you the Holy Place from the Most Holy.

“The divider continually reminded Israel that they were separated from God because of their sin.” – Firm Foundations

- The tabernacle needed to be surrounded by a **courtyard** with **one entrance**  
**Exodus 27:9 (ESV)** “You shall make the court of the tabernacle. On the south side the court shall have hangings...for one side.”



“There was one entrance into the courtyard. Every person who came to God had to enter through this opening. We studied (many lessons ago) where there was only **one entrance** into a place of safety - *Noah’s ark had only one door*. All who were saved from God’s judgment entered through that one door.” – Firm Foundations

- The **brazen altar** needed to be set up in the courtyard  
**Exodus 27:1 (ESV)** “You shall make the altar of acacia wood... **2** and you shall overlay it with bronze.”

**Leviticus 1:2 (ESV)** “...When any one of you brings an offering to the Lord, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock. **3** ...He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the Lord. **4** He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.”



“When a person brought an animal, he was to place his hand on its head before it was slain. By placing his hand on the offering, he was admitting his sin and deserved to die, but he was asking God to accept the animal’s death in his place. God forgave the sins of those who came trusting in Him and bringing the offering He required. ***The blood of animals could not pay for sin.*** It was only a picture of the punishment that sinners deserve.” – Firm Foundations

- The tabernacle needed **priests** to serve God and assist people with their sacrifices
  - ✓ God appointed Aaron (Moses' brother) as high priest, and his sons as priests  
**Exodus 28:1 (ESV)** “Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as priests - Aaron and Aaron's sons...”
  - ✓ God said who could enter the Most Holy Place
  - ✓ Aaron was to take the blood of an animal with him into the Most Holy Place
  - ✓ Aaron was to enter the Most Holy Place and sprinkle blood on the mercy seat  
**“Although sin must be paid for in full, God promised to hold off the judgment Israel deserved and forgive their sins for the past year if they came to Him in faith and according to the way He instructed them.” – Firm Foundations**

### Application (What We Need to Do)

What I have just been explaining to you is the *doctrine of atonement*.

During Old Testament times, those who came in faith according to God's way, were fully forgiven and released from judgment.

God did this only because He intended to deal with their sin completely.

**How?** Through the sacrificial blood and death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.

When Christ died, God laid on Him the sins of the Old Testament believers which, in the patience of God, He had left unpunished.

**Romans 3:25 (NLT)** For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, **26** for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

**Exodus 40:34 (ESV)** Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

When Israel fully obeyed God, He came to live in the center of their camp – in the Most Holy Place.