

# Book of Hebrews

## Understanding the Tabernacle

*Hebrews 9:1-10*

### Details of the Tabernacle

*Hebrews 9:1-5*

#### Things to remember

*Exodus 40*

- The tabernacle was established as a part of the old or first covenant that God made with Israel on Mount Sinai.
- The tabernacle was a tent-like structure that was divided into two rooms, the holy place and the most holy place.
- The tabernacle did indeed picture the saving work of Jesus Christ, but we need to exercise caution and not try to interpret all the details of the tabernacle. We can only say what Scripture says about something. Scripture interprets Scripture (the Analogy of Faith).

#### Lampstand

- The lampstand was located in the first of two sections of the tabernacle called the holy place.
- The lampstand or menorah was a seven-branched lampstand made of gold that was kept lit day and night according to the Mosaic Law and stood on the south side of the holy place. *Exodus 27:20-21*
- The significance of the lampstand would seem to have some reference to the Holy Spirit. This association can be seen in *Zechariah 4:1-6*.

#### Table with Consecrated Bread

- The consecrated bread was placed on a table that stood in the holy place on the north side.. Twelve loaves of bread were placed on the table and arranged in rows of six each and replaced every Sabbath day. *Leviticus 24:5-9*
- The significance of the table and consecrated bread would seem to point to the twelve tribes of Israel, for they are the temporary unbelieving picture of the people of God.

#### Altar of Incense

- The altar of incense was made of pure gold and was put in the holy place on the west side just before the curtain that separated the holy place from the most holy place. *Exodus 30:1-10*
- In the book of Hebrews it is said that the altar of incense was place in the most holy place. We have no clear answer for this change of location.
- The significance of the altar of incense is most likely found in the fact that the burning incense might well be a picture of the prayers of God's people. *Revelation 8:4*

#### Ark of the Covenant

- The Ark of the Covenant was the golden box that was a picture of the throne of God. This was situated in the most holy place. *Exodus 25:10-22*
- Within the ark is placed the ten commandments which are called the tablets of the covenant since they summarize what is required in order to be accepted by the holy God of Israel. *Exodus 34:27-28*

## **Day of Atonement**

*Hebrews 9:6-7*

- The Day of Atonement was held once a year and the high priest would sacrifice two goats for the sins of the nation of Israel. One goat would be killed and his blood sprinkled on the Ark of the Covenant in the most holy place and the other goat would be led out into a lonely place and let go. *Leviticus 16*
- The sacrifice offered on the Day of Atonement was only for the sins that the Israelites committed in ignorance.

## **Temporary Nature of the Tabernacle**

*Hebrews 9:8-10*

- The tabernacle as a part of the Old Covenant was created only as a temporary picture of the saving work of Jesus Christ. *Hebrews 8:7-8,13, Colossians 2:16-17*
- The Old Covenant was created to prepare the way for the saving work of Jesus Christ. *Matthew 5:17-18, Galatians 3:23-25*

## **New Covenant Tabernacle or Temple**

*1 Corinthians 3:17, 6:19*

### **New Covenant Temple of the Holy Spirit (Singular)**

*1 Corinthians 3:16*

- The individual believer is described as the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- The changed life of the believer is the tangible evidence that our God is real. *2 Corinthians 5:17*

### **New Covenant Temple of the Holy Spirit (Plural)**

*1 Corinthians 6:19*

- The gathering of believers is described as the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- The changed life of the members of the body of Christ is clear evidence that our God is real.