

Exodus 25

Bible Study

Review

Chapter 23

2nd section of the book of the covenant concludes—statutes regarding legal justice

3rd section—Sabbath and festivals

4th section—How God would help Israel take possession of the land of Canaan

Chapter 24

Ratification of the covenant—Israel accepts God's terms

Covenant agreement sealed between God and Israel—ceremony described

Moses goes up the mountain to confirm and ratify the covenant before God

Exodus 24:18

¹⁸So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

During that time Moses received from God the instructions for the building of the tabernacle and the consecration of the priests
[Chapters 25-31]

The tabernacle--introduction

“Tabernacle” comes from a Latin word meaning ‘tent’ (portable and temporary)
The Hebrew word means ‘dwelling place’

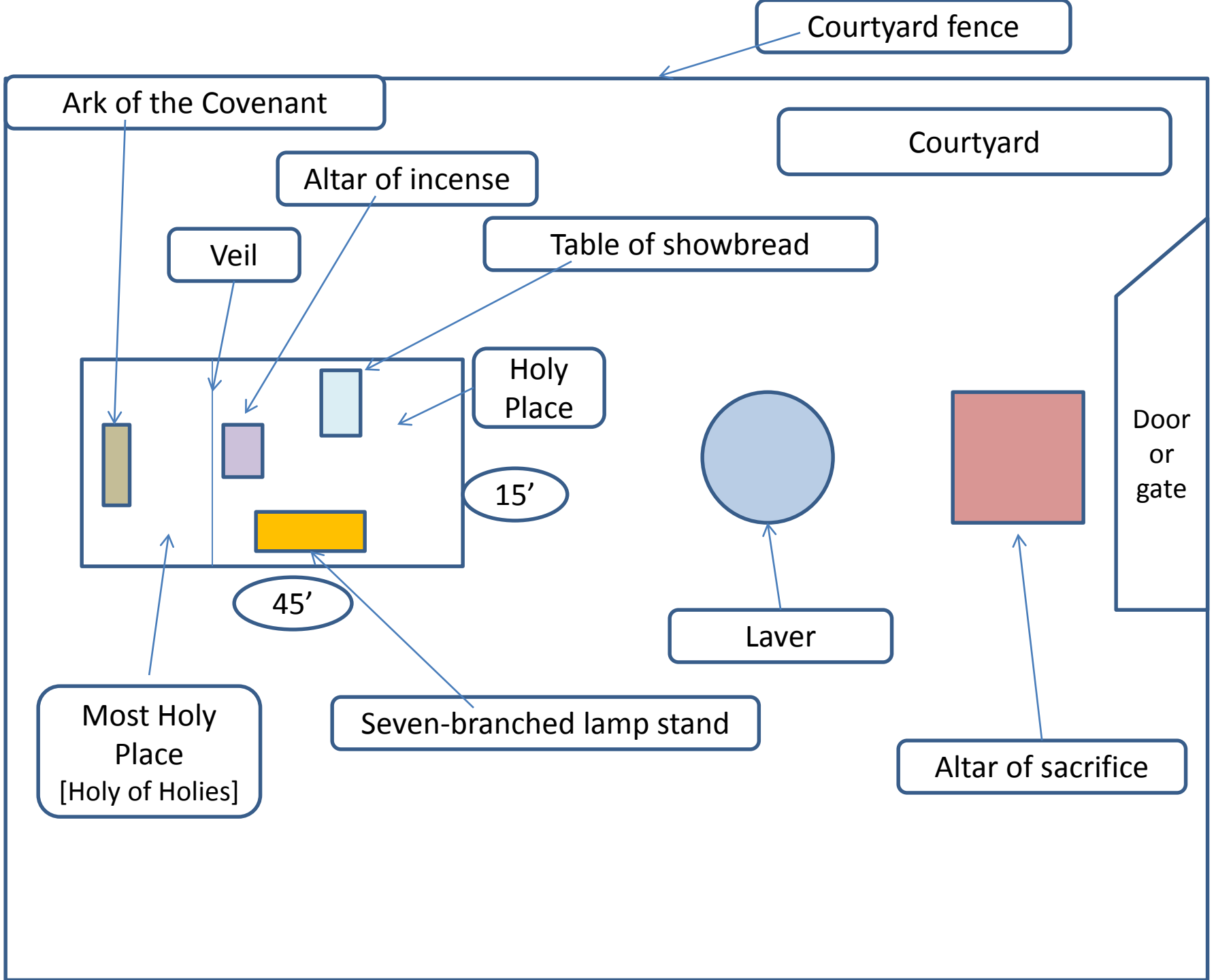
The tabernacle was referred to by several names:

- The sanctuary= a sacred place [Ex. 25:8]
 - The tent [Ex. 26:11]
- Tabernacle of meeting/tent of meeting [Ex. 27;21; 39:32]
 - Tent of the testimony [Numbers 9:15]

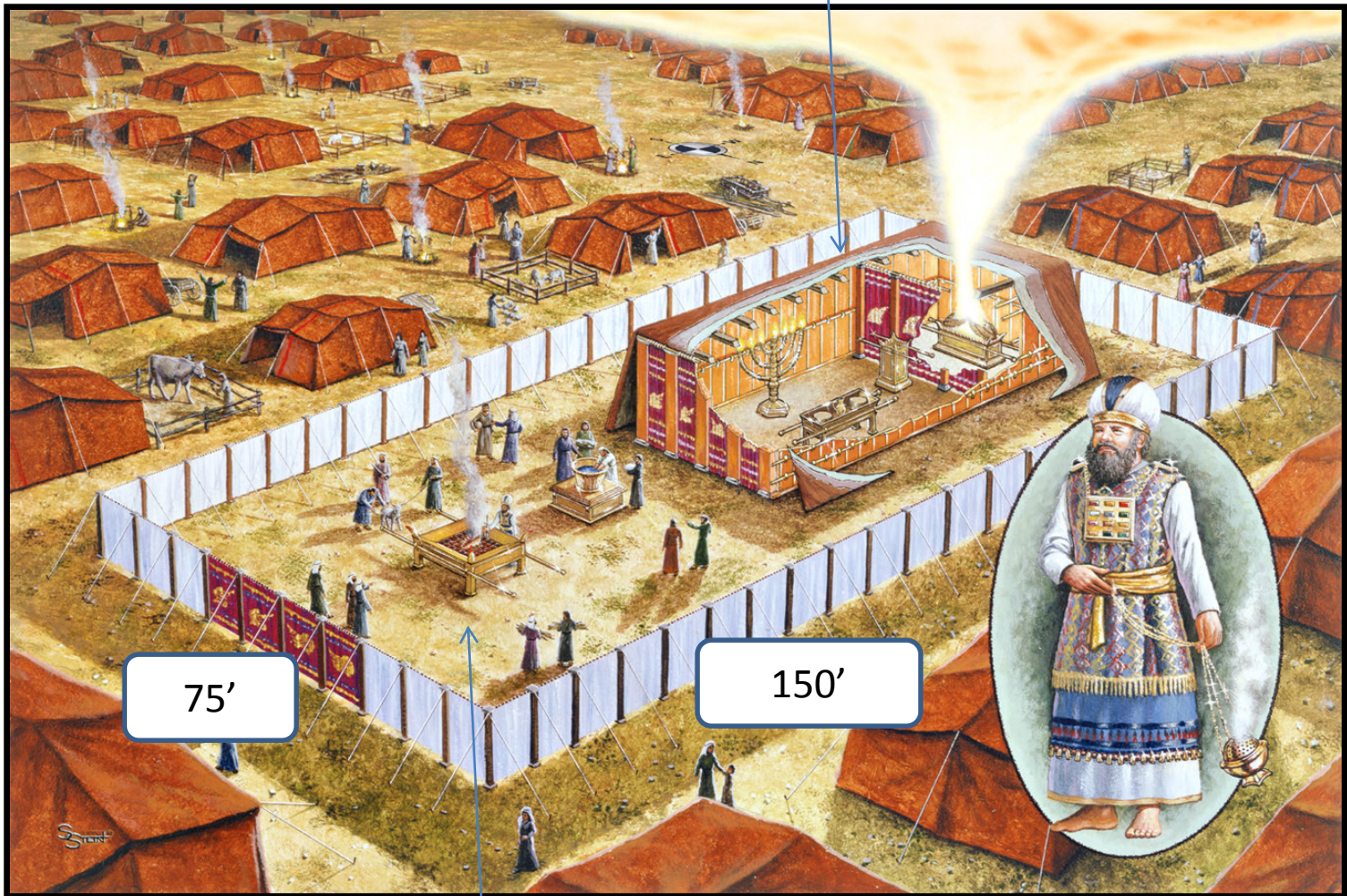
The tabernacle was important to Israel’s national life:

- God dwelling among his people
 - God’s glory manifest there
 - Place of worship
- Prefigured Christ dwelling among his people

(New Bible Commentary) “excluding the details relating to the consecration of the priests, approximately one-fifth of Exodus is given over to describing the construction of God’s dwelling place”



Tabernacle



75'

150'

Courtyard

¹Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: (God continues speaking until 31:18)

²“Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who **gives it willingly with his heart** you shall take My offering.

“an offering”= the heave offering [margin]

(Keil and Delitzch) “a gift lifted, or heaved by man from his own property to present to the Lord”

➤ A voluntary offering— Chapter 35: 21-29 explains the zeal the people had in complying with this offering

³And this *is* the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze;

⁴blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, fine linen, and goats' *hair*;

⁵ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood;

⁶oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense;

⁷onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.

(New Bible Commentary) “The inventory of precious metals and blue colored fabric indicates that this was no common tent; it was for **royal use**”

³And this *is* the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze;

Exodus 12:35

³⁵Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of **silver**, articles of **gold**, and clothing.

v. 3 (last part)

“bronze” (OKJ ‘brass’)

(Companion) “Probably copper, or **bronze**—[a mixture of copper and tin]”

“**bronze**” “Treasures in the sand”, Orley Berg

“...is used 35 times in the last chapters of Exodus in reference to the construction of the tabernacle.

It is estimated that up to two and one-half tons of bronze were used in the tabernacle and its furnishings.”

(The Bible is history, Ian Wilson)

“At least a thousand years before Moses’ time, the Egyptians were already visiting the region [southern Sinai] to exploit its **copper** and turquoise mines.

⁴blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, fine linen, and goats' hair;

⁵ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood;

“fine linen”

(BKC) “Fine linen translated *ses*, from an Egyptian word. The Hebrew slaves must have learned many Egyptian arts and crafts...during their stay in Egypt”

Significance—was visible to priests who served in the presence of He who is righteous

‘goats’ hair (Expositors)

“came from long haired goats...it was coarse material that often was used to weave tents”

Significance—reminders of sin offerings done daily from a kid of the goats

“ram skins’

(Expositors) “were skins that had all the wool removed and then were dyed red; it was like our Morocco leather”

Significance—dyed red: priest set apart/consecrated by a blood sacrifice

“badger skins” (NIV) ‘sea cows’

(BKC) “The sea cow is a herbivorous mammal native to the Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba, and to this day the Bedouin make sandals from their skin”

➤ Used at the top for waterproofing qualities

Significance—the protective separation between the dwelling place of God and the world

(BKC) “The wood of **acacia** trees, common to the Sinai Peninsula, is good for construction purposes”

[Key verse] **8** And let them make Me a **sanctuary**, that **I may dwell among them**.

“a **sanctuary**” [1st Hebrew word for ‘tabernacle’]
(Expositors) “means ‘holy place’ or the ‘place set apart’. Everything about the tabernacle was holy.”

‘**sanctuary**’ (Heb. *Miqdash*)

(Theological Wordbook of the OT) “*miqdash* denotes that which has been devoted to the sphere of the sacred.

When it refers to the sanctuary, it denotes the physical area devoted to the worship of God.

The noun *miqdash* is used most frequently in the OT as the designation of the **tabernacle** and the temple”

“**that I may dwell among them**”

(New Bible Commentary) “This is an important theme in the final part of Exodus and considerable attention is given to the preparations necessary for this to be accomplished”

The sanctuary was to be built according to the **pattern** that God would show Moses



⁹According to all that I show you, *that is*, the **pattern** of the **tabernacle** and the **pattern** of all its furnishings, just so you shall make *it*.

“According to all that I show you”

(Jewish Study Bible, Tanakh) “The indwelling of God, along with the blessing and protection that this offers, is crucial for the well-being of the community; thus it is crucial to construct a ‘house’ to **exact divine specifications**”

(NSB) “The **pattern** suggests that there is a heavenly reality that the earthly tabernacle was designed to resemble”

Hebrews 8:5

⁵who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “*See that you make all things according to the **pattern** shown you on the mountain.*” [£]

(Tyndale) “The *pattern* means almost ‘architects model.’”

(Tanakh) “God showed Moses either ‘blueprints,’ pictures, or a model of the tabernacle...”

The tabernacle is not to be a product of human creativity but must conform exactly to divine specifications.”

“tabernacle”

[2nd Hebrew word] *mishkan*—means dwelling place

The tabernacle was the portable sanctuary for the nation of Israel in the wilderness until the time when Solomon’s temple was built

The temple became permanent but both the tabernacle and temple had the same layout and furniture

(Expositors) “The word ‘tabernacle’ appears here for the first time of its 139 OT occurrences. It comes from the word ‘**to dwell**’ and it is the place **where God dwells among his people**”

The central figure of the tabernacle is Christ



The tabernacle is a type of Christ

John 1:14

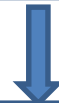
¹⁴And the Word became flesh and **dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 2:19-21

¹⁹Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”


²⁰Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”

²¹But He was speaking of the temple of His body.



Christ a type of temple/tabernacle that the Holy Spirit dwells

(New Bible Commentary) “Because of its importance as God’s throne, the building of the ark (chest) was outlined first”



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.

¹¹And 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.

(Expositors) “The ‘chest’ or ‘**ark**’ is mentioned 180 times, thereby stressing its importance...The dimensions of the ark were 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ feet long by 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ feet wide and high.”

v. 10 “acacia wood”

(LASB) “Much of the tabernacle and its furniture was made of acacia wood. Acacia trees flourished in barren regions and were very common in Old Testament times.

The wood was brownish-orange and very hard, making it an excellent material for furniture. Acacia wood is still used in furniture-making today”

Acacia tree—most common of the desert tree, its wood is hard and durable



¹²You 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.

¹³And you shall make poles *of* acacia wood, and **overlay them with gold**.

¹⁴You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them.

¹⁵The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it.

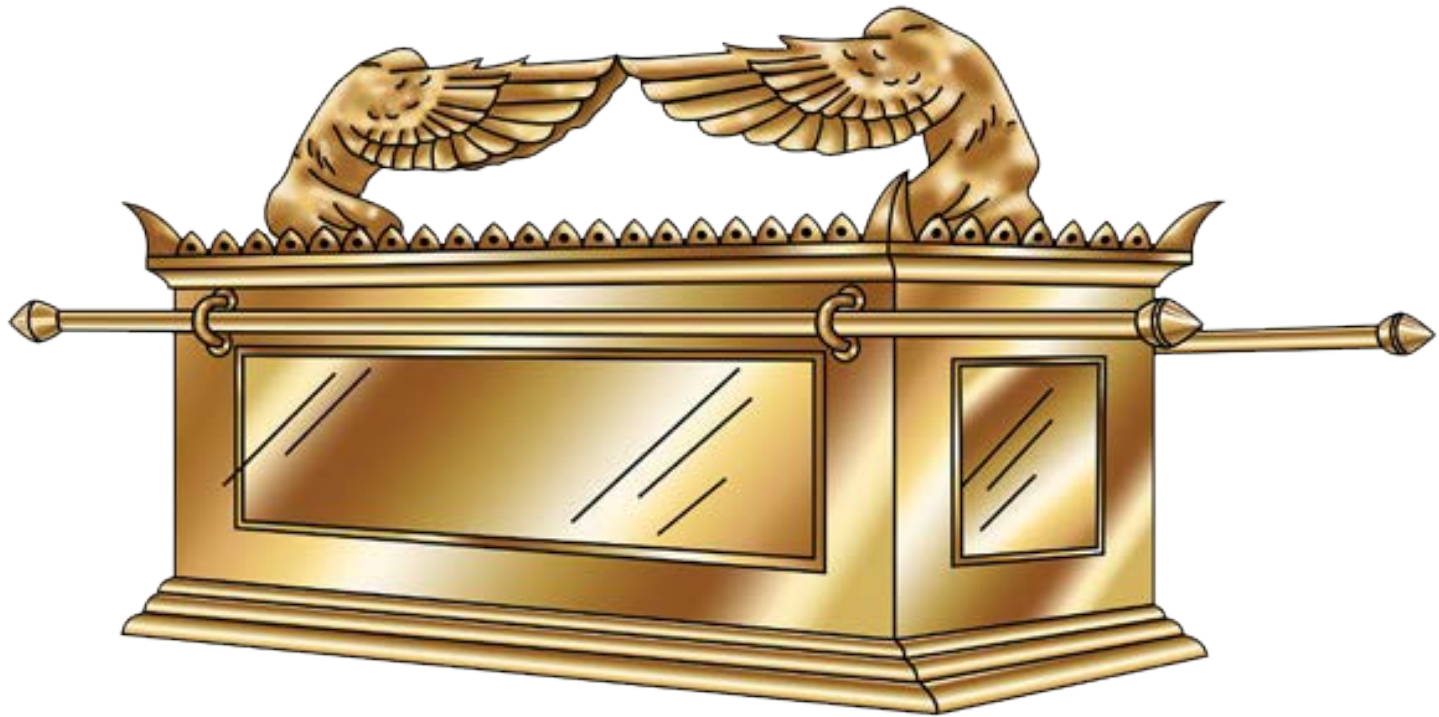
(NSB) “The **gold** would have made the box resplendent and costly. In addition to the gold used to overlay the ark, within and without, a decorative molding of gold adorned the box

(The Bible is history, Ian Wilson)

“melted-down ornaments from the Egyptians were used for the Ark’s metal components. Fascinatingly, the copper workings in the southern Sinai could have provided the furnaces for such work”

(NSB) “The rings of gold allowed the ark to be carried on poles. It was not to be picked up by hand or carted about”

The Ark



¹⁶And you shall put into the **ark** the **Testimony** which I will give you.

“The testimony” —also called ‘ark of the covenant’
(Companion) (Heb.) *eduth*= witness, from *ud*, to bear witness, give testimony.

➤ Contained the two tablets of the ten commandments



Shows that God’s government is based upon his spiritual law

(Tanakh) “It is significant that the heart of the sanctuary is a symbol of **God’s law**, rather than an image as was the case in non-Israelite sanctuaries”

The ark is a type of salvation [Noah...Moses]

—salvation comes from God’s throne

¹⁷“You shall make a **mercy seat** of pure gold; two and a half cubits *shall be* its length and a cubit and a half its width.

‘mercy seat’ = propitiatory cover

(Companion) “cover put for the propitiation made through the blood sprinkled thereon. It therefore denotes propitiation.”

‘pure gold’— “not overlaid because propitiation is a divine work throughout”

The mercy seat **pictures God’s throne**—the throne of grace...in the tabernacle it was set above the tablets of the law

God rules by law, but when we sin, God extends mercy to us—the mercy seat is a picture of that

Romans 3:24-25

²⁴being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

²⁵whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

Mercy Seat



2 Samuel 6:2

²And David arose and went with all the people who *were* with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called [£]by the Name, the Lord of Hosts, **who dwells *between* the cherubim.**



¹⁸And you shall make two **cherubim** of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat.

Cherubim—part of the angelic realm created **in service to God**

“cherubim”

(Companion) “here put for *representation* of the celestial things...”

¹⁹Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it *of one piece* with the mercy seat.

²⁰And the cherubim shall stretch out *their* wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim *shall be* toward the mercy seat.

(Tanakh) “Images of royal thrones with cherubs sculpted on their sides, several of which were found in Canaan and ancient Israel, are consistent with v. 22, which indicates that God would be present between the cherubs.

They suggest that the Ark cover represented God’s throne and the Ark itself His footstool.

The symbolism thus represented God as King and the Holy of Holies as the literal seat of divine government”

²¹You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you.

The mercy seat was placed on top of the ark—a testimony of God’s mercy...representing his throne

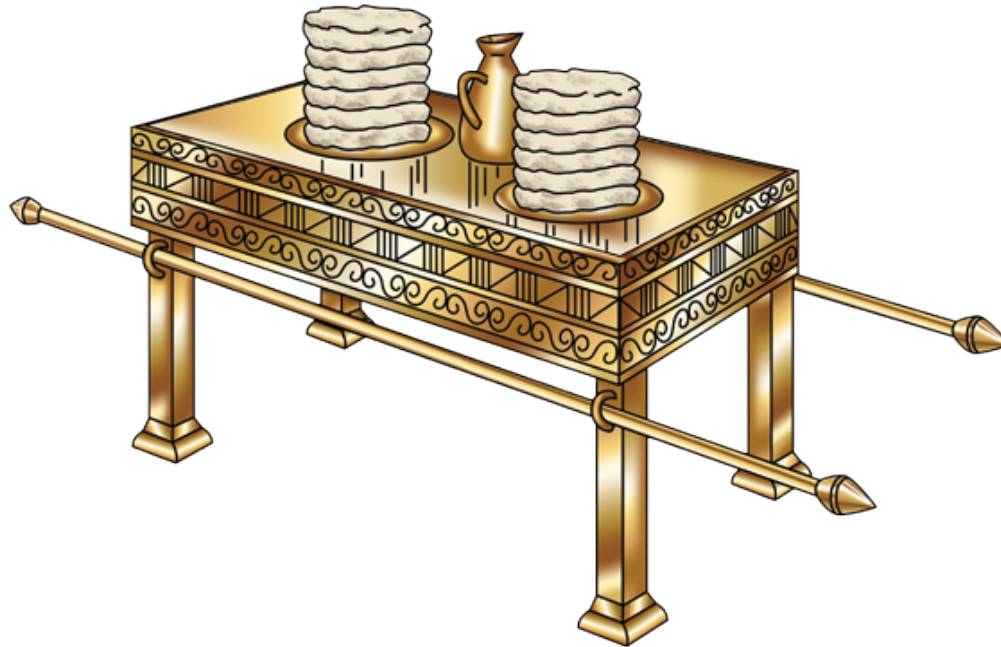
²²And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which *are* on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

“I will meet with you”

(NSB) “The verb [meet] carries a specific meaning, ‘to meet at an appointed place’

²³“You shall also make a **table** of acacia wood; two cubits *shall be* its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height.

(NSB) “The table was used to display twelve loaves of bread in the presence of the Lord. It was approximately three feet long, eighteen inches wide, and twenty-seven inches high”



²⁴And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a molding of gold all around.

²⁵You shall make for it a frame of a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a gold molding for the frame all around.

²⁶And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that *are* at its four legs.

²⁷The rings shall be close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table.

²⁸And you shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be carried with them.

v. 28 (NSB) “The table was to have rings and poles so that it could be transported properly. The poles protected the holy object from being touched by human hands”

²⁹You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold.

v. 29 (NSB) “All of the implements for making bread were to be costly and wonderfully designed to physically represent their holiness. They were ‘set apart’ to God”

30 And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.
'showbread'—literally (Heb.) Bread of faces

(NSB) "Twelve loaves **representing the twelve tribes** were placed in two rows with six loaves in each row.

It was called showbread because it was placed symbolically before the 'face' of God"
[Lev. 24:5-9]

Table of showbread represents communion/fellowship with God



1 Corinthians 10:16-17

¹⁶The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?
The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

¹⁷For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

(Tanakh) "It consisted of twelve loaves placed on the table every Sabbath and replaced a week later and then eaten by the priests." [Lev. 24:5-9]

³¹“You shall also make a **lampstand** of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its *ornamental* knobs, and flowers shall be *of one piece*.”

³²And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side.

(Zondervan Bible Backgrounds Commentary)

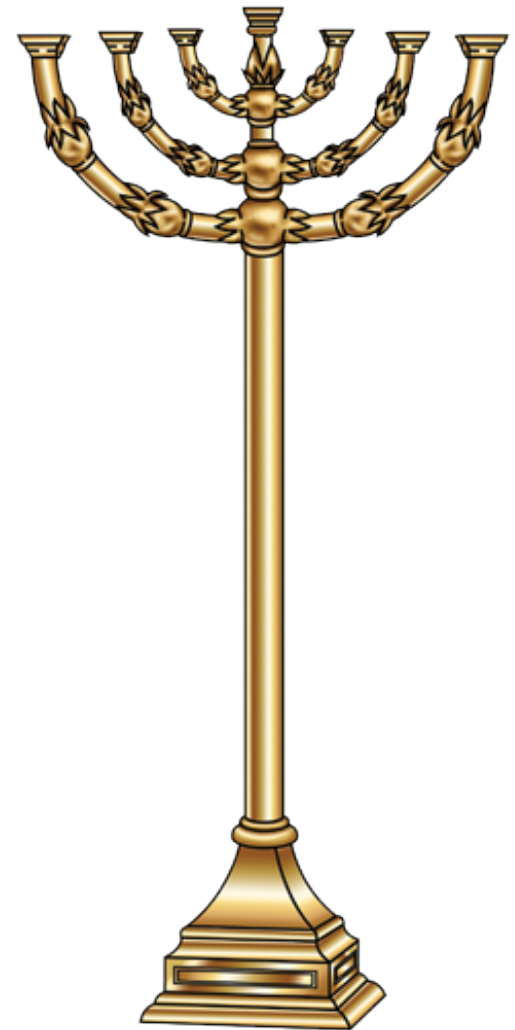
“The Hebrew word for **lampstand** is *menora*, and the Jewish tradition of lighting a menorah is still with us today.”

v. 31 “hammered work”

(JFB) “As numbers of the Israelite slaves had been engaged in the workshops of Egyptian artisans, where they were instructed in various branches of the useful and fine arts,
they could contribute in labor...by enlisting their skill and experience in the work of the tabernacle”

(NSB) “One of the seven lamps was to be placed in the center, flanked by three branches on either side. This became the basic design for the menorah of later Judaism.

The symbolism of the number seven goes back to the creation account of Genesis 1 and represents completion”



³³Three bowls *shall be* made like almond *blossoms* on one branch, *with an ornamental knob and a flower*, and three bowls made like almond *blossoms* on the other branch, *with an ornamental knob and a flower*—and so for the six branches that come out of the lampstand.

³⁴On the lampstand itself four bowls *shall be* made like almond *blossoms*, *each with its ornamental knob and flower*.

(Zondervan Bible Backgrounds Commentary)

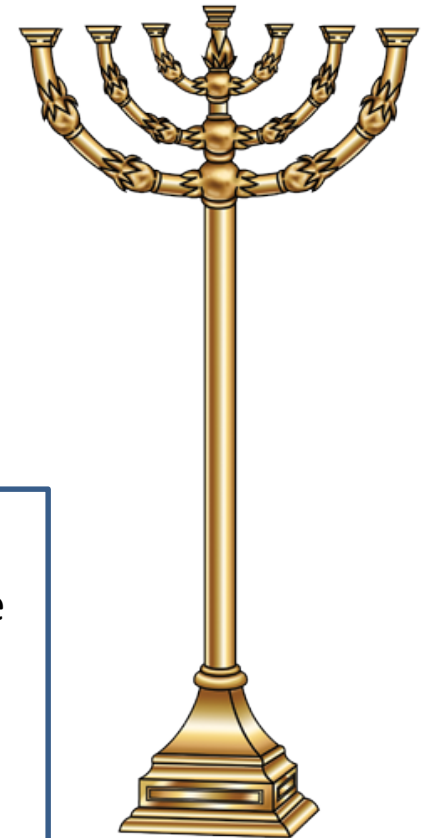
“ Based on artistic representations in the ancient Near East, one can conclude that the lampstand is a symbolic tree of life.

As such it did more than provide light within the tabernacle; it represented life and the life giving presence of Yahweh”

John 1:1,4

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

⁴In Him was life, and the life was the **light** of men.



Lamp stand pictures that Christ is the light of the world

John 1:9

⁹That [£]was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

Christ in the middle of the candelabra

Revelation 1:13

¹³and in the midst of the seven lamp stands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

Pictures: Christ in the middle of the Church—living in us (by spirit) to become lights to the world

³⁵And *there shall be* a knob under the *first* two branches of the same, a knob under the *second* two branches of the same, and a knob under the *third* two branches of the same, according to the six branches that extend from the lampstand.

³⁶Their knobs and their branches *shall be of one piece*; all of it *shall be* one hammered piece of pure gold.

(NSB) “The bowls, branches, and knobs were highly decorative. The lamp illuminated the interior of the holy place, but it was also a work of art in its own right, showing God’s pleasure in artistry”

³⁷You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it.

³⁸And its wick-trimmers and their trays *shall be* of pure gold.

v. 37 (NSB) “The wicks would all be on the same side of the lampstand so the light would be shed principally in one direction. The lights would burn even when no priest was present”

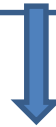
v. 38 (NSB) “The implements used in servicing the lamps were also to be made of gold”

³⁹It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils.

⁴⁰And see to it that you make *them* **according to the pattern** which was shown you on the mountain

(NSB) “A talent weighed about 75 pounds. It is very difficult to estimate the monetary value of the lamp stand, since there were no coins or currency at this time. We can assume it was enormously valuable and exquisitely beautiful”

(NSB) “Moses was not only told how to make the implements. He actually ‘saw’ in some manner on Sinai a heavenly pattern for them”



Acts 7:44

⁴⁴“Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as He appointed, instructing Moses to make it according to the pattern that he had seen,

Lessons

The tabernacle of ancient Israel is a type [copy] of the heavenly one [true tabernacle]

The tabernacle is a type of Christ—dwelt among his people

The tabernacle teaches us that you cannot save yourself, you must come to God through Christ