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# SG020205

## The Whole Counsel of God – Exodus 25-31

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(You can download this message as a podcast by searching Jason Duff on iTunes)

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### Introduction

The Book of Exodus is divided into three main sections. Chapters 1-4 – God develops His man (Moses). Chapters 5-24 – God delivers His people. (He delivers them out of Egypt (5-12), He delivers Egypt out of them (13-18), and then He delivers to them His law (19-24). Now we begin the third and final section of the book of Exodus - Chapters 25-40 – God dwells with His saints. In the section we will look at this week God gives to Moses the design of the tabernacle and ordination process for the priests who will serve in it. Every article in the tabernacle is either a picture of Jesus or the throne room of God in heaven. Below is an overview of the section which outlines the design of the tabernacle and its articles. It is not 100 percent accurate, as certain verses from different chapters in the section deal with subject matter mainly covered in other sections. It does however give us a good grasp on the overall content of the section.

### Overview of the Section

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#### **Exodus 25 – Design of the Articles in the Tabernacle**

In this section God gives the design for the articles that were found inside the Tabernacle. There were four of them – The Ark of the Covenant – 25:10-22, The Table of Showbread – 25:23-30, The Golden Lamp Stand – 25:31-40 – And The Altar of Incense (the design is contained in chapter 30:1-16)

#### **Exodus 26 – Design of the Structure of the Tabernacle itself**

This section contains the design for the structure of the temple itself starting with – The Curtains (surrounding the entire Tabernacle structure) – 26:1-6 – The material covering the main building in the Tabernacle (know as the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies) – 26:7-14 – The boards and sockets making up the walls and foundation of the tabernacle – 26:15-30 – and finally the screen which separated the Holy Place from the courtyard, and the Veil which separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies) – 26:31-37

#### **Exodus 27 & 30 – Design of the Articles in the Tabernacle Courtyard**

This section contains the design for the Tabernacle courtyard itself – 27:9-19 and the articles located in the courtyard, which included – The Brazen Altar (where sacrifices were performed) – 27:1-8 – And The Brass Laver – 30:17-21

#### **Exodus 28 & 29 – Design of the Priests' garments and ordination**

This section contains the design of the Priests' garments and the elaborate ordination and cleansing processes they went through before and while serving the Lord.

#### **Exodus 31 – God gifts men to do the work and a Sabbath to rest**

This section closes with God gifting men to bring to pass the designs He had given to Moses. It is just like the Lord to design the tabernacle, provide the materials, and then gift people to do the work He designed. It seems once again it is all the work of the Lord! God also in this chapter reiterates the importance of the Sabbath.

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## **Exodus 25-31 – part one**

### **“The Design of the Tabernacle”**

**The Book of Exodus can be divided into 3 sections**

#### **#1 - Exodus 1-4 – God Develops His Man**

- It is the story of the background and calling of Moses

#### **#2 - Exodus 5-24 – God Delivers His people**

- By bringing them out of Egypt
- By setting them apart in the wilderness
- By giving to them His law

#### **#3 - Exodus 25-40 – God Dwells with His Saints**

- The design of the tabernacle
  - The building of the tabernacle
- And this of course is the section we begin tonight

**When Moses came off of Mount Sinai, under one arm he had the 10 Commandments, but under the other arm he has the plans for this tabernacle**

- a place for God to meet with His people as they traveled through the wilderness
  - a place for His people to offer sacrifice and let there be offerings for their sin

**You see as I have been trying to tell you – The 10 Commandments were never meant to save anyone**

- I get flack on occasions because I am doing this study on Sunday Night called The 10, where we are looking at the 10 commandments and how they express God's love to us as we keep them
  - As we don't pass them off as irrelevant, but embrace them, we don't earn God's love, we don't merit God's love – we experience God's love, because we are living the way God intended us to live

**But I still hear – that's Old Testament, we are no longer under the 10 Commandments**

- We are not, what do you mean by that?
  - I mean they no longer save us!
  - Oh friend – sorry to burst your bubble, but they never saved us
- When Moses comes off the Mountain, he has the 10 commandments under his arm – the way God intends us to live
  - But Moses also has the designs of a tabernacle – because God knows what I hope you do to
  - We are not going to live that way, not always

**Now the fact that you a loser, and me too, just because we are losers and can't keep the commandments, doesn't mean they are not the goal, the standard**

- but we need sacrifice – oh sin needs to be atoned for
  - because none of us perfectly keeps the law
  - we don't now, and didn't then
  - so there needs to be a tabernacle

**And this tabernacle, and the temple that would follow in Solomon's day in my opinion are the greatest monuments ever built**

- now that's a strong statement, because you have things like the Pyramids in Egypt
  - or Parthenon in Greece or the Coliseum in Rome
  - or even the monuments we build here in America like Mount Rushmore or the so much of Washington DC

- I don't think any of those measure up to this simple tabernacle in the wilderness
  - And the reason I feel that way, is the tabernacle, and the temple after it – were both a big picture of heaven and more specifically Jesus Christ

**You know you have seen those EvangeCubes, that tell the story of the gospel or those multicolored bracelets, (that I'm sure the Wayne's have on) – well the tabernacle is a giant one of those – it tells the story of Jesus and is a picture of heaven**

- the Book of Revelation, Ezekiel and Hebrews make this clear
  - this tabernacle was a picture of things in heaven
  - and that is so key for me to want to pay attention

**Because some people are going to be wondering around heaven saying**

- oh what is that – what is the giant gold candle thing?
  - oh what is that, that box with the angels covering their faces?
  - what is the brass kiddie pool over there?

**But not you!!!!**

- you will be able to say – Ha, I went to Calvary Chapel Vista
  - that giant candle thingy is The golden lampstand and it's a picture of how Jesus is the light of the world
  - and the box is the ark of the covenant and the top with those angles is the mercy seat, a picture of Jesus because we can't get to the law inside with His mercy and blood shed for us
  - and that's not a kiddie pool, that is the brass laver – a picture of the Word and the Spirit that are so necessary for ministry
  - oh – I'm getting ahead of myself
- You see you will be running tours because you came to Wednesday night
  - If you are walking around saying, what's that – I am going to smack you in the head – so motivation to pay attention tonight

**Now we are going to jump around a little bit because there is a lot to cover**

- hopefully you read chapters 25-31 – if you did not, you have another week to do so because we will be looking at chapters 28-30 next week as we consider the ordination of the priests and how that applies to how we serve the Lord
  - good stuff next week
  - but tonight we want to see

**The Design of the Tabernacle – Exodus 25-31**

**Exodus 25 – The Articles in the Tabernacle**

**Exodus 26 – The Design of the structure**

**Exodus 27 & 30 – The Articles in the Courtyard**

**Now you should have received a handout when you first came in tonight and that shows you an overview of the Tabernacle**

- The tabernacle was divided into three parts – The Courtyard – where any Jewish male could come and have their sin and their families sin dealt with – and what was in that courtyard we will see at the end of study – God works from the inside out in our chapters and as I think about it in our lives as well
  - Instead the tabernacle itself was two rooms, the bigger was called the Holy Place –where the Priests would daily minister
  - And then behind the veil was the Holy of Holies where only the High Priest on one day a year could enter and be in the presence of God

- The descriptions of articles found in the Holy of Holies and the Holy place are found as we begin our study tonight and as we read, see if you can see the pictures of Christ in each of these tabernacle articles

**Before we see those, first God gives us the description of where the materials for the tabernacle came from – Look at Exodus 25:1-9 with me**

- They gave an offering to the Lord for the building of the tabernacle
  - It is interesting to me that God gave them the materials that they needed – from the Egyptians, from the Amalekites, and now they were simply giving it back to God as He requested
- I think as we look at our church and think – I wish we could see revival in North County
  - I wish we could see this happen and that happen in and through our church
  - I am convinced that if those plans are of the Lord – then He has already given us all the tools and gifts we need for His will to be accomplished
- The only thing that is left is for us, is too willing release those to Him and let Him work
  - Whether that means our gifts and taking a step of faith and using them
  - Or our money or our talents – I believe God has given us everything we need to accomplish His will – but we have to be willing to release those things to Him

**The Design of the Tabernacle – Exodus 25-31  
Exodus 25 – The Articles in the Tabernacle**

**The Articles of the Tabernacle**

**#1 - The Ark of the Covenant – Exodus 25:10-22 - Picture**

- God gives the specifics – 45 inches long, 27 inches wide and tall - Now as I said all of these things are going to be a picture of Jesus and that of course applies to the ark

**First of all the ark was made of wood which speaks of His humanity – then it was overlaid with gold – which speaks of His deity – Jesus is God made flesh – 100 percent God and Man**

- Now acacia wood is a special type of wood that grows in the dry ground of the Sinai Wilderness – Isaiah declared Jesus would be a root out of dry ground – this is the only tree that grows in the desert that has thorns on it – and when the tree is pierced the gum resin has a healing property to it, like a Bactine – so does Jesus, when He was pierced – healing was provided – such of a picture of Christ

**You see the most important part of the tabernacle was build first**

- you see in our minds – we think we need to build the tabernacle and work our way into the presence of God – I actually thought of doing this study backwards – Lets deal with the surroundings and then what you would find in the courtyard and then the Holy place and then the Holy of Holies
  - but as I sat down to pray that through – the Lord just convicted me – don't you change the order of my Word
- I talked about the innermost part first because I don't want people to get the wrong idea
  - They are someone working their way to me

- First I deal with my sin and then I read the Word and then I get filled with the Spirit, pray some more and now I am in the presence of God
- But God would say – No – Not in this time and not in Old Testament times did you ever work your way into the presence of God – it has always been by the Mercy Seat, where the priest once a year would sprinkle the Blood of the offering atoning for sins that has always been the way we approach God

**Anyone who has tried anything different in either the Old or New Testament has seen you can't approach God without the Mercy Seat**

- I encourage you to read I Samuel 6 verse 14 to the end
  - Sad story – God kills 50,070 people of Beth Shemish – why?
- because they took off the Mercy Seat to get to the commandments
  - that can never be the way it is – God meets you, God meets me – at the Mercy Seat

**In this description of His Tabernacle - God starts at the Mercy seat and moves out**

- we start with the work of Jesus Christ and that produces our worship and our prayers and our Bible study
  - it does not start with our works and then we work toward the Holy of Holies – the presence of God
  - God meets us with Mercy – and then our real genuine relationship should follow

**The Articles of the Tabernacle**

**#1 - The Ark of the Covenant – Exodus 25:10-22**

**#2 - The Table of showbread – Exodus 25:23-30 - picture**

- Now inside the tabernacle in the Holy place there were three articles of furniture God first describes the Table of Showbread - God gives the specifics – 3 feet long, a foot and a half wide, 27 inches tall
  - And again like everything – this table is a picture of Jesus in that, like the ark, was wood overlaid with gold. It was also made of acacia wood.

But beyond that it was that place the bread was put out – Jesus said He was the bread of life – That Bread contained no leaven – leaven a picture of sin – no sin at all

**The Articles of the Tabernacle**

**#1 - The Ark of the Covenant – Exodus 25:10-22**

**#2 - The Table of showbread – Exodus 25:23-30**

**#3 - The Golden lampstand – Exodus 25:31-40 - picture**

- No specific dimensions – although its hammered out of 75 pounds of gold, Now think about that, how much is gold an ounce right now? \$1,400 an ounce – that is almost a 1.7 million dollar candle stick in today money's – whew
  - It had six branches decorated in the shape of almond flowers, and one main shaft – making it a seven branch candle stick – they were kept burning continual – it was the only source of light in the tabernacle

**We see it is a picture of Jesus**

- He is the Light of the world
  - We wonder why there is so much darkness in our schools – I remember about Columbine “where was God on Tuesday” – a sign outside the school at Littleton Colorado where the school shooting happened – we took God out of School, we are taking God out of our culture – and then we want to know where God went

- He is the light of the world
  - And we wonder why this world is getting so dark
  - It is because we are not exalting the only light that can be in the world
- This lamp stand is a picture of Jesus – I am the light of the world – He illuminates our lives, our worship, our service, it is all through Him

**Now understand it was only light for ministry in the tabernacle**

- if we are going to serve the Lord – it has to be lit by the work of Jesus Christ
  - and by the oil that produces that light

**The oil that was the source of the light is also important –**

- the oil – Zech 4 tells us is a picture of the Holy Spirit – Jesus lived not by might, not by power, but by the very Spirit of God in His life –
  - such a lesson to us – it is where our power is
  - it can't be in ourselves
- if you are going to be the husband, wife, young person – you must be filled with the Spirit
  - that is why Ephesians 5 is set up the way that it is
  - Don't be drunk with wine – that changes you into a different person
  - Be filled with the Spirit – Let God change you by the power of His Spirit – Lord fill me

**Now the final of three articles of the tabernacle is not given in this section – but turn with me to 30:1-16**

**The Articles of the Tabernacle**

**#1 - The Ark of the Covenant – Exodus 25:10-22**

**#2 - The Table of showbread – Exodus 25:23-30**

**#3 - The Golden lampstand – Exodus 25:31-40**

**#4 - The Altar of incense – Exodus 30:1-16 - picture**

- God gives the specifics – it was a foot and a half square – three feet high – it stood right before the veil of the temple

**Now this too is the picture of Jesus**

- Hebrews 13 says, “[Jesus is our altar](#)”
  - Now there were two altars in the tabernacle
- On one blood would be shed – we will get to that in a minute – but that speaks of His past Ministry in dying for our sins
  - This altar speaks of Jesus in His present ministry –

**“He ever lives to make intercession for us” – Hebrews 7:25**

**A frame was placed in the middle and it held the incense inside it**

- Then it would fill the temple
  - Incense is a picture of prayer –

**Psalm 141:2 – “may my prayers arise as incense.”**

**Jesus is praying for you and for me**

- And He always will – what a comfort – I'm on no ones prayer list – yes you are, you are on Jesus' prayer list – who else do you want praying for you?
  - My life is hard – image how hard it would be if Christ was not praying for you
  - Most of us realize – what a blessing it is to realize the God of the universe is praying with you and me – it shows His loves, it shows His care – that brings such assurance

**This altar of incense is also a picture of our prayer and worship to the Lord**



- The incense had different parts to it, just as our prayers have petition and adoration, repentance, and intercession
  - The fire for the altar came from the brazen altar where the sacrifices were performed – speaking that our praise, our prayers, the very ability to have to come into the presence of the Lord is based on the sacrifice of Jesus

**Finally – once a year, the High Priest would sprinkle blood upon the altar to cleanse it –**

- showing us that even our prayers, even our praise, need to be covered by the blood of Jesus – because sin can exist there as well
  - I can pray a miss

**Prayer – so important...The altar of incense was the closest to the very presence of God – We think Bible teaching or Evangelism – all important – but intimacy with Jesus is as good as it gets**

**The Design of the Tabernacle – Exodus 25-31**

**Exodus 25 – The Articles in the Tabernacle**

**Exodus 26 – The Design of the structure**

**The Design of the Tabernacle**

**The Covering for the Tabernacle – Exodus 26:1,7, 14-17**

- The tabernacle was a solid structure made of 20 boards on the north and south walls, and 8 on the West wall, and these boards overlaid with gold, held together by gold rings, gold poles, and resting on silver sockets.
  - The boards again were a picture of Jesus as they were made of this same acacia wood, which Jewish scholars record, to be able to get boards these size the wood would have to be crushed and put back together – like plywood – but of course speaking of His death and resurrection
  - The boards were wood overlaid with gold – speaking of His humanity and deity

**And these boards were touching the ground, touching the world if you will through redemption – silver is a picture of redemption –**

- it was silver coins from the redemption offering that were used to make these sockets
  - silver the coin used to redeem the slaves – it was the metal of redemption

**Over this solid structure was draped layers of coverings**

- there were four layers that we read about
  - the first layer, the layer you would see when you were inside the tabernacle was made of fine linen and it was embroidered with beautiful pictures of angels in blue, purple and scarlet

**The layer over that which was used for protection of the articles was goat hair, probably a black color, then over that was a layer of rams skins died red and over that the fourth layer of badger skins which is what they would see – and it was well – technically ugly**

- I mean when you would walk up to this tabernacle I'm sure most thought – who put up the creepy tent in the wilderness
  - **But even this – a picture of Jesus – How**

**Well – Isaiah 53:2 – “He had no form or comeliness... that we would desire Him” – people were not drawn to the tabernacle from the what was on the outside, but what was on the inside**

- People think they know how Jesus is and they look at you who come to church in the middle of the week and they just don't get it – what are you some kind of Jesus freak?
  - Isn't Sunday Morning enough of Jesus – they don't see it
  - But once you stepped inside the tabernacle – and once you step inside a relationship with Jesus – well then you see it – There is no one like Him
- If they didn't step inside the tabernacle they wouldn't get it from looking at these badger skins

**The next level of cover was colored red – speaking of His blood that cleansed us from our sin –**

**II Corinthians 5:21 – “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”**

- The badger skins - No form or comeliness – The Rams skins died red - His blood – He became sin – that we might enter into the Holy place of heaven – the next layer – amazing

**One more that I think is amazing**

- this inner layer, colored blue, purple, and scarlet again picturing Christ in His deity and sacrifice, this inner layer, when you do the calculations, only 1 11<sup>th</sup> of it would have been revealed for all to see from the outside
  - 1 11<sup>th</sup> okay – I don't get it
- Man – maybe this is stretch, but Jesus was 33 years old when He died, rose again, and went back to heaven – His ministry, the visible part of His life to the world – how long 3 years – 1 11<sup>th</sup> was visible

**Again that might be a stretch, but I think there will be so much when we get to heaven, where Jesus says, this speaks of me, this speaks of me**

- Jesus told the Pharisees in **John 5:39, “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.”** – they speak of me, I think more than we understand
  - Well we have to move on..

**The Design of the Tabernacle**

**The Covering for the Tabernacle – Exodus 26:1,7, 14-17**

**The Veil and Screen and the gate – Exodus 26:31-37 & 27:16-19**

- Separating the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place was a veil, separating the Holy Place from the courtyard was a screen, and separating the courtyard from the outside world was a gate
  - The Veil which separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy place was massive
- We are not given the exact measurements for the tabernacle, but for the temple – the veil was 60 feet High, 30 feet wide and 18 inches thick
  - The veil was made of fine linen, colored blue, purple and scarlet

**The screen which separated the Holy Place from the Courtyard was also made of fine linen colored blue, purple and scarlet**

- then separating the courtyard from the world was a gate, made of fine linen, colored purple, blue and scarlet
  - wow – they were all made of the same thing – yes – because they all represent the same thing – Jesus
- The linen speaking of purity – the blue speaking of eternity, the purple of royalty, the scarlet of His death



- It is a picture of Jesus

**Now how is that possible? – the veil, the screen, the gate separated people from things, from God**

- yes – as does Jesus
  - What???? – How???
  - Well – Jesus, demonstrated what a perfect life was, He was held up as the only standard that God expects – this is it

**And this standard separates men from God, because it declares – your good isn't good enough – this is the standard you are separated from God**

**But – notice this, think this through with me – so important**

- not only does the veil, screen, and gate represent the Lord in that He separates men from God
  - It also speaks of the Lord because the veil, the screen, the gate was the only way into the presence of God
- No one could enter the tabernacle except by going through the gate

**Jesus said in John 10:9 – “I am the door” No one comes to the Father except through me”**

**Well I don't know how I feel about that – there is only one way to Jesus**

- Listen I can't believe there is a way for a sinner like me to be forgiven
  - Instead of complaining that there isn't three doors for you to choose like you are at Burger King or something
  - Praise God there is a door – a way for you and me to be saved
- Because providing that door, that way, cost God everything – It cost Him His son
  - We enter through Jesus – We live through Jesus, We serve through Jesus
  - It is about Jesus, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else

**The Design of the Tabernacle – Exodus 25-31**

**Exodus 25 – The Articles in the Tabernacle**

**Exodus 26 – The Design of the structure**

**Exodus 27 & 30 – The Articles in the Courtyard**

**The Articles of the Courtyard**

**#1 - The Brazen Altar – 27:1-8 - picture**

- God gives the specifics – seven and half feet wide, four and half feet high made of wood overlaid with (this time notice... bronze) – Gold speaks of deity – **Bronze speaks of judgment – you can look up Num. 21:4-9, Deut 28:23, Rev. 1:15 – to see that for yourself** – but bronze is a metal that spoke of judgment and so here the sins of Israel were judged by the offering of the innocent lamb
  - As the people would enter through the door or the gate, they would bring the lamb to the priests who would inspect it, and if it was without spot they would offer it to the Lord for different offerings

**Inside the altar, 2 and a half feet above the ground, was a bronze grating where the priests kept a fire burning before the Lord**

- That would burn the sacrifice to the Lord

**Now like every other thing in the temple of course the altar is a picture of Christ, and it doesn't take too much imagination to see how**

- on Him, was sin atoned for, He was where God poured out judgment for the sin of the whole world

- and just like there was no other way for men to be justified in that day without the sacrifice at the altar
- so too – in this day, there is no way a man can be saved except by the sacrifice He is for us– it is His work that removes my sin
- Now one more article in the tabernacle structure...

### **The Articles of the Courtyard**

#### **#1 - The Brazen Altar – Exodus 27:1-8**

#### **#2 - The Brass Laver – Exodus 30:17-21 - picture**

- We are not given the specific dimensions, but we are told it was where the priest would wash before entering the Holy place or before offering the sacrifices
  - Water in the bible used for drinking is usually a picture of the Spirit of God (water from the rock),
  - Water used for washing is a picture of the Word – Paul told us that we are washed by the water of the Word –

**Ephesians 5:25-27 – “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word”**

**In the OT there were three ways you were cleansed – by water, by fire or by blood – and we see in our relationship with God today that when we sin it is the blood of Jesus that cleanses us, that takes away our sin**

- it is the fire of circumstances and trials that refine us and get out of the rough spots making us more like Christ
  - but as we daily go through the world, through our day and pick up the filth of the world – we need to be cleansed by the water of the word
- The priests regularly had to come to this laver and be washed, so they could minister, so they could live!!!!
  - And so too with you and me – if we are going to be effective for the Kingdom – if we are going to not experience just a dryness a death in our relationship with God
  - There needs to be constant washing in the word, and by (here is the picture of Jesus) – the word made flesh – Christ

**Now before we close I want to remind you of who was allowed in these areas**

- any Jewish male to come into the outer court and offer to give the lambs to the priests
  - the priests could enter into the holy Place where the table was, where the candle stick was, where the altar of incense was
- Now the holy of Holies could only be entered by one man, one day a year
  - Listen – it was the highest form of Ministry
  - Why are you saying this – because of the attitude we have toward ministry

**The Articles in the courtyard – they are for everyone – repentance (at the laver) – forgiveness at the altar – that is for everyone who is in Christ**

- inside the Holy Place the articles there spoke of ministry
  - The Table had the bread – the Word of God
  - The lamp stand - Evangelism – the light of the world
  - The altar of incense - the prayers & worship
  - Those things were for the priest

**But the highest honor was to be the High priest and go into the holy of Holies**

- I still don't get it

**We think I want to be in ministry**

- I want to teach the word, I want to lead in worship, I want to evangelize - lead bible studies and groups of people
  - I wish I could be a missionary, I wish I could be a pastor
  - But you know the reality – not everyone is called to that
- However that isn't the highest form of ministry

**The highest form of ministry was to enter into the presence of God and minister to him**

- And in our day and age, after the cross that is a ministry that is available to everyone

**See the importance**

- I have the privilege of teaching the Word, I have the privilege of ministering to people full time
  - But the most satisfying thing to my soul was what I got to do this afternoon – to put away from the computer and commentaries and just take a walk and hang out with Jesus – such a privilege the Old Testament saints never got – but we do, the veil ripped, enter in!