

THE TABERNACLE

An Overview of the Symbolism of the Tabernacle

Introduction:

1. The Bible makes it clear that the Tabernacle in the Old Testament was a type for things in the New Testament.
2. This means that the Tabernacle in the wilderness actually prefigured and symbolized things that would not come to be until the time of the Gospel.
3. According to Hebrews 9, the Tabernacle, the Holy Place, the Most Holy Place, the veil, the priests, the High Priest and the sacrifices all represented spiritual things under the New Covenant.
4. In fact, the very pattern that God gave for the Tabernacle was to teach something about the New Testament.
5. Even the design, furniture and coverings of the Tabernacle had special significance.
6. As we study the Tabernacle in this series of lessons, make sure to focus on the fact that all of these things pointed to Jesus and His church – and the salvation found therein.

I. The Pattern of the Tabernacle

- A. God gave very detailed instructions for the construction and arrangement of the Tabernacle.
- B. This pattern was to be followed exactly (cf. Hebrews 8:5; Exodus 25:9, 40; 26:30; Numbers 8:4; Acts 7:44).
 1. To obey God
 2. To establish the type / antitype relationship with the New Testament.
- C. In every age, man must follow the pattern and instructions given by God.

II. The Coverings of the Tabernacle

- A. The instructions for the coverings of the Tabernacle are given in Exodus 26:1-14.
- B. The innermost covering was of goat hair – in that part of the world a beautiful and fine hair, almost as fine as silk.
- C. Above this was a covering of rams' skins that were dyed red.
 1. This symbolizes the blood of sacrifice that covered the Tabernacle.
 2. It prefigures the sacrifice of Jesus and the covering of the church by His blood.
- D. Finally, there was an outer covering of badger skins.
 1. From the outside, the Tabernacle appeared coarse and rough.
 2. But within, the beauty and glory could be found.
 3. Likewise, the church does not appeal to many due to its outward appearance; but, all spiritual blessing are found within (cf. Eph. 1:3).

III. The Outer Court of the Tabernacle

- A. To enter the outer court, one would pass through a gate of hanging curtains (of blue, purple, and scarlet) upon four pillars of brass (Exo. 27:16).
- B. The outer court was surrounded by a fence of linen supported by posts (Exo. 27:9-18).
- C. The people would come into the outer court to offer sacrifices unto God.
- D. The outer court represents the world – for, none can approach the house of God without a sacrifice for sin.