

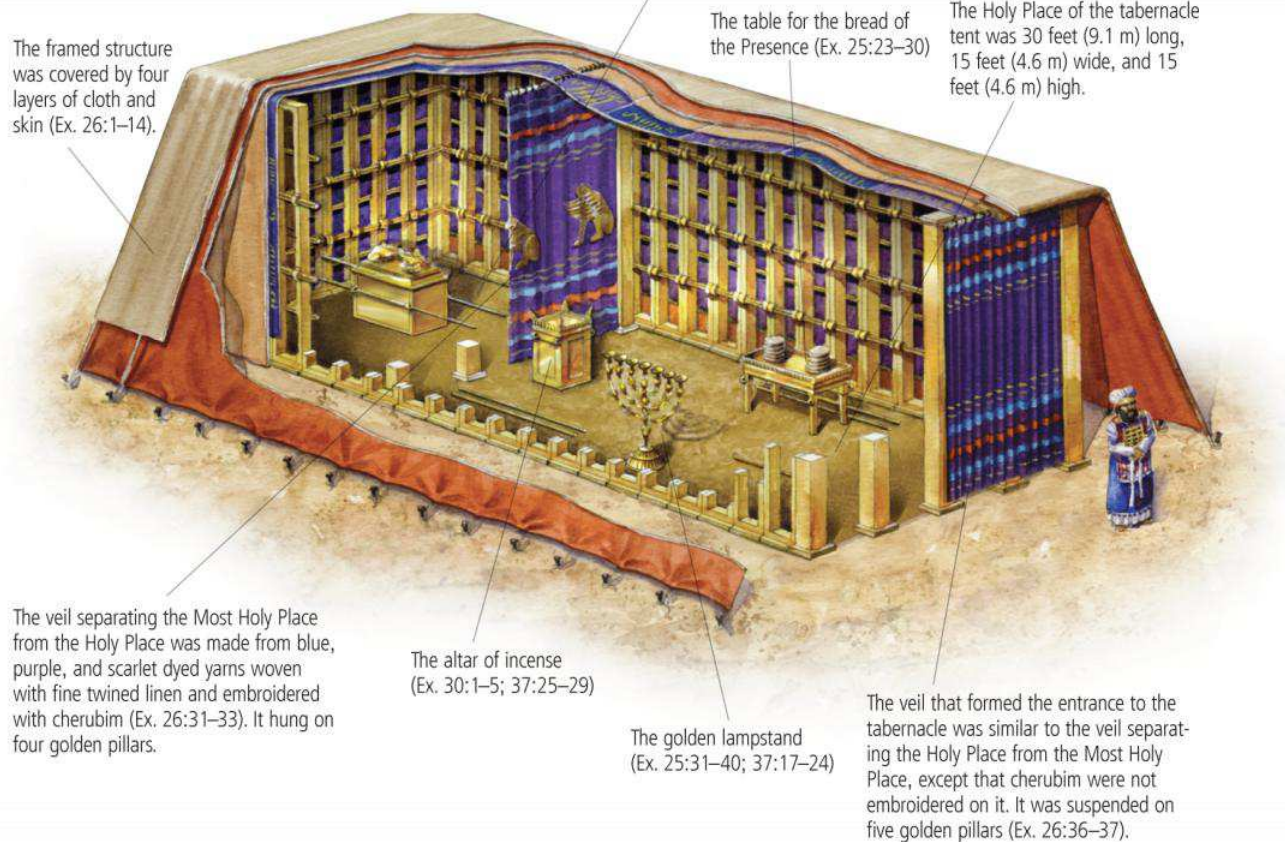
SOME CONTEXT...

- ⌘ The uniforms of the priests were elaborately created, iconic in nature (e.g., 12 stones/jewels, 1 for each of the tribes).
- ⌘ Why did the Lord God command such an elaborate set of uniforms for the priests? What has happened to this tradition? Why have we changed?
- ⌘ Elaborate and ornate requirements were also provided by the Lord God for other icons in the Tent of Meeting, including the Ark of the Covenant.

THE TABERNACLE TENT

The entire tent was 45 feet (13.7 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high. It was a wooden skeletal structure, overlaid with gold, with no solid roof or front wall (Ex. 26:15–29). Five wooden bars (overlaid with gold) passed through rings attached to each frame (Ex. 26:26–30).

The Most Holy Place was a 15-foot (4.6-m) cube, containing only the ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:10–22; 37:1–9). It was here that Yahweh would descend to meet with his people in a cloud theophany (divine appearance). The high priest could enter only once a year, on the Day of Atonement (see note on Heb. 9:7).



Exodus 39:42-43; 40:1-17. *Outfitting the tabernacle, extravagantly.* We did all the work, just as the Lord God Yahweh had commanded Moses. After Moses inspected the work, he commended the people.

So, then Yahweh told Moses to...

Set up the tabernacle—the Tent of Meeting, on the first day of the first month (Nisan). Put the Ark in its area, shielding it with the curtain. Set up the lampstand and table with all its belongings. Put the gold altar of incense in front of the Ark of the Testimony, and put a curtain at the entrance to the Tabernacle.

Now, place the altar of burnt offerings in front of the entrance; place the basin, putting water in it. Set up the courtyard around it, putting the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. Anoint the tabernacle and everything in it, consecrate it and all its furnishings, and it will be set aside, consecrated, holy.

Next bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the Tent of meeting, washing them with water and dressing Aaron with the sacred garments. Anoint him and consecrate him so he may serve Me as priest. Dress his sons in tunics, anointing them as you anointed their father, so they too may serve Me as priests. Their anointing will be to a priesthood that will continue forever.

Moses did everything the Lord God commanded, and the tabernacle was set up on the first day of the first month in the second year.

- Q Why is it important for Holy Spirit to record the nature of the Temple and its furnishings? What value does it have for we in the latter days?
- Q Why have many Christian groups steered away from the elaborate iconicity as represented in the Temple (Tent of Meeting) and its furnishings? Where/how does one, if at all, “draw the line” between wasteful extravagance and reverent extravagance? [Hint: see John 12:1-8]
- Q To what extent should our pastors have special garments? Why do we insist they do?

EXODUS 39:42-43; 40:1-17

The Israelites had done all the work just as the LORD had commanded Moses. ⁴³Moses inspected the work and saw that they had done it just as the LORD had commanded. So Moses blessed them.

⁴⁰¹Then the LORD said to Moses: ²"Set up the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, on the first day of the first month. ³Place the ark of the Testimony in it and shield the ark with the curtain. ⁴Bring in the table and set out what belongs on it. Then bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps. ⁵Place the gold altar of incense in front of the ark of the Testimony and put the curtain at the entrance to the tabernacle.

⁶"Place the altar of burnt offering in front of the entrance to the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting; ⁷place the basin between the Tent of Meeting and the altar and put water in it. ⁸Set up the courtyard around it and put the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard.

⁹"Take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and everything in it; consecrate it and all its furnishings, and it will be holy. ¹⁰Then anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils; consecrate the altar, and it will be most holy. ¹¹Anoint the basin and its stand and consecrate them.

¹²"Bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and wash them with water. ¹³Then dress Aaron in the sacred garments, anoint him and consecrate him so he may serve me as priest. ¹⁴Bring his sons and dress them in tunics. ¹⁵Anoint them just as you anointed their father, so they may serve me as priests. Their anointing will be to a priesthood that will continue for all generations to come." ¹⁶Moses did everything just as the LORD commanded him.

¹⁷So the tabernacle was set up on the first day of the first month in the second year.

Exodus 40:18-38. *The cloud and fire of the Lord God Almighty*. After setting up the Tabernacle, he put up the crossbars & posts, putting a covering over the tent just as the Lord God Yahweh commanded.

Then he took the tablets (the Testimony), placing them in the ark and then put the atonement cover on. Bringing the ark into the tabernacle, he hung the curtain which shielded the ark of the Testimony, just as the Lord God Yahweh commanded.

He then placed the table in the Tent of Meeting on the north side of the tabernacle outside the curtain and set out the bread before the Lord God Yahweh, just as the Lord God Yahweh commanded.

Next he placed the lampstand in the Tent of Meeting, opposite the table, on the south side of the Tabernacle. He set up the lamps before the Lord God Yahweh, just as the Lord God Yahweh commanded.

Next he set up the gold altar in the Tent of Meeting in front of the curtain, burning fragrant incense on it, just as the Lord God Yahweh commanded.

After putting up the curtain at the entrance to the tabernacle, he set up the holocaust altar near the entrance to the tabernacle, and then offered not only burnt offerings, but grain offerings as well, just as the Lord God Yahweh commanded.

Placing the basin between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, he put water in it for washing. Moses, Aaron, and his sons used it to wash their hands and feet whenever entering or approaching the altar, just as the Lord God Yahweh commanded.

EXODUS 40:18-38

When Moses set up the tabernacle, he put the bases in place, erected the frames, inserted the crossbars and set up the posts. ¹⁹Then he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering over the tent, as the LORD commanded him.

²⁰He took the Testimony and placed it in the ark, attached the poles to the ark and put the atonement cover over it.

²¹Then he brought the ark into the tabernacle and hung the shielding curtain and shielded the ark of the Testimony, as the LORD commanded him.

²²Moses placed the table in the Tent of Meeting on the north side of the tabernacle outside the curtain ²³and set out the bread on it before the LORD, as the LORD commanded him.

²⁴He placed the lampstand in the Tent of Meeting opposite the table on the south side of the tabernacle ²⁵and set up the lamps before the LORD, as the LORD commanded him.

²⁶Moses placed the gold altar in the Tent of Meeting in front of the curtain ²⁷and burned fragrant incense on it, as the LORD commanded him. ²⁸Then he put up the curtain at the entrance to the tabernacle.

²⁹He set the altar of burnt offering near the entrance to the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, and offered on it burnt offerings and grain offerings, as the LORD commanded him.

³⁰He placed the basin between the Tent of Meeting and the altar and put water in it for washing, ³¹and Moses and Aaron and his sons used it to wash their hands and feet.

³²They washed whenever they entered the Tent of Meeting or approached the altar, as the LORD commanded Moses.

³³Then Moses set up the courtyard around the tabernacle and altar and put up the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. And so Moses finished the work.

³⁴Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁶In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; ³⁷but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. ³⁸So the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their travels.

Finally, Moses set up the courtyard around the tabernacle and altar, putting up the curtain at entrance to the courtyard. Moses had finished.

THEN, the glory of the Lord God Almighty Yahweh filled the tabernacle; even Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud of Yahweh's glory filled the tabernacle.

In all of our travels, whenever the cloud of glory was lifted from the tabernacle, we would set out. But if the cloud stayed, we stayed, until the cloud of glory was lifted up. And so, the cloud of the Lord God Yahweh was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night—all within the sight of all of us during our travels!

- Q What amazes you the most about this creation of the tabernacle by the Lord God Almighty?
- Q Why was Moses so zealous about preparing the tabernacle?
- Q What icons in the tabernacle do we still use in our worship together? Which ones do we not use? Why not?
- Q Should we still burn incense to commemorate our prayers to the Father?
- Q Where did we worship before the Christ sat on the cover of the ark? What is the word of Testimony today?
- Q What makes our sacrifices, sacrifices? Are there any burnt offerings we can offer? [Hint: See Romans 12:1-3. What then is our burnt offering? What is the result?²⁰]

ADVANCED BIBLE COMMENTARY FOR EXODUS 39-40²¹

39:30 *sacred diadem*. An official designation (not found in 28:36-37) for the plate of the turban.

39:32 *all the work . . . was completed*. Reminiscent of the concluding words of the creation narrative (see Genesis 2:1-3).

39:43 *Moses blessed them*. For the faithfulness with which the Israelites had donated their gifts, time and talents in building the tabernacle and all its furnishings—faithfulness in service brings commendation.

40:2 *first day of the first month*. The tabernacle was set up almost a year after the institution of the Passover (see v. 17; 12:2,6).

40:16 *Moses did . . . just as the LORD commanded*. Moses' obedience to God's command is a key theme of the final chapter of Exodus (see vv. 19,21,23,25,27,29,32—*seven times* the phrase is repeated). While was people who provided all the resources and made all the components, it was the Lord's servant Moses who was authorized to erect the tabernacle and prepare it for the Lord's entry.

40:34 With the glory of the Lord entering the tabernacle, the great series of events that began with the birth of Moses and his rescue from the Nile, foreshadowing the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, comes to a grand climax. From now on, the Israelites march through the desert, and through history, with the Lord tenting among them [see John 1:14; Revelation 21:3, ἐσκήνωσεν, dwell among as in a tent] and leading them to the land of fulfilled promises.

²⁰Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual [or *reasonable*] act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

²¹Adapted, corrected, and revised by D. Thomas Porter from Compton's Interactive NIV © 1996.