

## LESSON - 19

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# TABERNACLE (PART IV)

## THE HOLY PLACE AND THE ARTICLES PLACED IN IT

**Reading :** Exo. 25:23-40; 30:1-10

**Memory verse :** Rev. 1:6

**Theme :** To learn the duties and responsibilities of believers who have been made kings and priests in the presence of God through Jesus Christ.

**Study aids :** Pictures of Candlestick, Table of Shewbread and Altar of incense.

**Introduction.** We have learned the general description of the Tabernacle in Lesson 16. What are the length, breadth and height of the Tabernacle? Which are its two sections? What are the dimensions of the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place? Which are the articles kept in the Holy Place?

**Wooden Boards covering the Tabernacle :** We have already learned the number of boards used and how they are joined together. The boards made from shittim wood and standing on silver sockets represent the New Testament believers. How wonderful is the grace of God who chose us from alien and unworthy status and made us part of the house of God (the Church). The bar which joins the boards from end to end stands for unity in Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:3). People of God at all times and in all places are joined together in the same Spirit. The other four rows of bars represent four offices in the church given by God through Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:11). They are Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists and Pastors (or Teachers). They keep believers in the church in unity.

**Curtain:** A curtain made by needle work from blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine twisted linen hangs at the entrance to the Tabernacle. This entrance as also the gate of the court represents Jesus Christ who is the only door to the presence of God. The beautiful curtain points to the duty of His majesty. We have received boldness to enter the Holy Place through the death of Jesus Christ

( Heb. 10:19-20). When the veil of His body was broken, the veil of the Temple also was torn from top to bottom.(Luke 23:44).

### **THREE ARTICLES IN THE HOLY PLACE**

**1. Candlestick:** (Exo.25:31-40; 27:20-22). The candlestick is made from one talent of Gold. It has a central shaft and three branches on either side. There are four bowls made like flowers in the shaft and three similar bowls in each branch. Lamps are made at the top of each branch and the middle shaft making a total of seven lamps. The lamps are lighted using pure olive oil and they burn from dusk to dawn.

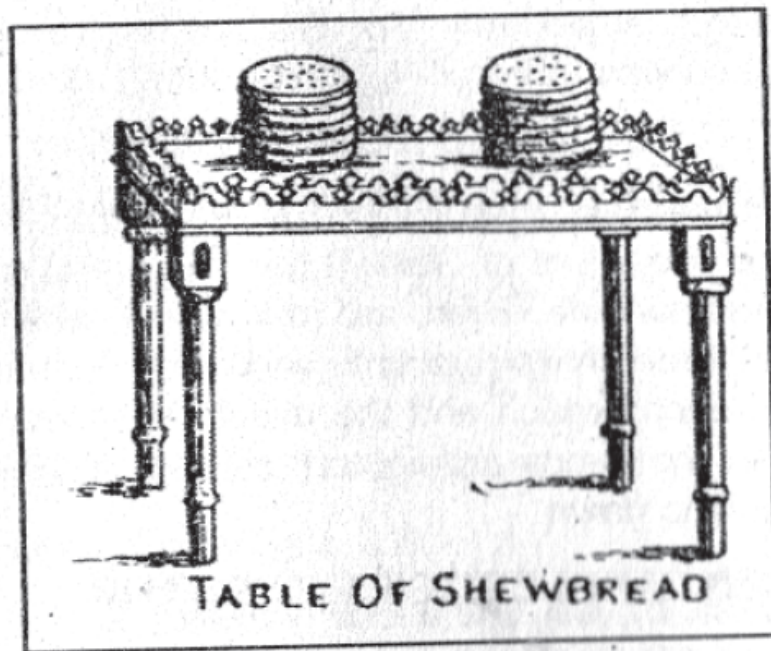
### **THE GOLDEN CANDLESTICK STANDS FOR**

a) The middle shaft represents Jesus Christ and the branches point to His believers. Just as Jesus is the light of world, His disciples are also lights in the world (John 8:12; 9:5). There are seven lamps in the candlestick. 'Seven' stands for completeness Christ and His church provide complete illumination to the world. As light shines because of olive oil, church shines through the enabling of the Holy Spirit.



b) The lampstand represents the Word of God also. The middle shaft is again Jesus Christ (John.1:1). Three branches on each side stand for three sections in old and new testaments namely, history, teaching, and prophecy. Gold stands for the precious nature of the Word of God. Also the Word is illuminated by the Holy Spirit.

**2. Table of Shewbread :** (Exo.25:23-30; Lev. 24:5-9). The table is made of shittim wood and covered with gold 12 cakes are made from fine flour and kept on the table in two stacks of six each. Each cake is made out of two-tenths of an ephah of flour. Every Sabbath day 12 new cakes are kept on the table and old cakes are eaten by the priests in the Holy Place.



### THE TABLE STANDS FOR

a) The table represents Jesus Christ and 12 cakes stand for the people of God. Christ bears all His people and their burdens (Psa. 68:19). Our duty is to submit ourselves before Him.

b) Both the table and the cakes point to Jesus Christ. The wood and the gold represent His humanity and dignity respectively. The cake baked with fine flour is shadow of the bread of Life which is Christ Himself. Christ, the grain of wheat has been broken and ground to fine flour and baked in the fire of the Wrath of God, thus becoming bread for His people (John. 6:33, 34,48). The literal side to this truth is in the participation of believers in the Lords Table. The New Testament believers are priests and priests only are entitled to eat the shewbread. Christ gives us satisfaction, life, growth and health. Let us live in constant fellowship with Him.

**3. Golden Altar of incense**  
(Exo. 31:1-10; 37:25-29; 30:34-38; Rev.8:3-5; 5:8).

**Description:** The Altar is made of shiftim wood and has dimensions of 1 cubit length, 1 cubit breadth and 2 cubits height. It is overlaid with gold. There are horns at four corners which are also of shiftim wood



and covered with gold. There are two slaves made of shiftim wood and covered with gold which are inserted through rings on two sides so that the Altar can be carried on shoulders.

**Spiritual meaning:** The brazen Altar and the golden Altar of incense are closely related. The brazen Altar cleans us from our sins. The altar of incense makes us true worshipers. Both are pointing towards Christ. Christ cleans us from our sins and lives for us as altar of incense interceding for us in the presence of God (Rom. 3:25; 8:34; Heb. 7:25). The incense burning on the altar are the prayers and praises of His people.

The incense is burned with the same fire which has been preserved without extinguishing from the one that came down from heaven at the first time that Aaron offered sacrifice. No other fire is permitted to be used. This fire is the same one that dwelt on the disciples in the upper room on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit. Our prayers and praises will not rise to Heaven except with the fire of the Holy Spirit. The items of incense which are put in the fire stand for the Godly qualities like love, mercy, righteousness and purity. The salt which is added point to the promises of God.

The Holy Place can be compared to the present church age in which the new Testament believers are entitled to enter and worship are they are made priests through Jesus Christ. They must shine as lights in the world. They must nourish themselves daily on the bread of life and burn incense of prayers and praises in the presence of God.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Describe the golden candlestick and explain the spiritual meanings of the various parts.
2. How is the table of showbread made? What is the spiritual truth behind its structure?
3. Describe the golden Altar of incense and explain the new Testament truths that it teaches.