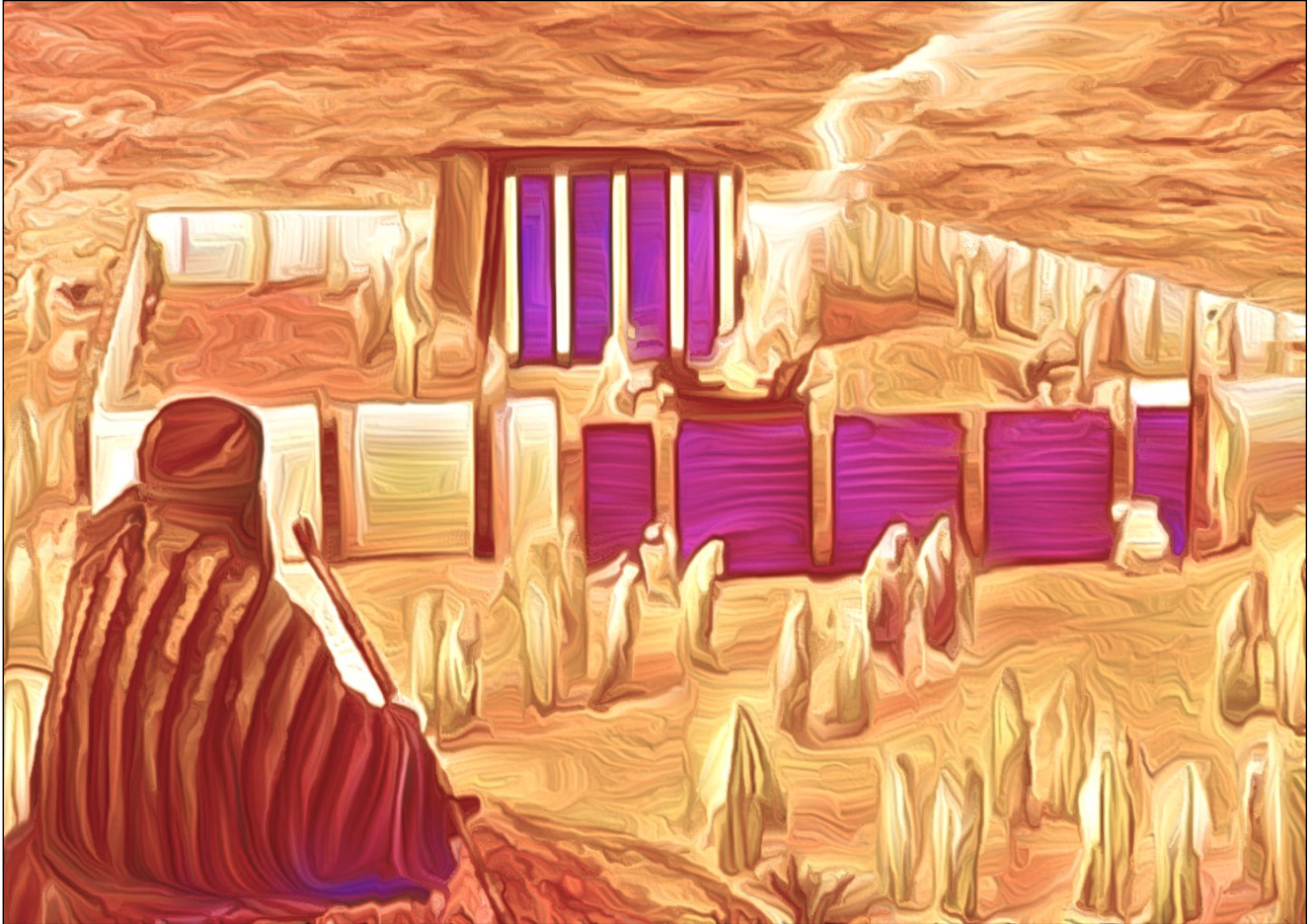

Camping With a Purpose

(The Tabernacle)

Scripture: Exodus 25-40; Hebrews 9-13

Wendell Calder



Name: _____

Interesting Features Concerning the Tabernacle

1. There are 50 chapters describing the Tabernacle - Exodus 13; Leviticus 18; Numbers 13; Deuteronomy 2; Hebrews 4
2. Three chapters - Instructions Exodus 25-27
Three chapters - Installation - Exodus 36-38
3. Approximately one million dollars given by a people just released from years of slavery
4. The construction took seven and one half months
5. The encampment covered approximately 12 square miles
6. If they moved, 50 abreast, the line would stretch 40 miles
7. It would take 300 tank cars of water per day
8. It would take 30 box cars of food per day
9. There were over two million people in the encampment
10. The foundation of 100 silver blocks weighed over 5 tons
11. Several Scriptures state - "build it according to the pattern shown thee" -Exodus 25:8, 9, 40; 26:30; 27:8; Numbers 8:4; Acts 7:44; Hebrews 8:5
12. God said to make the Ark of the covenant first - Exodus 25:8-10
13. The Heavenly Plan - Ark to the Brazen Altar
The Human Practice - Brazen Altar to the Ark
14. Scripture gives at least 5 names to the Tabernacle
 1. A Sanctuary - Exodus 25:8
 2. Tabernacle - Exodus 25:9
 3. Tent - Exodus 26:36
 4. Tabernacle of the Congregation - Exodus 29:42
 5. Tabernacle of Testimony - Exodus 38:21
15. Ark of the Covenant is mentioned 180 times in scripture
16. The offering for the construction had to be a willing offering - Exodus 25:2; 35:29
17. Moses had to restrain them from giving as they had all that they needed to build - Exodus 36:5-8
18. Once it was completed, it never required attention: Addition or Alteration
19. It was dedicated on the anniversary of their departure from Egypt - Exodus 12:2
20. For 500 years it served as the place where God met with his people - Exodus 25:8; 40:34-37

**EVERY ASPECT OF THE TABERNACLE PICTURES FOR US
OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST - JOHN 1:14**

-
- I. Salvation - Brazen Altar - Exodus 27:1-8; 38:1-5
 - A. The Plan
 - B. The Position
 - C. The Purpose
 - 1. Sin
 - 2. Savior
 - 3. Sacrifice
 - 4. Salvation

 - II. Sanctification - Brazen Laver - Exodus 30:17-21; 38:8
(Decision for Christ)
 - A. The Plan
 - B. The Position
 - C. The Purpose
 - 1. Conviction
 - 2. Confession
 - 3. Cleansing
 - 4. Commission

 - III. Service - Golden Candlestick - Exodus 25:31-40; 39:37
(Direction from Christ)
 - A. The Plan
 - B. The Position
 - C. The Purpose
 - 1. Discernment
 - 2. Declaration
 - 3. Direction

 - IV. Satisfaction - Table of Shewbread - Exodus 25:23-28
(Declaration of Christ)
 - A. The Plan
 - B. The Position
 - C. The Purpose
 - 1. Presence of the Lord
 - 2. Provision of the Lord
 - 3. Promises of the Lord
 - 4. Participation of the Lord

V. Supplication - Altar of Incense - Exodus 30:1-10

(Devotion with Christ)

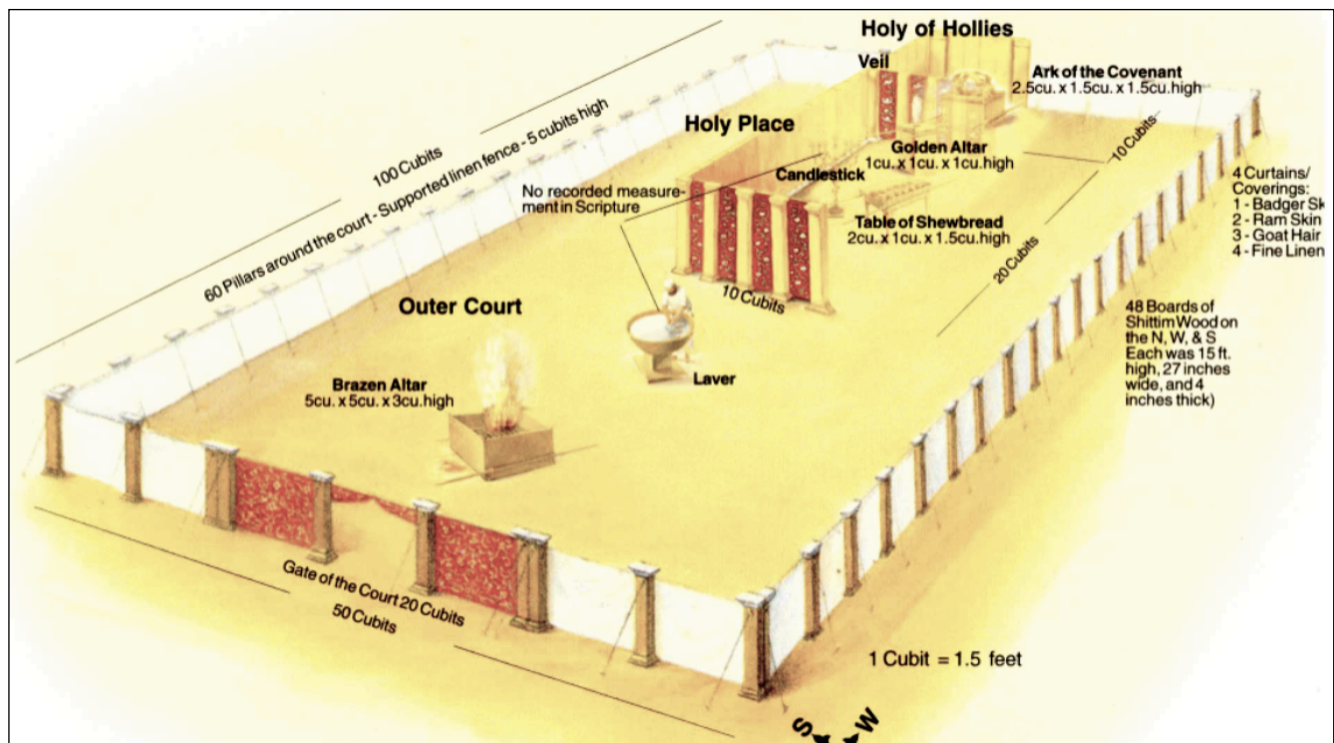
- A. The Plan
- B. The Position
- C. The Purpose
 - 1. Dependence on Him
 - 2. Devotion to Him
 - 3. Deliverance by Him

VI. Situation - Ark of the Covenant - Exodus 25:10-22

(Delight in Christ)

- A. The Plan
- B. The Position
- C. The Purpose
 - 1. Protection
 - 2. Provision
 - 3. Power
 - 4. Pleasure

The Tabernacle in the Wilderness



The Long History of the Ark of the Covenant

1. Carried by the Koathites (Numbers 3:30) before Israel on the journey from Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea (Numbers 10:33)
2. Led the way over Jordan as they entered the Promised Land (Joshua 3:1-17)
3. Led the way as they marched thirteen times around Jericho (Joshua 3:1-17)
4. God allowed the Ark to be delivered to the Philistines because of Israel's apostasy.
5. Eli - The high priest - hearing of the capture of the Ark fell off his seat and broke his neck (I Samuel 4:18)
6. Eli's daughter giving birth said, "The Glory is departed from Israel for the Ark is taken" (I Samuel 4:18)
7. The Ark became a curse to the Philistines (I Samuel chapters 5 & 6)
8. The Ark was set in the house of the false god named "Dagon" - The idol fell twice before the Ark, breaking its head and palms - boils broke out on the Philistines (I Samuel 5:9) and the land was overrun with mice. (I Samuel 6:8-12)
9. The plague on the Philistines did not end until the Ark was returned to Israel (I Samuel 6:8-12)
10. The men of Kiriath-Jearim reclaimed the Ark and placed it in the house of Abinidab where it stayed for 20 years (I Samuel 7:1,2)
11. When David established his throne in Jerusalem, he had the Ark placed on an ox-cart (in disobedience to God - Exodus 25:1-14; Numbers 3:30, 31; 4:15) to transport it to Jerusalem (II Samuel chapter 6). During the journey, the oxen nearly upset the cart and Uzziah reached out to steady it and died immediately - He violated God's holiness by touching the Ark as only the Levites were allowed to carry the Ark. (Numbers 4:15)
12. David, fearing God's judgment, did not take it into Jerusalem, but deposited it in the house of Obed-Edom where it remained for three months. (I Samuel 6:10, 11)
13. Three months later, David had the priests carry the Ark to Jerusalem and placed it in a tent until the Temple was completed. (II Samuel 6:17; II Chronicles chapter 5)
14. The final location of the Ark is obscured in speculation - Since the destruction of Solomon's Temple in 586 BC, we do not know the location of the Ark.

**WHEN GOD DECLARED SOMETHING HOLY AND MAN DECLARED IT UNHOLY,
GOD MOVED IN JUDGMENT!
THIS IS ILLUSTRATED WITH BELSHAZZAR IN DANIEL CHAPTER 5!**

The Account of Aaron's Rod that Budded

Scripture: Numbers chapters 16 & 17

Korah, Dathan and Abiram gathered 250 leaders from the 12 tribes to challenge Moses and Aaron's right to lead the people. God opened up the ground and swallowed up Korah and all with him. (Leviticus 16:32). The 250 were destroyed by fire from God (Numbers 16:35). God then told Moses to have a representative from each tribe to bring an almond rod (name of the tribe engraved on it) - Aaron's rod had the tribe of Levi engraved on it. The rod of the man God had chosen to be high priest - His rod would blossom. All 12 rods were placed in the Tabernacle before the Ark of the Covenant. The next morning Aaron's rod had budded, blossomed and yielded almonds (Leviticus 17:8). His rod was placed in the Ark of the Covenant for a sign against the rebels and proving Aaron was God's choice.



Introduction

I. Purpose — Exodus 25:8; 29:45

1. Glory of his person
2. Greatness of his performance

God met with man and man met with God

1. Place of Worship
2. Place of Witness — Numbers 17:7, 8

II. The Present Purpose

1. God's Presence — Exodus 40:33, 34, 38
2. God's Purity — Exodus 26:33, 34; 40:33, 34, 38; Leviticus 6:16, 26; 1 Peter 1:15, 16

Root meaning of the word "Tabernacle" -Holiness -Sacredness

Outer Court - Holy Place

First Room - Holy Place

Second Room - Holy of Holies

3. God's Protection — Numbers 9:15-23; Psalms 121:5-7
Pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night

4. God's Provision — Ezekiel 11:16

III. The Prospective Purpose

—Points to something future — Points to Christ's coming — it all pre-figures Christ:

1. In the Person — Hebrews 9:8-12 (Christ is the Perfect Tabernacle)

Materials: Wood - His Humanity — II Timothy 3:16; John 1:14

Gold - His Deity — II Timothy 2:5

2. In His Performance — Hebrews 9:11, 12 (Christ - The Perfect Priest)

He exercises His ministry in every phase of the Tabernacle:

- (a) In Salvation - The brazen altar
- (b) In Sanctification - The brazen laver
- (c) In Service - The golden candlestick
- (d) In Satisfaction - The table of shewbread
- (e) In Supplication - The altar of incense
- (f) In Situation - The Ark the Covenant and the Mercy Seat

Camping With a Purpose

(The Tabernacle)

Scripture - Exodus 25-40; Hebrews 9-13

I. Salvation - Brazen Altar (Decision for Christ)

Scripture: Exodus 27:1-8; 38:1-5

Introduction:

I. Three Titles Given

1. The Altar - Exodus 28:43; 29:12, 44
2. The Altar of Burnt Offering -
Exodus 30:28; 31:9; Leviticus 4:7, 10, 18
3. The Altar By the Door - Exodus 40:6



Brazen Altar

II. Note - It is the first article of Furniture - In the approach to God as we must come first to the cross.

III. Approaching the Tabernacle without offering a sacrifice meant certain death - To reject the sacrifice of Christ on the cross means eternal death - John 3:36; 1 John 5:12

I. The Plan - Exodus 27:1 - Make it of shittim wood overlaid with brass. It was a hollow box - seven and a half feet by seven and a half feet by four and a half feet - Wood represents his incorruptible humanity and brass represents His divine righteousness shown in His suffering for our sin - (Hebrews 12:2; John 3:14)

Note - 4 horns represent the good news of the gospel pointing in all four direction of North - East - West - South!

They speak of:

1. Strength -
2. Salvation -
3. Security -

They speak of calvary's victory and the power of the gospel to produce salvation (Romans 1:16) - Illustration - Joab caught hold of the horns of the altar - (1 Kings 2:28, 29)

Some believe the brazen altar was large enough to hold every article of furniture in the tabernacle. The main theme of the Bible is the redemption of mankind from the penalty of sin.

II. The Position - It was placed at the entrance to the outer court - A decision for salvation must come first (Hebrews 9:22; II Corinthians 5:21)

III. The Purpose - A Picture of:

1. Sin - Romans 3:10, 23; 6:23; Isaiah 53:6 - The altar was always available to the Israelites. Our greatest problem is sin and it must be solved.

Definition: Sin is anything which comes short of God's glory and character.

2. Savior - The sacrificial animal is a type of Christ who is the Lamb of God - John 1:29; Revelation 13:8; Romans 4:25; Isaiah 53:6

(a) Without Sin - Hebrews 9:28

(b) Knew No Sin - II Corinthians 5:21

(c) Did No Sin - I Peter 2:22

(d) No Sin In Him - I Peter 1:19 - Note: "Yet... He became sin for us."

3. Sacrifice - I Peter 3:18; Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22 - He bore our sins in His own body on the tree - I Peter 2:24 - Christ's death was a:

(a) Sinless Death - The Just One

(b) Substitutionary Death for the Unjust

(c) Sacrificial Death - Suffered for Sin

(d) Sufficient Death - Once Suffered for Sin

Five Offerings On This Altar:

1. Burnt Offering - Leviticus 6:8-13 - His surrender to God

2. Meat Offering - Leviticus 6:14-22 - His perfect life

3. Peace Offering - Communion with God - Leviticus 7:11-21

4. Sin Offering - Sacrifice for sin - Leviticus 6:24-30

5. Trespass Offering - For known sins - Leviticus 6:1-7; 7:1-7

a. Distrust

b. Dishonest

c. Denial

d. Deception

4. Salvation - Altar - "High Place" - John 3:14 - "Must be lifted up"

Note: The Fire Burned Continually

(a) Proclaimed his awesomeness - He is Holy

(b) Presented His Availability - Ready to receive sinners -

Romans 4:25; I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 9:15

(Illustration - My favorite hymn - "At the Cross")



Brazen Laver

II. Sanctification - Brazen Laver - Dedication to Christ

Scripture: Exodus 30:17-21; 38:8; 40:7

Introduction:

I. Three Stages of Sanctification

1. Positional - (We are) Hebrews 10:10,14; 13:12

2. Practical - (We are being) John 17:17; II Timothy 2:19-21; II Peter 3:18

3. Perfected - (We shall be) Ephesians 5:27; Romans 8:29; I John 3:2 - Will have a new body - In His image - Be like Him

II. Definition - Sanctified - Means "To be set apart"

1. Set apart from sin - I Thessalonians 4:3; II Chronicles 29:5, 15-18

2. Set apart for service - I Corinthians 1:2; 6:11

I. The Plan - Exodus 38:8 - Made of the bronze mirrors donated by the women - It contained water - Exodus 30:18-21. It pictured the spirit of God working through the Word of God - Ephesians 5:25,26; John 15:3; Psalm 119:9. Priests must wash every time before entering the Tabernacle - Exodus 29:4; 30:20; Isaiah 52:11. Note: No measurements given - No description of its size or shape - It was limitless in application.

II. The Position - Exodus 30:18 - It followed the brazen altar and was placed in front of the Tabernacle entrance. The laver could not be used until the blood had been shed. Priests had to be physically and spiritually clean before entering the presence of God.

III. The Purpose - A Picture of:

1. Conviction - Isaiah 6:5 - Must see our condition and realize its seriousness with a Desire to seek and change. (Illustration: Isaiah saw his condition once he saw the Lord - "Woe is me!")

2. Confession - I John 1:8,9; Proverbs 28:13

(a) Cover Sin - Will not prosper - Deny and diminish them

(b) Confess Sin - Will receive mercy -

Note: (1) Sin is very deceptive - James 1:14

(2) Sin is very destructive - James 1:15

Illustration: Isaiah 6:5 - "I am a man of unclean lips..."

- Note that his confession was (1) Simple (2) Specific (3) Sincere

3. Cleansing - I John 1:7,9; John 15:3; Psalm 119:9 - The priests must wash with water that they die not - Exodus 30:20,21 - Must not touch the Altar or Tabernacle without washing their hands and feet - My feet speak of my walk - My hands speak of my work. We can not please God in the flesh (Romans 8:8,13). We are often weak in our witness because we are defiled believers. Illustration: Isaiah 6:6,7 - Cleansed with the live coal from off the Altar - We are made clean by the blood and kept clean by the book!

4. Commission - Exodus 30:30 (May minister unto me) - Illustration: Isaiah 6:8,9; John 13:1-10 - Brazen Altar - Washed (complete bath) but the brazen laver (hands and feet). Isaiah now hears the voice of God speaking to him asking if he is available to go in obedience to the Lord. Isaiah responds - "Here am I, Lord. Send me." In Psalm 139:23,24 We have a four-fold prayer:

(a) Search Me

(b) Know me

(c) Try Me

(d) Lead Me

Question: Am I available for whatever God wants for me?

III. Service - Golden Candlestick (Direction from Christ)

Scripture: Exodus 25:31-40; 37:17-24; 39:37

Introduction:

A. The Tabernacle

1. The Foundation - Made of silver - Total weight = Over 5 tons
2. The Features -
 - (a) Holy Place - 30 ft. x 15 ft. x 15 ft.
 - (b) Holy of Holies - 15 ft. x 15 ft. x 15 ft.
3. The Formula - 45 ft. Long x 15 ft. Wide x 15 ft. High
4. The Furniture -
 - (a) Holy Place
 - (1) Golden Candlestick
 - (2) Table of Shewbread
 - (3) Altar of Incense
 - (b) Holy of Holies
 - (1) Ark of the Covenant
 - (2) Mercy Seat

B. The Gate of Four Colors

1. Purple - Sovereign - Gospel of Matthew - To the Jews
2. White - The Servant - Gospel of Mark - To the Romans
3. Scarlet - The Savior - Gospel of Luke - To the Greeks
4. Blue - The Son - Gospel of John - To the Believers

- I. The Plan - Exodus 25:31-34 - The dimensions are not given but the weight was seventy-five pounds (Exodus 25:39). The candlestick was one piece - Through beating the branches became one with the shape (Exodus 25:36). It is a beautiful picture of Christ (Hebrews 2:10,11; Isaiah 53:5,10). It was made of pure gold (Exodus 25:31) and was kept burning perpetually (Exodus 27:20, 21)
- II. The Position - It was the first piece of furniture as you entered the door of the Tabernacle. It provided the light for the entire Holy Place.
- III. The Purpose - A Picture of:
 1. Discernment - II Corinthians 2:14 - Symbolic of the Holiness of Christ our Lord (I John 1:5) - He is the light of the world and there is no darkness in Him (John 8:12). The Glory of the Lord will illuminate the new Jerusalem in eternity (Revelation 21:24).

Lampstand - A picture of:

 - (1) Christ - John 8:12
 - (2) Christian - I John 1:7; Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:15
 - (3) Church - Revelation chapters 2 & 3 - The 7 churches - Revelation 2:5 - To the church at Ephesus God states - "I will remove thy candlestick" - Note: All 7 lamps are gone out today!!!
 - (4) Comforter - Oil is a type of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:29; John 15:26; 16:13,15; Isaiah 11:2 - Guides us into truth!
 2. Declaration - Matthew 5:14 - Ye are the light of the World; John 8:12 - I am the light of the world - John 1:1-14 Christ as the light is:
 - (a) Unseen - John 1:5
 - (b) Unknown - John 1:10
 - (c) Undesired - John 1:11



Golden Candlestick

The light of the Lampstand is:

- (1) Light of Attraction - Exodus 25:37 - The light of the lamps drew attention to the candlestick - Jesus attracts people to Himself.
- (2) Light of Adoration - Psalm 36:9 - In Thy light we shall see light. He is the object of our affection and adoration.

-
3. Direction - God directed Israel with a pillar of fire and with a pillar of cloud. In Psalm 119:105 We read - "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." We read in John 3:19-21 That men love darkness more than light. Israel needed a:

(a) Pilot to steer them - (We need to be led!)

(1) He determines the course

(2) He directs the course

(b) Protector to shield them - (We need to be loved!)

(c) Provider to shine on them - (We need to be lighted!)

John 8:12 - The Condition - Follow Me

The Consequence - Not Walk in Darkness

The Conclusion - Have the Light of Life

IV. Satisfaction - Table of Shewbread (Declaration of Christ)

Scripture: Exodus 25:23-28; 31:8; 37:10-16; Leviticus 24:5-9; Hebrews 9:2

Introduction:

- I. Shewbread - Means "Bread of the Face" - "Bread of the Presence" - "Hallowed Bread" - Leviticus 24:8; I Samuel 21:4-6 - The bread stood in the divine presence and was always before the face of God.
- II. Continual Bread - Numbers 4:7; II Chronicles 2:4
- III. Frankincense - Leviticus 4:27 - Fragrant gum resin was put in the bread for a memorial - A remembrance of His people (Hebrews 13:5,6) - It also produced a balsam-like fragrance while they ate. There were twelve loaves representing the twelve tribes (Numbers 4:7; II Chronicles 2:4) - Table and the bread were considered as one. Jesus said in John 6:35 - "I am the bread of life and he that cometh to me shall never hunger and he that believeth in me shall never thirst."



Table of Shewbread

I. The Plan - Exodus 25:23,24 - Made of acacia wood overlaid with gold and the size was three and a half feet long by one and a half feet wide by two feet three inches high (Exodus 25:23-28). The Lord said in Exodus 25:30 - "Place on the table shewbread before me always."

II. The Position - Hebrews 9:2 - Placed opposite the lampstand in the Holy Place

III. The Purpose - A picture of:

1. Presence of the Lord - The word "shewbread" means "bread of the presence".

There was always bread on the table - It was constant and continual. The key to victorious christian living is to continually "Practice His Presence" -

(a) Genesis 17:1 - He is behind me - To back me up!

(b) Deuteronomy 14:4 - He is before me - To guide me!

(c) Psalm 91:1 - He is above me - To protect me!

(d) Deuteronomy 33:27 - He is beneath me - To support me!

(e) Genesis 5:24; 6:9 - He is beside me - To fellowship with me!

(Also - Psalm 16:8; Job 23:9)

(f) Colossians 1:27 - He is in me - As a constant companion - To sustain me!

(Galatians 2:20)

(g) Psalm 34:7 - He is all around me - To calm and encourage me!

2. Provision of the Lord - Refer to Deuteronomy 2:7 Where God reminds Israel of His faithful provision of their every need. He fed them with "manna" during their entire wilderness journey (Deuteronomy 8:2,3). Elijah is another great example of God's divine provision as the birds delivered his food morning and evening (I Kings 17:1-7). The changing of the bread was an elaborate and precise ceremony. Note the following taken from the Talmud:

Four priests entered the Holy Place, two of them carrying the piles of bread and two of them the cups of incense. Four priests had gone in before them, two to take off the old piles of shewbread, and two to take off the cups of incense. Those who brought in the new bread stood at the North side facing Southward, those who took away the old bread at the Southside facing Northward. One part lifted off and the other put on, the hands of one being over against the hands of the other, as it is written, thou shalt set upon the table bread of the Passover always before me. The loaves that were removed were delivered to the priests for their consumption within the Tabernacle, the whole quantity amounting to seventy-five pounds of bread.

Jesus called it the "True Bread", "Bread of God" and "Bread of Life" (John 6:32-35). His disciples said, "Ever more give us this bread" (John 6:34). The ministry of the table was to provide food and fellowship for the priests.

3. Promises of the Lord - The Bread is a type of:

1. Israel - Leviticus 24:6,7; Romans 11:25; Matthew 23:38; Hosea 3:4 - In spite of all their behavior, God remembered them in lovingkindness (Malachi 4:2).
2. The Christian - Keeps us in Christ and will ultimately present us before the father faultless (Ephesians 5:25-27)
3. Christ - He is the nourisher and sustainer of the christian's life (I Peter 2:9; John 6:33-58; Hebrews 12:1-3)

4. Participation of the Lord - At the Table:

1. Family - Center of union for the priestly family (Matthew 18:20)
2. Food - Center of nourishment for the priestly family (Leviticus 24:9)
3. Fellowship - Must abide in the light for fellowship (I John 1:7)

Illustration: People came seeking for Jesus and were seekers of:

- (a) Profit - To get something - John 6:26
- (b) Power - To do something - John 6:28
- (c) Popularity - To be somebody - John 6:31
- (d) Pleasure - To experience something - John 6:38,60
- (e) Pardon - Seek this one and you get all the others - John 6:67-69

Jesus is the Bread of Satisfaction:

- (a) Life Supplying - John 6:33, 48; John 1:1-4
 - (b) Life Sustaining - Galatians 2:20
 - (c) Life Sufficient - John 6:67, 68
- He is adequate and He is available (John 6:35)



Altar of Incense

V. Supplication - Altar of Incense (Devotion with Christ)

Scripture: Exodus 30:1-10; 34:38; 37:25-28

Introduction:

A. Two Solemn Warnings:

1. No strange incense could be used on the altar (Exodus 30:9). Also, no one could make the incense for personal use - If they did, they were put to death. (Exodus 30:37,28)
2. No other fire other than that from the brazen altar could be used - Example - Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire and died immediately (Leviticus 10:1,2) It was true priests - True incense but false fire (Leviticus 6:12,13; 16:12)

B. Priests Had Three Requirements:

1. Had to minister at the brazen altar - must be cleansed by the blood to approach a Holy God.
2. Had to wash all defilement from hands and feet at the brazen laver (Exodus 30:18-20; I John 1:6-10)
3. Had to be in the Holy Place to offer the incense of prayer - cleansed by the blood and the water they stepped into the Holy Place to have fellowship with God. (Hebrews 10:22)

- I. The Plan - Exodus 30:1-3 - Make it of acacia wood overlaid with gold. The size was one and one half feet long by one and one half feet wide by three feet high. It was much smaller than the brazen altar.
- II. The Position - It was to be placed before the veil in the center of the Holy Place (Exodus 30:6). This was the closest to God the priests could get in the daily worship. The closest you and I can get to God is when we come through prayer (James 4:8)
- III. The Purpose - A Picture of:
 1. Dependence on Him - John 15:5 - "Without me ye can do nothing" - II Corinthians 3:5 - "Our sufficiency is of God" - Philippians 4:3 - "I can do all things through Christ..." The veil was rent at the cross giving us direct access to the throne of God (Hebrews 4:16; 10:19,20)
 - (a). Same fire used to consume the incense that consumed the sacrifice on the brazen altar (Leviticus 16:13)
 - (b) Because He experienced the fires of suffering and sacrifice to secure our salvation He is able to appear in Heaven as our advocate. It is now possible for us to have direct access (Hebrews 9:24; I John 2:12) - Calvary gives validity to our prayers.
 2. Devotion to Him - Aaron was to offer incense on the altar at regular times daily (Exodus 30:7,8). There were morning and evening sacrifices on the brazen altar - Also, entered the Holy Place to trim the lampstand and to burn incense on the altar. The New Testament disciples kept morning and evening hours of prayer (Acts 3:1; 10:9,30). Question - When is the best time to pray? In the morning - To receive direction for the activities of the day (I Samuel 1:19; Job 1:5; Psalm 57:8; Mark 1:35). In the evening - To praise God for His blessing and direction for the day that is passed. (Psalm 63:5,6; Luke 6:12 - Jesus prayed all night!). In I Thessalonians 5:17 - Pray without ceasing - The incense burned perpetually (Exodus 30:8)

-
3. Deliverance by Him - The priest was the mediator between God and Israel and with the censer of burning coals from the brazen altar he sprinkled sweet incense on the coals (Leviticus 16:12,13). The altar served as a:
- (a) Place of Atonement - Leviticus 4:7,18
 - (b) Place of Acceptance - Hebrews 9:14; 12:24 - Christ's blood gives entrance into His presence. Note: The prayer of the Lord Jesus just prior to the cross:
 - (a) He Provided Salvation - John 17:6
 - (b) He Provided the Scriptures - John 17:6,8,14,17
 - (c) He Provided Security - John 17:11,12,15
 - (d) He Provided Sanctification - John 17:17,19

The great old hymn - "Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer - That calls us from a world of care - And bids me at my Father's throne - Make all my wants and wishes known."

VI. Situation - Ark of the Covenant (Delight In Christ)

Scripture: Exodus 25:10-22; 37:1-9; Hebrews 9:1-14

Introduction:

A. The ark was the throne of God and the place where God could be met and communed with (Exodus 25:22; Psalm 80:1). Only Moses could approach God here at any time without a blood sacrifice (Exodus 25:22; 34:34,35). The High Priest (Aaron) could approach God here only once a year on the day of atonement and only with blood.

B. Names of the Ark:

- (a) Ark of the Testimony - Exodus 26:33
- (b) Ark of the Covenant - Joshua 3:11
- (c) The Holy Ark - II Chronicles 35:3
- (d) The Ark of Thy Might - II Chronicles 6:41

Mercy Seat



Ark of the Covenant

C. Contents of the Ark

- (1) Pot of Manna - Exodus 16:33; Hebrews 9:4
- (2) Aaron's Rod that Budded - Numbers 17:10; Hebrews 9:4
- (3) Tablets of the Law - Exodus 25:21; 40:20

D. The Mercy Seat - The blood-sprinkled Mercy Seat was the cover on the top of the Ark - Above the Mercy Seat rested the Pillar of Cloud and the Pillar of Fire (Exodus 40:34, 35). Faith gives way to sight in the Holy of Holies - We now have access to God (Hebrews 10:19).

A. The Plan - Exodus 25:11 - Make it of wood overlaid with gold. The size of the Ark was three feet nine inches long by two feet three inches wide by two feet three inches high. On the top at each end were two cherubim of gold looking down at the mercy seat (Exodus 25:10-20; Note vs. 19,20). This was the first article of furniture that was made (Exodus 25:8-10) - The Tabernacle was built to house the Ark. The Mercy Seat was made of pure gold (Exodus 25:17). The same size as the Ark as it formed the cover.

B. The Position - It was placed in the Holy of Holies because it was the most sacred piece of furniture. The pillar of cloud and fire stood over the Mercy Seat.

C. The Purpose - A Picture of:

1. Protection - Tablets of the law (Deuteronomy 10:1,2) - "Put them in the Ark" - God says obey my laws and I will protect you. These laws were written by the fingers of God (Exodus 31:18; 32:16). In Joshua 1:8, God states that this book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth and thou shalt do all that is written in this book. Israel sinned against God's law (Exodus 32:30; 31:7) and corrupted themselves; thus the need for the Tabernacle which pictures for us the Lord Jesus as the sacrifice for man's sin and the only avenue to a relationship with a Holy God (John 14:6).

Illustration: Psalm 119:11 - "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee" - This verse presents:

- (a) The Best of Precepts - Thy Word
- (b) The Best of Places - Hid in my heart
- (c) The Best of Purposes - That I might not sin against thee

2. Provision - Pot of manna (Exodus 16:1-35) The word "manna" means "what is it?" It is referred to by the following titles:

- (a) Bread From Heaven - Exodus 16:4
- (b) Angel's Food - Psalm 78:25
- (c) Light Bread - Numbers 21:5

It is interesting to note several important truths concerning the manna:

- (a) It was sustaining - Exodus 16:35 - It was their staple for 40 yrs.
- (b) It was satisfying - Exodus 16:31 - Like honey
- (c) It was sufficient - Exodus 16:8 - To the full

Aaron was commanded to collect two quarts and place it in the ark.
(Exodus 16:33)

3. Power - Aaron's Rod that budded (Numbers chapters 16 & 17) - Note: Refer to the account of Aaron's Rod that budded with relation to the opposition to the leadership authority of Moses and Aaron. Illustration of the fruit that God produces in us and through us to others:

- (a) Character - Galatians 5:22, 23
- (b) Conduct - Ephesians 4:17-32
- (c) Converts - Romans 1:13-15

My life verse is John 15:16 - "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." —

- (a) The Choice
- (b) The Credentials
- (c) The Commission
- (d) The Consequences
- (e) The Confidence

4. Pleasure - The Mercy Seat (Ultimate Delight in Him)

- 1. Place of Compassion - "Mercy"
- 2. Place of Communion - Exodus 25:22
- 3. Place of Commandment - Exodus 25:22
- 4. Place of Contentment - Philippians 4:11

The Tabernacle in its entirety is a beautiful picture of the Lord Jesus Christ who is our All-Sufficient One! Jesus is made unto us:

- (a) Wisdom
- (b) Righteousness Only Jesus can satisfy your soul - We are complete in Him
- (c) Sanctification (Colossians 2:9,10)
- (d) Redemption

