

The Tabernacle

The Tribes (Num 2)

- 12 tribes surrounded the tribe of Levi
- The tribe of Levi encircled the Tabernacle
- God was at the center of the entire community
- God should always be the focus of our lives

The Court (Ex 27:9-19)

- 100 cubits x 50 cubits x 5 cubits
- 1 cubit was about 18-20 inches
- White linen symbolized a holy perimeter
- Saints must be holy (Lev 11:44, 1 Pet 1:15-16)

The Entrance (Ex 27:14-16)

- 20 cubits wide centered on the eastern side
- Red symbolized propitiation (Lev 14:4, Josh 2:17-18)
- Blue symbolized the Law (Num 15:38-40)
- Purple symbolized royalty (Mark 15:17-18)
- Jesus is the only way to God (John 10:9, 14:6)

The Altar (Ex 27:1-8)

- 5 cubits (L) x 5 cubits (W) x 3 cubits (H)
- Symbolized the act of sacrifice (Heb 9:22)
- Jesus died as a sin offering (John 1:29)
- Christians are to be living sacrifices (Rom 12:1)

The Laver (Ex 30:17-21)

- The priests used it to wash their hands & feet
- Washing symbolized baptism & purity (John 13:10)
- Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit (John 1:33)
- Believers are cleansed in baptism (Acts 22:16)

The Tabernacle (Ex 26)

- Made of red, blue & purple fabric (Christ)
- God was dwelling among His people (Ex 25:8)
- Jesus came as God in the flesh (Col 2:9)
- Christians are the temple of God (1 Cor 3:16)

The Lampstand (Ex 25:31-40)

- Seven branches with seven lamps (Rev 1:20)
- Placed on the south side of the Holy Place
- Jesus is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5)
- Christians are the light of the world (Mt 5:14-16)

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The Showbread (Ex 25:23-30)

- 2 cubits (L) x 1 cubit (W) x 1.5 cubits (H)
- Placed on the north side of the Holy Place
- 12 unleavened loaves = the 12 tribes (Lev 24:5-9)
- Leaven associated with sin (Lev 2:11, 1 Cor 5:7-8)

The Altar of Incense (Ex 30:1-10)

- 1 cubit (L) x 1 cubit (W) x 2 cubits (H)
- Placed before the veil of the Holy Place
- Symbolized the prayers of the saints (Rev 5:8)
- Our prayers should be a pleasing aroma

The Veil (Ex 26:31-33)

- Divided the Holy Place & the Most Holy Place
- Made of red, blue & purple fabric (Christ)
- Formed a separation between God & humanity
- Torn when Jesus died (Mt 27:51)
- He gave us access to God (Heb 10:19-20)

The Ark of the Testimony (Ex 25:10-16)

- 2.5 cubits (L) x 1.5 cubits (W) x 1.5 cubits (H)
- Placed behind the veil in the Most Holy Place
- Also called the ark of the covenant (Num 10:33)

The Mercy Seat (Ex 25:17-22)

- Golden lid with 2 cherubim on top of the ark
- God would appear above it (i.e., a throne)
- Linked to atonement, propitiation (Lev 16:15)
- Greek term is *hilasterion* (Rom 3:25, Heb 9:5)

The Golden Pot of Manna (Ex 16:32-34)

- An omer (3 quarts) placed inside the ark
- Stored within a golden pot (Heb 9:4)
- Symbolized the Bread of life (John 6:32-33)

Aaron's Rod (Num 17:1-10)

- 12 rods placed before the Testimony as a test
- Aaron's rod produced blossoms and ripe almonds
- Authenticated Aaron as God's chosen instrument
- Every prophet authenticated by a sign (Deut 18:22)
- Jesus authenticated by the resurrection (Mt 12:38-40)

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The Ten Commandments (Ex 25:16)

- Also known as the Testimony (Ex 34:28-29)
- Was the foundation of the Old Covenant
- Written on 2 tablets of stone (Deut 4:13)
- Placed within the ark (Heb 9:4)
- New Covenant is superior to the Old Covenant
- God's law is written on our hearts
- Placed within our mind (Jer 31:33)

Summary

- God should always be the focus of our lives
- God's people must be holy to approach Him
- Jesus Christ is the only way to God
- He died to take away our sins
- We must be living sacrifices (serving Him)
- We approach God via baptism & the Holy Spirit
- God tabernacles with us and dwells in us
- We must let our light shine before men
- We must remove sin (leaven) from our lives
- Our prayers should be a pleasing aroma
- Christ's death gives us access to God
- His blood provides atonement, propitiation
- He is the Bread of life, God's chosen instrument
- Through Him, God puts His law in our hearts, minds