

# SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Exodus: Set Free, Live Free

TITLE: A Picture is Worth a ....

**SCRIPTURE: Exodus 25-31**

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We are in a series on the Book of Exodus from the Old Testament. Why study this book? Exodus is the Old Testament story of the salvation of God's people that points forward to the great salvation that comes to us by faith in Jesus.

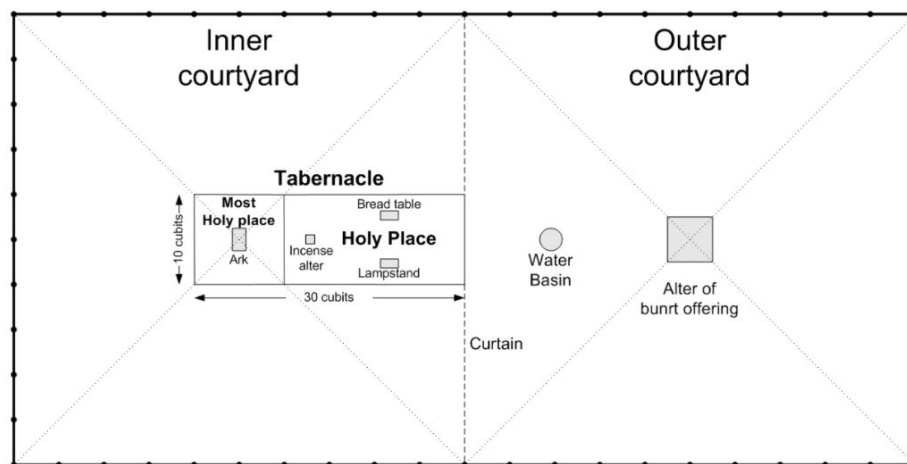
**Lead in** — A painting represents an artist's version of reality. Pictures are visual aids, visual representations of reality—sometimes, a particular reality at one point in time. But at other times, there may be layers of meaning in a piece of artwork. The Tabernacle is one of God's picture galleries. You could make a case that the Tabernacle may be the greatest of all biblical visual aids because of the layers of meaning contained in its significance.

**Passage Summary** —In Exodus 25-31, God gives Moses the blueprints for building the Tabernacle right after giving Moses the 10 Commandments and the 52 other laws that followed. Why is that? What's the connection between the Law and the Tabernacle?

**What exactly is the Tabernacle?** The Tabernacle was a tent, God's "tent of meeting" with his people. This becomes very clear in Ex 25:8 and Ex 29:43-46. God's desire was to live in the midst of his people. The Tabernacle is also called a "sanctuary" in 25:9. "Sanctuary" stresses that God's tent is unique, holy, set apart from the tents in which the nation of Israel lived.

**READ 25:1-9** —

**Walk through the Tabernacle from a 30,000-foot level.**



**Lots of detail here** —examples— Speaking of the Ark (25:10-16); Speaking of curtains (25:31-40); Speaking of curtains (26:1-6); etc.

**Question** —Why would God devote this much ink to detailed instructions on how to build the Tabernacle and then to building it? Why would God preserve all these details for all people for all time?

**Answer #1** — The Tabernacle holds the key to knowing God through law and sacrifice. The Tabernacle was a sacred, set apart place of worship that housed both law and sacrifice.

**Answer #2** — The Tabernacle ties together Old Testament salvation and New Testament salvation, pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation (John 1:14 et al).

**But that's not all...** What do Exodus 25:9; 25:40; 26:30; 27:8; Numbers 8:4; Acts 7:4 all emphasize about the instructions God gave to Moses regarding the building of the Tabernacle?

**READ Hebrews 8:1-7, 13; 9:1-15, 18-26; 10:19-23.**

**Repeat Question** — Why are there 50 chapters in the Bible devoted to the blueprints, the building, and the significance of the Tabernacle?

**Answer #3** — The Tabernacle is a copy God's Holy of Holies in heaven where Jesus' once-and-for-all secured the forgiveness of our sins past, present, and future in a way that we could never imagined unless God had told us himself.

**BIG IDEA** — When you read chapter 25-31 and others like them that talk about the Tabernacle, think of heaven. Think of Jesus going into heaven's Holy of Holies and sprinkling his blood on heaven's mercy seat. Think of Jesus giving himself for you, so that you—for all time and eternity—can have unhindered access to God to find help in your time of need.

**For Discussion** —

1. Why did God instruct Moses to build a Tabernacle?
2. How did the Tabernacle bring together both the law and sacrifice? Why were both necessary?
3. Why are there 50 chapters in the Bible devoted to the blueprints, the buildings, and the significance of the Tabernacle?
4. What is your big "take away" from what you learned about the Tabernacle?
5. One of the greatest filmmakers of all time, Federico Fellini once said: "All art is autobiographical; the pearl is the oyster's autobiography." In what way is the Tabernacle autobiographical? (That is, in what way is the Tabernacle God's autobiography?)