

Exodus, the book that gives us the description of the Tabernacle, logically follows the book of Genesis. Genesis tells the story of man's failure. It begins with that sublime expression, "In the beginning God..." and closes with the symbolic words, "In a coffin in Egypt." The story of Genesis is the story of man falling from a perfect creation into sin and death. However, God gave man a hope of a promised Savior – a Redeemer! --- then follows Exodus, the book of Redemption!

Exodus covers 40 chapters, 13 of these chapters have to do entirely with the Tabernacle, and the priests who were to minister therein.

Before mention is made of the Tabernacle in Scripture, the story of redemption is written in language that cannot be mistaken. The opening chapter of Exodus tells the story of slavery – a picture of the sinner's bondage to Satan and sin. The children of Israel were given a deliverer from bondage of Egypt in the person of Moses -- sinners are offered the only Savior from bondage to Satan in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The story of the birth of Moses, and his call from God to deliver Israel, is told in the early chapters of Exodus, after which, follows the record of God's righteous judgment upon those who turned an unheeding ear toward God, the only Deliverer. The ten plagues upon the Egyptians is a picture of judgment on all who refuse to accept God's salvation in Christ Jesus. The last, of which was associated with the first Passover in Israel -- a type of Christ, the Paschal Lamb.

Exodus is a continued story of God's redemption,. Immediately after the giving of the first Passover, Israel is delivered from the hosts of the Egyptians at the Red Sea -- another beautiful picture of God's redemption. [Israel's passing through the Red Sea was a figure of Water Baptism, according to 1 Corinthians 10:2]

From the Red Sea on the story is one of wilderness wandering for 40 years as God took care of His children.

Exodus then shows how helpless the children of Israel were in their own strength. And to show them that they could never measure up to God's perfect standard of holiness apart from the Promised Redeemer, God gave them the Ten Commandments and the detailed explanation of their meaning.

That is the story of Exodus up to the part that tells of the Tabernacle. The description of the Tabernacle begins with chapter 25.

Man attempts to "cut portions" from God's Word and to present a mutilated *shorter* Bible. While we would never be guilty of doing this because we believe that **all** Scripture is inspired, nevertheless, are we committing virtually the same act through neglect?

The enumeration of materials, quantities and dimension in relation to the Tabernacle may be regarded by the casual reader as uninteresting or unimportant, until one considers that the Holy Spirit has borne record that all Scripture is God-breathed and is profitable to all (2 Timothy 3:16).

God, Himself, emphasizes the importance of the study of the Tabernacle by:

### **1. THE LENGTH OF TREATMENT**

Only two consecutive chapters in the Bible are given to the account of Creation, while *forty-three*, (that's 43!) chapters are given to the Tabernacle and its ceremonies – Exodus 25 through 40 and the book of Leviticus.

### **2. REPETITION**

Exodus, chapter 25 to 28, is *detailed* instruction from God on how the Tabernacle should be built. And then, chapter 35 to 40 is an accurate account of how it *was* built. Verse-after-verse of these two passages are identical except the tense is changed.

### **3. THE MANY NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES TO THE TABERNACLE**

The New Testament book of Hebrews is an invaluable commentary on the Tabernacle, however, references the New Testament are not confined to Hebrews alone, references concerning the Tabernacle are found in the Gospels, in Acts; and mentioned time and time again throughout the Epistles and in the book of Revelation.

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Now that we have a *general* idea of the Tabernacle and its furnishings, let's travel again *step by step through the Tabernacle*, this time being very careful to halt at every location -- and giving attention to the Gospel found there and the truth God has for us!

### **CONSIDER THE TABERNACLE'S HISTORICAL SETTING**

The Israelites had recently been freed from the rule of Pharaoh where they had been in bondage for over 400 years. Since the time of this recent deliverance Moses had been their leader, he in turn receives his instructions from God

In Exodus 19:5-6 God, Who was now their King, proposed to give them laws. This was the beginning of the Theocracy. Two events followed:

- (1) A code of laws was made – Exodus, chapters 20 to 24
- (2) A dwelling place for the King was built – Exodus, chapters 25 to 40

The first mention of the Tabernacle is Exodus 15:17, where God's "*dwelling place*," among men is mentioned

– [The Hebrew word translated as "*Tabernacle*" means "*dwelling in their midst*"]

From the completion of the Tabernacle until the present time, God has never been without a dwelling place on earth. After the Tabernacle, the Temple was God's house, and then, when its glory had departed, God came to earth in the Person of His Son – John 1:14 & Colossians 2:9.

When Jesus left this earth, He sent the Comforter – the Holy Spirit – and He dwells in the hearts of individual believers today by the indwelling Holy Spirit (1

Corinthians 3:15-17). Today, the whole body of believers forms the true Church, the habitation of God in this age – Ephesians 2:21-22, Exodus 25:8 with Matthew 18:20.

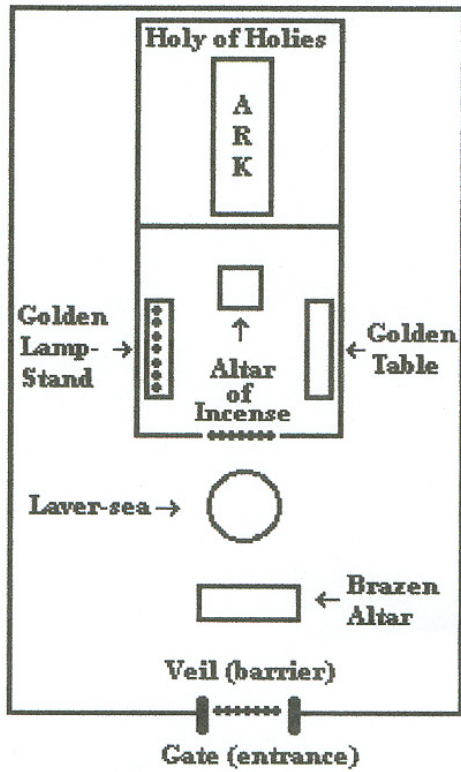
### GETTING THE PATTERN FOR THE TABERNACLE

Moses, at God's command, went up into the mount, and for six days waited for God's voice, after which he was forty days receiving the pattern of the Tabernacle. God was showing him into the heavenlies, and telling him exactly how the pattern of the Tabernacle should be built.

When Moses came down from the mount after getting the pattern for the Tabernacle, Scripture tells us that *"his face shone"* because he had beheld God's glory as he had seen the true Tabernacle in the heavenlies – Acts 7:44.

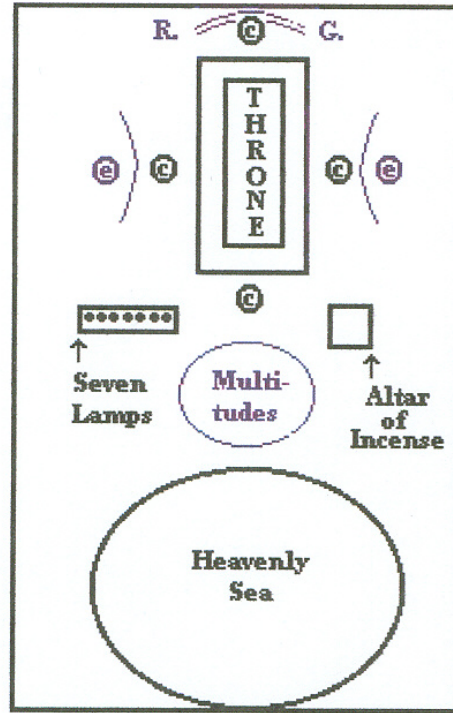
This is the experience of every believer who gives God a chance to reveal Christ as a pattern for his life. God's glory fills the believer's heart, his personality, and ultimately his whole life. *Oh, to have God's glory to fill our life as He filled His Tabernacle of old!*

Revelation, in several places, especially chapter 4, describes a *"Heavenly Tabernacle,"* which, evidently, the earthly Tabernacle was patterned after. Note the striking similarity between this *"Heavenly Tabernacle"* and the Tabernacle God commanded Moses to build for a house of worship. [Diagram on next page] They each had a center for God to dwell – the Ark of the Covenant and the Throne of God; and they each had the seven candles, or lamps; they each had an Alter of Incense. And one could find comparisons in the Laver in the Old Testament Tabernacle and the Glassy Sea of the Heavenly Tabernacle. Evidently there are similarities that are very distinctive according to Exodus 25:5 & 40 and Hebrews 8:5 & 9:23 – (Later David saw the model of the Heavenly Temple – 1 Chronicles 28:11-19)



**Earthly Tabernacle**

(not to scale)



c = Cherub      e = Elders  
R.G. = Rainbow Glory

**Heavenly Temple**

### Financing

The most precious of metals, jewels and finest of raw materials were used. For instance, it would take - **2,400 pounds of gold; 8,400 pounds of silver, and 8,400 pounds of brass**, and this is not counting the hard work, fabrics, skins, oil, dyes, and precious stones.

It is estimated that the Tabernacle would cost well over **two million dollars** - without counting the labor.

### 15 KINDS OF MATERIAL WERE USED FOR THE TABERNACLE

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|------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Gold          | 7. Fine linen            | 13. Spices for anointing oil and incense           |
| 2. Silver        | 8. Goat hair             | 14. Onyx stones (28:6-14)                          |
| 3. Brass         | 9. Badger skins          | 15. Precious stones for breastplate of High Priest |
| 4. Blue linen    | 10. Rams skins, dyed red |  |
| 5. Purple linen  | 11. Acacia wood          |  |
| 6. Scarlet linen | 12. Oil for light        |  |

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How Was This Raised?

God's leader, Moses, had to present the need of materials to the people and these people, fresh from slavery, remember all that God had done for them, rushed forward as one body to lay their wealth at the feet of Moses (Exodus 35:4-9, 36).

Here is an excellent example of how God desires that provisions be made for performing His work – *an offering from His people!* The materials used in constructing the Tabernacle came as an *offering* from God's people. Therefore, an offering was taken to build this Tabernacle that would cost approximately a hundred million dollars today.

A misunderstanding arises because of the word "borrow" in Exodus 11:1-3 in the King James Translation. It simply means, "to ask" in the original language. God was allowing them to collect back wages as they "asked" the Egyptians and received, these jewels of gold.

Another interesting thought is, that badger's skins were used for shoes (Exodus 16:10). Therefore God literally asked these traveling people for the shoes off their feet – that they gave willingly – until God had to restrain them! The, God caused their shoes to last forty years (Deuteronomy 29:5)!

The procedure to be followed was very simple. Every man was to give willingly with his heart (Exodus 25:2). From the offering for the Tabernacle until this day the proper attitude and motive of giving to God has been the same – 2 Corinthians 9:7.

The Israelites cheerfully brought offerings ranging from gold to goat's hair (Exodus 25:3-7). Where did the Israelites get all of these provisions? Exodus 12:36 states that "the Lord gave the people favor -- [well-disposed in the eyes of the Egyptians – inclined the Egyptians so favorably toward the people] -- in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent – [supplied, gave them gladly] – unto them such things as they required. They spoiled the Egyptians – [took payment]. Verse 35 says, "The children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed – [requested, asked for] -- of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment."

The problem of God's house not having all the provisions it needs has never been that God's people haven't had enough to give, but, rather, it is a matter of attitude, primarily because we forget a very important spiritual truth tucked away in Deuteronomy 8:18, which states, "Thou shalt remember the Lord thy God; for it is He who give you power to get wealth."

All the provisions, property, and prosperity we enjoy are the result of God's blessing upon us. However, God did not require offerings from only the wealthy Israelites, but even the humble offerings of goat's hair were requested for the construction of the Tabernacle.

Soon after Moses made God's request known concerning the provisions of the Tabernacle a unique problem arose. Exodus 36:5 states, "The people brought much more than enough."

Who Where The Builders?

No building is erected without plans, therefore, an architect must be secured who drafts the plans and, then from his fertile brain comes forth the structure in every detail. It is inconceivable that God – Who is orderly, systematic, and thorough in every detail of whatever He does – would neglect this most important detail. Not only did God have a plan, He had a “model” in heaven to go by from which He obtained His blue print (Hebrews 9:23).

God was the Originator and Architect of the Tabernacle –  
Independent of any man – (Romans 11:32-36 & Ephesians 1:5, 9, 11)

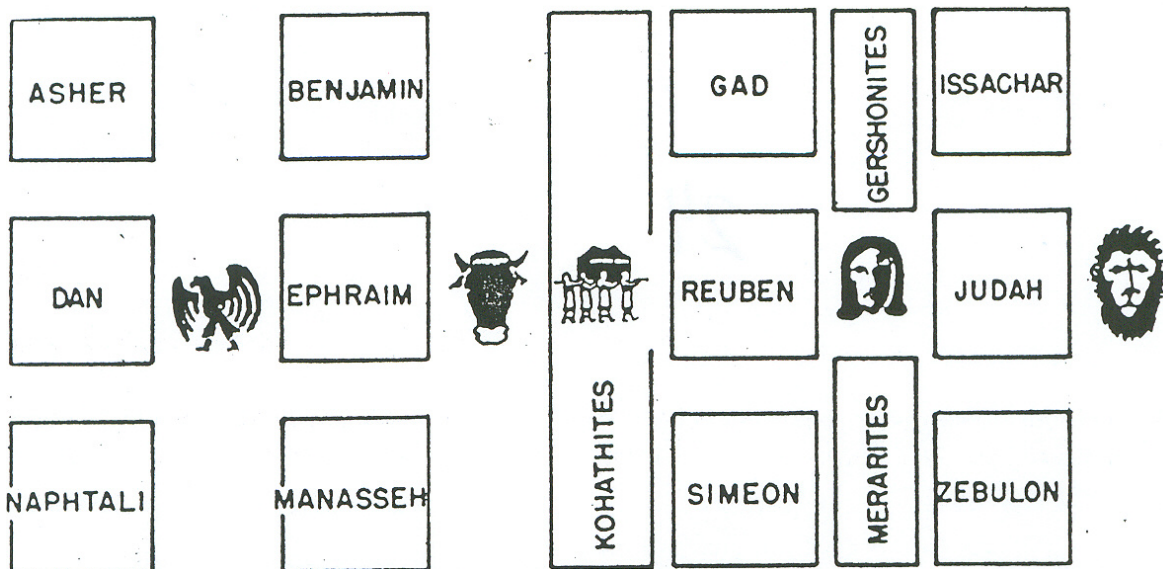
God was not the actual builder of the Tabernacle, nevertheless, He entrusted this part to Moses, who became His superintendent of construction. The “workers” who did the actual building of the Tabernacle, were *all* of the Israelites. Nothing could have been done without them. They all had their part to do, even, if it was only to “weave goats hair.”

These uneducated brick makers knew nothing about building a Tabernacle nevertheless, God gave them a teacher, *Bezaleel* (The name means, “In the shadow of God”). He was a beautiful type of the Holy Spirit – (John 14:26, 15:26 & 16:13).

Everyone did their part, they all worked together, with the result that the Tabernacle was finished in nine months – according to Exodus 4:1-2

The second chapter of Numbers gives the locations of the tribes:

The tribe of Judah was on the East, directly in front of the gate. Christ was to come from this tribe. On the east also were the tribes of Issachar and Zebulon. On the South were the tribes of Reuben, Simeon and Gad. On the West were the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin. On the North were the tribes of Dan, Asher and Naphtali.



Between the tribes and the Tabernacle were the tents of Moses, Aaron and the priests on the East, then the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Numbers gives the locations of the Levites

(sons of Levi) – Gershon, Kohath and Merari. The Gershonites lived on the West of the Tabernacle and had charge of the curtains, coverings, veils and the hangings of the court, according to verses 25-26. The Kohathites, on the South, had charge of all the furniture, according to verses 29-32. The Merarites, on the North, had charge of the heavy framework, such as the pillars, bars, sockets and pins, according to verses 36-38.

When Israel was camp, the Ark of the Covenant was in the middle of the camp, but when they marched, the Ark went before them, seeking a “*resting place*.” What a beautiful picture of Christ in our midst, and yet, we are seeking a resting place as we are led by the Lord.