

Exodus 26-27

Bible Study

Review

Chapter 25—instructions from God for the design and construction of the tabernacle

- Tabernacle is a type of Christ

v. 8 “let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them”
[John 1:14] “And the word became flesh and dwelt among us”

Chapter 25 discusses furniture in the tabernacle

Ark [Ark contained the 2 tablets of 10 commandments]

Mercy Seat— represents God’s throne

➤ God rules by law but when we sin he extends mercy to us

Table of showbread [12 loaves] representing 12 tribes—fellowship with God

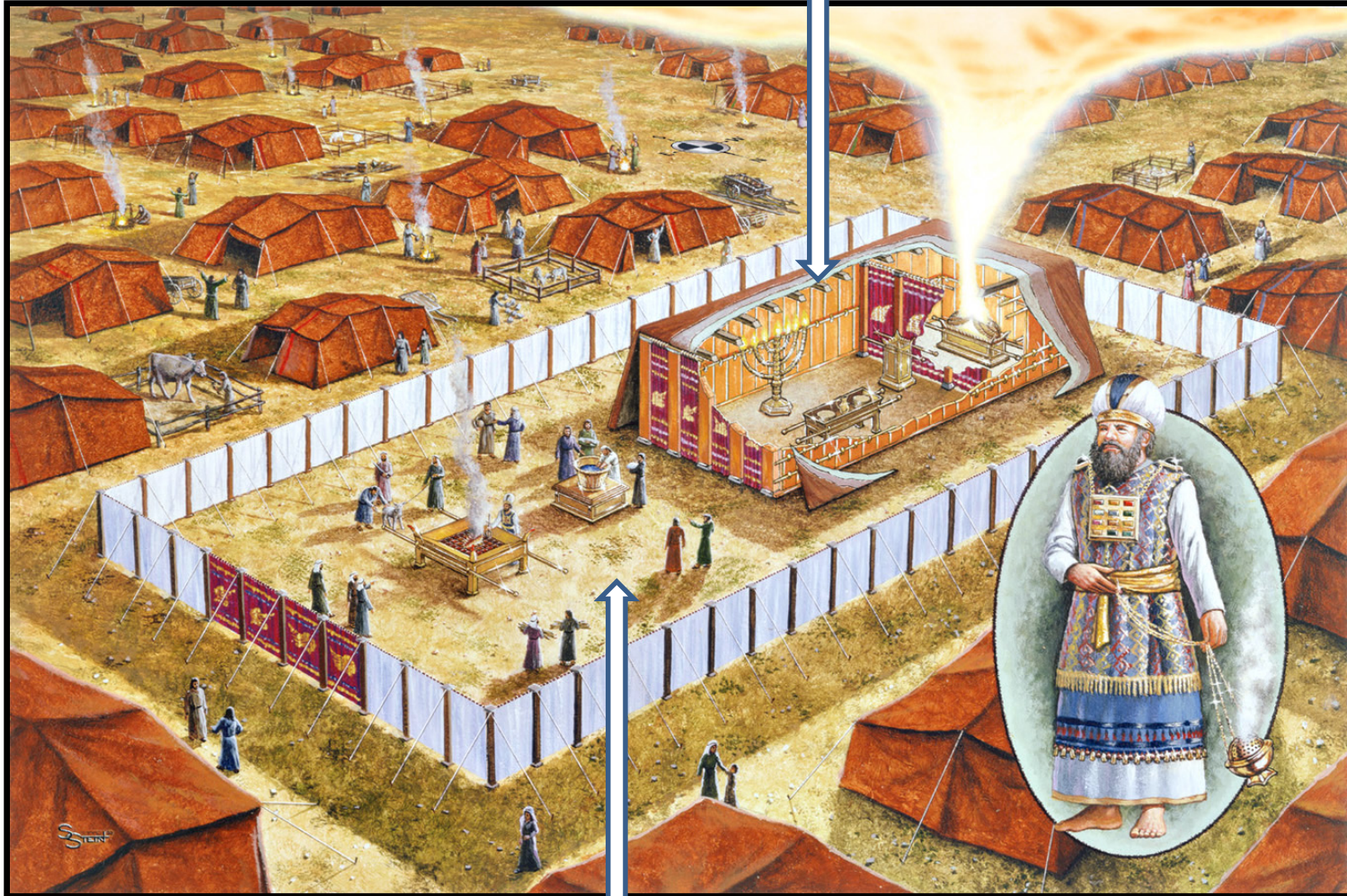
Lamp stand [pure gold/only light in the Holy place]—Christ is the light of the world

Exodus 25:9

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*.

Exact details and specifications

Chapter 26—discusses the tabernacle



Chapter 27—discusses the courtyard

¹“Moreover you shall make the tabernacle *with ten curtains* of fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*; with artistic designs of **cherubim** you shall weave them.

²The length of each curtain *shall be* twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits. And every one of the curtains shall have the same measurements.

(NSB) “In Exodus the description of the tabernacle begins with the inside, according to God’s view, so to speak, and moves to the outside. Thus the ten curtains are described first”

(BKC) “The **cherubim** were also woven into the curtains that covered the tabernacle itself and into the curtain between the holy place and the most holy place”

‘curtain’ (Theological wordbook of the OT)

“Since **tents** were made out of **curtains**, these two words are paralleled frequently in the Old Testament.

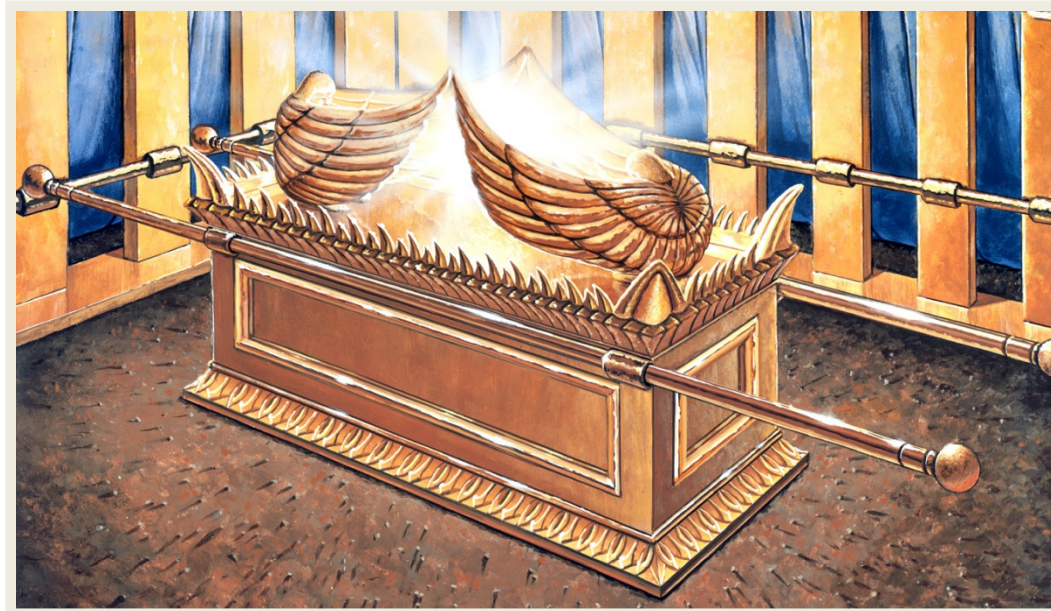
In symbolic language God is pictured as spreading out the heavens like a tent or curtain. Little effort on his part and yet his complete control is thus emphasized.”

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Psalms 104:2

² Who cover *Yourself* with light as *with* a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

³Five curtains shall be coupled to one another, and *the other* five curtains *shall be* coupled to one another.

⁴And you shall make loops of blue *yarn* on the edge of the curtain on the selvedge of *one* set, and likewise you shall do on the outer edge of *the other* curtain of the second set.



(NSB) “These ten curtains were divided into two sets. The inner curtains were made of delicate fabric with brilliant colors and exquisite design. All of this was hidden from public view. The curtains were grouped in ten sections so they could be moved easily.”

⁵Fifty loops you shall make in the one curtain, and fifty loops you shall make on the edge of the curtain that *is* on the end of the second set, that the loops may be clasped to one another.

⁶And you shall make fifty clasps of gold, and couple the curtains together with the clasps, so that it may be one tabernacle.

v. 6 (TEV) “Make fifty gold hooks with which to join the two sets into one piece.”

(BKC) “the ten [curtains] together measured 60’x 42’....10 curtains each 6’ wide”

(NSB) “Every detail of the curtains was specified, including directions for making of the loops and clasps. With these the curtains were linked together to form the tent.”

[v. 7-13] 2nd layer of material—'curtains of goat's hair'

⁷“You shall also make curtains of goats’ *hair*, to be a **tent** over the tabernacle. You shall make eleven curtains.

⁸The length of each curtain *shall be* thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; and the eleven curtains shall all have the same measurements.

“Curtains of goat’s hair”

(NSB) “The coarse fabric of the outer curtains protected the delicate fabrics within from the elements. Goats hair was a rich black fabric highly prized in the ancient world”

(BKC) “a black weather-resistant material still used today by Bedouins in tent making”

⁹And you shall couple five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves, and you shall double over the sixth curtain at the forefront of the tent.

“eleven curtains”

(NSB) “The outer curtains has to be larger than the inner curtains to assure complete coverage. The extra outer curtain was used over the front of the tent.”

¹⁰You shall make fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in *one* set, and fifty loops on the edge of the curtain of the second set.

¹¹And you shall make fifty bronze clasps, put the clasps into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one.

¹²The remnant that remains of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remains, shall hang over the back of the tabernacle.

¹³And a cubit on one side and a cubit on the other side, of what remains of the length of the curtains of the tent, shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle, on this side and on that side, to cover it.

(BKC) "They were longer than the inner curtains (45 ft. rather than 42 ft.) so that they touched the ground on the tabernacle sides. [v.13]

This hid from view the brilliant colors of the inner curtains and the costly pieces of furniture in the tabernacle"

[v.14] Upper two layers

¹⁴“You shall also make a covering of ram skins dyed red for the tent, and a covering of badger skins above that.

(BKC) “Over the goat-hair curtains were to be place **two** other curtains: ram skins dyed red and the hides of sea cows. —————→

They were probably placed over the goat-hair curtains; this is still the custom of some Bedouins today”



V.15—30 the tabernacles framework

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¹⁵“And for the tabernacle you shall make the boards of acacia wood, standing upright.

¹⁶Ten cubits *shall be* the length of a board, and a cubit and a half *shall be* the width of each board.

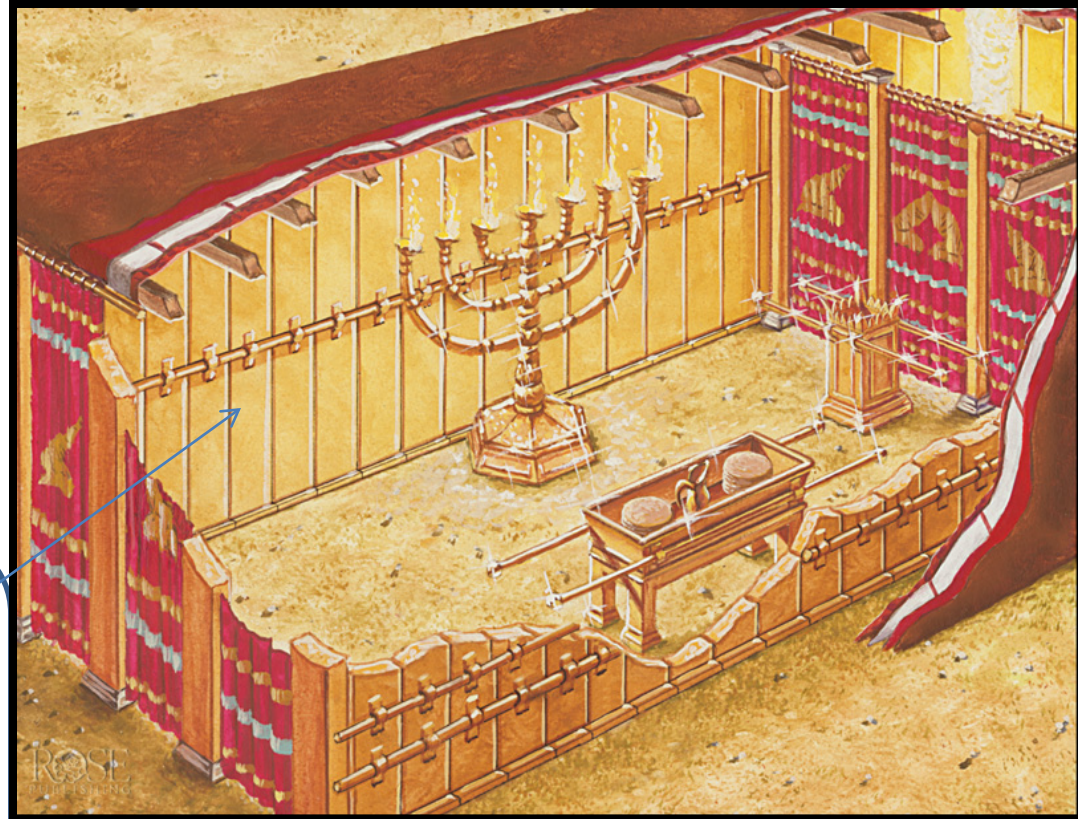
(BKC)

“The frame for the tabernacle....

apparently the ‘walls’ of the tabernacle were not solid but consisted of wooden upright frames forming a trellised construction over which the curtains were draped”

(NSB) “Each board was about fifteen feet long and two and a quarter feet wide.

Twenty boards were on the north side [v.20], twenty on the south [v.18], and six on the west [v.22]. Corner posts stabilized the structure”



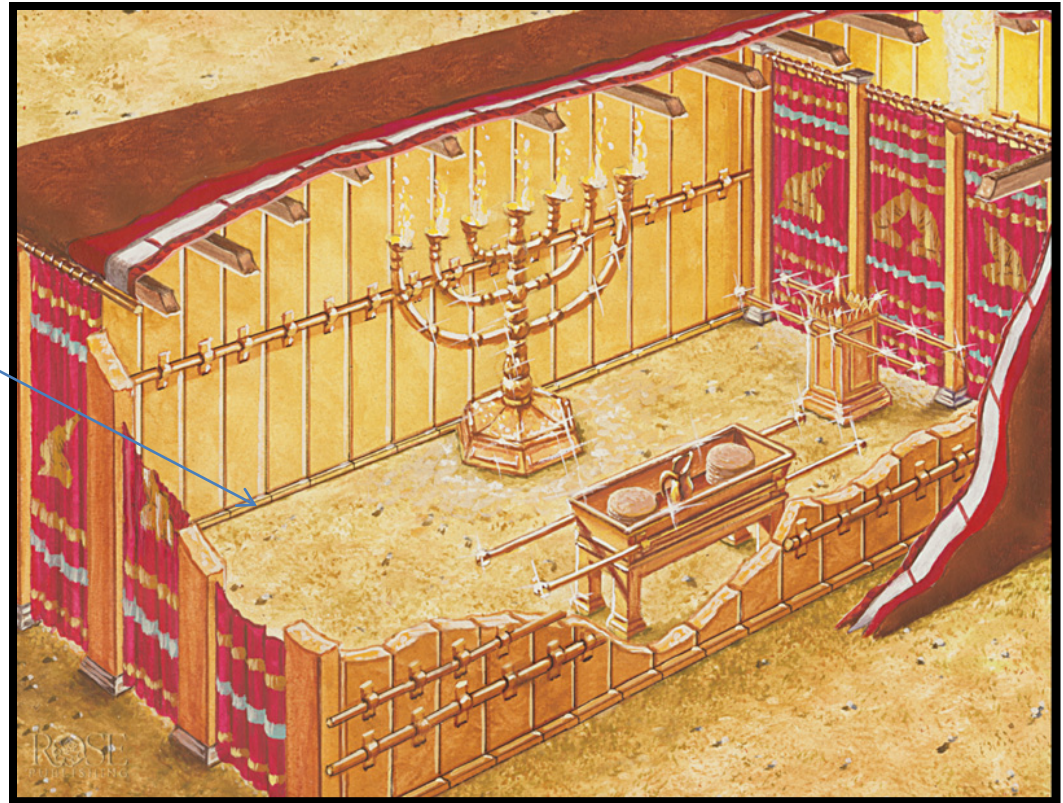
¹⁷Two tenons *shall be* in each board for binding one to another. Thus you shall make for all the boards of the tabernacle.

¹⁸And you shall make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards for the south side.

¹⁹You shall make forty **sockets of silver** under the twenty boards: two sockets under each of the boards for its two tenons.

v. 19 The frames were fit into a **foundation** of ‘forty **silver sockets**’ or bases on each side

➤ Represent redemption [Ex. 30: 12-16]—a foundation of redemption



²⁰And for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, *there shall be* twenty boards [45ft.]

²¹and their forty sockets of silver: two sockets under each of the boards.

²²For the far side of the tabernacle, westward, you shall make six boards. [15 feet]

²³And you shall also make two boards for the two back corners of the tabernacle.

²⁴They shall be coupled together at the bottom and they shall be coupled together at the top by one ring. Thus it shall be for both of them. They shall be for the two corners.

²⁵So there shall be eight boards with their sockets of **silver**—sixteen sockets—two sockets under each of the boards.

v. 24 (Expositors) “The Hebrew word for ‘corner’ apparently means ‘angle’. Thus one frame was cut down the center on a miter, and the two pieces would form the ‘corner’ or ‘angle’ frame on the two sides of the corner”

v. 25 (Tanakh translation Jewish Study Bible)

“Silver is probably chosen for the sockets despite the fact that the planks are inside the tabernacle because gold is not strong enough to support the planks”

²⁶“And you shall make bars of acacia wood: five for the boards on one side of the tabernacle,

²⁷five bars for the boards on the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle, for the far side westward.

²⁸The middle bar shall pass through the midst of the boards from end to end.

²⁹You shall overlay the boards with gold, make their rings of gold as holders for the bars, and overlay the bars with gold.

³⁰And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain.

(BKC) “The frames were also secured by a series of 15 crossbars (5 on each of the two sides and 5 at the back) that fit through gold rings horizontally. These bars were to be overlaid with gold.”

v. 31—35 the tabernacle's veil

³¹“You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim.

³²You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia *wood* overlaid with gold. Their hooks *shall be* gold, upon four sockets of silver.

‘veil’= (Heb.) to separate

(Tanakh)

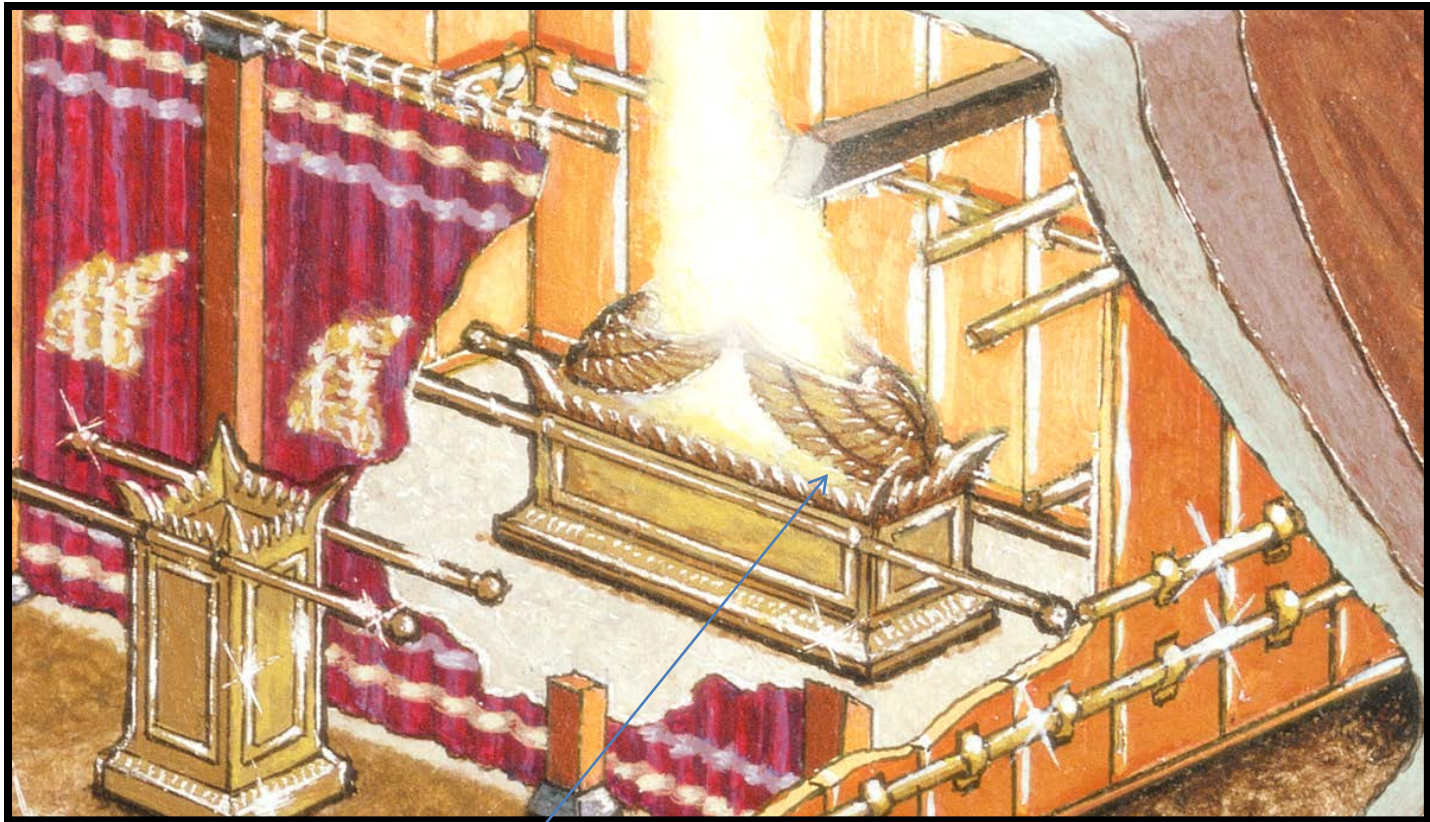
“The curtain (*parokhet*) for the Holy of Holies, again made of the finest materials and decorated with cherubs because of its contiguity with the Holy of Holies”



The veil divided the Most Holy Place (ark was located)... from the Holy Place (lamp stand, incense altar and table of showbread located)

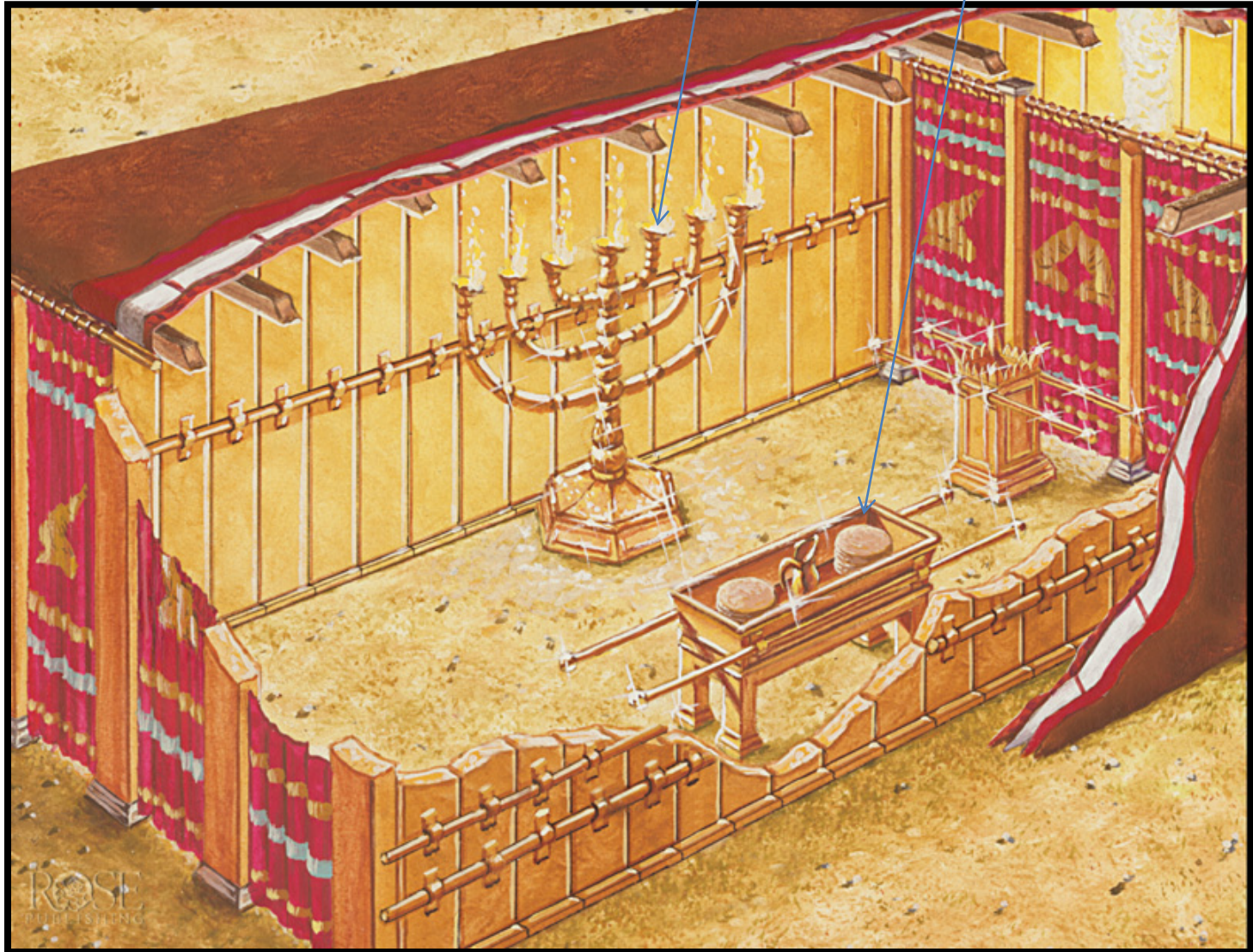
³³And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy *place* and the Most Holy.

The veil screened access to God's throne [in the most holy place]



³⁴You shall put the mercy seat upon the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy.

³⁵You shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand across from the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south; and you shall put the table on the north side.



The veil pictures the flesh of Christ

Hebrews 10:19-20

¹⁹Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

²⁰by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

The un-rent veil pictures man cut off from the father

➤ The veil being rent in two pictures access to the father

Matthew 27:50-51

⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

⁵¹Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom;

Symbolized that through Christ we have access to the father...Christ made it possible

³⁶“You shall make a **screen for the door** of the tabernacle, *woven of* blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver.

v. 36 “screen for the **door** of the tabernacle”

(Parallel Bible Commentary)

“The entire tabernacle pointed west and could only be entered from the one door on the eastern end”



³⁷And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia *wood*, and overlay them with gold; their hooks *shall be* gold, and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them.

v. 37 “The **screen**” for the entrance of the tabernacle.

(Tanakh) “It is made of the same fine materials as the ‘*parokhet*’ (veil) but, since it is not contiguous with the Holy of Holies, it is **not adorned with cherubs**, its sockets are of a less valuable metal (copper, bronze), and it is done in embroidery—apparently a less sophisticated weave than that used for the veil”

v. 37 (Expositors) “Since this curtain went to the outside and to the corners of the wall, it had ‘five posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold’ instead of four”

¹“You shall make an **altar** of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide—the altar shall be square—and its height *shall be* three cubits.

(Expositors) “It measured seven and one-half feet square by four and one-half feet high”

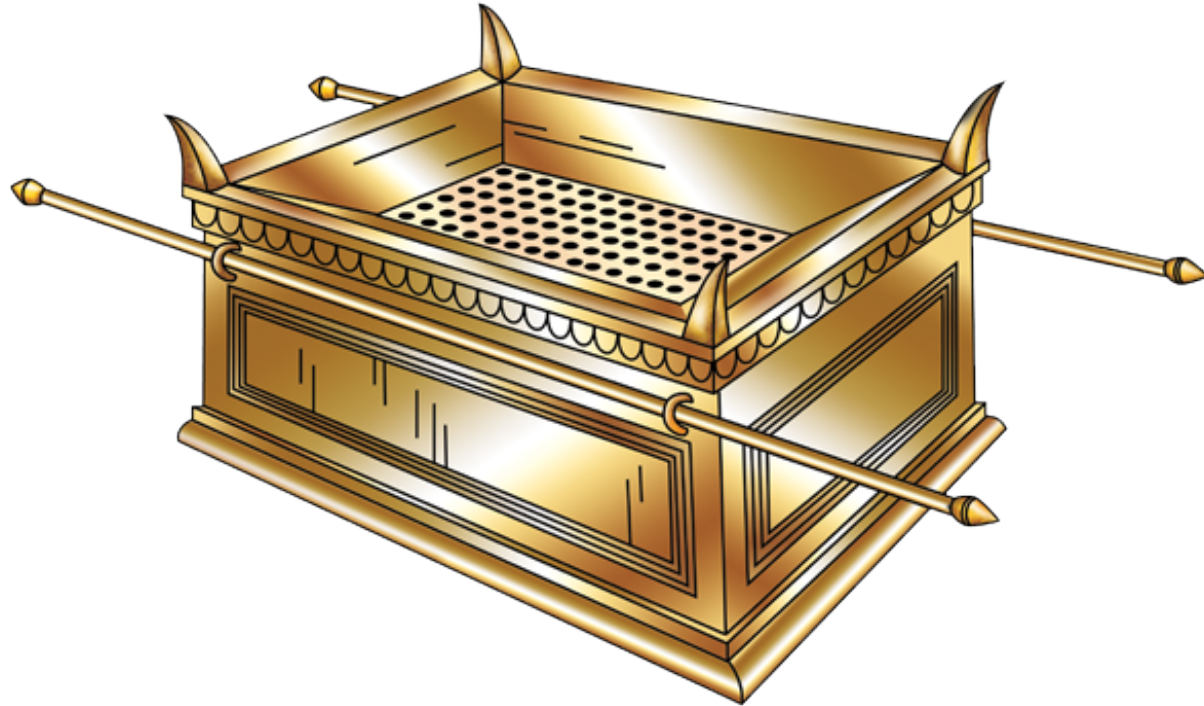
(Tanakh translation, Jewish Study Bible)

“This is the main altar on which animal and grain offerings were burnt and wine offerings were poured.

Altar



²You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay it with bronze.



(Expositors) “The horns were projections of the four corner posts but of one piece with the altar. They symbolized power, help and sanctuary.

The reason the horns symbolized the atoning power of the altar was that in the atonement ritual some of the blood was put on the horns before the rest was poured out at the base of the altar”

³Also you shall make its pans to receive its ashes, and its shovels and its basins and its forks and its fire pans; you shall make all its utensils of bronze.



V.3 (Expositors) “The **pans** were to hold the ashes when they were removed from the hearth by shovels.

The **basins** were to catch the blood of the animals slain beside the altar...

The **forks** were for arranging the sacrifice or retracting the priests portion...

The **fire pans** were for carrying fire from the altar of incense inside the Holy place”

⁴You shall make a grate for it, a network of bronze; and on the network you shall make four bronze rings at its four corners.

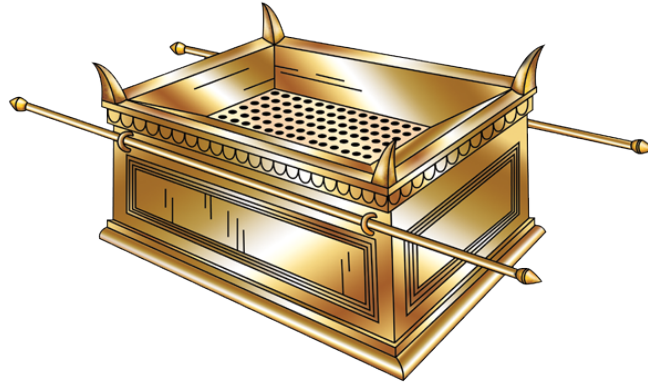
⁵You shall put it under the rim of the altar beneath, that the network may be midway up the altar.

v. 4-5 (BKC) “The grating or bronze network, placed on a ledge within and half-way up the altar helped reinforce the altar and may have been where the animal meat was cooked”

(Parallel Bible Commentary) “The brazen altar had a grate of network of brass and functioned much like a modern barbecue pit”

⁶And you shall make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze.

⁷The poles shall be put in the rings, and the poles shall be on the two sides of the altar to bear it.



v. 6-7 (BKC) “Poles were to be overlaid with bronze and inserted into bronze rings at the altar’s corners for use in carrying the altar”

⁸You shall make it hollow with boards; as it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make *it*.

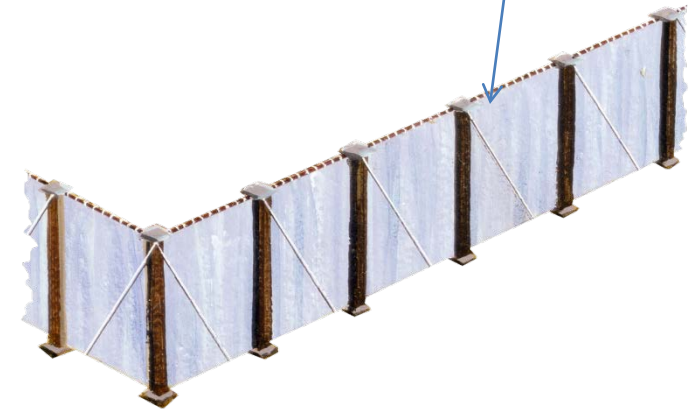
(BKC) “The bottom half of the altar was to be hollow but it may later have been filled with small stones....with the fire being built on the rocks”

Brazen altar was the first component you see entering the courtyard—where sacrifices took place

- Represents the instrument on which Christ was sacrificed and pictures his sacrifice for sin
- Ultimate sacrifice of Christ typified by many of the sacrifices



⁹“You shall also make the **court of the tabernacle**. For the south side *there shall be hangings* for the court *made of fine woven linen*, one hundred cubits long for one side.



The courtyard with its draperies served as a buffer zone to separate ceremonies of worship from the common areas

The courtyard was a type of courtyard of redemption—where redemption took place

¹⁰And its twenty pillars and their twenty sockets *shall be* bronze. The hooks of the pillars and their bands *shall be* silver.

‘sockets of bronze’ (Companion) “The sockets of these pillars (the way of access) of ‘bronze’ (denoting judgment in righteousness)

¹¹Likewise along the length of the north side *there shall be hangings* one hundred *cubits* long, with its twenty pillars and their twenty sockets of bronze, and the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver.



(Parallel Bible Commentary) “The court of the tabernacle was a large open area approximately one hundred fifty by seventy-five feet and surrounded the tent itself.

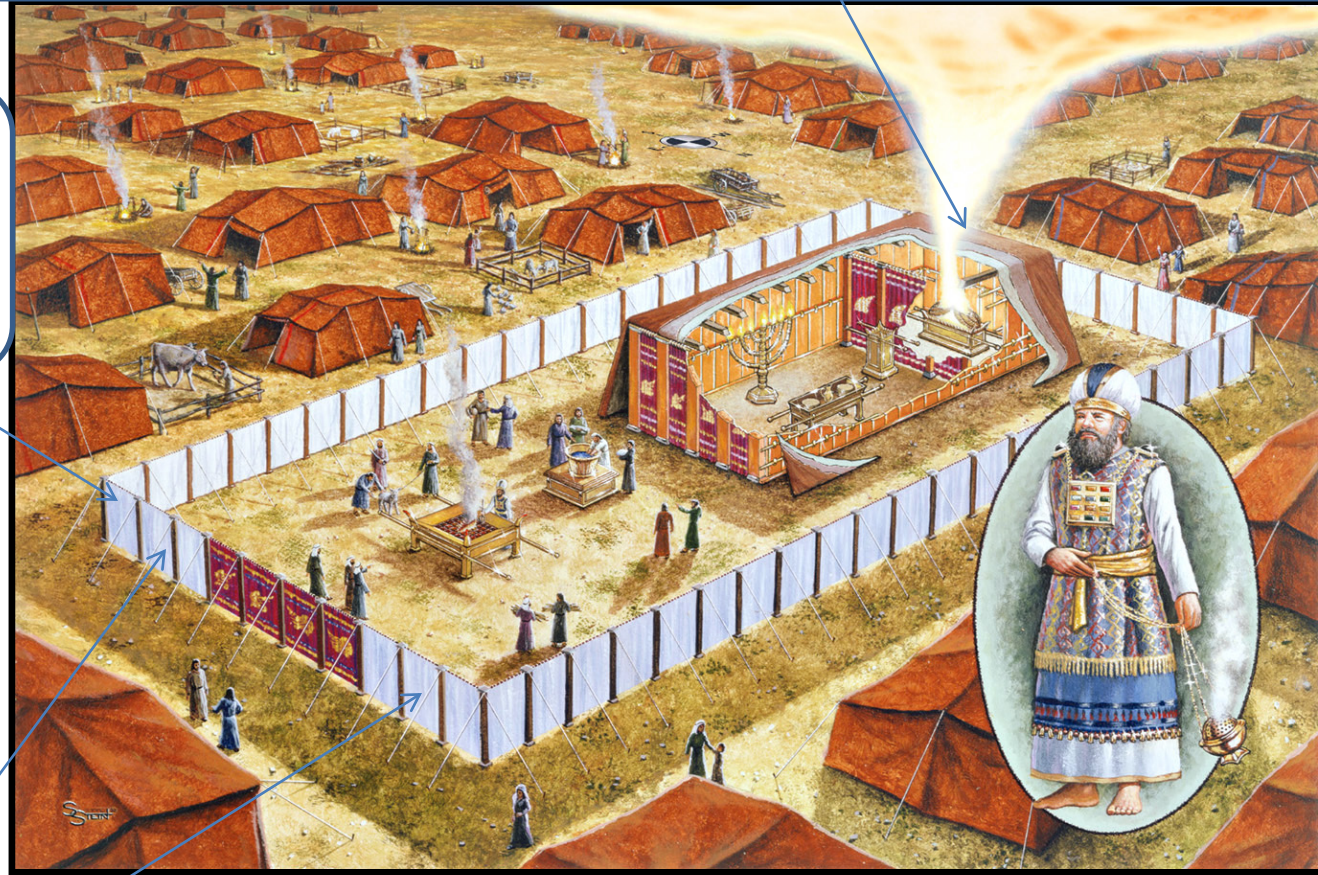
This area was enclosed by a fence of **hangings** [curtains] that were seven and one half feet tall.

Inside the courtyard the animals were sacrificed, and the priests carried out their duties

➤ The court represents the activity of Christ—pictures the plan of salvation and the need for redemption

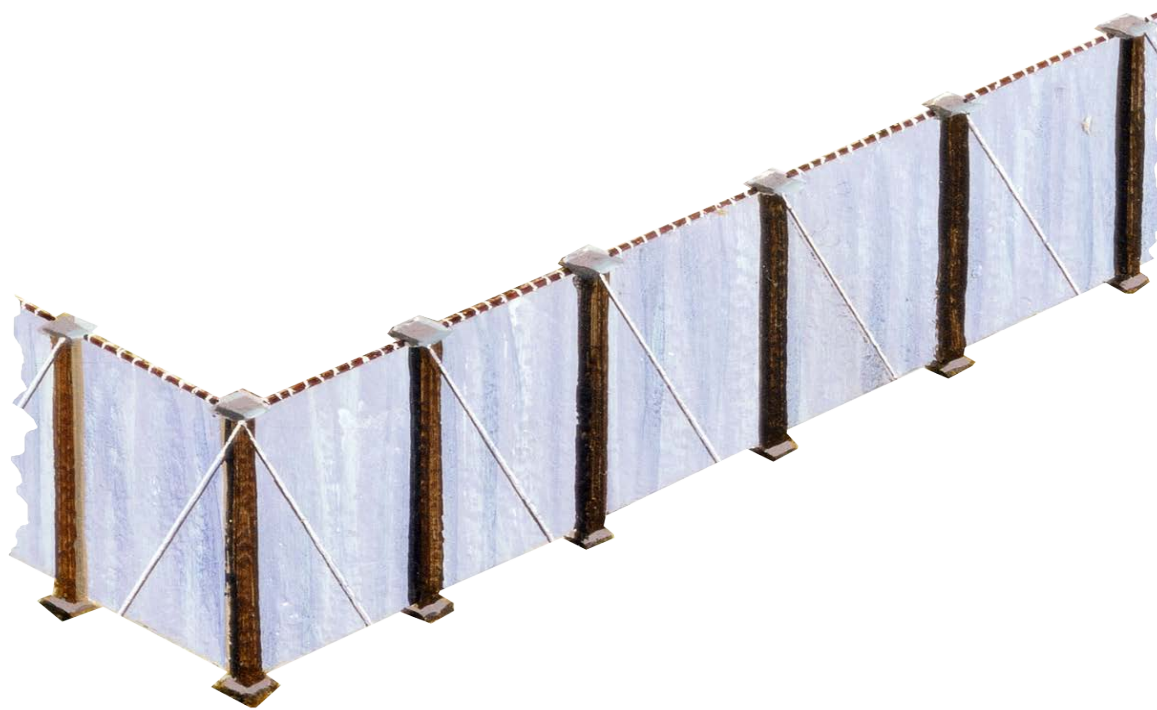
¹²“And along the width of the court on the west side *shall be hangings* of fifty cubits, with their ten pillars and their ten sockets.

¹³The width of the court on the east side *shall be* fifty cubits.



¹⁴The hangings on *one side of the gate shall be* fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three sockets.

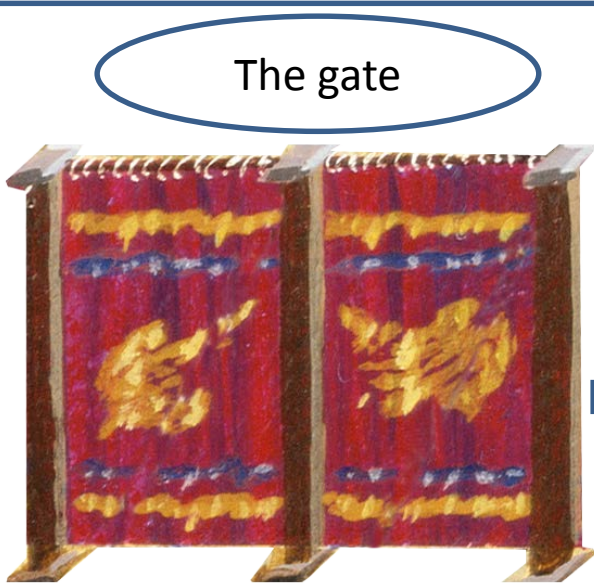
¹⁵And on the other side *shall be* hangings of fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three sockets.



The linen fence separated the courtyard of the tabernacle where worship ceremonies took place, from the common outside area

- The linen fence represented the demarcation between the world of sin on the outside and the redemptive court on the inside

¹⁶“For the **gate** of the court *there shall be* a screen twenty cubits long, *woven of* blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. It *shall have* four pillars and four sockets.



The entrance into the courtyard was only through the gate—a type of Christ

➤ Only way to the father is through Christ by his sacrifice

John 10:9

⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 14:6

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

¹⁹All the utensils of the tabernacle for all its service, all its pegs, and all the pegs of the court, *shall be* of bronze.

'tabernacle' (Tanakh) "Here this means the courtyard"

(NSB) "The pegs made of bronze were used for ropes to hold the supporting pillars of the courtyard. Everything was designed for portability"

¹⁷All the pillars around the court shall have bands of silver; their hooks *shall be* of silver and their sockets of bronze.

¹⁸The length of the court *shall be* one hundred cubits, the width fifty throughout, and the height five cubits, *made of* fine woven linen, and its sockets of bronze.

(New Bible Commentary)

"The distinction between the holiness of the courtyard and the tabernacle is reflected in the value of the materials used in their construction. Whereas gold was regularly used within the tabernacle, the main metals used in the courtyard were silver and bronze"

²⁰“And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually.

(NSB) “The fuel for the lamps, pure oil of pressed olives, burned with little smoke. The purity of the oil was indicative of the standard God demanded for all sacrifices offered to him”

(Tanakh) “oil will have to be requested regularly since, unlike the materials used to construct the sanctuary, the oil supply is depletable”

²¹In the tabernacle of meeting, outside the veil which *is* before the Testimony, **Aaron and his sons** shall tend it from evening until morning before the Lord. *It shall be* a statute forever to their generations on behalf of the children of Israel.

(New Bible Commentary)

“**Responsibility** for keeping the lamps burning each night was assigned to Aaron and his sons.

Mention of them provides **a link** with the next set of directives concerning the consecration of the priests for service within the sanctuary”

Lessons

The temporary dwelling of the tabernacle Israel would build, continues until the time of Solomon when a fixed structure, the temple would be built

The temple foreshadows the kingdom of God—the time when Christ will take up permanent residence on Earth

We have seen intricate details of the curtains, veil, altar, courtyard—When God designs and builds he does so by careful and skillful planning and craftsmanship

A Lesson for us:

Luke 16: 10

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; ...”