

THE TABERNACLES- GENERAL STUDY (PART - I)

Reading : Exo. 25-31

Memory verse : Exo. 25:8

Theme : To learn the New Testament truths present in the wonderful construction of the Tabernacle and worship the Lord in truth and in Spirit.

Study aids : A model and drawings of the tabernacle.

Introduction : Don't you go to prayer halls on Sundays? Why do you go there? Where did Israel go to worship God and offer sacrifices? Who built the first Temple in Jerusalem? Where did they worship before that? The Tabernacle was made as the worship place by Moses according to the plan shown by God on Mount Sinai. We are going to study about that institution which stand as a shadow for many spiritual truths.

IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT

God delivered Israel from Egypt in order to enable them to worship Him (Exo.7:16). He opened a way for them to go into His presence and worship Him through the Tabernacle. Moreover, God selected the Tabernacle as His dwelling place. The study of the Tabernacle is important to believers who are called out to worship the Lord in truth and in spirit.

MEANING OF THE NAME AND ITS OTHER NAMES

Tabernacle is also known as the Tent of Meetings to gather together or to meet face to face. If an Israelite wishes to go to the presence of God, he has to go to entrance of the tabernacle (Exo.25:21,22). We see the beautiful picture of Jesus Christ here. One has to come to Christ to approach and worship God. Man meets God only in Christ (John 14:6).

Let us see the other names used in the scriptures for the Tabernacle:

1. Tent of Meeting : Exo.29:42
2. Tent : Exo. 26: 9
3. Tent of the Lord : 1Kings 2: 28
4. House of the Lord : 1Chro. 9:23
5. Temple of the Lord : Exo.23:19
6. Tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting : Exo. 39: 32; 1 Chro. 6: 32
7. Tabernacle, the House of God : 1Chro. 6: 48
8. Tabernacle, the Tent of the Testimony : Num.9:15
9. Holy place : Exo. 28: 29

All the above names declare that Tabernacle is where god dwells and man can enter into the presence of God through it.

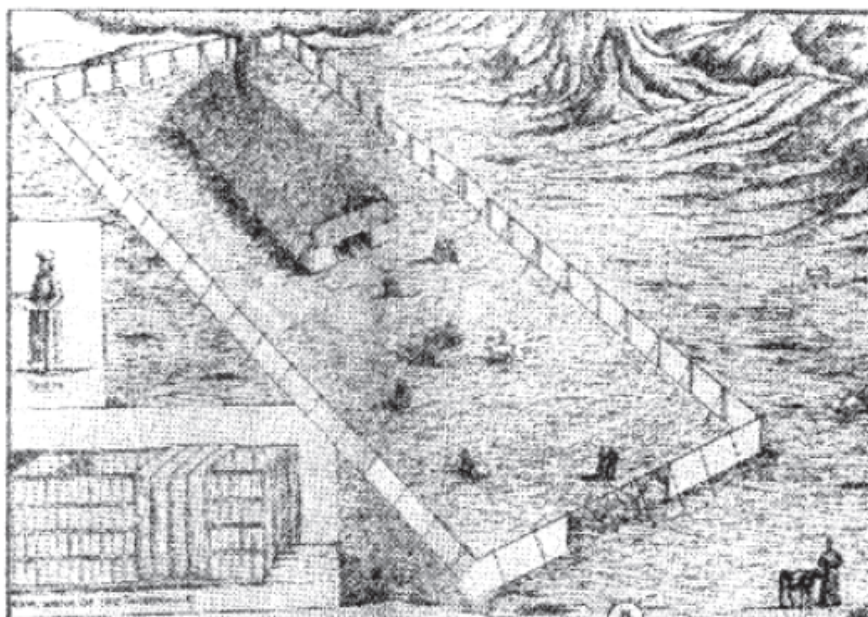
Structure of the Tabernacle:

A clean place, 100 cubits (150 feet) long and 50cubits (75 feet) board is selected to install the Tabernacle. The place is divided in to three sections: Courtyard, Holy place and Most Holy place. The Tabernacle consisting of the Holy Place and the Most Holy place stands on the west side facing east. Then open space outside the Tabernacle is the Courtyard in which the altar and the bronze basin are kept. The Tabernacle itself is 30 cubits (45 feet) long and 10 cubits (15 feet) broad and 10 cubits (15 feet) high. At its east side hangs a curtain made of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn. The other three sides are enclosed by acacia (Shittim) wood. The west end is the Most Holy Place and the remaining portion is the Holy Place. The curtain separating the Holy place and the Most Holy Place is made of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn with cherubim worked into it by a skilled craftsman. The Most Holy Place is 10 cubits long, 10 cubits broad and 10 cubits high. Inside the Most Holy Place is kept the Ark of the Covenant covered with gold and containing the gold jar of Manna, Aarons staff that budded and the stone tablet of the Covenant. The Throne of Grace covered by cherubims of glory is placed over the lid of the Ark. The Table of shewbread and the Altar of incense are placed in the Holy Place, which measured 20 cubits in length, 10 cubits in breadth and 10 cubits in height.

WOODEN BOARDS COVERING THE TABENACLE

There are 48 boards covering the Tabernacle: 20 each in the north and south sides, six on the west side and 2 at two corners on the west side. Each board covered with gold has two tenons

(Projections) and two silver sockets (bases) underneath. The boards are held together by five bars made of acacia wood covered with gold passing through golden rings fixed on the boards. The middle bar is long enough to reach from end to end and the other bars holds together only two adjacent boards.



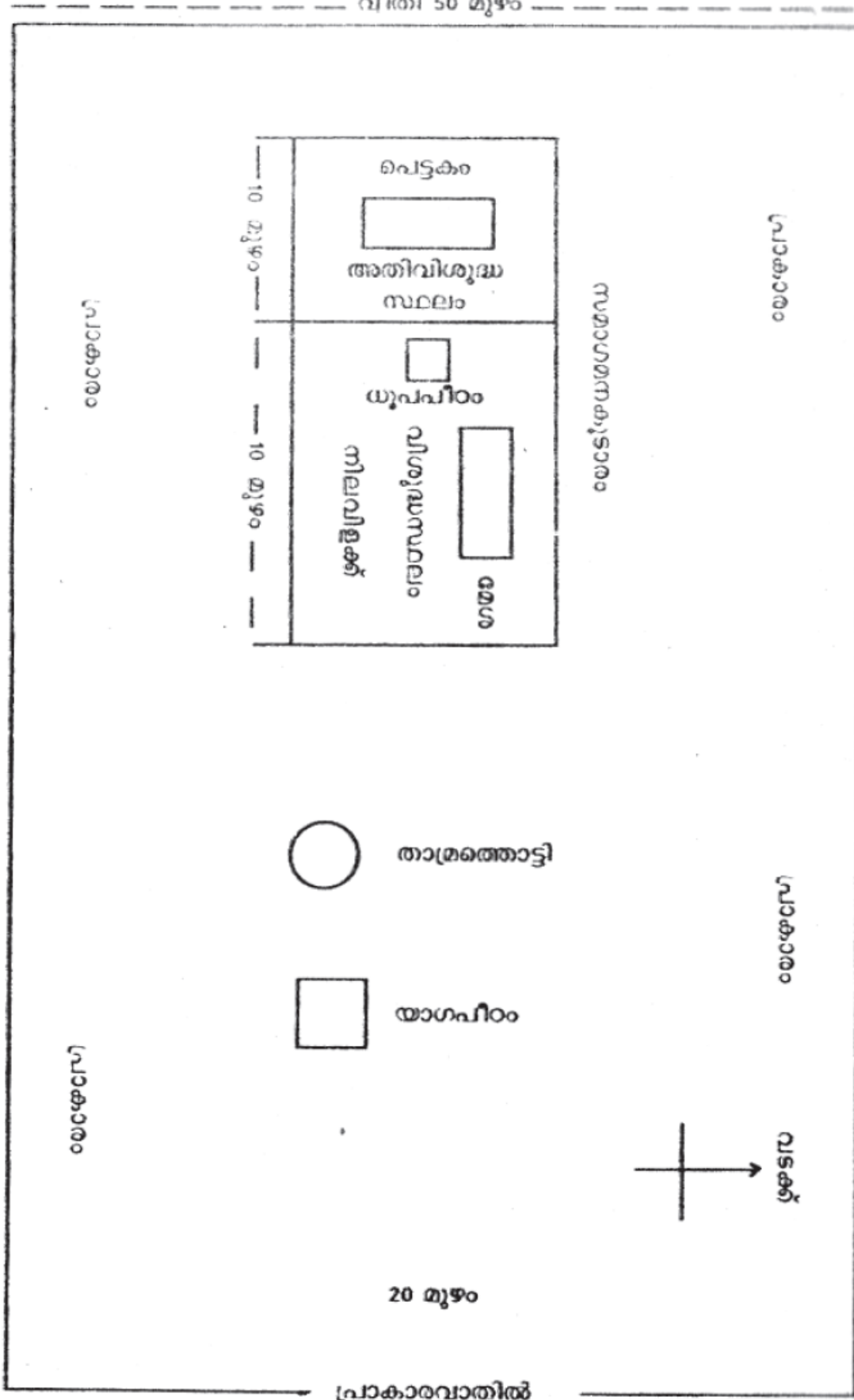
THE CURTAINS OF THE COURTYARD (Exo.27:9-19)

The courtyard has curtains of fine twisted linen on all sides except the entrance of the east. Two curtains each of 100 cubits length and 5 cubits breadth are hung from 20 pillars made of shittim wood and fixed on brass sockets on the north and the south sides. Another curtain 50 cubits length and 5 cubits breadth is hung on the west side on 10 pillars. On the east side a 20 cubits wide entrance is kept in the middle and curtains of 15 cubits length and 5 cubits breadth are hung on either side of the entrance. At the entrance a 20 cubits long curtain made as a needlework using blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen is hung on silver hooks from four pillars standing on four sockets.

COVERINGS OF THE TABERNACLE (Exo.26:1-14)

There are four coverings one over the other on the top of the Tabernacle.

1. The lowermost covering is made by joining together ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn with cherubims worked into it by a skilled craftsman. Each curtain is 28 cubits long and 4 cubits broad (Exo.26:1-6)
2. The second coverings is made by joining together 11 curtains



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of goat hair. Each curtain is 30 cubits long and 4 cubits broad (Exo.26:7-13).

3. The third covering is made of ram skins dyed red (Exo.26:14).
4. The topmost covering is made of badger skins (Exo. 26:14). Although this covering is not attractive to look at, it can protect the Tabernacle in all seasons. The coverings point to the security of a believer in Christ.

CRAFTSMEN

God chose Bezelel of the tribe of Judah and Oholiab of the tribe of Dan and filled them with his Spirit and skill and ability to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary (Exo.35:30-35). Servants of the Lord who are filled with knowledge through Holy Spirit are the craftsmen entrusted to build the New Testament Church.

THE MATERIALS USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TABERNACLE

God commanded Israel to bring the required materials as free will offering (Exo.25:3-7). It is the plan of God that His people should spend and work hard for the building of the church. Materials used for the building could be classified into metals (gold, silver, gems), those belonging to plant kingdom (wood, yarn, spices) and those from the animal kingdom (skin, hair). Each of these represents the glory of Christ and the blessings that we receive through Him.

<u>Gold</u>	:	<u>Divinity of Christ</u>
Silver	:	Redemption
Bronze	:	Judgment
Blue Yarn	:	Grace of God
Purple yarn	:	Royalty of Christ
Scarlet yarn	:	Deliverance through the blood of Christ
Linen	:	Holiness
Shittim wood	:	human nature
Oil	:	Holy Spirit

It can be seen that the cost of the material used for construction of the Tabernacle works out to be exceedingly high. Our Lord spent Himself and all His glory to build the Temple of the Church. Let us dedicate ourselves and all that we have for the service of the Lord.

Consider how wonderful was the plan of the Tabernacle. Let us praise God for the glorious plan that He had for our salvation

and the building of the Church. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and his ways are past finding out!" (Rom.11:33).

QUESTIONS

1. Where and in whose supervision was the work of the Tabernacle done? Who were the main craftsmen?
2. The Tabernacle was an important institution for Israel. Why?
3. How appropriate was the name "Tabernacle" for the sanctuary? Which are its other names?
4. Which earthly Temple replaced the Tabernacle?
5. What were the main materials used for building the Tabernacle? How were they obtained?
6. Draw a plan of the Tabernacle with the courtyard and mark the positions of various articles of the Tabernacle.
7. Write short notes on:
 - a) Board surrounding the Tabernacle
 - b) Curtains of the courtyard
 - c) Coverings of the Tabernacle.

LESSON - 17

THE TABERNACLE (PART II)

THE SHADOW OF NEW TESTAMENT TRUTHS

Reading : Heb.9

Memory verse : Heb.10:1

Theme: To learn the New Testament truths which are revealed through the Tabernacle of the Old Testament and put them into practice for a glorious Christian life.

Introduction: What is the importance of Tabernacle for us? Let us consider the truths underlying in the institution of the Tabernacle.

1. Represents Jesus Christ: God reveals His Son Jesus Christ through the Tabernacle.