



The Tabernacle In The Wilderness

The Study of Exodus
SESSION 10
“The Great Escape”

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First Assembly of God
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THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

1 Exodus 24:9-18

2 **Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of**
3 **Israel: [10] And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a**
4 **paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.**
5 **[11] And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw**
6 **God, and did eat and drink.**

7 **[12] And the Lord said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there:**
8 **and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have**
9 **written; that thou mayest teach them. [13] And Moses rose up, and his minister**
10 **Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God. [14] And he said unto the elders,**
11 **Tarry ye here for us, until we come again unto you: and, behold, Aaron and Hur are**
12 **with you: if any man have any matters to do, let him come unto them. [15] And**
13 **Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount. [16] And the glory of**
14 **the Lord abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh**
15 **day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. [17] And the sight of the**
16 **glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the**
17 **children of Israel. [18] And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up**
18 **into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.**

19
20 We come now to a pivotal chapter in Scripture. The Book of Exodus that we have
21 studied so far had to do with the Israelites release from Egyptian bondage and their start
22 for the Promised Land.

23
24 The rest of this wondrous book has to do with THE TABERNACLE IN THE
25 WILDERNESS. I will spend only a couple more Wednesday nights on it. This
26 "Tabernacle" must have been extremely important to God for the Holy Spirit to commit
27 the rest of Exodus on it.

28 29 MOSES ASCENT TO THE SINAI PEAK

30
31 Try, if you can, to imagine a mountain (probably in the 8,000 feet high category) covered
32 with cloud, fire and smoke. The Bible does not actually declare the phenomenon to BE
33 fire; it states in verse 17: "...the sight of the glory of the Lord was LIKE devouring fire."

34
35 Here is an 80 year-old man, climbing by himself to the mountain's peak, hearing a voice
36 call out to him from the cloud, and wonder of wonders: Exodus 24:18 **And Moses**

1 **went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in**
2 **the mount forty days and forty nights.** Not only did he have the courage to enter the
3 cloud, he was there for almost six weeks!

4
5 While Moses was atop the mountain, God gave him the Ten Commandments and the
6 specifications for the Tabernacle, as well as the pattern for the garments of the priests
7 who would attend the Tabernacle.

8
9 An uninitiated reader might ask, “So what? What do these things have to do with me?”
10 The answer is simple: EVERYTHING.

11 12 CHAPTER 25

13
14 Exodus 25:1-9

15 **And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, [2] Speak unto the children of Israel, that**
16 **they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye**
17 **shall take my offering. [3] And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold,**
18 **and silver, and brass, [4] And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and**
19 **goats' hair, [5] And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, [6]**
20 **Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense, [7] Onyx stones, and**
21 **stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate. [8] And let them make me a**
22 **sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. [9] According to all that I shew thee, after**
23 **the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so**
24 **shall ye make it.**

25
26 First - that construction was going to cost some money! (Verse 2) “Bring me an
27 offering.”

28
29 Stanford Research Institute did a study on this building some years ago and determined
30 that the Jews, under Moses, spent \$13.5 million dollars on it. Now bear in mind that the
31 building itself (not counting the courtyard of fencing) was only 15' x 45' and 15' high.
32 So for the building itself we are only talking 675 square feet. If SRI is right, and the
33 Jews did indeed spend \$13.5 million on it, that would come to \$20,000 per square ft!

34
35 Imagine, if you can, some pastor who has been out in the mountains, alone, for over six
36 weeks who returns with the blueprints for a new sanctuary. “It’s not very big,” he
37 declares, “only 675 square feet. But it’s going to be really nice, so we going to spend
38 \$20,000 per square feet for it!” That pastor would be sent straight into a home.

39
40 I remember our first church building in Vermilion, Ohio. Turn key cost: \$9 per square



An Israeli Coney - Found In The Rocks Of Mountains and Canyons

foot. That is a long way from \$20K per sq. ft. You will find out why the structure cost so much as we go along.

THE OFFERING

God was not requesting shekels. Verse: Gold, Silver, Brass, Fine Linen and goats' hair....rams' skins....badgers skins....and acacia wood. Oh, there is more: oil, spices, incense, and onyx stones. God wanted the best the Israelites had for this special place.

As you will in the video later, the Tabernacle itself was covered with fabrics. Among them....badger's skins. At the top of this page you will see a picture of an Israeli Coney. They are very common. I see quite a few of them each time I hike En Gedi, the canyon where David hid from King Saul. It is my opinion that this is the little animal referred to as a badger. Its skins were not considered to be a precious fur. They were used on the outside of the Tabernacle to protect it. An outside observer would see this strange-looking rectangular building covered with "fur" and think it quite unseemly. That's because they had never been inside the Tabernacle which was gold, beautiful fabrics and precious incense. In like manner people don't know why we love Jesus, why we go to

1 church a lot, why we give, etc. That's because they have never been "inside."

2
3 The tabernacle itself was covered by four coverings, including the badger. The inner
4 covering was linen, the second goats hair and the third ram's skins, died red. The inner
5 fabrics were beautifully made and quite expensive, each symbolizing the blood, purity
6 and beauty of redemption, which would ultimately come from Christ Jesus.

7
8 The tabernacle was a relatively small structure, just 15 x 45 feet (15'high). But the
9 building was not for the ordinary person, just the priests. There was a veil that covered
10 the front of it and another that separated the "back room" which was the most important,
11 by far - the Holy of Holies.

12
13 If you will consult the page following, you will see a simple drawing of the complex.

14 THE COURTYARD

15
16
17 The Tabernacle sat inside a fenced-in courtyard that was roughly 150' x 70'. The fence
18 was made of linen. It stood about 8 feet high. Anyone attempting to enter the complex
19 in any way other than the specified opening would be stopped. There was but one way
20 in and that was through "that Eastern Gate." In our salvation, there is only one access
21 and is through Jesus Christ who made it very clear: John 14:6 **Jesus saith unto him, I**
22 **am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

23
24 This gate always faced east and was roughly 30 feet in width. It was brightly colored
25 while the rest of the linen enclosure fence was white.

26
27

You can begin to see the plan of salvation already. The earthly presence of God at that time was believed to reside in the Holy of Holies, inside the Tabernacle. One could only gain entrance to the courtyard through the designated gate. There was no other. In order for people today to be in God's presence, one must come through His designated gate, which is Jesus Christ.

28
29 Once inside the eastern gate, you faced THE ALTAR. Exodus 27:1-2 **And thou shalt**
30 **make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall**
31 **be foursquare: and the height thereof shall be three cubits. [2] And thou shalt make**
32 **the horns of it upon the four corners thereof: his horns shall be of the same: and**
33 **thou shalt overlay it with brass.**

34
35 No one got closer to God's presence in the Holy of Holies until he or she encountered the

1 the courtyard through the prescribed Eastern Gate.

2
3 Just as today no one enters God's presence with sin in his or her life, so at the Tabernacle
4 the priests could not enter the actual structure until first they had used the Laver for
5 Cleansing situated between the altar and the building.

6
7 Exodus 30:17-21

8 **And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, [18] Thou shalt also make a laver of**
9 **brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the**
10 **tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. [19]**
11 **For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: [20] When**
12 **they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they**
13 **die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by**
14 **fire unto the Lord: [21] So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die**
15 **not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout**
16 **their generations.**

17
18 Our "washing" is not by water, but rather by the precious blood of Jesus. 1 John 1:7
19 **But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another,**
20 **and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

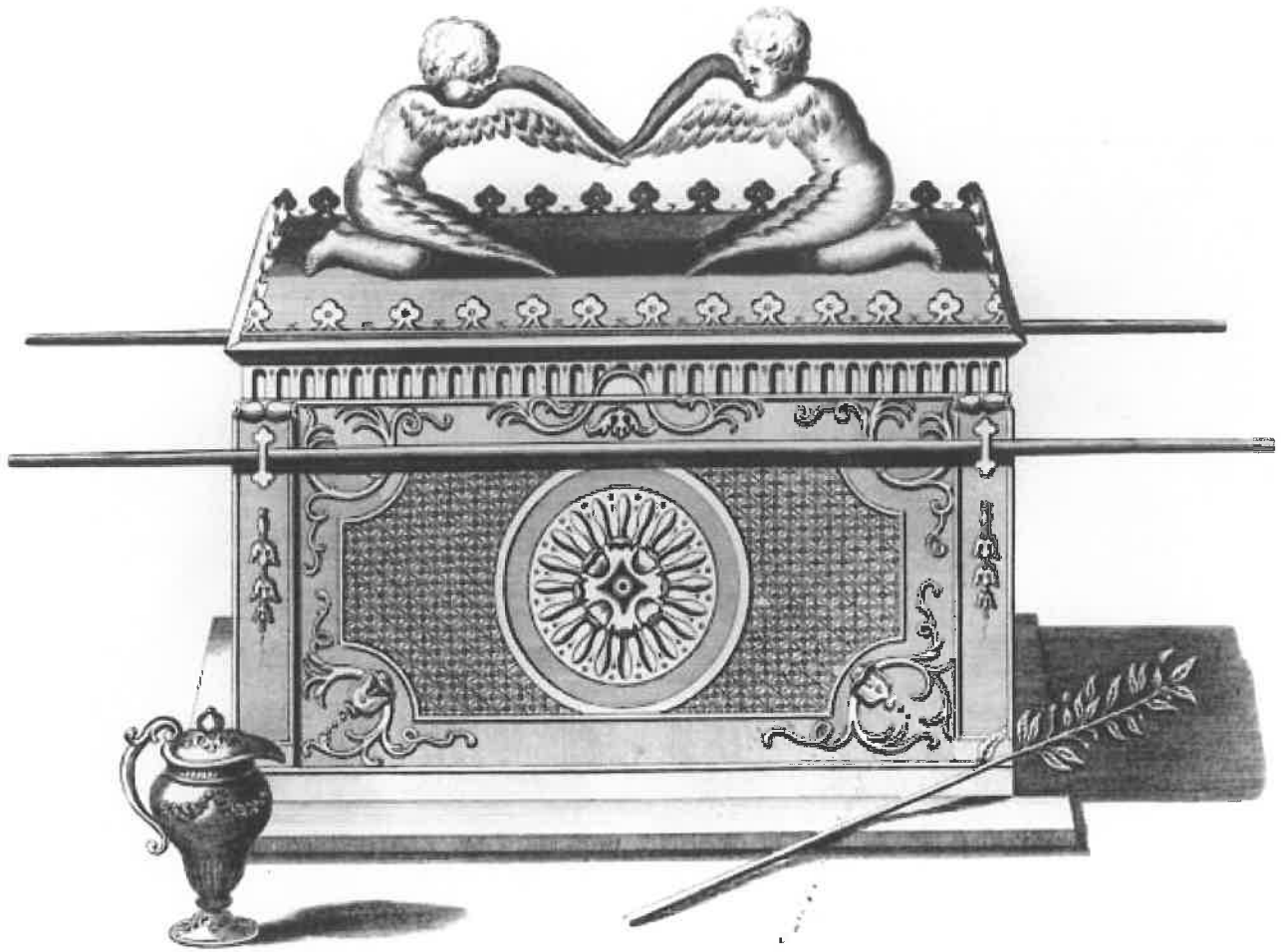
21 22 INSIDE THE TABERNACLE

23
24 Only the priests could enter the Tabernacle. In the "front" chamber (15' x 30') were
25 three articles (each of which would be found later in the great Temple in Jerusalem):

26
27 1. On the right as one entered was THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD. It was made of
28 precious acacia wood and covered with gold. Exodus 25:30 **And thou shalt set upon**
29 **the table shewbread before me alway.** On that table twelve loaves of bread were
30 placed which were for the priests to eat. It symbolized fellowship with God. Bread was
31 the staff of life in the Old Testament.

32
33 2. On the left as one entered was the Golden Candlestick. Exodus 25:31 **And thou**
34 **shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made:**
35 **his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the**
36 **same.** Don't think about candles here. There was oil inside each "stick." Candles
37 burn by self-consumption, while lamps burn by the continual supply of oil being poured
38 into them. The Church today is to be a divine light to the world by the continual supply
39 of the oil of the Holy Spirit.

40
41 3. In the center, just in front of the sacred Vail was the Golden Altar of Incense.



THE ARK OF THE COVENANT (FOUND IN THE HOLY OF HOLIES)

Exodus 30:1 **And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of acacia wood shalt thou make it.**

This altar was for the burning of incense to the Lord. Incense is a “type” of the prayers and intercessions of the saints which ascend unto God: Psalm 141:1-2 **A Psalm of David. Lord, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee. [2] Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.** This altar is a marvelous representation of our Lord Jesus who is also interceding for us: Hebrews 7:25 **Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**

THE VAIL

The two chambers of the Tabernacle were called “The Holy Place” (front room 15' x 30') and contained the afore-mentioned three articles of furniture and “The Holy of Holies”, the inside room that was 15' cubed. Only the high priest could enter it and then only one

1 time a year. He would enter it holding a container of sacrificial blood which he would
2 sprinkle over the “mercy seat,” which was the “lid” of the Ark of the Covenant - the only
3 article in that holy room. The “lid” displayed two angelic cherubim, their wings
4 extended toward each other. It was believed that the “shekinah” - the earthly presence of
5 God dwelt between those wings.

6
7 Now consider this carefully: No one but the high priest could enter that holy presence -
8 and then very briefly. UNTIL....Jesus died on the cross (Matthew 27:51 **And, behold,**
9 **the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did**
10 **quake, and the rocks rent;)** Jesus made it possible for you and me to enter the
11 presence of God at any time in any place.

12 The Tabernacle Now

13
14
15 The Tabernacle we have studied today was used until Solomon built the Great Temple in
16 Jerusalem around 1000 BC. The basic plan of the Tabernacle was used in the Temple as
17 well. The Babylonians destroyed the Temple in 586 B.C. A makeshift Temple was
18 built when the Jews returned to Judea, but it was not until the time of King Herod the
19 Great (in Jesus’ time) that the massive Temple was re-built. It did not last long and was
20 destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. The gold dome of the Mosque of Omar now sits
21 where the Temple was once situated.

22
23 The Ark of the Covenant has disappeared and has never been found.
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