

God's Holy Tent

Exodus 26:1-37

Main Point:

The Tabernacle was the holy tent on earth where God dwelled among His people to lead them successfully to the Promised Land. Know and believe that, for the very same purpose, Jesus once tabernacled among us and continues to do so today by His Spirit.

1. The Tabernacle was a tent.

2. The Tabernacle was a holy tent.

3. The Tabernacle was God's tent.

4. Jesus once tabernacled among us and continues to do so today by His Spirit.

Cross-references

Hebrews 9:1 ¹ Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. (ESV)

Exodus 25:8 ⁸ "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. (NKJV)

Numbers 9:15-16 ¹⁵ Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the Testimony; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of fire. ¹⁶ So it was always: the cloud covered it *by day*, and the appearance of fire by night. (NKJV)

Numbers 9:17 ¹⁷ Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents. (NKJV)

John 1:14a ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ... (NKJV)

Hebrews 9:11-12 ¹¹ But Christ came *as* High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. (NKJV)

John 10:10b ¹⁰ ... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are. (NKJV)

Ephesians 1:13-14 ¹³ ... Having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. (NKJV)

THE TABERNACLE TENT

The entire tent was 45 feet (13.7 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high. It was a wooden skeletal structure, overlaid with gold, with no solid roof or front wall (Ex. 26:15–29). Five wooden bars (overlaid with gold) passed through rings attached to each frame (Ex. 26:26–30).

The framed structure was covered by four layers of cloth and skin (Ex. 26:1–14).

The veil separating the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place was made from blue, purple, and scarlet dyed yarns woven with fine twined linen and embroidered with cherubim (Ex. 26:31–33). It hung on four golden pillars.

The altar of incense (Ex. 30:1–10; 37:25–29)

The golden lampstand (Ex. 25:31–40; 37:17–24)

The Most Holy Place was a 15-foot (4.6-m) cube, containing only the ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:10–22; 37:1–9). It was here that Yahweh would descend to meet with his people in a cloud theophany (divine appearance). The high priest could enter only once a year, on the Day of Atonement (see note on Heb. 9:7).

The table for the bread of the Presence (Ex. 25:23–30)

The Holy Place of the tabernacle tent was 30 feet (9.1 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high.

The veil that formed the entrance to the tabernacle was similar to the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, except that cherubim were not embroidered on it. It was suspended on five golden pillars (Ex. 26:36–37).