

Exodus 25:10-15 –The Ark Part 1 – The Tabernacle

TSK, Sailhamer, Poythress, Edersheim, Schultz, HebrewLexicon, Gray, Geneva, Barnes, JFB, Bush, Trapp, Pink, Poole, Henry, Clarke, Calvin, Gill, Delitzsch, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **We will now begin to look at the construction of the tabernacle and all its elements.** We did not look at the first verses of this chapter because it is a list of the things the Jews had to gather to build the tabernacle.

Now what was the tabernacle? The tabernacle was **a tent for meetings between God and man.** It was the place of essential, life-saving communication between God and his covenant people.

But why a tent and not a permanent building?

The **tabernacle was used as a temporary place of communication** as the Jews traveled from Egypt to Canaan. A more permanent place was coming—a temple. And **even the temple was temporary.**

Both the tabernacle and temple were replaced when Jesus came to directly communicate with man. **Eden, that first perfect place of communication, where Jesus met with his people daily, is being restored even today.**

(BTW, there is absolutely no use for a temple in Jerusalem and it is a sign of great wickedness to desire one or give money so one could be built!)

Why look at all of these details, after all, many people say, “We are under grace, not under law.” Others might say, “I don’t get involved with all the Old Testament stuff; I just love Jesus.” Some even say, “The Old Testament is no longer relevant.” My answer: **All you see here points to the wonder of the grace you have in Jesus Christ.**

Our headings are:

The Construction

The Carrying

The Cover

Our goals are: **That you will see Jesus, the who one lives in you and petitions for you before his Father in heaven, and that you will more passionately love and serve him for these things.**

The Construction

10 "And they shall make an ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits shall be its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height.

1. The ark was a box-like object made of acacia wood, a light but strong wood, a wood that is known for not rotting.

The ark was about 45in long, 27in wide, and 27in high. (115X68X68cm).

The ark was a picture of Jesus. He remains forever like the acacia wood. And yet the fact that the ark was made of **wood symbolized the humanity of Jesus.** He was that tender

plant that grew (Isaiah 53). He was that stump that grew out of Jesse. He was a man and had to be.

11 "And you shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and shall make on it **a molding** of gold all around.

2. The ark was overlayed with gold on the inside and outside with a molding at the top – which is likely a rim to hold the cover.

Jesus is purer than the finest gold. More, the gold symbolizes Christ's Divinity. Jesus was God and had to be!

3. The ark was the contact between God and man, for there the high priest communicated with God.

Jesus is your High Priest. He is your contact with God. You see this confirmed when Jesus died. Man was granted direct access to God when the veil of the temple was torn in 2 from the top down. Look at the Scriptures! Jesus is your High Priest:

Hebrews 6: 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even **Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**

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

4. The ark had a cover made of pure gold that sat on a molded ridge, which supported the cover.

5. Lessons:

a. The ark pictured Christ and your salvation. You see this when Noah and his family were saved in an ark. You see this when Baby Moses was saved in an ark. Similarly, your Ark, **your God-man, brought you what you needed: Salvation!**

b. The Lord Jesus now dwells in you – the temple of God. You don't have to make a trip to Jerusalem or go to a temple.

c. Make sure your inside is clean! The Lord wants to live in a clean place. Don't embarrass your Savior. Don't hurt him.

The Carrying

12 "You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four corners; two rings shall be on one side, and two rings on the other side. 13 "And you shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold.

14 "You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them. 15 "The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; **they shall not be taken from it.**

1. The ark had 4 rings cast and installed at the 4 corners so that it could be carried with poles on both sides.

These rings were likely on the lower corners so the ark could be carried above the shoulders of the bearers.

2. The poles were never to be removed from the ark.

3. Why was it essential to carry the ark the way God prescribed?

The ark was holy, so no one, except the High Priest, was allowed to touch it. Even if the High Priest went into the Holiest Place once per year, he had to make sacrifices for himself first...and he only sprinkled blood on the ark. He did not sit on it. It was holy, too holy for a mere man.

4. What happened if they did not carry it the way God prescribed or what happened if they touched it?

Look at one example when this happened and what God did. This was when the ark was being taken into Jerusalem by David as Israel rejoiced in God's blessings.

2Samuel 6:4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark. 5 Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrams, and on cymbals. 6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. 7 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.

Sinful man was never to come into contact with the ark that represented the presence of **holy God**, so judgment was severe. It did not matter if it were a time of rejoicing. Holy things never stop being holy. Jewish historian account for numerous times when the High Priest, who was not properly prepared with sacrifice for himself, was killed by the Lord.

5. Lessons:

a. You must remind yourself regularly how holy God is. He is triple holy! Sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy," and think about it! Think about the Sabbath and how holy it is. Think about worship and how you must keep it pure. Think about the name of God and use it properly. Think about the holy Gospel so you don't corrupt it or water it down. Keep holy things holy!

b. You must remind yourself of the work of Jesus – shedding his blood which satisfied God– so you could approach God with confidence. Yes, his blood was sprinkled on you!

You are holy. So pray! Pray “in Jesus’ name.” No other name gets God attention...none at all! **Only one person bought you!**

The Cover

17 "**You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold**; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. 18 "**And you shall make two cherubim of gold**; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 "Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. 20 "And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat.

1. God required the Jews make a mercy seat of pure gold.

This place of meeting between God and man was often called God’s “footstool.” **No one was to forget it.**

Psalms 132:7 Let us go into His tabernacle; Let us **worship at His footstool.**

Psalms 99:5 Exalt the LORD our God, And **worship at His footstool** — He is holy.

Lamentations 2:1 How the Lord has covered the daughter of Zion With a cloud in His anger! He cast down from heaven to the earth the beauty of Israel, **And did not remember His footstool** In the day of His anger.

Jesus is the cause and the means of God’s mercy to you. You are not destroyed as you should be!

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 **even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved),

2. Over the ark where God dwelled, and attached to the golden cover, were 2 angels, cherubim, that were hammered work.

God is often pictured as dwelling between angels.

Psalms 80:1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; **You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth!**

These angels were not beautiful women as angels as we often see in drawings, but angels are always pictured as men. And while most angels don’t have wings, these do.

These angels were placed on either end of the ark, facing each. This meant they were like a covering over the ark...watching over the affairs of what transpired there.

3. Why were the angels there in the first place?

a. Angels were witnesses of God's mercy. Two witnesses confirmed everything!

b. Angels join with believers to worship God. Remember, cherubim were told to block the gate of Eden so Adam could not go back in, but in the Holiest Place they were witnesses of man's **road back to God.**

Genesis 3:24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

c. Angels protected God's children, even as they confessed their sins. This is why their wings were extended. They were ready for action. They were ready to swiftly do God's bidding for his children.

Jesus promised to have give his angels charge over you to protect you from the evil one and his minions. (Psalm 91). Sing this song when you are afraid!

4. The angels had to be one piece with the mercy seat?

Why is that significant? Being one piece showed **the unity between God's grace and the evidence of it!**

Grace came from the mercy seat. Evidence of his grace was witnessed to by the angels.

Salvation is orderly. There is only one way to be saved. And those who are saved have God's ministering spirits to protect them.

5. Lessons:

a. With the blood of Jesus, you are now to come boldly to God's throne of grace.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

“Boldly” doesn't mean arrogantly. It means to come with confidence. You have the right!

b. Angels continue to watch over you today though you may not see them. God especially mentioned he has angels watching over his covenant babies. What joy! Don't worry about your children!

Conclusion:

The ark of the covenant was constructed to represent the Lord Jesus. It was wood and gold to picture his humanity and Divinity. It was holy and could not be touched. It was a place for man to meet God to receive pardon for his sins.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Rejoice. Jesus has made peace, one time for all times, with his Father for you. He was perfectly qualified and out of love he did it.

2. Rejoice. Jesus now lives in you and yet is in heaven, making intercessions for you. So he not only lives among the people, but he lives for his people.

3. Rejoice. Jesus' blood that was sprinkled before God not only saves you, but your children, your neighbors, and your enemies. Tell them all about his blood. What can wash away their sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

Finally: If you are not a Christian, you have no blood with which to pacify God. Your blood will have to do! But your blood will only satisfy his justice; it won't earn you grace! **Jesus' blood will satisfy his justice and give you grace.** Do you want that blood? Ask him. It's free.