

THE TABERNACLE

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The Tabernacle

Exodus 25-40, Hebrews 8-10

The Old Testament Teaches us New Testament Truth.

The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed; the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.

Hebrews 10:1 For the **law having a shadow of good things to come**, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

John 1:45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. (Jesus was speaking of the O.T. Scriptures when He said this.)

John 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

The Tabernacle – General Information

The Tabernacle was erected one year after the exodus from Egypt (Ex. 40:2, 40:17). The Outer Court was about 100 cubits by 50 cubits and surrounded by a fence. The Sanctuary was 10 cubits by 30 cubits. The Sanctuary had two compartments – the Holy Place was 10 cubits by 20 cubits and the Holy of Holies was 10 cubits by 10 cubits.

God dwelt in the Holy of Holies. Sinful man was separated from a holy God. The way to approach God was through a high priest who carried a blood sacrifice. This plan started with God – it was His idea. God wanted to meet with man – on His terms.

The Tabernacle pictures the Lord Jesus Christ and His relationship with His church.

In order to fully appreciate this study of the Tabernacle, it is imperative that you get a visual perspective of it. The following are links to sites on the Internet where you may view some pictures of the Tabernacle:

http://www.the-tabernacle-place.com/tabernacle_articles/what_is_the_tabernacle.aspx

http://www.newchurchvineyard.org/religion/the-tabernacle/activities/Project_Exploring-The-Tabernacle.pdf

<http://koti.phnet.fi/petripaavola/Tabernacle>

The Tabernacle – Dwelling Place of God

A) The Tabernacle was just one of many places where God dwelt.

1) Tabernacle

Exodus 25:8 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Ex. 40:34 Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

2) Temple

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up *their* voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he is good*; for his mercy *endureth* for ever: that *then* the house was filled with a cloud, *even* the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

3) Christ

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

4) Church

Called 'The Tabernacle of the Congregation' Ex.27:21, Lev.1:1, Numb.1:1, Deut.31:14
It was framed together – a dwelling place for God.

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 2:19-21 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

Revelation 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Revelation 1:20 The mystery of... the seven golden candlesticks...and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

5) Believer

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

6) On Earth in Millennium

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

B) The Tabernacle was a temporary dwelling place.

The Tabernacle was fashioned in such a way that it could be carried as the Israelites marched through the wilderness. It was put together when they made camp and taken down when they moved to another place. Each piece of furniture was equipped with rings and staves so that it could be easily carried. Israel would move as pilgrims on this earth. We too are here on earth waiting for our permanent home in heaven. Our body is a tabernacle.

2 Peter 1:13-14 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting *you* in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off *this* my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

Hebrews 11:9-10 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know tht if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:4 For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

The Tabernacle – Bible Truths

1) Center of their Life

They encamped around it.

Numbers 2:2 Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house: far off about the tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch.

The church ought to be central to your life.

2) Only One Door

It was a narrow door, but wide enough for whosoever will to enter.

John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

3) Furniture Pictures the Lord Jesus Christ

Furniture in the Court

Brazen Altar	Christ, our Sacrifice for Sin II Cor. 5:21
Laver	Word of God that Cleanses Eph. 5:26

Furniture of the Holy Place

Candlestick	Christ in midst of Church Rev. 1
Table of Shewbread	Christ as Bread of Life John 6
Golden Altar of Incense	Christ, our Intercessor Rom. 8:34

Furniture of Holy of Holies

Ark	Christ, the God-man
Mercy Seat	Christ, our Propitiation Rom. 3:25, I Jn. 2:2

Side Notes:

The Brazen Altar was the largest piece of furniture. It was the first thing a person saw. It pictures Christ, our sacrifice, as His sacrifice is preeminent to the Christian.

The Laver was made from the looking glasses of women of Israel which they carried from Egypt on Passover Night. Mirrors were made in those days of highly polished brass. They were for the glorification of the flesh and for the gratification of the old nature. They were symbolic of human vanity and human pride. It was therefore an act of self-denial to part with it. The Laver thus speaks of separation from the flesh, the world, and the old nature with its pride, lusts, habits and sins.

The Ark was a chest made of shittim wood covered with gold. As Christ was the God-man, the wood represented His humanity and the gold represented His deity. The wood and gold never mingled with each other, so Christ was 100% man and 100% God.

The Mercy Seat was a covering - it fit as a lid – for the Ark. On the ends of it were two cherubim. They were beaten out of the same piece of gold. It was here that God met with the representative of the people.

Numbers 7:89 And when Moses was gone into the tabernacle of the congregation to speak with him, then he heard the voice of one speaking unto him from off the mercy seat that *was* upon the ark of testimony, from between the two cherubims: and he spake unto him.

The blood carried by the High Priest on the Day of Atonement was placed here. The blood made it a 'mercy' seat. God did not look down upon the merit of Aaron or the goodness of the people, but He saw the blood.

Exodus 30:10 And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: *it is* most holy unto the LORD.

Blood on all four corners speaks of Christ's blood shed for the whole world.

1 John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

The furniture of the Tabernacle is described from the Ark to the Brazen Altar, which is God's viewpoint. If man had described it, he would have started with the Brazen Altar and finished with the Ark.

4) Blood was the Way to Appease God

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

This is central to the Bible. God is appeased by a blood sacrifice. Abel's sacrifice was accepted as it was a blood sacrifice (Heb. 11:4). The O.T. blood sacrifices pointed to the day when Christ would be the one final sacrifice for sin.

Hebrews 10:1-4 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those *sacrifices there is a remembrance again made* of sins every year. For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Hebrews 10:10-12 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

5) Veil Contained the Glory of God

As the Veil contained the glory of God, so Christ's flesh was indwelt by God.

Hebrews 10:19-20 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

Matthew 27:50-51 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.

At Calvary, the Veil was torn in two. This shows us that access to God is now available to all. There is no need to go through a High Priest on the Day of Atonement with blood, for Christ, our High Priest has offered His own Blood – and will sprinkle it on the Mercy Seat in heaven. Each can approach God through that once and for all sacrifice.

The fact that it was torn from top to bottom tells us that God was the One who tore it.

Hebrews 7:26-27 For such a high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

6) Led by Cloud by Day and Fire by Night

Israel was led by the cloud by day and fire by night. When the cloud moved, they moved. This shows us that we are to be led by the Holy Spirit, which, along with the Bible, is God's way to lead our life.

Exodus 13:21-22 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, *from* before the people.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

7) Outwardly was not Beautiful; Within was very Beautiful

As one would look at the Tabernacle from the outside, he would see only two things: the white linen fence surrounding the court and the roof of the Tabernacle itself. The roof was covered with a leather curtain of drab, gray badger skins. The outsider would see no beauty there. He could not see the breathless, exquisite beauty of the inner curtain made of fine-twined linen. This pictures the 'natural man', a sinner by nature without Christ. The Christian life looks dull to him, but for those who are saved, He is altogether lovely.

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

1 Peter 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

Truths Found In Hebrews 8-10

1. There is a Tabernacle in Heaven.

Hebrews 8:1-2 Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

2. God gave Moses Instructions for the Tabernacle

Hebrews 8:5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, *that* thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

3. The Tabernacle Pictures the Lord Jesus Christ

Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

4. Blood is Necessary for Forgiveness of Sins

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

5. Jesus offered His own Blood on the Mercy Seat in Heaven.

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

6. O.T. Sacrifices did not Forgive Sin, they only Covered Sins

Hebrews 10:1-4 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those *sacrifices there is* a remembrance again *made* of sins every year. For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

7. The O.T. Sacrifices Did Not Clear their Conscience

Hebrews 9:9 Which *was* a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

Hebrews 10:1-2 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

8. The Blood of Jesus was a Final Once and for all Sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:10-12 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ *once for all*. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Hebrews 7:26-27 For such an high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

Hebrews 9:25-26 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

9. Salvation is Based upon a Blood Covenant

Hebrews 8:6-7 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

Matthew 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. (A testament is a covenant that goes into force after the death of the Testator)

Hebrews 9:15-17 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament *is*, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament *is* of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

10. The Blood of Jesus Applied Cleanses our Conscience

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

11. Saved by His Blood is Saved Forever

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

12. Saved Sinners are to Continue to Approach God based upon the Work of Christ

Hebrews 10:19-22 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And *having* an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

13. Saved Sinners are to Serve God in a Local Church

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

14. To Reject His Blood Brings Severe Judgment

Hebrews 10:25-31 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. *It is* a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Bible References for Items of the Tabernacle:

General Construction	Ex. 25-27, 30, 36-38, 40, Heb. 9
Brazen Altar	Ex. 27:1-8, 38:1-7
Laver	Ex. 30:17-21, 38:8
Table of Shewbread	Ex. 25:23-30, 37:10-16
Candlestick	Ex. 25:31-40, 37:17-24
Altar of Incense	Ex. 30:1-10, 30:34-38, 37:25-28
Veil	Ex. 26:31-37, Heb. 9-10
Ark	Ex. 25:10-22, 37:1-9
Mercy Seat	Ex. 25:17-22, Heb. 10:3-4, 10:11-12
Boards and Bars	Ex. 26:15-29, 36:20-34
Sockets of Silver	Ex. 30:11-16, 38:25-28
Curtains and Coverings	Ex. 26:1-14, 36:8-19
Pillar of Cloud & Fire	Ex. 13:20-22, 40:33-38, Numb. 9:15-23

Note: You may purchase a good set of pictures from Beka Books to accompany this study. They are the best pictures I have found – well worth your money. Cost is \$10.50 plus shipping.

<http://www.abeka.com/ABekaOnline/BookDescription.aspx?sbn=14281>