

Lesson 4 **The Tabernacle, the Shadowing on Earth of the Throne Room of God in Heaven**

We are exactly where we are supposed to be on the timetable I have determined for us in this study. This week we are going to look at the plans for the earthly tabernacle in which God will dwell with His people Israel.

Day 1 Israel's preparation for being in God's Presence

You will remember from last week's lesson that God calls Moses up to the Mountain to receive from Him the Ten Commandments after God's miraculous deliverance of the nation of Israel from the Egyptian armies. God did this by parting the waters of the Reed Sea and allowing the Israelites to cross on dry ground and drowning the Egyptian armies in the returning waters of the Reed Sea. Answer the following questions in the spaces provided. Please remember at this time that God has always wanted to dwell with those of Mankind who are His. Sin in the Garden put a wrench into God's plans for unencumbered fellowship with His Creation of Man. God, now, will have to make a way to not only protect Himself from the sinful Israelites, but also protect the people He has called out and of whom He loves, from His own Holiness for they cannot be in His Presence.

According to **Exodus 19:1-3**, when did God call to Moses to come up the Mountain? How much time had elapsed from their miraculous deliverance from the armies of the Egyptian Pharaoh?

In those three months from their deliverance, how had God shown Himself to the Israelites? Begin with **Exodus 15** and read to the beginning of **Exodus 19**. Be sure to look for God's names or a description of God along the way that reveal something about His character beginning with the Salvation Song Israel sings to the LORD in **Exodus 15:1** and on to **Exodus 19:1**. Write them below along with their address. For those of you who do not have a Names of God Bible in which these are actually written in the Hebrew, you will have to look for other clues in the text, for example:

1. The LORD is highly exalted **Exodus 15:1** → *El Elyon*
2. The LORD has become my salvation **Exodus 15:2** → *El Elyon*
3. The LORD is a warrior **Exodus 15:3** →
4. He is majestic in power **Exodus 15:6** → *Elohim*
5. He is working wonders **Exodus 15:11** → *YHWH Nissi*
6. He is majestic in holiness **Exodus 15:11** → *El Hakkadosh*
7. I the LORD am your healer **Exodus 15:26** → *YHWH Rophe*

Just keep on going below until you get to Exodus 19. Don't get freaked out about this if you do not know the exact name for God in all of these descriptions. Just put down the description if you don't have the name.

The Wilderness of Shur and the bitter waters of Marah

When Moses led Israel from the Reed Sea and out into the wilderness of Shur they found no water for three days. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water because it was bitter. So the people grumbled at Moses. What did the LORD show Moses to throw into the water so that it became sweet? See **Exodus 15:22-25**. It is here that God **tests** the Israelites.

What did God do for the Israelites as they moved further into the wilderness and camped by the waters of Elim? See **Exodus 15:27**.

Do you see how much He loves them and how He is building trust with them, so that they will obey Him? Here is where He reveals His name, **YHWH Yireh**, God who is their Provider.

The Wilderness of Sin

In **Exodus 16**, God continues to test the Israelites as to whether or not they will continue to walk in His instruction, as He continues to teach them also to trust Him. Although the Israelites grumble again to Moses, this time about the lack of food, God is quick to provide them with sustenance by raining bread from heaven.

What does **Exodus 16:12** show you concerning God's reasons for bringing thirst and hunger to the Israelites?

What does Jesus tell us in the New Testament about our concerns of daily subsistence? Check out **Matthew 6:25-26**.

Again, do you see how much He loves them and how He is building trust with them, so that they will obey Him? Again, He reveals His name as **YHYW Yireh**, to the Israelites for He indeed is their Provider.

How does God test them according to **Exodus 16:4-8**?

***Then God does something, so very special, for the Israelites in **Exodus 16:9**.
What is it?

How did some of the Israelites fail to follow God's instruction concerning the *manna*? See **Exodus 16:13-21**.

How did God teach the Israelite that they could trust Him in **Exodus 19:22-36**?

Did the Israelites trust Him?

How do you know that they did not trust Him? Was He upset with them?

How did God reveal Himself not only as Lord, their provider, **YHWY Yireh**, but also as Lord of the Sabbath, **YHWH Mekodishkam** in **Exodus 16: 27-30**?

Rephidim

Please read **Exodus 17:1-7**.

What was the problem for the Israelites at Rephidim?

Even though God had already shown them that He would take care of them, what did they do at Rephidim when they thirsted and there was no water?

What did God tell Moses to do?

Fighting the Amelek

Please read **Exodus 17:8-16**.

God has shown the Israelites that they can trust Him for the daily necessities of life: food and water. He has shown them that He is **YHWH Yireh**. Now, He is going to

show them that they can trust Him to fight for them when they face an enemy. How does He show the Israelites and Moses that they can trust Him with their safety? What did Moses do at God's command so that the armies of Amalek were defeated? Here is where God reveals Himself to the Israelites as **YHWH Nissi**, the Lord is My Banner or the Lord is the One who does Miracles.

The Wilderness of Sinai

Where did they camp in the Wilderness of Sinai? See **Exodus 19:2**.

In **Exodus 19:4**, what does God tell Moses to say to the people gathered at His command?

"You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

How did the people respond to God's offer?

***Then God does something, so very special, again, for the Israelites in **Exodus 19:10-25**. What is it?

How did Moses bring the people out on the third day to meet God?

Moses brought the people out to meet God in front of the mountain. The Israelites were all trembling because when God descended on Mount Sinai, there was thunder and lightning flashes, and a thick cloud on the mountain, and a very loud trumpet sound, and the mountain was quaking.

Do you see in **Exodus 19: 21-25** how God is protecting the people from His holiness? And how He has to protect His holiness from being in Man's presence?

He is Holy God. The Israelites, even though they are washed and have on their Sabbath best, are still sinful Mankind.

The Israelites are in terror of God and rightfully so. However, they are allowed to see Him – certainly not in all His glory, but in His terror.

We know that no one can see God's face and live. But, from all of this you can perceive that God's desire is still to be with His called-out ones, the Israelites. Can you see how much He loves them? He has shown Himself and His intent through His actions of provision and protection for the Israelites. Now, He gives them a glimpse of Himself as terrifying so they know to obey Him.

The Israelites have one more encounter with God that we need to look at before we begin our study of the approach to God through the Tabernacle, Sacrifices, and Priesthood. Please read the entire chapter of **Exodus 24**. Let me give you the in-betweens in the background to this chapter. I believe that **Exodus 24** is between the first and second times Moses goes up the mountain for the purpose of receiving the Law. This is very confusing because I don't think the book of Exodus is necessarily in chronological order. This is in **chapter 24**. In chapter **32** Moses receives the first set of tablets written in God's hand and breaks them when he hears singing in the camp as those left behind have begun to worship a golden calf, Moses breaks the first set of tablets. In **chapter 34**, Moses receives the second set of stone tablets with the Ten Commandments.

In **Exodus 24**, God calls Moses to come up to the mountain. He is to bring Aaron (his older brother), Nadab and Abihu (two of four of Aaron's sons) and 70 of the elders with him. However, they are not to come near, nor are the people to come near to the LORD. Why?

It says in **Exodus 24:3**, "then," Moses recounted to the Israelite people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances;" and the people said, "All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!"

Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. "Then" he arose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. Moses sent young men to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD. Remember there is no tabernacle yet. Now Moses took half of the blood of the sacrifices and put it in bowls. The other half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar of 12 pillars. Why?

What do the 12 pillars represent?

“Then, he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, ‘all that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!’”

Then after this Moses sprinkled the blood on the people. Why?

Then, Moses went up the mountain with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and the 70 elders of Israel, and *** are you ready for this?

They saw the God of Israel

and under His feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself. Yet, **He (God) did not stretch out His hand against the sons of Israel**; and they saw God, and **they ate and drank**. These 74 men of Israel ate a meal with the LORD God present. Please reference this to **Revelation 21**.

Why were they allowed to see the God of Israel? And for heaven’s sake, why were they eating and drinking?

So, were these men invited into God’s presence and were they for a moment in time allowed into Heaven to see Him and sup with Him? Or has He come to earth in His detachable throne room only? Is God’s presence there?

Please continue to read the rest of **Exodus 24**.

Days 2-4 The Tabernacle Furnishings

Today I would like you to read about the Tabernacle furnishings in **Exodus 25**. For what items does the LORD ask the sons of Israel to contribute? See **Exodus 25:3-7**. List them below:

Where did the Israelites get these items? See **Exodus 12:35-36**.

Please write the text of **Exodus 25:8-9** below:

There are several groups of words I want you to put on your radar screen from the above verses. These are:

- a sanctuary for God
- so that He may dwell among them
- pattern for the tabernacle.
- pattern of all the tabernacle's furnishings

The Man of the Hour

Please read **Exodus 31:1-11** now and answer the following questions in the space provided below.

Who has God prepared with the gifts to fashion the furnishings of the Tabernacle? There are two of them, but one of them God calls out in **Exodus 31:2**.

Who is the other man God has appointed to work with Bezalel in **Exodus 31:6**?

Who has God filled Bezalel with to help him fashion the furnishings in the Tabernacle according to **Exodus 31:3**?

How has God prepared Bezalel and Oholiab for the fashioning of the Tabernacle or Tent of Meeting furnishings according to **Exodus 31:3-5**? Please note this is kind of iffy and certainly nothing I would build any doctrine on, but there are seven of them. Remember from our study on **Revelation 1-3**, there were many sevens. The first

one is the 1) Spirit of God, the next one is the 2) Spirit of God in wisdom. What are the other five? Look for the "in" word to help you.

What do the Tabernacle furnishings they are to fashion include according to **Exodus 31:10-11**?

Name the Tabernacle furnishings Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, is to build according to **Exodus 31:7-11**.

The Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies

Please read **Exodus 25:10-22** and answer the following questions:

Of what kind of wood is the ark to be made?

With what is the acacia wood to be overlaid on the inside and the outside of the ark?

In **Exodus 25:12-16**, how is the Ark of the Covenant to be carried? Very important Point!!! Check out **2 Samuel 6: 1-11** and tell me what was wrong with the picture David and his men had as to how to transport the ark.

What was to sit on top of the Ark of the Covenant? See **Exodus 25:17-22**?

Draw in the space below what the mercy seat was to look like?

Now, just for fun and sheer enlightenment, turn to the Gospel of **John 20:11-12**. Describe your thoughts below:

Our God is so incredibly awesome!!!

The lid of the Ark of the Covenant was a solid piece of gold with two gold cherubim facing each other on the top of the Ark. This was called the mercy seat. If the angels sitting on either end of the stone table where Jesus was laid after the crucifixion were representative of the mercy seat, what does the mercy seat in the Old Testament represent? I am going to answer this question for you because I don't want you to miss this very important point. The mercy seat was atop of a tomb. Who's tomb?

Please fast forward to the book of Hebrews in the New Testament. Note the **New Testament**. What does **Hebrews 8:5** tell us about erecting of the Tabernacle? What are the Tabernacle, the Priesthood, and the sacrificial system? I will answer this question as well for you. The Tabernacle, the Priesthood, the sacrificial system were a copy and a "shadowing of the heavenly things." What was on earth was a picture of what was to come and take place in the very Throne Room of God in Heaven. The reason God warned Moses to make sure that everything was done according to the pattern He gave to Moses on the Mountain was because it was a copy on earth of what was in heaven and it needed to be perfect. Remember, God is Holy. Man is sinful. If God is going to be approached by the Israelites, **everything** had to be **perfect** including the Priesthood, the Tabernacle furniture, and the sacrificial system. Otherwise, God would consume **all** of it. You could have said that Moses was obsessive compulsive about following the instructions to a tee. Without the shedding of blood, there could be no remission of sins. Being perfect, Jesus' perfect blood was shed so that we might have remission of our sins.

Last thing about the Tabernacle before we move on to the next article of furniture: there was to be a wall of woven linen in between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies where this Ark of the Covenant was to reside and where God was to reside with the Israelites in between the Ark's cherubim, atop the mercy seat. This wall was woven linen with blue, purple and scarlet thread; it was many layers thick and was heavy. It had cherubim woven into it. This separated God's presence in the Holy of Holies from the ordinary priests doing their ordinary duties in the Holy Place so that He would not break out upon them. Look at what happened to this wall when Jesus on the cross, said, "It is finished," in **Matthew 25:50-51**. What does this signify to you?

Table of Showbread, the Golden Altar of Incense, and the Menorah in the Holy Place

We are not going to spend a whole lot of time on the remaining articles that are out further proximity wise to the LORD's presence in the Holy of Holies. However, I need you to know this is from God's perspective moving outward from His Presence. The next room on the docket is the Most Holy Place. It held the Table of Showbread, the Golden Altar of Incense, and the 7-branched lampstand called the Menorah. We studied the Menorah quite extensively in Part 1 of this study.

Please read **Exodus 25:23-30** to understand how the Table of Showbread was to be constructed. Please draw the Table of Showbread below according to its description:

Are you certain this is drawn the way it should be according to the instructions Moses was given on the mountain? What would have happened if you had not drawn (built) it exactly to specs?

In this case, it would not cause the death of a priest, but God would not accept the Table of Showbread when the finished Tabernacle was presented to Him. He would not have shown up and filled the Tabernacle.

What was to be placed on the Table of Showbread according to **Exodus 25:30**?

What did Jesus say to those in the crowd in **John 6:26-35**?

Please read **Exodus 30:1-10** to understand how the Golden Altar was to be constructed. Please draw the Golden Altar below according to its description.

Again, are you sure? What would have happened if you had not constructed the Golden Altar of Incense just exactly according to the specs God had given Moses?

What was done on the horns of the Golden Altar of Incense once a year on the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur? See **Exodus 30:10**.

The LORD had entrusted Bezalel also with the formula to make the anointing oil and the fragrant incense for this altar. See the anointing oil and the incense in **Exodus 30:22-38** and **Exodus 31:11**. This formula for the anointing oil and the fragrant incense was not to be used for anything common. It was made for just these purposes. What would happen if someone did formulate these and used them for common purposes?

After God had already filled the Tabernacle with His presence, what happened to Nadab and Abihu when they offered strange fire, meaning strange incense? Please read about them in **Leviticus 10**.

What does the incense represent? You can get a clue by looking at **Revelation 8:1-5**. Isn't this amazing? The incense shows up in the last book of the Bible in the end times when the Lamb Who is in Heaven – the very Throne Room of God- breaks the seventh seal? Are you seeing the connections between the Throne Room in Heaven and the shadow of or the pattern of the Throne Room on Earth?

Please read **Exodus 25:31-40**.

Of what precious metal was the Lampstand made?

How many lamps were on the Lampstand?

Do you care to make a drawing of the Lampstand as well? Please do so below.

The Lampstand was made out of a single piece of gold. Bezalel hammered the gold into 66 different shapes, but maintained its oneness. How many books are in the Bible?

What does **Psalm 119:105** say about the written Word of God?

What was said about Jesus being the Light of the world starting in the Gospel of **John 1:4**? Do you remember looking up all the verses in lesson 2 that speak to Jesus being the Light from **John 1** through **John 12**? If you don't remember, go back and review them now.

What did Jesus say about Himself in **John 8:12**?

What does **Psalm 119:105** say about the incarnate Word?

As we move out further from the Throne Room of God on earth or the Holy of Holies, we come to the next room just called the outer Tabernacle. This outer court of the Tabernacle had 2 articles of furniture, the brazen altar and the brazen laver.

Brazen altar

Please read **Exodus 27:1-8**.

With what kind of metal was this altar made?

Is Bronze as valuable as gold?

Notice that the bronze altar is further out from the Holy of Holies than the golden altar of incense. If you are wondering where the silver is, it is in the support structure for the Tent of Meeting. We know that pure gold is the most precious of all the metals. Where does the silver fit with the gold and bronze?

What is the symbolism for silver? If you can't think of anything, check out the following verses in Matthew: **Mt 26:15, Mt 27:3, 5, 6, 9**.

What is the symbolism for bronze? If you don't know, cross-reference **Numbers 21:8-9** and **John 3:14**.

The brazen altar also had four horns in each corner of the square-like grate on top of the altar. The horns were used to tie the slain animal of the sacrifice to the brazen altar for burning. The sacrifices were very specific. You will find the information for them in the following:

Freewill offerings for tabernacle	Exodus 35
Burnt offerings	Leviticus 1
Grain offerings	Leviticus 2
Peace offerings	Leviticus 3
Unintentional guilt offerings	Leviticus 4
Guilt offerings/sin offerings	Leviticus 5
Burnt & grain offerings law	Leviticus 6
Guilt, peace, wave offerings law	Leviticus 7
Aaronic High Priest & priesthood offerings	Leviticus 9
Offerings for child birth	Leviticus 12
Offerings for human cleansed of Leprosy	Leviticus 14

When the last ashes of the evening daily offering drops through the grate and into the bottom of the pan that caught the ashes, the priest officiating for each day during that week, would say, "it is finished."

What did Christ say, when His sacrifice on the cross was complete? If you don't know, read **John 19:30**.

What did Christ do for us when we were yet enemies of God and therefore hostile to Him? If you don't know, read **Colossians 1:21-22 and Romans 5:10**,

Brazen Pool

Please read **Exodus 30:17-21**.

With what metal was the Brazen Pool made?

It was to be placed between the tent of meeting (the Holy Place with the Holy of Holies inside) and the brazen altar and it was to be used by the priests officiating in the tabernacle for washings. When the priests would wash their hands they would see their reflection in the pool. The pool had been made from the mirrors plundered from the Egyptians. Actually I think the Egyptian women freely gave them to the

Israelite women before they left Egypt. They might have spoken to the Israelite women, “take them, now get out of here!”

Is the brazen pool with water in it symbolic of reflection on the written Word? They washed daily in it. They gazed daily into it. They saw their reflection in the pool daily. Are we to gaze into the written Word of God daily? How do you think gazing into the written Word daily can give us an accurate account of how we are doing in this life?

Day 5 The Aaronic Priesthood and the Tabernacle Proper

Yes, you have figured it out: I am cramming a lot of material together in this lesson. We don’t have the time in the seven weeks of this study to go through all the details of the Priesthood, the Tabernacle, and the sacrificial system. However, we have gone through enough to correctly understand that the whole “system” was pointing towards our redemption in the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus. The only way God could dwell with sinful men while sinful men were still on this earth was through a mediator. In the Old Testament, the Laws, the blood sacrifices, the furnishings of the Tabernacle, and the Priesthood were the temporary intermediary between sinful men and Holy God. In the New Testament, Jesus Christ has become the intermediary between men and God. This day 5, I am just asking you to do some reading today. If you use all the paper underneath the table on the next page for comments, and you have more, just take a piece of ordinary paper and slip it into this space and write down your thoughts as you go through each subject I have given you to read. Whether you read one chapter or all the chapters below, remember to keep in mind what the main objective here is: which is God reconciling sinful man to Himself in order to dwell with His Creation.

Tabernacle Curtains, Veil, Screens	Exodus 26-27, 36, 40
Oil for the Lamps, Temple Gate, Aaron’s sons from Tribe of Levi designated as priesthood, their anointing	Exodus 28-29
Perpetual Aaronic Priesthood, perpetual prayers, perpetual washings, perpetual covenant/Observing the Sabbath	Exodus 29, 30, 31
High Priest’s Garment	Exodus 39
Positioning of Temple Furnishings, curtains of the Tabernacle, God’s glory fills the Temple	Exodus 40
Moses anoints the tabernacle, furniture, Aaron & Sons & makes atonement for them.	Leviticus 8

Aaron & sons offer sacrifices for themselves & the sons of Israel; God's glory appears	Leviticus 9
High Priestly duties for the Day of Atonement	Leviticus 16
The blood guiltiness for a man who sacrifices animal to another god out in the fields	Leviticus 17
Forbidden sexual practices	Leviticus 18
Duties of the People toward God	Leviticus 19
Profaning God's name	Leviticus 22
Feasts and Festivals to be observed	Leviticus 23
Land Sabbatical/Day of Jubilee	Leviticus 25