

## Exodus 37-39

Moses came down from Mt. Sinai with the ten commandments, but he also came down with instructions on how to build a tabernacle. This was to be a large tent that could be set up when the Israelites stopped and taken back down when they started out on their journey again. God gave Moses instructions on how to build the tabernacle and what kind of things to put in it. In our last lesson we told how each of the people brought some of their materials, thread, gold and silver jewelry, brass and boards all to put toward their new place of worship. The tabernacle was to be like a church or ecclesia; it would be a place to go and make sacrifices and pray to God and sing songs of praise to him. Each thing in the tabernacle had a special meaning and purpose.

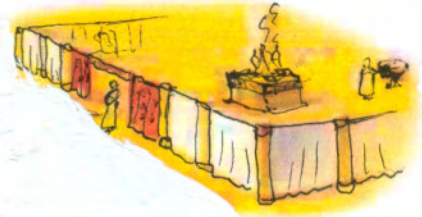
Every time the people went to the tabernacle they would see things that reminded them of God and his son Jesus. Things in the tabernacle would make them think of the Kingdom that God had promised to those who loved and obey him. Some things were made of white linen cloth; this would make them think of being washed and clean and pure. The curtains were to be made of red, blue, purple and gold threads, these colors would make them think of Jesus who was a man (red), God's son (blue), who is to be a king over all the earth (purple) and live forever (gold). As you get older you will enjoy studying into each of the things in the tabernacle and seeing how they represented different things about God, Jesus and the coming kingdom.

The children of Israel worked on each of the parts of the tabernacle for two years before it was all completed and ready to set up. When the priests finished the tabernacle, suddenly the pillar of cloud lowered and covered the tabernacle and God's glory shown from it. The priests couldn't enter the tabernacle because of the brilliant light. This was God showing his glory and his approval of all the children of Israel had done.

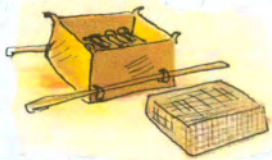
Now, let's pretend we are visiting the camp of Israel. As we walk past many tents set up in a big square, we come to the tents of the Levites. The Levites were from the special tribe that God said picked to be priests to serve him in the Tabernacle (their tents are shown as green tents in this picture). The Tabernacle was in the very middle of all the other tents of the Israelites, just as God is to be in the very center of our lives. We are to keep God as the most important part of our lives, aren't we?



As we pass the tents of the Levites and Moses' and Aaron's tents, we are in the middle of the camp, facing the tabernacle's courtyard. Do you know what a courtyard is? Well, if you live in a house and have a yard in front of the house, and if your yard had a fence around it, this would be just like a courtyard. A courtyard is a space inside a fence or wall before you come to a building. The tabernacle's courtyard wasn't enclosed with a wooden fence or a wire fence like your yard might have, it had a fence or wall made of white linen cloth attached to tall, brass pillars. The door to the courtyard wasn't a gate made of wood or wire, but it was made of beautifully colored curtains of red and blue and purple. The curtains went all around the Tabernacle and looked something like this picture.



Now let's go through those pretty curtains and see what's inside the courtyard. What's in your yard at home? Maybe a bike or a swing set or a flower garden? The first thing we come to inside the tabernacle courtyard is a big, square, shiny, brass altar. There is a grate on the top of the altar and under the grate the priests build a fire to cook the sacrifice. It's something like a large, shiny, outdoor barbecue. Here sheep and goats and cattle are cooked for the priests and people to eat when they come to worship at the tabernacle.

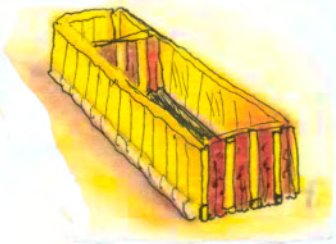


This picture shows the altar with the grate sitting at the side, the grate is usually on top of the altar. As we pass the altar we might smell the wood smoke and the meat cooking on the altar.

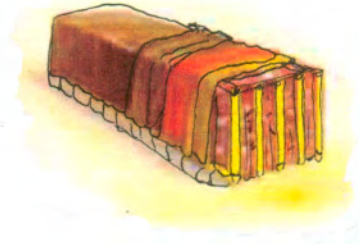
Next we come to a wash basin called a laver. After the priest offered a sacrifice on the altar, he would wash at the laver before he entered the tabernacle. Only the priests were allowed to go inside the tabernacle, so here we would stop if we were ordinary people come to worship God. However, we'll pretend we are a priest, so get ready to wash up at the laver so we can go inside the tabernacle.



The tabernacle is built of wooden boards covered with gold. When the priests set up the tabernacle, they set each board in a silver base then put a long pole through rings to keep the boards together. Then they cover the top of the tabernacle with cloth made of woven goat hair, and then over that they put a heavier cloth made of rams skin dyed red. On top of these two curtains was an outer covering of tough hide to protect the tabernacle and keep out the rain and wind.



This is something like the tabernacle would look before it was completely set up.

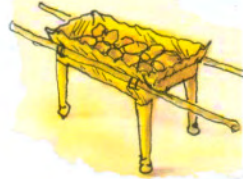


As we face the front of the tabernacle we would notice five tall, golden pillars holding up four curtains woven with blue, red and purple colors. Let's go through the curtains and look at the inside of the tabernacle. There are two rooms, the first room is called "The Holy Place" as it's a specially, "set apart" place, which is what "Holy" means. The next room has another door covered by a curtain of red and blue and purple, with figures called "Cheribim" embroidered in the curtain. This was called "The Most Holy Place."

As we look around the first room called the Holy Place, we see beautiful, gleaming, gold boards with silver bases. There is a flickering light that makes the boards shine and glisten. The light comes from a beautifully shaped lampstand with little oil lamps on top of seven branches, giving off the light that shines and flickers on the gold boards. The lamp is made of beautifully shaped gold branches with little carved almond flowers along them.

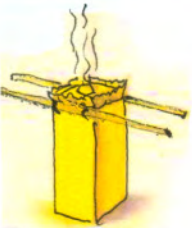


On the other side of the room is a low table holding twelve loaves of bread. This is called the "Table of Shewbread."



Shewbread was a special name for the bread that was baked daily for the priests to eat.


At the end of the room was a small golden altar used to burn sweet smelling incense. Once a year when the priest went into the Most Holy, the incense altar was moved on the other side of the curtain to be used in the Most Holy Place. No one else was to use this incense perfume for any other reason. It was to be special and set apart to only be used in the tabernacle.



The Most Holy Place was to be entered only once a year and only the High Priest could enter it. Other priests worked around the tabernacle and could come into the Holy Place, but only Aaron, who was the High Priest, or a descendent of Aaron who was named High Priest, could go into the Most Holy. So we need to pretend we are the High Priest now. We will move the little altar of Incense through the curtains into the Most Holy Place and put the special incense on the altar and light it. My that incense smells wonderful doesn't it?

Your memory verse for this lesson comes from the idea of the sweet smell of incense that floats up to God. David made a prayer to God and said:

**Psalm 141:2 "May my prayer be set before you like incense."**

When we say a prayer to God we can think of the sweet smell floating up and how pleased God is to receive that prayer, just like we are pleased when something smells extra nice to us. Learn this verse and make an X in the box when you've learned it. 

Now we see the most important furniture in the tabernacle. There before us is a beautiful shining, gold box with a solid gold lid and on the lid are two figures facing each other. These are called "Cherubim" and they are facing each other with wings reaching out to touch. They might have looked something like this.

The box was called the "Ark of the Covenant" for inside this ark was the tables of stone with the ten commandments written on them. These ten laws were like a covenant or agreement between God and man. Inside the ark was also a pot of manna and the stick of Aaron's that budded and bloomed.



The lid with the cherubim on it was called the "Atonement" cover and also called the "Mercy Seat." Here, between the two cherubim the voice of God could be heard by the High Priest. God would speak to High Priest here, and give him instructions to tell the people. The priests were like teachers, they would help the people learn all the laws given to Moses and they taught the people how God would like them to act. The priest also would be like doctors and help instruct the people in plants and oils to help them get well.

Now in our pretend journey, we leave the tabernacle and see the High Priest standing there, dressed in his special clothes. Just as the things in the tabernacle have meanings, so the High Priest's clothing also has meanings. Shall we find out what his clothes looked like? First he puts on shorts made of fine, white, linen. This is a cool material, good to wear in the hot desert weather. Fine white linen was used only by special people for it was expensive and hard to come by. Usually only the rich or famous people like the kings and priests owned this material. Next the High Priest put on a long, white robe of the same fine white linen material.



Over the white robe a beautiful, blue garment called "the robe of the ephod." Ephod is a funny sounding name, isn't it? The very last robe that the priest put on was called an Ephod. He wore three different kinds of robes, you would think this would be very hot, but they were made of cool, linen fabric and the three robes made good insulation from the hot sun and helped keep the priest cool. The robe of the ephod slipped over the priest's head and makes pretty tinkling noises as it's put on, do you know why? All around the bottom of the ephod were round balls made to look like a pomegranate fruit. The embroidered balls were colored purple, blue and red and in between the balls were gold bells. Everytime the High Priest went inside the Holy Place the people knew he was working inside, as they could hear the tinkling of the bells.



Now we come to the Ephod. It was a very beautiful, sparkling, robe, for gold was hammered very thin and made into threads weave in between the blue, red and purple colors on the white cloth. The gold threads would shine as the priest moved.

Two onyx stones (these were jewels) were put on the shoulders of the Ephod and the names of the 12 sons of Jacob were engraved on these stones.

Now came a square piece of cloth, embroidered in the same colors as the Ephod. This was called a "Breastplace" and was to be worn on top of the Ephod to cover the High Priest's chest. On the breastplate were sparkling jewels of all different kinds and colors. The breastplate had four rows with three precious jewels in each row. These were also to represent the 12 tribes of Israel.



On top of the High Priest's head was a white turbun (hat) with a gold plate resting on the priest's forehead. "Holiness to the Lord" was engraved on the gold plate. Everyone who looked at the High Priest would see the writing and know that he was picked out specially to serve the Lord. Everytime the priest felt the heavy, gold plate on his forehead he would think of the words and know that he was to be set apart (which is what "Holy" means) as a man chosen by God to teach the people. Now our pretend visit to the Tabernacle is over and we are back home



## Question Page

1. What was a Tabernacle?
2. What was a Tabernacle used for?
3. Was the Tabernacle located outside of the other tents or in the middle of the tents?
4. What happened with the pillar of cloud when the tabernacle was completed?
5. What colors were used in the Tabernacle?
6. A courtyard was like ... (a) A Playground, (b) An enclosed yard (c) A football field
7. What kind of fence or wall did the Tabernacle courtyard have?  
(a) Bricks (b) Wood (c) Curtains
8. What was a Laver used for? (a) Washing (b) Sacrifices (c) To burn incense
9. What metal did the Israelites use to cover the boards in the Tabernacle?  
(a) Brass (b) Gold (c) Silver
10. How many robes did the High Priest wear?
11. What things were on the breastplate?
12. What were the names of the two rooms inside the Tabernacle?
13. Which room was the High Priest allowed to enter just once a year?
14. What special piece of furniture was in this room? Tell what it looked like,
15. Our prayers go up to God and are sweet to him, just like something in the Tabernacle, Tell what smelled sweet in the Tabernacle.

Now you have an idea of what a High Priest's garments looked like. The red, blue, purple and gold may have been in stripes, checks or other designs, you decide how you want to design the Ephod and breastplate colors. The picture below gives you an idea of what he looked like when he was all dressed. Draw and color each garment in the space below the writing.

1st Shorts (white)

2nd Robe (white)



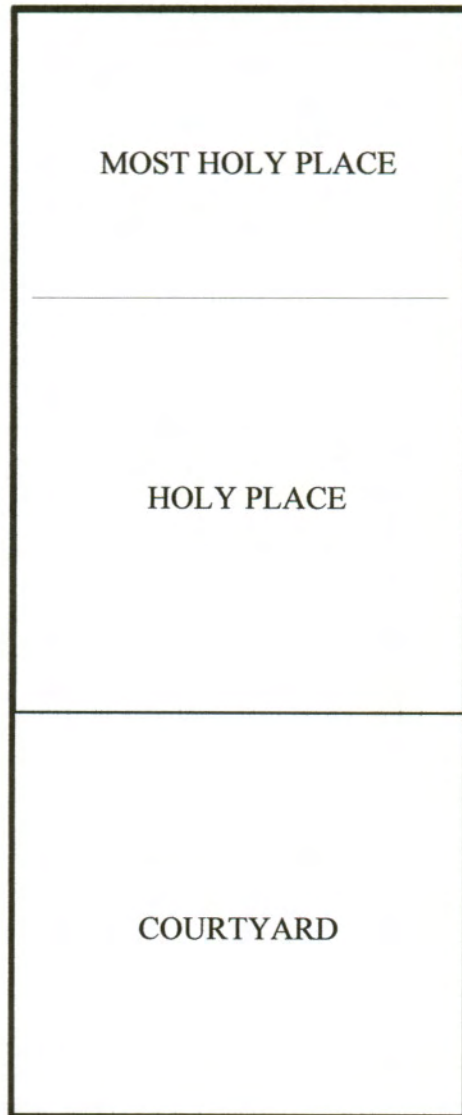
3rd Robe of Ephod (blue)  
with Pomegranates (blue, purple, red)  
and Gold bells between pomegranate on hem

4th Ephod (red, blue, purple with gold threads)

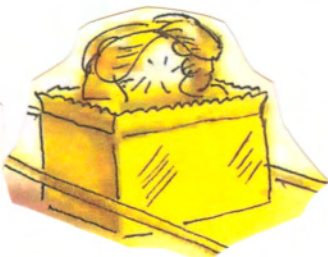
5th Breastplate (red, blue, purple, gold cloth)  
with 12 precious gems in four rows

6th white turban with gold plate on the  
forehead, write "Holiness to the LORD"  
on the gold plate

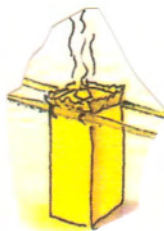
Below is a picture of what you might see of the Tabernacle if you were in an airplane looking straight down at it. There are also pictures of the furniture in the Tabernacle. See if you can put the right furniture in the right places by drawing a line from the articles to the place they belong in the Tabernacle.



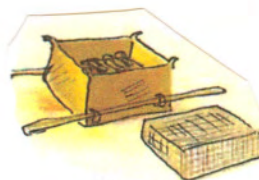
*Laver*



*Ark of Covenant  
Mercy seat with Cherubims*



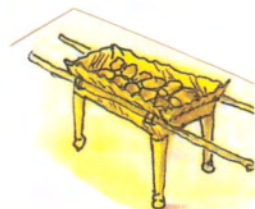
*Altar of Incense*



*Altar for  
Burnt Sacrifices*



*Candlestick*



*Table  
of Shewbread*

After you've placed your furniture, check your answers by looking on the back of this page



Did you get your furniture in the right places?

In the Courtyard - altar for sacrifices, laver for washing

In the Holy Place - Candlestick, Table of Shewbread

Incense Altar (could be in Holy Place

or in Most Holy Place)

In the Most Holy Place - Incense Altar

Ark of the Covenant

Mercy Seat with Cherubim

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

Use this code to solve the sentence



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N

y v s l o w g l l y v b r h y v g g v i g s z m h z x i r u r x v  
 z m w g l s v z i p v m g s z m g s v u z g l u i z n h



HIDDEN BOOKS

find 12 books of the Old Testament hidden in the following maze

- JOB
- HABAKKUK
- AMOS
- EZRA
- NAHUM
- DANIEL
- JOSHUA
- EXODUS
- JOEL
- RUTH

J	P	O	J	A	N	G	N	E	Z	A	T
O	D	M	O	D	P	R	B	S	L	M	K
B	M	E	E	C	E	Z	R	A	W	O	C
Z	S	S	L	O	M	K	V	O	T	S	P
R	E	M	U	J	O	S	H	U	A	M	I
U	E	S	C	D	S	A	K	E	L	H	R
T	E	S	T	I	O	M	N	K	R	E	N
H	K	H	U	I	Q	S	D	I	E	T	A
A	J	Z	S	S	R	G	K	N	H	I	H
D	A	N	I	E	L	N	P	G	T	N	U
Q	E	R	S	B	I	I	L	G	S	O	M
E	X	O	D	U	S	K	Y	E	E	G	Z
N	I	T	H	A	B	A	K	K	U	K	W

