

## Week 11: The Tabernacle - Exodus Ch 25-31

### Pre-Work

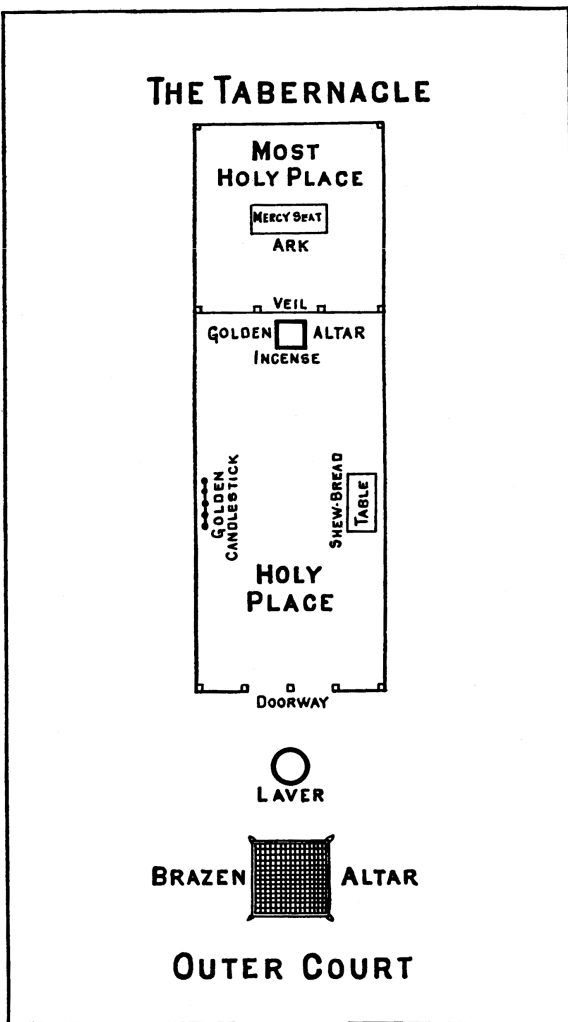
- Why does the Moses writing team spend so much time discussing the layout, design, and building of the tabernacle? Why is it so important? In many ways, what the Tabernacle represents is what the bible is all about! Please watch this video from the Bible Project to see how vital this theme is to understanding the bible:

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/temple/>

- Please read as much of Exodus 25-31 as you can in the translation of your choice. What stands out to you in these chapters? What questions arise in your mind when you read them?

## Class Notes

- Narrative patterning in Scripture
- Eden: Eden, the garden, the center of the garden
- The Ark of Noah: three levels
- The Mountain of the Lord/Sinai: the base, the midway where the elders saw Yahweh, the top where Moses entered into the cloud
- The Tabernacle



**25** <sup>8</sup> Have them construct a sanctuary for Me, so that I may dwell among them. <sup>9</sup> According to all that I am going to show you *as* the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, so you shall construct *it*.

- The purposes of the Tabernacle

<sup>10</sup> “Now they shall construct an ark of acacia wood two and a half cubits long, one and a half cubits wide, and one and a half cubits high. <sup>11</sup> You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and you shall make a gold molding around it.

- The purposes of the Ark of the Covenant

. <sup>18</sup> You shall make two cherubim of gold; make them of hammered work at the two ends of the atoning cover. <sup>19</sup> Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim *of one piece* with the atoning cover at its two ends. <sup>20</sup> And the cherubim shall have *their* wings spread upward, covering the atoning cover with their wings and facing one another; the faces of the cherubim are to be *turned* toward the atoning cover. <sup>21</sup> Then you shall put the atoning cover on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony which I will give to you. <sup>22</sup> There I will meet with you; and from above the atoning cover, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak to you about every commandment that I will give you for the sons of Israel.

- The Cheruvim guarding the Presence
- The atoning Cover/ kippur

<sup>31</sup> “Then you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand, its base and its shaft, are to be made of hammered work; its cups, its bulbs, and its flowers shall be *of one piece* with it. <sup>32</sup> Six branches shall go out from its sides; three branches of the lampstand from its one side and three branches of the lampstand from its other side. <sup>33</sup> Three cups *shall be* shaped like almond blossoms on the one branch, a bulb and a flower, and three cups shaped like almond blossoms on the other branch, a bulb and a flower—the same for six branches going out from the lampstand; <sup>34</sup> and on the lampstand four cups shaped like almond blossoms, its bulbs and its flowers. ...<sup>40</sup> See that you make *them* by the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain.

- What is this golden lampstand?
- Trees in the biblical narrative

**26** “Moreover, you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twisted linen and violet, purple, and scarlet *material*; you shall make them with cherubim, the work of a skilled embroiderer.

- Cheruvim “protectors”

<sup>7</sup>“Then you shall make curtains of goats’ *hair* as a tent over the tabernacle; you shall make eleven curtains in all.

- Goats in Genesis

<sup>14</sup> And you shall make a covering for the tent of rams’ skins dyed red and a covering of fine leather above.

- Ram’s skins

<sup>26</sup> “Then you shall make bars of acacia wood, five for the **boards** of one **side** of the tabernacle, <sup>27</sup> and five bars for the **boards** of the other **side** of the tabernacle, and five bars for the **boards** of the **side** of the tabernacle for the back *side* to the west. ...<sup>30</sup> Then you shall erect the tabernacle according to its plan which you have been shown on the mountain.

- Board - Heb - kehresh - split off
- Side - Heb. Tsela

<sup>31</sup> “You shall also make a veil of violet, purple, and scarlet *material*, and fine twisted linen; it shall be made with cherubim, the work of a skilled embroiderer. ...and bring in the ark of the testimony there within the veil; and the veil shall serve as a partition for you between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place.

- Another pair of Cheruvim
- Veil to separate the Holy and “Holy Holy” place

**27** “Now you shall make the altar of acacia wood, ...

- Altar of burnt offerings prior to entering the Tent itself

<sup>9</sup> “Now you shall make the courtyard of the tabernacle....

- The outer third layer of the Tabernacle...

**20** “And you shall command the sons of Israel that they bring you clear oil of beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually. **21** In the tent of meeting, outside the veil which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall keep it in order from evening to morning before the LORD; *it shall be* a permanent statute throughout their generations for the sons of Israel.

- A return to the lampstand...continual fire but it is not consumed
- The delegates keep the fire from “evening to morning”

**28** “Then bring forward to yourself your brother Aaron, and his sons with him, from among the sons of Israel, to serve as priest to Me—Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron’s sons. **2** And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. **3** You shall speak to all the skillful people whom I have endowed with the spirit of wisdom, that they make Aaron’s garments to consecrate him, that he may serve as priest to Me. **4** And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a tunic of checkered work, a turban, and a sash. They shall make holy garments for your brother Aaron and his sons, so that he may serve as priest to Me. **5** They shall take the gold, the violet, the purple, the scarlet *material*, and the fine linen.

- Holy garments - what makes the garments holy?
- Holiness
- Metal and fabric, like the Tabernacle. Why?

**6** “They shall also make the ephod of gold, of violet, purple, *and* scarlet *material*, and fine twisted linen, the work of the skilled embroiderer... **21** The stones shall be *engraved* according to the names of the sons of Israel: twelve, according to their names; they shall be *like* the engravings of a signet, each according to his name for the twelve tribes. ...**29** So Aaron shall carry the names of the sons of Israel in the breastpiece of judgment over his heart when he enters the Holy Place, as a memorial before the LORD continually.

- The ephod bearing the names of the tribes
- “Carrying the names” (ex 20:7, third commandment)

**30** And you shall put in the breastpiece of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron’s heart when he goes in before the LORD; and Aaron shall carry the judgment of the sons of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually.

- Urim and Thummim

**33** You shall make on its hem pomegranates of violet, purple, and scarlet *material* all around on its hem, and bells of gold between them all around: **34** a golden bell and a

pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, all around on the hem of the robe. <sup>35</sup> It shall be on Aaron when he ministers; and its sound shall be heard when he enters and leaves the Holy Place before the LORD, so that he will not die.

- Bells (not trying to hide) between pomegranates (fruit trees) and not dying (note no rope tied to Aaron's ankle)

<sup>36</sup> “You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engravings of a signet, ‘Holy to the LORD.’ <sup>37</sup> You shall fasten it on a violet cord, and it shall be on the turban; it shall be at the front of the turban. <sup>38</sup> It shall be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron shall take away the guilt of the holy things which the sons of Israel consecrate, regarding all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, so that they may be accepted before the LORD.

- “Holy to the Lord” on Aaron's forehead/ above the eyes

**29** “Now this is what you shall do to them to consecrate them to serve as priests to Me: take one bull and two rams without blemish, <sup>2</sup> and unleavened bread and unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers spread with oil; you shall make them of fine wheat flour. <sup>3</sup> And you shall put them in one basket, and present them in the basket along with the bull and the two rams. <sup>4</sup> Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doorway of the tent of meeting and wash them with water. <sup>5</sup> And you shall take the garments, and put on Aaron the tunic and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod and the breastpiece, and wrap his waist with the skillfully woven band of the ephod; <sup>6</sup> and you shall set the turban on his head and put the holy crown on the turban. <sup>7</sup> Then you shall take the anointing oil and pour it on his head, and anoint him. ...

- Animal life, unleavened bread, oil, the tent materials/garments, water

<sup>10</sup> “Then you shall bring the bull in front of the tent of meeting, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the bull. <sup>11</sup> And you shall slaughter the bull before the LORD at the doorway of the tent of meeting. <sup>12</sup> Then you shall take some of the blood of the bull and put *it* on the horns of the altar with your finger; and you shall pour out all *the rest of* the blood at the base of the altar. <sup>13</sup> And you shall take all the fat that covers the entrails, and the lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, and offer them up in smoke on the altar. <sup>14</sup> But the flesh of the bull and its hide and its refuse, you shall burn with fire outside the camp; it is a sin offering.

- The life of the bull “goes up”
- Abraham's meal to the three visitors in Gen 18 by the trees of seeing

<sup>15</sup> “You shall also take the one ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the ram; <sup>16</sup> and you shall slaughter the ram and take its blood and sprinkle it around on the altar. <sup>17</sup> Then you shall cut the ram into its pieces, and wash its entrails and its legs, and put *them* with its pieces and its head. <sup>18</sup> And you shall offer up in smoke the whole ram on the altar; it is a burnt offering to the LORD: it is a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the LORD.

<sup>19</sup> “Then you shall take the other ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the ram. <sup>20</sup> And you shall slaughter the ram, and take some of its blood and put *it* on the lobe of Aaron’s right ear and on the lobes of his sons’ right ears, and on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet, and sprinkle the *rest of the* blood around on the altar. <sup>21</sup> Then you shall take some of the blood that is on the altar and some of the anointing oil, and sprinkle *it* on Aaron and on his garments, and on his sons and on his sons’ garments with him; so he and his garments shall be consecrated, as well as his sons and his sons’ garments with him.

- The life of the rams cover for the priests/ Genesis 22

<sup>22</sup> “You shall also take the fat from the ram and the fat tail, and the fat that covers the entrails and the lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, and the right thigh (for it is a ram of ordination),<sup>23</sup> and one loaf of bread, and one cake of bread *mixed with* oil, and one wafer from the basket of unleavened bread which is *set* before the LORD;<sup>24</sup> and you shall put all these in the hands of Aaron and in the hands of his sons, and shall wave them as a wave offering before the LORD. <sup>25</sup> Then you shall take them from their hands, and offer them up in smoke on the altar on the burnt offering for a soothing aroma before the LORD; it is an offering by fire to the LORD.

- Yahweh’s portion of the covenant meal

<sup>26</sup> “Then you shall take the breast of Aaron’s ram of ordination, and wave it as a wave offering before the LORD; and it shall be your portion.<sup>27</sup> You shall consecrate the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the contribution which was waved and which was offered from the ram of ordination, from the one which was for Aaron and from the one which was for his sons. <sup>28</sup> It shall be for Aaron and his sons as *their* portion forever from the sons of Israel, for it is a contribution; and it shall be a contribution from the sons of Israel from the sacrifices of their peace offerings, their contribution to the LORD.

- The priests, who mediate for Israel, who is supposed to mediate for all the families of the earth, have a portion

**29** “The holy garments of Aaron shall be for his sons after him, so that they may be anointed and ordained in them. **30** For seven days the one of his sons who is priest in his place shall put them on when he enters the tent of meeting to minister in the Holy Place.

- 7 days of humans wearing the garments made like the Tabernacle

**31** “Now you shall take the ram of ordination and boil its flesh in a holy place. **32** Then Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram and the bread that is in the basket, at the doorway of the tent of meeting.

- The human representatives share in the covenant meal

**35** “So you shall do for Aaron and for his sons, according to all that I have commanded you; you shall ordain them for seven days. **36** Each day you shall offer a bull as a sin offering for atonement, and you shall purify the altar when you make atonement for it, and you shall anoint it to consecrate it. **37** For seven days you shall make atonement for the altar and consecrate it; then the altar shall be most holy, *and* whatever touches the altar shall be holy.

- 7 day ordination, 7 day atonement sacrifice, 7 day altar consecration

**38** “Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two one-year-old lambs each day, continuously. ...**42** It shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the doorway of the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. **43** I will meet there with the sons of Israel, and it shall be consecrated by My glory. ...**46** And they shall know that I am the LORD their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, so that I might dwell among them; I am the LORD their God

- Every day two lambs (day and night) to continually “go up”, Yahweh will meet, so that
  - Israel might know I am the LORD their God
  - I brought them out of Egypt/salvation
  - I will dwell among them
- I, “I am”, their Elohim

**30** “Now you shall make an altar as a place for burning incense;...

- Image of incense

<sup>7</sup> Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps. <sup>8</sup> And when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense.

- Incense associated with the image of the lampstand

<sup>11</sup>The LORD also spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>12</sup>“When you take a census of the sons of Israel to count them, then each one *of them* shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD, when you count them, so that there will be no plague among them when you count them. <sup>13</sup>This is *what* everyone who is counted shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as a contribution to the LORD. <sup>14</sup>Everyone who is counted, from twenty years old and over, shall give the contribution to the LORD. <sup>15</sup>The rich shall not pay more, and the poor shall not pay less, than the half shekel, when you give the contribution to the LORD to make atonement for yourselves. <sup>16</sup>And you shall take the atonement money from the sons of Israel and give it for the service of the tent of meeting, so that it may be a memorial for the sons of Israel before the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves.”

- A ransom for counting to prevent plague
- The rich and poor are equal in value
- Atonement. Freedom and consecration

<sup>17</sup>Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>18</sup>“You shall also make a basin of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing; and you shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it. <sup>19</sup>Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet from it; <sup>20</sup>when they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, so that they do not die; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire *sacrifice* to the LORD. <sup>21</sup>So they shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they do not die; and it shall be a permanent statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations.”

- Basin/sea - to be cleansed with/emerge from water

<sup>22</sup>Moreover, the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>23</sup>“Take also for yourself the finest of spices:

- (For anointing), oil infused with spices from trees

**31** Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>“See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. <sup>3</sup>And I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *kinds of* craftsmanship, <sup>4</sup>to create artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, <sup>5</sup>and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, so that he may work in all *kinds of* craftsmanship. <sup>6</sup>And behold, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the hearts of all who are skillful I have put skill, so that they may make everything that I have commanded you: <sup>7</sup>the tent of meeting, the

ark of testimony, the atoning cover that is on it, and all the furniture of the tent, <sup>8</sup> the table and its utensils, the pure *gold* lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense, <sup>9</sup> the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the basin and its stand, <sup>10</sup> the woven garments as well: the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, *with which* to carry out their priesthood; <sup>11</sup> the anointing oil also, and the fragrant incense for the Holy Place, they are to make *them* according to everything that I have commanded you.”

- This is the first time in the Bible we hear about a person being filled with the Spirit of God

<sup>12</sup> Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>13</sup> “Now as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘You must keep My Sabbaths; for *this* is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, so that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. <sup>14</sup> Therefore you are to keep the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it must be put to death; for whoever does *any* work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. <sup>15</sup> For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a Sabbath of complete rest, holy to the LORD; whoever does *any* work on the Sabbath day must be put to death. <sup>16</sup> So the sons of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to celebrate the Sabbath throughout their generations as a permanent covenant.’ <sup>17</sup> It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased *from labor*, and was refreshed.”

- 7th day of the creation cycle/ no work for self.
- Eden in miniature restored

<sup>18</sup> When He had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God

- The tablets function as a marriage contract for the marriage home, signed by God

“The divine desire to dwell with humanity, the goal of both creation and redemption, is the essence of covenant theology – its promissory root, its redemptive-historical vine and its eschatological fruit realized in the new heavens and earth. The covenant formula varies throughout Scripture according to contextual emphasis, and is delineated by Rendtorff as follows: Formula A: I will be your God Formula B: You shall be my people Formula C: I will be your God and you shall be my people.<sup>68</sup> What however does it mean to have YHWH as one’s God? What does it mean to be the people of YHWH? The theology and historical movement of the Bible manifests plainly that it is the divine purpose to plant humanity in his Presence that drives and defines these forms. Again, ‘I will dwell amidst the sons of Israel and (so) be their God,’ and ‘they will know that I am YHWH their God’, which is to say, ‘that I brought them up out of the land of Egypt so that I may dwell in their midst’ (Exod. 29:45–46).” ~L. Michael Morales, *Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord*

## Reflections