

## Part 3 - The Tabernacle Set Up and Blessed by God

### [Raising Up the Tabernacle]

*Exodus 40*

*16 Thus did Moses: according to all that the LORD commanded him, so did he.*

Notice something in this verse? Moses *obeyed* God. He did according to *all* that God (YHVH) commanded him! Is it any wonder why God chose Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt and govern them in the wilderness? Sincere obedience (not fake, but from the heart) is what makes a good leader. Look at all the leaders of the world today: what are they lacking? Obedience to God's Word, the Bible. The truly good leaders in history have only been those who obey God. This is because, when one truly obeys God (Jesus Christ) *then they are truly serving the people*. No matter what our 'position' in life is, we must strive to do the same. Glorify God *not* yourself. Often times people rise to power because they appear to care about the people. And, some sincerely do care about others when they start off. But as they get power then they become corrupted; because power has a way of intoxicating people's minds. It makes them feel they are beyond reproach from God. Isa 29:9 says *they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink*. Leaders often get spiritually 'drunk' with power. What does physical alcohol do to us? It causes us to lose our good senses; our thinking ability, our rational. So too does power *if we allow it*. That's why God went on to say in Isa 29:10 that he would pour upon them *the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered*. God 'closes' the eyes of those who are rebellious to Him (Ezek 12, 2 Thess 2) because He allows them to be deceived. Why would He do this? Because *He gives us all free will*, that's why. If we want to be deceived, then He lets us. He only wants those who *willingly* humble themselves and *willingly* obey Him to serve in His eternal government (Mk 10:35-45). We must have a strong desire to follow *and* obey God (Jesus Christ) no matter what happens to us. Those who are in leadership positions are often compromised by allowing themselves to sin and then they are controlled at the threat of their sin being exposed. Or they are threatened and cave in to doing wrong because they are scared of what'll happen to them if they don't do what those who threaten them say. They choose to fear man above God. It was not so with Moses. He remained loyal to God; he never caved to man's demands (as Numbers attests to) no matter what the pressures were. Only once is it written Moses disobeyed God, and that's when he allowed his anger to get the 'best of him' when he struck a rock twice instead of speaking to it (Num 10:10-12). Because of this sin (striking the rock symbolized Jesus' crucifixion, which only had to be done *once* for our sins, not twice), God would not allow him to lead Israel into the Promise Land. Thus, Joshua (another great type for Jesus Christ) was given that commission (Deut 1:37-38, 3:23-28, 31:1-7).

And this is essentially why only Jesus Christ can govern the world in righteousness (Isa 9:6-7). Any 'world order' that does not have the true Jesus Christ leading it, will fail. That's why we must be spiritually and physically prepared for the coming 'new world order', for Satan himself will be cast out of heaven to this earth (Rev 12, 2 Thess 2). And through that time (the 'great

tribulation') God will test all people on earth (there will be no 'rapture' to take anyone away from it) to see what's truly in our hearts. God will use those who refuse to bow to Satan to share the Gospel and to expose sin in the world, including Satan's pretending to be the Messiah. The Gospel of Jesus Christ *will* be preached to the *entire* world before the *true* Jesus Christ returns to take over the world, once and for all (2 Thess 2, Mth 24, Mk 13, Lk 21, Dan 7-12, Rev 19:15).

*Exodus 40*

*17 And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was reared up.*

*18 And Moses reared up the tabernacle, and fastened his sockets, and set up the boards thereof, and put in the bars thereof, and reared up his pillars.*

So, on the first day of the first month (nearly a year after the Exodus) Moses, at the command of God, reared up the tabernacle. The word 'reared' is #6965 in the Hebrew and means: *to rise*. The first thing Moses did was to build the foundational walls of the Tabernacle (not the outer court, but the walls of the Tabernacle itself). And remember, this was 'outside the camp' (Ex 33:7-11, Heb 13:13). This too is greatly symbolic. Remember that Jesus Christ is God's Tabernacle in the flesh (John 1:1,14, Col 1:19, 2:19). And, after Jesus had been killed (murdered), He died. Yet, His flesh body was only dead for three days before God literally rose Jesus' flesh body (His Tabernacle) from the dead...

*1 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.*

*2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.*

*3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.*

*4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:*

*5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?*

*6 He is not here, but **is risen**: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,*

*7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.*

*8 And they remembered his words,*

Luke 24:1-8

Indeed, Jesus Christ's flesh body (God's Tabernacle in the flesh) *did rise again*. So, like the first Tabernacle, His flesh body was a 'house' (a temporary 'tent') for His soul to dwell in until God raised it into an incorruptible 'tabernacle' (body). We know that Israel used this 'temporary' Tabernacle until a permanent 'house' could be built in the place that God decided to put His name in, which ended up being Jerusalem. We see from 1 Chron 21:18 that God Himself chose the exact spot to put the permanent Tabernacle, which Solomon built. After David sacrificed to God in that exact spot (to stop the plague), God answered him 'with fire' (1 Chron 21:26) to show that, indeed, this was the place to build the permanent Temple. 2 Chron 3:1 tell us this was

on Mount Moriah, the same spot that Abraham offered up Issac (Gen 22:2) which was a type for how Jesus Christ (the true Tabernacle) would be sacrificed there. So, again, the "tabernacle" we're learning of was the earliest form of the temple, for it was simply a tent. It therefore symbolizes the flesh body of Jesus Christ. It served as a temporary house of God until the beautiful structure would be built later. God raised Jesus Christ's physical body three days after He had died and it was raised into a beautiful body that lives forever. Jesus' raised body is *everlasting* (eternal) and it is also *interdimensional*; He can come and go into this dimension and the other, as was shown by His appearing to the disciples in the middle of the room 'out of nowhere' and eating in front of them to prove that He was no ghost (Lk 24:36-43). Then He ascended to the 'heavenly' dimension to be at the right hand of God (Eph 1:20, 4:10, Acts 2:32-33, 7:55-56, Heb 10:2, 1 Pt 3:22). He will soon come back to this flesh dimension and rule as King of kings, with a rod of iron, for a thousand years (Rev 19-20).

*For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.*

Rom 14:10

*14 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

*15 And that he died for all, **that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.***

1 Cor 15:4-15

What God promises those who truly believe upon His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, is eternal life for their soul but also an eternal body, like what Jesus now has. This is why your earthly flesh body is also considered a "tabernacle" (1 Cor 15, 2 Cor 5), because your flesh body is a 'house' (tent) for your soul to dwell in; *but it's temporary*, only for a short period of time, that you are here on earth. We know that our flesh body is very fragile, and when you don't take care of it, it develops all sorts of problems. But the eternal body that Jesus Christ will give us when He returns is 'like His'. In Phil 3:20-21 Paul said: *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: **Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body**, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.* BUT, in order to get the eternal body (the first resurrection, or raising up that Rev 20:5-6 speaks of) we must *first* make an *internal transformation* by putting off the 'old man' and putting on the 'new man'.

*1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Rom 12:1-2

We shouldn't be conforming our heart and mind to the 'ways of the world' but to God's Word. That's why it's so critical for us to study God's Word, absorb it into our thought process (mind) and allow it change our desires, intentions and emotions (heart) to align with God's Law, for *they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts* (Gal 5:24).

*12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also **ye are risen with him** through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

*13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **hath he quickened together with him**, having forgiven you all trespasses;*

Col 2:12-13

*If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

***2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.***

*3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

*4 When **Christ, who is our life**, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

*5 **Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth**; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:*

*6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:*

*7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.*

*8 **But now ye also put off all these**; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*

*9 Lie not one to another, seeing that **ye have put off the old man with his deeds**;*

*10 **And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:***

Col 3:1-10

*Exodus 40*

*19 And he spread abroad the tent over the tabernacle, and put the covering of the tent above upon it; as the LORD commanded Moses.*

After Moses put the framework for the Tabernacle together, he then put the coverings of rams' skins dyed red, and the covering of badgers' skins, and the vail of the covering upon it (Ex 39:34). In Ex 19:4, God pointed out that He 'bare' Israel 'on eagles' wings', protecting and guiding them out of Egypt, into the wilderness and (eventually) into the Promise Land. This was done, at that time, through the thick cloud that He was in, which protected Israel as they exited Egypt as well as the entire time they were in the wilderness (Ex 13:21-22, 14:19-31, 16:10, 24:15-16, Num 9:16). But that 'doesn't mean God's protection left Israel or us. We're promised in Ps 91:4 that: *He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.* That 'covering' of protection IS His Holy Spirit (Isa 59:21, Ezek 36:27, Ezek 37:14, Acts 2:17-18) and is still available to us today when we sincerely believe in Jesus Christ and continue to study His Word and strive hard each day to obey Him (John 8:31-32). It is His blessed Holy Spirit that helps us understand *and* obey His Word (Isa 11:9, Hab 2:14, 1 Peter 4:8, Acts 5:32). Therefore, His Holy Spirit is our spiritual protection IF we keep it upon us by continuing to kick the sin out of our heart and mind and keep it out, the best we possibly can! We all 'fall short' but those who truly do love, believe and serve Jesus

Christ will commit themselves every day to putting off that ‘old man’ and putting on the ‘new man’ which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him (Col 3:10).

*Exodus 40*

*20 And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy seat above upon the ark:*

*21 And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up the vail of the covering, and covered the ark of the testimony; as the LORD commanded Moses.*

Next, Moses put the ‘testimony’ (which are the Tables of Stone God wrote His Law on) into the Ark of the Covenant. Hebrews 9:4 also tells us that the Manna and Aaron’s rod that budded were also put into it. He then put the Mercy Seat on top of it and had it brought into the inner part of the Tabernacle, which is the Holy of Holies. Moses then put the vail up that separated God’s Throne (the Mercy Seat on top of the Ark of the Covenant) from the rest of the Tabernacle. The vail symbolized our separation from God. When was this vail truly put up? It happened long ago...

*22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:*

*23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.*

*24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

Gen 3:22-24

Before Adam and Eve fell, they had full access to the ‘Tree of Life’, which is God Himself. But, after they sinned, that access was **cut off** and God put up *Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep* [protect] *the way of the tree of life*. So, the vail that Moses put up merely symbolized the true ‘vail’ of separation that God had already put in place to guard Himself (the Tree of Life). But the Holy Spirit, through Paul, has clearly told us that Christ literally ‘did away’ with the vail, through His flesh (Heb 10:20) and therefore...

*16 Nevertheless when it [our heart and mind] shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.*

*17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

*18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

2 Cor 3:16-18

When we turn to Jesus Christ (the Word of God, the Bible) then the vail that separates us from God Himself will be ‘taken away’. We have access to God’s throne, *only* when we pray to Him in the name (and belief) of Jesus Christ. True liberty is when the Holy Spirit comes into our heart and dwells within us. It is then that we begin to be free from the lies the world (Satan) teaches and from the sins that so easily beset us (Heb 12:1). And when we keep our ‘eyes’ (heart and

mind) set firmly on Jesus Christ (through His Word) we'll be changed into the 'image' of Jesus Christ through putting off our sins and putting on the 'mind of Christ' (Phil 2:5-8).

*1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;*

*2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.*

1 Peter 4:1-2

Once we realize our sins (the ones we can see) and repent for them, we begin to think in an unselfish way. Although the flesh mindset of pride, lust and selfishness will try to control us, we learn to discipline it *instead of letting it control us*. We learn to live for God (by striving to sincerely obey Him) instead of for our selfish, prideful, lustful self (carnal mind). Although the process of kicking out our sins takes time, the Holy Spirit does indeed help us change our heart and mind and, eventually, changes us into a new person entirely. The 'fruit' that comes from a close relationship with God Almighty (through Jesus Christ) is the creation of a new person within our soul (it's the transformation that must take place before we can inherit an eternal body)...

*21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled*

*22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:*

*23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;*

Col 1:21-23

So, while Moses set the Ark (and the Mercy Seat) in the Holy of Holies, and sealed it off from the world with the veil... Jesus Christ ripped open that veil when He died (Mth 27:51, Mk 15:38, Lk 23:45) and allows anyone who believes upon Him to come to the very throne of God.

Remember that only *by mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil* (Prov 16:6). That's why Jesus Christ was *full of grace and truth* (John 1:14). It is because of the price Jesus paid for us on the cross that God has mercy upon us, forgiving us for our sins when we sincerely believe upon Jesus Christ. And that's also why He then gives us His Holy Spirit to help us learn more truth. Forgiveness from our sins must be followed by our learning God's truth and working hard to apply it, *sincerely*, to our life; we must learn to obey God's Word from the heart (not being fake or with ulterior motives)...

*1 And you hath he quickened [made alive spiritually], who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

*2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

*3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the **desires of the flesh and of the mind**; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

*4 But **God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,***

*5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

*6 **And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:***

*7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

*8 **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:***

*9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

*10 **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.***

Eph 2:1-10

Like God had Moses and the Israelites create a Tabernacle for Him to dwell in, so likewise does the Holy Spirit help us create a place in our heart for God to dwell in (via His Holy Spirit). And, just as Moses had to first ‘set up’ the framework of the protective wall, so too do we have to ‘set’ our heart ‘upright’ by inclining (changing, even by bending) our heart back to God. He protects us in this endeavor by His Holy Spirit so long as we stay sincere and do not willingly go back to sinning unrepentantly. [**Incline Your Heart** <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/980>].

*8 Good and upright is the LORD: **therefore will he teach sinners in the way.***

*9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and **the meek will he teach his way.***

*10 **All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth** [Prov 16:6] unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.*

Ps 25:8-10

*The way of the LORD is **strength to the upright**: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.*

Prov 10:29

*1 LORD, **who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?***

*2 **He that walketh uprightly**, and worketh righteousness, and **speaketh the truth in his heart.***

*3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.*

*4 **In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.***

*5 He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. **He that doeth these things shall never be moved.***

Ps 15:1-5

Exodus 40

22 *And he put the table in the tent of the congregation, upon the **side** of the tabernacle northward, without the vail.*

23 *And he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD; as the LORD had commanded Moses.*

Next Moses put the Table of Shewbread in the ‘tent of the congregation’ (i.e. the Tabernacle) on the North side. This was not *in* the Holy of Holies but in what was called the ‘Holy Place’ where the Table of Shewbread, Seven Candlesticks and Altar of Incense were. When you went into the Holy Place (inside the Tabernacle but not in the Holiest of Holy place where the Ark and Mercy Seat were) this would have been on your right side as you looked at the Altar of Incense and the vail separating the Holiest of Holy place. Moses then had bread made and put upon the Table, along with all the dishes made for it. Let’s remember that this shewbread symbolized the Divine presence (of YHWH) from whom all supplies (material and spiritual) come. So, *God’s Divine presence* was to be on the Table of Shewbread *at all times*. This still has great spiritual implications for us yet today, as do all the items in the Tabernacle.

Remember, the items in the Tabernacle teach us how to sincerely come to Him in prayer and *what He requires of us before He will hear us*. Ps 66:18 clearly tells us that: *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me*. Thus, when you first come into the Tabernacle you find the Altar of Burnt Offering, which is symbolic for how we must crucify (kill) the carnal mind (heart) within us (the part of that wants to sin) (Lk 9:23). We must repent of our sins, which is how we get the iniquity out of our heart. Then we come to the Brass Laver that holds water. From that we learn the next step to approaching God (after repenting for our sins, which is the first step to crucifying the ‘animal within us’) is to wash with the water. This is symbolic of how we are to allow the Holy Spirit to wash our heart and mind as we study His Word and work to apply it into our thought process, our desires, our actions and words. We must cooperate with the Holy Spirit, which is the Living Water (John 4:23-24, 6:63, 7:39-40).

The next step is to go into the ‘Holy Place’ of the Tabernacle (remember the altar of Burnt Sacrifice and the Brass Laver are *outside* the Tabernacle, in the court) and you then come to the Table of Shewbread on your right side. Jesus told us that He is the bread of life that came down from heaven and those who eat of His bread will never hunger or thirst; they’ll live forever because His Words are life to our spirit (John 6:35, John 6:47-51, John 6:63). We must spiritually partake of His Words (mentally digest them) and allow His Holy Spirit to clean our heart *through His Words*. He made this explicitly clear in John 15:3 when He said: *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you*. And also, in John 17:17, when He prayed to the Father: *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth*. So, the true nourishment we need is not merely physical food. We also must have food for our soul and spirit, which is only found in the Word of God. That’s why Jesus told us *that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God* (Luke 4:4). We must truly absorb God’s Word into our heart and mind so that it changes our desires, our intentions and our thought process, so we *willingly* obey His Laws, from our heart (sincerely). This teaches us that to approach God we must be sincere and learn to clean our conscience through earnest repentance along with learning how to change from our sins through studying His Word. The only way God’s Word (the true Shewbread) does us any good if we

*absorb it into our thought process.* And the fact that it's on our right side as we come into the Holy Place of the Tabernacles shows us that God's Word (our spiritual food) strengthens our soul (for the right hand is used as an analogy in God's Word for strength and power). This then is what leads us to the next item we come to...

#### *Exodus 40*

*24 And he put the candlestick in the tent of the congregation, over against the table, on the **side** of the tabernacle **southward**.*

*25 And he lighted the lamps before the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses.*

The Seven Candlesticks were to be on the Southside of the Tabernacle (Holy Place), which would be on the left side while you are looking towards the Holiest of Holies (where the Ark and Mercy Seat were). The Seven Candlesticks were, naturally, to give light in the Tabernacle. Rev 1:20 tells us that the seven candlesticks are symbolic for the seven Churches which Christ addresses in the second and third chapters of Revelations. Only two out of the Seven (Smyrna and Philadelphia) were found to be without fault in the eyes of Jesus Christ and that's because they taught who the Kenites were: those say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan (Rev 2:9, 3:9). These are the sons of Cain, who was literally the child of Satan and Eve (Gen 3:15) and God has allowed this seed line of Satan to exist only to carry out the negative part of God's plan. They are used by God to test His children and to fulfill Genesis 3:15. They were the instigators in the murdering of Christ (the bruising of His heel in Gen 3:15) and they are going to be accountable for all their sins, unless they actually repent and believe in Jesus Christ like Judas Iscariot did (Mth 27:3-5).

Rev 4:5 also tells us *there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.* Zechariah 4 speaks of seven lamps too. The light of these Seven Candlesticks is clearly symbolic of the truth found only in God's Word. In the Scriptures, the **Light is always likened to truth** (Ps 4:6, 18:28, 27:1, 36:9, 27:6, 119:105, 130, Prov 6:23, Isa 8:20, Dan 2:23, Hosea 6:5, Micah 7:8-9, Mth 5:14-16, Eph 5:8-14, 1 Thess 5:5, 1 Pt 2:9) and **darkness is likened to lies** (Prov 2:13, 4:19, 20:20, Ecc 2:14). And **God has separated the two through His Son, Jesus Christ, which is the Word of God** (Acts 26:18, Isa 42:6-16, 60:1-4, John 1, Gen 1:2-5). Thus, someone who cannot see truth is likened to a blind person who cannot see physical light (Ps 146:8, Ezek 12, Isa 29:18, 35:5, 43:8, 56:10, 59:10, Mth 11:5, 15:14, John 9:39-41, 2 Pt 1:9, Rev 3:17). So, after we first believe in Jesus Christ, have repented for our sins (that we see), allowed the Holy Spirit to wash our heart (in sincere repentance) and then turned to His Word for food (the Table of Shewbread) we will begin to see the truth (light) that these Candlesticks. That's when the Holy Spirit begins to shine through us, as Jesus said in Mth 5...

*14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

*15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

*16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Matt 5:14-16

*Exodus 40*

*26 And he put the golden altar in the tent of the congregation before the vail:*

*27 And he burnt sweet incense thereon; as the LORD commanded Moses.*

So, in the Holy Place (inside the Tabernacle, but not yet in the Holy of Holies) we see the Table of Shewbread on our right side (Northward) and the Candlesticks on our left (Southward). But straight ahead we then come to the Altar of Incense, where sweet incense was burnt upon. The sweet incense is clearly explained to be symbolic of our prayers in Rev 5:8 and 8:3-4 but Psalms 141:2 also testifies to this when it says: ***Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*** The Altar of Incense was the closest item to the Holy of Holies, where the very throne of God was (the Ark and the Mercy Seat).

So, all the items that are before God's throne teach us how we must truly repent and seek Him (His Word and truth) so our prayers can be heard by Him, because the Scriptures clearly tell us that our unrepentant sins (rebellious and stubborn heart) are what separate us from God (1 John 5:14-15, 1 John 4:5-6, John 9:31, Prov 15:29, 2 Tim 2:15-19, Isa 59:1-2, Ps 66:19). Our sins separate us from God; the only way we can get close to Him is by getting rid of them (which He'll help us do if we are sincere and continue to work at kicking them out). If you are truly serious about following Jesus Christ you must 'depart from iniquity' by studying His Word daily and striving hard to obey it, *from your heart*. You'll learn to develop a true relationship with God, through Jesus Christ's Holy Spirit and the Word of God being inside your heart and mind. If you stop trying to get close to God after you first accept Jesus Christ then you won't get close to Him. This is why there are so many self-professed Christians who are simply self-righteous hypocrites. IF we remain sincere in our seeking God (through His Word, the Bible) and cooperate with His Holy Spirit guiding us, then we know God hears us. Gal 5:24 reminds us that *they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts*. This is not a 'one time' thing. We must continue to crucify our *flesh with the affections and lusts* on a daily basis, as Jesus told us in Lk 9:23.

Never forget that the Tabernacle itself teaches us how we must draw close to God IF we want Him to hear our prayers (James 4:8, Ps 66:19). And IF we truly want a sincere and loving relationship with Him, we'll *keep* drawing close to God by striving to put off our sins, *every day*. We have to *continue* to allow the Holy Spirit to convict us of our sins, clean us and keep learning of His Word. *Cleansing takes time* and being in a flesh body, our soul gets dirty. It's like walking in a dirt road with sandals on; your feet are going to get dirty. So does our soul get dirty in a flesh body. We must continue to cleanse ourselves 'in the way' the Word of God (and this Tabernacle) teach us to, IF we want to be close to God. Which, by the way, is the only way to obtain eternal life (John 14:6). So, don't give up praying to God, in Jesus' name. But also, don't give up studying His Word and striving to crucify that 'old man' and put on the 'new man' each and every day. That's a vital part of truly 'walking in the Spirit' (Gal 5, Rom 8). Our heart must be right while seeking God; we must be sincere (without ulterior motives). The Tabernacle teaches

us how to ‘walk in the Spirit’ by giving us a visual aid to learn from. We should still learn from it (Gal 3:24).

*Exodus 40*

*28 And he set up the hanging at the door of the tabernacle.*

After the Holy Place and the Holiest of Holies were put together and all the items put perfectly in place, Moses put up the last ‘hanging’ of the Tabernacle, which served as the ‘door’ to the Tabernacle. Spiritually, the only ‘door’ to God is Jesus Christ, which is why He said...

*7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **I am the door of the sheep.***

*8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.*

*9 **I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.***

*10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

John 10:7-10

It’s only through Jesus Christ that we have access to God Himself. We must *always* pray in the name of Jesus Christ, and *truly* believe upon Him, IF we want God to hear our prayers. And again, our heart must be sincerely seeking Him and willingly trying to put off our sins (Ps 66:19). We can’t fool God. He’s not a genie in a bottle that we can simply ‘rub the right way’ and get all our ‘wishes’. Our Heavenly Father is the creator of all things in heaven and earth (Gen 1:1, Ps 104:30, Isa 45:12,18, John 1:1-4, 14, Rev 4:11) and He has created us, even our own body and soul. **We must approach Him in the way He has set for us**, which is explained visually in the Tabernacle itself.

*Exodus 40*

*29 And he put the altar of burnt offering by the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the meat offering; as the LORD commanded Moses.*

Next Moses set up the Altar of Burnt offering, which (as we’ve learned previously) was outside the Holy Place (the Tabernacle). It’s where the priests were to burn the animals after they were killed. We are no longer to perform these blood rituals because God has *already come* to the earth in a flesh body (as Jesus Christ) and died for our sins, fulfilling all the blood sacrifices, once and for all times (Heb 10:10). Therefore, this teaches us how to ‘deny our self’ and crucify the ‘animal within us’ (our carnal mind, the heart) that desires to sin (Lk 9:23). But before Jesus came, anyone who wanted God to hear their prayers had to perform the blood sacrifices because it showed (proved to God) they believed the Messiah *would* come. That is why we now pray in Jesus’ name because it shows that we believe He *has* come. God has always wanted our sincere love (Hosea 6:6) but obedience to His Laws is a pivotal part of that. Although the feeling of love is a part of love, true love is defined by your willingness to obey (will) and your actions of

obedience (action). Love is will and action, not *only* a feeling. You strive to please those who you love, right? Yes, of course. That's why we should strive to obey our Heavenly Father. It's not the actions by themselves that please Him, but it is the sincerity of our heart in trying to obey Him that pleases Him. As we continue to study His Word, He helps us clean our heart and learn how to better obey Him with sincerity. Again, that's what this Tabernacle teaches us visually. God has literally 'drawn us a picture' of how to please Him. That's why it's important for us to understand today, even though we no longer are to physical sacrifice physical animals to Him. He is well pleased when we sacrifice our carnal mind (heart) every day (killing the 'old man' daily) and work to put on that 'new man' *which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24) and *is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him* (Col 3:10).

#### *Exodus 40*

*30 And he set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar; and put water there, to wash withal.*

*31 And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat:*

*32 When they went into the tent of the congregation, and **when they came near unto the altar, they washed**; as the LORD commanded Moses.*

Then Moses set up the Brass (copper) laver that was for the priests to wash with. Equivalent to this today is when a person gets physically baptized after they first accept Jesus Christ. This is indeed still to be done today because it symbolizes that they have done the first step to getting close to God: they have accepted the great sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins. This means the person has recognized that they are indeed a sinner and need the blood of Jesus Christ to forgive their sins. Some question whether it's necessary to be baptized physically but consider how Jesus Christ (who is our example to follow, John 13:15) not only washed the disciples' feet (John 13) but He Himself also got baptized (Mth 3:13-17). Further, Jesus' apostles continued to baptize, even after John the Baptist (John 4:1-2). Those who did not believe on Jesus did *not* get baptized (Luke 7:29-30). And even after Jesus died, was resurrected and ascended up to heaven, people were still baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38-41) *as a sign they repented* and so they could receive His Holy Spirit. Paul himself was baptized as well (Acts 9:18). So, publicly getting baptized (physically) is still something Christians should do. But we cannot lose sight of the fact that true baptism is done by the Holy Spirit. As Acts 1:5 explains: *for John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence*. And, as John the Baptist explained in Matt 3:11: *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire***. That 'fire' baptism came upon the apostles on Pentecost day (Acts 2) and will come again to His servants of these latter days, as Joel 2 prophesied...

*28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that **I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh**; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:*

*29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days **will I pour out my spirit**.*  
Joel 2:28-29

Though we all are baptized with the Holy Spirit when we continue to study His Word daily (He cleanses us from our sins and strengthens our inner man, Eph 3:16), this spiritual baptism *of fire* from the Holy Spirit will be fulfilled when the Holy Spirit speaks through His servants when Satan is here pretending to be the Messiah (2 Thess 2, Mth 24:9, Lk 21:12-15, Mk 13:9-10) and the purpose is so the Gospel will be taught among the world before the true Jesus Christ returns (Mth 24:14, Mk 13:10, Rev 14:6-7). Thankfully, God will give people the chance to repent, even when Satan is on earth, before the true Jesus Christ returns. Let us pray that many will accept this call to repentance at that time. Meanwhile, we who do believe in Jesus Christ must continue work (strive, Lk 13:24-28) to spiritually cleanse our heart and mind (which is what the items of the first Tabernacle symbolizes) *so we can be ready to help serve God* in whatever way He wants to use us, to help His children return to Him.

We'll pick this up in part 4...

AMEN.