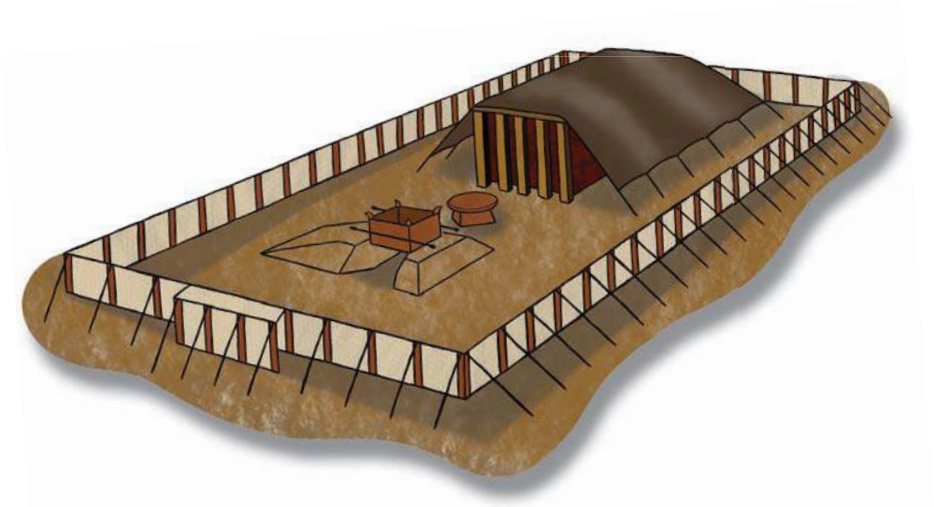
THE MISSIONARY BAPTIST VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
LITERATURE COMMITTEE PRESENTS

TOURING THE TABERNACLE



SEEING CHRIST THROUGHOUT

AGES 10-13

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SEEING CHRIST THROUGHOUT

For Grades 5-8 or Ages 10-13

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Lesson One: AT THE GATE

Written By: Brother Jason Roberts
LESSON TEXT: EXODUS 27:9-19

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been riding in a car or school bus and notice animals in the field? It could seem as if they were roaming freely in the pasture. If we would look a little closer, we will notice at most times they are fenced in. If you're not in the country much, you will also see many folks in town who fence their backyard in for family pets. To just glance we can miss many of the details about its construction. There are several types of fences used for different purposes and animals. It keeps some things in and some out. One thing they all have in common is a gate or a door. There must be a way to get in and out of the fenced area. The gate is different from the rest of the fence. It's able to open and close providing safe access for all that will use it.

My brother and I were raised up in a home that had a barbwire fence on two sides of the yard. Unfortunately there was no access or gate into the field from our yard. Many times a ball or a toy would go across the fence, or we would go exploring in the woods and we would have to cross that ragged old barb wire fence. If there had been a gate near, we could have crossed freely, but there wasn't. So, many times the evidence of us trying to get in without using a gate was left on our bodies. Our arms and legs often got scratched and would bleed from trying to jump over, crawl under, or go through that old fence.

This lesson will tell you about a gate. Hopefully everyone will learn about this gate and learn that it's the only safe way in and it leads to life. Any other way will leave us scarred and left on the outside looking in.

THERE IS A WAY

It would be hopeless and pointless for God to exist with no way to reach him. "*And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it."* (Exodus 25:8-9). This is a divine plan that couldn't be modified by man. "*And for the gate of the court shall be an hanging of twenty cubits, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needle work: and their pillars shall be four, and their sockets four"* (Exodus 27:16). While the above described gate was made of earthly material, God provided the plan of salvation, "the strait gate", because He didn't want man to wander in darkness without a way, so he provided the way - the person of His Son. It seems to be a simple plan and it took more than earthly material to make this strait gate. "*In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"* (Titus 1:2). Revelation 13:8 states that "*And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."* Jesus chose to die for the sins of the world before it was ever created. God knew Adam would eat of the fruit and bring sin into the world. This separates God and man. *"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;..."* (Isaiah 64:6). Man has nothing to offer God, even our best efforts couldn't please God. The only one who could please Him is the spotless lamb, Jesus Christ. *"Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,"* (1 Peter 1:20). The tabernacle being built on the earth was a representation of Christ coming to earth in the flesh. When Christ said He would die for us it was as good as done. But he had to fulfill all prophecy and law to make the plan complete. By this the way was made possible for all man to enter through Him, the strait gate. *"And for the gate of the court shall be an hanging of twenty cubits..."* (Exodus 27:16), or thirty feet. This provided easy access. No one would be forced to enter such a wide gate. It would also be easily identified. God most definitely wanted man to see and know there was a way to reach Him.

ONE WAY

If you can, imagine you are walking around the tabernacle. The outer wall was made of fine twined linen, probably being white in

color. Then only one section of this wall looked totally different than the rest. It was the gate, and the only way into the tabernacle to God. The colors of it were blue, purple, scarlet and white. We would know it had to have meaning. The blue pointed to the heavens and Gods deity. Purple meaning royalty and Christ in the flesh. Scarlet represented the shed blood of Christ. White was this purity. This gate was not to be mistaken with anything else. *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (*John 14:6). This would simplify the way to God for man.

In the job field I'm in, sometimes the homes I go into have many different doors that enter the home. At times I will choose a door and knock, and when the homeowner arrives to let me in, sometimes they reply, "We never use this door." More or less telling me I chose the wrong door. Being a visitor, I had no idea which door they used. The difference with God's plan is he shows us Jesus is the only way. *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"* (Act 4:12). The Holy Spirit of God let me know that day I was accountable for my sins, by showing me I was lost and separated from Him. But, on the other hand he also pointed me to the gate, the way to safety. Jesus revealed to me as plain as those bright colors against the white wall. Jesus would be the way for all. Acts 10:34 teaches that He is not a respecter of persons. Rich, poor, big, small, and any skin color created had to come the same way. God never looked on the outer appearance but only at the soul. God made the way "gate' to provide access not to exclude people. It's for all who will believe in the name of Jesus. *(*1 John 5:1)

"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous" (Romans 5:19). There was no one else who could bare the sins of the whole world. *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin"* (*Hebrews 4:15)*. God, in the flesh, did not sin. *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"* (1 Timothy 2:5).

THE WAY TO LIFE

Does your life have any meaning if you live your whole life and never enter the gate; if you never trust in Jesus? *"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?..."* (Matthew 16:26). Satan will always be ready to tempt you and turn you away from God. He will do his best to keep you away from the gate, where there is life*. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"* (1 Peter 5:8). If God's people let him, he can rob us of living a life for Christ. We also don't need to rob ourselves by being intimidated by the sacrifices that need to be made after entering the gate. There is more to the way of life than just getting into heaven. "*I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly*" (John 10:9-10). Not only did he promise us heaven after we pass from this life but also a blessed and spirit fed life on this side if we will be obedient to his commands. Because of Christ, He made us "our bodies" a temple in which God dwells. (Matthew 6:28-33) What a blessed life, knowing He cares for our every need and we can never be plucked out of his hand. The Holy Spirit is always there for us when no one else can be and He will never lead us astray. Read Malachi 3:10. God pours out blessings that we don't deserve. When he fills our cup we know without any doubt He is Lord and His promises are real. What Joy to be used for His honour and glory?

CONCLUSION

To enter the gate is the most important thing we can do in this life. We should want to seek God and feed on everything He has to offer. The only life worth living is a life through and by Jesus. Standing at the gate and looking in will get you nowhere. You must step inside the gate. Read John 3:30. If we let Christ have dominion over our lives and follow His instruction, we can be a vessel of great use for the work of Christ. May all who have entered the gate, live a life so others can see Christ through us.

Lesson Two: IN THE COURTYARD

Written By: Elder Brent Hall

LESSON TEXT: EXODUS 27:1-8; 30:17-21

In the courtyard of the tabernacle were located the altar and laver. Just as the Lord gave specific instructions for the erecting of the gate, he gave just as specific instructions for the altar and laver. As we study, discuss, and think upon them, let us keep in mind two great points that will be mentioned and pointed out several times during today's lesson: All of these things are to be constant reminders in pointing the people (and us) to the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Also, God's specific instructions were given and followed to represent and point to the specific instructions that were and are given to us as to the one way of salvation, including seeking the Lord once we've become lost, and following and serving the Lord, once we've been saved.

THE BRAZEN ALTAR

As described in Exodus 27:1-8, was where the sacrifices—as specified by God—were to be made. It was located just inside the gate. Being just inside the gates signifies the great importance of the things required of them and of us, in approaching God. The word altar means "high place" or "that which lifts up". They were instructed as to what to kill and then burn upon the altar of sacrifice. The smoke of those burnt offerings was what was "lifted up" to the Lord – thus satisfying his requirement. Along with representing the justice and punishment—required by God for sin—the altar also represents the altar the we must make in order to seek and find the Lord's salvation—upon being made to feel the guilt of our sin. It is our sin that required the sacrifices upon the brazen altar, as well as Jesus Christ's ultimate sacrifice of his life upon the cross. We're "sacrificing" ourselves upon the altar that we "make"—giving our heart, mind, and soul completely over to God, while putting our faith and trust in His son, Jesus. His sacrifice on the cross was represented by--and pointed to--by the sacrifices made on the brazen altar. As Jesus said in John 12:32, *"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."* The shedding of blood that was required when

killing the animals that were burnt on the altar represented that blood of Jesus that would be shed to pay the price for our sin. *"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission"* (Hebrews 9:22). So we see that the altar and the sacrifices made thereon were to continually point to Jesus and to continually remind the people of His coming, and just exactly how humbly we must come before him…both to be saved, and to call upon him for help once we have been saved. *"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise"* (Psalm 51:17).

The altar was made of Shittim (acacia) wood and brass. The wood speaks of the humananity of Jesus, while the brass reveals the stronger enduring character of the Divine One—these two elements in One, the Man Christ Jesus. That is for the salvation of all mankind.

It was large enough to contain all the other vessels. This is representative that all of spiritual blessings flow out of the atoning death of Christ. All the other vessels were sprinkled with the blood of the sacrifice, and thereby connected with the altar. It is a precious truth that when we trust in Christ as our Sacrifice, we may partake of all the blessings of His resurrection and life. We are made able to do so through faith in him.

The altar had a horn at each corner. The horns symbolized power. Being one on each corner symbolized it points to the "four corners" of the earth—meaning to and for all mankind. God's love, forgiveness, desire to save, and the sacrifice that his Son would make were available to all mankind. *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (II Peter 3:9). All is a wonderful word, it leaves no one out.

The fire of the altar came from God, and it burned continually. Every sacrifice had to be killed by the priest, and burned with the fire. This continual fire was and is to teach God's people—

the Israelites and us—that God is always ready to receive their sacrifices and ours. There was no other altar, there was and is no other way to God, than through his son, Jesus Christ.

THE LAVER

Exodus 30:18-21 contains God's instructions concerning the laver. It stood between the altar and the door, in line with the mercy-seat and the altar of incense, signifying that the privileges and blessing connected with it lay in the way of our approach to God. The laver was a basin-type dish, whose stand is referred to as a foot, in the above scripture.

The laver represents the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that reveals all things unto us. It is the Holy Spirit that troubles us inside, making known to us that we are separated from God – accountable for our sin. It is the Holy Spirit that draws us to God – so strongly that we make ourselves an altar of prayer to call on God for forgiveness of our sin. It is that Holy Spirit that lets us know when God has heard and accepted our prayer, forgiving us of our sin, and giving us a great peace. Peace where once was hurt, guilt, and shame. That same Holy Spirit leads, guides and directs us, once we have been forgiven – saved by the grace of God. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast"* (Ephesians 2:8-9). The atoning sacrifice of the blood of Jesus is the only thing that can save us. The only work that could be done for our salvation was Jesus' life, death, burial, and resurrection.

The water in the laver that the priest were instructed to wash their hands and feet with represented the word of God, and it's being preached in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit of God. *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"* (Hebrew 4:12). It is that word's truth and power as conveyed by the Spirit that teaches and instructs, allowing us to know when we are sinners, when we

are saved, and when we are doing right and wrong – as saved individuals. No mention is made of the size and shape of the laver, only that it was made of brass; not wood, and it had no human form about it. This is representative of the fact the Holy Spirit is limitless, and not confined to any boundaries, or confined to any people. We should not limit the Spirit and power of God, though many times we do, though we may not realize that we are doing so. Doing on our own, deciding what we want to do—in church or any aspect of our lives—limits the power of God in our lives.

The priests had to wash in the laver, or they would die. We must keep ourselves in constant communication with God, his Spirit and his instructions for us, or our influence will die, too. Our lives can become very unhappy and unfulfilling when we lose touch with God and his power in our lives. It takes continual hearing and studying the word of God to keep us close to him, and able to feel his presence within us. You see, making an altar and being saved by the grace God is just the beginning, it is not the end. We must go forward once saved, and grow in the Lord and his word so that we can enjoy his blessings throughout our lives. Please keep in mind that Jesus said *"...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"* (John 10:10). It is the Lord's desire that we live and have good, happy, blessed, and prosperous lives…for him.

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you" (John 16:13-15) Once we have had faith unto salvation, if we will lean on and trust the Holy Spirit, he will always supply us with our needs, and prepare us to worship him in our lives and his house, as the laver prepared them for entrance into the tabernacle.

Lesson Three: **OUTSIDE THE TENT**

Written By: Brother Tyler Burysek

LESSON TEXT: EXODUS 26:1-30

Through the first few lessons we have ventured closer and closer to the center of the tabernacle; stopping at each portion to pay special attention to each part. We must use these lessons to allow the Lord to assist us in knowing more about him. This lesson will center on the outside of the tent. In this lesson, we will discuss the various coverings of the tent and the entry way inside the tent as we get further into the depths of the tabernacle.

The outside of the tent consisted of four complete curtains, or coverings. The four curtains were each complete but represented different views or aspects of the character and work of God, just as the Gospels provide four independent records of the one Person, Jesus Christ. Each is independent and complete, but together, they provide full testimony of the Lord. These coverings consisted of Badger Skin, Ram Skin Dyed Red, Goat Hair (white), and Fine Twined Linen (inner most covering).

The first of the coverings discussed is the Fine Twined Linen. There were ten total curtains of this linen and they served as the inner-most covering. The length of one curtain was 28 cubits long (approximately 42 feet) and four cubits wide (approximately six feet). These ten curtains probably lay inside the gold boards and were visible from the inside of the Tabernacle. The colors and decoration of this covering have symbolic significance. First, it was blue, which points to the heavens. It is high above all; no human can fathom it. It signifies the deep blue of unfathomable; the divinity and holiness of God. Second, it was scarlet, which proclaims the humanity of Christ. The Son of Man; the hunger, the weariness, and the tears of our blessed Lord tell how truly human He was (and is today), yet without sin. Third, it was purple, a new color formed by combining scarlet and blue. This signifies Christ the divine, Christ the human, and Christ the glorified. In the purple, we behold our Lord in His mediatorial glory; the Mediator between God and man Christ Jesus. This covering was also

wrought with cherubims. A cherubim is described as follows, *"And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle"* (Ezekiel 10:14). Cherubims always represent the holiness of God and his superiority over all.

Next, we have the covering of Goats' hair. There were to be eleven of these curtains; each curtain being thirty cubits (approximately 45 feet) by four cubits (approximately six feet). The Goats' hair curtain completely covered the Fine Twined Linen. You can start to see that the closer to the holiest of holies, the less valuable the coverings. However, this covering also has an important meaning. This layer of covering was pure white and was laid over the first one of the fine-twined linen. It represents the spotless holiness of the man Christ Jesus, one fit to come into contact with and even to rest on the awful holiness and righteousness of God. It may also point to the believer who is made white through the blood of the Lamb and is resting in the fellowship of Him. This was likely the last portion of covering to cover the sides of the tabernacle.

Following the covering of goats' hair, we have the covering of rams' skins and the covering of badgers' Skins. Both of these likely only covered the roof due to their heartiness and resistance to the elements. The rams' skins were dyed red for a purpose. Neither the fine linen nor goats' hair imply sacrifice; "*rams' skins dyed red*" suggests both death and transformation. In Gethsemane, we see the sacrifice (Jesus) being dyed red with the blood of agony. Badgers' Skins may have very well been utilized to seal the entire tent. They were normally used for waterproofing—not for beauty but <u>protection</u> (Isaiah 53:2). It had to bear the heat of the day and the storm and the tempest. Christ became a curse for us, strong to bear it all. The Father approved of Him, though man did not.

As discussed earlier, the four curtains were each complete but represented different views or aspects of the character and work

of God. We can relate the four coverings of the Tabernacle to the Gospels in various ways; each having their own implications for fallen man. Each gospel of Jesus Christ was written from a different viewpoint. We can correlate the fine twined linen to John's gospel which displayed Jesus as the Son of God, precious to the world and God alike, closest to the holiest of holies. We are walking in the light, as He is in the light, beholding His glory, and filled with all the fullness of God. We can see Luke's Gospel in the Goats' Hair as Jesus, the Son of man, pure and holy, obedient and pleasing to God. If we are saved, we have experienced what it is to be made clean, delivered from the power of sin, hidden in God, and kept by His almighty, over-shadowing power. In the Rams' skin dyed red, we see Mark's Gospel; Jesus as the suffering servant. We must be cleansed and changed by the power of His atoning blood through faith. The Badgers' skin depicts Matthew's gospel, Christ the King in disguise; set to save mankind. In our natural state, we see the Redeemer without beauty or attractiveness, because we had no sense of our guilt or need. Through the coverings we see Jesus Christ in his fullness by the purposes and prophecies as displayed in the old testament fulfilled perfectly, without fault.

The doors at the entrance of the Tabernacle were made of fine-twined linen like the walls. The color first mentioned on the wall hangings is white, while the color first mentioned on the doors is blue. It is possible that the doors were predominately blue and the walls were predominantly white. The door from the court to the holy place was probably decorated with palm trees and flowers, much like door of the later temple. The inner door—the veil—had images of cherubim wrought in it. The outer door was suspended from five golden pillars in brazen sockets and the veil was suspended on four pillars in silver sockets. John 10:9-10 begins with Jesus stating that, *"I am the door:..."* and ends with *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*

Lesson Four: INSIDE THE TENT

Written By: Elder Taylor Gregory

LESSON TEXT: EXODUS 25:23-40; 30:1-10

INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest joys of this life is to have a relationship with Christ. Dating back thousands of years – even to the beginning of time - human beings have had the opportunity and the ability to form bonds with a living, breathing God. This lesson will show us around inside the tent (tabernacle) wherein sacrifices were made to him by a priest. While we may look at this and wonder how it has any relation to God, Jesus, Salvation or even the church, we realize that throughout the entire Old Testament there are guide markers that point us to all of these. One of the greatest is the tabernacle and its many elements.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

"*And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was reared up" (*Exodus 40:17). As we dive further into the discussion of the tabernacle and what was inside – we must recognize what was there. There was the Holy Place and the Holiest of Holies, which will be discussed in the next lesson. The elements in the Holy Place were the altar of incense, the table of shewbread, and a candlestick. Each of these elements were created with the finest of products that could be found. They all had an important place in this tabernacle which is a "dwelling place" of God. Inside this tabernacle God would come down and fill the place with his presence. While we may think of just a "tent" this would be a place where God himself would fill with his glory.

ALTAR OF INCENSE - EXODUS 37:25-29:

The altar of incense and its significance was one of the first steps in beginning the process of sacrificing to God. "*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (*Hebrews 4:16) is one of my favorite New Testament scriptures. You may ask yourself how I jumped thousands of years from the Old Testament to the New Testament to begin explaining what took place on this altar. What

took place when Aaron began anointing the tabernacle is really no different than a saved person preparing to pray (sacrifice) today. The altar was filled with strong smelling substances and sprinkled with blood before any sacrifices were ever made. In fact, it took a lot of work to begin the sacrificial part of his duties. This is a complete representation to the fact that just as the writer of Hebrews relays to us that there is preparation that must be involved before we can truly reach that throne and contact God. The whole idea behind the tabernacle was to be a place that God would come down and commune with his people once they have made sacrifices. If you notice in verse ten (10) of our text it teaches us that Aaron had to make this "an altar most holy." I often wonder if my communication with God has as much effort has it needs to in order to fully experience the wonders that Aaron, Moses, and other men and women of the Bible have. One how wonderful it is to perform things in their correct order and see the glory of God.

TABLE OF SHEWBREAD - EXODUS 37:10-16:

The table upon which the shewbread sat is depicted as one of the most beautiful pieces of furniture described in the Bible. It was made of shittim wood, and it was covered in Gold. Only the finest for the King. There were twelve (12) pieces of bread arranged in two rows.

These were made with fine flower and were located just outside the holiest of holies. When I was growing up and I heard preachers talk about this "bread" I often wondered why it was there. Again, we look at it from a purely symbolic standpoint. It was not just any bread, and it was not for just any reason. It was to remind those priests of the provisions that God made for the children of Israel when they left Egypt and had nothing. *"I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God" (*Exodus 16:12). As unruly as this band of people were, and as often as they complained – God still made a way for them to be filled. Imagine this, bread from the very table of God. Did you know that it is still available today? It definitely is. While the physical bread itself is no longer needed, we as an eternity bound people – needed provisions made for us to "live" and that is Jesus Christ

himself. In the gospel of John, *"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst"* (John 6:35). Just as the children of Israel had this renewed daily, so is my soul as it feasts daily from Manna, holy manna from table. As the priests ate of this bread it must have been an experience, much like the one I experience each time that I take a seat at God's table and am reminded of how much he has done for me.

THE CANDLESTICK - EXODUS 37:17-24:

The candlestick that was located in the tabernacle was also a beautifully described piece of work. It was made of pure gold. Just as the table was overlaid in it, this was fashioned in it completely. The finest of all metals. It was partially in reference to Aaron and his rod that budded. However it was molded into the form of a tree. There are many references to trees all throughout the Bible. Since the first tree in the Garden of Eden, and the flaming sword that was placed to keep its way, to this symbolic tree, all the way to the cross where Jesus hanged so mercilessly between heaven and earth. This candle stick had a flame that was to be guarded so that it never went out. Oh how wonderful this thought!

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

When we begin reading about the tabernacle one of the most prominent things that I recognize is that each element had a specific place, it had a specific way of being made, and it was all instructed by God himself. I look at this entire portion from the word of God as men, women, and a nation trying to worship God. After I read of the preparation made and all that went into making this a place that God would be pleased with I read the best part. Exodus 40:34-35 where Moses could not even enter the tent because the glory of God came down as a cloud by day and fire by night and filled the tabernacle. Then I find the last four words in the book of Exodus to be a comfort. "Throughout all their journeys" – When we as children of God are in our correct places, doing his will and worshiping to our fullest extent His glory will shine around us. Truly he goes with us throughout all of our journeys.

Lesson Five: **BEYOND THE VEIL**

Written By: Brother Jay Snoddy

LESSON TEXT: EXODUS 25:10-22

As we have toured through the Tabernacle this week we saw all the things that it took for the children of Israel to get to the point of the veil concealing the sanctuary of THE MOST HIGH GOD, where only the high priest went for all the people. We've passed through the gates into the courtyard where we first came upon the brazen alter where sacrifices were made for sin. Then on to the laver where the priest were to wash in the water. Next we came to the tent and saw all the different coverings and what they represent to us. The beautiful doors of fine twined *(woven)* linen allowed access to the holy place where we found the altar of incense, the candlestick and table of shewbread. Take a moment and ponder what it meant to be a priest and step inside the holy place where the only thing separating them from the very presence of the one true God is a veil. This veil separated the holy place from the most holy place or holiest of holies that contained the mercy of God and his divine glory. Only the high priest was allowed past this veil once a year to offer the blood sacrifice, first for his sins and then for the sins of the people . Read Hebrews 9:7. It is noteworthy to mention that only after ALL other duties were fulfilled concerning the atonement, was the High priest allowed to enter the holiest of holy.

Let's first look at the word vail or veil. Vail is an archaic spelling used in the Old Testament of the King James translation while the more common spelling today is **Veil**, and there is no difference in the meaning between the two spellings. Webster's 1828 dictionary gives as a definition for ***vail*** as any type of cloth that is used for intercepting the view or hiding something; a cover, that which conceals. Much like the veil of unbelief in the hearts of man separates our soul from the glorious grace of God. *"And thou shalt make a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made:"* (Exodus 26:31). According to some scholars, the veil was four inches thick and horses tied to each end could not pull it apart.

Fine twined linen also shows up the intertwining of God and man in Jesus. While he was 100% God incarnate, he took on the flesh of man. The divine and human natures were so finely twined (woven) together in Christ, that even Satan himself couldn't find any flaws (sins) to penetrate His character with all of the temptations in his arsenal. While the veil of unbelief separates us from God's grace and mercy, the fine twined linen gives us an entrance through Christ. Jesus himself said, **"…** *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"* (John 14:6).

Inside of the holiest of holy was the Ark of the Covenant also known as the mercy seat of God where the blood sacrifice was offered that one time a year by the high priest. The Ark was always to be carried in the midst of the people when they traveled and the camps were set up in a fashion so that the tabernacle was in the midst of all the people where that it signified that God was with them at all times.

So, as we stand in this holy place, consider where we are, what it has taken to get us to this point and what mercies and grace lie **Beyond The Veil**. Consider, this veil in the temple, **"**… *was rent* (torn) *in twain from top to the bottom;*…" (Matthew 27:51), allowing us access to a true and living God. Consider Jesus being without sin. "*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,…"* (I Peter 2:24) as he was tried in mockery, convicted with lies, beaten without protest and bore them to the shame of the cross. Consider, that as he hung between the heavens and the earth and gave up his life. Consider, his battered and bleeding body stepping through the torn veil, kneeling before the mercy seat of God; turning his bleeding, nail pierced hands over and dripping his perfect, precious blood round about it and offering restitution (payment) for our every sin. **"***But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once* (and for all) *into the*

holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:11-14)

Finally, As Jesus offered his blood, his final words in John 19:30 prior to giving up the ghost were, "*IT IS FINISHED*". He finished any need for a blood sacrifice ever to be needed again. He finished the need for a man to go before God for us and became mediator between God and man for as long as this world stands. Consider this, only by the blood of Jesus are any of us able to go **BEYOND THE VEIL** and enter into the presence of God, repent of our sins and beg for his forgiveness.