# The Tabernacle

## Symbolism in the Tabernacle

### The Tabernacle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Israelites Commune with God through the Tabernacle</th>
<th>Christians Commune with God through Jesus</th>
<th>Why Is the Tabernacle Important Today?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bronze altar for sacrifices</td>
<td>Christ’s sacrifice</td>
<td>• Today, believers are God’s dwelling place. (1 Corinthians 6:19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze laver for washing</td>
<td>Cleansing through confession</td>
<td>• God’s holy presence is among us. (Exodus 40:34-38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lampstand</td>
<td>Enlightened by the Holy Spirit</td>
<td>• As believers, we are part of a priesthood. (1 Peter 2:5, 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of showbread</td>
<td>Fed by the living Word</td>
<td>• The tabernacle shows a pattern of worship prescribed by God. (Hebrews 10:19-25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altar of incense</td>
<td>Prayer, communication, intercession</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through the veil into the Most Holy Place</td>
<td>Entering God’s presence boldly through Christ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priest and the garments</td>
<td>Service to God and others</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The Furnishings
- The Pattern of Worship
- The Ark of the Covenant
- Symbolism that Points to Jesus
- The Sacrifices in the Tabernacle
- The Garments of the High Priest

*HENDRICKSON PUBLISHERS*  
**www.hendricksonrose.com**  

Rose Publishing, LLC  
All rights reserved. It is illegal to copy, transmit electronically, or reproduce this pamphlet in whole or in part in any form. May not be posted or transmitted on the internet.  

Printed in the United States of America  
5618178CG  

ISBN: 978-1890947996  

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Stock #5653. The Tabernacle pamphlet  

Used by Permission
Entering the Tabernacle

1 Gate of the Court
First, a person would enter the gate of the court to offer a sacrifice for sin or thanksgiving.
- Hanging curtains (blue, purple, scarlet, white)
- Four pillars of brass
- Sockets of bronze (brass)
- Hooks and fillets (clasps) of silver on the tops of the pillars
Exodus 27:10-16; 36:14-19; John 10:9
20 cubits wide x 5 cubits high (30 ft x 7.5 ft, or 9.2 m x 2.3 m)

2 Court Fence Not shown to scale
After passing through the gate, the person would come into the court. The court fence was made of a long piece of linen held up by posts that surrounded the tabernacle. Only priests from the tribe (family) of Levi were allowed to touch the tabernacle, so the fence protected people from coming too close accidentally.
- Linen curtains
- Pillars, sockets, hooks, and fillets (tops and rods)
- Pins of bronze held the linen curtains in place
Exodus 27:9-16; 38:9-20; 40:33
100 cubits long x 50 cubits wide x 5 cubits high (150 ft x 75 ft x 7.5 ft, or 46 m x 15 m x 2.3 m)

3 Bronze Altar
God wanted to dwell among his people. How does a holy God dwell among sinful people?
First God required the people to offer a sacrifice for their sins. God told Adam and Eve that the result of their sin was death. God, however, had mercy on humankind and provided them with a way to temporarily cover their sin. Instead of immediately requiring their own blood (death), God allowed the blood of an animal to atone or take away sin, making it possible for the worshippers to enter into God’s presence.
Only the finest animal—a perfect one—was good enough. God asked them for a perfect, flawless sacrifice because:
- The animal represented an undeserving recipient of a deserved punishment.
- God wanted people to trust in his provision, so he asked that the sacrifice be valuable.
- The perfect animal foreshadowed Jesus, the perfect sacrifice who atones for sin once for all.
Because these sacrifices only temporarily covered the sins of the people, they needed to be offered on a regular basis.
The people would bring the offering and would put their hand on the head of the animal while it was killed. This symbolically, yet temporarily, put their sins onto the animal, and the animal died in their place.
The altar was made of acacia (shittim) wood and covered with bronze. The four corners had horns. There were bronze shovels, basins, fleshhooks (forks), and fire pans to collect ashes. A bronze grate with a ring in each corner was put under the altar. Carrying poles made of acacia wood covered with bronze were used to carry the altar.
5 cubits long x 5 cubits wide x 3 cubits high (7.5 ft x 7.5 ft x 4.5 ft, or 2.3 m x 2.3 m x 1.38 m)

4 Offerings at the Altar
Several offerings were offered at the altar:
- Burnt offering of bulls, sheep, goats, doves, or pigeons
- Grain offering of cakes or wafers of fine flour
- Peace offering of a goat or lamb
- Sin offering of a bull or lamb
- Trespass offering of a female from the flock: a lamb, goat kid, dove, pigeon, or grain
Leviticus 1-6; 7:11; Hebrews 8:3; 9:11-14, 16-22; 10:1-4

5 Bronze Laver
The rest of the steps were performed by the priests on behalf of the people. After making the sacrifice, the priest washed himself at the laver. This washing purified the priest and prepared him to enter the tabernacle. The Lord said that the priest must wash so that he would not die.
The laver was made from brass mirrors donated by the women. It may have had a shiny mirrored surface which would help the priest wash thoroughly and to remind him that the Lord sees past the outward appearance, straight into the heart.
Size unknown
**The Tabernacle**

**Exodus 25–40; Hebrews 9–13**

**What is the Tabernacle?**

The tabernacle was a moveable “tent of meeting” that God commanded Moses to build. God wanted to dwell among his people, the Israelites. He wanted to have fellowship with them and be able to communicate with them. The tabernacle and its courtyard were constructed according to a pattern set by God, not by Moses. We study the tabernacle to understand the steps the Lord laid out for a sinful people to approach a holy God. The tabernacle was built approximately 1440 BC, and was the place where God dwelt with his people for 400 years. It was used from the time of the exodus until the time of King Solomon, when the temple was built. The tabernacle was the center of the Israelite camp. The twelve tribes of Israel camped around the tabernacle in a special arrangement.

**Gate of the Court**

- Hanging curtains (blue, purple, scarlet, white)
- Four pillars of brass
- Sockets of bronze (brass)
- Hooks and fillets (clasps) of silver on the tops of the pillars

*Exodus 27:10-16; 38:14-19, John 10:9*

- 20 cubits wide x 5 cubits high
  - (30 ft x 7.5 ft, or 9.2 m x 2.5 m)

**Court Fence**

Not shown to scale

After passing through the gate, the person would come into the court. The court fence was made of a long piece of linen held up by posts that surrounded the tabernacle. Only priests from the tribe (family) of Levi were allowed to touch the tabernacle, so the fence protected people from coming too close accidentally.

- Linen curtains
- Pillars, sockets, hooks, and fillets (tops and rods)
- Pins of bronze held the linen curtains in place

*Exodus 27:9-16; 38:9-20, 40:33*

- 100 cubits long x 50 cubits wide x 5 cubits high
  - (150 ft x 75 ft x 7.5 ft, or 46 m x 23 m x 2.5 m)

**Bronze Laver**

- The rest of the steps were performed by the priests on behalf of the people. After making the sacrifice, the priest washed himself at the laver. This washing purified the priest and prepared him to enter the tabernacle. The Lord said that the priest must wash so that he would not die.
- The laver was made from brass mirrors donated by the women. It may have had a shiny mirrored surface which would help the priest wash thoroughly and to remind him that the Lord sees past the outward appearance, straight into the heart.

*Exodus 38:8-10, 16, 19-29, 30:17-21; 40:7, 39-39; Ephesians 5:26; Hebrews 10:22*
# The Tabernacle

The Tabernacle was a portable structure that served as a model of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. It was a symbolic representation of God’s presence among his people. The Tabernacle was divided into three main areas:

1. **The Holy Place**
   - 100 cubits (150 ft. or 46 meters)
   - Included the Altar of Incense, Table of Showbread, and Lampstand.

2. **The Most Holy Place**
   - 50 cubits (75 ft. or 23 meters)
   - Contained the Ark of the Covenant.

3. **The Holy of Holies**
   - 19 cubits long, 20 cubits wide, and 10 cubits high
   - Veil or curtain separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

## Israelisites Communed with God through the Tabernacle
- Bronze altar for sacrifices
- Bronze laver for washing
- Lampstand
- Table of showbread
- Altar of incense
- Through the veil into the Most Holy Place
- Priest and the garments

## Christians Commune with God through Jesus
- Christ’s sacrifice
- Cleansing through confession
- Enlightened by the Holy Spirit
- Fed by the living Word
- Prayer, communication, intercession
- Entering God’s presence bodily through Christ
- Service to God and others

## Why Is the Tabernacle Important Today?
- Today, believers are God’s dwelling place. (1 Corinthians 6:19)
- God’s holy presence is among us. (Exodus 40:34–38)
- As believers, we are part of a priesthood. (1 Peter 2:5, 9)
- The Tabernacle shows a pattern of worship prescribed by God. (Hebrews 10:19–25)

---

## Symbolism in the Tabernacle

- **The Furnishings**
- **The Pattern of Worship**
- **The Ark of the Covenant**
- **Symbolism that Points to Jesus**
- **The Sacrifices in the Tabernacle**
- **The Garments of the High Priest**

---

*Used by Permission*