

## **EXODUS 25:1-40 THE PLACE WHERE GOD DWELLS**

We now enter into the last section of the book of Exodus after seeing that God made a covenant with Israel. Now, we find the fullest revelation of God's way out (exodus) of the Israelites problem in Egypt. They had been in bondage in Egypt, picturing what humanity's problem is. This had been their immediate problem, but God had provided deliverance. There was something they needed even more, they needed to know God. Throughout the desert experience, God kept revealing more and more of who He was. He revealed His power and grace and compassion and care. But the people still did not understand the character of God or His will for their lives. In chapters 19-24 God provided the way to know His character through the 10 Commandments and the Book of the Covenant. But it is not enough to know about Him, one must know Him. He desires that His people have a relationship with Him. People are meant to show God's character, but to do that, they must be in relation with Him. This final section gives a picture of God's ultimate plan for the human problem: the sharing of His life with them in intimate communion. The Tabernacle is the way He demonstrates how people can come into a closer relationship with Him. They had to know they had a problem and that God had given them instructions how to meet it. The solution to the problem was to do it God's way. The glory of God came to dwell in the center of the camp. God knew the needs of the people. They needed a visual illustration of the presence of God.. They needed concrete ways to express their relationship and worship to Him. Thus, comes the Tabernacle, allowing the people to approach the presence of God.

### **1. THE OFFERINGS VV 1-9**

#### **A. PEOPLE ARE TO FURNISH THE TABERNACLE**

The instructions for the Tabernacle began with a list of materials that the people could contribute to the building of it. This is not just a list of everyday items used by desert dwellers. It consists of precious metals, expensive yarns and linen, acacia wood, olive oil, and precious stones and gems. These had to have come from the Egyptians, whom the Israelites plundered. There was probably a ton of gold and three tons of silver used in the Tabernacle. That was a lot of wealth.

1. God first gives to the people before they give to Him  
We can only give to God what He already first gave to us.  
1 Chron 29:14, Isa 66:1-2 God created them and then gave them to us.
2. Generous giving  
Not only did God create the gifts but He worked in their hearts for them to give to Him generously. This was voluntary giving. It was to be given willingly and with the heart. This is the way we are to give.  
2 Cor 8:1-5, 12 God loves a cheerful giver 2 Cor 9:7
3. Where all the materials came from  
God made sure they had everything they needed to build the Tabernacle exactly the way God designed.  
Ex 12:35-36, 17:8-16
4. The best of materials  
All the materials were of the finest in all the world. God wants our best.  
The best use we can get from our worldly wealth is to honor God with it in worship of Him.  
The spices and oil are to attract the senses, sight, touch, smell, and taste, Shows God wanted the whole person in His worship.

#### **B. GOD FURNISHES THE PATTERN**

1. The purpose of the Tabernacle verse 8 The reason for the precision is that God will be among them. He will be with His people in a way He has not been before.
2. Abiding by God's exact plan  
The Tabernacle was an earthly symbol of a greater, earthly reality.  
God's instructions are to be followed exactly.

### **2. THE ARK—GOD MUST BE FIRST IN ALL THINGS**

#### **VV 10-22**

#### **A. THE ARK'S POSITION**

This is mentioned first, not the instructions for the Tabernacle, because it is very important. It is the only furnishing located in the Most Holy Place.

It was to stand in the holy of holies where God's shekinah glory rested.

Holy of Holies and the mercy seat which was God's throne.

Ps 80:1, 99:1 2Kings 19:15

**B. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ARK**

Focus of God's presence with His people. It is the earthly symbol of heaven.

Type of Christ

Made of wood,(humanity) Made of gold(deity)

It was made of wood but was completely covered with gold.

Within the ark were the tables of the law, the pot of manna, and Aaron's rod.

**C. HOLINESS OF THE ARK**

It was not to be touched. Uzzah touched it and immediately died.

2 Sam 6:3-7

God is the transcendent Creator, the Other.

**D. ARK OF THE TESTIMONY** Ps 40:6-8, Heb 10:5-9

The ark was a chest overlaid within and without with thin plates of gold.

Within the ark were the tables of the law, the pot of manna, and Aaron's rod. The law of God was in Christ's heart and He perfectly obeyed it. The law or the Word of God was to be made much of and to hide it in our hearts as it was hidden in the ark.

The manna would ever be a reminder to them that God took care of them in the wilderness. Jesus is the Bread of Life.

**E. MERCY SEAT**

The mercy seat of God was the covering of the chest. This covering or propitiation was a type of Christ, the great propitiation, who satisfied the Father, the demands of the law, covers our transgressions, and comes between us and the curse.

When the blood was out on the cover, it made atonement for the sin And rebellion of the Israelites.

Lev 16 Heb 9:11-10:14, Rom 3:25, 1 Jn 2:2

Christ died once for all for sins of His people as He was the sacrifice

**F. SAFETY UNDER HIS WINGS**

The cherubim of gold were fixed to the mercy seat and spread their wings over it.

They looked at each other and both towards the ark while their wings were stretched out.

They were ministering spirits to the Redeemer, ready to do His will.

This can refer to being under the wings of the cherubim in the holy of holies.

Ps 57:1, 63:7, Ruth 2:12, Ps 17:8, 36:7-8,61:4

**G. PRESENCE OF GOD** Numbers 10:33-36

God spoke to Moses 29:42, 30:6,36

Our access Heb 10:19-25 We are to come boldly to the throne.

**3. THE TABLE OF SHOWBREAD—GOD NOURISHES**

**HIS PEOPLE**

**VV 23-30**

The second piece of furniture was the table on which was placed the bread.

The table held the bread. The bread was set out weekly, with only the priests eating it.

The pagans had something similar, but they were actually giving food to god, placing it on the table. Here, this is reversed, Israel did not feed God.

God is the one who invites His people to His presence and feasted with them, providing sustenance for each of the tribes.

**A. THE BREAD OF LIFE** Jn 6:26 Jesus is the bread.

Jesus is the bread of life who took upon Himself a human body that He might come to earth and die for our sins.

**B. THE TWELVE TRIBES**

Through these loaves, the twelve tribes were presented before God and God

Was present with them in their camp beholding their worship and walk.

**4. THE LAMPSTAND—GOD ENLIGHTENS OUR WORSHIP**

It was a symbol of life-giving light of God.

This lamp was made of pure gold with no wood. It was probably 75 pounds.

This was the only way light would be present

**A. THE ONLY SOURCE OF LIGHT** Jn 8:12

It was to be on continually. The priests had to have this light if they were to get anything done.

B. FED BY OIL      Zech 4:1-4

This symbolizes the Holy Spirit of God, who is who we have to have to do any work of God.