

# The Book of Exodus

## The Divine Plan for the Tabernacle

### Part 4: The Court and the Priests

Text: Exodus 27:9 – 29:46

Outline of God's plan for the Tabernacle:

- a. 25:1-7 - Offerings for the Tabernacle
- b. 25:8-9 - Emphasis upon following the pattern
- c. 25:10-40 - The furniture for the Tabernacle
- d. 26:1-37 - The pattern for the Tabernacle
- e. 27:1-8 - The pattern for the altar
- f. 27:9-18 - The pattern for the court
- g. 27:19-21 - The pattern for the vessels
- h. 28:1-43 - The pattern for the priestly garments
- i. 29:1-37 - The pattern for the consecration of priests
- j. 29:38-46 - The pattern for the daily sacrifice
- k. 30:1-10 - The pattern for the altar of incense
- l. 30:11-16 - The pattern for the ransom of souls (census)
- m. 30:17-21 - The pattern for the laver of water
- n. 30:22-33 - The pattern for the holy oil
- o. 31:1-11 - The choosing of those who would construct the Tabernacle
- p. 31:12-17 - The sign of the Sabbath
- q. 31:18 - The two tables of stone

#### I. The Outer Court (Exodus 27:9-18)

- A. A wall or fence was to be built around the tabernacle separating it from the outside world.
- B. This would form a court around the tabernacle itself.
- C. The dimensions of the court were 100 cubits (north and south sides) by 50 cubits (east and west sides) by 5 cubits in height.
- D. On the east side was the gate by which the court was entered – made of curtains of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen.
- E. Thus, the tabernacle was always set up so that it faced the east.

#### II. The Priestly Garments (Exodus 28)

- A. For the priests, holy garments were to be made.
  - 1. They were not holy because of anything special about the material used.
  - 2. Rather, they were holy because they were authorized by God and worn only for the service of the tabernacle.
- B. The garments of Aaron – the first High Priest – are described first.
  - 1. Ephod – a kind of girdle that hanged from the shoulders in both front and back.
    - a. It was made of gold, blue, purple, scarlet, fine twined linen, and cunning work.

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- b. It was joined together at the shoulder where two onyx stones were placed – on which were engraved the names of the tribes of Israel.
- 2. Breastplate – made of the same material as the ephod, but hanged in front of it by two gold chains.
  - a. It was foursquare – one span on each side.
  - b. Twelve stones were placed upon it in four rows.
  - c. On each stone was engraved the name of one tribe of Israel.
  - d. Inside the folded material of the breastplate were placed the Urim and Thummim – used for enquiring of the Lord.
- 3. Robe – Beneath the ephod was a robe made entirely of blue
  - a. There was a woven binding around the neck.
  - b. There were bells and pomegranates around the bottom hem.
  - c. The bells allowed Aaron's movements to be heard when he went into the Most Holy Place.
- 4. Mitre – A headdress, much like a turban, made of wrapped material
  - a. The mitre seems to have been white.
  - b. There was wrapping of blue lace that held a gold plate on the front of the mitre.
  - c. On the gold, the words "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" were engraved.
- 5. Coat and Girdle – These were the innermost garments
  - a. The coat or tunic was made of fine linen and reached to the feet and the hands.
  - b. The girdle went on top of the tunic, but beneath the ephod.
  - c. It was embroidered beautifully, though likely not seen.
- C. The garments for the ordinary priests were much simpler, but still meaningful.
  - 1. Linen breeches – undergarments (drawers)
  - 2. Coat or Tunic – made of fine linen and embroidered
  - 3. Girdle – also embroidered
  - 4. Bonnet – a close-fitting cap, not as large as the High Priest's mitre
- D. These garments symbolized the importance and sacredness of the High Priest's function.
- E. They also represented purity and the beauty of holiness – looking forward to the spiritual priesthood of all believers in the church of Christ.

- III. The Consecration of the Priests (Exodus 29:1-37)
- A. First, at the door of the tabernacle, they were to be washed with water (vs. 4).
  - B. Then, they were to be clothed in the priestly garments (vs. 5-6).
  - C. Then, they were to be anointed with oil (vs. 7).
  - D. Finally, sacrifice was to be offered to purify them for their work (vs. 10-37).

- IV. The Daily Sacrifice (Exodus 29:38-46)
- A. Two lambs of the first year were to be offered daily – one in the morning and one at evening.
  - B. This was to continue every day throughout their generations.
  - C. Then, they would be sanctified and God would dwell among them.