

# The Tabernacle

After receiving the Decalogue and the civil and ceremonial law, Moses is now given instructions for the tabernacle.

The law revealed sin, the tabernacle was designed to make fellowship with God possible.

The tabernacle will become the primary subject of the remainder of Exodus and will be the basis of all the religious instruction in Leviticus. The subject of the Tabernacle will continue at the end of Numbers and again in Deuteronomy as the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation will need to be reminded of the things their parents learned at Sinai? All in all nearly 50 chapters within Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers Deuteronomy and Hebrews deal with the Tabernacle.

- In Exodus 25-31 - Moses receives the blue prints
- Exodus 32-34 - the building of the tabernacle will be interrupted by the sin of the people and the desire of Moses to know God better
- Exodus 35- 40 - focuses on the actual construction of the tabernacle. When the book closes the tabernacle is erected and functional

## 3 different Hebrew words are used for the tabernacle

Exodus 25:8

*And let them make me a **sanctuary**, that I may dwell in their midst.*

Sanctuary is *miqdash*, and means a holy place

Exodus 25:9

*Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the **tabernacle**, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.*

Tabernacle is *mishkan*, which means 'a dwelling-place'

Exodus 40:2

*"On the first day of the first month you shall erect the tabernacle of the **tent** of meeting.*

The "tent of meeting" was used as another name for the Tabernacle of Moses. However, before the tabernacle was

constructed, God met with Moses in a temporary tent of meeting:

*“Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the ‘tent of meeting.’ **Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp.** . . . As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses” (Exodus 33:7, 9).*

This gives insight into the purpose of the Tabernacle.

It was designed to make **fellowship** between sinful man and a holy God possible. It is worth noting that Moses’ tent was outside the camp, while the Tabernacle was designed to be the center of the camp. All tribes were organized around the Tabernacle. Because of the variance in the size of the tribes the camp from above would be in the shape of a cross with the Tabernacle in its center.

Exodus 25-31 records how Moses was instructed to build the tabernacle and its furnishings. In this first installment Moses was instructed to build:

The ark, the table of show bread, the lamp stand, the tabernacle itself (including its foundation, walls, coverings and veils), the brazen altar, the courtyard (with its linen fence and beautiful gate), after an interlude where He explains the wardrobe of the priests, Moses is further instructed to build another altar this one for incense (30:1-10) and a bronze laver for the priest to wash in (30:17-21)

The Tabernacle was a large rectangular tent 15x15x45 and was divided into two unequal sections each separated by a thick curtain or veil. The first and larger section was called the Holy Place and was 15x30x15. It was the Holy Place that the priest would enter daily to care for the oil, incense and bread. The section and smaller section was called the Holiest Place and was 15x15x15 and contained the Ark and mercy seat.

All in All the tabernacle had 7 furnishings

- Altar
- Laver
- Table

- Lamp Stand
- Incense Altar
- Ark
- Mercy Seat

The Tabernacle sat in a courtyard contained by a lined fence that was 150X75

The building of the Tabernacle will be the major theme of the rest of Exodus and construction will be completed in the final chapter almost a year after the work began

Exodus 19:1

*In **the third month** after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai.*

Exodus 40:17

*And it came to pass in **the first month of the second year**, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was raised up.*

### **Exodus 40:1-8 - describes how the tabernacle and its furnishings were to be arranged**

*Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:*

*“On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.*

*You shall put in it **the ark of the Testimony**, and **partition off the ark with the veil**.*

*You shall bring in the **table** and arrange the things that are to be set in order on it; and you shall bring in the **lampstand** and light its lamps.*

*You shall also set the **altar of gold for the incense** before the ark of the Testimony, and **put up the screen for the door** of the tabernacle.*

*Then you shall set the **altar of the burnt offering** before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.*

*And you shall **set the laver** between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water in it.*

*You shall **set up the court** all around, and **hang up the screen at the court gate**.*

The information is given from inside out

**First** details are regarding the Ark. It is to be of acacia wood and overlaid in gold. It is to have a golden lid called a mercy seat and is the place where God will meet with man.

Further details regarding this meeting are given Lev 16 - the Day of Atonement

Leviticus 16:2

*And the Lord said to Moses: "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.*

**Next** Moses is instructed to build a table for the showbread. This table, also made of acacia wood and covered in gold would display the bread in the tabernacle. It also held certain cutlery designed for use in the tabernacle.

**Thirdly**, Moses gets info regarding the golden lamp stand. This was the only light in the tabernacle and was made of solid gold and ornately decorated with almond blossoms and flowers of gold. This lamp sat in the holy place and burned oil to give light in the sanctuary.

Exodus 27:20-21

*"And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually. In the tabernacle of meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening until morning before the Lord. It shall be a statute forever to their generations on behalf of the children of Israel.*

Fourthly, the Altar of incense.

Exodus 30:1

*"You shall make an altar to burn incense on; you shall make it of acacia wood.*

Exodus 30:6

*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.*

This altar was designed to provide a constant sweet aroma within the Tabernacle.

Fifthly, the Bronze Laver

Exodus 30:17-18

*Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:*

*"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,*

Exodus 30:20

*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.*

And finally the Brazen Altar

Exodus 27:1

*Build an altar of acacia wood, three cubits[a] high; it is to be square, five cubits long and five cubits wide*

**Rather than give a verse-by-verse exposition of this passage we will be taking a look at the big picture of the Bible's description of the Tabernacle, its furnishings and services. We are going to come from the outside and work our way through the Tabernacle and its furnishings.**

**A brief description:**

The Tabernacle itself was a large tent that sat in an enclosed courtyard. The dimensions of the Tent were roughly 15ft tall by 15ft wide by 45 feet long. The Tabernacle was divided into 2 separate rooms that could not be seen from the outside. The first room, called the Holy Place was 15x30x15 and contained the Lamp Stand, the Table of Show Bread and the Altar of incense. The second room, called the Most Holy was 15x15x15 and contained the Ark and Mercy seat. Inside the Ark Moses placed the Law of God and later added a container of Manna and Aaron's rod that had miraculously budded. The Tabernacle was a large tent built upon a portable foundation of silver; it had wooden walls overlaid in gold, a covering of 4 materials and a curtain or veil closing off the doorway into each room. Just outside the structure itself was a large bronze bowl used for washing and an altar designed for animal sacrifice. The Tabernacle always faced east and sat in the back portion of a large enclosed courtyard surrounded by a linen fence 7 1/2 ft tall and 100 feet deep and 57 feet wide. The only way into the courtyard was through a beautifully woven gate over 30 feet wide.

**Cost of the Tabernacle**

The tabernacle was made from gold, silver, bronze, wood and textiles received as a gift from the people

Exodus 38:24

*All the **gold** that was used in all the work of the holy place, that is, the gold of the offering, was **twenty-nine talents and seven hundred and thirty***

*shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary.*

Exodus 38:25-26

And the **silver** from those who were numbered of the congregation was **one hundred talents and one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five shekels**, according to the shekel of the sanctuary: a bekah for each man (that is, half a shekel, according to the shekel of the sanctuary), for everyone included in the numbering from twenty years old and above, for six hundred and three thousand, five hundred and fifty men.

Exodus 38:29

The offering of **bronze** was **seventy talents and two thousand four hundred shekels**.

Because of the valuable materials required for the building, that Tabernacle would be an extremely expensive project. We are told that it required

- **29 talents** and 730 shekels of **Gold**,
  - plus **100 talents** and 1,775 shekels of **silver**
  - and **70 talents** and 2400 shekels of **bronze**.
- Today's price for gold is **\$1,161.90 per ounce**
  - There are 16 ounces in a pound  
$$16 \times 1,161.90 = \$18,590.4$$
  - If we take the Babylonian talent valued at 67lbs and the 29 talents of gold required for the Tabernacle  
We get 1,863 lbs.  
$$1,863\text{lbs} \times \$18,590.4 = \$34,633,915.2$$
  - This does not include the 730 shekels  
A shekel is anywhere from 9-17 grams.  
A gram of gold is about \$143  
$$\begin{aligned} \text{At 9 grams, each shekel would be worth } & \$1287 \\ \text{730 shekels would be worth } & \$939510 \end{aligned}$$

This brings us to a grand total of **\$35,573,425.2**

And that is taking the Babylonian talent. If we use the NT talent weighing 170lbs the price more than doubles

And we have not included the cost of silver, bronze, wood or textiles

Just for fun, using the same value of the shekel the silver would be worth

100 talents of silver = 6700 lbs. or \$2,144,000

**This takes the value of this tent over 37 million dollars**

## The purpose of the Tabernacle

It is important to keep in mind that the tabernacle will serve two purposes.

1. It is the means provided by God for sinful people to fellowship with Him

This will be done through the Sacrificial system

2. It will serve as a picture of the future work of God through the new covenant

Exodus 25:9

*According to all that I show you, that is, the **pattern** of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.*

Exodus 25:40

*And see to it that you make them according to the **pattern**, which was shown you on the mountain.*

Exodus 26:30

*And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain.*

Hebrews 8:5

*who serve the **copy and shadow of the heavenly things**, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the **pattern** shown you on the mountain."*

Paul explained that the Old Testament was designed to illustrate the person and work of Christ.

Colossians 2:17

*Which are a **shadow** of things to come, but the **substance** is of Christ.*

If we follow the shadow of the Tabernacle it will take us to the person and work of Christ.

This will be the focus of our attention. We will walk from the outside of the Tabernacle into its innermost court and look at how it will speak to us regarding the work of Christ

## The Courtyard

The details of the courtyard are recorded in Exodus 27 and 38. The courtyard was 150 x 75 and was enclosed with a linen fence 7-1/2 feet tall

The Tabernacle is measured in cubits. A cubit is roughly 18 inches or 1-1/2 feet.

Exodus 27:9

*"You shall also make the court of the tabernacle. For the **south side** there shall be hangings for the court made of fine woven linen, **one hundred cubits long** for one side.*

**North side** was the same

Exodus 27:12

*"And along the width of the court on the **west side** shall be hangings **of fifty cubits**, with their ten pillars and their ten sockets.*

**East side** was different because of the gate or entrance into the tabernacle

The gate that was 30ft wide

Exodus 27:16

*"For the **gate** of the court there shall be a screen **twenty cubits** long, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. It shall have four pillars and four sockets.*

Exodus 38:18-19

*The screen for the **gate** of the court was woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and of fine woven linen. The length was twenty cubits, and the height along its width was **five cubits**, corresponding to the*



*hangings of the court.*

*And there were four pillars with their four sockets of bronze; their hooks were silver, and the overlay of their capitals and their bands was silver.*

It is worth noting that while the courtyard was surrounded with a 7 1/2 foot fence the focal point would be the brightly colored, 30ft wide gate at the east end that brought people in and put them face to face with the brazen altar

### **It is not difficult to see the symbolism behind the fence and the gate.**

The fence was made of linen. This material was not selected for its durability or strength but for its symbolism. White linen is a picture of holiness. A fence depicting the holiness of God guarded the Tabernacle, or tent of meeting. No one could enter unless they were willing to go through the gate provided.

Jesus said:

John 10:9

*I am the **door**. If anyone **enters by Me**, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*

John 14:6

*Jesus said to him, "I am the **way**, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father **except through Me**.*

John 3:16

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in **Him** should not perish but have everlasting life.*

The clear message of the Bible is that we are all sinners separated from God but through Christ we can be restored into fellowship with God.

## The Altar

Exodus 27:1

*"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.*

Exodus 27:2

*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.*

One of the key furnishings for the Tabernacle was the Altar. It was a large wooden structure overlaid with bronze that sat within the gate of the courtyard and outside the entrance of the Tabernacle itself. It was on the Altar where all of Israel's sacrifices were offered.

When a person entered through the gate of that tabernacle, the first thing they would see was the brazen altar. It reminded them they were not worthy to approach holy God without first offering a blood sacrifice for their sins.

This altar was designed as the place where sacrifice for sin was accomplished

The brazen altar was the only acceptable place for sacrifice

Leviticus 17:8-9

*“Also you shall say to them: ‘Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice, and does not bring it to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, to offer it to the Lord, that man shall be cut off from among his people.*

The brazen altar was placed on a mound of earth or stones so it was raised above the rest of the tabernacle ground. It probably had a ramp, which the repentant sinner and priest could walk up

The altar was made acacia wood and overlaid with bronze. It's measurements were 7.5 feet square and 4.5 feet deep. Four horns projected from the top four corners and a bronze grating was inside to hold the animal.

The altar was the place for burning animal sacrifices. It showed the Israelites that the first step for sinful man to approach a holy God was to be cleansed by the blood of an innocent creature. For a sin offering, a person had to bring an animal — a male one without blemish or defect from the flock or herd — to the priest at the tabernacle gate.

*“He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.” (Leviticus 1:4)*

By laying his hand upon the head of the offering, the person was identifying with the sacrifice. His sin and

guilt was being moved from himself to the animal. The priest would then slaughter the animal, sprinkle its blood in front of the veil of the Holy Place, burn the sacrifice, and pour the rest of it at the bottom of the altar. Blood is a significant agent of atonement or covering for sin

*“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.” (Leviticus 17:11)*

*“The law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22)*

No matter how good a person was, without the shedding of blood there was no forgiveness.

A description of how burnt offerings were presented is given in:

Leviticus 1:3-9

*“If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the Lord.*

*Then he shall put his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.*

*He shall kill the bull before the Lord; and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of meeting.*

*And he shall skin the burnt offering and cut it into its pieces.*

*The sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar, and lay the wood in order on the fire.*

*Then the priests, Aaron's sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat in order on the wood that is on the fire upon the altar; but he shall wash its entrails and its legs with water. And the priest shall burn all on the altar as a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord.*

**The person shall:**

- Bring it of his own free will
- Lay hands on the animal and kill it
- Sprinkle the blood around the altar
- And burn the carcass as an offering

**Again the illustration is clear.** We come to God through Christ but the first thing Christ makes us face is the fact that we are sinners in need of a savior. Many have attempted to come to Christ as teacher, leader, guru or inspiration but we must come to Him as savior. Christ is the Greek equivalent to the Hebrew Messiah and is not his last name but is a reference to His role. He came to save:

Luke 19:10

*For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

The altar had 4 horns facing 4 directions of the compass. This may be a subtle picture of the fact that the message of salvation is for the whole world.

Nowhere is this made clearer than when the Holy Spirit is poured out and the disciples begin to speak in languages from all over the world. When the crowd gathered Peter declared:

Acts 2:21

*And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved*

Psalms 118:27

*God is the Lord,*

*And He has given us light;*

*Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.*

This Psalm is Messianic, meaning that it is looking forward to the Christ and His death upon the cross. In a figurative sense Jesus was bound with chords to the Altar when He was bound with nails to the cross.

These horns were on the four corners of the Altar and pointed outward in the four directions of the compass. Again in a figurative sense the Altar alluded to the fact that salvation was available to all men through the shed blood of the innocent. After rising from the dead Jesus sent His disciples out to the uttermost parts of the earth with the simple message of salvation available to all who would put trust in Christ.

Matthew 28:19

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,*

*baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"*

The word translated "nations" is the Greek word "ethnos" from which the word ethnicity is derived. Jesus is declaring that salvation is the same for all people everywhere. No matter who we are if we want eternal life all we need do is come to the cross and receive Christ.

## The Bronze Laver

The bronze laver was a bowl that sat between the Altar and the entrance to the Tabernacle. Its purpose was to provide cleansing for the priests as they served.

Exodus 30:20

*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.*

Two interesting facts about the bronze laver

1. The bronze was taken from the mirrors the women took from Egypt

Exodus 38:8

*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.*

2. The size of the laver is not mentioned

We are only told that it stood upon a stand to make the washing easier

9 King James Version (NKJV)

*The altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the **laver and its base**—*

This laver is a picture of the value of the Word of God both to cleanse and reveal.

The word of God is the true mirror

James 1:22-25

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

*For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.*

*But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

The word of God is also like water that washes

Psalms 119:9

*How can a young man cleanse his way?*

*By taking heed according to Your word.*

## The Tabernacle

The Tabernacle was a large tent 15x45x15. While it was built of the most precious materials there was nothing on the exterior that showed its worth

The tabernacle was covered with four different materials.

- Linen
- Goat hair
- Rams skin died red
- Badger skins – this was a drab grey color that hid the true worth of what was inside.

Each covering was roughly 45 feet long and 30 feet wide,

The structure of the tabernacle was made of acacia boards covered in gold.

Exodus 26:15

*“And for the tabernacle you shall make the boards of acacia wood, standing upright.*

Each board was 15ft tall and 2ft wide

These boards were set in sockets of silver, each board requiring 2

sockets to support it.

Exodus 26:18-19

*And you shall make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards for the south side. You shall make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards: two sockets under each of the boards for its two tenons.*

The silver was gathered from the ransom money each Israel was required to provide

The silver was a mandatory offering of 1/2 shekel taken ransom money from the people. The silver was used as the foundation for the tabernacle

Exodus 38:27

*And from the hundred talents of silver were cast the sockets of the sanctuary and the bases of the veil: one hundred sockets from the hundred talents, one talent for each socket.*

Exodus 30:15

*The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when you give an offering to the Lord, to make atonement for yourselves.*

This is clearly a picture of the part each person must play in the role of salvation. No one could be part without paying his 1/2 Shekel just as no one will receive the benefits of the cross without exercising simple faith,

A middle bar that passed through each board held the walls together

Exodus 26:28

*The middle bar shall pass through the midst of the boards from end to end.*

The tabernacle was divided into two rooms separated by a veil. The rooms were called "Holy place" and the "Most Holy"

Exodus 26:31-33

*"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.*

*You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Their hooks shall be gold, upon four sockets of silver.*

*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.*

The tabernacle was closed to the public by a curtain or veil making the contents of the tabernacle not visible to anyone except the priests

Exodus 26:36-37

*"You shall make a screen for the door of the tabernacle, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver.  
And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold; their hooks shall be gold, and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them.*

### **Again the symbolism is striking**

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and **dwelt** among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Dwelt – to tabernacle

Jesus took on human flesh and by doing so seemingly hid the glory of God. In reality he was making the glory of God know to us. Those who come to God through Christ are allowed access into the presence of God

### **The Holy Place, which contained three items.**

- The Table of Show bread

The Table was the place where showbread was placed in the presence of God.

It consisted of twelve loaves made of fine flour, baked and then placed in two rows on the Table. The 12 loaves represented the 12 tribes

Each Sabbath day the bread was renewed and eaten by Aaron and his sons, by the priestly family, in the Holy Place.

The table was 3 feet long, 18" wide and about 2 feet tall. It was made of acacia wood overlaid with pure gold and had a golden border around it to keep items from falling off. The table had four legs, and two gold plated poles were inserted through golden rings attached to the legs for transporting.

The purpose of the golden table was to hold 12 cakes of bread made of fine flour. as well as the plates and utensils used in the Tabernacle.



The Showbread was also called "The bread of the presence" and speaks of the fellowship between the priest and God.

The Tabernacle literally had a dinner table set within where the priests would dine on the bread of God in the presence of God.

The Show Bread points to Jesus

*John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the **bread** of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."*

*Jn 6:51-58 "I am the living **bread** which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven - not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."*

While these texts are clearly contrasting Jesus with Manna, it is appropriate to also associate Him with the Showbread since it is through Him that we fellowship with God and that Spiritual life is sustained.

## The Lampstand

Exodus 25:31

*"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.*

The lamp stand was designed to shed light into the Tebernacle.

It was the only source of light, all outside light was kept out

The Lamp burned oil specifically designed for the Tabernacle.

Exodus 27:20

*"And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually.*

The lamp is a clear picture of the Christ

John 8:12

*When Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

We can only shed light as we reflect Jesus

The Lamp is also a picture Word of God

Psalm 119:105

*Your word is a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path.*

And the Lamp also illustrates the work of the Spirit

When Zechariah saw a vision of the lamp stand he was told

Zechariah 4:6

*So he answered and said to me:  
"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel:  
'Not by might nor by power, **but by My Spirit,**'  
Says the Lord of hosts.*

## The Altar of Incense

Exodus 30:1

*"You shall make an altar to burn incense on; you shall make it of acacia wood.*

Exodus 30:6

*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.*

Once the priest entered the Holy Place the central focus was the Altar of incense. This was not a place of animal sacrifice but a place where a sweet aroma was continually offered to the Lord. The priest was to care for this daily and as a result consumed much of his attention.

This altar is clearly a picture of the need for prayer.

Psalms 141:2

*Let my **prayer** be set before You as **incense,***

*The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

Revelation 5:8

*Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*

But the Altar is also a picture of the work of Christ who ever lives to make intercession for the saint.

Jesus remains active in the life of every believer. He is actively involved in praying for us as we seek to overcome sin, serve Christ and make our way blameless to the throne of Grace

## The veil

Before we get to the final furnishings of the Tabernacle we must address the veil or veils that separated the people from the Lord

There were 2 veils or curtains that closed off the Tabernacle to outsiders.

The first was visible from outside and kept people from entering the Holy place where the Table, Lamp and Incense Altar stood

The second was only visible to the priests for it sat between the Holy and Holiest place.

These veils were artistically designed with images of angels. We see angels as cute and inviting, the Bible paints a different picture. Angels are guardians set at key locations to keep sinful men from the presence of God. They were outside the garden to bar access to the Tree of Life so we would not live eternally separated from God

Both of these curtains were designed to bar access to God.

Although sacrifice had been made for sin, the blood of goats and bulls was only sufficient to cover sin and could not remove it. It would be the blood of Christ that would once and for all atone for the sins of man.

It was after the sacrifice of Christ that we read:

Mark 15:38

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

## THE ARK

Exodus 25:10

*"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.*

The first article mentioned is the Ark. This will sit within the Holiest place of the tabernacle and will house the Word of God.

Two additional articles will later be added to the ark;

1. Aaron's rod that budded
2. A jar of manna

The ark was made of acacia wood and covered with gold. It had a molding of gold that went around it and 4 rings in the corners where poles were inserted to carry it. The poles were never removed and the ark was not to be touched or viewed by the public. Whenever it was carried outside the tabernacle it was covered in a blue cloth

The ark had a lid called the mercy seat with two large angels of gold facing one another.

The purpose of the mercy seat

Exodus 25:22

*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.*

**"I will meet with you and speak to you about everything"**

As beautiful as the mercy seat was and the promise to meet and speak about everything it was greatly limited. Only the High Priest could enter the Holiest Place and he could enter only on the Day of Atonement when sacrifice was made for his sins and those of the nation.

Jesus on the other hand made a way for us to access God daily.

Hebrews 4:16

*Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*