

Lesson 9 – Exodus 25-40 (Tabernacle)

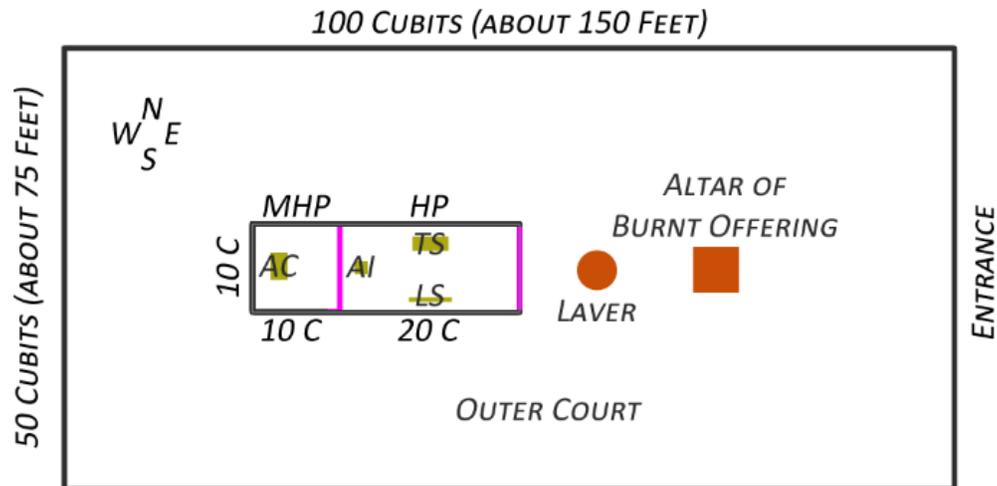
Text: Exodus 25-27, 30-31, 35-40

Main Characters: God, Moses, Bezalel, Oholiab, Israelites

Key Passages:

- Exodus 25:1-9 – God explained to Moses that He had a specific plan for building a physical dwelling place for Himself in the Israelite camp (the tabernacle).
- Exodus 39:42-43 – The Israelites obeyed and built it just as the Lord had commanded.
- Exodus 40:34-38 – Once the tabernacle was fully assembled, the Lord began to dwell there.

Diagram: The Tabernacle



Main Storyline:

After the covenant had been ratified, Moses returned to Mount Sinai to receive more commandments from the Lord. The majority of the recorded commandments were regarding the construction of the tabernacle, a physical dwelling place for God. He gave detailed instructions for how to build the tabernacle and furnish it, including specific dimensions and building materials. The people were to be instructed to donate all of the materials necessary (freewill offerings). Unfortunately, however, many of them were donating their gold to create the golden calf at the time (Exodus 32).

God also told Moses he had imbued two men, Bezalel and Oholiab, with wisdom and knowledge to build all of the things that God had spoken about and to teach others also. Once the golden calf had been destroyed and the covenant with God renewed, these men began to lead the construction effort. They built everything in exactly the same way that God had commanded them.

Perhaps the most important part of the tabernacle was the Ark of the Covenant, above which God's presence would dwell. When the tabernacle was fully assembled, God descended upon it and filled it with His glory. During the day, the pillar of cloud appeared above it, and during the night, the pillar of fire appeared above it. The pillars would only move when the people were to move also.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) God demands that His commandments are followed specifically (see Noah, Genesis 6).
- 2.) It is important for us to remember to "wait on the Lord" (Exodus 25:1ff, Exodus 32, Isaiah 40).
- 3.) God has given each of us special talents and abilities; the church is only built up when each of us use those abilities as well as we can (1 Corinthians 12:12ff).