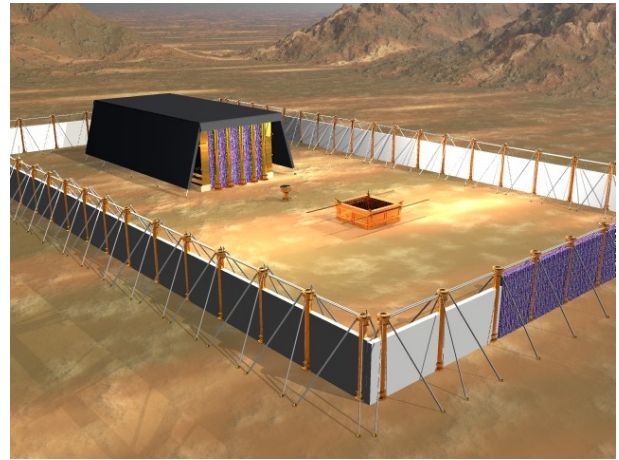


## Chapters 25 - 31 – Part 2

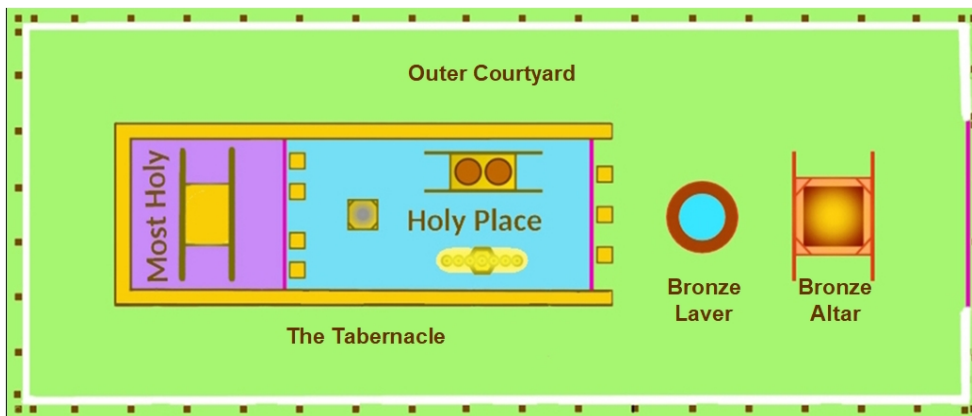
### JEHOVAH'S PLANS FOR THE SANCTUARY

#### Chapter 26 – the Tabernacle

Chapter 26 is difficult reading unless you're able to understand the various objects needed for the Tabernacle and visualize how they were used in its construction. So, before we delve into the details of this all-important structure, let's get a picture in our mind of the finished product – the Tabernacle “compound” shown on the right. Keeping this in mind will help us to better understand how everything we read about will fit together. I used the term “Tabernacle compound” to make the point that the actual “Tabernacle” is not the entire area – **only** that structure shown under the black roof. The rest is the “courtyard,” containing 3 items: the **Tabernacle**



(west end), the **Bronze Altar** (east end), and the **Bronze Basin** between them. The whole compound is not as large as you might imagine, being only 100 cubits long x 50 cubits wide (about 150 ft. x 75 ft.). As you look at the illustration above and the drawing below, picture half a football field – it's almost exactly that size. The “walls” of the courtyard (white lines in this drawing) are “hangings,” or



large curtains made of “***fine woven linen***” about seven and a half feet tall, and supported by 60 vertical bronze pillars with silver “***bands and hooks***” that fit into “***bronze***

***sockets***” (more on this later but represented by the dots outside the white lines in the drawing above).

Obviously, a flat area is sought on which to erect this compound because no floor is mentioned anywhere in the text.

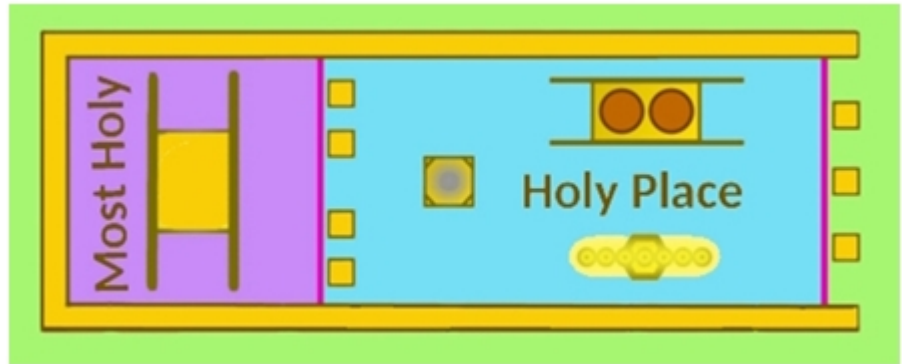
## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Ron Roberts

Lesson 17

The Tabernacle (represented below) measured 30 cubits by 10 cubits, which comes to about 45 ft. long by 15 ft. wide. Inside, it was divided into 2 parts: The Holy Place – about 30 ft. x 15 ft. (450 sq. ft.), and the Most Holy Place – about 15 ft. square (225 sq. ft.).

The “Holy Place” contained only three pieces of furniture: the **Table of Showbread** against the north wall, the **Golden Candlestick** directly opposite, against the south wall, and the **Altar of**



**Incense** on the west side, immediately in front of the curtain that separated the two rooms. Inside the Most Holy Place was only one item: **The Ark of the Covenant**. It is important to note that every time the Tabernacle compound was set up, it was always oriented so that the courtyard gate and the entrance to the Holy Place were facing the East!

We have already discussed the complexity and intricate detail that God mandated for these furnishings of the Tabernacle. Still to come are instructions for sewing the priestly garments, special curtains, and actually erecting the Tabernacle itself. The scripture tells us “*all manner of workmanship*” was required. And of course, our Lord made that distinguished quality of workmanship possible. Notice what is said regarding Bezalel and Aholiab, two men He “called” for this special honor. *“See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship. And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you: the tabernacle of meeting, the ark of the Testimony and the mercy seat that is on it, and all the furniture of the tabernacle — the table and its utensils, the pure gold lampstand with all its utensils, the altar of incense, the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base — the garments of ministry, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, to*

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Ron Roberts

Lesson 17

*minister as priests, and the anointing oil and sweet incense for the holy place. According to all that I have commanded you they shall do.”* (Exodus 31:2-11 NKJV)

Let's immerse ourselves in the description and building of the tabernacle while also making mention of the other things necessary to allow the entire compound to function as Jehovah intended. We will discuss these descriptions pretty much in the order they're given. Many descriptions are given twice — once when the instructions were laid out in chapters 26-30, and again when the actual building was carried out in chapters 35- 40 — but we will only discuss them once. The benefit of two separate descriptions is that the second provides some details not included in the first.

### The Curtains – Exodus 26:1 – 14

The first two verses of the text reads, *“Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim you shall weave them. The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits. And every one of the curtains shall have the same measurements.”* (Ex 26:1-2 NKJV) I suspect this high-quality linen was one of the gifts the Egyptians gave to the Israelites – and a lot of it. I googled “fine woven linen,” and found that it is made from the flax plant, and is one of the oldest textile fibers used to make cloth. The better fabrics came from ancient Egypt, and bolts of this linen cloth have been found in several of the pharaohs' tombs. Linen, of course, was the fabric with which they wrapped their mummies.

There is an ongoing debate over the meaning of *“artistic designs of cherubim.”* Some believe the Israelites were to weave the figures into the fabric with the three colors of thread while the fabric itself was being made. If that is true they would have needed looms and other accessories to produce the fabric from the flax. Of course the Lord could have provided those things, but it is stated the people had the linen and brought it and gave it to Moses.

It is also possible that the cherubim figures were already woven into the linen fabric when the Israelites received it, but that doesn't mesh with the phrase, *“with artistic designs of cherubim you shall weave them”* (Ex 26:1 NKJV) Actually, the Hebrew word for “weave” (or “make” in some translations) is the word **“asah”** and is defined in Strong's Hebrew dictionary as *“to do or to make –*

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Ron Roberts

Lesson 17

*in the broadest sense, and widest application.*” So, in reference to the curtains we are discussing, I believe Jehovah is telling Moses to take this “fine woven linen” (likely given to the Israelites by the Egyptians), then use the blue, purple and scarlet threads to “embroider” the cherubim into the cloth.

The three colors mentioned are often repeated in the Old Testament, usually “ranked” in that same order: blue, purple, and scarlet. Henry Soltau, in 1862 wrote: *“Blue ranks preeminent! It attracts without dazzling the eye. It is seen spread over the expanse of heaven. When the thunder-clouds veils the sky, and the storms rage the blue of the sky is concealed, but it will reappear as a sure presage of the returning calm! It is a heavenly color and closely linked with Gold.”* (From his book **“The Tabernacle, the Priesthood and the Offerings”**)

Purple usually represents royalty, or majesty. High officials often wore this color to convey their importance. It is also a symbol of prosperity and luxury. Scarlet has long symbolized wealth and power, both politically and religiously, since ancient Bible times.

Did you notice the size of these 10 curtains – all identical? They were to be 4 cubits wide and 28 cubits long – that’s 6 ft x 38 ft! (Some commentators even say the embroidery is to be the same on all ten curtains, but I don’t find that spelled out in the text.) I think we can all agree these are not your standard living room curtains meant to hang over a picture window. So, what was their purpose? Looking at the image at right, you will see the tabernacle appears to be “draped” with a huge blanket that not only acts as the “roof,” but also shrouds the rear and the two sides. That covering is actually four different layers of “curtains” specifically made for the purpose of covering the tabernacle.



The ten curtains we just read about will form the first of four layers. They are what you would see if you were inside the tabernacle looking up – the “ceiling” of both rooms of the tabernacle. Hence, the artistic designs of cherubim embroidered with “royal” thread. Before we discuss this first layer in depth, let’s mention the other three:

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Ron Roberts

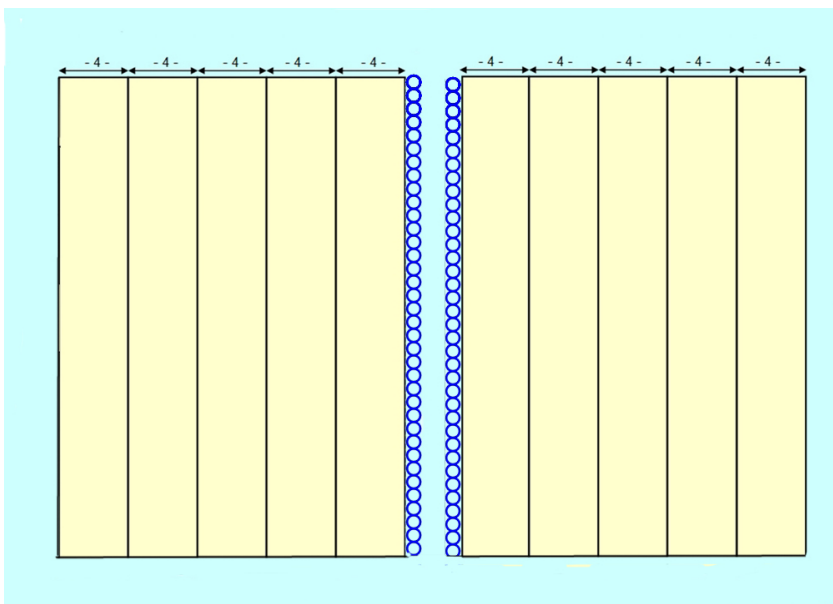
Lesson 17

**Layer 2** – a curtain made of goats’ hair to give the “roof” its strength. Some nomads still use goats’ hair because when spun into strands and then woven together, it becomes stiff and strong, albeit susceptible to the weather. Of course, Jehovah had a plan to deal with that.

**Layer 3** – a curtain made of ram skins dyed red, to protect the goats’ hair layer. Some commentators believe this was more symbolic than protection from the sun and weather. They compare the “protective covering” of the blood of Jesus to this dyed layer. Additionally, they see His death – the sacrifice for mankind’s sin – symbolized by the rams that were sacrificed to provide the protecting cover of this layer. Whether that’s true we don’t know, but we do know that this layer covered the previous one.

**Layer 4** – the outermost, made from badger skins. Badger skin is extremely tough, able to stand up to the ever-changing desert weather and blowing sand, because remember... this tabernacle was used for almost 600 years with no mention of any repair work being done to it. We do see repairs made to the “House of God” in 2 Kings, but that is speaking of the temple.

Back to the first layer: Exodus 26:3 tells us ***“Five curtains shall be coupled to one another, and the other five curtains shall be coupled to one another.”*** (Exodus 36:10 repeats this.) In the illustration below, I “sewed” the ten together into two “sets.” We aren’t told if this is how the “coupling” was done, but I assume so. This produces two sets of curtains, each 20 x 28 cubits.



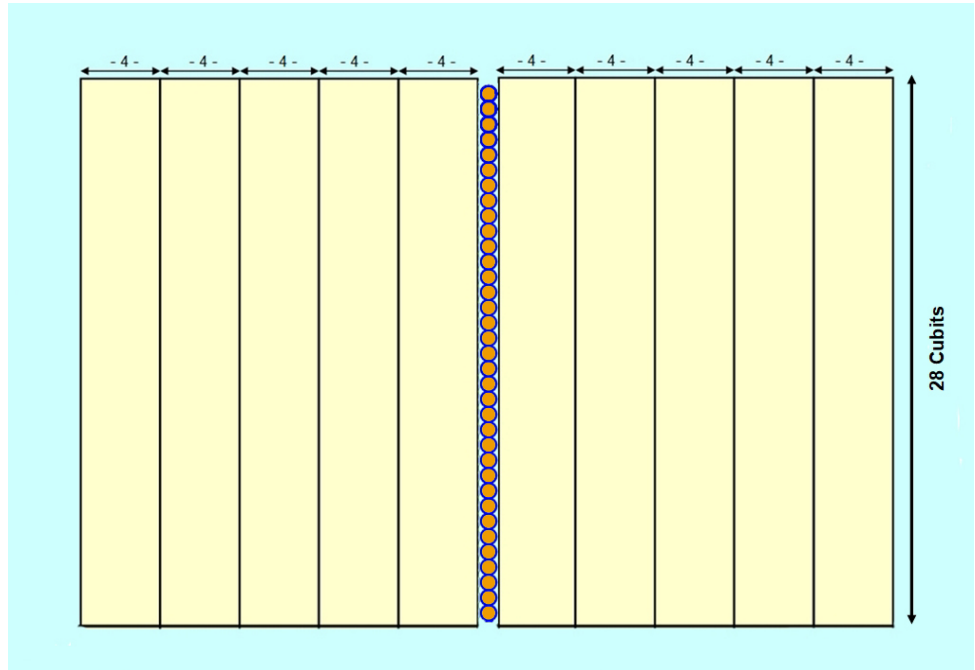
Exodus 26:4 says, ***“And you shall make loops of blue yarn on the edge of the curtain on the selvedge of one set, and likewise you shall do on the outer edge of the other curtain of the second set.”*** The two rows of blue circles in this drawing represent those 50 “loops” being sewn to the selvage of each set of panels.

# A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

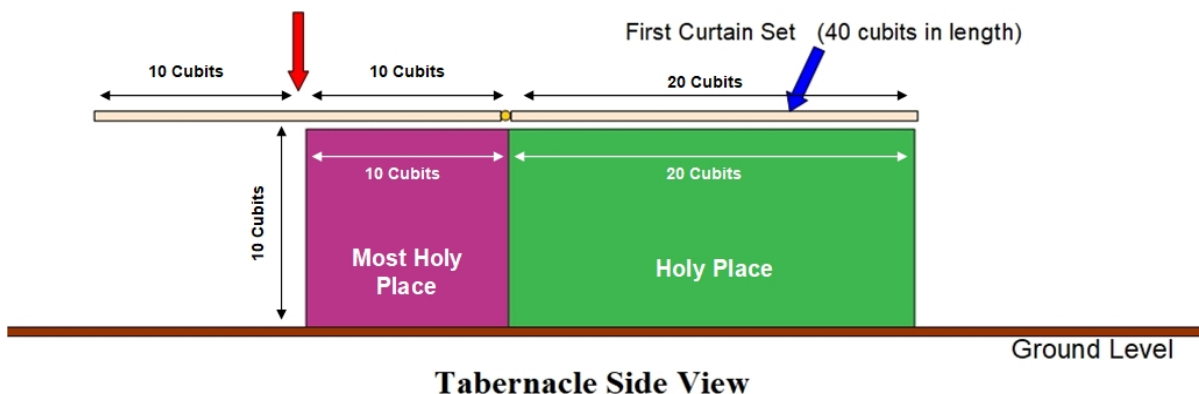
Ron Roberts

Lesson 17

According to Exodus 26:6 *“And you shall make fifty clasps of gold, and couple the curtains together with the clasps, so that it may be one tabernacle.”* While my “clasps” in the drawing below don’t look so much like gold, you do see how they have been fit through the loops (like buttons) and have connected the blue loops of one set of panels to the other, forming one rather large curtain. It will measure 40 cubits by 28 cubits, and resemble this image, only with the embroidered cherubim.



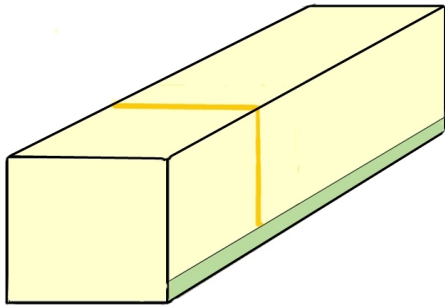
When it is draped over the tabernacle it forms the “ceiling” of the tabernacle. (Remember, the dimensions of the tabernacle are **30 cubits long, 10 cubits wide and 10 cubits tall.**) The drawing below depicts how that was done with a side view of the tabernacle. The blue arrow points to the finished curtain as a flat piece of material held above the tabernacle centered widthwise, and the gold clasps directly over the veil that will separate the two rooms. Once the curtain is allowed to drape over the two sides and the back of the tabernacle, the end of the curtain beyond the red arrow will almost touch the ground, and both sides would also be draped to within 1 cubit of the ground.



## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Ron Roberts

Lesson 17



The figure on the left depicts the tabernacle after the first curtain has been allowed to “drape over” this west end and both sides. Of course, there would be folds at each of the two back corners, but I wasn’t able to illustrate that. That green area at the lower part of the side represents the one cubit that remains uncovered (on the two sides). The gold “band” represents those 50 gold clasps holding the two sets of curtains together. Nothing will drape over the front of the tabernacle. A veil will be sewn to close the front and another to separate the two rooms inside.

Now that we understand how the ten curtains came together to become the first layer of the covering, we are given the instructions for the second layer in Exodus 26:7-13. This one is made very similar to the first, only a bit larger so as to completely cover the first – 30 cubits instead of 28 allows the sides to hang all the way to the ground. Notice the slight ways in which this curtain differs from the first:

1. The material is goat hair – for strength rather than beauty.
2. The clasp joining the two sets of curtains is bronze rather than gold – also, for strength.
3. Two cubits are added to the length of each curtain.
4. Five curtains are coupled together in one group and six in the other, for 11 curtains instead of 10 “... *and you shall double over the sixth curtain at the forefront of the tent.*”, making the front edge of that layer twice as thick.

And to finish the instructions for this second layer: *“The remnant that remains of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remains, shall hang over the back of the tabernacle. And a cubit on one side and a cubit on the other side, of what remains of the length of the curtains of the tent, shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle, on this side and on that side, to cover it.”* As I mentioned above, a veil will be sewn to drape over the front. A second veil will serve to separate the two rooms inside.



## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Ron Roberts

Lesson 17

The instructions for the third and fourth layers are very similar to the first two. ***“You shall also make a covering of ram skins dyed red for the tent, and a covering of badger skins above that.”***



(All repeated in Exodus 36:19) Notice the image on the left (in “cutaway” style so as to make all 4 layers viewable) suggests how the curtains would have been anchored. I believe at least the top two coverings were anchored more closely against the tabernacle than is portrayed by this image – in order to withstand the wind and weather.

### The Walls for the Tabernacle – Exodus 26:20 – 34:

***“And for the tabernacle you shall make the boards of acacia wood, standing upright. Ten cubits shall be the length of a board, and a cubit and a half shall be the width of each board. Two tenons shall be in each board for binding one to another. Thus you shall make for all the boards of the tabernacle. And you shall make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards for the south side. You shall make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards: two sockets under each of the boards for its two tenons. And for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, there shall be twenty boards and their forty sockets of silver: two sockets under each of the boards. For the far side of the tabernacle, westward, you shall make six boards. And you shall also make two boards for the two back corners of the tabernacle. They shall be coupled together at the bottom and they shall be coupled together at the top by one ring. Thus it shall be for both of them. They shall be for the two corners. So there shall be eight boards with their sockets of silver—sixteen sockets—two sockets under each of the boards. And you shall make bars of acacia wood: five for the boards on one side of the tabernacle, five bars for the boards on the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle, for the farside westward. The middle bar shall pass through the midst of the boards from end to end. You shall overlay the boards with gold, make their rings of gold as holders for the bars, and overlay the bars with gold.”*** (NKJV)

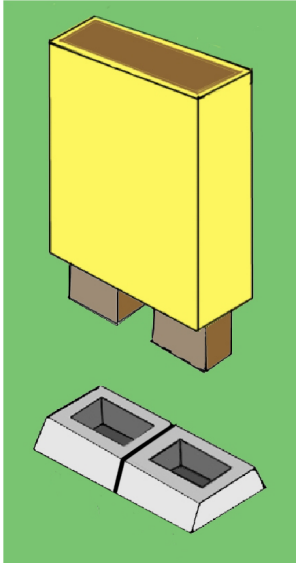


## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Ron Roberts

Lesson 17

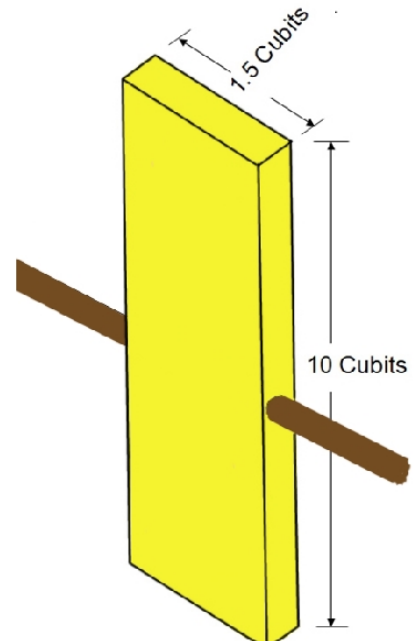
The acacia boards (a wood chosen for its ability to stand up to the wear induced by multiple assemblies and disassemblies) were to be covered with gold and stood on end side by side. We are not told the thickness of these 10 cubits long by 1.5 cubits wide boards, but there are clues that point to the boards being rather thick. The first clue is in Exodus 36:22, where it is said: ***“each board will***



***have two tenons”*** that fit into “sockets,” as illustrated in the drawing on the left showing a short section near the bottom of one of the boards. You can see that each board ( brown = acacia wood) is covered with gold, and at the bottom two “tenons” fit into two “sockets” made of silver (shown under the board). I can attest to the fact that modern “mortise and tenon” construction produces extremely strong joints. In fact, once glued, the wood would break before the joint would come apart. But, of course, no glue is used here.

These “tenon & socket” joints will be assembled and disassembled many times over the next 40 years and beyond, so two-inch thick tenons would break if a strong wind hit the board face-on. Therefore, I believe the tenons were 3 to 4 inches thick, which would mean the board must have been closer to 6 inches thick. I also believe the width of each tenon was probably 5 or 6 inches since each board was a cubit and a half wide (about 18 inches) and there were two tenons on each board.

**The second clue** in regard to the thickness of the boards is illustrated on the right. One of the “rods” made of Acacia wood was to run through the middle of the boards – not attached to the face of the board, but it ***“shall pass through the midst of the boards”*** – to keep the boards exactly aligned and provide a smooth wall. For this rod to be strong enough to do its job, I suspect it must have had a diameter of two to three inches before being overlaid with gold. In my opinion, this is a further indication of the thickness of the boards I suggested above.



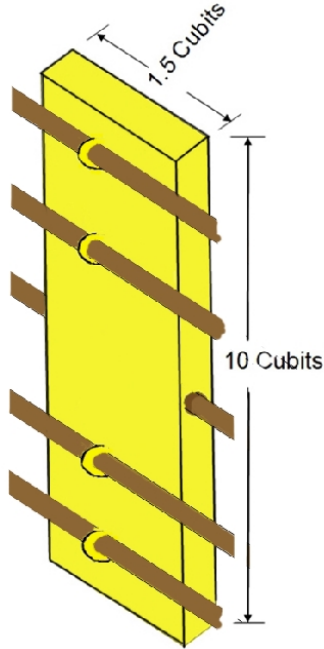
Furthermore, in verses 31 - 34 we see there were an additional four rods running through gold “loops” attached to the outside face of the boards to keep the alignment tight from top to bottom. I have tried to illustrate that

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Ron Roberts

Lesson 17

in the drawing below on the left. These rods were also overlaid with gold, but I did not indicate that in my illustration.



Keeping in mind that this was to be a portable structure, let's discuss the weight of these wooden pieces. Today, an eight foot long fir or spruce 2 x 4 (a typical wall stud which actually measures closer to 1 5/8" x 3 1/2") weighs very close to 10 pounds. These boards were much bigger than that. In round figures they were almost 24 inches wide and 15 feet long. I consulted the *Standard Dimensional Lumber Guide* to try to ascertain their weight, but acacia wood was not listed. I used instead, the figures for oak. So, if they had been made from oak, and if I'm correct in assuming they were about 6 inches thick, each board would weigh around 612 pounds! And of course, that's just the wood, so we must also take into account the gold overlaying the boards. So, in my opinion, a conservative guess for the weight of each

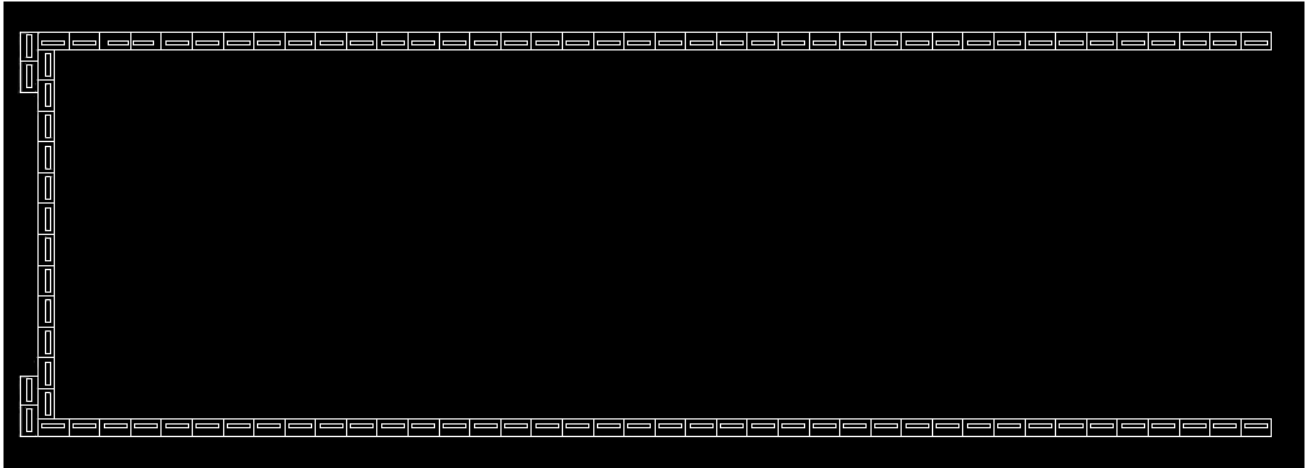
board would be about 650 pounds.

There are 48 boards, so  $48 \times 650 = 31,200$  lbs: a little over fifteen and a half tons! Let's not forget the two sockets per board (Exo. 36:26), each made from one talent of silver. In the Old Testament the term "talent" does not mean "value" like it does in the New Testament, but rather, it is a measure of weight. That weight varies from 75 to 100 pounds, depending on the time frame, but using the most conservative weight of 75 pounds would mean a total of 150 pounds of silver (2 sockets per board) was keeping the bottoms of each board in alignment. With 96 total "sockets," that comes to 7,200 lbs. or a little over 3.5 tons for the "sockets." Not counting the rings, poles, loops, etc., but just the wood, the gold and the silver we are talking about 19 tons for just the weight of the walls of the tabernacle! In the past when I have laid out these weight calculations, I've been told it just isn't possible that the Israelites could have carried that much weight. I suspect the doubters are forgetting the two kinds of wagons mentioned in Numbers 7 and, even more importantly, the fact that Jehovah was in charge of this transport... and with Him all things are possible. At the top of the next page you will see a drawing showing the sockets laid out for the erection of the tabernacle.

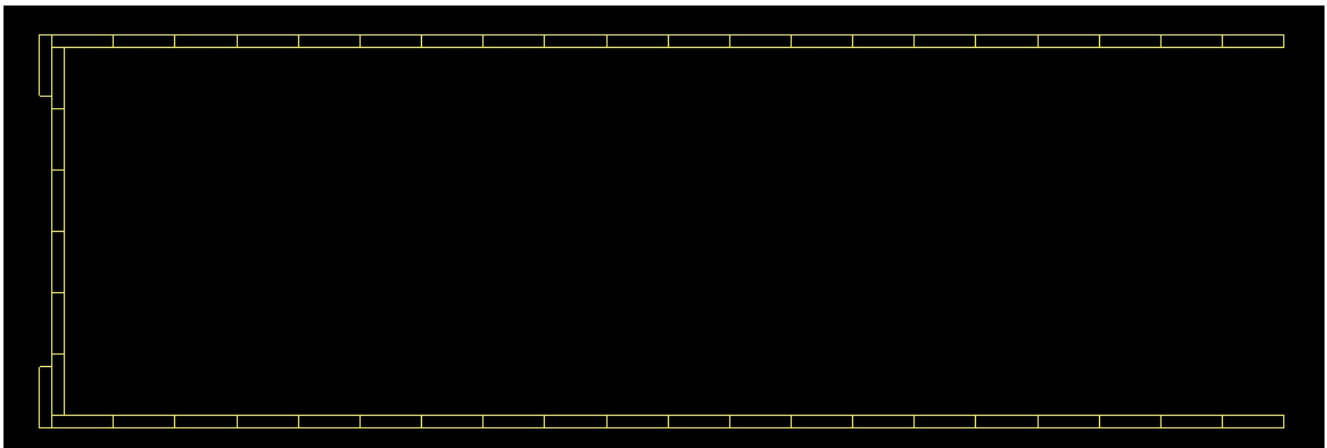
## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Ron Roberts

Lesson 17



As you might guess, the wording in these chapters lends itself to various, differing understandings of how these items were made, and how they all came together. I typically use the original 1611 King James Version, which many view as the most accurate and correct rendering of the original Hebrew text. Accompanying that text with Strong's Hebrew/English dictionary and other reference books, I have come to the conclusions I've described in this lesson, hoping they are at least close to correct. The image below shows the layout of the boards, and I am comfortable with this layout in regard to the back of the tabernacle having eight boards while still being only 10 cubits wide. As you can see, the two "extra boards" are positioned behind the corner boards, overlapping in such a way to further strengthen the corners.



Shown at the top of the following page is one of the better examples I found showing how the finished tabernacle looked on the inside: notice the absence of rugs or covering for the desert earth. In

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Ron Roberts

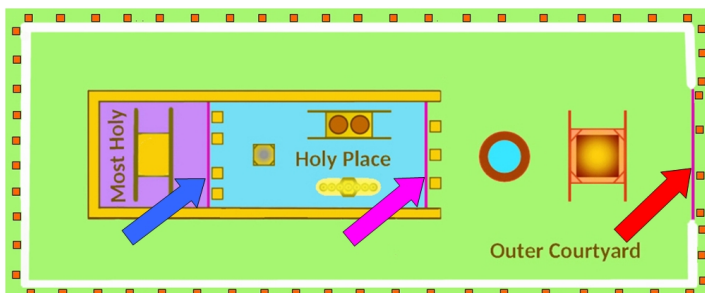
Lesson 17



the Holy Place the table of showbread can be seen against the north wall with the candlestick opposite it. The high priest is seen standing near the Altar of Incense, which is centered on the curtain separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. The only piece of furniture in the Most Holy Place is the Ark of the Covenant centered in the room. Even as good as this image is there are blatant errors. From what we've learned so far, can you spot them? I will mention three in the next lesson, but rest assured there are more than that.

### The Veils – Exodus 26:31 – 37:

There were three artistically beautiful, colored curtains in the tabernacle compound as indicated in the drawing below by colored arrows. If we were to rank them by importance from most to least, we



would begin with the blue arrow – separating the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place, then the pink – covering the entrance to the Holy Place, and lastly the red – serving as the entrance to the tabernacle proper.

Let's discuss them, though, in reverse order, all while keeping in mind their actual purpose. While I'm sure they were admired for their beauty, their purpose was to separate. The Hebrew word rendered "*veil*" in some bible versions,

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

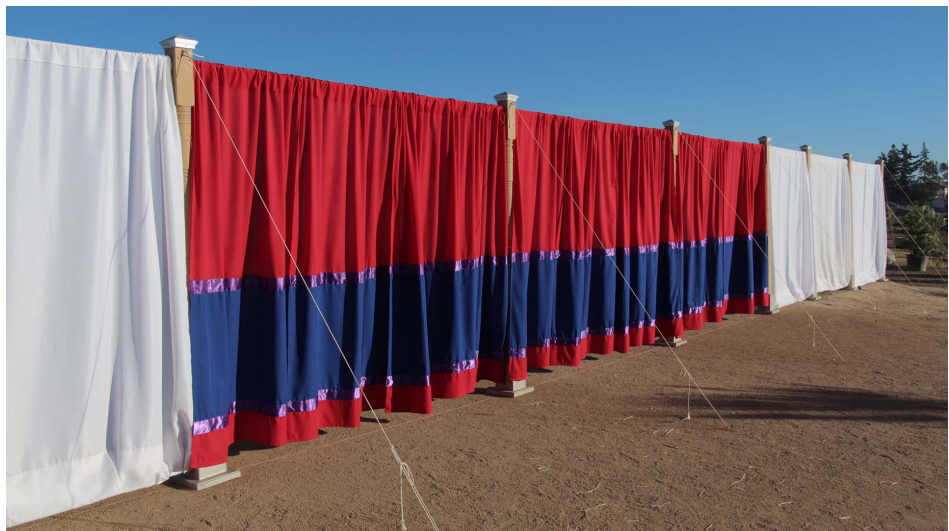
Ron Roberts

Lesson 17

**“curtain”** in others, and even **“gate”** in a few versions, is **“poreketh”** and according to Strong’s dictionary literally means a *“separatrix,”* or a *“screen.”* These veils, then, served as “doors or barriers” between God and man. Obviously, you can’t lock or secure a curtain, but as far as the Israelites were concerned, when these curtains were drawn, it was as if this area was locked up tighter than a vault. They would not have attempted to enter.

As I said, let’s begin with what the Israelites saw from outside the courtyard. The text reads: ***“For the gate of the court there shall be a screen twenty cubits long, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. It shall have four pillars and four sockets.”*** (Exodus 27:16, NKJV) So, as they approached the entry into the tabernacle compound – the “gate” that allowed entry into the outer courtyard was easily seen. Regardless of whether or not this image is 100% correct, it is

obvious that the brightly colored, 30-foot long, and almost 8 foot tall curtain stood out from the remaining white linen curtains on all the other sides of the courtyard!



Everyone – from the high priest to the common person coming to offer a sacrifice – entered and left through this gateway. We are not told enough to say much more, but like all the other elements of the tabernacle, this east gate of the court was rich with meaning, which we will discuss later. [The image you see above is a screenshot from a video I found of a life-size model of the tabernacle compound. Unfortunately I don’t know who to credit.]



## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Ron Roberts

Lesson 17



The two remaining veils that hung in the tabernacle proper are both shown in this image (one of many seen on the internet).

The veil that hung at the front of the tabernacle and served as the entry into the Holy Place is the predominately blue front curtain in this image, supported by five gold “pillars.” This “screen” separated the Holy Place from the outer courtyard.

Of course, the most important one is the veil covering the entrance to the Most Holy Place. It is shown in this image as having three “heavenly images” (cherubim) woven into it and being supported by four gold “pillars.”

Notice the five gold pillars at the doorway into the Holy Place are supported by 5 Bronze “Sockets,” whereas the four gold pillars that support the veil into the Most Holy Place are supported by four Silver “Sockets.” All three of these strategically placed veils were made of fine-twined linen with the same three colors of “twisted thread” (blue, purple, and scarlet) embroidered into artistically beautiful designs. As previously stated, experts don't agree on the designs embroidered on the three curtains. Many believe all were cherubim; others just refer to them as “heavenly creatures,” which certainly includes cherubim but may not refer to them exclusively.

NOTE: Since we truly do not know what those veils looked like, all the images I have used in this lesson are mere suggestions just to give us an idea and a mental picture to work with.

As you may already know, **only priests** could enter the Holy Place, and even they could not enter until they had offered the proper sacrifice on the Bronze Altar and washed at the Bronze Laver. The only human allowed into the Most Holy Place was the High Priest – the



## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Ron Roberts

Lesson 17

highest ranking priest – and even he could only enter once a year on the “Day of Atonement.” His purpose for entering into the presence of Jehovah was to present the Blood Offering. The blood was to be placed on the Mercy Seat as a substitute – atonement – for his own sins as well as the sins of the people.

Woven into this veil that guarded the entrance to the Most Holy Place were the artistic figures of cherubim. Many believe there were three – as seen in the image on the previous page – and they symbolically represented the cherubim guarding the entrance into the Garden of Eden after Adam & Eve were evicted, even though Genesis only records two cherubim and one flaming sword.

As we close this lesson with the image of the Tabernacle first erected in the desert all those centuries ago fresh in our mind, let's jump ahead to a similar image, and a story very familiar to all of us.

Much later in history – in what has become known as “Herod's temple” – the New Testament speaks of another veil, one which also served as a “veil of separation.” This one, however, represented the separation of Jews from everyone else. Under the Law of Moses, only Jews could call themselves “God's people,” but under the Law of Christ, anyone who has believed on Him could consider himself in that category of the “elect”.

Jesus came to earth to “deliver” this new law for everyone. He took on the restrictions of humanity while yet maintaining His divinity. His glory as the Son of God came to its peak at the moment He died on the cross of Calvary. We are told in Mark 15 that at the very same moment as Jesus drew His last breath, and expired, the veil that hung in Herod's Temple – that “veil of separation” – split right down the middle! According to Josephus, that veil was seventy feet wide, thirty feet long, and four inches thick. No amount of human strength could have torn it like the power of the Almighty did when He did away with that Old Law on that all-important day!

Religiously, time stood still until the third day, that Sunday morning, the first day of the week – when Jesus' tomb was found empty! He had overcome death itself and proven that He was, in fact, The Son of God! And from that point in history – everything changed.

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Ron Roberts

Lesson 17

The separation that God demanded in the Old Testament: three veils... three levels of access... was all taken away. No longer do we need to report to a tabernacle or a temple to receive forgiveness of sins through animal sacrifice. Now we look to the cross of Calvary where the ultimate sacrifice was made.

*“For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”*

(Hebrews 9:24–28 NKJV)