

**THE GOSPEL SHOWN IN THE
OLD TESTAMENT TABERNACLE -
LATER IN THE GREAT TEMPLE OF SOLOMON**

Wednesday, July 22, 2020 / First Assembly of God / Ft. Myers, Florida
with Pastor Dan Betzer

Genesis 1:14-16

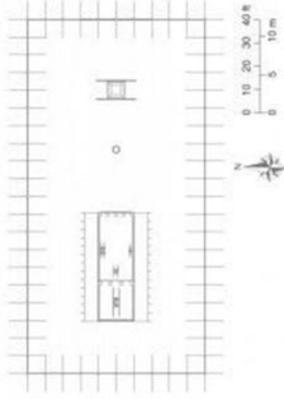
*And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: [15] And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. [16] And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: **he made the stars also.***

What a remarkable passage of Holy Scripture! For one thing: how did Moses, who wrote this, know the sun was larger than the moon (which it is, many times over)? Standing on earth to observe those two heavenly bodies one could only surmise the sun was larger.

Second: In Exodus and other passages, dozens of CHAPTERS were given us to describe the construction of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness; while a mere FIVE WORDS are given to us to teach us about the creation of the universe! Why? Because the Tabernacle and the later Temple of Solomon teach us about Redemption, the most important subject to our Heavenly Father's heart.

It should be carefully noted here that the Tabernacle, as described in the Old Testament book of Exodus, was very expensive. According to one historical source, the Tabernacle cost the Jews 13.5 million dollars because of all the gold, bronze and expensive wood used in its construction. That's about \$20,000 per square foot! But the construction of Solomon's Temple was closer to \$200 billion! The wood from Tyre and some of the gold used in it cost Solomon 20 CITIES in Galilee: (1 Kings 9:11 - *Now Hiram the king of Tyre had furnished Solomon with cedar trees and fir trees, and with gold, according to all his desire, that then king Solomon gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee.*)

Tabernacle and Court Architectural Plan



The Holy Place of the tabernacle tent was 30 feet (9.1 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high. It housed the table (Ex. 25:23–30), the golden lampstand (Ex. 25:31–40; 37:17–26), and the altar of incense (Ex. 30:1–5; 37:25–29).

The Most Holy Place of the tabernacle tent was a 15-foot (4.6-m) cube, containing only the ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:10–22; 37:1–9). It was here that "holy men would descend to meet with his people in a cloud" (Isaiah 63:1–2).

The framed structure was covered by four layers of cloth and skin (Ex. 26:1–14).

The bronze altar, also known as the altar of burnt offering (Ex. 27:1–8; 38:1–7), was made from a hollow wooden box (7.5 feet/2.3 m long and wide, and 4.5 feet/1.4 m high), overlaid with bronze. It had four horns at its corners. It was transported by means of two poles on its journey through the wilderness.

The wall separating the Holy Place from the tabernacle courtyard was similar to the wall separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, except that cherubim were not embossed on it (Ex. 26:36–37). It hung on five golden pillars.

The entire tabernacle tent was 45 feet (14 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high. It was a wooden skeletal structure, overlaid with gold, with no solid roof or floor wall (Ex. 26:15–25). Five wooden bars (overlaid with gold) passed through rings attached to each frame (Ex. 26:26–30).

The bronze basin with its stand was for ceremonial washings (Ex. 30:17–21; 38:8).

The 30-foot (9.1-m)-wide gated entrance to the courtyard was covered with a screen made from blue, purple, and scarlet dyed jems that were woven with fine twisted linen (Ex. 38:18–20).

The surrounding hangings (fine twisted linen curtains connected to pillars and stabilized by guy ropes and pegs) stood about 7.5 feet (2.3 m) high. The 60 wooden pillars were overlaid with bronze, stood in copper sockets, and had capitals overlaid with silver (Ex. 27:9–15; 38:9–17).

Both the original Tabernacle and the Temple followed the same basic floor plan, which was rather simple, yet profound in its explanation of “drawing near to God.” It was believed - and it was true - that God’s earthly presence was focused in the Holy of Holies, the small, 15ft cubed inner room of the Tabernacle that housed the Ark of the Covenant. Two golden cherubim graced the lid or mercy seat, as it was called, of the Ark and God’s physical earthly presence dwelt between their outstretched wings. Only one time annually, Yom Kippur, could the high priest enter the sacred room with the blood offering for the sins of the nation.

But it was no small task to get near to God in those days. Please refer to the picture of the Ark on the prior page for assistance with the following procedure on drawing near to God.

1. The Holy of Holies, which was 45 x 45 x 15, was located at the rear of the interior of the Tabernacle. But to get near it posed problems. The Tabernacle itself was inside a linen enclosure, which was roughly 100 x 45 feet. The enclosure was about eight feet high (roughly). There was but one entrance to the enclosure and it always faced east. The entrance was always on that side - east!

One might say, “Well, I will just climb over that linen fence.” No. For anyone but a designated priest to even touch that enclosure meant death.

Numbers 1:51

And when the tabernacle setteth forward, the Levites shall take it down: and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

This is a terrific “type” of the entre to our salvation. There is but one access and that is Christ Himself:

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

If a person did not have access to the New Testament, he or she could still know God's plan of eternal salvation by studying the Tabernacle. The way to heaven is clearly spelled out by such a study as we see again in these notes.

The gate to the Tabernacle's interior, including the Holy of Holies and the presence of God, was through that one and only Eastern Gate. And so it is today. Salvation comes through Christ. There is no other access.

2. Once inside the enclosure, the next thing to be encountered was the great altar. This sacrificial altar was made of bronze and stood roughly five feet high. Here animals were killed to atone for the sins of the supplicant. Take heed! No one, but no one, got closer to the Holy of Holies without the atoning sacrifice.

Thus it is with our salvation.

Hebrews 9:22

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. The remission (forgiving) of sins is still because of shedding blood - but not that of sheep or goats. It is the shed blood of God's sacrificial Lamb, Jesus, that cleanses us and prepares us for fellowship with God. Good works can NEVER do that! Only that awful sacrifice made by our Lord Jesus on the cross can atone for sins.

We sing:

*What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*



3. One more stop before entering the actual Tabernacle: The Altar of Incense. Just before moving aside the Veil of the Holy of Holies, allowing entrance into the sacred place of the Ark, the high priest encountered the Altar of Incense (see picture above). Holy incense was burned here.

Exodus 30:34-38

And the Lord said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; these sweet spices with pure frankincense: of each shall there be a like weight: [35] And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure and holy: [36] And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy. [37] And as for the perfume which thou shalt make, ye shall not make to yourselves according to the composition thereof: it shall be unto thee holy for the Lord. [38] Whosoever shall make like unto that, to smell thereto, shall even be cut off from his people.

Poured out on burning coals the incense provided a delightful aroma. It was the offering of the person whose sins had been forgiven by blood who then went on to express the fragrance of love and worship, which was pleasing to God. This altar speaks to us of the worship of Jesus Christ who is our high priest and mediator. It is only on the basis of His one sacrifice on the cross that salvation is made possible.

Psalm 141:2

Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Our true worship of Jesus involves much more than singing a hymn or chorus. It is our holy lifestyle and our eternal gratitude to him that rises to the throne as sweet incense.

INSIDE THE HOLY OF HOLIES

Making his way to the Holy of Holies, the priest came to the sacred veil. He was now in the Holy Place that housed three items:

THE LAMPSTAND

The golden lampstand provided light for the Holy Place, but it involved so much more than that. It was constructed of solid gold. Where did the Israelites obtain gold like that?

Exodus 12:35

And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: (It would be theirs to keep for the Egyptians wanted no more to do with them at this point.)

The golden replica of this lampstand now stands on the step landing overlooking the Western (Wailing) Wall. And, yes, it is gold!

God told Moses to make the original lampstand from one piece. Its weight was about 75 pounds of solid gold. Jesus declared that you and I as born again believers are to be the light of the world:

Matthew 5:14-16

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. [15] Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. [16] Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (From our Lord's Sermon on the Mount - Matthew 5-7)

THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD

On the right side of the Holy Place stood a small table, measuring three feet long by one and a half wide and two and a quarter feet high. A decorative framework of gold crowned the rim and each corner of the table was equipped with gold rings to hold the carrying poles (overlaid with gold). Atop the table, the high priests placed 12 loaves of bread made from fine flour, arranged in two rows with frankincense sprinkled on each row. The table represented fellowship with God.

We used to sing this great hymn:

*Friendship with Jesus; fellowship divine!
O what blessed sweet assurance
Jesus is a friend of mine!*

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

Please refer to the notes from July 8th - Obed-edom blessed by God.