

## Introduction To “The Tabernacle”

### I. Exodus 25:1-9 – Verse by verse overview:

*“<sup>1</sup>And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. <sup>3</sup>And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass, <sup>4</sup>And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, <sup>5</sup>And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, <sup>6</sup>Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense, <sup>7</sup>Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate. <sup>8</sup>And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. <sup>9</sup>According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.”*

A. Verse 1 – God ordained this, not man; He is the one who spoke it.

B. Verse 2 – Speak to the children of Israel that they:

1. Bring me an offering
2. Every man is supposed to bring one
3. We are to give our offerings willingly
4. And give with our hearts

C. Verses 3-7

1. Things we should bring as an offering – All of these not only have a natural meaning as they were used to physically build the original tabernacle, but they also have tremendous spiritual significance; we will define their symbolic meaning later.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| a. Gold        | i. Ram's skin died red                        |
| b. Silver      | j. Badger's skin                              |
| c. Brass       | k. Shittim wood                               |
| d. Blue        | l. Oil for light                              |
| e. Purple      | m. Spices for anointing oil and sweet incense |
| f. Scarlet     | n. Onyx stone                                 |
| g. Fine linen  | o. Stones to be set in ephod and breastplate  |
| h. Goat's hair |   |

2. God wants a willing offering from every man:

The first step in God dwelling with us is revealed in the first seven verses. He requires a willing offering. We must pay a price to have His Presence. It is essential to understand this before even beginning this study. Are we willing to pay that price, to give that costly sacrifice? We cannot serve God and mammon. To have real fellowship with God we must be delivered from greed, the love of money, and the god of this world. Whether or not we will give of our material possessions always determines who is first in our lives. This is foundational.

D. Verse 8

1. “Let” – This means that doing this could be hindered. “Let” means somebody releases us to do it. Perhaps leadership might prevent us from building the true house of God. Somebody has to “let” us. Even if God ordained it, men could stop it. Moses didn't have to tell the people what God had said to him about and for them. Other places we see this:

- a. Psalms 149:2-3, 5-6 – *"<sup>2</sup>Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. <sup>3</sup>Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp...<sup>5</sup>Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. <sup>6</sup>Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand;"*
  - b. Psalms 68:1 – *"Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him."*
  - c. Matthew 19:12 – *"For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it."*
  - d. Luke 11:52 – *"Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered."*
2. "Them" – This means the people of God are supposed to do it. We are the "them." Just as these Israelites built Moses' Tabernacle, we are building the greatest house of God, the body of Christ. The Scriptures below show us that we are the house of God, God's building, God's temple, and the habitation of God.
- a. I Corinthians 3:9, 16 – *"<sup>9</sup>For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building...<sup>16</sup>Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"*
  - b. II Corinthians 6:16 – *"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." – We are His temple, so essentially we must prepare ourselves in order for Him to have a dwelling place.*
  - c. Ephesians 2:19-21 – *"<sup>19</sup>Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; <sup>20</sup>And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; <sup>21</sup>In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:"*
  - d. Galatians 6:10 – *"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*
  - e. Luke 12:42 – *"And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?"*
  - f. I Peter 4:17 – *"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"*
  - g. I Peter 2:5 – *"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."*
  - h. Hebrews 10:21-22 – *"And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."*
  - i. Hebrews 3:6 – *"But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."*
  - j. I Timothy 3:15 – *"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."*
  - k. II Timothy 2:19-21 – *"<sup>19</sup>Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. <sup>20</sup>But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. <sup>21</sup>If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."*
  - l. Matthew 18:20 – *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." – We are where He comes to dwell. When we gather together, He comes in the midst. We are the dwelling place He has longed for. The Old Testament Tabernacle*

is a natural type of what God longs for in the spirit. We are the “living tabernacle” made up of living stones.

3. “*Make me*” – The word “make” speaks of a process. The word “make” in Hebrew means – to do or make, to create. We are to create, make, and be a dwelling place for the Lord. We are to build His house. We are to prepare a place, a habitation for Him. Where do we see this in Scripture?
  - a. Exodus 15:2 – *“The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.”*
  - b. Ezra 1:2-7 – *“...<sup>3</sup>Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup>Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered...”*
  - c. I Kings 5:5 – *“And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name.”*
  - d. Zechariah 6:12-15 – *“<sup>12</sup>And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: <sup>13</sup>Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both. <sup>14</sup>And the crowns shall be to Helem, and to Tobijah, and to Jedaiah, and to Hen the son of Zephaniah, for a memorial in the temple of the LORD. <sup>15</sup>And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.”*
  - e. Ezra 4:3-5 – *“<sup>3</sup>But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us. <sup>4</sup>Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, <sup>5</sup>And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.”*
  - f. Ezra 6:14-15 – *“And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.”*
  - g. Ephesians 2:21-22 – *“In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”*
  - h. Haggai – Chapter One
  - i. I Chronicles 22:1-6 – *“<sup>1</sup>Then David said, This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of the burnt offering for Israel. <sup>2</sup>And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God. <sup>3</sup>And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joinings; and brass in abundance without weight; <sup>4</sup>Also cedar trees in abundance: for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David. <sup>5</sup>And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the LORD must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make*

*preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death. <sup>6</sup>Then he called for Solomon his son, and charged him to build an house for the LORD God of Israel."*

- j. Luke 2:7 – *"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."* – Do we have room for Him?

#### 4. "A sanctuary"

- a. Hebrews 9:2 – *"For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary."* – The Greek word for sanctuary, "hagion", means "a sacred thing, holy place". Here, it refers to the holy place.
- b. Hebrews 8:2 – *"A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man."* – This refers to the true sanctuary in heaven, or as the deeper definition of the word in *Vines & Strong's* means – the immediate presence of God and His throne.
- c. Sanctuary in Hebrew means – A consecrated thing, palace, an asylum. It comes from a root word that means "to pronounce clean". I believe the sanctuary is defined as the meeting place of God and men. It means the place that is holy or sanctified and it is where God dwells with His people. I believe this is the place of His presence. This could be compared to the Hebrew name "Bethel" which means "house of God."

- 1) Bethel – House of God (Genesis 28:12-19, Genesis 35:1-5, 9-15)
- 2) It is the place where God and man meet.

- a) Mark 11:4 – *"And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him."*
- b) Genesis 32:1-2 – *"And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. And when Jacob saw them, he said, This is God's host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim."*
- c) Matthew 18:20 – *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*
- d) John 15:4-10 – *"<sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. <sup>7</sup>If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. <sup>8</sup>Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. <sup>10</sup>If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."*

#### 5. "...That I may dwell among them..." – God has desired this from the beginning of time:

- a. Genesis 3:8 – *"And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden."*
- b. Psalms 132:13-14 – *"For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it."*
- c. Revelation 21:3 – *"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."*

- d. Ephesians 3:17-21 – *“<sup>17</sup>That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; <sup>19</sup>And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. <sup>20</sup>Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, <sup>21</sup>Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”*
- e. How can we practically do this?
  - 1) John 14:23 – *“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”* – Love and walk in His word
  - 2) Psalms 22:3 – *“But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.”* – Praise and worship

## II. Other reasons why we should study “the Tabernacle”:

- A. Jesus is the most important revelation that should come out of the tabernacle. He is the antitype, the revelation, the fulfillment of every piece of furniture, every socket, tool, etc. Jesus fulfilled the symbolism of the tabernacle. Jesus is the person behind everything that is taught. (Hebrews 1:1-3 – *“<sup>1</sup>God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; <sup>3</sup>Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”*)
  1. Luke 24:27 – *“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”*
  2. John 5:38-39 – *“And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”*
  3. Psalms 40:7 – *“Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,”* (Hebrews 10:7) – This Tabernacle is part of the volume of the book
  4. John 1:14 – *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”* – He is the Word
  5. Acts 26:22-23 – *“Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.”* – Ultimately it’s not what we know, but **who** we know.
  6. John 5:46-47 – *“For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?”* – Moses wrote of Jesus.
  7. Galatians 3:21-24 – *“<sup>21</sup>Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. <sup>22</sup>But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. <sup>23</sup>But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. <sup>24</sup>Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”* – The Tabernacle, which was part of the law, was to bring us to Christ.
- B. This Old Testament holds great truths within it that we can apply in our lives – The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed; the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed

1. Romans 15:4 – *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”*
2. I Corinthians 10:6, 11 – *“<sup>6</sup>Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted...<sup>11</sup>Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”*
3. I Corinthians 15:45 – *“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.”*
4. Hebrews 8:5 – *“Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.”*
5. Romans 1:20 – *“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”*

C. Other several specific reasons:

1. We need to see the tabernacle as it is fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus.
2. We need to see how it speaks of the different dispensations of the church and church history.
3. We need to see how it speaks of the Church of Jesus Christ.
4. We need to see how the spiritual truth in the Tabernacle relates experientially in the life of every believer.
5. We need to see and remember that this earthly Tabernacle of Moses was simply a shadow or type of the true, heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 9:21-24). Remember this principle: first the natural, then the spiritual (I Corinthians 15:46). As we see the natural, we discover the spiritual.
6. This earthly tabernacle with is the shadow of the real and gives us the steps whereby we can enter into His manifest glory in the Most Holy Place.
7. In studying the Tabernacle we see God’s great three-fold principle as it relates to the Tabernacle

<b>One</b>	<b>Distinguished By Three</b>		
Tabernacle	Outer Court	Holy Place	Most Holy Place
Man	Spirit	Soul	Body
Salvation	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Baptisms	Blood	Holy Spirit	Water
God	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Feasts of the Lord	Passover	Pentecost	Tabernacles
Worship	Thanksgiving	Praise	Worship
Heavens	First Heaven	Second Heaven	Third Heaven
Body of Christ	30-Fold	60-Fold	100-Fold
Faith	Measure of Faith	Fruit of Faith	Gift of Faith
Priestly Ministry	To the people	Before the Lord	To the Lord

I could go on and on, but for a complete listing of the threefold principle, in our book on the “Doctrine of Baptisms”, it is fully and completely outlined.

D. Tabernacle – Type of local church (God’s pattern for bringing forth a local church.)

1. Ark of Glory – Exodus 25:10-16
  - a. Glory of God in the midst
  - b. God’s character
2. Mercy Seat – Exodus 25:17, 22 – *“<sup>17</sup>And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof... <sup>22</sup>And there I will*

*meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel."*

- a. No height or depth to mercy
  - b. Mercy must be a part of every local church
  - c. God meets here with his people
3. Cherubims of Gold – Exodus 25:18-21 – *"<sup>18</sup>And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. <sup>19</sup>And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. <sup>20</sup>And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. <sup>21</sup>And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee."* – We must guard the glory and mercy.
  4. Golden Altar of Incense – Exodus 30:1-10
    - a. Worship (High level of worship)
    - b. Intercession – Perpetual
  5. Table of Shewbread – Exodus 25:23-30
    - a. Bread of His Presence (the Living Word, anointed)
    - b. Fellowship – Priests ate together
    - c. 12 Loaves – Divine order
  6. The Golden Candlestick – Exodus 25:31-40
    - a. Gifts of the Spirit
    - b. Fruits of the Spirit
    - c. Divine light or vision
  7. Brass Laver – Exodus 30:17-21
    - a. Sanctification
    - b. Baptisms
    - c. Word and "expose" (mirrors)
  8. Brass Altar – Exodus 27:1-8
    - a. Judgment for sin
    - b. Cross of Christ (Evangelism)

