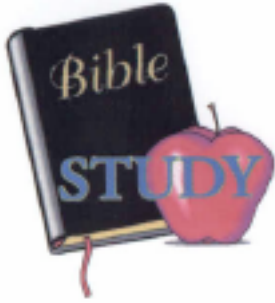


## BUILDING THE TABERNACLE

### PREFACE

**BUILDING THE TABERNACLE** is a basic Bible study for both adult and teenage groups. It is best for a group to be led by a group leader or perhaps group leaders, each taking a section or sections in turn. It is important for each person to have a copy of the script to write the Bible texts in the spaces provided. This will take time and application but, with prayer for God's guidance, a study of the Tabernacle and its furnishings will give a clearer understanding of the finished work of Christ in the New Testament. It will be especially helpful for anyone wanting to study both the Holy Scriptures and English as a foreign language. This study is also suitable for personal study by Christians or Seekers wanting a deeper knowledge of the Bible and how the two testaments are closely united to convey the whole and wonderful counsel of God.



### INTRODUCTION

The Old Testament Tabernacle was the tent in the wilderness of Mt. Sinai Horeb designed by God and constructed under the direction of Moses as revealed to him by the Lord. It was God's sanctuary God's Holy Tent and His temporary dwelling place of great reverence and awe. The Tabernacle was also known as the Tent of the Testimony, the Tent of the Congregation or the Tent of Meeting where the Israelites were enabled to worship God.

Ps. 132: 7

All the instructions for building the Tabernacle, with its furniture, pillars, screens, door, curtains and tent coverings, also for the Outer Court with its furniture, gate, pillars and hangings were carried out exactly as the Lord commanded Moses on Mount Sinai. Exodus 25: 9

Ex. 26: 30

As in the whole Bible, the Living God's reason for the Tabernacle was restoration of man's fellowship, lost at the Fall, by means of redemption. It was here in the Garden of Eden that our Creator God was first rejected! Ever since, throughout Scripture, our gracious God's heart cry has been to dwell permanently with His people.

Exodus 25: 8b

Read Exodus 29: 45, 46  
Exodus V. 45

For a holy and righteous God to dwell with His people, the sin of mankind and individual sin needed to be removed. The Tent of the Testimony the Law and its sacrifices point to the future redemptive sacrifice of Christ on the cross, where the barrier of sin was finally removed once and for all.

The Tabernacle was a portable tent where the Children of Israel, God's Chosen People, were enabled to come and worship Him. This was the meeting place where the presence of the Living God, Yahweh, too holy to be spoken could dwell in the midst of His people, the promised descendants of Abraham.

Revealing its significance and importance are numerous references to the Tabernacle throughout the Old and New Testaments. There are many references in the Psalms. Read Psalm 15.

Ps. 84: 1

Ezekiel 37: 27

The Epistle to the Hebrews gives a spiritual understanding of the Tabernacle.

Read Heb 9: 11 12

Revelation 15: 5 The words of John on the Isle of Patmos:

These words reveal God's desire for a closer eternal relationship with His redeemed people through the gift and sacrifice of His only Son. Today for believers, Christ is the meeting place between God and man. The Tabernacle clearly demonstrates this; so what can we learn from the study Building the Tabernacle?



## **KEYWORDS**

The following often used Biblical words are taken from the New Testament, the Lord Jesus Christ being God's true tabernacle.

### **Atonement**

God's love to make the sinner at one At one ment with Himself through the work of Christ on the Cross.  
In the Old Testament Israel's sin was covered atoned by the blood of the sacrificial animals sprinkled on the Mercy Seat.  
Romans 3: 25a Amp.

### **Advocate**

One called to stand beside and plead in favour of the accused in a Court of Law.  
1 John 2: 1b A.V. And if any man sin,

### **Justification** just as if we have not sinned

God, our Judge, declares the sinner righteous through faith in Christ by the shedding of His blood on the Cross. The Israelites were declared righteous by the shed blood of countless innocent animals.

Romans 5: 9

### **Propitiation**

God's wrath against all sin appeased or removed by the one offering of Christ or of animals in the Old Testament.

1 John 2: 2 A V

### **Redemption** means to buy back

The penalty of sin death removed and the sinner freed by the payment of a price.  
Jesus is our Redeemer. Slaves were redeemed freed in the slave market by the payment of a price.

Ephesians 1: 7 a

### **Ransom**

The price paid for Redemption freedom or deliverance . Jesus paid the price when He gave His life, shedding His blood on the cross, for our deliverance from sin and death.  
In the Old Testament the Children of Israel were delivered redeemed from slavery in Egypt. The ransom or price paid for their deliverance was the death of the Passover lambs.

1 Timothy 2: 6

### **Reconciliation**

The enmity between God and Man, because of sin, removed.

Colossians 1: 20

Romans 5: 10

## THE FREEWILL OFFERING FOR THE TABERNACLE

Read Exodus 25: 1 - 7 and 35: 4 - 29

Prior to God's building directions came the offering given by the Children of Israel of gold and silver, precious stones, acacia wood, fine linen, spices, olive oil for the lamps and materials for the hangings, coverings and the priestly garments. The Israelites willingly gave from the heart all these items, some very costly, gained from the Egyptians on the night of the Passover and their deliverance from slavery.

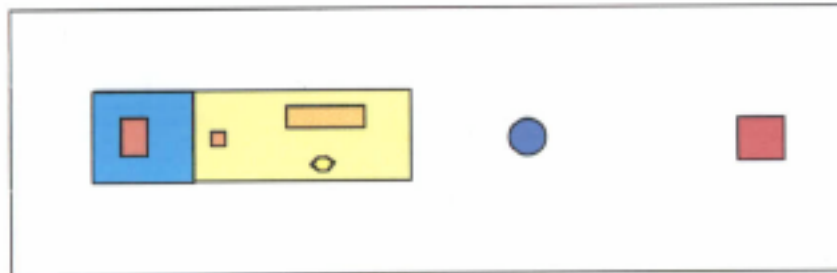
Read Exodus 12: 30 - 36 and 36: 1 - 7

For this sacred work of building God's Tent, His holy dwelling place, the Israelites gave willingly until there was more than enough.  
V. 7

The Tabernacle erected in the wilderness at Sinai by Moses consisted of 3 main parts:

1. The Most Holy Place
2. The Holy Place
3. The Outer Court

### A PLAN OF THE TABERNACLE



### KEY TO PLAN OF THE TABERNACLE

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| The Outer Court             | ○ |
| The Most Holy Place         | ● |
| Ark of the Covenant         | ● |
| The Holy Place              | ● |
| The Altar of Incense        | ● |
| The Table of the Show Bread | ● |
| The Lamp Stand              | ● |
| The Laver                   | ● |
| The Altar of Burnt Offering | ● |



Can you see the shape of The Cross in the Plan of the Tabernacle?

Bezalel from the tribe of Judah was chosen by the Lord to be in charge of making the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. Anointed by God's Spirit, Bezalel was given the wisdom and ability needed to design everything as the Lord commanded Moses. Oholiab, another skilled craftsman and embroiderer, was appointed to be his assistant. They were to teach others filled by the Spirit to partake in this God given work, that also included making the priestly garments for Aaron and his sons.

Ex. 38: 22 Bezalel made

## **THE COURT OF THE TABERNACLE**

Read Exodus 27: 9 - 19

The total enclosure measured 100 cubits in length by 50 in width approximately 150 x 75 feet or 46 x 23 metres, a cubit being the measurement from the elbow to finger tips .

The Outer Court was a perfect square 50x50 cubits and half the total area.

All Israelites had access to the Brazen Altar in the Outer Court but only the priests had access to the Laver and the sanctuary of the Tabernacle proper. The area of the Court was demarcated by fine white linen screens, each 5 cubits high 7 1/2 feet or 2.3 metres hung from silver hooks on 60 pillars of acacia wood covered in and set in bronze sockets sunk into the sand. Acacia wood is hard and close grained, growing plentifully in the region. A capital overlaid in silver was mounted on each of the shining bronze pillars.

There were 20 pillars on both the N. and S. sides with 10 on both the E. and W. sides, 2 being joined at the corners. Silver bars connected the pillars to give stability.

The screens were secured with cords tied by bronze tent pegs.

The white linen speaks of the righteousness of Christ and of the believers His saints.

2 Peter 1: 1b

Read Revelation 19: 8

V. 8b Fine linen is

What a contrasting sight this central Tent must have been to the Israelites as seen from the vast array of their surrounding black goats' hair tents! At Sinai, God's Tent was in the midst of their tents, the Priests with the Levites guarding access and the 12 tribes with their families in order on all four sides.

## **THE GATE OF THE TABERNACLE**

The entrance Gate to the Tabernacle was a curtain 20 cubits wide 30 feet or 9 metres facing east. Suspended on 4 of the 10 pillars, the entrance curtain was made of fine twined linen woven in blue, purple and scarlet yarn.

The Gate of the Tabernacle, facing the rising sun, was the only way into the Court.

John 10: 7b NIV Jesus said:

John 14: 6

This is man's only way to God but the Lord has already prepared His Pathway to Peace, from the Ark to the Gate of the Outer Court, as if His arms are reaching out and His voice calling:

'Come in through the Gate to dwell with Me and in Me.'

Man can only enter through the Gate and go inwards. Have you come in through the Gate?

## **THE ARK OF THE COVENANT**

Unlike man's buildings, God's plan began with detailed specifications for a single item of furniture the heart of the sanctuary. It was called the Ark of the Covenant because of the solemn covenant relationship with the Children of Israel, the Ark containing the Ten Commandments the eternal and moral Law. Ex 20: 1 - 17

Read Exodus 25: 8 - 22

V.8

V.9

## **THE ARK OF THE COVENANT**



The Ark of the Covenant was the only piece of furniture in the Most Holy Place, or Holy of Holies. Its structure was a rectangular box made of acacia wood measuring  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  cubits length, breadth and height or approximately 4 x 2 x 2 feet or 120 x 60 x 60 centimetres. This box or chest was gold plated inside and out, with a crown border for the rim.

The lid was made of solid gold and called the Mercy Seat, likewise with a golden border.

Ex. 26: 34

At each end and a part of the lid were two cherubim of beaten gold. Their outstretched wings were positioned high above but over the Mercy Seat, the most important part of the Tabernacle. The cherubim faced each other, looking down on the Mercy Seat to where the sacrificial blood was sprinkled by the High Priest once a year on the Day of Atonement.

The Mercy Seat was therefore not an Altar for sacrifices but a Throne where only blood was sprinkled, a foreshadowing of God's pure grace in the forgiveness of all sin by the blood of His only Son on the Cross.

The Holy of Holies was completely dark inside and it was here, between the cherubim, that the Shekinah resplendent glory of the holy Presence of the Lord appeared enthroned above the Mercy Seat. This was God's Throne, His awesome meeting place with man where the Lord God Almighty, the Living God communed with Moses to give all His commands to the Children of Israel.

Guarded by the cherubim, the bloodstained Mercy Seat signified God's mercy between His perfect holy Law and Israel's sins of rebellion and disobedience.

Exodus 25: 22a There

Ps. 61: 4 King David said:

Placed inside the Ark were the two unbroken stone tablets of the Law, the **Ten Commandments**, given to Moses and written by the finger of God on Mount Sinai.

Covered by the lid of the Mercy Seat, the Law was kept safe inside the Ark and therefore also known as the Ark of the Testimony.

Mercy Seat means a covering, Israel's sin being covered atoned by the blood on the Mercy Seat.



Read Romans 3: 23 25

V. 23

V.25 a

2 Corinthians 5: 21

Read Numbers Chapter 17

**Placed before the Ark were;**

1. Aaron's Rod that budded, blossomed and fruited simultaneously and miraculously front of the Ark of the Testimony a resurrection sign!

2. The golden Pot of Manna, a sign of the Bread of Life and a memorial of the Manna given to the Israelites for food in the wilderness.



Read Exodus 16: 11 35

V.15 NIV The word Manna means

?

Moses said to them:

Just as the whole Bible reveals the Lord Jesus Christ, the Ark is a type of our Lord.

At the base of the Ark were four gold rings to hold the two carrying poles of acacia wood plated with gold. The Ark, never to be touched or looked upon or in, was always moved from place to place by the Kohathite family, of the tribe of Levi, on their shoulders. Holding the carrying poles, the Ark with its top covering of blue cloth was lifted high above their heads and so was clearly visible to the Israelites throughout all their journeys in the wilderness. These staves within the 2 rings either side were kept permanently in position until King Solomon built the Temple to house the Ark.

Then the Israelites were living in houses and no longer a wandering people. As in the wilderness, God's dwelling in the Temple in Jerusalem was in the midst of their dwellings.

### **THE TABERNACLE**

The Tabernacle proper was situated 50 cubits from the Entrance Gate and consisted of 2 rooms the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place at its western end. In the shape of a parallelogram, the Tabernacle tent measured 30 cubits long by 10 cubits wide and 10 cubits high. This was God's holy dwelling place and typified Christ and His Body, the Church.

Remember the Tabernacle or Tent of the Testimony was also called the Tent of Meeting or Tent of the Congregation; revealing God's heart's desire to dwell with His people.

Read Ex. 26: 15 30

The northern, and southern and western sides were formed of 48 acacia boards or frames overlaid with gold. The boards were 10 cubits in height and 1 1/2 in width. All the boards had 2 tenons or feet and these were inserted into silver sockets. There were 48 boards altogether with 20 on each of the longer sides and 8 on the west, including the coupled corner boards with gold rings below and on top. The boards were united together, through gold rings, by 15 bars all overlaid with gold, 5 on each of the three sides, the long middle bar being the length of each side.

### **THE MOST HOLY PLACE**

The shrine of the Most Holy Place, containing only the Ark, was a perfect cube 10 x 10 x 10 cubits and was situated at the western end of God's golden Tabernacle. The Holy of Holies was screened on 3 sides by the gold covered acacia frames. Its remaining side and entrance was separated from the Holy Place by a beautiful curtain called the Veil.

Read Leviticus 16: 1 2 and Hebrews 9: 6b 7

Only the High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place and only once a year on the Day of Atonement, the Ark being screened from view in a cloud of smoking incense. Because of the sins of the Israelites and his own sin, the High Priest could never enter the Holy of Holies without sacrificial blood. This foreshadowed Christ's sacrifice on the cross and God's New Covenant of access into His presence by faith.



## **THE VEIL**

Read Exodus 26: 31 33

This was the dividing curtain that separated the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place. The Veil separated God's holy and righteous presence from man's unrighteousness. This curtain was made of fine twined linen hung by gold hooks supported on 4 pillars of acacia overlaid with gold set into 4 silver bases or sockets. The veil was beautifully designed in white, blue, purple and scarlet colours with embroidered cherubim guarding the Holy of Holies. The colours were significant revealing Christ white for His purity, blue His heavenly attributes, royal purple for His Kingship and red indicating the forgiveness of sins through His sacrifice.

In the time of Solomon's Temple, the Veil of separation had become about 7 cm thick!

What consternation for the ministering priests when the Veil representing Christ's Body His flesh was torn completely in two from top to bottom at the time the Crucifixion!

Read Mark 15: 37 38

V. 38

Read Hebrews 10: 19 22

2 Corinthians 3: 16

When we come to Christ by faith, it is as if we are entering through the Veil into this beautiful Place of God's holiness.

## **THE HOLY PLACE**

Read Ex. 26: 15 30

The length of the Holy Place was twice the length of the Holy of Holies 20 x 10 x 10 cubits .

Again, like the Most Holy Place it was beautiful beyond description, a room of exquisite loveliness with its shining golden walls and furniture and embroidered entrance curtain called the Door.

The Tabernacle was the place where the Israelites were to worship and serve God but because of sin only the priests could enter through the Door of the Tabernacle.

It was here that Aaron, the High Priest, and his sons stood to minister before the Lord, for there were no seats in the Holy Place. Only Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest, when He finished His work of redemption, sat down at the right hand of God.

Read Hebrews 10: 11 12

V. 12 Jesus Christ, after

## **THE DOOR OF THE TABERNACLE**

On the eastern side of the Holy Place was the Door of the Tabernacle, a curtain again made of fine white linen woven or embroidered in blue, purple and scarlet yarn. Hanging from golden hooks it was supported on 5 pillars of acacia wood overlaid in gold set into bronze sockets. This beautiful curtain screened the Holy Place from the Outer Court.

John 10: 7b Jesus said:

John 10: 9a Jesus said:

Have you entered the Door?

## **THE SILVER SOCKETS**

Read Ex 26: 19 25 and Ex. 38: 25 31

The Tabernacle was set into 100 silver sockets, each a talent in weight. The 40 golden frames of both the northern and southern sides of the Tabernacle, each with its 2 tenons or feet were inserted into 80 silver sockets set into and hidden in the desert sand. There were 16 silver sockets supporting the back wall on its W. side. The 4 sockets remaining held the 4 pillars of the Veil. These 100 silver sockets were very significant because they were made out of Redemption Money. This was the payment of a 1/2 shekel due whenever a census or numbering was taken. This small sum was a reminder to the Israelites that their firstborn sons did not die on the night of the Passover when the Lord delivered the Children of Israel out of Egypt. God punished the Egyptians by the 10th plague, the Death of the Firstborn, for their sin of idolatry and the cruel hardness of Pharaoh's heart to his slaves, the Children of Israel. Their sin was covered by the blood of the sacrificial Passover Lambs sprinkled on the doors of the Israelite houses.

The foundation of the Tabernacle was therefore based on Redemption.

1 Corinthians 3: 11

Every male over 20 years old when counted was to give a 1/2 shekel as a sign that the Israelites were a redeemed people, the firstborn of man or animal being the Lord's. The 100 silver sockets, amounting to 5 tons, were made from the 600,000 half shekels collected; meaning every socket was the ransom paid for 6,000 sons. There were 1775 half shekels remaining and these were used for the silver capitals decorating the pillars of Outer Court.

Whenever a census was taken, the Redemption Money was to be paid so the people would not die.

Read Ex. 30: 11 - 16

V. 12

It should be remembered that King David sinned when he unwisely took a census for military purposes, and failed to collect the Redemption Money, causing many thousands to die of plague.

Read 1 Chronicles 21: 1 - 14

### **TENT CURTAINS AND COVERINGS**

Read Exodus 26: 1 - 14

For the ceiling and roof of the Tabernacle there were 2 inner curtains and 2 outer coverings. The innermost lining of 10 curtains for the ceiling was made of fine twined linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn embroidered with cherubim. Each curtain was 28 cubits long and 4 cubits wide. Five curtains were coupled together to make 2 sets. On the outer edge of one set there were 50 blue loops and 50 on the other. Fifty gold clasps fastened them together to make one whole most beautiful curtain for the ceiling of the Tabernacle. The gold clasps, where the curtains joined, were in line with the pillars supporting the Veil.

The second lining for the Tabernacle was made of 11 Goats' hair curtains, a black colour in the Middle East. Each measured 30 cubits in length and 4 cubits in width 66 x 6 feet, with 5 curtains joined together and the remaining 6 also joined. The whole curtain was coupled together as before except that the 50 clasps were made of bronze. The extra material in the length of the curtains hung over the sides of the Tabernacle.

The sixth curtain was folded over to make the top part of the Door of the Tabernacle, with the left over half curtain hanging over the back of the Tabernacle. Above came the next layer, a covering of rams' skins dyed tanned red. The outside covering to withstand the heat, winds and rain was made of badger skins or maybe dolphin or porpoise skins from the Red Sea. The weatherproof exterior covering, by contrast with the beauty of the Tabernacle inside, was unattractive but highly practical.

### **THE FURNITURE OF THE HOLY PLACE**

Then came God's specifications for the furniture inside the Holy Place the Table of the Showbread, the Lampstand not a candlestick and the golden Altar of Incense.

### **THE TABLE OF THE SHOWBREAD**

Read Ex. 25: 23 - 30 and Leviticus 24: 5 - 9

This beautiful table for the Bread of the Presence in God's presence was situated in the Holy Place on its northern side. The Table was 2 cubits long, 1 cubit wide and 1 1/2 high and made of acacia wood overlaid with gold, with a crown moulding of gold for the rim. Just below the rim was a gold frame, a span wide, also bordered with a gold rim. The gold frame kept the loaves in place when the Israelites journeyed from camp to camp. At the 4 corners of the legs, alongside the frame, there were gold rings for the carrying poles.

The plates for the Bread of the Presence were made of pure gold, as were all the bowls, flagons, spoons, the cups for incense and other dishes for pouring the drink offerings and holding liquids of the sacrifices.

Ex. 25: 30



On the table, representing the 12 tribes, there were always 12 loaves arranged in 2 rows or piles of six. Every morning and evening frankincense was burned on top. These loaves, made of fine flour, were replaced each Sabbath and were to be eaten only by the priests and eaten only in the Holy Place.

All believers today are enabled to partake of the bread in the Communion service a fellowship meal. Once again the Tabernacle is a picture of Christ, for we are to feed on Him and on the Word of God.

Read John 6: 31 35

V. 35 a Jesus said:

1 Corinthians 11: 24b Jesus said:

### **THE LAMPSTAND**

Read Ex. 25: 31 40 and Leviticus 24: 1 4

This beautiful ornate object was a seven branched lampstand menorah made of pure beaten gold, with all the lamps facing front wards to illuminate the Tabernacle. The lampstand was situated inside the Holy Place on the south side and opposite the Table of the Showbread. Out of its base and main shaft there were 6 branches, 3 on each side. The branches were decorated with cups like almond flowers, each with calyx knob and petals. The main shaft had 4 cups where the branches joined, the topmost making the seventh lamp. The lampstand and its utensils, such as trays and snuffers, were all made out of talent of pure gold. Every morning and evening Aaron, the High Priest, and his sons would trim and fill the lamps with pure olive oil. The lamps were always burning, a perpetual statute for the Israelites to keep.



1 John 1: 5 b

John 8: 12 Jesus said:

Matthew 5: 14 Jesus said:

Read Revelation 1: 12 20

V. 13 a

### **THE ALTAR OF INCENSE**

Read Ex. 30: 1 10 and Ex 30: 34 38

This altar was situated just outside the Most Holy Place and positioned centrally in front of the Veil, opposite the Mercy Seat. It was made of acacia wood, overlaid with gold, 2 cubits high and a cubit square.

There was a golden crown moulding for the rim with horns of gold at the corners. On either side under the rim were two gold rings for the carrying poles, again made of acacia wood covered in gold. It was also called the Golden Altar. Here the holy incense that sanctified, lit from the Brazen Altar, was burnt. The prayers of the High Priest, interceding for the people, ascended to God like the fragrant smoke of the frankincense. Again, the Altar of Incense is a picture of Christ, ever interceding for us. There was to be no unholy incense on the Golden Altar, or sacrifices, cereal or drink offerings. Sometimes it was called the Altar before the Lord, the Altar of Worship, unlike the Brazen Altar of sacrifice in the Outer Court.



Every morning and evening Aaron burnt sweet incense on the Golden Altar after trimming and filling the lamps. What beauty adorned the Tabernacle!

What fragrance there and in the presence of God beyond the Veil!

Psalm 141: 2

Romans 8: 34 b

Read Revelation 8: 3, 4

The incense was to be made from the purest and costliest spices, beaten small, in equal amounts stacte, onycha, galbanum and pure frankincense mixed with salt. It was to be holy to the Lord and no other was to be made like it. Frankincense is the special incense in the Bible that burns freely for a long time and gives a delightful fragrance. Frankincense was one of the gifts given to the Infant Jesus by the Wise Men as a sign of His deity and priesthood.

Read Ex. 30: 22 - 33

The anointing oil was to be made from the purest spices - liquid myrrh, sweet cinnamon, calamus, and cassia mixed with pure olive oil. It was a sacred oil of special ingredients made to anoint all the different parts of the Tabernacle, its furniture, including The Ark of the Testimony and that of the Outer Court. It was also used to anoint Aaron and his sons, sanctifying only them to minister as priests unto the Lord. Used only by the priests, no other oil was to be made like it.



## **THE FURNITURE OF THE OUTER COURT**

### THE LAVER

Read Ex. 30: 17 - 21

And the Lord said to Moses: V. 18

The laver, made out of the mirrors of the women, was situated in the open Court between the Door of the Tabernacle and the Brazen Altar. No details as to shape and dimensions were given.

Ex. 38: 8

Read Ex. 35: 30 - 35

The laver was to be filled with water for the priests to wash their hands and feet before entering the Tabernacle to minister unto the Lord - or else they would die.

This was to be a statute forever for the descendants Aaron and his sons.

The Laver speaks of our need for daily cleansing by the washing of water with the Word - reading the Bible - and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5: 26

Titus 3: 5 b

### THE BRAZEN ALTAR

Read Ex. 27: 1 - 8

The Bronze Altar or Altar of Burnt Offering, the largest piece of furniture, was positioned in the Outer Court and the first to be seen on entering through the Gate of the Tabernacle. The altar was 5 cubits square and 3 cubits high. It was constructed in the form of a hollow box made of acacia wood and to withstand the heat it was sealed in bronze, an alloy of copper and tin. The Altar was probably filled with earth or uncut stones. There were four bronze horns at the corners and half way down, a grating below the altar's top ledge. At the level of the grating were bronze rings on two sides to hold the carrying poles of acacia wood overlaid in bronze. All the utensils, the basins, forks, shovels, and fire pans, were also made of bronze. The animal to be sacrificed had to be without blemish and was slain at the side of the altar. The worshipper rested his hand heavily on the animal to be sacrificed.

This signified that it was the repentant worshipper who deserved to die; the animal being sacrificed instead, with the shedding of its blood bringing forgiveness of sin.

Leviticus 17: 11

Life is so sacred to a holy God that the eating of meat with the blood in it was forbidden. In some of the various sacrifices, the meat was given to the priests and also the worshipping families to eat. The chief feasts were times of both solemnity and joy before the Lord. All Israelites had access to the Outer Court and the Brazen Altar but only the priests were able to wash at the Laver before entering the Tent. In the Tabernacle and later in the Jewish Temple countless thousands of animals were sacrificed, yet Christ who was without sin, the perfect sacrifice, offered Himself once and for all.



Jesus Christ is the Brazen Altar for us.

Read Hebrews 9: 22

Ephesians 1: 7 In Christ we have

The specifications and instructions for building and setting up the Tabernacle and its furnishings, being so important and meaningful, are recorded in the Book of Exodus 5 times Chapters 25 to 40

Read Ex. Chapters 39 and 40.

What did Moses do when all the work was brought to him for inspection?

Ex.39: 43 b

All was done, as the Lord commanded Moses.

Count how many times the underlined words are recorded in the last two chapters of Exodus.

What happened when Moses finished erecting the Tabernacle?

Ex. 40: 35

The Tabernacle was indeed a costly and beautiful ornate structure of superb craftsmanship and made of the finest materials. It was the beautiful meeting place for a Holy righteous God but One unapproachable because of sin except through innocent blood. Remember God's heart cry is to dwell and have fellowship with His people. Then how can God's love and justice meet in an evil world of sinful people? The answer is by pure grace for the Lord has from the very beginning planned the remedy in Himself.

Revelation 13: 8 b

John 3: 16

Yes, the Tabernacle speaks to us of Christ and His costly work of Salvation. When we come to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ it is like coming into the sanctuary of the Tabernacle, radiant with shining gold reflected in the light of the seven branched Lampstand. In Christ we are invited to come.

Remember, this is man's only way in the Pathway to Peace already prepared from the Mercy seat to the Gate as the Tabernacle always shows. Our God is indeed a gracious God. The life of Jesus, the Son of God, in all four gospels tell us so.

John 14: 9 b Jesus said:

So what does Building the Tabernacle teach us about our salvation in Christ Jesus?

What is the message of the Old Testament Tabernacle for Christians in the 21st century?

Hear the Voice of the Lord!



## **BIBLE STUDY SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

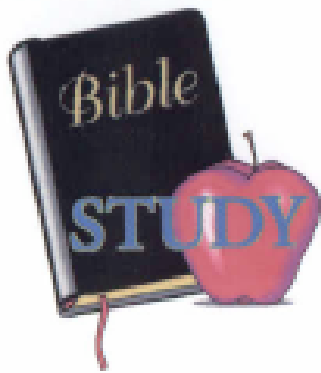
The Tabernacle, from the entrance Gate of the Outer Court to the innermost shrine of the Holy of Holies, speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ – the one and only way into the Father's presence of eternal life.

John 17: 3 This is life eternal: to know the only true God and Jesus Christ, Whom You have sent.

Find the appropriate references in the Study or alternative verses and write them in the spaces below.

1. The White Linen Screens
  
2. The Gate
  
3. The Brazen Altar
  
4. The Laver
  
5. The Door
  
6. The Tabernacle
  
7. The Table of the Show Bread in the Holy Place
  
8. The Lampstand Jesus said I am  
Jesus said You are
  
9. The Altar of Incense
  
10. The Veil
  
11. The Ark of the Covenant in the Most Holy Place
  
12. The Mercy Seat

## CONCLUSION



The message of the Bible study, Building the Tabernacle, reveals the awesome wonder of God's holy Presence, the Shekinah Glory of the Lord in the Most Holy Place. Enthroned between the cherubim, the Living God communed with Moses within the fiery cloud and smoke of the incense. Here the High Priest could enter once a year on the Day of Atonement and only with blood! Only the priests could enter the Holy where they ministered before the Lord. This was the Old Covenant of the Law ts animal sacrifices for sin, day after day and year after year.

The New Covenant speaks of better things in the Gospel Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been given the gifts of Eternal Life, the Holy Spirit and His righteousness.

We have His love, joy and peace for perfect love casts out fear.

But what was the cost, the once and for all extreme and ultimate cost?

Jesus Christ, God's sinless and beloved only Son, gave His life as a ransom for our souls. He paid the price for our Redemption when he suffered, shed His blood on the Cross and died to take away our sins. When we come to Christ, God forgives our sin. Christians, therefore, can come boldly into the Father's holy presence as the servants and friends of Jesus, the priesthood of all believers. We are His witnesses to be living sacrifices in the world to bring others into His Kingdom.

Our God is a gracious God, full of mercy and loving kindness. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we can come with joyful songs of thanksgiving, our prayers and praises; but let us always remember to give our Sovereign Lord humble worship and awesome reverence as manifested in the **Jewish Tabernacle** of old.

Hebrews 8: 2b Jesus is the true High Priest

Revelation 21: 3 A V The apostle John heard a great voice out of heaven saying:

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