

Study 25: Moses, Part 12 Exodus 25-26

Last week, we ended with Moses going up Mt. Sinai into the Shekinah glory cloud, which appeared to the Israelites as a “consuming fire,” and spent the next 40 days and 40 nights there.

Ex 25 The Lord said to Moses, 2 “Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give. 3 These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze [copper?]; 4 blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; 5 ram skins dyed red and **another type of durable leather** [adding in a footnote: “Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals.”]; acacia wood; 6 olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; 7 and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.

8 “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, **and I will dwell among them.** [John 1:14 says Jesus “became flesh and dwelt among us” (Greek: σκηνώω “to pitch a tent”) = “tabernacled”; Rev 21:3 “dwelling place” = “tabernacle” (Greek: σκηνή). KJV “the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them” (literally, “He shall tabernacle with them.”)] 9 Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

10 “Have them make an ark [chest] of **acacia wood** [also called a “thorntree.” In Egyptian mythology, it is associated with the “Tree of Life.” Its bark, root, and resin are used to make incense, and the Chinese thought that smoke from acacia bark would keep demons and ghosts away and put the gods in a good mood. According to *Easton’s Bible Dictionary*, the acacia tree may have been the “burning bush” that Moses encountered in the desert (Exodus 3:2),¹ and according to Christian tradition, it was from this tree that Christ’s crown of thorns was woven]—two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high [about 3¾ feet long and 2¼ feet wide and high Note where God starts his building instructions: at the **center** of the tabernacle—with the one piece that will be kept in the **holy of holies**]. 11 Overlay it with pure **gold**, both inside and out, and make a gold molding around it. 12 Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. 13 Then make poles of **acacia wood** and overlay them with gold. 14 Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry it. 15 The poles are to remain in the rings of this ark; they are not to be removed. 16 Then put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you.

17 “Make an **atonement cover** of pure gold—two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. 18 And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. 19 Make one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; make the cherubim of one piece with the cover, at the two ends. 20 The cherubim are to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the cover. 21 Place the cover on top of the ark and put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law that I will give you. 22 There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites.

23 “Make a table of acacia wood—two cubits long, a cubit wide and a cubit and a half high [about 3 feet long, 1½ feet wide and 2¼ feet high]. 24 Overlay it with pure gold and make a gold molding around it. 25 Also make around it a rim a handbreadth [about 3 inches] wide and put a gold molding on the rim. 26 Make four gold rings for the table and fasten them to the four corners, where the four legs are. 27 The rings are to be close to the rim to hold the poles used in carrying the table. 28 Make the poles of acacia wood, overlay them with gold and carry the table with them. 29 And make its plates and dishes of pure gold, as well as its pitchers and bowls for the pouring out of offerings. 30 Put **the bread of the Presence** on this table to be before me at all times. [Jesus said, “I am the Bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” John 6:35]

31 “Make a lampstand of pure gold. [Represents **God’s Word**. Ps 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”] Hammer out its base and shaft, and make its flowerlike **cups, buds and blossoms** of one piece with them. 32 Six branches are to extend from the sides of the lampstand—three on one side and three on the other. 33 Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms are to be on one branch, three on the next branch, and the same for all six branches extending from the lampstand. 34 And on the lampstand there are to be four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms. 35 One bud shall be under the first pair of branches extending from the lampstand, a second bud under the second pair, and a third bud under the third pair—six branches in all. 36 The buds and branches shall all be of one piece with the lampstand, hammered out of pure gold. [**Each branch** has 3 sets of 3 cups, buds, and

¹ <http://biblehub.com/dictionary/b/bush.htm>

blossoms, or 9 total. The center of the lampstand was to have 4 sets of these 3 items, or 12 total. So, 6 branches with 9 items each on them = 54. Add in the 12 on the center piece, and we have 66. Does that number ring any bells? Notice this: If you take the center section with only one half the branches (3), the total number of cups, buds, and blossoms is: 39, while the remaining 3 branches have 27. There are 39 books in the OT, and 27 in the New.]

37 “Then make its seven lamps and set them up on it so that they light the space in front of it. 38 Its wick trimmers and trays are to be of pure gold. 39 A talent [about 75 pounds] of pure gold is to be used for the lampstand and all these accessories. 40 See that you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.

Ex 26 “Make the tabernacle with ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, with **cherubim** woven into them by a skilled worker. [A cherub was set at the entrance to the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve were kicked out of it.] 2 All the curtains are to be the same size—twenty-eight cubits long and four cubits wide [about 42 feet long and 6 feet wide] 3 Join five of the curtains together, and do the same with the other five. 4 Make loops of blue material along the edge of the end curtain in one set, and do the same with the end curtain in the other set. 5 Make fifty loops on one curtain and fifty loops on the end curtain of the other set, with the loops opposite each other. 6 Then make fifty gold clasps and use them to fasten the curtains together so that the tabernacle is a unit.

7 “Make curtains of goat hair for the tent over the tabernacle—eleven altogether. 8 All eleven curtains are to be the same size—thirty cubits long and four cubits wide [about 45 feet long and 6 feet wide]. 9 Join five of the curtains together into one set and the other six into another set. Fold the sixth curtain double at the front of the tent. 10 Make fifty loops along the edge of the end curtain in one set and also along the edge of the end curtain in the other set. 11 Then make fifty **bronze** clasps and put them in the loops to fasten the tent together as a unit. 12 As for the additional length of the tent curtains, the half curtain that is left over is to hang down at the rear of the tabernacle. 13 The tent curtains will be a cubit [about 18 inches (a foot and a half)] longer on both sides; what is left will hang over the sides of the tabernacle so as to cover it. 14 Make for the tent a covering of **ram skins dyed red**, and over that a covering of the other **durable leather** [The word here in Hebrew is *tachash*. The **New American Bible (Revised Edition)** and the **Orthodox Jewish Bible** simply transliterate the Hebrew as “tachash,” leaving it to the reader to wonder what it might mean. The **Complete Jewish Bible**, the **Contemporary English Version**, the **Easy-to-Read Version**, **God’s Word Translation**, the **Good News Translation**, the **International Children’s Bible**, the **Lexham English Bible**, the **Names of God version**, the **New Century Version**, the **New English Translation**, and the **New Revised Standard Version** say “fine leather”; the **New Living Translation** says “goatskin leather,” while the **Common English Bible** says, “beaded leather.” The **Expanded Bible** says “fine leather,” but adds, in brackets, “*or sea cow/porpoise hide.*” The **King James**, **New King James**, the **21st Century King James**, the **Blue Red and Gold Letter Edition**, the **1599 Geneva Bible**, and **Young’s Literal Translation** say “badger skins,” the **English Standard Version**, the **New Living Translation**, the **Revised Standard Version** and **The Living Bible** have “goatskins,” with a footnote saying “possibly dolphin or dugong [manatee] skins”; the **Modern English Version** and **New American Standard Bible** say “porpoise skins”; The **Amplified Bible**, “goatskins, dolphin or porpoise skins”; **The Message** and **International Standard Version** have “dolphin skins,” the **American Standard Version** “sealskins”; **The Voice** and **World English Bible** say “sea cow,” the **Holman Christian Standard Bible** says “manatee skins,” while the **Wycliffe Bible** says “jacinth,” i.e. “something blue.” The **Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition**, on the other hand, says it should be “violet skins.” So, what clues do we have as to *what* this animal was? In **Ex 26:14**, it says this material was to be used as a **covering for the tabernacle and its vessels**. **Ezek 16:10** says this material, *whatever it was*, was used for the **shoes** of the Israelites, and **Deut 29:5** says that they didn’t wear out during the entire 40 years of their wandering in the desert. **So, what was it?** It had to have been something thick and tough. That would eliminate every one of the materials suggested, including leather. My suggestion: **hippopotamus**. Why hippopotamus? Typologically speaking, the hippopotamus demonstrates characteristics of Christ. **Isa 53:2** says of Him, “He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.” Its’ grey color wouldn’t cause anyone to be attracted to it. The hippopotamus also exhibits a very unique behavior. When it is in stress, it secretes a red fluid, called “blood sweat” (not actual blood, but having the appearance of it. The hide of a hippo can be one inch thick in places—perfect for using for the soles of shoes, and would provide great protection for whatever it covered].

15 “Make upright [boards (the NIV says “frames”) of acacia wood for the tabernacle. 16 Each [board] is to be ten cubits long and a cubit and a half wide [about 15 feet long and 2 ¼ feet wide], 17 with two projections [tenons] set parallel to each other. Make all the [boards] of the tabernacle in this way. 18 Make twenty [boards] for the south side of the tabernacle 19 and make forty **silver** bases to go under them—two bases for each [board], one under each projection. 20 For the other side, the north side of the tabernacle, make twenty [boards] 21 and forty silver bases—two under each [board]. 22 Make six [boards] for the far end, that is, the west end of the tabernacle, 23 and make two [boards] for the

corners at the far end. 24 At these two corners they must be double from the bottom all the way to the top and fitted into a single ring; both shall be like that. 25 So there will be eight [boards] and sixteen silver bases—two under each [board].

26 “Also make crossbars of acacia wood: five for the [boards] on one side of the tabernacle, 27 five for those on the other side, and five for the [boards] on the west, at the far end of the tabernacle. 28 The center crossbar is to extend from end to end at the middle of the [boards]. 29 Overlay the [boards] with gold and make gold rings to hold the crossbars. Also overlay the crossbars with gold.

30 “Set up the tabernacle **according to the plan shown you on the mountain.**

31 “Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim woven into it by a skilled worker. 32 Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases. 33 Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the covenant law behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. 34 Put the atonement cover on the ark of the covenant law in the Most Holy Place. 35 Place the table outside the curtain on the north side of the tabernacle and put the lampstand opposite it on the south side.

36 “For the **entrance** to the tent [Jesus said, “I am the gate (KJV “door”): whoever enters through me will be saved” (**John 10:9**). Either word (“door” or “gate”) is a possible meaning. The gate was the entrance to the courtyard of the tabernacle, while the door was the entrance to the holy place] make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen—the work of an embroiderer. 37 Make gold hooks for this curtain and five posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold. And cast five bronze bases for them.

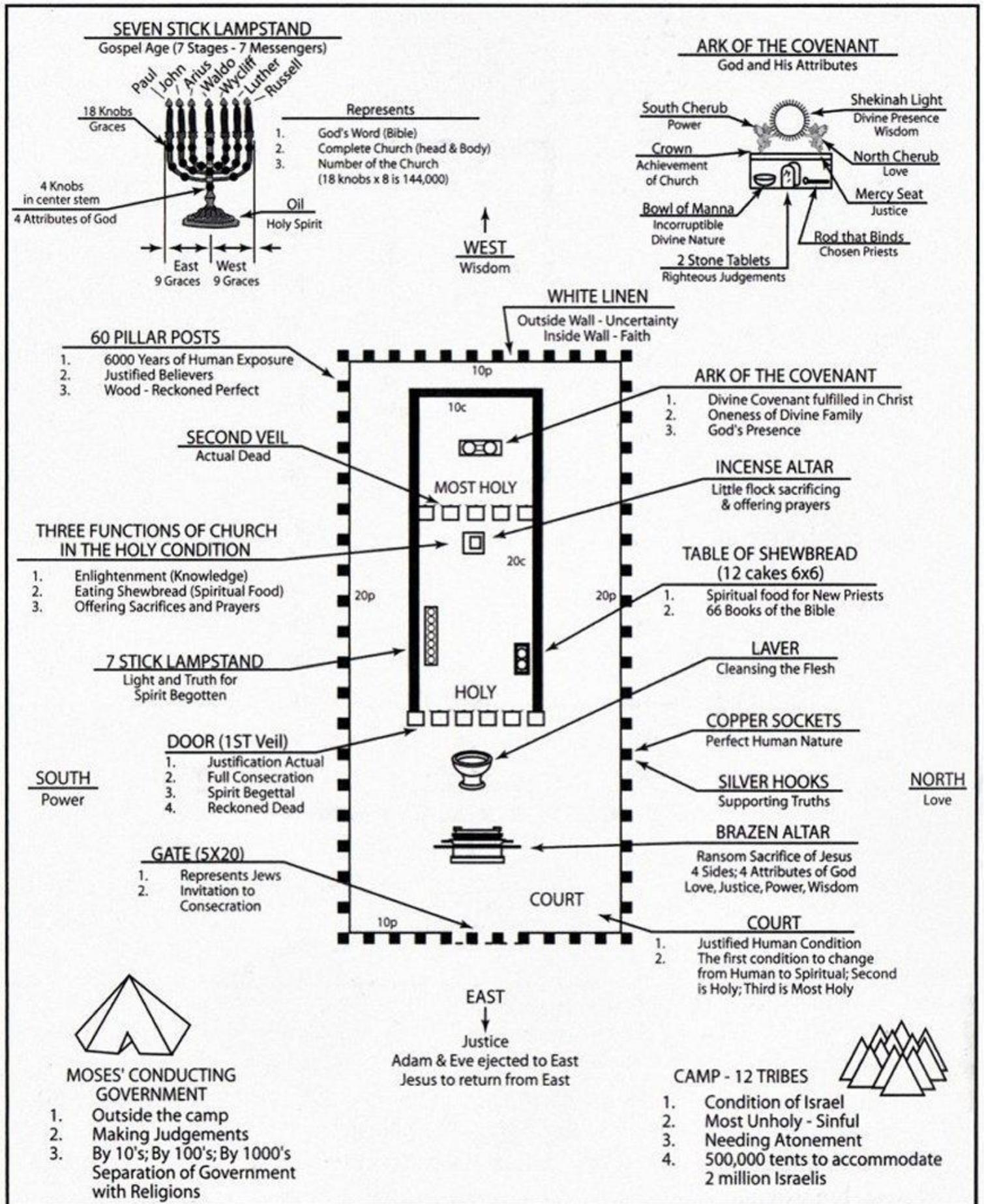


Figure 8.14 – Tabernacle: Typical and Antitypical Meanings

Jehovah's Witness version