

Worship in the Tabernacle

Exodus 35-40; Leviticus 24; Numbers 6, 15

Do you know what the picture shows? It is the Tabernacle of the Children of Israel when they were in the wilderness coming from Egypt to Canaan.

Why did the LORD command Moses and the Children of Israel to make this tabernacle?

What would all the sacrifices, offerings and worship services point toward?

See if you can remember these questions and find the answers in today's lesson.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help us to listen and learn today's lesson about Old Testament worship. Help us also to learn that You, O Lord Jesus, are the only way of salvation. Send Your Holy Spirit to be with us and our teacher so that the lesson taught will bring Your true message to our hearts. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Story

(Taken from Exodus 35-40, Leviticus 24 and Numbers 6:15)

Sabbath Regulations

Then Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said to them, "These are the words which the LORD has commanded you to do: work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day."

In Exodus and Numbers we hear about men who were collecting sticks on the Sabbath and they were stoned for their disobedience to this law.

Offerings for the Tabernacle

Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel asking for those with a willing heart to bring offerings for the building of the

tabernacle. He also asked people to give of their talents. Many people were needed to work on the outside and inside of the tabernacle, on all the cloth hangings and garments to be worn by the priests, and also on the furnishings for the inside. The LORD would give exact directions to follow.

The children of Israel left Moses and brought back articles for the tabernacle. Men and women brought jewelry of gold, silver and jewels, spices and oil, cloth, skins, and wood. People skilled at certain tasks also came forward to work. Men and women with a willing heart brought material for all kinds of work which the LORD, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done.

God called two men, Bezalel and Aholiab, to be overseers of the tabernacle workmanship and building. The LORD used their special



abilities and gave them willing and able hearts to fulfil His plans. Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work.

The children of Israel brought so much that Moses had to stop them from bringing more. THEY HAD GIVEN MORE THAN WAS NEEDED!

Building the Tabernacle

Then all the artistic workers made curtains woven of fine linen and blue, purple, and scarlet thread with designs of cherubim on them. They were made the size the LORD had told Moses and were held together by gold clasps.

They made curtains of goats' hair for the tent over the tabernacle and a covering for the tent of ram skins dyed red, and a covering of badger skins above that. Boards covered in gold and held together with gold bars and silver sockets made up the outer sides of the tabernacle. All of the tabernacle had to be made in such a way that it could be taken apart and carried with them as they roamed in the wilderness.

The Ark of the Covenant or Testimony

Then Bezalel made the ark of wood and overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold all around it. He made wooden poles covered with gold so that the ark could be carried.

The mercy seat was also of pure gold with two cherubim on each side, facing each other with wings touching, covering the mercy seat. This ark of the covenant was placed in a special room called the Holy of Holies. This area was only visited once a year and only by the High Priest.

Other Furnishings

Other furnishings of the Holy Place outside of the Holy of Holies included a table for showbread, a golden lampstand, and an altar covered in gold, to burn incense. This area was only visited by the priests who burned incense for offerings.

The area outside of the Holy Place had an altar of burnt offerings made of wood covered with bronze. There was also a bronze basin or large bowl on a pedestal. Once again all of these furnishings had to be made to be moveable and were exactly the size the LORD commanded.

How the Priests Were Dressed

The garments of the High Priest were made with blue, purple, and scarlet thread. They made an ephod and breastplate of gold, blue, purple and scarlet thread and woven linen. Bells of pure gold were put on the hem of the robe. Onyx stones set in gold were engraved with the names of the twelve sons of Israel and then placed in the breastplate. This ephod and breastplate were worn by the High Priest. All of the priests wore a turban of linen on their head and a sash of linen with blue, purple and scarlet thread woven into it.

The Work Completed

Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished. And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses. They brought all that they had made to the tabernacle and Moses blessed it and placed it in the tabernacle as the LORD had commanded him to do.

The Cloud and the Glory

Then the cloud covered the tabernacle and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night.

The Priestly Blessing

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.'"

Laws Concerning Offerings

The LORD commanded Moses to burn many sacrifices for offerings. There were rules for burning animals and rules for bringing grain and drink offerings. Each offering was brought according to the LORD's directions. The priest was in charge of the offerings and sacrifices. Every sacrifice pointed to the coming Christ Who would be the One Sacrifice needed to save all people from their sins.

Outer Aim - The LORD established sacrifices and services for the welfare of His people and to the glory of His Name.

What God's Word Tells Us - Everything in the Old Testament worship pointed to Jesus, the coming Messiah. In the Bible passages below underline the names and works of Jesus that reflect this worship in the tabernacle. *(There may be more than one in each.)*

Hebrews 8:1 - "We have such a High Priest, Who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man."

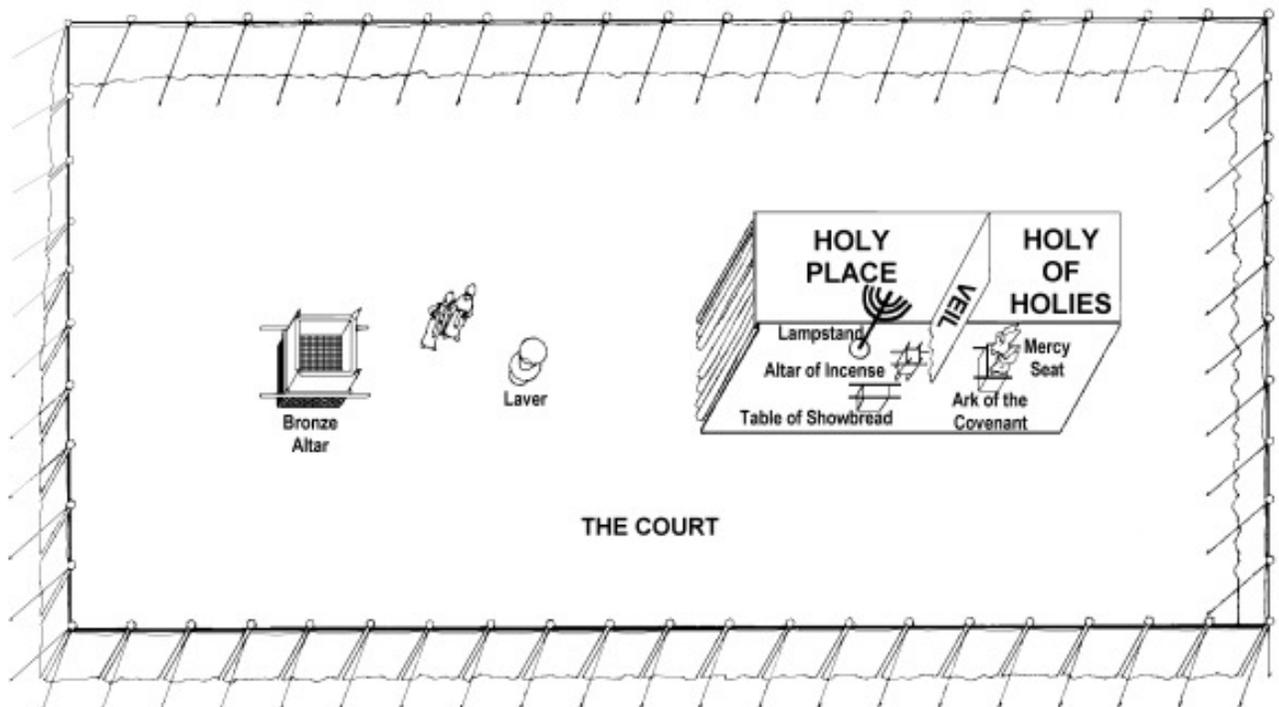
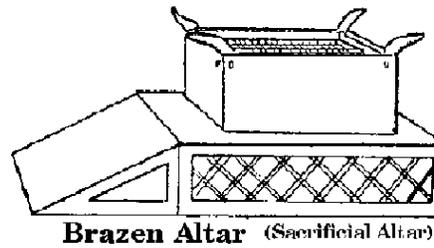
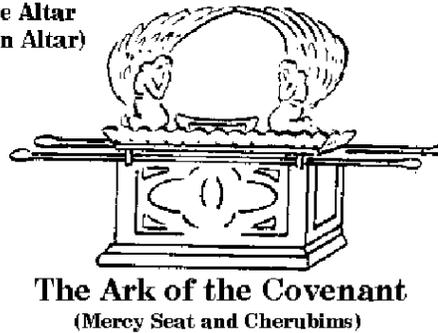
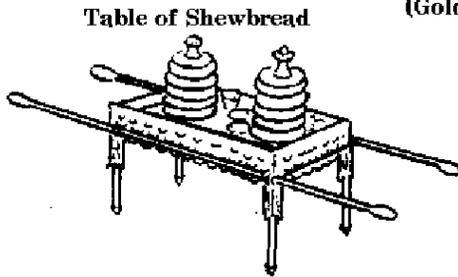
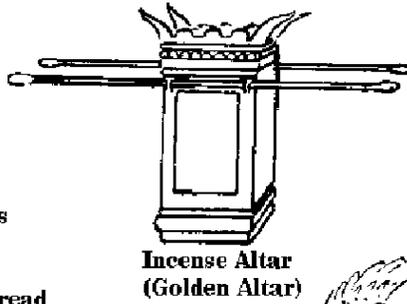
Hebrews 8:6 - "...as He is also Mediator of a better covenant."

Hebrew 10:19-20 - "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh."

1 Peter 1:18-19 - "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, ... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

Inner Aim - Every Christian is called upon by God to publicly worship Him by hearing His Word, repenting of his sins and receiving the Good News of forgiveness through Jesus.

What the Story Tells Us - Place the items of the Tabernacle in their proper place by drawing lines from the items at the top to the diagram at the bottom of the page.



Your Turn - Read the chart below about the Church Year. Use colored pencils, crayons, or markers to fill in the "color here" area of the chart.

The Church Year

FESTIVAL	COLOR	color here	MEANING OF COLOR
Advent "coming"	purple or blue		royalty
Christmas	white		holiness
Epiphany "appearing"	white		holiness
Lent	purple		repentance
Good Friday	black		death
Easter	white		holiness
Pentecost	red		fire/purification
Trinity	green		life
Reformation	red		fire/purification
Thanksgiving	red		fire/purification

Passages

1 John 1:7 - "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Numbers 6:24-26 - "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift us His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

Psalms 27:4 - "One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD."

Hymn - TLH #2, v. 1-2, 6-7

To Thy temple I repair;
 Lord, I love to worship there
 When within the veil I meet
 Christ before the mercy seat.

While Thy ministers proclaim
 Peace and pardon in Thy name,
 Through their voice, by faith, may I
 Hear Thee speaking from the sky.

I through Him am reconciled,
 I through Him become Thy child.
 Abba, Father, give me grace
 In Thy courts to seek Thy face.

From Thy house when I return,
 May my heart within me burn,
 And at evening let me say,
 "I have walked with God today."

Find and underline references to the Old Testament worship that are found in the hymn stanzas above. (There are at least 4)