

A Reflection of JESUS

Lesson 2 Building the Tabernacle

Exodus 35:30-35; 36:1-3; 40:34

In the beginning sin entered the world through Satan's influence and with sin came a terrible price. Its price is death. Simply put, "Sin causes death." The system of sacrifice was instituted and created a tangible reminder of what sin causes—death. The life of a living creature is given for the sinner in atonement.

A Holy God, the Sinful Man

In order for people to have access to the HOLY God there has to be a way to cleanse the sinner. There had to be a way made for mankind to approach God in order to be forgiven and be able to worship the Creator. This was pictured through the blood sacrifices and offerings presented by the high priest in the Tabernacle. This was the shadow of the ultimate *Lamb of God*, the Sacrifice of sacrifices; the High Priest of all priests, Jesus Christ.

God gave specific instructions on all the aspects of the Tabernacle. There were all very important.

When offering a sin offering, the sinner had to place his hands upon the head of the sacrifice—showing he transferred his sins onto the animal that was about to be slain in his place. The high priest then caught the blood of the slain animal, and acting as a mediator, sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice on the altar, cut the sacrifice into pieces, washed it, and burned various pieces on the altar as a sweet savor to the Lord.

The Tabernacle was the center of Israel's religious life. In the Old Testament the Tabernacle is called "the tent of meeting." It was literally a large moveable tent.

Build Me a House

The design and instructions for building the Tabernacle were given by God to Moses at Mt. Sinai. The Israelites participated in the construction of it by giving beautiful fabrics, precious metals, wood, and supplies for use. There were those who offered their labor. There were artisans, especially gifted by God, to make special articles for the Tabernacle; and they made them according to

God's design.

As the Israelites traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land, the Tabernacle was used as the place where God dwelt and they worshiped God. The Tabernacle would be set up in the middle of camp and the Levites were charged with the care of the Tabernacle (Numbers 4). The Levites camped next to the Tabernacle on all four sides (Numbers 1:53). The other tribes arranged themselves in a specific order behind them on all four sides of the Tabernacle (Numbers 2).

Progression of Events

- Moses told the people that God chose Bezaleel to oversee the building of the Tabernacle. He was to oversee the building to be sure it is made right. Bezaleel was a wise man and knew how to work with his hands. He knew how to make things out of gold, silver, and brass, and how to cut jewels. He taught other men these skills.
- Aholiah is the other man God chose to teach men how to make designs in metal, how to embroider designs on cloth, and how to weave cloth. Both Bezaleel and Aholiah were to teach others how to do the various kinds of work needed in the building of the Tabernacle.
- Those that worked on the Tabernacle were wisehearted men. They were men that the Lord had put wisdom and understanding within.
- The Tabernacle was pitched in the western half of the court. It measured 15 by 45 feet. The boards were overlaid with gold, set in silver sockets, and held together with bars fitted into golden rings. It was a beautiful frame.
- The wooden boards that made the sides of the Tabernacle are a picture of humanity. The gold that covered the boards represent Christ. Taking the symbolism even further, individuals in Christ (the wood and gold), collectively, make up one body (Ephesians 2:21).
- Draped over the gold-covered boards were four layers of elaborate coverings, making up the roof of the Tabernacle:

1. The Outer Protective Covering

No one knows for sure what material this was made from. It may have been badger skins or leather. Just as the outer covering was plain and hid the beauty inside the Tabernacle, so the Son of God came to earth as an ordinary, mortal man (Mark 6:2,3).

2. Rams' Skins Dyed Red

Under the protective covering were the rams' skins. The skins were dyed red. Here is seen the blood Jesus

shed to pay for our sins (John 1:29).

3. Covering of Pure White

Under the rams' skins was a covering of pure white goats' hair. On the Day of Atonement, goats were used as the sacrifice. The goat pictures forgiveness (Titus 3:5, 1 John 1:7,9). A part of the goat's hair hung down as a boarder over the top of the only door to the tent. As the Israelites looked in and saw the white goats' hair they were reminded that there was sacrifice and forgiveness for them.

4. Gorgeous Inner Covering

The innermost covering was made of blue, purple, and scarlet threads woven into white linen. It was embroidered with cherubim and fastened with golden clasps. Once again the colors reflect Christ. But *only* the priests saw this inner covering.

After the Tabernacle was built, God blessed His people by covering the tent with a cloud and filling the sanctuary with His glory (Exodus 40:34).

The Tabernacle and Me

The details for building the Tabernacle were given by God thousands of years ago. While the Tabernacle itself is lost, today we are still able to read about how it was built, and understand the significance it holds for Christians today. Jesus Christ is what makes the Tabernacle special for us today. Jesus Christ was made flesh and He dwelt among us.

We read about this in John 1:14. The word "dwelt" in the Greek means "tabernacled." Those that have been baptized and have had the laying-on-of-hands have Jesus Christ actually dwelling in them.

Conclusion

The Tabernacle in the wilderness was built a long time before Christ came to this earth as a physical man. It was God's will to fill the Tabernacle with the objects that foreshadowed His plan—made in the beginning—to redeem mankind from the sentence of sin (read Hebrews 9 and 10).

The writer of Hebrews tells us that the Tabernacle is a foreshadowing of the person and work of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. The children of Israel were not aware of the enormous underlying meaning of the Tabernacle.

It is God who placed the Tabernacle there and revealed its special meaning to the followers of Christ after His death and resurrection. □

Scripture for Today

"By one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy"
(Hebrews 10:14)

Questions

1. The "Tent of Meeting" is another name for what?

2. *Yes or no?* The Tabernacle was movable. _____
3. Who decided on the construction, materials, and decorations for the Tabernacle? _____
4. Why did God want a tabernacle built?

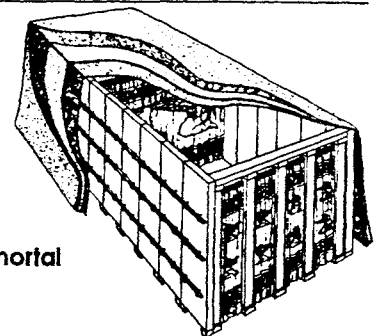
5. *Yes or no?* The Tabernacle was a shadow of Jesus?

6. Today Jesus dwells within a temporary tabernacle. Where is it? _____
7. Why did God require blood sacrifice?

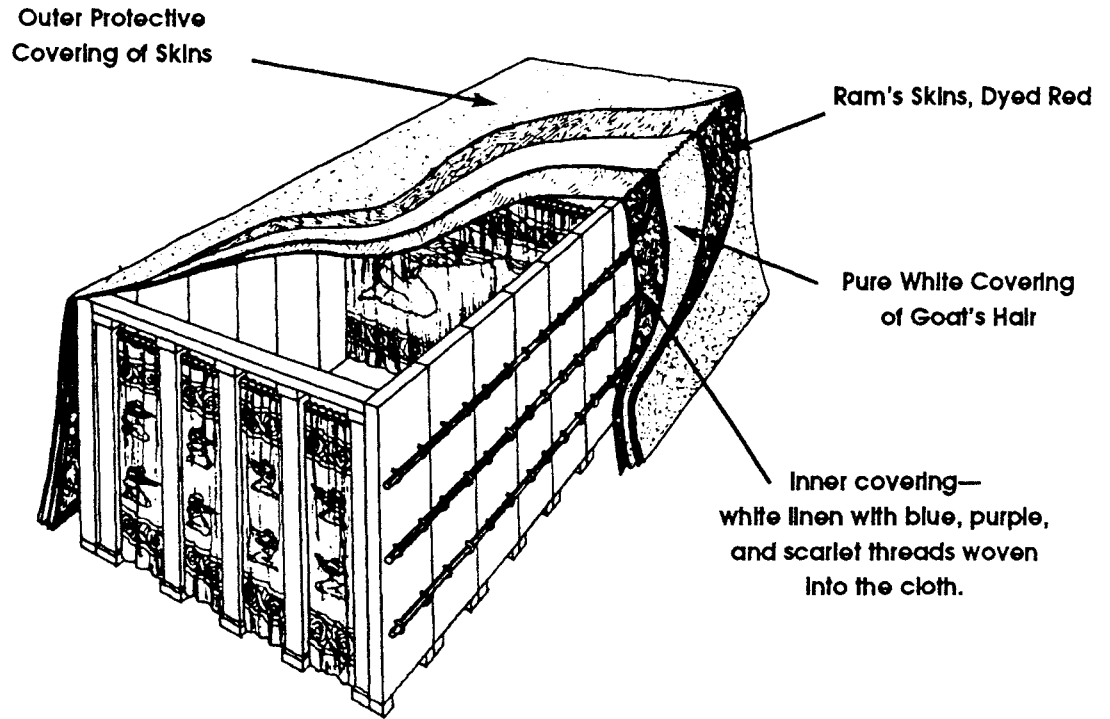
8. What should the sacrifice teach us?

9. Who is called the Lamb of God? _____
10. *True or False* Man without God doesn't realize the deadly nature of sin. _____

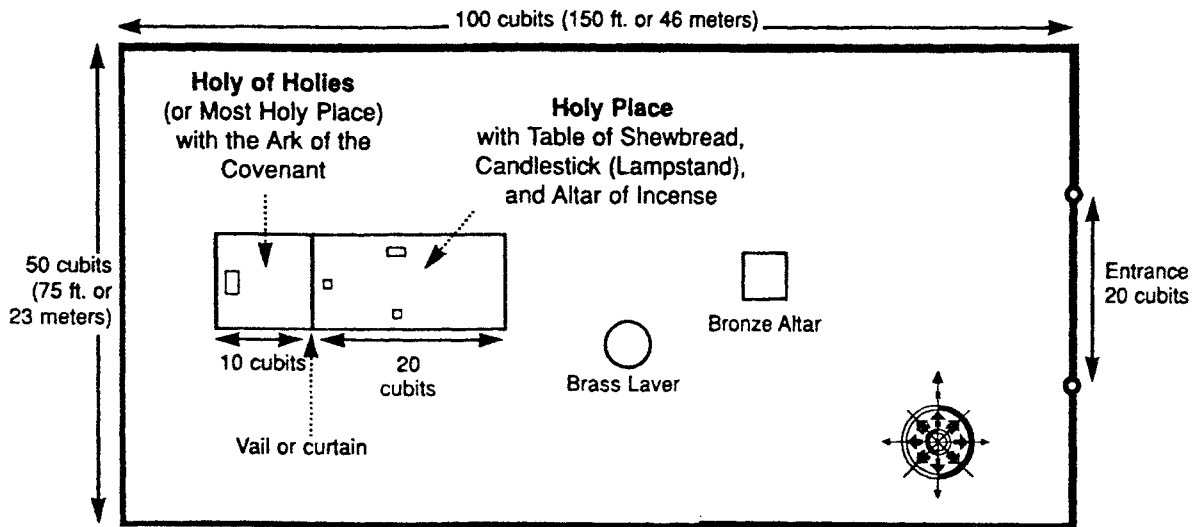
Just as the outer covering was plain and hid the beauty inside the Tabernacle, so the Son of God came to earth as an ordinary, mortal man.



The Tabernacle Coverings



The Tabernacle and Enclosure



Word Search and Puzzle

Search Me...

Find the words hidden here

ANOINTING OIL	LEVITES
BLUE	LIGHT
BRACELETS	LORDS OFFERING
BREASTPLATE	MANNER
CHILDREN	MOSES
COMMANDED	PRIEST
CONGREGATION	SACRIFICE
EARRINGS	SCARLET
FINE LINEN	SERVICE
HEART	SHITTIM WOOD
HOLY GARMENTS	SPICE
ISRAEL	SPIN
JEWELS	TABLETS



Know What I Mean?

Match the word on the left with the description on the right

Tabernacle	A living creature that was about to be slain for sin
Sin Offering	Amends for a wrong; to restore
Mediator	The tribe who took care of the Tabernacle
Levites	Jesus Christ
Bezaleel	The man who was a craftsman in metalwork and the art of weaving
Aholiah	The man who was to oversee the building of the Tabernacle
Lamb of God	The person who is the go-between of two parties at odds
Atonement	The movable "tent of meeting"