

## **CHAPTER THIRTEEN**

### **THE TABERNACLE**

**Incorporated within the law, God told the people how to worship Him and how to Have fellowship with Him. Thus, the Law was to be a vehicle to direct the people back in the direction of being restored to likeness of God. It was to help mankind pickup at the point Adam was before the fall.**

**One of the first things on the agenda was to build the tabernacle that God had commanded Moses to construct. This earthly tabernacle would serve as a Global Positioning System for the Israelites. It would take them from their current location, both physically and spiritually, and get them to the place where they could worship God and fellowship with Him. God's desire was to dwell with mankind. At this time He could not dwell in their hearts because they had not received Eternal Life. They had not been born again. They only knew how to relate to God through their five senses. So, in order for God to dwell with mankind, He had to reach out to them in a way that they could perceive Him. He had to manifest Himself in a manner that the people could either feel, taste, see, hear or smell. The tabernacle would be the place for this to happen. It would be the place for God to reach man in a physical sense because man's physical senses could not reach God. The tabernacle would be an object which the people could touch. They could smell the burnt offerings as the smoke ascended toward heaven. They could hear the bells of the high priest's robe. The Children of Israel could look upon this tabernacle and know that God was right there in the midst of them.**

**God asked for a free-will offering in order to finance the building of the tabernacle.**

**EXOD 25:2**

**2 SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, THAT THEY BRING ME AN OFFERING: OF EVERY MAN THAT GIVETH IT WILLINGLY WITH HIS HEART YE SHALL TAKE MY OFFERING.**

**The people responded. They gave liberally.**

**EXOD 25:9**

**9 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.**

**HEB 8:1-2**

**1 NOW OF THE THINGS WHICH WE HAVE SPOKEN THIS IS THE SUM: WE HAVE SUCH AN HIGH PRIEST, WHO IS SET ON THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF THE MAJESTY IN THE HEAVENS;**

## **2 A MINISTER OF THE SANCTUARY, AND OF THE TRUE TABERNACLE, WHICH THE LORD PITCHED, AND NOT MAN.**

God had emphasized to Moses that it was of utmost importance that the tabernacle be built exactly as He had specified. This was necessary since it was to be a type of Christ, the Redeemer. (Note that it took eleven chapters to cover the instructions for the building of the tabernacle and only two for the creation of the universe.)

The materials to be used in the tabernacle were specified. Gold was to be used to represent the divine glory of the Lord Jesus as the Son of God. Silver was to represent the preciousness of Christ as the ransom for sinners. Brass symbolized the divine character of Christ who is able to sustain the fire of God's judgement regarding holiness and justice. Fine linen indicated the spotless, righteousness of the Son of man. The goats' hair was to be a memorial to the death of Christ as the sin-offering. Ram's skin represented the outward aspect of Christ as the man of God, whose blood makes atonement. The badgers' skin was a symbol of the outward aspect of Christ toward the world, as having no beauty, no form of comeliness. It was a dull gray color. Shittim wood was a symbol of the incorrupt humanity of Christ. Olive oil was used and it represents the Holy Spirit. Spices were used to represent the perfect graces of the Spirit as seen in the life, death and intercession of Jesus. Onyx was to show the brightness and glory of Jesus Christ.

God started the instructions with the inner-most part of the tabernacle which was to be the dwelling place for His Shikinah glory. He then worked His way outward as He gave the instructions to Moses. This is God's way of reaching man. He starts with where He is and then reaches outward to us. He deals with our hearts first, then the outward appearance. For our study, we will start with the outside of the tabernacle and move inward.

The tabernacle was constructed while the Children of Israel were in the wilderness. It was built in such a way that it could be moved from place to place as the Israelites move toward the Land of Promise. They had been delivered from the idolatry and bondage of Egypt, but had not yet entered Canaan with all its bountiful provision. Israel was in the wilderness totally dependent upon God for protection, guidance, food and drink; and so the temporary, moveable sanctuary was designed that the people might know that God was indeed in their midst.

Moses was told to build it 150 feet long and 75 feet wide. There were to be three distinct parts to the Tabernacle—Outer Court, Holy Place, and Most Holy Place, also known as the Holies of Holies. These three sections have been described as the Outer Court represents our physical bodies, the Holy Place represents our soulish realm and the Most Holy Place represents our spirits.

The wall of the Tabernacle was made of white fine linen. It stood 7½ feet tall and was held in place by 20 poles on each side and 10 poles on each end. This linen curtain was white which denoted the purity of Christ. The purpose of this wall was to provide a separated place where man could escape the evil of the world. Even though the world is on the outside of the linen wall, it can see the righteousness of Christ. It, however, cannot get inside except to go through the purity of Christ. Jesus is the only Way to get in Heaven. He

was made to be our righteousness. In Him, we are made righteous. Even the cords that secured the poles had their meaning. The Plan of Salvation is secured in place for those who are inside.

Before continuing, let me say as we study about the Tabernacle, I will share a few of the types and shadows which point to Jesus, as I did in the previous paragraphs. However, as you study this topic on your own, I am certain that you will find many more portions of Scripture that point to Jesus. Remember, as you study, to constantly ask yourself has does this refer to Jesus. Also, think about whether it refers to your relationship with Christ now that you are a child of God and a part of the universal church. The point is that every little piece of the tabernacle was significant in some way. We will only look at the bigger parts of the tabernacle.

At the Eastern end of this construction is the only opening in the linen wall. This Opening is the gate. It was on the Eastern side so that it could catch the first beams of sunlight. It was 30 feet wide. The colors of the gate were blue, purple, and scarlet. Blue is the heavenly color. It typifies Christ as the manifestation of God as grace and love. Purple represents the kingly glory of Him who was the God-man--God manifest in flesh. Scarlet is symbolic of the true dignity and glory as seen in Christ as the Suffering One. Truly, this is a gate of salvation. Any of the Children of Israel could enter the gate for the purpose of bringing their animal to be sacrificed.

Stepping through the gate puts you inside the Outer Court and symbolically separated from the world. Near the gate is the brazen altar. It is the first thing that caught the eye inside the Court. Its position there was to remind the Israelites that the first necessity in approaching God is the atonement. They, however, could not go beyond this altar. Altar means "a high place" or that "which ascends" or "lifts up." The sacrifice brought by the Israelites was lifted up after it had been slain by the owner and placed upon the brass grating of the altar by the priest. Once offered, the sacrifice meant that the one who had brought it to the altar was now restored to fellowship with God. When we come to the cross and give ourselves to the Priest, He lifts us up and restores us to the same kind of relationship with God that Adam had before the fall. The brazen altar was square denoting equality. Whosoever willed could approach this altar. It was applicable to people of all ranks and conditions. It was five cubits on each side. The number "five" denotes "grace". It was three cubits high. "Three" speaks of divine perfection, thus, the Trinity. It was the largest piece of furniture in the Tabernacle, thus, the largest part of getting to God is presenting one's self to Him as a sacrifice. This altar was made of shittim wood which represented the incorruptible humanity of Christ. Brass was used to cover the wood. Brass reveals the strong character of Him who was "God manifest in the flesh." There were no steps to climb to reach the altar. It was equally accessible to all, young and old alike. There are no steps for us to reach the cross. At each corner of this altar was a horn. Horns speak of power, authority and might. There is no power apart from the sacrifice. The blood of Jesus has power, authority and might in it. The blood of the sacrifice was sprinkled upon the horns of the altar. This is what produces the power.

Altar also means to kill or slaughter. It was a place of death. Since this was the place where the animals were killed, the altar and the ground remained red with the blood of the animals. Likewise, the cross was a place of death. The blood of Jesus stained the

**cross and the surrounding ground around it. Golgotha was a hill that was shaped like a skull. Many executions had happened there. It truly was a place of death..**

**Pans were used to catch the ashes. Great care was bestowed upon these ashes because they spoke of a sacrifice that had been made on their behalf and accepted by God. They were scooped up with a shovel and laid in a clean place. This is symbolic of the body of Jesus being placed in a new, borrowed tomb. Basins were used to catch the blood of the sacrifice. Most of the blood was poured at the base of the altar indicating that the altar was built on the blood. A little of the blood was sprinkled on the altar itself. Blood denotes life. Flesh-hooks were used to put the sacrifice on the altar. They represent the nails that held Jesus on the cross. The sacrifice was laid on a brass grill. The grill was much like the grills we use to cook hamburgers and hot dogs. It was located in the center of the altar and endured the hottest part of the fire below it. This should remind us of the strong passion and zeal that burned in the heart of Jesus to carry out His Father's will for His life here on earth.**

**This altar had staves which made it possible for the Children of Israel to move it as they traveled toward the Land of Promise. The covered it with bagger skin and a cloth of purple.**

**The fire in the altar was provided by God and burned continuously. Fire represented His holiness and justice in the midst of the people as it consumed the sacrifice. God's holiness never goes out. God is always ready to receive us through sacrifice. In our case, that is the sacrifice of the Lamb of God. We are to remain on the altar until we are totally consumed by the fire of God. We are to sacrifice ourselves to Jesus and never pick up "self" again. Fire pans were also at the altar for the purpose of taking fire from the brazen altar to the Altar of Incense which we will discuss later by showing the connection between the two altars.**

**GAL 2:20**

**I AM CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST: NEVERTHELESS I LIVE; YET NOT I, BUT CHRIST LIVETH IN ME: AND THE LIFE WHICH I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE BY THE FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME, AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME.**

**The next furnishing is the Brazen Laver. It means "bath" or a place for washing. It is symbolic of sanctification or a setting apart. Although the laver was not physically connected to the Brazen Altar, there was a spiritual connection. One gets saved at the altar and is washed at the laver, making it difficult to separate where salvation stops and sanctification begins. When Jesus was on the cross, blood and water came from His side when it pierced with a sword. There were no measurements given for the laver. There is an immeasurable need for personal cleansing, but this laver symbolically showed that God's grace is immeasurable. It is inexhaustible. There is an unmeasured amount of washing that the Word of God does inside each of us as believers. There is an unmeasured amount of power extended to us through the Holy Ghost when we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Likewise, the holiness of God that is given to Christians cannot be measured.**

The laver had a foot. The laver itself was too high to be easily reached, at least at its brim, but water could flow into the foot through a little pipe. This made it easily accessible. It was made entirely of brass mirrors donated by the Israelite women. This means that the people could see themselves, but only the priests could go over to this piece of furniture and use the laver. The Israelites were never to go beyond the Brazen Altar. We are not told how this laver was to be transported from place to place. It has no staves for that purpose.

The next step was to worship in the Inner Sanctuary or the Holy Place. This structure was 45 feet long and 15 feet wide. The outside was a covering made of badger skins to protect everything inside. We are not told how many badger skins were required to cover the Tabernacle nor how big the badger skins were. We just know that it looked like a long, dark coffin. There were 48 boards that gave walls to this structure, 20 on each side and 8 on the western end. These boards were shittim wood and represented human nature. They, however, were all overlaid with gold which represents Jesus. The boards were made to stand up by being placed in silver sockets which were driven into the ground. Silver was a type of atonement. In Old Testament times the sins of the people were covered by the atonement of sacrifice. We, on the other hand, have our sins washed away, not covered over, and we become new creations. The boards had come from trees grown, of course, here on earth. They were fitly joined together. This is a type of the church.

To get inside, it is necessary to go through the door located on the eastern end of this structure. Five pillars held up ten like curtains and one different curtain which formed the eastern end of the structure. It was the different curtain which made the door for entrance into the first room known as the Holy Place. It is necessary to note there were ram skins hung above the door on the outside of the structure. They were dyed red with their own blood. This suggests that they bore the mark of sacrifice. This means that the priests had to go through a sacrifice in order to enter the Holy Place. Only Aaron and his sons were allowed to enter the Holy Place.

As a reminder, the entrance into the Outer Court was called The Gate. Here, the entrance to the Holy Place is called The Door. It took exactly the same number of square feet of material to make each of the entrances. The Gate was not as tall as The Door, but it was wider than The Door. Interestingly is the fact that The Door was a square. What is the significance to this? The Gate was an access for everyone to enter, so it had to be wide. Not everybody who enters The Gate of Salvation, becomes priests. Many do not go on to sanctification and to the Holy Place. Therefore, The Door is not required to be as wide as The Gate.

This room was 15 feet by 30 feet. There were ten fine-twined linen curtains, some blue, some purple, and some scarlet. There were also eleven curtains made of goat hair which surrounded the walls of the Holy Place. Linen symbolizes righteousness. Fine define the nature of righteousness. Twined indicates that righteousness was woven into every part of the life of Christ. The goat hair was to be a reminder of the sin offerings since goats were used for this purpose.

Once within, the priest had assurance the he was being protected by the presence of God. There was no floor in the Holy Place. With beautiful curtains around the inside walls

and gold all about, the fact that there was no floor suggests that God's blessings are for us presently here on earth.

No outside light entered the Holy Place. This meant that the light of the world could not enter the Holy Place—only Supernatural Light could shine there. A seven-branched golden candlestick (lamp stand, better translation) lighted the room. It was made of pure gold. A massive piece of gold had been taken and by the hard, constant blows of a hammer was flattened out and then worked into its respective shape and beauty. Note that the lamp stand remained one piece of gold. The beating is suggestive of suffering. No measurement is given. The shaft was taller than the branches because it represented Jesus.. Seven denotes perfection. Seven lamps, yet one light. The light came from olive oil which refers to the Holy Spirit. It is He who enlightens us. There is no description of the footing of the lamp stand. This lamp stand is a type of Christ and His church. We are one with Him and He with us and we have no earthly footing.

On the other side of the room is the Table of Shewbread. The word, table, suggests the blessed fellowship and communion that the Church enjoys with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. It was made of shittim wood and overlaid with gold, indicating the two fold nature of Christ. It had a crown or rim around the top of it to retain the bread when the table was being moved. This is symbolic of the fact that we are kept from falling as we move through life. It had rings which suggest eternal and staves by which it could be moved.

There were four distinct sets of golden vessels placed upon the table. There a special vessel used to transport the 12 loaves of bread to and from the Table. That was one loaf for each of the 12 tribes. The shew bread represents Christ, the Bread of Life. The bread was placed in two rows with six in each row. There were spoons used to sprinkle frankincense on the loaves of bread. After being on the table for seven days, it then became the bread of the priests. It was strictly for the priests—nobody else was supposed to eat it. The bread was made of fine wheat flour that had been beaten to a powdery texture. Jesus is like a beaten grain of wheat that came out of dry ground. The bread had no leavening in it to make it rise. It was just flour and water that had been baked. Also, there must have been a drink offering on the Table because there were bowls and what we would call glasses on the Table.

At the center back of this room is the Golden Altar of Incense. It represents a ministry in heaven. The dimensions of it are 18 inches square and 36 inches high. It was made of shittim wood and overlaid with gold. It had a crown of gold around the edge. It had four horns and two rings and staves by which it could be carried. The priest burned incense upon this altar night and morning. The burnt incense produced a sweet fragrance. (This is similar to what our prayers are supposed to produce—a sweet smell before God.) The incense produced a cloud in the Holy Place which would flow into beyond the Veil that was right behind the Altar of Incense. Once the space was filled with the cloud, the priest could then move toward making intercession for the people.

The Veil was hung at the back of the Holy Place to separate it from the Most Holy Place. It was held in place by four pillars. It was made of fine-twined linen. The embroidered cherubim could be seen on the veil. Back in the Garden of Eden situation,

cherubim were placed so Adam and Eve could not return to the garden, but here cherubim pictured on the veil were inviting the priest to go on into the presence of God.

Beyond the veil is the Most Holy Place. This was the secret place of the Most High--the local dwelling of God. It was 15 feet by 15 feet. This may seem small for the Creator of all things, but it was the preparing the way for Him to live in our hearts. The contents of the Most Holy Place was the censer which remained in this room all year. The only exception was on the Day of Atonement. On the Day of Atonement the high priest would take it and get coals from the brazen altar. Then he would a handful of sweet incense from the golden altar and make a cloud of smoke before he went into the Most Holy Place. After all, he was a natural man and he could not enter into the glory of the Almighty God without some type of shield. Also, God could be approached only under very strict conditions. The same is true today. The people of the world cannot approach God except through Jesus Christ.

The main thing in this area was the Ark of the Covenant. It was 53 inches long; 32 inches broad; and 32 inches high. It was made of shittim wood and was covered both inside and outside with pure gold. Gold represents the deity of God. It, too, had a crown of gold used to keep the mercy seat in its proper place. It, too, had a crown of gold used to keep the mercy seat in its proper place. It had rings and staves for the purpose of moving it. When being moved the Veil was used to cover it. In it was the two tables of stone upon which God had written the Ten Commandments. Also in it was some manna and Aaron's rod that budded. Cherubims stood over the Ark. The golden lid to the Ark was called a "seat". It was to be a resting place for God. In Jesus, we find rest. It was not a seat of judgment, but of mercy. Mercy means "to cover." The priest went before God to ask Him to have mercy on the people. Jesus is our mercy seat. The Shekinah glory of God beamed forth to give light to this room. Where God is there is no need for the sun and the moon. God will be the only light in Heavebn. Without the cloud of incense filling the room, the priest could not have physically entered it.

Let me remind you that every minute detail regarding the Tabernacle in some way pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ. Even the arrangement of the pieces of furniture in the tabernacle were in the shape of a cross. They were located to correspond with the places on His body where He shed His blood.

Earlier in this study, I told you that God could not reveal His total Plan of Salvation all at once because it would be more than mankind could comprehend. He would have to reveal a little at a time. However, by this point in time, enough information had been revealed to the Children of Israel through Moses and later through the prophets that God would send them, to get them prepared to receive the Messiah and then take His Word to the other nations of the world. Instead of doing this, they rejected the instruction that God gave to them. They rejected the Lamb of God—the ultimate, once and for all time, Supreme Sacrifice. They did not receive Him as the Living Water of Life. They chose to remain in darkness instead of allowing the Light of the World to come into their hearts. Rather than the Word of God as the Bread of Life, they followed the desires of their flesh. The Jewish people turned deaf ears as Jesus hung on the cross asking the Father to forgive them. Because of their not correctly understanding the purpose of the law that God them,

they totally missed out on being ready for the very Presence of God in human form to dwell among them. Instead of receiving Jesus, they are still looking for the Messiah to come.

John Gill, a Baptist scholar, in discussing the captivity of the Children of Israel for seventy weeks of years that Daniel wrote about was to allow them time to get their act together regarding receiving the coming of the Messiah. Gill said Daniel was telling them that if they did not get ready for the Messiah, God was going to give the Plan of Salvation to the Gentiles. Gill was right.

God had established the pattern of the Plan of Salvation pre-creation which He started revealing little-by-little throughout the history of the earth. He even gave a general overview of the Plan of Salvation in the days of creation. Day One God spoke light into existence. I explained when we studied the creation days that figuratively Day One represented the birth of Jesus since Jesus is the light. Also, He is the only means by which one can enter into God's Plan of Salvation. Therefore, He is the Gate, similar to the Gate of the Tabernacle.. Day two was a work of separation: the firmament was established by dividing the waters above from the waters below. Figuratively, day two typifies the crucifixion of Jesus. It definitely was a separation between Father and Son.

This represented Jesus being offered on the Altar of Sacrifice. On Day Three, the Sea was separated and plants grew. Figuratively, this represented the resurrection of Jesus. He was no longer in human flesh, but had become glorified, thus heavenly. The laver was the place where the priests separated themselves from the world by washing themselves in the water that poured from the top part of the laver into the basin below. This allowed them to grow in a spiritual sense as a plant grows on the earth.

On day number four, the sun, the moon and the stars were created as light-bearers, So, now we move to the candle stick that was inside the Holy Place. Figuratively, Day four represented the ascension of Jesus. With His work finished on earth, He took His seat at the right hand of God. Officially, He was now the Light of the World. On the fifth day, birds and fish were created. If you remember, I explained that since birds fly in flocks and fish swim in schools, figuratively speaking, that represented the church. We are to join together. We are to break bread together. So, now we are at the Table of Shew Bread. This is where communion occurs as we partake of the Bread of Life together. On Day Six, God created the animals, but that was not all.

**GEN 1:26-27**

**26 AND GOD SAID, LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, AFTER OUR LIKENESS: AND LET THEM HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, AND OVER THE FOWL OF THE AIR, AND OVER THE CATTLE, AND OVER ALL THE EARTH, AND OVER EVERY CREEPING THING THAT CREEPETH UPON THE EARTH.**  
**27 SO GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD CREATED HE HIM; MALE AND FEMALE CREATED HE THEM.**

All that preceded man being formed was but a preparation for the coming of mankind. Mankind was to be the crowning work of God, the king of creation. Mankind was given dominion over all the earth. Mankind was destined to be in the image of God.

Being in God's image gave mankind such qualities as reason, personality and intellect. It meant that man would be able to relate, to hear, to see and to speak. In his entire being, mankind was to be like God. The *image of God* denotes a unique social or community concept of God.

It is the will of God that mankind be able to enter into His presence. God wants fellowship with people. So, He has declared that we can enter in to where He is through praise and worship. Praise and worship creates an environment to where the human body, while still here on earth, can enter into the spiritual realm of God. It is at the Altar of Incense that we are able to do this. We are up to Day Seven which is the Day that God rested. Through praise and worship, mankind will be able to enter into the true Holy of Holies. We will be able to enter eternal rest within Him.

After Adam and Even were in existence, God revealed Himself to them by walking with them in the garden. However, after their sin, it was necessary for Him to begin to reveal His Plan of Salvation to them. Again, knowing that they could not understand the whole plan, He let them know only a small part of it. He let them know that they could no longer have access to the Tree of Life because of their sin. He showed them that blood had to be shed to cover their sin. And in their presence, He told satan that a Savior would come and defeat him.

We know that after this, the world grew totally evil until there was only one man left who knew God. Noah was this man. Since the Son of God had not come to dwell with mankind, Noah was a type of the Messiah. God, through Noah, revealed that His GPS was dependent on one individual. Noah would be the means by which he, himself, would be saved, but not only him—his whole household was brought into the ark of safety. God also used Noah to serve at the entrance or gateway into a new life. Noah responded by offering a sacrifice. This process was in line with God's Plan of Salvation as revealed through the Tabernacle worship.

God revealed another aspect of His Plan of Salvation through Abraham. By stepping out in faith, God told Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation. God also revealed that for this to be achieved, Abraham would have to believe for the impossible—a son in his old age. God, through Abraham, showed that a human sacrifice would be required for the Plan of Salvation to be completed. It was not until the time of Moses that God revealed His GPS in its sequence. That sequence being: Gate, Altar of Sacrifice, Laver, Lampstand, Table of Shew Bread, the Altar of Incense, and finally the Ark of the Covenant. However, without Moses being aware of it, God had used this pattern for the deliverance of the Children of Israel out of Egypt. Moses had been a type of the Son of God. He was to serve as the gateway through which the Children of Israel would have entrance into freedom from the bondage that they were under in Egypt. The Children of Israel were only required to offer a sacrifice and put the blood on the door way of their houses so the death angel would Passover them. This was, in essence, the trip to the brazen altar. The Red Sea served as the laver. It separated the Children of Israel from the Egyptians. They were led through the wilderness with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. This was the lampstand that shined in the darkness. They were given manna to eat which was their Table of Shew Bread. They arrived at the mountain and were there for three days to prepare their hearts for the manifestation of God. This was the Altar of

**Incense. This mountain is where God gave Moses the law—His Word. Moses was allowed to see the hinder parts of God as He moved over the mountain. Thus, the pattern of God's GPS was completed.**

**Now, let's talk about the garment of the priest since they, too, were very significant.**

**EXOD 28:4**

**4 AND THESE ARE THE GARMENTS WHICH THEY SHALL MAKE; A BREASTPLATE, AND AN EPHOD, AND A ROBE, AND A BROIDERED COAT, A MITRE, AND A GIRDLE: AND THEY SHALL MAKE HOLY GARMENTS FOR AARON THY BROTHER, AND HIS SONS, THAT HE MAY MINISTER UNTO ME IN THE PRIEST'S OFFICE.**

**Without these Aaron could not be a High Priest. They typify various powers, responsibilities, and qualities connected with that office. The materials are specified--gold and fine twined linen with blue purple and scarlet emblazoned upon them.**

**EXOD 39:3**

**3 AND THEY DID BEAT THE GOLD INTO THIN PLATES, AND CUT IT INTO WIRES, TO WORK IT IN THE BLUE, AND IN THE PURPLE, AND IN THE SCARLET, AND IN THE FINE LINEN, WITH CUNNING WORK.**

**The ephod was inseparably connected with the shoulder pieces and the breastplate.**

**EXOD 28:15-21**

**15 AND THOU SHALT MAKE THE BREASTPLATE OF JUDGMENT WITH CUNNING WORK; AFTER THE WORK OF THE EPHOD THOU SHALT MAKE IT; OF GOLD, OF BLUE, AND OF PURPLE, AND OF SCARLET, AND OF FINE TWINED LINEN, SHALT THOU MAKE IT.**

**16 FOURSQUARE IT SHALL BE BEING DOUBLED; A SPAN SHALL BE THE LENGTH THEREOF, AND A SPAN SHALL BE THE BREADTH THEREOF.**

**17 AND THOU SHALT SET IN IT SETTINGS OF STONES, EVEN FOUR ROWS OF STONES: THE FIRST ROW SHALL BE A SARDIUS, A TOPAZ, AND A CARBUNCLE: THIS SHALL BE THE FIRST ROW.**

**18 AND THE SECOND ROW SHALL BE AN EMERALD, A SAPPHIRE, AND A DIAMOND.**

**19 AND THE THIRD ROW A LIGURE, AN AGATE, AND AN AMETHYST.**

**20 AND THE FOURTH ROW A BERYL, AND AN ONYX, AND A JASPER: THEY SHALL BE SET IN GOLD IN THEIR INCLOSINGS.**

**21 AND THE STONES SHALL BE WITH THE NAMES OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, TWELVE, ACCORDING TO THEIR NAMES, LIKE THE ENGRAVINGS OF A SIGNET; EVERY ONE WITH HIS NAME SHALL THEY BE ACCORDING TO THE TWELVE TRIBES.**

**EXOD 39:8-21**

**8 AND HE MADE THE BREASTPLATE OF CUNNING WORK, LIKE THE WORK OF THE EPHOD; OF GOLD, BLUE, AND PURPLE, AND SCARLET, AND FINE TWINED LINEN.**

**9 IT WAS FOURSQUARE; THEY MADE THE BREASTPLATE DOUBLE: A SPAN WAS THE LENGTH THEREOF, AND A SPAN THE BREADTH THEREOF, BEING DOUBLED.**

**10 AND THEY SET IN IT FOUR ROWS OF STONES: THE FIRST ROW WAS A SARDIUS, A TOPAZ, AND A CARBUNCLE: THIS WAS THE FIRST ROW.**

**11 AND THE SECOND ROW, AN EMERALD, A SAPPHIRE, AND A DIAMOND.**

**12 AND THE THIRD ROW, A LIGURE, AN AGATE, AND AN AMETHYST.**

**13 AND THE FOURTH ROW, A BERYL, AN ONYX, AND A JASPER: THEY WERE INCLOSED IN OUCHES OF GOLD IN THEIR INCLOSINGS.**

**14 AND THE STONES WERE ACCORDING TO THE NAMES OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, TWELVE, ACCORDING TO THEIR NAMES, LIKE THE ENGRAVINGS OF A SIGNET, EVERY ONE WITH HIS NAME, ACCORDING TO THE TWELVE TRIBES.**

**15 AND THEY MADE UPON THE BREASTPLATE CHAINS AT THE ENDS, OF WREATHEN WORK OF PURE GOLD.**

**16 AND THEY MADE TWO OUCHES OF GOLD, AND TWO GOLD RINGS; AND PUT THE TWO RINGS IN THE TWO ENDS OF THE BREASTPLATE.**

**17 AND THEY PUT THE TWO WREATHEN CHAINS OF GOLD IN THE TWO RINGS ON THE ENDS OF THE BREASTPLATE.**

**18 AND THE TWO ENDS OF THE TWO WREATHEN CHAINS THEY FASTENED IN THE TWO OUCHES, AND PUT THEM ON THE SHOULDERPIECES OF THE EPHOD, BEFORE IT.**

**19 AND THEY MADE TWO RINGS OF GOLD, AND PUT THEM ON THE TWO ENDS OF THE BREASTPLATE, UPON THE BORDER OF IT, WHICH WAS ON THE SIDE OF THE EPHOD INWARD.**

**20 AND THEY MADE TWO OTHER GOLDEN RINGS, AND PUT THEM ON THE TWO SIDES OF THE EPHOD UNDERNEATH, TOWARD THE FOREPART OF IT, OVER AGAINST THE OTHER COUPLING THEREOF, ABOVE THE CURIOUS GIRDLE OF THE EPHOD.**

**21 AND THEY DID BIND THE BREASTPLATE BY HIS RINGS UNTO THE RINGS OF THE EPHOD WITH A LACE OF BLUE, THAT IT MIGHT BE ABOVE THE CURIOUS GIRDLE OF THE EPHOD, AND THAT THE BREASTPLATE MIGHT NOT BE LOOSED FROM THE EPHOD; AS THE LORD COMMANDED MOSES.**

These verses tell of the breastplate with the names of the twelve tribes engraved upon precious stone. Whatever the failures of Israel might be, their names glittered before God. Jehovah had set them where no man could pluck them. No one could enter the Holy Place to dim the luster.

The breastplate was made of the same materials as the ephod, and it was doubled of folded to form a bag into which the Urim and Thummim were put. The Urim and Thummim were precious stones bearing significant names which no one has at present time ever been able to know.

**EXOD 28:30**

**30 AND THOU SHALT PUT IN THE BREASTPLATE OF JUDGMENT THE URIM AND THE THUMMIM; AND THEY SHALL BE UPON AARON'S HEART, WHEN HE GOETH IN BEFORE THE LORD: AND AARON SHALL BEAR THE JUDGMENT OF**

**THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL UPON HIS HEART BEFORE THE LORD CONTINUALLY.**

Urim means "lights" and Thummim means "perfection. The High Priest with the Urim in his breastplate became the channel by which God made manifest His counsels. Around the skirts were placed pomegranates of three colors--blue, purple, and scarlet. Alternated with each pomegranate was a bell of pure gold. The only adorning of this heavenly robe were fruits of the earth.

**EXOD 28:33-35**

**33 AND BENEATH UPON THE HEM OF IT THOU SHALT MAKE POMEGRANATES OF BLUE, AND OF PURPLE, AND OF SCARLET, ROUND ABOUT THE HEM THEREOF; AND BELLS OF GOLD BETWEEN THEM ROUND ABOUT:  
34 A GOLDEN BELL AND A POMEGRANATE, A GOLDEN BELL AND A POMEGRANATE, UPON THE HEM OF THE ROBE ROUND ABOUT.  
35 AND IT SHALL BE UPON AARON TO MINISTER: AND HIS SOUND SHALL BE HEARD WHEN HE GOETH IN UNTO THE HOLY PLACE BEFORE THE LORD, AND WHEN HE COMETH OUT, THAT HE DIE NOT.**

The bells were to let the people outside the tabernacle know that the High Priest had entered into the presence of God in a pleasing manner. Just in case he entered without properly cleansing himself, he wore a rope around his ankle. This was so his dead body could be dragged from the Most Holy Place without defiling it.

The word "mitre" is used for the headdress of the High Priest. It is derived from a Verb signifying to "roll" or "wind around". It was made of fine, white linen.

**EXOD 39:28**

**28 AND A MITRE OF FINE LINEN, AND GOODLY BONNETS OF FINE LINEN, AND LINEN BREECHES OF FINE TWINED LINEN,**

A golden plate was worn at the front of the mitre. Engraved on it was "HOLINESS TO JEHOVAH". Aaron's only means of presenting holiness to Jehovah was by wearing it. Only after Christ can man enter as a holy being before God.

**EXOD 28:36-38**

**36 AND THOU SHALT MAKE A PLATE OF PURE GOLD, AND GRAVE UPON IT, LIKE THE ENGRAVINGS OF A SIGNET, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.  
37 AND THOU SHALT PUT IT ON A BLUE LACE, THAT IT MAY BE UPON THE MITRE; UPON THE FOREFRONT OF THE MITRE IT SHALL BE.  
38 AND IT SHALL BE UPON AARON'S FOREHEAD, THAT AARON MAY BEAR THE INIQUITY OF THE HOLY THINGS, WHICH THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL SHALL HALLOW IN ALL THEIR HOLY GIFTS; AND IT SHALL BE ALWAYS UPON HIS FOREHEAD, THAT THEY MAY BE ACCEPTED BEFORE THE LORD.**

**EXOD 39:30-31**

**30 AND THEY MADE THE PLATE OF THE HOLY CROWN OF PURE GOLD, AND WROTE UPON IT A WRITING, LIKE TO THE ENGRAVINGS OF A SIGNET, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.**

**31 AND THEY TIED UNTO IT A LACE OF BLUE, TO FASTEN IT ON HIGH UPON THE MITRE; AS THE LORD COMMANDED MOSES.**

**The High Priest also wore a "coat" or tunic.**

**EXOD 39:27**

**27 AND THEY MADE COATS OF FINE LINEN OF WOVEN WORK FOR AARON, AND FOR HIS SONS,**

**EXOD 28:31-34**

**31 AND THOU SHALT MAKE THE ROBE OF THE EPHOD ALL OF BLUE.**

**32 AND THERE SHALL BE AN HOLE IN THE TOP OF IT, IN THE MIDST THEREOF: IT SHALL HAVE A BINDING OF WOVEN WORK ROUND ABOUT THE HOLE OF IT, AS IT WERE THE HOLE OF AN HABERGEON, THAT IT BE NOT RENT.**

**33 AND BENEATH UPON THE HEM OF IT THOU SHALT MAKE POMEGRANATES OF BLUE, AND OF PURPLE, AND OF SCARLET, ROUND ABOUT THE HEM THEREOF; AND BELLS OF GOLD BETWEEN THEM ROUND ABOUT:**

**34 A GOLDEN BELL AND A POMEGRANATE, A GOLDEN BELL AND A POMEGRANATE, UPON THE HEM OF THE ROBE ROUND ABOUT.**

**A girdle was worn to strengthen the loins for service.**

**EXOD 28:4**

**4 AND THESE ARE THE GARMENTS WHICH THEY SHALL MAKE; A BREASTPLATE, AND AN EPHOD, AND A ROBE, AND A BROIDERED COAT, A MITRE, AND A GIRDLE: AND THEY SHALL MAKE HOLY GARMENTS FOR AARON THY BROTHER, AND HIS SONS, THAT HE MAY MINISTER UNTO ME IN THE PRIEST'S OFFICE.**

**EXOD 39:5**

**5 AND THE CURIOUS GIRDLE OF HIS EPHOD, THAT WAS UPON IT, WAS OF THE SAME, ACCORDING TO THE WORK THEREOF; OF GOLD, BLUE, AND PURPLE, AND SCARLET, AND FINE TWINED LINEN; AS THE LORD COMMANDED MOSES.**

**Moses further told more about God's Plan of Salvation by telling his own story. He, himself, was a type of the Lord Jesus who, like Moses, would be the Deliverer for all mankind. Both the Tabernacle with all its fixtures and the garments of the priests with their significance were types of Christ. They were simply for the purpose of preparing the people for the coming of the One who would be the Passover Lamb and, at the same time, the One who would be the High Priest who would offer up the Eternal Sacrifice.**