

- But at v.15 and beyond the narrative only mentions Joshua.
 - So we can safely assume Joshua stops somewhere along the way.
7. Moses waits up on the mountain for six days outside the cloud.
- On the seventh day the Lord calls Moses into the cloud on the seventh day.
 - The glory of God in the cloud is like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain.
 - Moses remains in the cloud for forty days and nights.
 - The number forty is a number of testing in scripture.
 - In this case, the test isn't for Moses.
 - The test is for the people, a test they will fail badly when we join them in chapter 32.
 - For chapters 25-31, we will study the description of the tabernacle and the priestly duties in the tabernacle.
8. The study will move fairly quickly through these chapters.
- We will look at the details long enough to get a good sense of the structure.
 - But our main focus will be on the ways the tabernacle reflect Christ and the Heavenly tabernacle.

Chapter 25

V. BLUEPRINT and CONSTRUCTION of tabernacle, Chapters 25 — 40 *(a pattern and picture of Christ)*

A. Blueprint for tabernacle — pattern of garments for high priest, 25 — 30

Verses 1 - 9...

Why does the Lord command Israel to build this structure?

1. It's purpose and function are intimately connected to the Law already given to Israel.
 - The covenant Israel now finds itself in demands perfection to the ordinances.
 - Those ordinances, including the first ten commandments, are strict and unforgiving.
 - Even one violation of these laws results in a breaking of the Covenant.
 - And the breaking of a covenant meant the death of the one who broke it.
2. So God provides for a place and a system by which Israel could address their sins under the covenant without facing destruction.
 - The terms of the covenant itself provided for this manner of atonement.
 - Were it not incorporated into the covenant, then there would have been no way to address the sin of the people.
 - Notice that even in the giving of the covenant itself, first came the Law, then the agreement, then a provision for the eventual sin.
 - God knew sin would come and was prepared to address it
 - So the tabernacle is a meeting place where God can dwell with men.
 - And men can address their sin under the covenant before God.
 - The opening of this chapter gives us a chance to note the supply for this project.
3. The material for God's house would come from the people
 - God tells Moses to take a contribution
 - The contribution will be from every man whose heart is moved
 - What will "move" their heart?

- Clearly, the Spirit will move men to provide for the work God intends to perform.
 - This has always been the way God works.
 - God’s work will never languish due to a lack of hearts motivated to support the work.
 - In fact, it’s fair to say that we might fairly determine where God is working by where hearts are being moved to support the work.
 - This is not a perfect rule, of course, because men may be prompted to fund works for other, ungodly reasons.
 - But if you are endeavoring to conduct ministry and that ministry depends on the provision of others, then match your work to the support you receive.
 - For it may be a fair measure of the Lord’s intentions.
4. In this case, the Lord desired to perform a significant work, one of great importance and wealth reflecting the glory of God.
- The list of materials is quite impressive.
 - And we will look at each in detail as we move through the construction.
 - In v.9 we have the most important clue to understanding the intricate descriptions of the tabernacle in the following chapters.
1. Everything we will study is a pattern...
- The tabernacle itself is built according to the pattern (or blueprint) that God is providing for Moses.
2. But the word also alludes to the way the tabernacle itself is a pattern or picture of others.
- First, it is a picture of Christ and His work of redemption.
 - You will be amazed at all the pictures of Christ contained in this structure.
 - We will look at them as we move through the details of the building.
 - Secondly, the tabernacle offers a pattern for salvation, for the way by which we may enter the Lord’s presence, and for many other details of His plan for redemption.
 - Included in the tabernacle are pictures of the Gospels.
 - Pictures of the Church.
 - Pictures of the Kingdom.
 - Thirdly, the tabernacle is a pattern of what stands in Heaven.
 - We will see how this small unimposing structure on earth mirrors a far greater structure in Heaven.
3. The tabernacle was, for its size, perhaps the most expensive building every constructed.
- It was remarkably small, barely the size of a modest bedroom and an average living room.
 - In fact, you will likely be surprised to learn how small most of the items in the tabernacle truly were.
4. Yet despite its modest size, it was constructed out of the most valuable materials of the day
- Some have estimated it cost \$2 million to build in Moses’ day.
 - This would be an extraordinary amount in today’s dollars.
 - The tabernacle is also a remarkable picture of Christ and God’s work of redemption through His Son.
5. Last week we heard the Lord tell Moses that he was to follow a precise pattern that the Lord would show Moses.
- Moses not only heard the instructions God gave him, Moses also saw an image of the finished building to guide him. (see v.40)

- When finished, the tabernacle itself became a pattern. [Heb. 9:8-9](#)
 - The word for symbol in v.9 means type or picture.
 - So the tabernacle was a symbol for a time, a symbol of Christ.
 - So as we study the construction of the tabernacle and it's purpose, we will also study the design of the tabernacle as a type, specifically a type of Christ.
10. A type is a divinely intended parallel between a lesser form and it's greater fulfillment.
- The building is so rich in details that it is easy to get carried away with typology and imagine everything to be a type of Christ.
 - While there may be many illustrations of Christ, there are only a few types identified in scripture.
11. For example, we know that Isaac is a type of Christ in the way he was taken up to a mountain to be sacrificed by Abraham.
- We know this because Hebrews 11 tells us so.
 - Because we know Isaac was a type of Christ, we might speculate that Abraham was a type of the Father in that story.
 - Since the NT never specifically calls Abraham a type of the Father, we should not call Abraham a type.
 - We can say that Abraham serves as an illustration of the way the Father sacrificed His Son.
12. Similarly, we will find many illustrations of Christ in the details of the tabernacle.
- And perhaps these are divinely-intended types of Christ, even though they are not called out in the NT.
 - But I will play it safe and only use the term "illustration" to describe my extended Comparisons.
 - Finally, it's worth noting that the pattern used to construct the tabernacle is itself based on another structure, a heavenly tabernacle.
13. The writer of Hebrews tells us this... [Heb. 8:1- 5](#)
- The design of the earthly tabernacle is based on the Heavenly one.
 - This heavenly tabernacle is a place that God - not man – erected.
 - So Israel is told to collect an offering from those who are moved (by the Spirit) to contribute to the building of the sanctuary.
14. And from these materials, Moses is to build a very unique structure for the Lord.
- There are three primary purposes for the building of tabernacle, according to scripture
 - 1st... the tabernacle is to be the dwelling place of God on earth during the dispensation of Law.
 - The Hebrew word for *dwelt* in v8 is *shakan*, from which we also get the word Shechinah.
 - The Shechinah glory of God is the visible presence of God among His people.
 - Since the fall of man in the Garden, God's presence has only been manifested for moments, in accordance with God's purposes to reveal Himself.
 - But now the Lord desires a physical place in which His Shekinah glory will reside continuously.

- The tabernacle was not the only place God's presence might be found on earth.
 - God is all spirit and therefore He can't be localized to a single place on earth
 - He is everywhere at all times.
- But the tabernacle was the one and only place where the Lord chose to manifest His glory to men on a consistent basis.
- In the Old Testament law, the nation of Israel was warned that if a man attempted to sacrifice to the Lord outside of the tabernacle, He would be punished.
 - [Lev. 17:3-4](#)
- In this detail, we find an illustration of Christ.
- The New Testament teaches that Christ is the one and only manifestation of the Father's glory on earth.
 - [Acts 4:12](#)
- The message in these requirements are clear: God sets the manner by which men may find Him.
 - Any attempt by men to seek God on their own terms or outside His provision will result in judgment.
 - Just as Christ is the only way to the Father, as Jesus said....
 - [John 14:6](#)

2nd ... The tabernacle was the Lord's sanctuary according to v.8

- The word sanctuary means a holy or a place set apart.
 - In this case, it is a place set apart from sin.
 - It is holy ground, made so by the very presence of the Lord's glory.
 - As when He told Moses that the ground on which Moses stood had become holy ground.
 - So the tabernacle was a place set apart from the sin of the world.
- This is also an illustration of Christ.
 - Christ was the sinless sanctuary of the Father on earth .
 - John says... [John 1:14](#)
 - The Greek word for dwelt is the same word for tabernacle.
 - Jesus was the glory of God tabernacling among His people.
 - And Paul says...[Col. 1:19](#)
 - All the fullness of the Father dwelled in Christ.
 - And John again...[1John 3:5](#)
 - Jesus was the sinless sanctuary of the Father.
 - Finally, the tabernacle is sometimes called the tent of meeting, for that was its third purpose

3rd ...The tabernacle became the place where God would condescend to meet with man

- The men of Israel gathered in the tent according to God's ordinances.
 - The tabernacle allowed Israel to draw near God through the High Priest of Israel, which interceded on behalf of the people.
- Once again, this is a type of Christ, as explained by the writer of Hebrews.
 - [Heb. 7:25](#)
- The very fact that God called for a tent rather than a permanent structure points to the temporary purpose of this structure.

- It was temporary because it was to be replaced by the work of Christ.
- Even the magnificent temple built by Herod was temporary, as Jesus alluded in speaking about the temple.

[Luke 21:5-6](#)

15. So now we begin to examine the details of this elaborate yet temporary structure, starting with the key pieces of furniture held within the tabernacle.
16. Altogether we will find seven pieces of furniture in the tabernacle, with some described here and others described later.
 - As we read the description of this item and the other furnishing to follow, let's notice the order of the items described.
 - The descriptions proceed outward from the most important part of the tabernacle, the Holy of Holies and with the most important furniture first, the ark at the center of the structure.
17. The point in ordering the descriptions in this way was to emphasize that God's presence was at the heart of the structure.
 - And everything else is connected to that presence.
 - Were God not present, the rest of the building would have no meaning or purpose.

Verses 10 - 22...

1. The first item described is the ark of the covenant
 - Like the rest of the structure, the ark itself was not very large but it was very ornate
 - The ark was made of wood and covered in pure gold.
 - It was about 3'9" long and only 2'3" wide and high.
 - And it had rings of gold on the corners.
 - The rings were used in conjunction with rods of acacia wood covered in gold to carry the ark.
 - The ark itself was never to be touched by human hands.
 - In fact, one time a well-intentioned Israelite dared to touch it.

[2 Sam. 6:4-7](#)
2. Inside the ark the Israelites eventually placed three items.
 - Here God tells Moses to place the testimony in the ark.
 - The testimony refers to the tablets holding the ten commandments, which represents the entire Law.
 - Notice that the tablets themselves must have been fairly small to fit in a space only 3.5' by 2'.
 - Later the Lord will instruct Israel to add a jar of manna and the budding staff of Aaron
 - All three of these elements picture Christ.
 - The sinless Christ who will judge all men according to the Law.
 - The bread of life that comes down from Heaven
 - The rejected branch that shoots forth from the stem of Jesse, returning from death to life.
 - On top of the ark was a lid.
3. This lid, called a mercy seat, was the most important place in the entire tabernacle.
 - It was made of pure gold (no wood for the lid)

- It was the place of propitiation, a word which means to satisfy the wrath of God.
 - Over the mercy seat, the High Priest sprinkled the blood of the goat on the Day of Atonement.
 - This act satisfied the wrath of God against the sin of Israel under the covenant.
4. But the Day of Atonement was not a permanent propitiation nor was it a propitiation for personal sin.
- It served to temporarily appease the wrath of God against the nation of Israel for their national sins under the Old Covenant.
5. But only the blood of Christ can fully satisfy the wrath of God against sin.
- And only by personal faith in Christ's propitiation can a person receive the forgiveness of God made possible by Christ.
6. This is why there are two days in the Jewish calendar when national sacrifices are made under the Law.
- First, there is the sacrifice of a lamb on Passover
 - The lamb symbolizes the innocence of Christ
 - Christ died without sin so that He could serve as an atoning sacrifice on our behalf
 - Secondly, there was the sacrifice of a goat on the day of atonement.
 - There are two goats: the scapegoat who is released from the city carrying the sins of the people and the one sacrificed on the altar.
 - The goat sacrificed symbolizes the wrath of God poured out upon a substitute.
 - This is why in scripture sheep and goats are the animals used to symbolize believers and unbelievers, respectively.
 - And Christ is pictured by both animals in different ways
 - Christ was both the innocent lamb and the condemned goat.
 - As Paul explains... [2 Cor. 5:21](#) [Gal. 3:13 -14](#)
7. So the mercy seat of the ark is a type of Christ's propitiation in the NT
- John says... [1John 4:10](#)
 - The Greek word for propitiation is the same word translated as "mercy seat" in [Heb 9:5](#)
 - So the mercy seat was the place where God's wrath was appeased, and it pictures Christ taking the wrath of God in our place... [Rom. 5:9](#)
 - On either end of the mercy seat are two gold cherubim with their wings outspread to cover the lid.
 - It would be here that the Shechinah glory of God appeared to Israel and spoke to the people.
 - It appeared in this small space above the lid and under the wings of the cherubim
 - The glory of God was the only illumination in the Holy of Holies, since the room had no other lamp and no windows.
 - Another illustration of Christ, Who is the Light of the world.
 - And in the world to come, the glory of God will illuminate the earth according to [Revelation 22:5](#).
8. This glory of God remained on the ark until the years before the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar.

- Ezekiel tells in chapters 8-11 of how the glory of the Lord first moved away from the Holy of Holies to the threshold of the temple illuminating the whole court yard.
 - Then it moved to entrance to the east gate, and it was surrounded by real cherubim.
 - Finally, it departs the temple altogether and moves briefly to the Mt of Olives.
 - The creatures attending to the Shechinah glory of God are called cherubim, and they are the highest form of spiritual creatures in the heavenly realm.
9. The Bible mentioned angels, seraphim and cherubim
- These beings play different roles in the heavenly realm and have different appearances
 - The angelic realm are messengers of God ministering to His saints, as Hebrews tells us
 - And contrary to Hallmark cards and Victoria Secrets catalogs, angels don't have wings
10. Seraphim are the next rank above angels
- They are only described in Isaiah 6.
 - They are seen ministering to the Lord around His throne and giving Him praise.
 - They have six wings.
11. Finally, the highest order of spiritual creatures are cherubim.
- They are described in detail in Ezekiel.
 - They are always associated with the appearance of God's Shechinah glory.
 - These creatures are entrusted with His glory.
 - The chief cherub was Lucifer, before he fell to become Satan
 - Perhaps this explains why Satan was so deceived to think he could be like God, since he was the closest to His glory.
 - Just as it required someone close to Jesus, Judas, to betray Him.
 - Together, the ark and the mercy seat tell an integrated story about Christ.
12. By His death and resurrection, Jesus is the giver of life.
- His sacrifice appease the wrath of God, making possible eternal life.
 - Jesus is the bread of life, like manna coming down from Heaven.
 - He is the glory of God, making possible the glorification of sinful men.
13. So the Holy of Holies represents Jesus as the Life of all men.

The next section describes furniture in the next room of the tabernacle, moving outward, that is the Holy Place

Verses 23 - 30...

Next in order of importance is the table of the shewbread or the Table of the bread of the Presence

1. This table was constructed like the ark, that is of acacia wood with gold overlaid on top.
 - It stood in the second chamber of the tabernacle, the Holy Place.
 - It was also quite small.
 - 3' X 1'6" X 2'3"
 - An average-sized coffee table.
 - All dish ware on it were made of gold.
2. It held a perpetual offering of bread, which the priests replaced every week.
 - The bread was stacked in two stacks of six cakes each.
 - The bread was called the bread of the presence, since it remained in the presence of God's glory.
 - At the end of each week, the old bread was consumed by the priests who served in that prior week.

3. The bread itself pictures Christ, Who is called the bread of life in John 6.
 - So the Holy Place is decorated by a symbol of Christ as the Bread of Life, referring to His life-giving word.... [Matt. 4:3-4](#)
 - Notice that the only food on the table for the priests of God was this bread.
 - No other food was provided.
 - Illustrating that the believer's spiritual diet should be the word of God exclusively
 - Next we find the second item in the Holy Place, the lamp stand.

Verses 31 - 40...

The lamp stand is described in this section

1. The lamp was the traditional seven branch menorah.
 - It was solid gold made of one piece and weighed about 75 pounds.
 - We can see a vivid depiction of what this lamp looked like by examining the famous Roman arch built to commemorate Titus' destruction of Herod's temple.
 - The lamp burned continuously, since it was the only source of light in the Holy Place.
 - No natural light could enter this place.
 - Only the light made available by the instructions of God filled the tabernacle.
2. By this we find another type or picture of Christ.
 - Jesus is called the Light of the world by John 1.
 - And in the Psalms we read... [Psa. 119:105](#)
 - Of course, Jesus is also called the Word by John, so Jesus is pictured by the light-given lamp as the word of God.
 - Together, the table of the presence and the lamp tell a common story about Christ.
3. Both the table with the bread and the lamp stand represent the word of God.
 - The word of God, which is our spiritual food, sustains and grows us spiritually.
 - And the word of God is the light that illuminates our walk of holiness, leading us into righteousness.
 - So the Holy Place represents Jesus Christ as the Truth.
4. There was one additional piece of furniture in the Holy Place, the table of incense, but it isn't covered until chapter 30.
 - The reason the table of incense appears later in the text is because it symbolizes a different meaning and isn't connect to the picture of Jesus as the Word of God.

Chapter 26

V. BLUEPRINT and CONSTRUCTION of tabernacle, Chapters 25 — 40 (a pattern and picture of Christ)

A. Blueprint for tabernacle — pattern of garments for high priest, 25 — 30

Verses 1 - 37...

This chapter describes the structure of the tabernacle itself.

The structure is measured in cubits, and a cubit is roughly 18” in length.

1. To give you an idea how small the tabernacle was, here are the dimensions.
 - It was 45 feet long
 - 15 feet wide
 - 15 feet high
 - The Holy of Holies was only 15 cubic feet, about the size of an average bedroom.
 - If you walk into a modern car parking lot and mark off four parking spaces arranged face to face, you have about the space the tabernacle occupied.
2. The entire structure was accessed through a single door, which is a type of Christ.
 - Jesus called Himself the door by which we find access to the Father.

John 10:9 “ *I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*

 - The entire structure rested on two sockets of silver.
3. There were one hundred sockets, each weighing about 100 pounds.
 - That’s 10,000 pounds of silver or 5 tons.
 - And the wall boards had pegs protruding from the bottom that fitted into these sockets.
4. This silver is collected in chapter 30
 - The amount collected per person was a very modest sum, but when all the children have contributed, the total equals five tons.
 - Here is what the Lord commands of Israel.

Verses 12 - 16...

1. God says that anytime you number God’s people, that census must be conducted in conjunction with the taking of atonement money.
 - Before anyone can be numbered as among God’s people, atonement must be made and a price must be paid for that person.
 - Each person must pay the atonement price.
 - No one can pay the price for someone else.
 - And the silver is called the atonement in Exodus 30.
 - So the tabernacle rests on silver, which pictures the atoning work of Christ’s blood, by which we may be called God’s people....**1Pet. 1:18-19**
 - And Paul completes the picture when he taught.

1Cor. 3:11 *For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

 - The walls were boards held together with five wooden rods covered with gold running horizontally through loops to hold the boards together.

2. The boards were made of acacia wood, known for being a type of wood that resists decay in the harsh desert heat.
 - On top of the wood was laid pure gold.
 - The whole inside of the tabernacle would have gleamed in yellow gold reflecting the light of the yellow flames of the lamp.
3. This construction of wood overlaid with gold is also an illustration of Christ.
 - The wood represented Jesus' #eshly body
 - It was born of the earth, out of the ground
 - Isaiah 53 again
 - Is. 53:2 For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,
And like a root out of parched ground;
He has no stately form or majesty
That we should look upon Him,
Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.*
 - And when Jesus died, his earthly body did not decay, like the acacia wood..[Psa. 16:10](#)
4. But the boards were also covered in pure gold, symbolizes divinity in scripture, hence the covering of gold throughout the design of the tabernacle.
 - But that gold covered wood.
 - Illustrating how Jesus was a man of flesh, but He was also a holy God.
 - Surrounding the outside walls were ten curtains of woven linen that were connected together to form a single unit that surrounded the walls.
5. The linen curtains were woven with colors of blue, purple and scarlet.
 - There were also images of cherubim in the fabric.
 - The colors are said to stand for the heavenly origin of Christ, the royal authority of Christ and the blood of His atonement.
6. There were ten curtains connected together into a single unit.
 - These curtains covered the gold boards and also formed the ceiling of the tabernacle.
 - They were draped across the top of the boards and down the outside walls.
 - Across the tops of these boards were draped three additional layers of materials to create a tent roof.
7. The second layer was woven goat hair.
 - Goat hair symbolize the sin offering of Christ on the cross.
8. The next layer was a ram's skin died red.
 - This skin was a reminder of the goat that died on the day of atonement for the sins of Israel.
 - And of course, it illustrates the sacrificial death of Christ and His red blood shed for the sins of men.
9. The outermost layer was an animal skin.
 - My translation says porpoise but others say badger skin.
 - The point was it was a waterproof layer.
 - It was relatively unattractive.
 - This is an illustration of Christ as well, since scripture tells He was a man of plain and unadorned looks....[Is. 53:2](#)

10. Because of the curtains draped down the outside of the boards, only the priests saw the inner fabric covering of the tabernacle.
- By this another illustration of Christ is formed
 - Unless you become a priest of God, you cannot see and understand the finer things of God.
 - All believers are priests, according to the NT.
 - Therefore, all believers have been granted access to the holy place and to know the things freely given of God... [1Cor. 2:12](#)
 - But to the unbeliever, who has not entered through the door and come to Christ, they can only see the plain outside appearance.
 - And they cannot appreciate the beauty and majesty of God in the face of Christ.
 - Finally, there was a veil constructed to separate the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place
11. This veil was made of the same three colors as the curtains.
- It was also decorated with cherubim.
 - The veil hung on a center wall constructed of four pillars of acacia wood.
 - This design would have made it impossible to remove the ark from the holy of holies without first dismantling the entire structure.
12. This veil is another picture of Christ from the NT.
- The Hebrews writer teaches that the veil was a partition between God and man signifying that the way to God had not yet been revealed to men. [Heb. 9:8](#)
 - But once Christ came and died, His atonement made a way available to everyone. [Heb. 10:19-20](#)
 - And therefore, upon His death we're told in the Gospels that the veil was rent from top to bottom.
 - From the top, signifying God's work, and to the bottom, meaning that it completely removed the division for men.
 - The way into the holy place has now been revealed.
13. So entry past the outer wall of the tabernacle symbolizes the entrance or way to find God.
- That way is obscured from the outside and can only be seen and appreciated by those who have been enlightened by the Spirit through faith.
 - The way is based on Christ's work to remove the separation between God and men created by our sin.
 - So standing back and looking at the construction of the tabernacle, we find a three part quality to Christ... [John 14:6](#)
14. The way to God is through Christ, the door leading into the holy place
15. The holy place is the truth, represented by the bread and lamp
16. And the holy of holies is the life, made possible by the atoning work of Christ.

Chapter 27

V. BLUEPRINT and CONSTRUCTION of tabernacle,

Chapters 25 — 40 (*a pattern and picture of Christ*)

A. Blueprint for tabernacle, 25 — 30

Today we are going to study the outer courtyard and one piece of furniture in the courtyard

- And we will learn about the priesthood
- Most of the priesthood duties are recorded in Leviticus
- But the garments and the consecrating of the priesthood are detailed in these chapters

Tonight we start with the brass altar...

Verses 1 - 8...

The altar was not designed in the way we tend to see altars today.

1. It was a square box made of wood overlaid with brass.
 - The box was 7.5 ft square and 4.5 feet high.
 - The corners of the altar had horns protruding outward.
 - Inside the box halfway down was a grate made of brass which sat under a ledge running around the inside of the altar.
 - The entire altar was carried using wood poles covered with brass.
2. The altar is often portrayed as sitting on raised ground.
 - There is no prescription in scripture for raising the altar
 - Yet it is a consistent feature of ancient descriptions
 - In fact, the word altar means “high place”
3. The design of the altar was specifically made for sacrificial animals to be placed within the box of the altar to be consumed by fire.
 - The fire was left burning continually on the grate
 - The grate was designed to ensure that oxygen reached the burning fire from underneath
 - The pieces of meat were placed on top of the coals and burned with the wood until they became ash.
4. The tools used to tend the fire and the altar were all made of brass as well.
 - There was a pails and shovels to remove the ashes from underneath the altar.
 - There were forks to position the pieces of meat on the fire.
 - There were basins to hold the blood of the sacrifice.
 - And a firepot to more hot coals inside the tabernacle to light the fire at the altar of incense.
 - The altar was positioned on the grounds of the tabernacle court directly in front of the entrance of the compound.
5. The fire in the altar was never allowed out for as long as the tabernacle stood.
 - And as the tabernacle was initially commissioned, the fire in the altar was first lit by God Himself, we’re told.
 - This same fire lit the fire in the altar of incense in the Holy Place.