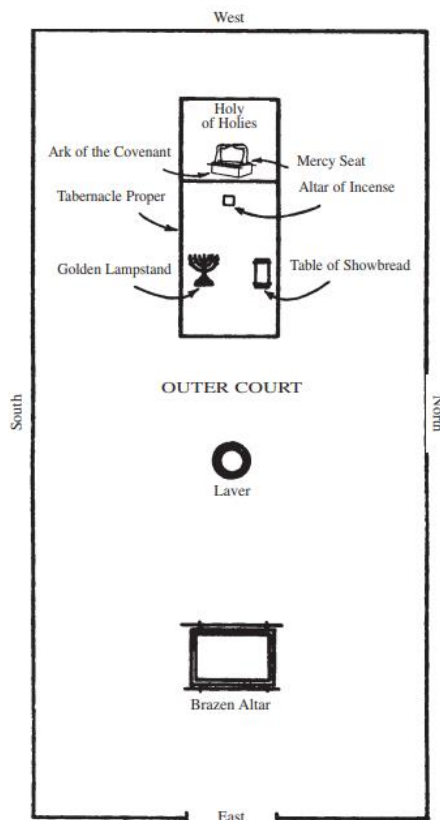


With A Knop and a Flower

Exodus 25:23 – 26:14

~ Our Spiritual Safari is in a highly detailed and technical section of Scripture. We have the blueprints for the tabernacle spread out before us on the table so we can see the floor plan, furniture placement and overall construction details; so, we can know what we are looking at when we look around Scripture. A detailed drawing of the tabernacle proper is below. We are moving from the inside - where God is - to the outside of the tabernacle. We saw the Ark of the Covenant in our last report; so, I suggest you do not start reading here. At least go back and read our previous two reports. We're still examining the Ark. We have also previously considered the mercy seat and the overshadowing cherubim.



Exodus 25:23 – 26:14

The cherubim were the most ornate creations ever seen by mankind. They looked down on the place where the blood was sprinkled. This is the same thing Adam and Eve saw when they looked back at the Garden of Eden as they left and saw cherubims keeping the way of life open to mankind! They saw the blood of the animals that they were wearing the skins of sprinkled upon it. Many people think God was blocking their way from coming back into the Garden of Eden but, oh, no, friends, God was preserving the way of life for them - and for you and for me. When Moses made this tabernacle, it was an exact replica of what Adam and Eve had seen. This also looks into our future. Christ has made a mercy seat for us today. The Throne of God is that mercy seat where our Holy God offers to extend mercy to you and me.

In the outer court we have the altar of incense, lamp stand and the table of showbread; all speaking of and symbolizing the worship of God! Outside of that, we have the laver and the brazen altar where the sin question was settled. The question of sin must be settled in your life before you can worship God! To begin this report, we have the table of showbread with the twelve loaves arranged in two rows of six. I don't think we need to read too much into the arrangement of the bread, personally; except to say there were twelve loaves – one for each of the tribes of Israel. In other words, God was providing equally for all of them. The table is the same size as the mercy seat and the "crown" was a raised lip table border to keep the loaves from falling off....

XXV

23 Thou shalt also make a table of shittim wood: two cubits shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof.

24 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about.

25 And thou shalt make unto it a border of an hand breadth round about, and thou shalt make a golden crown to the border thereof round about.

26 And thou shalt make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings in the four corners that are on the four feet thereof.

27 Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table.

28 And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them.

29 And thou shalt make the dishes thereof, and spoons thereof, and covers thereof, and bowls thereof, to cover withal: of pure gold shalt thou make them.

30 And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me alway.

~ The bread speaks of Christ and the table speaks of Christ, also. The utensils they ate with were solid gold - speaking of His deity - with no wood of humanity in the feeding utensils as there was in the Ark and other furniture. See friends, the Bible is one big picture of the Lord Jesus Christ; and these are stunning pictures to see! The shewbread table suggests many things. It speaks of sustenance, provision and supply. It is also a table of salvation. Remember the parable the Lord Jesus gave about the marriage supper for the son of a king. The invited guests did not come so the invitation was extended out into the highways and byways. The invitation has gone out to the world to partake of the salvation as we have in Christ. Anyone who is willing to give up their sins can come and eat from the table of shewbread today. The way into the Holy Place is open.

This is also a table of providence; and this is critical to understand. We're not going too far into this in this report, but God provides all food, drink and all consumption of every substance we receive - including air. The Book of Esther is the Doctrine of God's Providence and Permissive will; and we'll get quite a lesson in that book of the Bible. Whether you accept it or not, you eat today at God's table in the physical realm – saved and lost man alike. So very few people recognize that truth. Further, the lost table isn't in the tabernacle. Only a small handful of people truly give thanks for His provisions with understanding and, as a result, most never even get close to

Him. We also have the suggestion here of the Lords Supper in the Upper Room; and of a very long table for all believers which extends out from the Upper Room and into the upper atmosphere. Most importantly, the table speaks of Christ as the Sustainer of Spiritual Life for all believers.

On this table there were placed these twelve loaves of bread; two rows of six. The table and the bread are considered one when speaking of them and the bread was changed out each Sabbath day. That which was removed from the table was eaten with wine in the Holy Place. The table does not prefigure Christ in the way the manna does, though. Both speak of Christ; but not in the same connection; even though Christ is the bread in both. Manna speaks of Christ as the life giver – Jesus said that He was the manna come down from Heaven in the Gospel of John. The shewbread speaks of Christ as our life sustainer. Eternal life is a gift and the manna that came down from Heaven was also a gift. He that received the manna received eternal life. The shewbread sets forth Christ as the sustenance for a believer that has partaken of the manna of life.

The shewbread was made of grain and it was unleavened. They took fine flour and baked it as we will see in Leviticus. Christ was ground in the mill of suffering. Today, Christ is the shewbread for believers to feed on and to sustain eternal spiritual growth and life. The believer is to feed on the Living Christ; that is how Christ is appropriated. That is how we live at Gods right hand. An ancient proverb states that a thing grows by the thing it feeds on; that is, we are what we eat. We have too many Christians today that never feed on Christ, my beloved. Then, they wonder why they never grow in Him. We feed on the Word of God because we know Him no more after the flesh. Today, Christ is alive, and we are to grow by looking to Him....

31 And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the same.

32 And six branches shall come out of the sides of it; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side:

33 Three bowls made like unto almonds, with a knop and a flower in one branch; and three bowls made like almonds in the other branch, with a knop and a flower: so in the six branches that come out of the candlestick.

34 And in the candlestick shall be four bowls made like unto almonds, with their knops and their flowers.

35 And there shall be a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, according to the six branches that proceed out of the candlestick.

36 Their knops and their branches shall be of the same: all it shall be one beaten work of pure gold.

37 And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it.

38 And the tongs thereof, and the snuffdishes thereof, shall be of pure gold.

39 Of a talent of pure gold shall he make it, with all these vessels.

40 And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.

~ With that, we come to what is called the candlestick, but it was, more specifically, a lampstand. Our safari will refer to this article of furniture as the lampstand. This is a bit tedious; I admit. Because I say every article of furniture is the most perfect and complete picture we have of Christ, there's no reason I wouldn't say the candle stick isn't also the most perfect picture we have of Christ. They're all perfect pictures of Christ! Well, this speaks of His deity, and it sets Him forth as providing the light. Our worship today is all based on walking in the light. Christ is the light – the Holy Light! If you wanted natural light, you had to go outside of the tabernacle. If you wanted to walk in the light of God, you had to be inside the tabernacle! Christ is the light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. Friends, that should literally blow your mind.

We have people today that darkeneth council by their words. Through philosophy and deceit, anyone can be deceived. But God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. The lamp stand was just one big lump of beaten gold that was highly decorative. Each branch was as an almond tree; that is, it had the flower and the fruit of the almond. At the tops were open blossoms in which the olive oil lamps were placed. It was made of gold, but it looked like wood to resemble Aaron's rod that budded. Aarons priestly prerogative and position was questioned and the almond rod that budded established forever that Aaron was the high priest of the nation Israel.

Christ was established by His resurrection from the dead. Christ didn't become the Son of God; He was the Son of God before the eternal councils of God the Father. The resurrection was really just a confirmation. Aaron was the high priest appointed by God. Christ is our Great High Priest today. The priest represents man before God, so His deity is all important here. Interestingly, there are no measurements given for the lampstand. You cannot measure deity, friends! You can't measure Him as the Son of God; and you cannot understand Him unless He reveals His light to you - period. Jesus was human as He wept, but as He wept, He said, "Lazarus, come forth!" Well, Lazarus came forth, friends. Christ is the Light in the Holy place of worship. Interestingly, the light and the oil combined speak of the Holy Spirit which reveals the things of Christ. If you're reading along, you're meeting around the person of Christ with me - and He is lovely. It is the Holy Spirit that takes the things of Christ and shows them unto us. The light reveals the beauty of the lampstands, and it reveals Christ as the Son of God....

XXVI

1 Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them.

2 The length of one curtain shall be eight and twenty cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: and every one of the curtains shall have one measure.

3 The five curtains shall be coupled together one to another; and other five curtains shall be coupled one to another.

4 And thou shalt make loops of blue upon the edge of the one curtain from the selvedge in the coupling; and likewise shalt thou make in the uttermost edge of another curtain, in the coupling of the second.

5 Fifty loops shalt thou make in the one curtain, and fifty loops shalt thou make in the edge of the curtain that is in the coupling of the second; that the loops may take hold one of another.

6 And thou shalt make fifty taches of gold, and couple the curtains together with the taches: and it shall be one tabernacle.

7 And thou shalt make curtains of goats' hair to be a covering upon the tabernacle: eleven curtains shalt thou make.

8 The length of one curtain shall be thirty cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: and the eleven curtains shall be all of one measure.

9 And thou shalt couple five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves, and shalt double the sixth curtain in the forefront of the tabernacle.

10 And thou shalt make fifty loops on the edge of the one curtain that is outmost in the coupling, and fifty loops in the edge of the curtain which coupleth the second.

11 And thou shalt make fifty taches of brass, and put the taches into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one.

12 And the remnant that remaineth of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remaineth, shall hang over the backside of the tabernacle.

13 And a cubit on the one side, and a cubit on the other side of that which remaineth in the length of the curtains of the tent, it shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle on this side and on that side, to cover it.

14 And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers' skins.

~ This curtain and covering command can be complicated. It had, actually, four coverings. First, the linen went all over the tabernacle proper. This linen cloth, as it was sewed together, covered the entire sanctuary, coming down the sides but not quite touching the ground. It was not permitted to touch the ground. There were plenty of loops and rings to keep this all together. Now, the rest of this chapter is all about boards and sockets; and you may get a little bit bored with the sockets. Silver sockets that speak of redemption are another order of business for much later on in our Spiritual Safari. The entire tabernacle rested on redemption, as we will see. You will not worship God on this Spiritual Safari if you have not been redeemed – I promise you that; and you will not have any access to God if you are not redeemed. Those people stopped reading this report a LONG time ago. Each one of those curtains and every single piece of construction material are going to encounter speak of the Lord Jesus Christ. As we travel on, we're going to construct the entire tabernacle together and worship in it with Moses and the children of Israel. I hope you'll be there with us. It is a whole lot more than a tent where people came to worship God. Like us, it all speaks of Christ, His deity, His holiness, His righteousness - and every other aspect of Him - and Him only ~

^^^