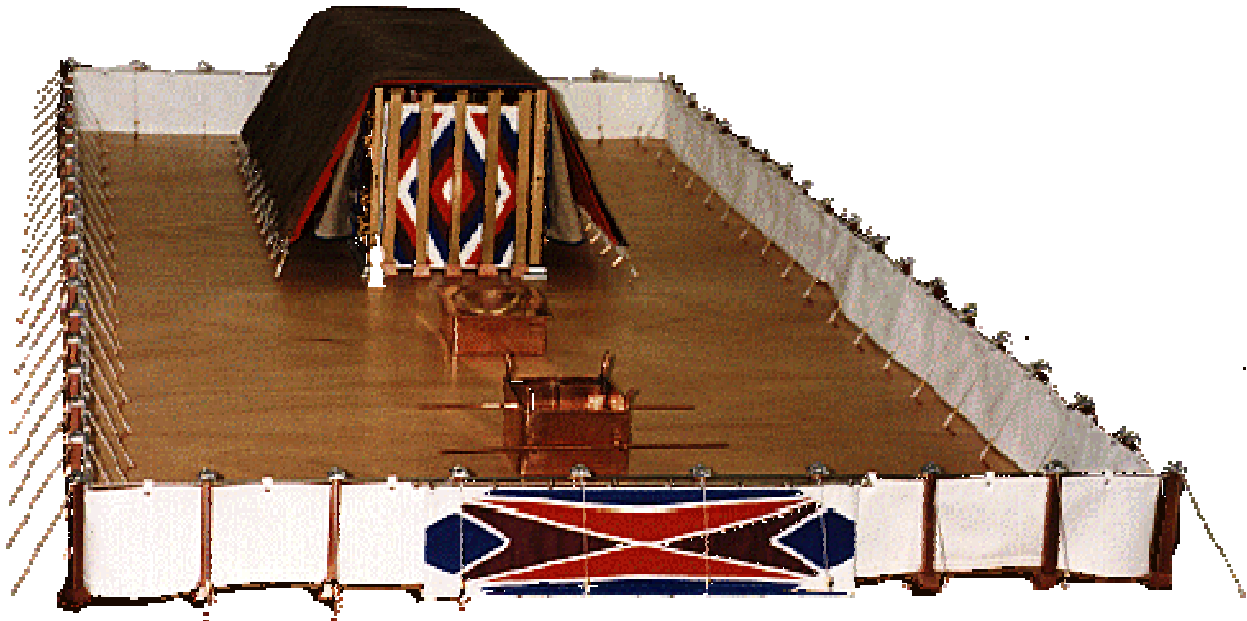


The Parable Of The Tabernacle In The Wilderness¹

<http://endofthisage.com/tabrnacl.html>



Some Bible scholars believe that the measurements of many of the places and objects, given by God, can represent the passage of time. Samuel Ridout made this assertion in his book "The Tabernacle of Moses" published by Bible Temple Publishing. He believes that the measurements of the Tabernacle, in its God given dimensions, are representative of the epoch of this world and the time man dwells here before the "new heaven and earth" are created. I believe he is correct.

The Tabernacle in the wilderness, was a structure which quite literally was God's Temple for Israel, before they had a nation in which to build the permanent temple. In this tabernacle, which was very meticulously laid out by God, Israel worshiped and sacrificed to the Lord. It was temporary, and was mobile. For forty years, while Israel wandered in the wilderness awaiting the day they would enter "the land of milk and honey", this tabernacle was God's temple. Every where they traveled, they took it with them. It contained the arc of the covenant, in which the presence of God physically dwelt with Israel. All of the temple ceremonies and temple objects, originated in this tabernacle.

That this tabernacle is a parable, a physical illustration of a spiritual truth, is clearly shown in the Book of Hebrews, "Seeing that the first tabernacle was a parable; ...". Hebrews 9:9

According to the Book of Revelations, the "outer court" of the temple is reserved for the Gentiles. I believe this is true of the "outer court" of the tabernacle as well. The outer court, I believe, is representative of the unsaved world, before the coming of Jesus as Savior. This area contains the Brazen (brass) Alter and the brass Laver. Brass is representative of judgement coming from the Law.

Within the tabernacle, was another structure. The Holy Place. The total of the measurements given by God for this part of the tabernacle (height X width X length) equals 2000 cubits. The measurement was given by God, to Moses, with the admonition to follow it exactly. I believe the Holy Place, represents the Church age after the first coming of Jesus, from the time of Christ's birth, to the year 2000 AD. I believe these two thousand cubits are the two thousand years of His Church age, beginning with His first coming, and ending with Jesus' second coming.

If we look at the contents of this room, we can also see some parables of the Church age. This room contains the Golden Lampstick (*Jesus, and Him in us, Is the Light of the World*), the Golden Altar of Incense (*the Church is to pray, praise and worship represented by the smoke of the incense*), and the Table of Shewbread (*the Church shares in the communion or eating of the bread, the Body of Christ.*). Through salvation, as the Church we have access into the very presence of the Lord. Through the Lord, in the Church we have already entered into "the Holy Place".

Within the "Holy Place", was one final structure. It is called the "Holy of Holies". The Holy of Holies is where the presence of God, the *Shekanah*, literally dwells. This was the room in which God limited access to only the high priest. For anyone else to enter meant certain death. I believe the contents of the Holy of Holies are also illustrative of the Millennial reign of Christ. This room contains The Arc of the Covenant, which is covered by the Mercy Seat. The Arc contains the Manna from Heaven, The Ten Commandments on stone, and Aaron's Rod which had budded. This is the room in the Tabernacle where literally "God dwelt with Israel".

¹ C:\My Documents\SCHOOLofLocalChurch\Lessons\21OldTestamentTypologies\Articles\Tabernacle2.doc

- **EXO 25:22** "And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel."

The total measurements of this room (height X width X length) is 1000 cubits. Within this room, literally dwelt the Spirit of God. Within this room, the Lord was with His people. I believe this "innermost room" represents Christ's 1000 year (millennial) reign on earth.

- **REV 20:4-5** "... And they lived again and ruled with Christ a thousand years. The remainder of the dead were not restored to life again until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection."

The entrances, the gate and doors, are also representative of our Lord Jesus. They are the only entrances into the Tabernacle. These doors, of which there was only One that enabled access into each inner room clearly represent our Christ. They represent the first and second coming of Jesus. Jesus clearly shows us this, when he states that He is the Door, the Gate, and the Way. Let me put it another way. There is no other entrance into the presence of our Father. Jesus is that entrance and we clearly see this represented in the tabernacle.

- **JOH 10:7** "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, *I am the Door* of the sheep."
- **JOH 14:6** "Jesus saith unto him, *I Am the Way*, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."
- **EPH 2:18** "For *through Him we both have access* by One Spirit unto the Father."

The first door is His first coming,. This is the only entrance to the first 2000 cubit room, the two thousand year church age, and provides access to the items therein. At the end of these two thousand years (cubits) He will come again as Messiah, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He will then be the second door, the entrance into the Holy of Holies, or the entrance into the very presence of God! This aspect of the parable can be clearly seen as prophetic in the book of Revelations.

- **REV 21:2** "Behold, *the tabernacle of God is with man*, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God!"

This clearly refers to the Millennial Reign described in Revelations, chapter 20! I believe that in the tabernacle, God has given us a picture of the period of time mankind is on *this earth*, and of God's plan for the redemption of His chosen people. In the temple bread was brought into the Holy of Holies and was placed on the tabernacle on every Sabbath (seventh day). As I have shown in the study, The Millennial Sabbath, I believe that we can look at the history of this world, since the fall of Adam, as millennial days. And I believe that we are currently at the very end of the sixth millennial day since Adam's fall. I believe we are about to enter the Sabbath, the Lord's Day, and that the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ, will return at the beginning of the 7th millennial day, around the year 2000 A.D.!

We can see another parable of measurement in a command God gave to Joshua. This command established the distance that God's people, Israel, were to keep between them and the Arc of the Covenant (the presence of God) while traveling in the wilderness. The people of Israel were to travel 2000 cubits from the Arc.

- **JOS 3:3-4** "Commanding the people: *When you see the Arc of the Covenant* of the Lord your God being borne by the Levitical Priests, set out from where you are and follow it. Yet a space must be kept between you and it. about 2000 cubits by measure...."

Now, look at this verse as a parable. The Arc, which contained the presence of God, represents Jesus. The people of Israel represent the Church, spiritual Israel. This verse can be compared to when we are called by Jesus to salvation. *When we see Jesus* being lifted up by men of God, we get up from wherever we are and *we follow Him* wherever He leads. Yet, even though we are Christians and can see Him before us, we are not yet "physically" in His presence. A space must yet be kept between us and His physical presence. **That space is 2000 cubits or, as I believe, the space of 2000 years!**