

Exodus 26

As we mentioned in the last chapter's introduction, this chapter details the coverings of the tabernacle which formed its walls. The only wall on the inside is the wall which separated the main section of the tabernacle, referred to as the "holy place," from the room in which was placed the ark of the covenant, known as the "holiest of holy place." There are a number of matters that aren't clear in the construction of the tabernacle, but this is irrelevant to us today. The tabernacle was designed to be built one time, under the leadership of Moses who had direct communication with God. Even if we do not understand all the details, the tabernacle was not intended to be built more than once anyway. Moses and Israel understood the details.

TRANSLATION - 26:1-13:

1 And the sanctuary you will make of ten curtains of woven linen and blue and purple and worms of scarlet, cherubim the work of skilled workmen, you will make them. **2** The length of one curtain twenty-eight cubits and the length four cubits, one curtain, one measure for every curtain. **3** Five curtains will be joined together, each to its companion and five curtains joined together each to its companion. **4** And you will make loops of purple on the edge of one curtain from the edge in a set and thus you will make in the edge of the outer curtain in the second set. **5** The fifty loops you will make in one curtain and fifty loops you will make in the edge of the curtain which [is] in the second set corresponding to the loops of each to its companion. **6** And you will make the fifty hooks of gold and you will join the curtain each to its companion and by the hooks and the sanctuary will be one.

7 And you will make a curtain of goat's [hair] for a tent on the sanctuary, eleven curtains you will make them. **8** The length of one curtain thirty cubits and the width four cubits, one curtain, one measure for eleven curtains. **9** And you will join the five curtains apart and the six curtains apart and you will double over the sixth curtain to the front of the face of the tent. **10** And you will make the fifty loops on the edge of one curtain, the outer set and the fifty loops on the edge of the curtain the second set.

11 And you will make hooks of bronze, the fifty and you will bring the hooks in the loops and you will join the tent and it will be one. **12** And the overhang of the remainder in the curtain of the tent, half of the tent the remainder it will overhang on the back of the sanctuary. **13** And the cubit from this [end] and the cubit from that [end] in the remainder of the curtain of the tent will be overhung on the sides of the sanctuary from this [end] and from [that] end for to cover it.

HEBREW WORDS:

"Sanctuary" (ver. 1) was used earlier at 25:9. "Curtains" or "cloths" is used extensively in this chapter, every verse through verse 12 except in verse 11. The word is used in Exodus 44 times. It is used 54 times in the OT. "Linen" was used earlier at 25:4. "Woven" or "twisted" is used only in Exodus, 21 times. "Blue" was used earlier at 25:4. "Purple" was also used earlier at 25:4, as was "worm" and "scarlet." See notes there on the concept of "worms of scarlet." "Skilled workmen" is all one word in Hebrew (actually a participle), used here for the first time. It is used 11 times in Exodus. The verb is used 124 times and means to "think, consider, plan." "Companion" (ver. 3) is a feminine word, the word "woman" and "each" is also feminine, reflecting the fact that "curtain" is a feminine word. "Loops" (ver. 4) is only used in this context and its parallel text in chapter 36.

"Hooks" (ver. 6) is used only in Exodus, in chapter 26, 35:11, and 36:13, 18; 39:33. "Goat's" (hair is understood; ver. 7) was used earlier at 12:5; 25:4. The verb "to double over" (ver. 9) is used only in Exodus and only three times: 26:9; 28:16; 21:19, which makes it difficult to interpret exactly what it means. "Outer set" (ver. 10) is used mainly in Exodus: 26:4, 10; 36:11, 17. "Bronze" (ver. 11) was used earlier at 25:3.

CONSTRUCȚIA REALĂ ESTE ÎNREGISTRATĂ ÎN:

See Exodus 36:8-38 for the actual construction of the tabernacle and its curtains.

COMMENTARY:

First, God commanded Moses and Israel to make ten curtains (ver. 1) from the dyed materials they gave in 25:4. A skilled workman would weave cherubim into the curtains; in what way and where, we are not told. Each curtain was 42' long and 6' wide. Five were attached together with loops and the other five were attached together (ver. 3). Loops were made in the curtains (ver. 4). Fifty loops were designed into each set of curtains (ver. 5). Gold clasps were used to join the loops together, in order to join the five curtains (ver. 6).

The second covering was made from goat's hair (ver. 7). This covering would have been dark, black or dark brown. These coverings were composed of eleven curtains. Each was 45' (13,72 m) long and the same width as the previous curtains (ver. 8). Five curtains were joined together and then the other six were joined together (ver. 9). The sixth curtain was doubled over, in some way, at the front of the tent. Just as the first set of curtains were joined together with loops and clasps of gold, so these curtains are joined together with loops (ver. 10) which were made of bronze (ver. 11). One curtain will serve as the back wall of the tent (ver. 12), in some way overlapping the other curtains by 18" (45,72 cm) or one cubit (ver. 13).

APPLICATION:

Moses' contemporaries - The inner coverings were shorter, stopping a cubit above the ground. However, the goat's hair covering would reach all the way to the ground. Therefore, there was no light in the tabernacle except what was provided by the lamp stand. There are many references to the workmen who were skilled in building the tabernacle: Exo. 26:1, 31; 28:3, 6, 8, 15; 29:5; 31:3, 6; 35:10, 25-26, 31, 35; 36:1-4, 8, 35; 39:3, 5, 8.

TRANSLATION - 26:14-25:

14 And you will make coverings for the tent of skins of rams, red, and coverings of skins of leather from above. **15** And you will make the boards for the sanctuary of trees of acacia, upright. **16** Ten cubits the length of the board and a cubit and a half cubit the width of one board. **17** Two hands to one board joined together each to its companion; thus you will make for all the boards of the sanctuary. **18** And you will make the boards for the sanctuary twenty boards for the side toward the south. **19** And forty sockets of silver you will make under twenty boards, of two sockets under the one board, for two pegs and two sockets under the one board for two pegs. **20** And for the side of the sanctuary of the second corner toward the north, twenty boards. **21** And forty sockets of silver two sockets under the one board and two sockets under the one board. **22** And toward the rear of the sanctuary, toward the sea, you will make six boards. **23** And two boards you will make to the corners of the sanctuary toward the rear. **24** And they will be coupled at the bottom and together they will be complete at the top, to the one ring; thus they will be both to the two corners, they will be. **25** And they will be eight boards and their sockets of silver, sixteen sockets, two sockets under the one board and two sockets under the one board.

HEBREW WORDS:

"Coverings" (ver. 14) is used 8 times in Exodus, out of 16 uses. "Skins" was used earlier at 25:5. "Rams" was used earlier at 15:15. "Boards" (ver. 15) is used extensively in Exodus, 48 times, out of 51 uses. The word translated "pegs" (ver. 19) is literally "hand," which is used hundreds of times in the OT; in Exodus, 109 times. This is the first time "sockets" is used, which is almost exclusively found in Exodus (51 times), out of 57 uses. "Complete" (ver. 24) is used only twice in Exodus: 26:24; 36:29. It can mean "perfect." It is used 15 times. "Top" is the Hebrew word for "head" or "pinnacle," used first at 6:14, 25. "Ring" is used 40 times in Exodus, beginning in this text. It is used 50 times in the OT.

COMMENTARY:

Yet two more coverings were made for the tent, one of rams' skins dyed red and one of leather from perhaps dolphins' skins (ver. 14).

The framework for the tabernacle is described next, made of boards. These boards were made of acacia wood, the same material used for the ark and the table (chapter 25). The boards were 15' (5 m) long and 27" (68,58 cm) wide (ver. 16). This tells us that the tabernacle itself was about 15' (5 m) high. The boards were connected together to form the framework for the tabernacle (ver. 17). The south side will consist of twenty boards (ver. 18) as well as the north side (ver. 20). Verses 19 and 21 detail the connection between the boards. Six boards would form the rear wall (ver. 22), toward the west (toward the Mediterranean Sea), with two boards forming the corners at the rear (ver. 23), connected together (ver. 24). Thus, there would be a total of eight boards at the rear, connected together (ver. 25).

TRANSLATION - 26:26-29:

26 And you will make bars of acacia wood, five for the boards at the side of the one sanctuary. **27** And the five bars for the boards at the side of the second sanctuary, and the five bars for the boards at the side of the sanctuary at the rear, toward the sea. **28** And the middle bar in the midst of the boards are passing through from one end to the other end. **29** And the boards you will overlay with gold and their rings you will make of gold, holders for the bars and you will overlay the bars with gold.

HEBREW WORDS:

"Bars" (ver. 26) is used 15 times in Exodus. It is used 41 times in the OT. "To overlay" (ver. 29) was used earlier at 25:11, 13.

COMMENTARY:

These bars detailed in this paragraph will help make the framework for the tabernacle. The bars would be made from acacia wood, as everything else (ver. 26). Five bars would be used on each side of the tabernacle (ver. 27). The boards would be overlaid with gold (ver. 29) and the rings would also be made of gold.

APLICARE:

Moses' contemporaries - According to Numbers 7:8, the family of Merari was given ox carts to carry these boards; otherwise, they would have been heavy to carry.

Later Jewish writers - The tabernacle was half the length and width of the temple built by Solomon (1 Kings the 6:2) and one-third its height.

TRANSLATION - 26:30-35:

30 And you will erect the sanctuary according to its pattern which was shown you on the mountain. **31** And you will make a veil of blue and purple and from the worm of scarlet, and woven linen, the work of skilled workmen; they will make it with cherubim. **32** And you will hang it on the four columns of acacia, overlaid with gold and their hooks of gold on the four sockets of silver. **33** And you will hang the veil under the hooks and you will bring there from within to the veil the ark of the testimony and you will separate the veil to yourself between the holy [place] and the holiest of holy [places]. **34** And you will hang the veil over the ark of the testimony in the holiest of holy [places]. **35** And you will set the table outside the veil and the lamp stand opposite the table, on the side of the sanctuary southward and the table you will put on the side northward.

HEBREW WORDS:

"To erect" (ver. 30) is the verb "to raise" or "to lift up." It was used earlier at 1:8. "Pattern" is the word "judgment." It was used earlier at 15:25. "Veil" (ver. 31) is used 15 times in Exodus. It is used 25 times in the OT. "Cherubim" was used earlier at 25:18-20, 22. "Columns"

(ver. 32) was used earlier at 13:21-22. "To separate" (ver. 33) is only used here in Exodus. It is used 42 times in the OT. "Holy" was used earlier at 3:5. The ark is called the "ark of the testimony" 14 times in Scripture; most of those are in the Law; one is in Joshua 4:16.

HEBREW GRAMMAR:

"Holies of holy" (ver. 33) is a Hebrew idiom to denote the superlative: "the most holy place." The phrase is used 7 times in the Bible: Exo. 26:33-34; 2 Chron. 3:8, 10; 4:22; 5:7; Heb. 9:3. It is similar to the designation for Solomon's song: "the song of songs" (Song of Solomon 1:1), which means "the best song."

COMMENTARY:

Verse 30 mentions again that Moses is to follow the pattern for building the tabernacle which God had shown him on Mount Sinai.

The following description is of the veil which will separate the main section of the tabernacle from the holiest holy place in which was the ark of the covenant (ver. 33). The description of this veil is the same description of the other curtains described in verse 1. This curtain would be hanged on pillars, made of acacia wood overlaid with gold, with its hooks and sockets made of gold and silver, respectively (ver. 32). Behind this veil would be the ark of the covenant in a special room designed only for its location, in a place called the "Holy of holies" (ver. 33). This phrase is a Hebrew idiom to express the superlative: the most holy place. It was "most holy" because it was the place where the high priest would offer sacrifices for the sins of the people on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur; see Leviticus 16 and Hebrews 9:7) and the place where God would communicate His will to Moses.

The atonement cover was also located in the Holy of holies because it was placed on top of the ark of the covenant (ver. 34). By contrast, the table of the bread of the Presence was in the main section of the tabernacle (ver. 35) on the north side of the tabernacle with the lamp stand opposite the table, on the south side of the tabernacle. The Holiest of Holy places was approximately 15' cube.

APPLICARE:

Moses' contemporaries - Relative to verse 30, see comments at 25:9, 40; 26:30; 27:8.

NT writers - It was this veil which God ripped into two parts, from the top to the bottom, in Matthew 27:51 (Mark 15:38), at the death of Jesus. This symbolized the opening of the way into God's presence to all people of all races and nationalities. The writer of the book of Hebrews (8:5) points out that the tabernacle was made according to a pattern of heavenly realities, with Jesus Christ being the embodiment of those realities. The heavenly city is pictured with gold surfaces: Revelation 21:18, 21. However, there is no need for a lamp stand there because Jesus will enlighten heaven: Rev. 21:22.

TRANSLATION - 26:36-37:

36 And you will make a screen for the door of the tent, blue and purple and of the worm of scarlet and woven linen, a work of the weaver. **37** And you will make for the screen five pillars of acacia and you will overlay them with gold and their hooks of gold and you will cast them, the five, in sockets of bronze.

HEBREW WORDS:

"Screen" (ver. 36) is used 16 times in Exodus. It is used 25 times. "Weaver" is only used in Exodus: 26:36; 27:16; 28:39; 36:37; 38:18, 23; 39:29. "To cast" (ver. 37) is used in Exodus 7 times: 25:12; 26:37; 29:7; 36:36; 37:3, 13; 38:5. It is used 53 times and can refer to pouring a cast into a mold.

COMMENTARY:

This screen is, basically, the “door” for the tabernacle, on the east side of the tabernacle. The same material is used for this covering as for the other coverings but this was done by a “weaver” (ver. 36). Pillars of acacia wood, overlaid with gold as with the other pillars, gave support to the screen. The hooks were of gold and the sockets were of bronze (ver. 37).

APLICARE:

NT writers - Jesus takes us through the veil into heaven itself: Hebrews 10:19-20.