

Exodus 25-31

INTRODUCTION TO THE TABERNACLE

The only building ever constructed upon this earth which was perfect from its very beginning in every detail…was the tabernacle in the wilderness. The blueprint, the pattern and the plan, the design, and all of its specifications were minutely made in heaven, committed unto Moses for the children of Israel, while he was on the mountain, shortly after their deliverance from Egypt. Every single detail was designed by the Almighty God, every part had a prophetic, redemptive, and typical significance. There is no portion of Scripture richer in meaning, more perfect in its teaching of the plan of redemption, than this divinely designed building. God Himself was the architect, and every detail points to some aspect of the character and work of the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. —M. R. DeHaan, *The Tabernacle*

Israel has been delivered from bondage in Egypt, by God's miraculous power and by the blood of the lamb. They have traveled through the Red Sea and the wilderness, seeing God's provision and protection. And now they are at Mount Sinai, the mountain of God, where they will spend a year learning the commandments of God (and breaking them!), building the tabernacle, and consecrating the priesthood.

A Slavery: Serving Pharaoh (1-5)
  B Redemption: The Lamb of God (6-12)
    C The Wilderness: God with Israel (13-18)
      D The Covenant: Living as God's People (19-24)
    C The Tabernacle: God with Israel (25-31)
  B Rebellion: The Golden Calf (32-34)
A Worship: Building for God (35-40)

Exodus 25-31 are not the most "exciting" chapters from a narrative standpoint. They read more like a construction manual than a story. These chapters can be easily skimmed over and forgotten. But these chapters hold keys to understanding God's redemptive plan.

Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you. (Exodus 25:9; cf. 25:40; 26:30; 27:8; Numbers 8:4; Acts 7:44)

They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. 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." (Hebrews 8:5)

It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. (Hebrews 9:23-24)

The description of the tabernacle in the book of Exodus is not the subject of many sermons. It is skimmed lightly even by many commentaries… As it is, most skip from Moses' covenant in Ex 24 to the golden calf episode in Ex 32, touch down briefly as the tabernacle is completed, and consider their study of Exodus complete.
—Amy H. C. Robertson

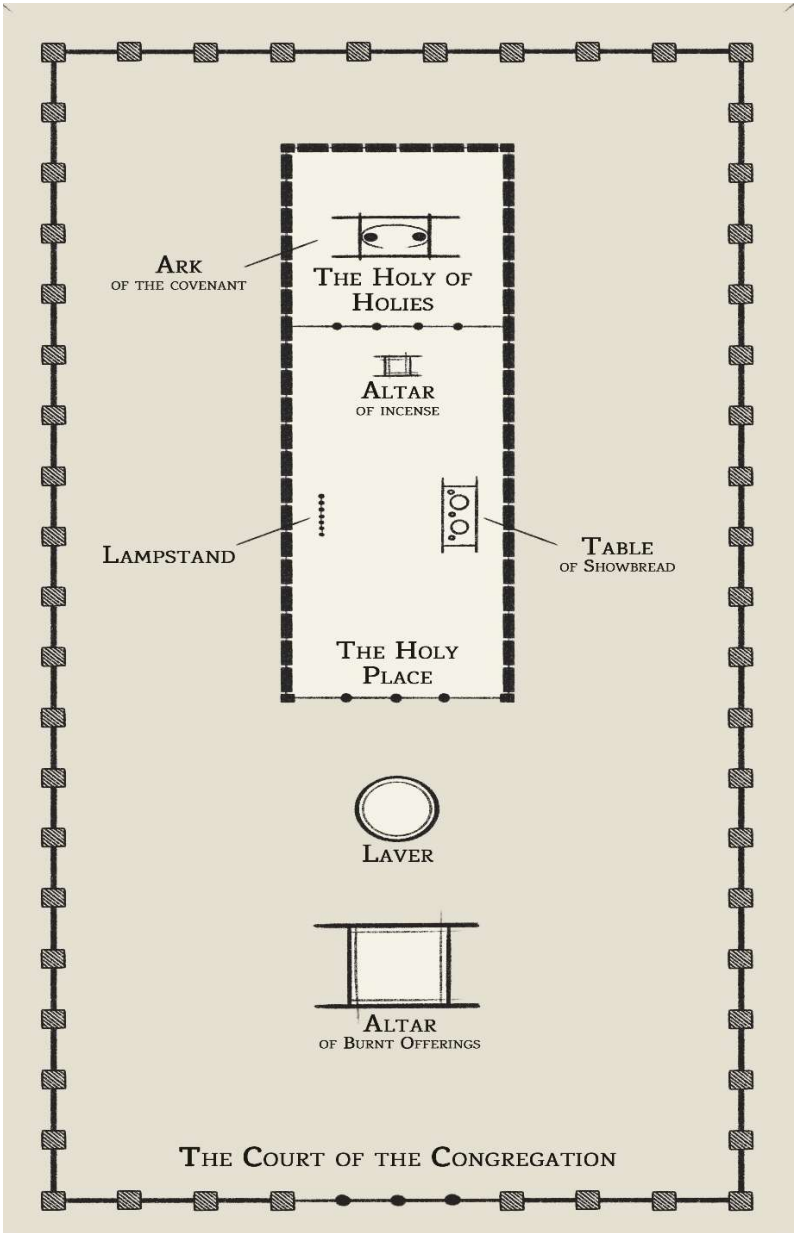
Tabernacle. Hebrew, *mishkan,* "a dwelling place; specifically, a tent." Used 139x in the OT. 58x in Exodus.

*A **type** in Scripture is a "prophetic symbol" because all types are representations of something yet future. More specifically, a type in Scripture is a person or thing in the OT that foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament.*
—gotquestions.org

*The word **pattern** almost exclusively refers to an imitation of something that already exists in reality. The tabernacle, then, is modeled upon something else. It is a replica of a celestial archetype—that is, the heavenly sanctuary.*
—John D. Currid

WHY IS THE TABERNACLE IMPORTANT TO STUDY?

1. It reveals the _____ of God.
2. It reveals the _____ of God.
3. It reveals the _____ in approaching God.
4. It reveals the _____ of Jesus Christ.
5. It gives us _____ in knowing how to live as God's priests.



Just as they lived in tents, so God would condescend to "dwell" in a tent. —Ronald Youngblood

The most obvious purpose of the Tabernacle was to assure Israel that God was with them wherever they travelled. It was to be the fulfillment of Ex. 29:45: "I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God." —Ian Hart

The Tabernacle was designed as a mobile sanctuary. Unlike the massive, stationary temples in Egypt or Babylon, Israel's God was not tied down to a single location. His presence was dynamic, leading His people wherever He called them. —Israel Steinmetz

Sanctuary. Hebrew, *miqdash,* "a holy place." From Heb., *qadash,* "to set apart as holy, consecrate."

The people would soon discover that although the Lord was the central resident of their camp and there was a way into His presence, He was not, so to speak, "at home" to callers. In this way, a dilemma was created—the provision of entrances, and yet the implicit erection of a sign that said, "No Admission!" —J. Alec Motyer

The tabernacle foreshadowed Christ in His first advent; the temple looks forward to Christ at His second advent. —A. W. Pink

The Tabernacle is the greatest of all the OT types of Christ. It was all one great object lesson of spiritual truth. —A. B. Simpson

The priest is not made. He must be born a priest... I refer to the new birth—the birth of water and the Spirit. Thus all Christians have become priests. —Martin Luther