

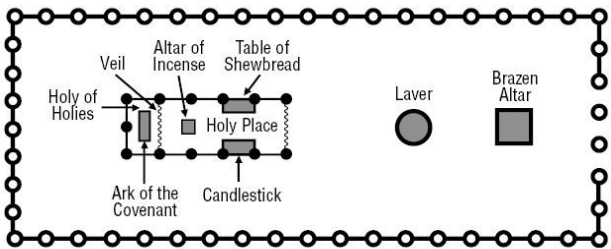
LESSON 8-1

THE TABERNACLE (Part 1)

Objective: To understand how the Tabernacle pictures the work of Christ

Key Verse: Hebrews 10:10

10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.



The Tabernacle and its furnishings have many lessons for us. Examine the diagram closely. Notice the three sections: the large area of service, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies.

Each area was hidden from the others by curtains. When Solomon built his temple after the Israelites had settled in

the Promised Land, he followed the same pattern for the inner parts, carefully following God's instructions.

Note the pieces of furniture. The first is the Brazen Altar, which was used for sacrifice and atonement.

Then came the Laver. It was used for cleansing.

Proceeding into the Holy Place, on the right is the Table of Shewbread; on the left is the Candlestick. Straight ahead is the Altar of Incense.

Beyond this Altar is the Veil of the Tabernacle that hid the Holy of Holies from the eyes of everyone except the High Priest. In the Holy of Holies we find the Ark, which was the earthly dwelling place of God.

As you study this lesson, you will see how God prepared this Tabernacle, not just for worship and sacrifice, but also as an illustration of the Son He would send to earth.

BIBLE STUDY

THE FURNISHINGS

1. The Brazen Altar

Read Exodus 29:36-37 and describe how the Altar was used.

36 And you shall offer a bull every day as a sin offering for atonement. You shall cleanse the altar when you make atonement for it, and you shall anoint it to sanctify it.

37 Seven days you shall make atonement for the altar and sanctify it. And the altar shall be most holy. Whatever touches the altar must be holy.

Why do you think the Altar was placed just inside the entrance?

Read Hebrews 13:10–16. How does the Brazen Altar reflect Christ's sacrifice?

10 We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.

11 For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.

12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

13 Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

14 For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.

15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

What sacrifices are we to offer?

2. The Laver

Read Exodus 30:18–21 and describe the Laver and its use.

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.”

What is the parallel in Ephesians 5:25–27?

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or

any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

What is our part (1 John 1:9)?

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

The cleansing is not the forgiveness we receive when we become Christians. It is what we do after we are children of God to be cleansed of our sins.

How does what the priests did at the Laver help us know that?

Why is the Laver placed between the Altar and the Holy Place?

3. Table of Shewbread

Read Exodus 25:23–30 and Leviticus 24:5–9. Describe the Table and how it was used.

Exodus 25:23-30

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.

Leviticus 24:5–9

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.

8 Every Sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant.

9 And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place; for it is most holy to him from the offerings of the LORD made by fire, by a perpetual statute.”

How is the Shewbread a picture of Christ (John 6:32–35, 50-51)?

32 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

34 Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

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.

50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.

51 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 Christians, God considers us priests (Revelation 1:6).

6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

When we partake of the Lord’s Supper, what should our attitude be toward the bread (1 Corinthians 11:23-24)?

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

4. The Candlestick

Read Exodus 25:31–40; 27:20-21.

Describe the Candlestick and how it was used.

Exodus 25:31–40

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 27:20-21

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.

21 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.

How is this a picture of Jesus (John 8:12)?

12 Then 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.”

How does this relate to our daily lives (John 12:35-36)?

35 Then Jesus said to them, “A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.

36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

(To be continued... at our next small group meeting!)