

Message Notes

A tent for the Lord

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – *Not gonna lie. Really hard week.*

Offerings for the Tabernacle

Exodus 25:1-9

The free will nature of this offering

Where did this stuff come from?

What's the point of it all?

The importance of following the instructions

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Exodus 25:10-22

What is in the ark?

What is the cover?

The Table

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What does this imply?

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The Tabernacle

Exodus 26:1-37

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Separation Curtain Holy Place to Most Holy Place

The Altar of Burnt Offering

Exodus 27:1-8

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Sacrifices for sin

The Courtyard

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It is accessible

It is also covered

What was the point of all of this?

1. PRESENCE
2. HOLINESS (OTHERNESS)
3. LAW

Gospel Implications:

Jesus came to "dwell among us"

John 1:9-14

God's Presence show us his Holiness and reveals our unholiness

Revelation 15:5-8

Something happens to the Curtain!

Matthew 27:48-54

The "copy" is to teach us the reality

Hebrews 8:1-6

The Point of it all!

Revelation 21:1-5a

Gospel Application – *"Do we live to be in the Presence of God?"*

John 1:9-14

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Revelation 15:5-8

⁵After this I looked, and I saw in heaven the temple—that is, the tabernacle of the covenant law—and it was opened. ⁶Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. ⁷Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. ⁸And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

Matthew 27:48-54

⁴⁸Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him." ⁵⁰And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵²and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

Hebrews 8:1-6

¹Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do not have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ²and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being. ³Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. ⁴If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. ⁵They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." ⁶But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

Revelation 21:1-5a

¹Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

The page is framed by a wide, intricate border of floral and foliate motifs. The design features scrolling vines in shades of blue, orange, and green, interspersed with small, stylized flowers and leaves. The background of the border is a light, textured gold or cream color. The central text is set within a rectangular frame defined by a thin gold line.

The Gospel
According to
MOSES
a study of exodus

This week's message:

A Tent for the Lord

Exodus 25:1-27:19

Offerings for the Tabernacle

Exodus 25:1-9

¹The LORD said to Moses, ²“Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give. ³These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; ⁴blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ⁵ram skins dyed red and another type of durable leather; acacia wood; ⁶olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense;

Offerings for the Tabernacle

Exodus 25:1-9

⁷and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. ⁸“Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. ⁹Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

God issues orders for the construction of a place of worship. Because the people are journeying through the desert on their way to the promised land, this place of worship must be capable of being packed up and transported like the rest of the Israelite camp. The different names that the Bible gives to this place of worship help us to understand its role among the people. It is called a sanctuary (25:8a), that is, a sacred place that is a visible center of worship. It is also spoken of as the tabernacle (25:9; 26:1). The word 'tabernacle' comes from the Latin word for 'tent'. It describes what this sanctuary looked like.

However, in Hebrew, the word translated 'tabernacle' is closer in meaning to the verb that means 'to dwell', reminding us that this sanctuary symbolizes God dwelling in the midst of them (25:8b). It is at this tent (26:7, 11–14, 36) that God will meet with his worshippers, and this will be where his worshippers assemble. Hence it is also called the Tent of Meeting (27:21). Finally, it is called the tabernacle of the Testimony (38:21), no doubt because the tablets of the law, which were kept there, were themselves called the tablets of the Testimony (31:18).

~ Tokunboh Adeyemo, *Africa Bible Commentary* (Nairobi, Kenya; Grand Rapids, MI: WordAlive Publishers; Zondervan, 2006), 119–120.

The Ark

Exodus 25:10-22

¹⁰“Have them make an ark of acacia wood — two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. ¹¹Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold molding around it. ¹²Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. ¹³Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.

The Ark

Exodus 25:10-22

¹⁴Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry it. ¹⁵The poles are to remain in the rings of this ark; they are not to be removed. ¹⁶Then put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you.

¹⁷“Make an atonement cover of pure gold – two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. ¹⁸And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. ¹⁹Make one cherub on one end and the second

The Ark

Exodus 25:10-22

cherub on the other; make the cherubim of one piece with the cover, at the two ends. ²⁰The cherubim are to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them.

The cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the cover. ²¹Place the cover on top of the ark and put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law that I will give you. ²²There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites.



The chest will be the place where the two tablets of the law are stored (25:16, 21). It seems that at a later date the jar of manna and Aaron's rod that blossomed were also placed inside the ark, although initially they were placed before it (Exod 16:33; Num 17:10; Heb 9:4). More details about the ark are given in 37:1-9. The chest is to be covered by something called *the atonement cover* (25:17). The Hebrew word translated 'atonement' has the idea of covering something, such as a spot or a flaw, in order to erase it. That explains why the same word came to be used for atonement for sin. The atonement cover is to be made of *pure gold*. On top of it, there are to be two *cherubim*, facing each other (25:18-20).

These cherubim were supernatural beings with both human and animal characteristics, somewhat like the Egyptian sphinx (see also Gen 3:24; 37:7–9; 2 Chr 3:10–13). The Lord designates the space between the cherubim as the place where he will meet with a representative of the Israelites (25:22). At the time these instructions were given, that representative was Moses.

The Table

Exodus 25:23-30

²³“Make a table of acacia wood — two cubits long, a cubit wide and a cubit and a half high. ²⁴Overlay it with pure gold and make a gold molding around it. ²⁵Also make around it a rim a handbreadth wide and put a gold molding on the rim. ²⁶Make four gold rings for the table and fasten them to the four corners, where the four legs are. ²⁷The rings are to be close to the rim to hold the poles used in carrying the table.

The Table

Exodus 25:23-30

²⁸Make the poles of acacia wood, overlay them with gold and carry the table with them. ²⁹And make its plates and dishes of pure gold, as well as its pitchers and bowls for the pouring out of offerings. ³⁰Put the bread of the Presence on this table to be before me at all times.



The tabernacle represented Yahweh's house among the Israelites — he would soon encamp in his large house in their midst, and they would encamp around his house according to their tribes in concentric circles (Num 2). He himself was symbolically represented as dwelling in the “back room” of his house by means of the ark. In the tabernacle's “front room” were several pieces of furniture, the sorts of things that represented the furniture of a home, though on a grander scale. The first of these pieces of household-style furniture to be described is the table. It was primarily for food — a dining table of sorts, symbolizing the fact that Yahweh really did live among his people and inhabit his house in much the same way that they inhabited theirs.

~ Douglas K. Stuart, *Exodus*, vol. 2, The New American Commentary
(Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006), 572.

The Lampstand

Exodus 25:31-40

³¹“Make a lampstand of pure gold. Hammer out its base and shaft, and make its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms of one piece with them. ³²Six branches are to extend from the sides of the lampstand – three on one side and three on the other. ³³Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms are to be on one branch, three on the next branch, and the same for all six branches extending from the lampstand.

The Lampstand

Exodus 25:31-40

³⁴And on the lampstand there are to be four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms. ³⁵One bud shall be under the first pair of branches extending from the lampstand, a second bud under the second pair, and a third bud under the third pair — six branches in all.

³⁶The buds and branches shall all be of one piece with the lampstand, hammered out of pure gold.

The Lampstand

Exodus 25:31-40

³⁷“Then make its seven lamps and set them up on it so that they light the space in front of it. ³⁸Its wick trimmers and trays are to be of pure gold. ³⁹A talent of pure gold is to be used for the lampstand and all these accessories. ⁴⁰See that you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.



The Tabernacle

Exodus 26:1-37

¹“Make the tabernacle with ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, with cherubim woven into them by a skilled worker. ²All the curtains are to be the same size — twenty-eight cubits long and four cubits wide. ³Join five of the curtains together, and do the same with the other five. ⁴Make loops of blue material along the edge of the end curtain in one set, and do the same with the end curtain in the other set.

The Tabernacle

Exodus 26:1-37

⁵Make fifty loops on one curtain and fifty loops on the end curtain of the other set, with the loops opposite each other. ⁶Then make fifty gold clasps and use them to fasten the curtains together so that the tabernacle is a unit.

The Tabernacle

Exodus 26:1-37

⁷“Make curtains of goat hair for the tent over the tabernacle — eleven altogether. ⁸All eleven curtains are to be the same size — thirty cubits long and four cubits wide. ⁹Join five of the curtains together into one set and the other six into another set. Fold the sixth curtain double at the front of the tent. ¹⁰Make fifty loops along the edge of the end curtain in one set and also along the edge of the end curtain in the other set.

The Tabernacle

Exodus 26:1-37

¹¹Then make fifty bronze clasps and put them in the loops to fasten the tent together as a unit. ¹²As for the additional length of the tent curtains, the half curtain that is left over is to hang down at the rear of the tabernacle. ¹³The tent curtains will be a cubit longer on both sides; what is left will hang over the sides of the tabernacle so as to cover it. ¹⁴Make for the tent a covering of ram skins dyed red, and over that a covering of the other durable leather.

The Tabernacle

Exodus 26:1-37

¹⁵“Make upright frames of acacia wood for the tabernacle. ¹⁶Each frame is to be ten cubits long and a cubit and a half wide, ¹⁷with two projections set parallel to each other. Make all the frames of the tabernacle in this way. ¹⁸Make twenty frames for the south side of the tabernacle ¹⁹and make forty silver bases to go under them — two bases for each frame, one under each projection.

The Tabernacle

Exodus 26:1-37

²⁰For the other side, the north side of the tabernacle, make twenty frames ²¹and forty silver bases — two under each frame. ²²Make six frames for the far end, that is, the west end of the tabernacle, ²³and make two frames for the corners at the far end. ²⁴At these two corners they must be double from the bottom all the way to the top and fitted into a single ring; both shall be like that. ²⁵So there will be eight frames and sixteen silver bases — two under each frame.

The Tabernacle

Exodus 26:1-37

²⁶“ Also make crossbars of acacia wood: five for the frames on one side of the tabernacle, ²⁷five for those on the other side, and five for the frames on the west, at the far end of the tabernacle. ²⁸The center crossbar is to extend from end to end at the middle of the frames. ²⁹Overlay the frames with gold and make gold rings to hold the crossbars. Also overlay the crossbars with gold. ³⁰“ Set up the tabernacle according to the plan shown you on the mountain.

The Tabernacle

Exodus 26:1-37

³¹“Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim woven into it by a skilled worker. ³²Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases. ³³Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the covenant law behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

The Tabernacle

Exodus 26:1-37

³⁴Put the atonement cover on the ark of the covenant law in the Most Holy Place. ³⁵Place the table outside the curtain on the north side of the tabernacle and put the lampstand opposite it on the south side.

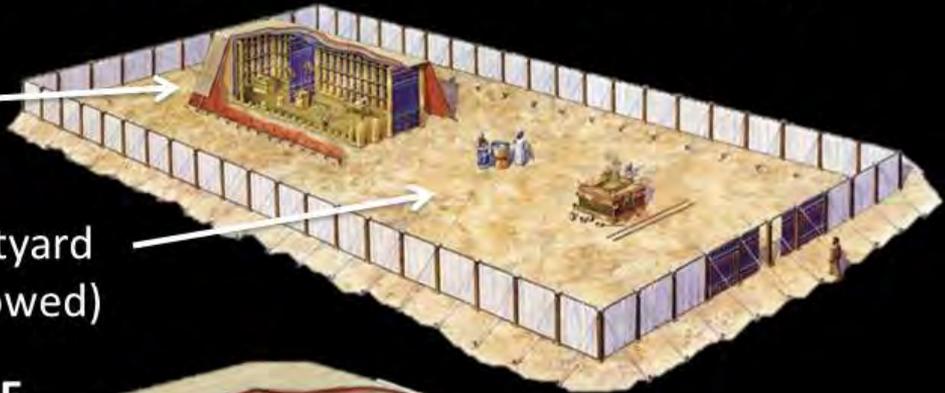
³⁶“For the entrance to the tent make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen—the work of an embroiderer. ³⁷Make gold hooks for this curtain and five posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold. And cast five bronze bases for them.

The Tabernacle

(also known as the Sanctuary or Tent of Meeting)

The Tabernacle
(only priests)

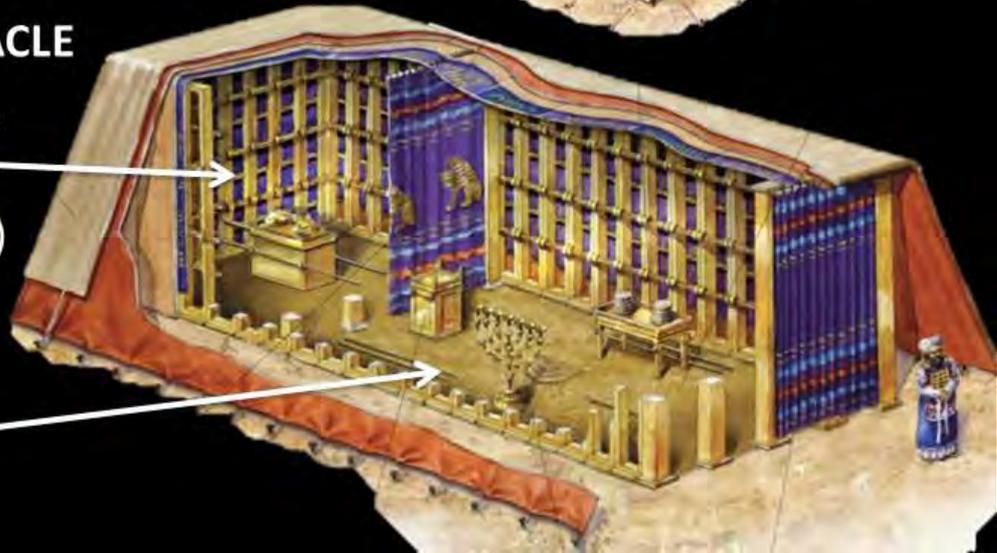
Outer Courtyard
(people allowed)



INSIDE THE TABERNACLE

The Most Holy Place
or Holy of Holies
(only the high priest)

The Holy Place
(only priests)





The *curtain* or *vail* (KJV) separates the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place (26:33). It is to be identical to the inner cover as regards the fabric and colour and its decoration with cherubim (26:31; see 26:1). It is to be supported on golden hooks attached to posts made of *acacia wood overlaid with gold* (26:32). The use of only the highest quality materials here stresses that this is an extremely important part of the tabernacle. So does having this area symbolically guarded by angels (cherubim).

The Most Holy Place was not to be entered by the priests, and even the High Priest could not go there whenever he wished (Lev 16:2). It was the place where the ark rested, which symbolized the holy presence of God and was the place where God would meet with a representative of his people (25:22). It was screened off to emphasize the distance between the Holy God and all his worshippers.

~ Tokunboh Adeyemo, *Africa Bible Commentary* (Nairobi, Kenya; Grand Rapids, MI: WordAlive Publishers; Zondervan, 2006), 121-122.

The Altar of Burnt Offering

Exodus 27:1-8

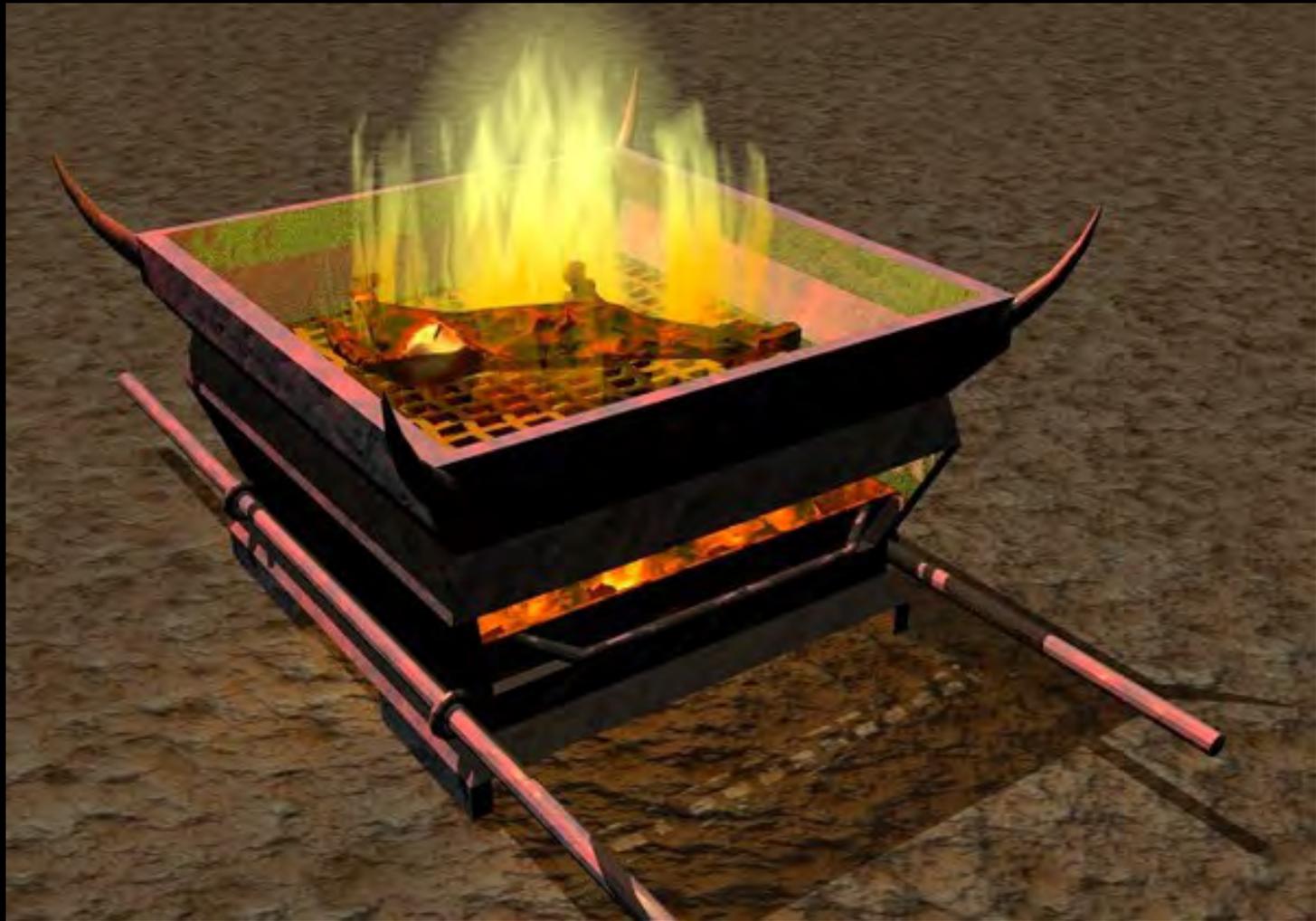
¹“Build an altar of acacia wood, three cubits high; it is to be square, five cubits long and five cubits wide.

²Make a horn at each of the four corners, so that the horns and the altar are of one piece, and overlay the altar with bronze. ³Make all its utensils of bronze – its pots to remove the ashes, and its shovels, sprinkling bowls, meat forks and firepans.

The Altar of Burnt Offering

Exodus 27:1-8

⁴Make a grating for it, a bronze network, and make a bronze ring at each of the four corners of the network. ⁵Put it under the ledge of the altar so that it is halfway up the altar. ⁶Make poles of acacia wood for the altar and overlay them with bronze. ⁷The poles are to be inserted into the rings so they will be on two sides of the altar when it is carried. ⁸Make the altar hollow, out of boards. It is to be made just as you were shown on the mountain.



The Courtyard

Exodus 27:9-19

⁹“Make a courtyard for the tabernacle. The south side shall be a hundred cubits long and is to have curtains of finely twisted linen, ¹⁰with twenty posts and twenty bronze bases and with silver hooks and bands on the posts. ¹¹The north side shall also be a hundred cubits long and is to have curtains, with twenty posts and twenty bronze bases and with silver hooks and bands on the posts.

The Courtyard

Exodus 27:9-19

¹²“The west end of the courtyard shall be fifty cubits wide and have curtains, with ten posts and ten bases.

¹³On the east end, toward the sunrise, the courtyard shall also be fifty cubits wide. ¹⁴Curtains fifteen cubits long are to be on one side of the entrance, with three posts and three bases, ¹⁵and curtains fifteen cubits long are to be on the other side, with three posts and three bases.

The Courtyard

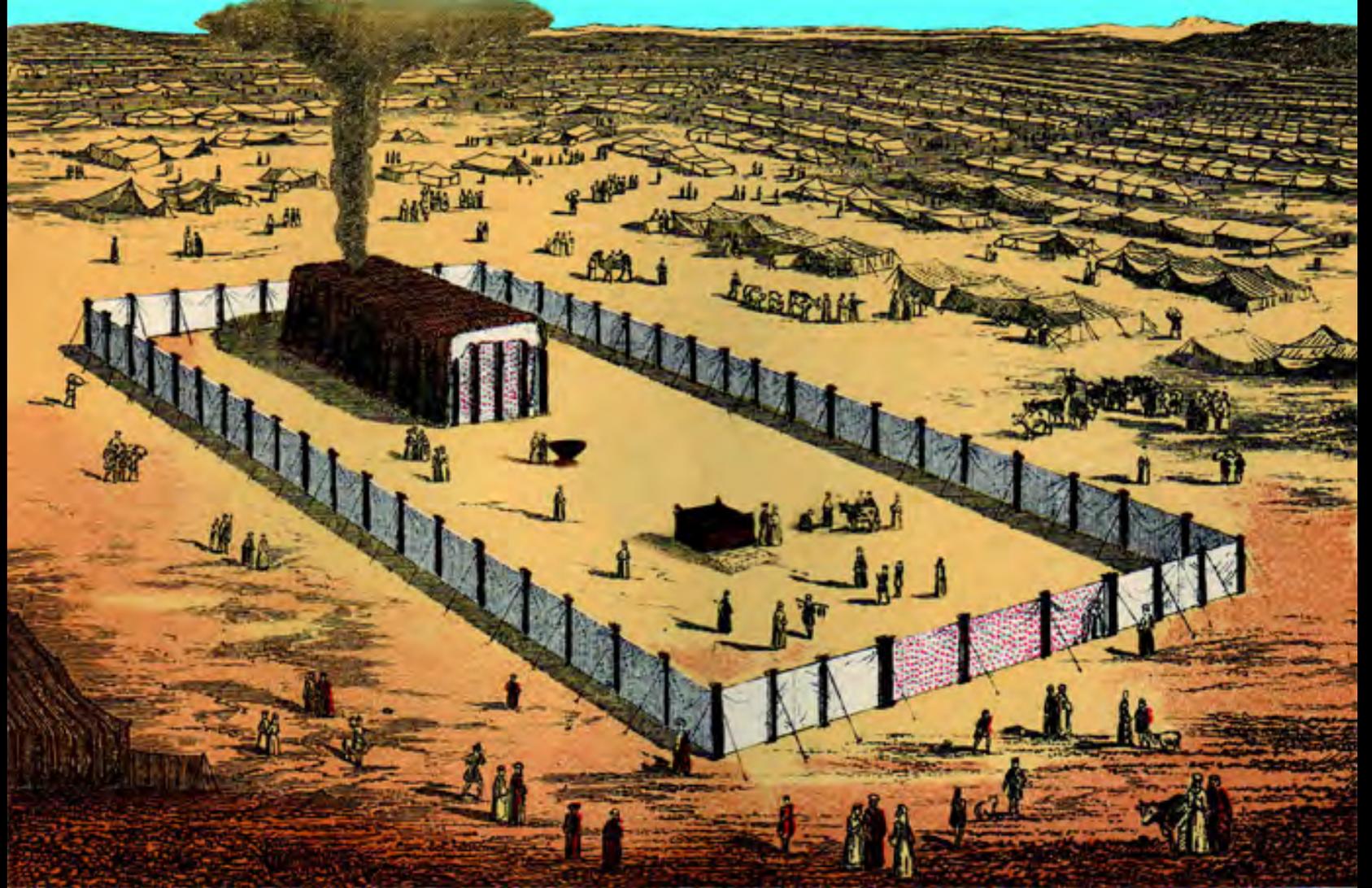
Exodus 27:9-19

¹⁶“For the entrance to the courtyard, provide a curtain twenty cubits long, of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen – the work of an embroiderer – with four posts and four bases. ¹⁷All the posts around the courtyard are to have silver bands and hooks, and bronze bases.

The Courtyard

Exodus 27:9-19

¹⁸The courtyard shall be a hundred cubits long and fifty cubits wide, with curtains of finely twisted linen five cubits high, and with bronze bases. ¹⁹All the other articles used in the service of the tabernacle, whatever their function, including all the tent pegs for it and those for the courtyard, are to be of bronze.



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- **PRESENCE:** To continue to have God's Presence after the Mount Sinai experience
- **HOLINESS (OTHERNESS):** To continually be reminded that God is not them, they are not God and that they needed God in all his power, might, wisdom, love and justice
- **LAW:** To show that fallen humanity doesn't just get to waltz into this dwelling

**Gospel Implications:
what's the purpose now**

Jesus came to “dwell among us”

John 1:9-14

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Gospel Application

Are you living to be in the Presence of God?