

According to the Pattern

- God told Moses “Have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.” (Exodus 25:8)
- He tells Moses to make a chest (the Ark of the Covenant), and to place this within the Tabernacle – “There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites.” (Exodus 25:22)
- Exodus 25:9 - Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.
- God specified the exact shape, dimensions, and materials that were to be used
 - Exodus 25:1-7 – He tells Moses to take up an offering of “gold, silver and bronze; blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ram skins dyed red and another type of durable leather; acacia wood; olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; and onyx stones and other gems”
 - Exodus 26:1-6 – 1 Make the tabernacle with ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, with cherubim woven into them by a skilled worker. 2 All the curtains are to be the same size – twenty-eight cubits long and four cubits wide. 3 Join five of the curtains together, and do the same with the other five. 4 Make loops of blue material along the edge of the end curtain in one set, and do the same with the end curtain in the other set. 5 Make fifty loops on one curtain and fifty loops on the end curtain of the other set, with the loops opposite each other. 6 Then make fifty gold clasps and use them to fasten the curtains together so that the tabernacle is a unit.
 - Exodus 31:1-6 – 1 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 “See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 3 and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills – 4 to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, 5 to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. 6 Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you
- God specified the rules surrounding all these items
 - Who could use them and when
 - How they were to be treated
 - He was so serious that he warned Moses to not let anyone but the priests even look at the items or they would die (Num 4:20)
 - When they were transported from one location to another, the holy items had to be covered with leather sheets (Num 4)

Nadab and Abihu and Strange Fire (Leviticus 9-10)

- Leviticus 9:23-24 – 23 Moses and Aaron then went into the tent of meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people. 24 Fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar... And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown.
- Leviticus 10:1-2 – 1 Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, contrary to his command. 2 So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.
- Leviticus 10:3 – Moses then said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke of when he said: Among those who approach me I will be proved holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.”

Eli’s Sons and the Ark

- Eli’s Wicked Sons (1 Samuel 2)
 - 1 Samuel 2:12 – Eli’s sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the Lord.

- Instead of burning the best part of the offerings to God (the fat), they kept the good stuff for themselves
- 1 Samuel 2:17 – This sin of the young men was very great in the Lord’s sight, for they were treating the Lord’s offering with contempt.
- God warns Eli, but Eli doesn’t really do anything about it
- But God will be honored (Leviticus 10:3), so he devises a plan to get rid of Hophni and Phinehas...
 - The Philistines attack
 - 30,000 Israelite soldiers die
 - The Ark is captured
 - Hophni and Phinehas both are killed
 - When Eli hears the news, he dies
 - And when Phinehas’s pregnant wife hears the news, she goes into labor and dies in childbirth
 - Her last words are naming her son “Ichabod,” which means “The Glory has departed from Israel” (1 Samuel 4:21)
 - Their flippant attitude in God’s presence caused a lot of innocent people to die
- The Ark in Beth Shemesh (1 Samuel 6)
 - 1 Samuel 6:19-20 – 19 But God struck down some of the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they looked into the ark of the Lord. The people mourned because of the heavy blow the Lord had dealt them. 20 And the people of Beth Shemesh asked, “Who can stand in the presence of the Lord, this holy God? To whom will the ark go up from here?”
- Uzzah and the Ark
 - 2 Samuel 6:1-3 – 1 David again brought together all the able young men of Israel – thirty thousand. 2 He and all his men went to Baalah in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim on the ark. 3 They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill.
 - Exodus 25:12-14 – 12 Cast four gold rings for [the Ark] and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. 13 Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. 14 Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry it.
 - 2 Samuel 6:7 – The Lord’s anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God.
- David’s Bad Attitude
 - 2 Samuel 6:8-10 – 8 Then David was angry because the Lord’s wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah. 9 David was afraid of the Lord that day and said, “How can the ark of the Lord ever come to me?” 10 He was not willing to take the ark of the Lord to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.
 - Gittite = a person from the city of Gath...
 - Gath = a principle city of the Philistines, famous as the hometown of Goliath!
 - Gittites were Philistines, but many were loyal to David
- David Finally Gets It
 - 2 Samuel 6:11-12 – 11 The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months... and the Lord blessed him and his entire household. 12 Now King David was told, “The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God.” So David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing.

- 2 Samuel 6:13-15 – 13 When those who were carrying the ark of the Lord had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. 14 Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the Lord with all his might, 15 while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

We Must Have a Healthy Fear of God

- Leviticus 10:3 – Among those who approach me I will be proved holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.
 - God is your friend, brother, father, bridegroom... but He's also "The Fear of Isaac" (Genesis 31:42, 53)
- Romans 11:22 – See then the kindness and severity of God: to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; for otherwise you too will be cut off.
- Philippians 2:12-13 – 12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.