

Camping with God

Part 1 – The Introduction

Goal

- To show how God used the tabernacle to reveal Christ and his plan of redemption.
- The primary biblical references come from Exodus chapters 25-40 and Hebrews chapters 8-10
- The primary non-biblical resources are:
 - Camping with God, by Stephen F. Olford
 - The Tabernacle, by M.R. DeHaan, M.D.
 - Pictorial Library of Bible Lands, volume 3
 - Independent Lutheran Seminary, The Sacrificial System

Tabernacle Replica North of Eilat, Israel ☆



Background

- Israel had been held in slavery for 400 years in Egypt.
- While in Egypt the people of Israel didn't have a place to worship the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- Soon after the Exodus this would change.

- The generally accepted date of the Exodus is around 1450 B.C.
- Israel “wandered” in the wilderness of the Sinai for 40 years with the tabernacle of God.
- The date of the construction of Solomon’s Temple is circa 950 B.C.
- It is between these events that Israel “Camped with God” for 500 years using the tabernacle as a place of worship.

Tabernacle Timeline



Our Way

- When we build a church today we:
 - Form a committee
 - Hire an architect
 - Pray about and vote on various plans
 - Arrange for financing
 - Hire a contractor
- Nothing in this method is wrong. In fact, there is no other way to do it unless God provides the plan.

God Provides the Plan

- But, God did provide the plan for the tabernacle. He provided a complete and very specific plan.
- **Exodus 25:8** “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.”
- **Exodus 25:9** “Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.”

God Provides the Plan

- The tabernacle was the only building on earth designed by God.
- **Hebrews 8:5** “They (the priests) serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven.”
- **Hebrews 8:5** continues, 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.”

God Provides the Funding

- At the time of the Exodus;
- **Exodus 12:35-36** “The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for.”

God Provides the Funding

- **Exodus 25:1-2** The Lord said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man *whose heart prompts* him to give.”
- **Exodus 25:6** “These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows□; acacia wood; olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense.”

God Provides the Expertise

- God provided two men as “Master Craftsmen” and gave skills to all the workers.
- **Ex 31:1-5** Then the Lord said to Moses, “See, I have chosen Bezalel ... and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts ... Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab ... to help him.”
- **Exodus 31:6** “Also I have given skill to all the craftsmen to make everything I have commanded you.”

God Provides the Meaning (Hebrews 9:8-12)

- “The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing.”
- “When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation.”
- “He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.”

3 | Camp



The twelve tribes of Israel



- A person approaching the tabernacle would see a structure that was:
- 75 feet across
- 150 feet long
- Surrounded by a white linen curtain
- With only one entrance

As We Approach God



■ 3 major structures

- The Gate
- Courtyard & Walls
- The Tent

■ 3 major parts of the tabernacle proper

- Coverings
- Holy Place
- Holy of Holies

An Overview



■ The seven furnishings of the tabernacle:

■ In the Courtyard:

1. Bronze Altar of Sacrifice
2. Bronze Laver (basin)

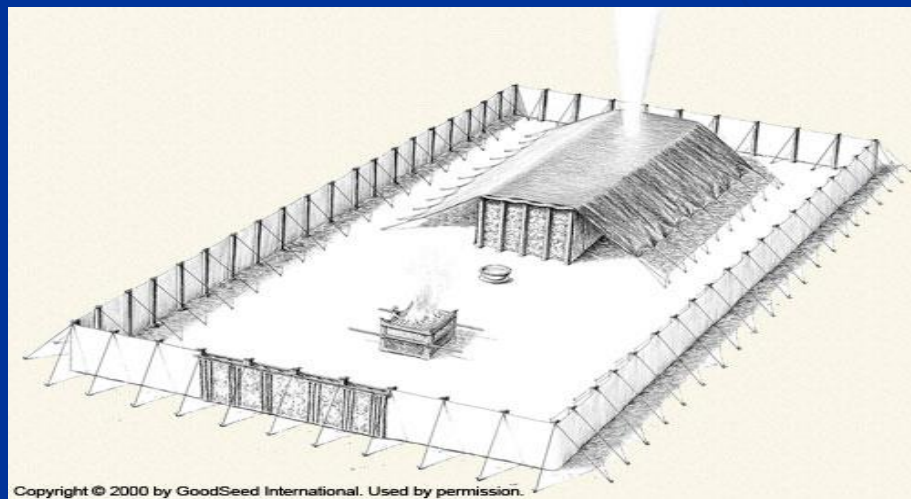
■ In the Holy Place:

3. Table for Showbread
4. Lamp
5. Altar of Incense

■ In the Holy of Holies:

6. Ark of the Covenant
7. Mercy Seat

An Overview



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A Quick Look – The Courtyard

- White curtain walls
- A single curtain gate
- A bronze altar of sacrifice
- A bronze laver (wash basin)
- The tabernacle proper enclosing the:
 - Holy Place (30 x 15 x 15)
 - Holy of Holies (15 x 15 x 15)



A Quick Look – The Tabernacle

■ The Holy Place

- Lamp
- Table for Showbread
- Incense Altar
- Curtain (veil)

■ Holy of Holies

- Ark of the Covenant
- Mercy Seat



Summary of Our First Look

- The tabernacle was designed by God & was a “shadow of things in Heaven”.
- The tabernacle was used for 500 years between the Exodus and the construction of the first Temple by Solomon.
- A person walking up to the tabernacle would only see the white wall and the drab tabernacle roof.
- There were three major components to the tabernacle.
- There were seven furnishing within the tabernacle.
 - Perfection & completeness
- The tabernacle was an illustration of Christ and redemption.