

~TABERNACLE (1151)

[Hebrew, *mish-kan'*, *'o'hel*, **tent**, *miq-dash'*, **sanctuary**, Greek, *ske-ne*]

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- A transportable tent of worship used by Israel, at times also called, the tent of meeting.
- So the work for the **tabernacle** of the tent of meeting all came to its completion, in that the sons of Israel kept doing according to all that Yehowah had commanded Moses. They did just so. (**Exodus 39:32**)
- The hangings of the courtyard, its pillars and its socket pedestals and the screen for the gate of the courtyard, its tent cords and its tent pins and all the utensils for the service of the **tabernacle**, for the tent of meeting. (**Exodus 39:40**)
- In **Hebrew** it is called *mish-kan'*, **residence**, **dwelling**, **tabernacle**, *'o'hel*; **tent**, and *miq-dash'*, **sanctuary**. In **Greek** it is referred to as *ske-ne'*, which means, **tent**, **booth**, **residence**, **dwelling place**.

See Also **HOLY PLACE**

See Also **TENT OF MEETING**

- The **tabernacle** was a central feature of Yehowah's arrangement for approach to him by the nation of Israel. It consisted of two compartments.
- The first, the Holy, contained a golden lampstand, the golden altar of incense, the table of showbread, and golden utensils, and the

innermost compartment, the Most Holy, contained the ark of the covenant, surmounted by two golden cherubs.

See Also ARK OF THE COVENANT

See Also MOST HOLY

- **When Inaugurated. The **tabernacle**, or **tent of meeting**, called **the temple of Yehowah** at;**
- **Then Hannah got up after they had eaten in Shiloh and after the drinking, while Eli the priest was sitting upon the seat by the doorpost **of the temple of Yehowah**. (1 Samuel 1:9)**
- **And **the house of Yehowah** at;**
- **Accordingly just as soon as she had weaned him, she brought him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull and one ephah of flour and a large jar of wine, and she proceeded to enter the **house of Yehowah** in Shiloh. And the boy was with her. (1 Samuel 1:24)**
- **Was constructed in the wilderness at Mount Sinai in **1512 B.C.E.** It was completely set up, with its furniture and utensils installed, on the first day of the first month, Abib or Nisan. (Exodus Chapter 40)**
- **The priesthood was installed at Yehowah's direction by the mediator Moses on that day, and the full installation services occupied seven days. On the eighth day the priests began to carry out their official functions. (Leviticus Chapters 8,9)**

See Also INSTALLATION

.. Design

- **Yehowah had spoken to Moses in the mountain, giving him the complete pattern for the **tabernacle**, commanding him:**
- **But which men are rendering sacred service in a typical representation and a shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses, when about to make the tent in completion, was given the divine command; For says he; See that you make all things after their pattern that was shown to you in the mountain. (Hebrews 8:5)**

- **Yehowah inspired Bezalel and Oholiab, so that the work, which others including both men and women shared in, could be done perfectly, according to the instructions Moses gave. The result was:**
- **According to all that Yehowah had commanded Moses, that was the way the sons of Israel did all the service. (Exodus 39:42)**
- **And all the women who were wise of heart spun with their hands, and they kept bringing as yarn the blue thread and the wool dyed reddish purple, the coccus scarlet material and the fine linen. (Exodus 35:25)**
- **And all the women whose hearts impelled them with wisdom spun the goats hair. (Exodus 35:26)**
- **And Bezalel must work, also Oholiab and every wise-hearted man to whom Yehowah has given wisdom and understanding in these things in order to know how to do all the work of the holy service according to all that Yehowah has commanded. (Exodus 36:1)**
- **And all the wise ones who were doing all the holy work began to come, one man after another, from their work that they were doing. (Exodus 36:4)**
- **The materials were provided through voluntary contributions from the people.**
- **Then they took from before Moses all the contribution that the sons of Israel had brought for the work of the holy service so as to do it, and, as for the latter, they still brought to him a voluntary offering morning after morning. (Exodus 36:3)**
- **So Moses commanded that they should cause an announcement to pass through the camp, saying; Men and women, do not produce any more stuff for the holy contribution. With that the people were restrained from bringing it in. (Exodus 36:6)**
- **And the stuff proved to be enough for all the work to be done, and more than enough. (Exodus 36:7)**
- **Doubtless the gold, silver, and copper, as well as the yarns, fabrics, and skins, came as contributions largely from that which the Israelites had taken out of Egypt.**

- **Consequently the people carried their flour dough before it was leavened, with their kneading troughs wrapped up in their mantles upon their shoulder. (Exodus 12:34)**
- **And the sons of Israel did according to the word of Moses in that they went asking from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold and mantles. (Exodus 12:35)**
- **And Yehowah gave the people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians, so that these granted them what was asked, and they stripped the Egyptians. (Exodus 12:36)**
- **Acacia wood was available in the wilderness.**

See Also ACACIA

See Also SEALSKIN

- **The calculations in this article are based on a cubit of 44.5 centimeters (17.5 inches). However, the long cubit of about 51.8 centimeters (20.4 inches) may have been used.**
- **And these things Solomon laid as a foundation for building the house of the true God, the length in cubits by the former measurement being sixty cubits, and the width twenty cubits. (2 Chronicles 3:3)**
- **And, look! There was a wall outside the house all round about. And in the hand of the man there was the measuring reed of six cubits, by a cubit and a handbreadth. And he began to measure the breadth of the thing built, one reed, and the height, one reed. (Ezekiel 40:5)**

•• Coverings And Screens

- **The entire framework of the structure was covered first by a linen covering embroidered with colorful figures of cherubs. The covering was in two large sections of five cloths each, the sections being joined by loops of blue thread that fastened over gold hooks.**
- **Each cloth was only 28 cubits (12.5 meters)(40.8 feet) long, which would be at least one cubit (44.5 centimeters)(17.5 inches) short of reaching the ground on each side of the structure.**
- **And the **tabernacle** you are to make of ten tent cloths, of fine**

- twisted linen and blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material. With cherubs, the work of an embroiderer, you will make them. (**Exodus 26:1**)
- The length of each **tent** cloth is twenty-eight cubits and the width of each tent cloth is four cubits. There is one measure for all the tent cloths. (**Exodus 26:2**)
 - Five-tent cloths are to form a series with the one joined to the other, and five **tent** cloths a series with the one joined to the other. (**Exodus 26:3**)
 - And you must make loops of blue thread upon the edge of the one tent cloth at the end of the series, and you are to do the same upon the edge of the outermost **tent** cloth at the other place of junction. (**Exodus 26:4**)
 - You will make fifty loops on the one **tent** cloth, and fifty loops you will make on the extremity of the **tent** cloth that is at the other place of junction, the loops being opposite one to the other. (**Exodus 26:5**)
 - And you must make fifty hooks of gold and join the tent cloths one to the other by means of the hooks, and it must become one **tabernacle**. (**Exodus 26:6**)
 - On top of the linen covering went a goats hair cover, made in two sections, one of six cloths and one of five. Each of the 11 cloths was 30 cubits (13.4 meters)(43.7 feet) long.
 - Over this was put the covering of ram skins dyed red and, finally, one of sealskins, apparently reaching to the ground and evidently provided with ropes so that the covering could be fastened at the ground by tent pins.
 - And you must make cloths of goats hair for the tent upon the **tabernacle**. You will make eleven tent cloths. (**Exodus 26:7**)
 - The length of each tent cloth is thirty cubits, and the width of each tent cloth is four cubits. There is one measure for the eleven tent cloths. (**Exodus 26:8**)
 - And you must join five tent cloths by themselves and six tent cloths by themselves, and you must fold double the sixth tent

cloth at the forefront of the tent. (**Exodus 26:9**)

- **And you must make fifty loops upon the edge of the one tent cloth, the outermost one in the series, and fifty loops upon the edge of the tent cloth at the other place of junction. (**Exodus 26:10**)**
- **And you must make fifty hooks of copper and put the hooks in the loops and join the tent together, and it must become one. (**Exodus 26:11**)**
- **And what remains over of the cloths of the tent is an overhanging. Half of the tent cloth that remains over is to hang over the back of the **tabernacle**. (**Exodus 26:12**)**
- **And the cubit on this side and the cubit on that side in what remains over in the length of the cloths of the tent will serve as an overhanging on the sides of the **tabernacle**, to cover it on this side and on that. (**Exodus 26:13**)**
- **And you must make a covering for the tent of ram skins dyed red and a covering of sealskins up on top. (**Exodus 26:14**)**
- **Another curtain placed inside between the Holy and Most Holy was embroidered with cherubs.**
- **And he proceeded to make a curtain of blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material and fine twisted linen. With the work of an embroiderer he made it with cherubs. (**Exodus 36:35**)**
- **And the screen to the entrance on the East was of colorful wool and linen material.**
- **And he went on to make a screen for the entrance of the tent out of blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material and fine twisted linen, the work of a weaver. (**Exodus 36:37**)**

•• **Dimensions**

- **The Bible describes the **tabernacle**, evidently inside measurements, as being 30 cubits (13.4 meters)(43.7 feet) long and 10 cubits (4.5 meters)(14.6 feet) in height.**

- Ten cubits is the length of a panel frame, and a cubit and a half is the width of each panel frame. (**Exodus 26:16**)
- Each panel frame has two tenons joined one to the other. That is the way you will do with all the panel frames of the **tabernacle**. (**Exodus 26:17**)
- And you must make the panel frames for the **tabernacle**, twenty panel frames for the side toward the Negeb, to the south. (**Exodus 26:18**)
- It was also evidently 10 cubits in width.
- And for the rear sections of the **tabernacle** to the west you will make six panel frames. (**Exodus 26:22**)
- And you will make two panel frames as corner posts of the **tabernacle** on its two rear sections. (**Exodus 26:23**)
- And they should be duplicates at the bottom, and together they should be duplicates up to the top of each one at the first ring. That is the way it should be for the two of them. They will serve as two corner posts. (**Exodus 26:24**)
- The width may be figured as follows. The rear or West wall was constructed of six panel frames of one and one half cubits each, totaling 9 cubits, and two panel frames called corner posts, which evidently were positioned so that each added one half cubit to the inside dimension. The Jewish scholar Rashi, 1040-1105 C.E, commenting on.
- And you will make two panel frames as corner posts of the **tabernacle** on its two rear sections. (**Exodus 26:23**)
- Noted; All the eight boards were set in a row, only that **the entire width of** these two the corner posts, did not show in the interior of the **Tabernacle**, but only a half cubit on the one side and a half cubit on the other side could be seen in the interior, thus making up the breadth to ten cubits.
- The **remaining cubit of one board and the remaining cubit of the other board** came against the cubit thickness of the boards of the **Tabernacle** on the north and the south sides, so that the outside should

be even. [Pentateuch With Targum Onkelos, Haphtaroth and Rashis Commentary, Exodus, translated by M. Rosenbaum and A. M. Silbermann, p. 144]

- The Most Holy compartment was apparently a cube 10 cubits on a side even as the Most Holy of Solomon's temple built later was cubical, each dimension being 20 cubits (8.9 meters)(29.2 feet).
- And the innermost room was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in width, and twenty cubits in its height, and he proceeded to overlay it with pure gold, and to overlay the altar with cedarwood. (1 Kings 6:20)
- The Holy compartment was twice as long as it was wide. As to the length of the Holy of the **tabernacle**, these points are significant: Each of the two sections of the linen covering was 20 cubits wide.
- And the **tabernacle** you are to make of ten tent cloths, of fine twisted linen and blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material. With cherubs, the work of an embroiderer, you will make them. (Exodus 26:1)
- The length of each tent cloth is twenty-eight cubits and the width of each tent cloth is four cubits. There is one measure for all the tent cloths. (Exodus 26:2)
- Five-tent cloths are to form a series with the one joined to the other, and five tent cloths a series with the one joined to the other. (Exodus 26:3)
- And you must make loops of blue thread upon the edge of the one tent cloth at the end of the series, and you are to do the same upon the edge of the outermost tent cloth at the other place of junction. (Exodus 26:4)
- You will make fifty loops on the one tent cloth, and fifty loops you will make on the extremity of the tent cloth that is at the other place of junction, the loops being opposite one to the other. (Exodus 26:5)
- Thus, one section (20 cubits) would stretch from the entrance to the place where hooks joined it to the other section. The junction apparently was above the pillars supporting the curtain to the Most Holy. Then the other half of the covering (20 cubits) served to cover the Most Holy (10 cubits) and also the rear or West side of the **tabernacle** (10 cubits)

· Panel Frames

- The walls were of acacia wood, gold overlaid, evidently in the form of panel frames, similar to window frames, instead of solid boards.
- And you must make the panel frames for the **tabernacle** of acacia wood, standing on end. (**Exodus 26:15**)
- Ten cubits is the length of a panel frame, and a cubit and a half is the width of each panel frame. (**Exodus 26:16**)
- Each panel frame has two tenons joined one to the other. That is the way you will do with all the panel frames of the **tabernacle**. (**Exodus 26:17**)
- And you must make the panel frames for the **tabernacle**, twenty panel frames for the side toward the Negeb, to the south. (**Exodus 26:18**)
- This view seems to be logical, for two reasons. (1) Solid acacia boards of the size described would be unnecessarily heavy, and (2) the cherubs embroidered on the curtain that went over the boards would be hidden except for those seen on the ceiling of the structure, inside.
- And the **tabernacle** you are to make of ten tent cloths, of fine twisted linen and blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material. With cherubs, the work of an embroiderer, you will make them. (**Exodus 26:1**)
- So it appears that each panel frame was constructed in such a way that the priests in the **tabernacle** could see the cherubs embroidered on the linen covering.
- Some modern scholars also hold the view that the panel-frame construction rather than a solid-board design was used. Thus, although the **Hebrew** word *qe'resh* is rendered, **board** in older versions, several modern translations render the word, **frame** or **panel frame**. **AT, JB, MO, NW, RS**
- And you must make the panel frames for the **tabernacle** of acacia wood, standing on end. (**Exodus 26:15**)

- Ten cubits is the length of a panel frame, and a cubit and a half is the width of each panel frame. (**Exodus 26:16**)
- Each panel frame has two tenons joined one to the other. That is the way you will do with all the panel frames of the **tabernacle**. (**Exodus 26:17**)
- And you must make the panel frames for the **tabernacle**, twenty panel frames for the side toward the Negeb, to the south. (**Exodus 26:18**)
- And you will make forty socket pedestals of silver under the twenty panel frames, two socket pedestals under the one panel frame with its two tenons, and two socket pedestals under the other panel frame with its two tenons. (**Exodus 26:19**)
- And for the other side of the **tabernacle**, the northern side, twenty panel frames. (**Exodus 26:20**)
- And their forty socket pedestals of silver, two socket pedestals under the one panel frame and two socket pedestals under the other panel frame. (**Exodus 26:21**)
- And for the rear sections of the **tabernacle** to the west you will make six panel frames. (**Exodus 26:22**)
- And you will make two panel frames as corner posts of the **tabernacle** on its two rear sections. (**Exodus 26:23**)
- And they should be duplicates at the bottom, and together they should be duplicates up to the top of each one at the first ring. That is the way it should be for the two of them. They will serve as two corner posts. (**Exodus 26:24**)
- And there must be eight panel frames and their socket pedestals of silver, sixteen pedestals, two socket pedestals under the one panel frame and two socket pedestals under the other panel frame. (**Exodus 26:25**)
- And you must make bars of acacia wood, five for the panel frames of the one side of the **tabernacle**. (**Exodus 26:26**)
- And five bars for the panel frames of the other side of the **tabernacle** and five bars for the panel frames of the side of the

- tabernacle for the two rear sections to the west. (**Exodus 26:27**)
- And the middle bar at the center of the panel frames is running through from end to end. (**Exodus 26:28**)
 - And you will overlay the panel frames with gold, and their rings you will make of gold as supports for the bars, and you must overlay the bars with gold. (**Exodus 26:29**)
 - There were 20 panel frames on the North side and 20 on the South side.
 - And you must make the panel frames for the **tabernacle**, twenty panel frames for the side toward the Negeb, to the south. (**Exodus 26:18**)
 - And for the other side of the **tabernacle**, the northern side, twenty panel frames. (**Exodus 26:20**)
 - Each frame was 10 cubits (4.5 meters)(14.6 feet) high and one and one half cubits (67 centimeters)(26 inches) wide and of unspecified depth. On the rear or West end there were six panel frames and at the back corners two frames called, **corner posts**.
 - And for the rear sections of the **tabernacle** to the west you will make six panel frames. (**Exodus 26:22**)
 - And you will make two panel frames as corner posts of the **tabernacle** on its two rear sections. (**Exodus 26:23**)
 - And they should be duplicates at the bottom, and together they should be duplicates up to the top of each one at the first ring. That is the way it should be for the two of them. They will serve as two corner posts. (**Exodus 26:24**)
 - In connection with the panel frames, the Bible mentions **rings**. The **rings** were no doubt fastened to the frames to accommodate the bars, three rows of which were passed through the rings to tie the structure together.
 - Evidently the top and bottom rows consisted of two bars each, for only the bar at the center is described as running through from end to end. These bars were of wood overlaid with gold.

- **And you must make bars of acacia wood, five for the panel frames of the one side of the **tabernacle**. (Exodus 26:26)**
- **And five bars for the panel frames of the other side of the **tabernacle** and five bars for the panel frames of the side of the tabernacle for the two rear sections to the west. (Exodus 26:27)**
- **And the middle bar at the center of the panel frames is running through from end to end. (Exodus 26:28)**
- **And you will overlay the panel frames with gold, and their rings you will make of gold as supports for the bars, and you must overlay the bars with gold. (Exodus 26:29)**

•• **Pillars And Foundation**

- **Five pillars overlaid with gold were at the front, or entrance, and four such pillars supported the curtain dividing the Holy from the Most Holy.**
- **And you must put it upon four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold. Their pegs are of gold. They are upon four socket pedestals of silver. (Exodus 26:32)**
- **And you must make for the screen five pillars of acacia and overlay them with gold. Their pegs are of gold. And you must cast for them five socket pedestals of copper. (Exodus 26:37)**
- **The foundation for the entire structure consisted of 100 pedestals that had sockets to receive tenons that were on the bottom of the 48 panel frames, two pedestals to a panel frame, four pedestals served for the four pillars dividing the Holy and Most Holy. These pedestals were all of silver.**
- **And you will make forty socket pedestals of silver under the twenty panel frames, two socket pedestals under the one panel frame with its two tenons, and two socket pedestals under the other panel frame with its two tenons. (Exodus 26:19)**
- **And for the other side of the **tabernacle**, the northern side, twenty panel frames. (Exodus 26:20)**
- **And their forty socket pedestals of silver, two socket pedestals under the one panel frame and two socket pedestals under the**

- other panel frame. (**Exodus 26:21**)
- And for the rear sections of the **tabernacle** to the west you will make six panel frames. (**Exodus 26:22**)
- And you will make two panel frames as corner posts of the **tabernacle** on its two rear sections. (**Exodus 26:23**)
- And they should be duplicates at the bottom, and together they should be duplicates up to the top of each one at the first ring. That is the way it should be for the two of them. They will serve as two corner posts. (**Exodus 26:24**)
- And there must be eight panel frames and their socket pedestals of silver, sixteen pedestals, two socket pedestals under the one panel frame and two socket pedestals under the other panel frame. (**Exodus 26:25**)
- And you must put it upon four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold. Their pegs are of gold. They are upon four socket pedestals of silver. (**Exodus 26:32**)
- Each pedestal weighing a talent (34 kilograms)(92 pounds troy).
- And a hundred talents of silver went into the casting of the socket pedestals of the holy place and the socket pedestals of the curtain. A hundred socket pedestals equaled a hundred talents, a talent to a socket pedestal. (**Exodus 38:27**)
- Additionally, there were five copper pedestals for the pillars at the entrance.
- And you must make for the screen five pillars of acacia and overlay them with gold. Their pegs are of gold. And you must cast for them five socket pedestals of copper. (**Exodus 26:37**)
- Considering the weight of silver, these pedestals evidently would not be very thick, but would be more in the nature of heavy plates.

•• The Courtyard

- The courtyard surrounding the **tabernacle** was 100 by 50 cubits (44.5 by 22.2 meters)(146 by 73 feet). The fence-like curtain around it was 5 cubits (2.2 meters)(7.3 feet) high.

- **Twenty pillars of copper were the supports for each side, and ten for each end of the area. The screen to the entranceway on the East was made of linen and colored material and was 20 cubits (8.9 meters)(29 feet) across.**

- **And he proceeded to make the courtyard. For the side toward the Negeb, to the south, the hangings of the courtyard were of fine twisted linen, for a hundred cubits. (Exodus 38:9)**

- **Their twenty pillars and their twenty socket pedestals were of copper. The pegs of the pillars and their joints were of silver. (Exodus 38:10)**

- **Also, for the north side there were a hundred cubits. Their twenty pillars and their twenty socket pedestals were of copper. The pegs of the pillars and their joints were of silver. (Exodus 38:11)**

- **But for the west side the hangings were for fifty cubits. Their pillars were ten and their socket pedestals ten. The pegs of the pillars and their joints were of silver. (Exodus 38:12)**

- **And for the east side toward the sunrising there were fifty cubits. (Exodus 38:13)**

- **The hangings were for fifteen cubits to the one wing. Their pillars were three and their socket pedestals three. (Exodus 38:14)**

- **And for the other wing, on this as well as that side, of the gate of the courtyard, the hangings were for fifteen cubits. Their pillars were three and their socket pedestals three. (Exodus 38:15)**

- **All the hangings of the courtyard round about were of fine twisted linen. (Exodus 38:16)**

- **And the socket pedestals for the pillars were of copper. The pegs of the pillars and their joints were of silver and the overlaying of their tops was of silver, and there were silver joinings for all the pillars of the courtyard. (Exodus 38:17)**

- **And the screen of the gate of the courtyard was the work of a weaver, of blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus**

scarlet material and fine twisted linen, and twenty cubits was the length, and the height throughout its extent was five cubits equally with the hangings of the courtyard. (**Exodus 38:18**)

- And their four pillars and their four socket pedestals were of copper. Their pegs were of silver and the overlaying of their heads and their joints were of silver. (**Exodus 38:19**)
- And all the tent pins for the **tabernacle** and for the courtyard round about were of copper. (**Exodus 38:20**)

•• **Estimated Cost**

- The value of the gold and silver used for the **tabernacle** would be in the neighborhood of \$12,000,000, and the cost of the entire tabernacle possibly more than \$13,000,000, judged at present-day values.
- All the gold that was used for the work in all the work of the holy place came to the amount of the gold of the wave offering, twenty-nine talents and seven hundred and thirty shekels by the shekel of the holy place. (**Exodus 38:24**)
- And the silver of the ones registered of the assembly was a hundred talents and one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five shekels by the shekel of the holy place. (**Exodus 38:25**)
- The half shekel for an individual was the half of a shekel by the shekel of the holy place, for every man who was passing over to those who were registered from twenty years of age and upward, amounting to six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty. (**Exodus 38:26**)
- And a hundred talents of silver went into the casting of the socket pedestals of the holy place and the socket pedestals of the curtain. A hundred socket pedestals equaled a hundred talents, a talent to a socket pedestal. (**Exodus 38:27**)
- And out of the thousand seven hundred and seventy-five shekels he made pegs for the pillars and overlaid their tops and joined them together. (**Exodus 38:28**)
- And the copper of the wave offering was seventy talents and two thousand four hundred shekels. (**Exodus 38:29**)

•• Possible Additions

- It appears that in time chambers were built for the use of the priests in the courtyard of the **tabernacle**, probably at the sides of the structure.
- And the lamp of God was not yet extinguished, and Samuel was lying in the temple of Yehowah, where the ark of God was. (**1 Samuel 3:3**)
- Also, booths may have been erected in the courtyard, so that some of those making communion offerings, along with their families, could eat the sacrifices there.

•• Its Location In Israel's Camp.

- The **tabernacle** was the center of the camp of Israel. Nearest it, but at a respectful distance, possibly 2,000 cubits (890 meters)(2,920 feet), were encamped the families of the tribe of Levi, the caretakers of the structure.
- Only let there prove to be a distance between you and it of about two thousand cubits by measure, do not get near to it, in order, that you may know the way by which you should go, for you have not passed over on that way before. (**Joshua 3:4**)
- On the East was the priestly family of Aaron, on the South the Kohathites , from which Aaron's family had been selected for the priesthood.
- And the sons of Kohath were Amram and Izhar and Hebron and Uzziel. And the years of Kohath's life were a hundred and thirty-three years. (**Exodus 6:18**)
- And the sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. These were the families of the Levites, according to their family descents. (**Exodus 6:19**)
- Now Amram took Jochebed his father's sister as his wife. Later she bore him Aaron and Moses. And the years of Amram's life were a hundred and thirty-seven years. (**Exodus 6:20**)
- On the West the Gershonites, and on the North the Merarites.

- The families of the Gershonites were behind the **tabernacle**. They were encamped to the west. (**Numbers 3:23**)
- The families of the sons of Kohath were encamped on the side of the **tabernacle** to the south. (**Numbers 3:29**)
- And the chieftain of the paternal house for the families of Merari was Zuriel the son of Abihail. They were encamped on the side of the **tabernacle** toward the north. (**Numbers 3:35**)
- And those camping before the **tabernacle** toward the east, before the tent of meeting toward the sunrising, were Moses and Aaron and his sons, those taking care of the obligation to the sanctuary, as the obligation for the sons of Israel. And any stranger coming near would be put to death. (**Numbers 3:38**)
- Farther away were the other 12 tribes, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun on the East, Reuben, Simeon, and Gad on the South, Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin on the West, and Dan, Asher, and Naphtali on the North.
- Yehowah now spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying; (**Numbers 2:1**)
- The sons of Israel should encamp, each man by his three-tribe division, by the signs for the house of their fathers. Round about in front of the tent of meeting they should encamp. (**Numbers 2:2**)
- And those camping eastward toward the sunrising will be the three-tribe division of the camp of Judah in their armies, and the chieftain for the sons of Judah is Nahshon the son of Amminadab. (**Numbers 2:3**)
- And his army and the ones registered of them are seventy-four thousand six hundred. (**Numbers 2:4**)
- And those camping alongside him will be the tribe of Issachar, and the chieftain for the sons of Issachar is Nethanel the son of Zuar. (**Numbers 2:5**)
- And his army and his registered ones are fifty-four thousand four hundred. (**Numbers 2:6**)

- **And the tribe of Zebulun, and the chieftain for the sons of Zebulun is Eliab the son of Helon. (Numbers 2:7)**
- **And his army and his registered ones are fifty-seven thousand four hundred. (Numbers 2:8)**
- **All the registered ones of the camp of Judah are one hundred eighty-six thousand four hundred in their armies. They should set out first. (Numbers 2:9)**
- **The three-tribe division of the camp of Reuben will be toward the south in their armies, and the chieftain for the sons of Reuben is Elizur the son of Shedeur. (Numbers 2:10)**
- **And his army and his registered ones are forty-six thousand five hundred. (Numbers 2:11)**
- **And those camping alongside him will be the tribe of Simeon, and the chieftain for the sons of Simeon is Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai. (Numbers 2:12)**
- **And his army and the ones registered of them are fifty-nine thousand three hundred. (Numbers 2:13)**
- **And the tribe of Gad, and the chieftain for the sons of Gad is Eliasaph the son of Reuel. (Numbers 2:14)**
- **And his army and the ones registered of them are forty-five thousand six hundred and fifty. (Numbers 2:15)**
- **All the registered ones of the camp of Reuben are one hundred and fifty-one thousand four hundred and fifty in their armies, and they should set out second. (Numbers 2:16)**
- **When the tent of meeting must set out, the camp of the Levites will be in the middle of the camps. Just as they should encamp, so they should set out, each one at his place, according to their three-tribe divisions. (Numbers 2:17)**
- **The three-tribe division of the camp of Ephraim in their armies will be toward the west, and the chieftain for the sons of Ephraim is Elishama the son of Ammihud. (Numbers 2:18)**
- **And his army and the ones registered of them are forty thousand**

five hundred. (**Numbers 2:19**)

- **And alongside him will be the tribe of Manasseh, and the chieftain for the sons of Manasseh is Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur. (**Numbers 2:20**)**
- **And his army and the ones registered of them are thirty-two thousand two hundred. (**Numbers 2:21**)**
- **And the tribe of Benjamin, and the chieftain for the sons of Benjamin is Abidan the son of Gideoni. (**Numbers 2:22**)**
- **And his army and the ones registered of them are thirty-five thousand four hundred. (**Numbers 2:23**)**
- **All the registered ones of the camp of Ephraim are one hundred and eight thousand one hundred in their armies, and they should set out third. (**Numbers 2:24**)**
- **The three-tribe division of the camp of Dan will be toward the north in their armies, and the chieftain for the sons of Dan is Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai. (**Numbers 2:25**)**
- **And his army and the ones registered of them are sixty-two thousand seven hundred. (**Numbers 2:26**)**
- **And the ones camping alongside him will be the tribe of Asher, and the chieftain for the sons of Asher is Pagiel the son of Ocran. (**Numbers 2:27**)**
- **And his army and the ones registered of them are forty-one thousand five hundred. (**Numbers 2:28**)**
- **And the tribe of Naphtali, and the chieftain for the sons of Naphtali is Ahira the son of Enan. (**Numbers 2:29**)**
- **And his army and the ones registered of them are fifty-three thousand four hundred. (**Numbers 2:30**)**
- **All the registered ones of the camp of Dan are one hundred fifty-seven thousand six hundred. They should set out last, according to their three-tribe divisions. (**Numbers 2:31**)**

- From any part of the camp the tabernacle could always be easily located, because of the cloud by day and the fire by night, which stood over the Most Holy where the ark of the covenant was situated.
- And when the cloud lifted itself up from over the **tabernacle** the sons of Israel would break camp during all their stages of journey. (**Exodus 40:36**)
- However, if the cloud did not lift itself up, then they would not break camp until the day when it lifted itself up. (**Exodus 40:37**)
- For Yehowah's cloud was over the **tabernacle** by day, and a fire continued upon it by night in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their stages of journey. (**Exodus 40:38**)

•• How Transported

- In moving the **tabernacle** and its furniture and utensils, the priests covered the utensils of the holy place, and then the Kohathites carried the covered ark of the covenant, table of showbread, lampstand, and altars. They transported these things on their shoulders, walking.
- This is the service of the sons of Kohath in the tent of meeting. It is something most holy. (**Numbers 4:4**)
- And Aaron and his sons must come in when the camp is departing, and they must take down the screening curtain and must cover the ark of the testimony with it. (**Numbers 4:5**)
- And they will spread out a cloth of blue over the table of showbread, and they must put upon it the dishes and the cups and the bowls and the pitchers of the drink offering, and the constant bread should continue on it. (**Numbers 4:7**)
- And they must spread out a cloth of coccus scarlet over them, and they must cover it with a covering of sealskins and put in its poles. (**Numbers 4:8**)
- And they must take a cloth of blue and cover the lampstand of the luminary and its lamps and its snuffers and its fire holders and all its vessels for oil with which they regularly minister to it. (**Numbers 4:9**)

- **And they must put it and all its utensils into a covering of sealskins and put it upon a bar. (Numbers 4:10)**
- **And over the golden altar they will spread out a cloth of blue, and they must cover it with a covering of sealskins and put in its poles. (Numbers 4:11)**
- **And they must take all the utensils of the ministry with which they regularly minister in the holy place, and they must put them in a cloth of blue and cover them with a covering of sealskins and put them upon a bar. (Numbers 4:12)**
- **And they must clear away the fatty ashes of the altar and spread out a cloth of wool dyed reddish purple over it. (Numbers 4:13)**
- **And they must put upon it all its utensils with which they regularly minister at it, the fire holders, the forks and the shovels and the bowls, all the utensils of the altar, and they must spread out over it a covering of sealskins and put in its poles. (Numbers 4:14)**
- **And Aaron and his sons must finish covering the holy place and all the utensils of the holy place when the camp is departing, and after that the sons of Kohath will come in to carry them, but they must not touch the holy place so that they have to die. These things are the load of the sons of Kohath in the tent of meeting. (Numbers 4:15)**
- **And Aaron and his sons must finish covering the holy place and all the utensils of the holy place when the camp is departing, and after that the sons of Kohath will come in to carry them, but they must not touch the holy place so that they have to die. These things are the load of the sons of Kohath in the tent of meeting. (Numbers 4:15)**
- **The Gershonites, having two wagons, transported the tent cloths except the curtain to the Most Holy, which was placed over the Ark.**
- **And Aaron and his sons must come in when the camp is departing, and they must take down the screening curtain and must cover the ark of the testimony with it. (Numbers 4:5)**
- **The **tabernacle** coverings, courtyard hangings, screens, related tent cords, and certain service utensils.**

- **And Aaron and his sons must come in when the camp is departing, and they must take down the screening curtain and must cover the ark of the testimony with it. (Numbers 4:5)**
- **And they must put a covering of sealskins over it and spread out an entire cloth of blue on top and put in its poles. (Numbers 4:6)**
- **And they will spread out a cloth of blue over the table of showbread, and they must put upon it the dishes and the cups and the bowls and the pitchers of the drink offering, and the constant bread should continue on it. (Numbers 4:7)**
- **And they will spread out a cloth of blue over the table of showbread, and they must put upon it the dishes and the cups and the bowls and the pitchers of the drink offering, and the constant bread should continue on it. (Numbers 4:7)**
- **The Merarites, with four wagons, took care of the very heavy items, including the panel frames and the pillars, socket pedestals and related tent pins, and cords of both the **tabernacle** and the courtyard.**
- **As for the sons of Merari, you will register them by their families in the house of their fathers. (Numbers 4:29)**
- **From thirty years old upward to fifty years you will register them, all who enter into the service group to render the service of the tent of meeting. (Numbers 4:30)**
- **And this is their obligation, their load, according to all their service in the tent of meeting the panel frames of the **tabernacle** and its bars and its pillars and its socket pedestals. (Numbers 4:31)**
- **And the pillars of the courtyard round about and their socket pedestals and their tent pins and their tent cords together with all their equipment and all their service. And by their names you will assign the equipment for which they are obligated, as their load. (Numbers 4:32)**
- **And four wagons and eight cattle he gave to the sons of Merari in proportion to their service, under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. (Numbers 7:8)**

· History

- After Israel crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land, the **tabernacle** was set up at **Gilgal**.
- And the people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth of the first month and took up camping at **Gilgal** on the eastern border of Jericho. (**Joshua 4:19**)
- It was relocated at **Shiloh** during the time of dividing the land
- Then all the assembly of the sons of Israel were congregated at **Shiloh**, and they proceeded to locate the tent of meeting there, as the land was now subdued before them. (**Joshua 18:1**)
- Where it remained for years,
- And that man went up out of his city from year to year to prostrate himself and to sacrifice to Yehowah of armies in **Shiloh**. And there is where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests to Yehowah. (**1 Samuel 1:3**)
- Accordingly just as soon as she had weaned him, she brought him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull and one ephah of flour and a large jar of wine, and she proceeded to enter the house of Yehowah in **Shiloh**. And the boy was with her. (**1 Samuel 1:24**)
- Before being moved to **Nob**. Later it was at **Gibeon**.
- At that time, when David saw that Yehowah had answered him at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he continued to sacrifice there. (**1 Chronicles 21:28**)
- When the ark of the covenant was moved to Zion by David, it had not been in the **tabernacle** for many years. But until the temple was built by Solomon, sacrifices were still offered at the tabernacle in Gibeon, it being called, the great high place.
- Accordingly the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. A thousand burnt sacrifices Solomon proceeded to offer upon that altar. (**1 Kings 3:4**)

- After the construction of the temple, Solomon had the **tabernacle** brought up to Jerusalem and apparently stored there.
- And they came bringing up the ark of Yehowah and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils that were in the tent, and the priests and the Levites came bringing them up. (**1 Kings 8:4**)
- And they came bringing up the Ark and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils that were in the tent. The priests the Levites brought them up. (**2 Chronicles 5:5**)

·· **Figurative Use**

- The apostle Paul throws light upon the pictorial significance of the **tabernacle**. In a context discussing the pattern made by the **tabernacle** and the services carried on therein, he speaks of Jesus Christ as a public servant of the holy place and of the **true tent**, which Yehowah put up, and not man.
- A public servant of the holy place and of the **true tent**, which Yehowah put up, and not man. (**Hebrews 8:2**)
- Farther on he says;
- However, when Christ came as a High Priest of the good things that have come to pass, through the greater and **more perfect tent** not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. (**Hebrews 9:11**)
- The **tent** in the wilderness was an arrangement set up by God's command for approach to him in true worship, an arrangement for typical removal of sins. It being an illustration.
- This very **tent is an illustration for the appointed time** that is now here, and in keeping with it both gifts and sacrifices are offered. However, these are not able to make the man doing sacred service perfect as respects his conscience. (**Hebrews 9:9**)
- It would foreshadow the arrangement that God established in which the great High Priest Jesus Christ could serve, appearing in heaven before his Father with the value of his sacrifice, which can actually remove sins.
- For Christ entered, not into a holy place made with hands, which

is a copy of the reality, but into heaven itself, now to appear before the person of God for us. (**Hebrews 9:24**)

- Neither is it in order, that he should offer himself often, as indeed the High Priest enters into the holy place from year to year with blood not his own. (**Hebrews 9:25**)
- Otherwise, he would have to suffer often from the founding of the world. But now he has manifested himself once for all time at the conclusion of the systems of things to put sin away through the sacrifice of himself. (**Hebrews 9:26**)
- Through this arrangement faithful men can have real approach to God.
- Let us, therefore, approach with freeness of speech to the throne of undeserved kindness, that we may obtain mercy and find undeserved kindness for help at the right time. (**Hebrews 4:16**)
- The heavenly **tent of the witness** or **tabernacle** was seen by the apostle John in vision.
- And after these things I saw, and the sanctuary of the **tent of the witness** was opened in heaven. (**Revelation 15:5**)

See Also **TEMPLE**

- The apostle Peter, being a spirit-begotten son of God with the hope of heavenly life in association with Christ Jesus, spoke of his fleshly body as a **tabernacle**.
- It was a **dwelling place**, but was only temporary, since Peter knew his death was near and his resurrection would be not in the flesh but in the spirit.
- But I consider it right, as long as I am in this **tabernacle**, to rouse you up by way of reminding you. (**2 Peter 1:13**)
- Knowing as I do that the putting off of my **tabernacle** is soon to be, just as also our Lord Jesus Christ signified to me. (**2 Peter 1:14**)
- So I will do my utmost also at every time that, after my departure, you may be able to make mention of these things for

yourselves. (2 Peter 1:15)

- **Beloved ones, now we are children of God, but as yet it has not been made manifest what we shall be. We do know that whenever he is made manifest we shall be like him, because we shall see him just as he is. (1 John 3:2)**
- **Nevertheless, someone will say; How are the dead to be raised up? Yes, with what sort of body are they coming? (1 Corinthians 15:35)**
- **You unreasonable person! What you sow is not made alive unless first it dies. (1 Corinthians 15:36)**
- **And as for what you sow, you sow, not the body that will develop, but a bare grain, it may be, of wheat or any one of the rest. (1 Corinthians 15:37)**
- **But God gives it a body just as it has pleased him, and to each of the seeds its own body. (1 Corinthians 15:38)**
- **So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised up in incorruption. (1 Corinthians 15:42)**
- **It is sown in dishonor, it is raised up in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised up in power. (1 Corinthians 15:43)**
- **It is sown a physical body, it is raised up a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual one. (1 Corinthians 15:44)**