

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

The Tabernacle: Heaven on Earth
(Exodus 25-40)

The Tabernacle

- Exodus 25-31 – The plans of the tabernacle given to Moses
- Exodus 35-40 – The building of the tabernacle by the people

13 chapters devoted to the tabernacle!

The Tabernacle

What is a “Tabernacle”?

- A dwelling place (a tent)

The tabernacle is God’s dwelling place among His people

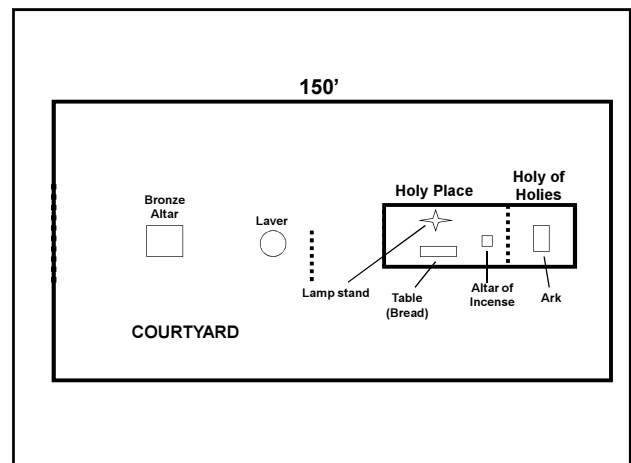
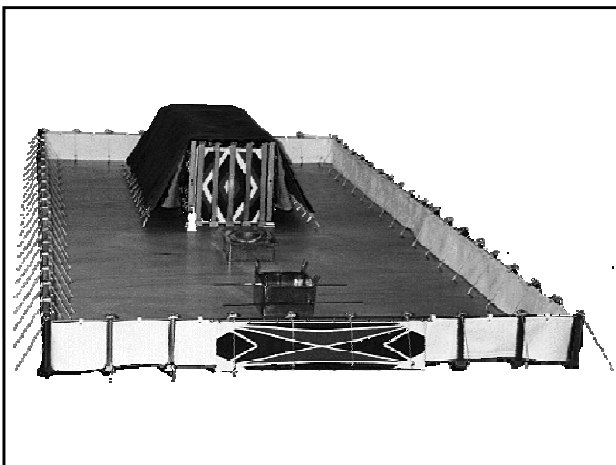
The Tabernacle

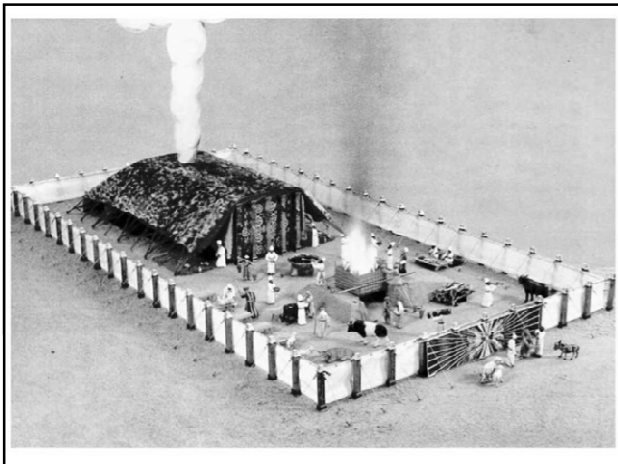
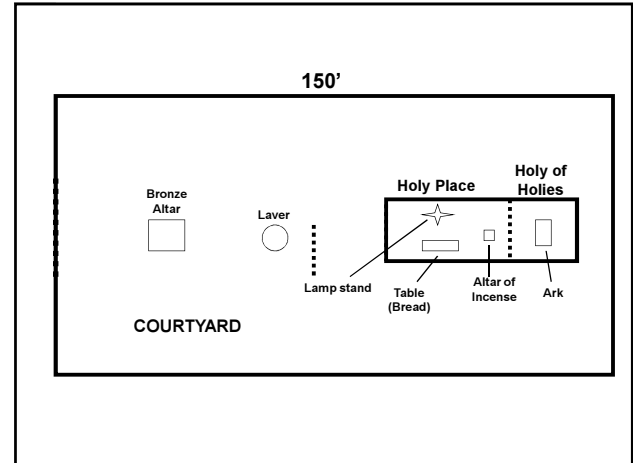
The Design

1. The tent (15’x45’) was divided into two sections by a curtain

- The Most Holy Place (15’x15’)
- The Holy Place (15’x30’)

2. The tent was surrounded by a fenced courtyard (75’x150’)





The Tabernacle

The Symbolism

➤ *Heaven on earth: the tabernacle is a replica of heaven*

- The ark represents the throne room of God
- The Holy Place may represent the visible heavens (?)
- The courtyard corresponds to the earth

The Tabernacle

Dual Significance

1. God's Presence

- God came to dwell with His people
- God's kingdom purpose is for His people to experience His presence on earth

The Tabernacle

Dual Significance

2. God's Holiness

- The tabernacle communicated God's separateness from His people
- The way of approach to God was limited
 - by means of an atoning sacrifice
 - by means of a representative



The Tabernacle

Fulfillment

1. The incarnation of Christ

➤ John 1:14 – “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us”

- Jesus is the new tabernacle/temple
- Through Jesus we enter the Most Holy Place through the veil (Heb. 10:19-20)

The Tabernacle

Fulfillment

2. The indwelling of the Spirit

➤ 1 Corinthians 6:19 – “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God?”

The Tabernacle

Fulfillment

3. The New Jerusalem

➤ Revelation 21:2-3, 22

- The entire city is the Holy of Holies where we dwell with God and the Lamb
- On the new earth we will enjoy the immediate, unshielded presence of God continually