



TABERNACLE OF MOSES

Sarah Kawalsingh

When the New Testament writers wrote their books they were continually drawn to the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms to interpret what God was doing in their time (Romans 15:4).

The Tabernacle is prophetic of Christ and the Church (Hebrews 10:7; Psalm 40:6-8).

The purpose of the Tabernacle is ultimately to lead us to Christ ('the law was our Schoolmaster to bring us to Christ,' Galatians 3:24).

The Tabernacle of Moses was composed of many different elements of creations – gold, silver, brass, wood and precious stones. It had coverings and curtains. It had an array of furniture from the Ark of the Covenant to the Brazen Altar. All of these from creation now become symbols, hiding or revealing truth and different facets of revelation concerning Christ and His Church.

Who are the nation of Israel to us?

They are the Church in the wilderness and a type of the New Testament Church (Acts 7:38).

What did the Tabernacle look like?

The Tabernacle of Moses was simply a portable tent with various curtains and coverings over a wooden structure. It had three sections to it. The Scripture refers to each of these as:

1. The Holiest of All or Most Holy Place
 2. The Holy Place
 3. The Outer Court
- The Holiest of All contained the Ark of the Covenant
 - The Holy Place contained the Golden Altar of Incense, the Table of Shewbread, and the Golden Candlestick
 - The Outer Court contained the Brazen Altar and the Brazen Laver

Why did God design this?

The divine purpose in the building of the Tabernacle is summed up in the key verse found in Exodus 25:8 and 29:46-47.

Who built the tabernacle?

Exodus 36:1-7 tells us about two very important contractors, Bezalel and Oholiah.

A. The construction of the Tabernacle of Moses

Exodus 27:12-16 describes the tabernacle's gate. There was only one entrance to access God's presence. Regardless of age, gender, or status all persons entered God's sanctuary the same way, and God gave specific instructions for the gate's location (v13).

The children of Israel were arranged in a specific way (Numbers 2). God refers to this as a 'camp' – *machaneh* (Hebrew) meaning army, band company, station.

B. The Altar of Sacrifice

This 8-foot square altar sat front and centre as you would enter.

Made from acacia wood, overlaid with brass or bronze.

On each corner was a horn. The innocent sacrifice was tied down by these horns (Psalm 18:2).

There are three other uses of the horn in Scripture:

1. Genesis 22:13 – secured substitution
2. Joshua 6:13,20 – the trumpet was a ram's horn to sound an alarm
3. 1 Samuel 16:13 – to hold anointing oil

This gives us the perfect picture of Christ.

Leviticus 9:6-7, 22-24; 2 Timothy 1:6

C. Wash Basin (Brazen Laver)

Exodus 30:17-21; Ephesians 5:25-26

Made from mirrors, highly polished brass. Likely given from the spoils the women took out of Egypt.

D. Lampstand

Exodus 25:31-40

Made from pure gold, designed with almond blossom, with seven lamps. (The accessories: wick trimmers and trays). The lamps were filled with olive oil. KJV uses the word 'candlestick' rather than 'lampstand'. Candles burn by consuming itself, while a lamp burns by consuming a continuous supply of oil from another source (Lev. 24:2).

E. The Table of Shewbread (The Table, The Table of Gold, etc.)

1. The table was made of acacia wood, overlaid with gold.
2. Four gold rings were added to each corner for the poles. (Note: wood represents humanity and gold represents deity.)
3. The table had accessories on (Ex 25:28-29) – dishes, pans, pitchers and its bowls for pouring. v30 says 'And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.'
4. The 12 tribes of Israel were represented on the table. There were 12 loaves all made from the original piece of dough. Frankincense was placed onto one of the loaves (Leviticus 24:5-7; 2 Corinthians 2:14-15).

F. Altar of Incense (Golden Altar)

The Altar of Incense was used to burn incense. It would consist of equal amounts of several spices. It was to be prepared like a perfume, pure and holy before the Lord. The altar of incense represents prayer and intercession (Psalm 141:2a; Revelation 5:8, 8:3, 34).

Jesus Christ is our great intercessor. If we choose to neglect to pray it is a sin (Isaiah 50:4-5; Mark 14:38; Phil 4:6-7; James 4:2).

G. The Ark of the Testimony (Ark of the Covenant, Ark of God, Ark of the Lord)

The Ark was used for preservation. Whether it was Noah's ark in Genesis 7:7, or in Exodus 2:3 where Moses was protected in an ark of bulrushes, to preserve Moses.

So the ark of the testimony was to preserve God's witness.

Remember this was a pattern designed in heaven (Revelation 11:19, 4:1-5)

Exodus 25:10-22 gives us the description of the ark: Acacia wood and gold, ring fastenings.

What was in the ark of the covenant?

Hebrews 9:4 lists out the items:

1. Tablets of the Covenant
2. Golden pot with manna
3. Aaron's budded rod (Numbers 17)

Aaron's rod symbolizes the Holy Spirit, for in Aaron's rod we see the principle of fruitfulness and life (Gal. 5:22-23).

Just as God choose the Tabernacle to make connection with the Children of Israel, He still desires to make connection with you and I. The form may have changed but the purpose has not. God's desire for relationship remains to this day.

A life that surrenders to Christ, daily communing with God through prayer is a life that is changed. Through the ultimate sacrifice, the shed blood of Jesus on the cross, God has removed the veil and His presence awaits.

Bibliography: *The Tabernacle of Moses* by Kevin Conner / *A Woman's Heart* by Beth Moore / *Prayer* (Essential Series) by Chip Kawalsingh