

The Tabernacle: God's Blueprint for Relationship, Part 4

Exodus 25:8-9 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may **dwelt** among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the **pattern** of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

The entire purpose of the Tabernacle was so that a holy God could have a relationship with sinful people. But this relationship would only function properly if the people put the tent together right; if they did, then God promised that He would show up with His power and provision!

The Tabernacle was God's **ORIGINAL BLUEPRINT** for relationship, and it foreshadows everything else that comes later in the Word of God. In other words, our relationship with God must follow the **same pattern!**

VERTICAL - God's Plan of SALVATION			
Brazen Altar	Blood	Death	Repentance
Brazen Laver	Water	Burial	Baptism
Ark of the Covenant	Spirit	Resurrection	Holy Ghost
HORIZONTAL - God's Plan of SANCTIFICATION			
Golden Candlestick	Witness	Light of World	Light in the World
Altar of Incense	Prayer	Intercessor	Thy Kingdom Come
Table of Shewbread	Word	Bread of Life	Word in Heart

(VIDEO CLIP FOR TEXT)

Exodus 25:10-22 ¹⁰ And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. ¹¹ And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. ¹² And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. ¹³ And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. ¹⁴ And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them. ¹⁵ The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it. ¹⁶ And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee. ¹⁷ And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. ¹⁸ And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. ¹⁹ And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. ²⁰ And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. ²¹ And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. ²² And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

The Ark of the Covenant was the first piece of furniture God gave instructions for, because it was the most important piece of furniture in the Tabernacle. It was on this piece of furniture that the High Priest sprinkled the Blood of Atonement once a year. It was from this piece of furniture that God's audible voice was heard. This was where His Shekinah presence dwelt between the Cherubim.

Among other names, the Ark was called the Ark of the Testimony, the Ark of the Covenant, the Ark of the Lord, the Ark of God, the Holy Ark, and the Ark of Thy Strength. **The Ark represents four things:**

- The Throne of God in the earth.
- The Presence of God in the midst of His redeemed people
- The Glory of God revealed through true worship
- The Fullness of the Godhead as revealed in Christ. All that the Ark was to Israel in the OT, Jesus Christ is to His Church in the NT.

The Ark was made of wood overlaid with gold (gold – wood - gold). Gold represents deity; wood represents humanity. 2 substances in 3 places, but ONE ARK. Father, Son and Holy Ghost – but ONE GOD.

Inside the Ark of the Covenant was the Law (Ten Commandments).

- From God's perspective, He couldn't see the Law that had been broken because it was covered by the blood on the Mercy Seat.
- To remove the blood-stained Mercy Seat was to expose and activate the Law (if we reject the blood, we fall to the level of the Law)

1 Samuel 6:19 *And he smote the men of Bethshemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter.*

If the Ark had been removed from the Tabernacle, what remained would have been just an empty ritual. **God literally sat on that Mercy Seat!**

Romans 3:24-25 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a **propitiation** through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

JESUS CHRIST IS OUR PROPITIATION (LITERALLY "MERCYSEAT")

Luke 18:13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful (*literally "be a mercy seat"*) to me a sinner.

The Mercy Seat was the only “seat” in the Tabernacle, but no man ever sat there – this pointed ahead to the finished work of Calvary.

Hebrews 10:11-12 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Ephesians 2:4-6 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

If we are seated where Jesus is seated, then we are seated in the Shekinah presence of God. That makes perfect sense, because we are filled with the Holy Ghost, which is the Spirit of God!

The word “Shekinah” simply means “the one who dwells” – it refers to God visibly manifesting His presence among His people.

Psalms 80:1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

Exodus 29:43 And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory.

Exodus 40:35 And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

2 Chronicles 7:2 And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house.

**OLD TESTAMENT – MAN COULD NOT ENTER GOD’S GLORY
NEW TESTAMENT – GOD’S GLORY IN US BY THE HOLY GHOST!**

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

John 14:16-18 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Colossians 1:26-27 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

1 Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

2 Corinthians 3:6-18 ⁶ Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. ⁷ But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: ⁸ How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? ⁹ For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. ¹⁰ For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. ¹¹ For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious. ¹² Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: ¹³ And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: ¹⁴ But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. ¹⁵ But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. ¹⁶ Nevertheless when it 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.