

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## EXODUS 24-27

The world's most exceptional architecture consists of churches, temples, and mosques. *St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, England's Westminster Abbey, the pyramids of Giza, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, the Grand Mosque of Mecca, India's Taj Mahal...* they're all religious structures.

An often overlooked proof that man is by nature a worshipper, is the fact he reserves his most ingenious expressions of artistry, and creativity, and engineering for his places of worship. Temples are elaborate.

Yet the world's highest and holiest house of worship no longer stands. In fact, it wasn't designed to stay in any one place very long. Believe it or not, *it was a tent!*

In the epic film "[The Ten Commandments](#)," producer Cecil B. DeMille shows Moses descending from Mount Sinai holding two stone tablets in his hands, *but that's only partially correct*. Today's chapters teach us that under one arm Moses carried the Commandments, but under the other arm he carried a set of architectural drawings - maybe even a roll of blueprints. Moses was given plans for a tent and its special furnishings.

This holy tent was called [The Tabernacle](#). It was the one place on earth where God agreed to meet with mankind. For five-hundred years a tent will serve as the focal point of Israel's worship, and national life.

But first the Hebrew nation needs to formally accept the covenant with God He laid out in Chapters 20-23. And again the people gather to the mountain of God...

Verse 1, "[Now \(God\) said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu \(Aaron's sons\), and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. And Moses alone shall come near the LORD, but they shall not come near; nor shall the people go up with him."](#) Everyone but Moses will need to keep a distance. At Sinai access to God was limited.

["So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said...." Imagine now 2-3 million people shouting together, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do." And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD.](#)" When God speaks, His words should be written down. Be glad Moses took the time to put it on parchment. In fact, we're studying it today.

“And he rose early in the morning...” Now that the people agree to obey the covenant, Moses is eager to confirm their commitment. “And (he) built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.” The people genuinely want to obey. *Sadly, their fallen nature will sabotage their effort.*

And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.” The blood Moses sprinkled on the altar obligated God to His part of the covenant. The blood sprinkled on the people obligated Israel to their part.

John 1:18 tells us, “No one has seen God at any time.” A little later Moses will ask God to see His glory, and God will hide Moses in a crack in the rock, and let him see His backside... but any glimpse of God was rare. Certainly, no one ever looked into God’s face, or saw the full brunt of His glory. And that’s what makes what happens in verse 9 so special, and so amazing...

“Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity.” *Or like a cloudless sky!*

It’s ironic, but on the day the Law was confirmed, God demonstrated His grace. An exception was made so that Aaron, his two sons, and seventy elders join Moses on Mount Sinai... and in verse 10 we’re told, “*they saw the God of Israel...*” For the next 1500 years, until Jesus comes in human form - no man apart from the Hebrew High Priest, will again behold God’s glory.

*These men see God.* Perhaps it was His backside. Maybe they saw Jesus. But in a real way they had the rare opportunity to see God; *then live to tell about it...*

Verse 11, “*But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.*” It amazes me how chill and laid back they are in God’s presence. They’re *chowing down and chilling out!* And this is revealing... From a distance, God’s presence was so awesome and frightening the people trembled. But apparently when these men got up-close to God they felt His warmth, and acceptance, and love - *and it set them at ease.* Rather than fear God, they now relax and enjoy being with Him!

And this is the experience of many believers. The God they once feared is now their sweetest refuge!

“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them.” God will give Moses two stone tablets on which are written His Top Ten. The Ten Commandments were written by God’s own hand.

Verse 13, “So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up to the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them.” Aaron and Hur are put in charge while Moses’ is gone. In Chapter 32 we’ll find they weren’t as trustworthy as Moses thought. In his absence they cause big trouble.

“Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.”

Mount Sinai must’ve resembled an erupting volcano. Smoke and fire roar and pour from the mountain top.

Verse 18, “So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.” And the remainder of Exodus tells us what happened over the next five-and-a-half weeks - *both the glory on the mountain top, AND the gory in the camp below...*

Chapter 25, “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering.” Notice, all our giving to God should be done “willingly” and “from the heart.” 2 Corinthians 9:7 tells us, “God loves a cheerful giver.” Rather than give begrudgingly or reluctantly God would rather us not give at all. An offering that blesses God comes from a joyful heart.

“And this is the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats’ hair; ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.” The ephod and breastplate will be the priestly attire. We’ll discuss them next week. But the rest of the materials will be used in the tabernacle.

An itemized materials list included: 2200 pounds of gold, 7500 pounds of silver, 5300 pounds of bronze. A total weight of 19,000 pounds. The materials cost at today’s

prices would've been \$100 million plus.

In verse 8 God says to Moses, **“And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.”** Now compared to most cathedrals and temples the Tabernacle was tiny. The dimensions of its inner court were 15' x 45', a mere 675 square feet. It's length was about the size of the Brook, our church's fellowship hall. Its width was 10' narrower. Its cost per square foot made it the most expensive building ever constructed!

The outer court surrounding the tent was sectored off by a fence. The entire compound - the tent and courtyard were 150' x 75' - about half a football field.

And the Tabernacle was covered with badger skins. Badger skins are nothing like mink or fox. They aren't pretty, fluffy pelts. The skins are rough and weathered. Though the inside of the Tabernacle was filled with treasures, the outside looked ugly and insignificant...

Though the Tabernacle was unimpressive in terms of size and appearance what made it stand out was its Occupant. It was God's throne room on Earth.

In verse 9 God says to Moses, **“According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.”** Moses was not to freelance. God had exact specs for every detail. Every pole and socket was carefully engineered. Every facet was there for a reason.

Here's the point, the Tabernacle was *an earthly replica of heavenly realities*. In the NT, Hebrews 8:5 we're told the tent God had Moses build was **“the copy and shadow of the heavenly things.”** In essence, the Tabernacle was a small-scale model of heaven itself!

Hey, a common question people ask is, **“What does heaven look like?”** Well, you can catch a picture of heaven by studying the Old Testament Tabernacle.

In Revelation, we get glimpses of heaven and we find the same furniture that was in the Tabernacle: *the Ark, incense altar, laver, golden lamp stand*. We see the originals of which the Tabernacle was a type... And how Moses was shown this heavenly pattern was a matter of great speculation among the rabbis. The Jewish Talmud comments, **“An ark of fire and a table of fire and a candlestick of fire came down from heaven. These Moses saw and reproduced...”** Some said the angel Gabriel appeared to Moses on the mountain wearing a carpenter's apron, holding models of the Tabernacle furniture... *How* it was done we're not sure. But wow, what God showed Moses was *a heavy revy*.

As if the Tabernacle were not important enough, there's a verse in the NT that gives it even greater significance. John 1:14 says of Jesus, **“And the Word became flesh and**

dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” The Amplified Version puts it, “the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us...”

In the OT the glory of God was revealed on earth in the Tabernacle. But in the NT God’s glory is revealed on earth in the person of Jesus. The tent God had Moses construct is actually a picture of our Lord Jesus, and His sacrificial work. Every detail of its appearance, its construction, and its ministry speaks of Jesus!

I love to study the Tabernacle because it’s a priority adjustment. Humans tend to *major on what God considers minor, and minor on what God considers major*. And the Tabernacle is the ultimate example. One estimate suggests 10% of the Bible is devoted to the Tabernacle, yet how often do we give it a second thought? We have two chapters on creation - several dozen on the Tabernacle - its priests and sacrifices. Oh, we admire the power of creation, but the scrutiny of heaven is focused on God’s acts of redemption!

In the blueprints God gives to Moses, He begins with the holiest item in the Tabernacle - a throne over which God’s glory hovered, called [The Ark of the Covenant](#).

Verse 10, “**And they shall make an ark of acacia wood** (or a box, a basket - Moses’ mom sent her baby down the Nile in an ark); **two and a half cubits shall be its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height.**” A cubit was 18 inches... thus, the Ark was a box measuring 45” long, by 27” wide, by 27” long. The Ark was a rectangular chest approximately 3 3/4 feet long, by 2 1/4 feet high, by 2 1/4 feet deep.

“**And you shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and shall make on it a molding of gold all around.**” The Ark was made of two materials: gold and wood - representing the two-fold nature of Jesus. He was gold *or divine*, but He was also wood *or human*. Every Tabernacle detail will point us to Jesus.

“**You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four corners; two rings shall be on one side, and two rings on the other side. And you shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them. The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it.**” The Ark had no handles. It was too holy to be touched by human hands. It was carried by poles that slid into rings attached to its side. It was handled indirectly... In 2 Samuel 6 a guy named Uzzah reached out to catch the Ark, and God struck him dead. *Hey, moving the Ark with poles made sure you were pole-letically correct.*

Verse 16, “**And you shall put into the ark the Testimony which I will give you.**” According to Hebrews 9:4 God place three items in the Ark: the two stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, a jar of manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded (representing

Aaron's priestly authority)... And all three items speak to us of Jesus: He's the fulfillment of the Law. He's the bread of life that meets all our needs. He's our great High Priest.

And "You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width." This was Ark's lid - made of pure gold. Its significance is revealed in its name, "*mercy seat*."

Here's the imagery: Above the lid hovered God's holiness. Under the lid sat the demands of the Law. The holiness of God demands obedience to the law. *Yet who has fully obeyed?* It reminds me of my daily prayer, "Dear Lord, so far today, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, been greedy, nasty, grumpy, selfish, or over-indulgent. I'm thankful for that. But in a few minutes, I'm going to get out of bed. And from then on, I'll need a lot more help. Amen."

We're all guilty of violating God's righteous rules, and deserving of His judgment, but between God's holiness and His righteousness there is a place of mercy!

At this seat of mercy the priest came once a year and sprinkled the blood of a sacrifice. At this blood-stained seat God's holiness was satisfied, and man's sin was forgiven. The mercy seat gave to God a place to rest, and put a lid on the Law's condemnation.

Today, Jesus is our place of mercy. And this is why 1 John 2:2 calls Him our "*propitiation*" - the word means to satisfy or placate. It's from the Hebrew, *kipporeth* or "*mercy seat*." Jesus has put a lid on the Law. He is now the place where we can know God and receive mercy.

Also note the dimensions of the mercy seat indicate it fitted perfectly, exactly on top of the Ark. There was no overhang - ***for no one outside of Christ can be saved...*** And neither was there any part of the Ark that wasn't covered by the mercy seat, meaning ***those who are in Christ Jesus are saved fully and completely.***

Even the lip around the Ark that locked the mercy seat in place speaks of our security in Christ. Nothing can jar us loose or separate us from God's love.

One dimension of the mercy seat that's not given is *its thickness*. As far as we know it could've been three miles thick. No limit is imposed, for God wants us to know there's no limit to the forgiveness that's in Christ.

Verse 18, "And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat." Cherubim are a type of angel. Revelation 4 describes heaven with cherubim hovering over God's throne. Psalm 80:1 refers to God as "You

who dwell between the cherubim.” Apparently in heaven there are cherubim watching over God’s throne – *and from the Ark we glean there are at least two*. Some people believe there was at one time a third covering cherub, but Lucifer sinned, and no longer occupies that post.

“And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.” The Ark was God’s throne in Israel’s sacred tent, and it was an earthly prototype of God’s actual throne in heaven.

And there’ve been prophecy watchers over the last few years who believe the rediscovery of the Ark of the Covenant will be a catalyst for the Jews to rebuild their Temple - a prerequisite of the judgments of Revelation.

And this has given rise to theories as to the Ark’s location. *Real life Raiders of the Lost Ark are hard at work...* Some think Jeremiah hid the Ark in the mountains of Moab. Search expeditions have been launched to the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea... Others believe the Ark is kept in a monastery in Ethiopia... A former Rabbi of the Western Wall in Jerusalem, Yehuda Getz, said he saw the Ark of the Covenant in a tunnel running under the Temple Mount.

Years ago, researcher Ron Wyatt, claimed to have seen the Ark under Golgotha, north of Jerusalem. He believes it was hidden under the mountain where Jesus was crucified, so when His saving blood trickled into the rocks it literally sprinkled onto the mercy seat.

Of course, it may be the Ark Moses made is never discovered, *but a more vital Ark is accessible to us today...* The real Ark is God’s throne in heaven, and we are encouraged in Hebrews 4:16 to, “*come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*” Live at His Ark daily!

The next piece of Tabernacle furniture Moses is to make is [The Table of Showbread](#). Verse 23, “*You shall also make a table of acacia wood; two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height.*” 3 feet long, 1 1/2 feet wide, and 2 1/4 feet high.

“*And you shall overlay it with pure gold...*” And in the next few verses it describes a lip around its edge to keep the bread from sliding off. And then rings on its corners, like the Ark, so that it can be carried on poles.

Verse 29, “You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold. And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.” The word “showbread” meant, “bread of faces” or “presence bread.” This was holy bread, set apart to be eaten before the face of God, in His presence. This bread spoke of fellowship with God. Leviticus 24 tells us twelve loaves sat on the table - one for each tribe of Israel. Once a week the bread was replaced and the priests ate the old bread.

And understand its relevance to us. At the Ark blood was applied and sin forgiven. **But the point of our forgiveness is fellowship.** Sin is cleansed so we can enter God’s presence to know and love God, and be nourished by Him. The showbread spoke of fellowship with God... This is why Jesus called Himself “the bread of life.” He is our showbread. Through Him we’re made aware of God’s presence. In Christ we’re fed God’s strength and sustenance. Jesus is our daily bread.

Next, is **The Golden Lampstand**, or **Menorah**. Since the Tabernacle was covered with animal skins the only light inside came from God’s glory or this lampstand.

Verse 31, “You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold (not wood covered with gold, but pure gold); the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall be of one piece. And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side.” The trunk of the lampstand was one branch, making seven branches total. No dimensions are given so we don’t know the actual size of the Menorah. But again, it was a replica of heaven. When John looks into heaven in Revelation 4:5 he sees, “Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne...”

Verse 33, “Three bowls shall be made like almond blossoms on one branch...” The almond was the first tree to blossom in the spring, thus it speaks of new life.

And in the next verses we get the artistic details of the Menorah. The receptacles or little bowls that held the oil were like almond blossoms. There were three per branch, and four on the trunk. There were also knobs and flowers - 22 bowls, 7 knobs, and 7 flowers. The knobs and flowers were ornamental, while the bowls held the oil that burned and generated light.

Remember every detail of the Tabernacle speaks of Jesus, and the menorah is no exception. The NT calls Jesus, not only *the bread of life*, but “the light of the world.” And while on earth Jesus was *the ONLY light*. Just as the Menorah was the only light in a dark tent, Jesus was the true and only light in our dark world.

Verse 36, “Their knobs and their branches shall be of one piece; all of it shall be one hammered piece of pure gold. You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall



arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it. And its wick-trimmers and their trays shall be of pure gold.” Notice, it’s seven branches, but just one piece of gold. Seven lamps, yet one lampstand. In Revelation 1 John speaks of the seven churches of Asia as seven lampstands. After Jesus ascended to heaven He called the Church to be *the light of the world*. Today, each of us shines the light and love of God into a dark world. Each of us is a branch, but together we’re one piece.

And verse 39 says the lampstand “shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils.” A talent was equal to 100 pounds. Thus, the lampstand and its accessories consisted of 100 pounds of gold. And at \$2800 an ounce - *the price of gold this past Tuesday* - that would make the Menorah alone worth \$4.5 million.

Verse 40 sums up God’s instructions to Moses, “And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.” No freelancing or ad-libbing. All was to be made according to plan.

Chapter 26 describes the Tabernacle’s three courts. An **outer court**... Then the tent or **inner court**, called *The Holy Place*... Then inside the tent that was an **innermost court**, known as *The Holy of Holies*. God’s presence resided over the Ark in the Holy of Holies.

God starts with **The Holy Place** - the tent with its frame and coverings. The blueprints here work their way from the inside out... “Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim you shall weave them.” On the inside of the Tabernacle you’d see linen curtains, embroidered with angels. Exactly like the Bible’s depictions of heaven.

“The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits (42 feet), and the width of each curtain four cubits (6 feet). And every one of the curtains shall have the same measurements. Five curtains shall be coupled to one another, and the other five curtains shall be coupled to one another.” Together the drapes were 42’ x 60’. Verses 4-6 explain that these curtains were connected by loops of blue yarn and gold clasps.

And the lesson is **many parts but one tent**. Today, the Church is the Tabernacle of God on earth, yet we too are made up of many members, yet one body.

Now the artistic and colorful linen curtains were the innermost layer on the Holy Place, but on top of them were three outer layers... *of goats’ hair, of ram’s skin, and of badger skin*. Verse 7, “You shall also make curtains of goats’ hair, to be a tent over the tabernacle.”

Goat’s hair was ugly and coarse. It was rough like felt. A blanket of goats’ hair lay over the colorful linen.

“You shall make eleven curtains. The length of each curtain shall be thirty cubits (45 feet), and the width of each curtain four cubits (6 feet); and the eleven curtains shall all have the same measurements.” The second layer of the tent was just a little larger than the linen. All eleven curtains together totaled 45’ by 66’.

Verses 9-13 tell us again that a system of loops and bronze clasps held the goat’s hair curtains together.

Verse 14 tells us that the goat’s hair curtains were blanketed by ram skins, which were like a fine leather. “You shall also make a covering of ram skins dyed red for the tent, and a covering of badger skins above that...” The badger skin was the color of the goat’s hair, ugly and darker. Badger skin was extremely durable and waterproof. According to Ezekiel 16:10 badger skin was used for sandals. The Hebrew word translated “*badger*” may refer to *porpoise skins* - we’re not sure.

The next few verses describe the frame on which these curtains rested... Verse 15, “And for the tabernacle you shall make the boards of acacia wood, standing upright. Ten cubits (15 feet) shall be the length of a board, and a cubit and a half (2¼ feet) shall be the width of each board. Two tenons shall be in each board for binding one to another. Thus you shall make for all the boards of the tabernacle. The term “*tenons*” means “*hands*.” They were connectors. The boards fit together like tongue and groove paneling.

According to the next verses each gold-plated board sat in two sockets of silver. There were twenty boards on the south side and north side. Since the Tabernacle always faced east its west side or back consisted of just six board and two corner boards, in silver sockets.

Throughout the OT silver speaks of redemption. The redemption price was always paid with silver. Silver was the divine currency. That’s why it’s no surprise to see the Tabernacle resting on a foundation of silver.

Verse 26 describe horizontal supports for the boards of the side walls. They were overlaid with gold and long enough to run the length of the tent. This made the whole structure stronger... In verse 30 Moses is told, “And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain.”

Now let me sum all this up... The inner court or “*Holy Place*” was a rectangle. It was 15’ wide, by 45’ long, by 15’ high. We haven’t mentioned it, but its floor was dirt. A reminder to the Hebrews that this world was not their home. In the Tabernacle the beauty was all above. There was no reason to ever look down. *We lose faith and get in trouble when we look down. Always look up!*

The ceiling consisted of four layers: linen, covered by goat’s hair, ram’s skin, and badger pelts. The walls were made of wooden panels, each overlaid with gold.

That means when you approached the Tabernacle from outside it looked ugly, dark, unimpressive - but from the inside it was beautiful... Angels embroidered on purple, and blue, and scarlet linen. From the inside it was a kaleidoscope of color, and art, and shiny gold.

And recall this Tent was a picture of Jesus... Isaiah 53:2 says of Him, “He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.” There was nothing attractive about Jesus’ physical appearance. He looked like an ordinary guy, but on the inside He was beautiful. Jesus had a colorful personality, an attractive purity, a golden character.

And the same is true for those who follow Jesus. On the outside you might look less than impressive. You’re just an ordinary guy, but on the inside, spiritually you’re a new creation in Christ. You’ve been made fit for the presence of God. *That’s why you can’t size me up by taking my measurements!* Folks look at you and me and see nothing special - but they don’t see who we are in Christ! We’re God’s work of art! On the inside He’s making us into something beautiful and priceless.

The Tabernacle doors are described next. Verse 31, “You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim. You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Their hooks shall be of gold, upon four sockets of silver. And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy.”

Thirty feet into the Tent God had Moses hang this veil. It separated **The Holy Place** from the innermost court - the 15’ x 15’ x 15’ cube or **The Holy of Holies**.

Verse 34, “You shall put the mercy seat upon the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy. You shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand across from the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south; and you shall put the table on the north side.”

Inside **The Holy of Holies** sat the Ark - while outside the veil in **The Holy Place** sat the lampstand and table of showbread... They were separated by the linen veil.

Only once a year the High Priest would enter through the veil into God’s presence and The Holy of Holies. Interestingly, when Jesus died, Matthew 27 states, “the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.” Jesus abolished this limited access. He opened the door into God’s Holiest. In Christ we can now come boldly to His throne of grace, and live in His presence. According to Hebrews 10:19-20, the veil over the Holy of Holies also represented the body of Jesus. The only way to God is through Jesus’ torn and crucified body.

Verse 36 describes the door that led from the outer court into the Holy Place. *We're now moving inside out...* "You shall make a screen for the door of the tabernacle, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold; their hooks shall be of gold, and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them."

Chapter 27 now takes us into the outer court... "You shall make an altar of acacia wood..." The Hebrew word "altar" literally means "killing place." This is where God's people will offer their sacrifices. This altar is to be "five cubits long (7½ feet) and five cubits wide - the altar shall be square - and its height shall be three cubits (4½ feet). Over the years millions of animals will die on this altar. They all foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice for sin. Our *killing place* is no longer a bronze altar, but Calvary's cross - where Jesus, the Lamb of God, was killed to earn for us a permanent pardon.

Verse 2, "You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it." The horns of the altar gave you a way to tie down the sacrifice and keep it in place. "And you shall overlay it with bronze." Throughout the Bible *bronze* speaks of God's judgment. And it's here on the altar that Israel's sin was judged. The wooden altar was plated with bronze medal so it could withstand the tremendous heat necessary to burn the sacrifices. The brazen altar was the equivalent of a 7½ feet square barbecue pit.

In fact, if you go out back and check out the Calvary CSM BBQ pit you'll see we named it, *The Tabernacle!*

Verses 3-8 describes the altar and *it's pans, shovels, basins, forks*. It too was carried on poles, *untouched by sinful hands*. In verse 8, Moses is told, "as it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make it."

Once more we're going inside out. Verse 9 describes the fence surrounding the outer court. "You shall also make the court of the tabernacle. For the south side there shall be hangings for the court made of fine woven linen, 100 cubits long for one side (150 feet)."

This is a linen fence supported on the two long sides (*north and south*) by twenty posts and twenty sockets of bronze, with silver hooks. The length of the outer court was 150' or 50 yards - that's half a football field.

Verse 13 tells us the width - or the west and eastern sides of the outer court - were both 50 cubits or 75'. The Tabernacle opened facing east. It's gate was a thirty foot opening, covered by a colorful linen screen.

Verse 18 sums the fence around the courtyard, "The length of the court shall be 100 cubits, the width fifty throughout, and the height five cubits (or 7½ feet tall), made of fine woven thread, and its sockets of bronze. All the utensils of the tabernacle for all its

service, all its pegs, and all the pegs of the court, shall be of bronze.”

It's interesting, the Tabernacle had only one door. Likewise there's only one way to God. In the NT Jesus said, "I am the door..." In John 10 He was referring to the door of the sheepfold, but Jesus was also the door to the Tabernacle - the only door into God's presence.

We learn later the tribe of Judah camped east of the Tabernacle. So to enter you had to go through Judah. It's no coincidence Jesus was from the tribe of Judah!

And verse 20 begins preparations for the ministry of the Tabernacle. "And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually." For the Tabernacle to operate it needed olive oil to burn in the menorah to light the Holy Place. *This is how God begins His work today, always by the oil of His Spirit.*

Chapter 27 concludes, "In the tabernacle of meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening until morning before the LORD. It shall be a statute forever to their generations on behalf of the children of Israel." Let's recap this morning's study with a virtual tour through the Tabernacle - from outside into the Holy of Holies.