

Laws for the Tabernacle and Priesthood – Part 1 (c. early June to mid July 1446 BC)

Exodus 25–27

Contributions for the Tabernacle

25:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Tell the sons of Israel to raise a contribution for Me; from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution.

3 This is the contribution which you are to raise from them: gold, silver and bronze,

4 blue, purple and scarlet *material*, fine linen, goat *hair*,

5 rams’ skins dyed red, porpoise skins, acacia wood,

6 oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense,

7 onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

8 Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them.

9 According to all that I am going to show you, *as* the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct *it*.

The Ark of the Testimony

10 “They shall construct an ark of acacia wood two and a half cubits long, and one and a half cubits wide, and one and a half cubits high.

11 You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and you shall make a gold molding around it.

12 You shall cast four gold rings for it and fasten them on its four feet, and two rings shall be on one side of it and two rings on the other side of it.

13 You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.

14 You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, to carry the ark with them.

15 The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be removed from it.

16 You shall put into the ark the testimony which I shall give you.

17 “You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold, two and a half cubits long and one and a half cubits wide.

18 You shall make two cherubim of gold, make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat.

19 Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim *of one piece* with the mercy seat at its two ends.

20 The cherubim shall have *their* wings spread upward, covering the mercy seat with their wings and facing one another; the faces of the cherubim are to be *turned* toward the mercy seat.

21 You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony which I will give to you.

22 There I will meet with you; and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak to you about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel.

The Table of the Bread of the Presence

23 “You shall make a table of acacia wood, two cubits long and one cubit wide and one and a half cubits high.

24 You shall overlay it with pure gold and make a gold border around it.

25 You shall make for it a rim of a handbreadth around *it*; and you shall make a gold border for the rim around it.

26 You shall make four gold rings for it and put rings on the four corners which are on its four feet.

27 The rings shall be close to the rim as holders for the poles to carry the table.

28 You shall make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold, so that with them the table may be carried.

29 You shall make its dishes and its pans and its jars and its bowls with which to pour drink offerings; you shall make them of pure gold.

30 You shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before Me at all times.

The Golden Lampstand

31 “Then you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand *and* its base and its shaft are to be made of hammered work; its cups, its bulbs and its flowers shall be *of one piece* with it.

32 Six branches shall go out from its sides; three branches of the lampstand from its one side and three branches of the lampstand from its other side.

33 Three cups *shall be* shaped like almond *blossoms* in the one branch, a bulb and a flower, and three cups shaped like almond *blossoms* in the other branch, a bulb and a flower—so for six branches going out from the lampstand;

34 and in the lampstand four cups shaped like almond *blossoms*, its bulbs and its flowers.

35 A bulb shall be under the *first* pair of branches *coming* out of it, and a bulb under the *second* pair of branches *coming* out of it, and a bulb under the *third* pair of branches *coming* out of it, for the six branches coming out of the lampstand.

36 Their bulbs and their branches *shall be of one piece* with it; all of it shall be one piece of hammered work of pure gold.

37 Then you shall make its lamps seven *in number*; and they shall mount its lamps so as to shed light on the space in front of it.

38 Its snuffers and their trays *shall be* of pure gold.

39 It shall be made from a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils.

40 See that you make *them* after the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain. [[Heb 8:4–6](#)]

The Tabernacle Curtains

26:1 “Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twisted linen and blue and purple and scarlet *material*; you shall make them with cherubim, the work of a skillful workman.

2 The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; all the curtains shall have the same measurements.

3 Five curtains shall be joined to one another, and *the other* five curtains *shall be* joined to one another.

4 You shall make loops of blue on the edge of the outermost curtain in the *first* set, and likewise you shall make *them* on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in the second set.

5 You shall make fifty loops in the one curtain, and you shall make fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is in the second set; the loops shall be opposite each other.

6 You shall make fifty clasps of gold, and join the curtains to one another with the clasps so that the tabernacle will be a unit.

7 “Then you shall make curtains of goats’ *hair* for a tent over the tabernacle; you shall make eleven curtains in all.

8 The length of each curtain *shall be* thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; the eleven curtains shall have the same measurements.

9 You shall join five curtains by themselves and the *other* six curtains by themselves, and you shall double over the sixth curtain at the front of the tent.

10 You shall make fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in the *first* set, and fifty loops on the edge of the curtain *that is outermost in* the second set.

11 “You shall make fifty clasps of bronze, and you shall put the clasps into the loops and join the tent together so that it will be a unit.

12 The overlapping part that is left over in the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that is left over, shall lap over the back of the tabernacle.

13 The cubit on one side and the cubit on the other, of what is left over in the length of the curtains of the tent, shall lap over the sides of the tabernacle on one side and on the other, to cover it.

14 You shall make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red and a covering of porpoise skins above.

The Tabernacle Framework

15 "Then you shall make the boards for the tabernacle of acacia wood, standing upright.

16 Ten cubits *shall be* the length of each board and one and a half cubits the width of each board.

17 *There shall be* two tenons for each board, fitted to one another; thus you shall do for all the boards of the tabernacle.

18 You shall make the boards for the tabernacle: twenty boards for the south side.

19 You shall make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards, two sockets under one board for its two tenons and two sockets under another board for its two tenons;

20 and for the second side of the tabernacle, on the north side, twenty boards,

21 and their forty sockets of silver; two sockets under one board and two sockets under another board.

22 For the rear of the tabernacle, to the west, you shall make six boards.

23 You shall make two boards for the corners of the tabernacle at the rear.

24 They shall be double beneath, and together they shall be complete to its top to the first ring; thus it shall be with both of them: they shall form the two corners.

25 There shall be eight boards with their sockets of silver, sixteen sockets; two sockets under one board and two sockets under another board.

26 "Then you shall make bars of acacia wood, five for the boards of one side of the tabernacle,

27 and five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle for the rear *side* to the west.

28 The middle bar in the center of the boards shall pass through from end to end.

29 You shall overlay the boards with gold and make their rings of gold *as* holders for the bars; and you shall overlay the bars with gold.

30 Then you shall erect the tabernacle according to its plan which you have been shown in the mountain.

The Tabernacle Veil

31 "You shall make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet *material* and fine twisted linen; it shall be made with cherubim, the work of a skillful workman.

32 You shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, their hooks *also being of* gold, on four sockets of silver.

33 You shall hang up the veil under the clasps, and shall bring in the ark of the testimony there within the veil; and the veil shall serve for you as a partition between the holy place and the holy of holies.

34 You shall put the mercy seat on the ark of the testimony in the holy of holies.

35 You shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand opposite the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south; and you shall put the table on the north side.

The Tabernacle Screen

36 "You shall make a screen for the doorway of the tent of blue and purple and scarlet *material* and fine twisted linen, the work of a weaver.

37 You shall make five pillars of acacia for the screen and overlay them with gold, their hooks *also being of* gold; and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them.