

An Introduction to the Tabernacle

Hebrews 8:1-9:28

June 7, 2015

Main Point:

The Tabernacle is a simple and very important picture of Jesus and His salvation; therefore, prayerfully expect our study of it to increase your love and thankfulness for Him.

1. The Tabernacle is a picture of Jesus and His salvation.
2. The Tabernacle is a simple picture of Jesus and His salvation.
3. The Tabernacle is a very important picture of Jesus and His salvation.
4. Prayerfully expect our study of the Tabernacle to increase your love and thankfulness for Jesus.

David Murray “God pictured the truth to preach the truth.”

Vern Poythress “The Old Testament tabernacle is full of meaning because it is a symbol of the Messiah and His salvation.”

Daniel Hyde “We need to read the Tabernacle narratives simply, not speculatively. We have to realize that they are symbolic, but a symbol is not wild speculation, with every detail of shape, size, location, and color meaning something hidden.”

Exodus 25:10-16 ¹⁰ "And they shall make an ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits *shall be* its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. ¹¹ "And you shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and shall make on it a molding of gold all around. ¹² "You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put *them* in its four corners; two rings *shall be* on one side, and two rings on the other side. ¹³ "And you shall make poles *of* acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. ¹⁴ "You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them. ¹⁵ "The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. ¹⁶ "And you shall put into the ark the Testimony which I will give you. (NKJV)

David Murray “Though we have the great privilege of the fuller New Testament revelation, we are still creatures of sense living in an imperfect spiritual state. It remains difficult for us to grasp heavenly and spiritual truth without the help of some outward physical exhibitions and illustrations of it, such as we have in the Old Testament types.”

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

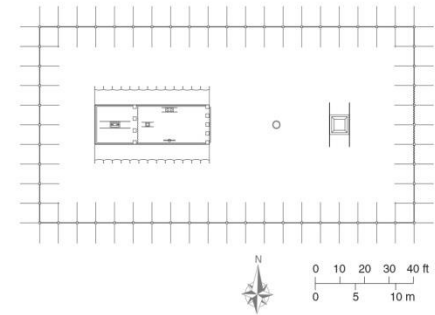
2 Timothy 3:16-17 ¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (NKJV)

William Brown “An earnest and prayerful study of the Tabernacle, and the purposes it served, cannot fail to increase our knowledge of the grand truths of redemption.”

THE TABERNACLE AND COURT

The tabernacle was a portable temple—a “tent of meeting”—within a movable courtyard (Exodus 25–31; 35–40). It was constructed after the pattern that Yahweh revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai, and was assembled in the desert as Moses led the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land. For an enlargement of the tent itself, see p. 186. The tabernacle courtyard was 150 feet (46 m) long and 75 feet (23 m) wide, totaling 11,250 square feet (1,045 square meters).

Tabernacle and Court Architectural Plan



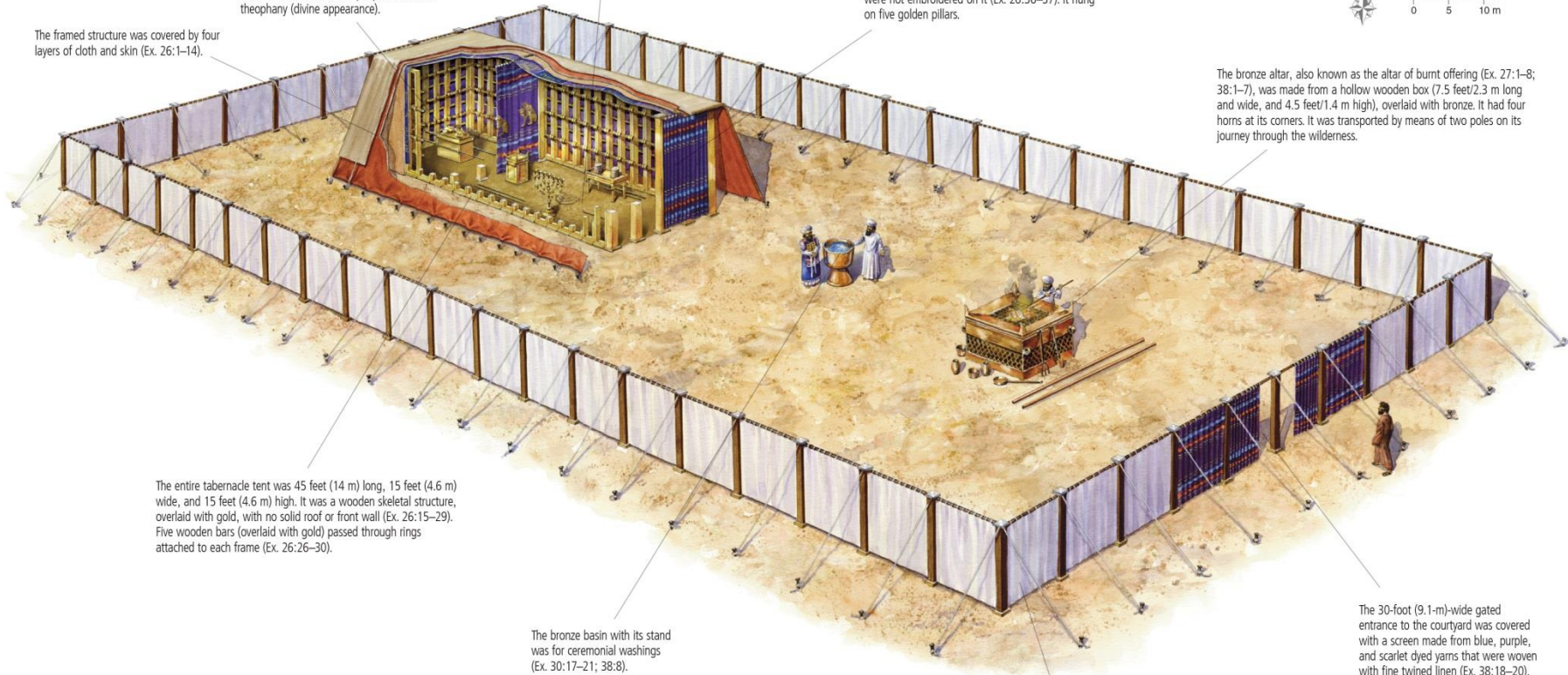
The Most Holy Place of the tabernacle tent was a 15-foot (4.6-m) cube, containing only the ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:10–22; 37:1–9). It was here that Yahweh would descend to meet with his people in a cloud theophany (divine appearance).

The 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. It housed the table (Ex. 25:23–30), the golden lampstand (Ex. 25:31–40; 37:17–24), and the altar of incense (Ex. 30:1–10; 37:25–29).

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

The bronze altar, also known as the altar of burnt offering (Ex. 27:1–8; 38:1–7), was made from a hollow wooden box (7.5 feet/2.3 m long and wide, and 4.5 feet/1.4 m high), overlaid with bronze. It had four horns at its corners. It was transported by means of two poles on its journey through the wilderness.

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



The entire tabernacle tent was 45 feet (14 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 bronze basin with its stand was for ceremonial washings (Ex. 30:17–21; 38:8).

The 30-foot (9.1-m)-wide gated entrance to the courtyard was covered with a screen made from blue, purple, and scarlet dyed yarns that were woven with fine twined linen (Ex. 38:18–20).

The surrounding hangings (fine twined linen curtains connected to pillars and stabilized by guy ropes and pegs) stood about 7.5 feet (2.3 m) high. The 60 wooden pillars were overlaid with bronze, stood in copper sockets, and had capitals overlaid with silver (Ex. 27:9–19; 38:9–17).