

Exodus

Week 22

Chapter 25-31

I. Discussion Points:

Why is all of this detail given to us for the Tabernacle?

II. Exodus 25

Ex 25:1-9: Offerings for the Sanctuary

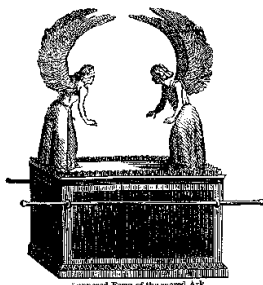
A collection is made for the materials for the sanctuary, a freewill offering. Later we will find that the workmen building the Tabernacle request that people stop giving because they have enough materials. The author of Hebrews references this chapter: Heb 8:5

5 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."

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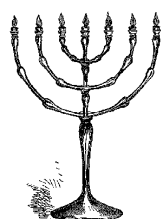
Ex 25:10-22: The Ark of the Testimony

The chest is the ark. The ark is 3 ¾' long by 2 ¼' wide and high.



supposed Form of the sacred Ark

Ex 25:31-40: The Gold Lampstand



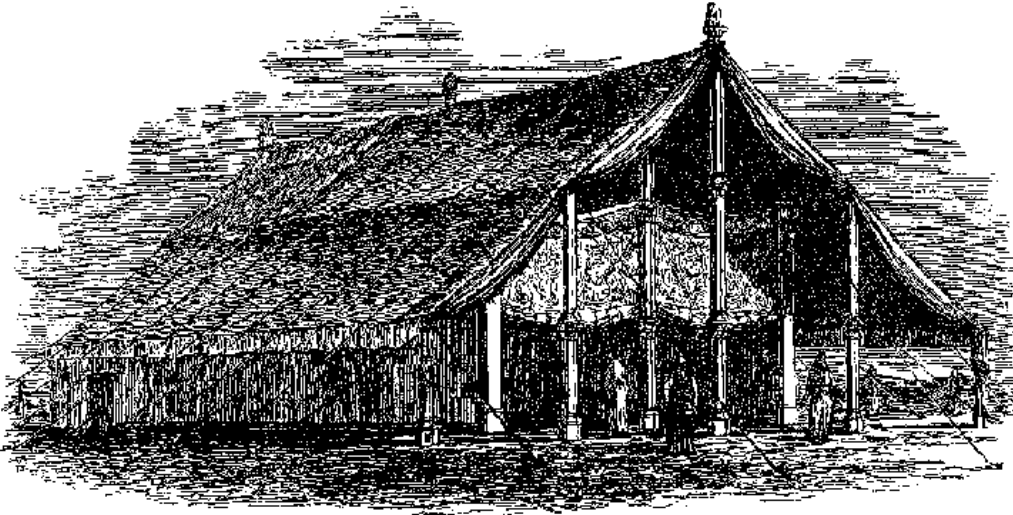
The Golden Candlestick of the Tabernacle. (From a reproduction by Sir R. Meldrum)

The lampstand is the Menorah, a seven-branch candlestick standing on the south side of the room. Its candles burned day and night and provided light for the priests as they carried out their duties

III. Exodus 26: The Tabernacle

The tabernacle was a huge fancy tent. It was located in the middle of the camp. The individual Israelite families had small tents that fit concentrically around the tabernacle. The contrast would have been stark reminding the Israelites of the

power of God. The tabernacle was made of three layers of fabric that were spread, stretched, and/or hung over a framework resembling interconnected ladders made of gilded wood. Below is a recreation of it.

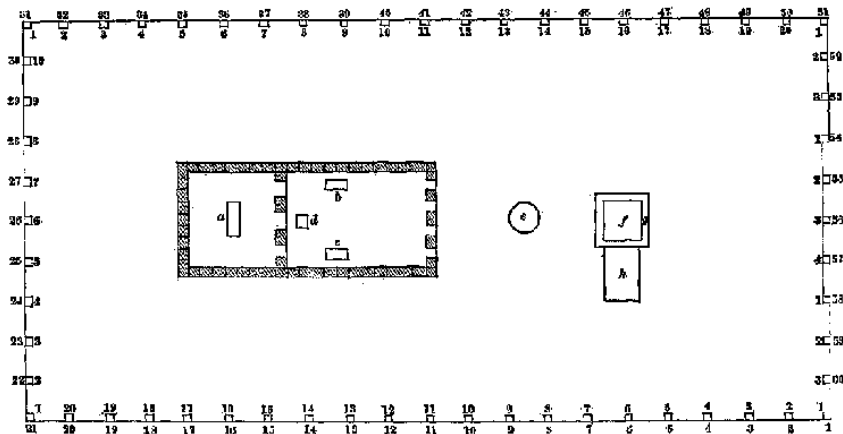


The Tabernacle as restored by Ferguson.

IV. Exodus 27

Ex 27:1-8: The Altar of Burnt Offering (picture in last week's notes)

Ex 27:9-19: The Court of the Tabernacle

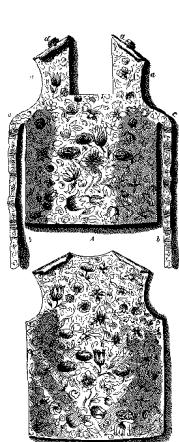


Plan of the Tabernacle and its Court. (From Riggenbach's *Monastische Stiftshütte*.)

Large enclosure—Court (open overhead). Small enclosure—the Tabernacle (covered). *c.* Ark in the Holy of Holies; *b.* Table of show-bread. *e.* Golden candlestick. *d.* Altar of incense—*a.*, *d.* being in the holy place. *e.* Laver, or basin for washing. *f.* Altar of burnt-offering. *g.* Gang or ledge around this altar for the priests to stand upon. *h.* Sloping ascent from the ground to this ledge. (The last two articles are in the court.)

V. Exodus 28: Garments of the Priesthood

Aaron and his sons are consecrated in the next chapter, but their priestly wardrobe is discussed here. Since Israel originally did not have a king, Priests were a very important group. In the ancient world, clothes were an important indicator of authority. The most important part of the Priest's clothing is the ephod:



The Breastplate of Aaron, according to Exodus 28:17-29:10. The Breastplate of Aaron was made of gold and precious stones. It was worn by the high priest and contained twelve gemstones, each representing one of the twelve tribes of Israel. The stones were set in gold and were arranged in four rows of three. The stones were: Sapphires, Emeralds, and Pearls in the first row; Topazes, Garnets, and Onyx in the second row; Turquoise, Diamonds, and Opals in the third row; and Lapis Lazuli, Rubies, and Amethysts in the fourth row. The stones were set in gold and were arranged in four rows of three. The stones were: Sapphires, Emeralds, and Pearls in the first row; Topazes, Garnets, and Onyx in the second row; Turquoise, Diamonds, and Opals in the third row; and Lapis Lazuli, Rubies, and Amethysts in the fourth row.



Supposed style of the High-priest's Breastplate.

VI. Exodus 29

Ex 29:1-37: Aaron and His Sons Consecrated

Notice the rams and bull sacrificed to assure that the Priest is acceptable to God.

Blood on Aaron indicates:

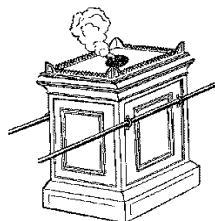
- Blood on right ear – the organ for hearing the word of God
- Blood on thumbs – the organ that offers the mediatorial sacrifices on behalf of the people
- Blood on toes – Allows for the sanctified walk for the people as a symbol for the people.

Ex 29:38-46: The Daily Offerings

Apparently the daily burnt offerings are constant and continual reminder of God to the people. So long as they keep them, God will be with them.

VII. Exodus 30: Miscellaneous Other Things

Ex 30:1-10: The Altar of Incense



Supposed Form of the Jewish Altar of Incense.

This altar is a smaller altar than the altar for burnt offering and is located at the entrance to the Tabernacle:

Ex 30:11-16: The Ransom Money

David ran afoul of the census law when he numbered his army (2 Sam 24), and Jesus references the ransom/census tax in Matt 17:24:

24 After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?"

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By Jesus time, the money is now used for the temple.

Ex 30:17-21: The Bronze Laver

Being clean is next to holiness in this verse, and therefore to godliness.

Ex 30:22-33: The Holy Anointing Oil

The ingredients for the oil are identified, but the exact way in which these spices are made into oil is not identified.

Ex 30:34-38: The Incense

Incense burning was widespread in ancient times.

VIII. Exodus 31

Ex 31:1-11: Artisans for Building the Tabernacle

Bezalel and Aholiab are probably the lead builders only. They do a lot of work but train others to help as well.

Ex 31:12-18: The Sabbath Law

This section parallels what is said about the Sabbath in Chapter 20, the two acting as kind of bookends for the laws and sacred procedures. In a sense, this section reminds us not only of the Sabbath, but the entire Ten Commandments. Indeed, verse 18 speaks to them being documented on the two stone tablets.

There is a disagreement as to whether all ten of the commandments are on each of the two tablets (to provide a copy of the covenant to both two parties in it) or divided between the two tablets (since both are included together in the ark). Also, the tablets appear to have been written on both sides. Other than the very fragmentary descriptions in the Bible, we do not have any information on how these tablets might have looked.

A reminder of the Ten Commandments is certainly appropriate given that the Israelites will break at least some of them in the next chapter.

IX. Assignment

What commandments do the Israelites break in Chapter 32?