

Making Promises

Part 9: The Exodus

Review

- Mt. Sinai acts as a precursor to the tabernacle/temple in its three-part division, and it's another "Mountain of God," like the garden before it and Zion after it (**Ezek. 28:13-16; Ps. 99:9; Is. 27:13; Rev. 21:10**).
- Like Adam, Israel was created to rule, but its dominion was supposed to redefine authority for a world that had perverted it. Its rule, grounded in submission to God, was intended to create life and hope in the nations by mediating God's character and glory to them. Once again, God was establishing his kingdom among an identifiable people through a covenant.
- The 10 Commandments are divided into two tables which form a summary of God's moral law. The first table (1-5) describe our relationship to God; the second table (6-10) describes our relationship to our fellow man.

The Tabernacle

- Beginning with Exodus 25, God gives instructions to Moses as to how to build the **tabernacle**. In Exodus 25-31, the instructions are given for how to construct the tabernacle, and in 35-40, the people actually construct the tabernacle.
 - ◉ The purpose of the tabernacle is to be a place where **God may dwell amongst his people (Ex. 25:8)**.
 - ◉ Because God cares about how he is worshipped (**Ex. 20:2-8**), the instructions for the tabernacle are **extraordinarily detailed**.
- The repetition of the blessings of Sinai through the tabernacle depended on **willing hearts (Ex. 25:2)**, **costly giving (Ex. 25:3-7)**, and **meticulous obedience (Ex. 25:9)**.
 - ◉ The construction of the **ark**, the **table** and the **lampstand** (10–40) preceded the construction of the tent to house them.
 - ◉ The ark of the covenant was a box made of **acacia** wood and overlaid in pure gold (**Ex. 25:10-11**). On top of the ark was the mercy seat. The term, "mercy seat" (**Ex. 25:17**) means "the atoning/making atonement," and comes from the Hebrew term meaning "to cover over." It is the primary Old Testament term for **propitiation**.
 - ▶ The ark, its cover, and the testimony (**Ex. 25:21-22**) are a single unity. God meets his people on a foundation of **law** and **atonement**.

- The table for the bread of presence, contrary to pagan worship, is not an attempt to feed God, rather the bread was for the **priests**. The Lord is the nourisher of his priestly people (**1 Sam. 21:1-6**).
- The Lampstand was to be made of **hammered gold** (**Ex. 25:31**) and was to be comprised of one main branch, with 6 branches coming out the sides (3 on each side) (**Ex. 25:31-32**).
 - ▶ Brightness, fire and gold symbolize the **presence of the Lord**. The first duty of the priests was the care of the lampstand.
 - ▶ God who began creation with the words “let there be light” could be considered as symbolized in a fashion through the olive oil, which kept the lamps of the tabernacle burning continually as a reminder of his constant **watchfulness** over Israel (**Ex. 27:20-21; 30:7-8; 40:4; Lev. 24:3; Num. 8:4; 1 Sam. 3:3**).

The Garden

- The cumulative effect of the scriptural parallels between the Garden of Eden and the Tabernacle/Temple, may give an indicator as to why the instructions for the tabernacle were so **specific** and **ornate**. The tabernacle becomes, effectively, a portable Garden of Eden where God again communes with his people. (**see attached table**)

Jesus and the New Testament Church

- The gospel of John connects the imagery of the tabernacle/temple directly to the person of **Jesus Christ**. The word translated in **John 1:14**, “dwelling” in this verse is related to the concept of tent or tabernacle. Jesus also fulfills this imagery and directly connects his own body to the temple (**John 1:14; 2:19**).
 - The New Testament also teaches us that the **veil** that denied access to the Most Holy Place was torn during the crucifixion of Jesus (**Matt. 27:51; Heb. 9**).
 - Jesus made it possible for **his people** to be the tabernacle or temple of God. Thus, Paul urges the saints at Corinth toward holiness (**1 Cor. 6:19-20**).

The Exodus: Part 9

Exodus 25:8	And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.
Exodus 20:2–8	2 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 “You shall have no other gods before me. 4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. 7 “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. 8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Exodus 25:2	“Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me.
Exodus 25:3–7	3 And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, 4 blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats’ hair, 5 tanned rams’ skins, goatskins, acacia wood, 6 oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, 7 onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece.
Exodus 25:9	Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.
Exodus 25:10–11	10 “They shall make an ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. 11 You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside shall you overlay it, and you shall make on it a molding of gold around it.
Exodus 25:17	“You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth.
Exodus 25:21–22	21 And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. 22 There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.
1 Samuel 21:1–6	1 Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David, trembling, and said to him, “Why are you alone, and no one with you?” 2 And David said to Ahimelech the priest, “The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, ‘Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.’ I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place. 3 Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here.” 4 And the priest answered David, “I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women.” 5 And David answered the priest, “Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?” 6 So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the Lord, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.
Exodus 25:31	“You shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand shall be made of hammered work: its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers shall be of one piece with it.

Exodus 25:31–32	31 “You shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand shall be made of hammered work: its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. 32 And there shall be six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it;
Exodus 27:20–21	20 “You shall command the people of Israel that they bring to you pure beaten olive oil for the light, that a lamp may regularly be set up to burn. 21 In the tent of meeting, outside the veil that is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening to morning before the Lord. It shall be a statute forever to be observed throughout their generations by the people of Israel.
Exodus 30:7–8	7 And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it. Every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall burn it, 8 and when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he shall burn it, a regular incense offering before the Lord throughout your generations.
Exodus 40:4	And you shall bring in the table and arrange it, and you shall bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps.
Leviticus 24:3	Outside the veil of the testimony, in the tent of meeting, Aaron shall arrange it from evening to morning before the Lord regularly. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations.
Numbers 8:4	And this was the workmanship of the lampstand, hammered work of gold. From its base to its flowers, it was hammered work; according to the pattern that the Lord had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand.
1 Samuel 3:3	The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was.
John 1:14	And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 2:19	Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
Matthew 27:51	And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.
1 Corinthians 6:19–20	19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

PARALLELS BETWEEN EDEN AND THE TABERNACLE/TEMPLE

The Garden	Scripture	The Temple/Tabernacle	Scripture
The place where Adam walked and talked with God.	Gen. 3:8	The place where the priest experienced God's unique presence.	Lev. 26:12; Deut. 23:14 [15]; 2 Sam. 7:6-7
Adam's task is 'to cultivate (work) it and to keep it [the Garden]'	Gen. 2:15	When these two words occur together in the rest of the OT they refer to Israel "guarding and keeping" God's word, or to priests who "keep" and "serve" the tabernacle.	Num. 3:7-8; 8:25-26; 18:5-6; 1 Chr. 23:32; Ezek. 44:14
After telling Adam to 'cultivate' and 'guard/keep', God gives him a specific 'command'.	Genesis 2:15-16	When "serving and keeping" occur together with the idea of commandments to be kept, God is commanding Solomon (and sons) after the building of the temple.	1 Kings 9:6
The result of Adam failing to keep God's commandments would be death.	Gen. 2:15-17; 3:24	The result of Solomon's failure to keep the commandments would be banishment from God's sight.	1 Kings 9:6-7
When Adam failed to guard the temple by sinning, he lost his priestly role, and the cherubim took over the responsibility of 'guarding' the Garden temple.	Gen 3:24; Ezek. 28:14, 16	God commanded Moses to make two statues of cherubim and stationed them on either side of the 'ark of the covenant' in the 'holy of holies'.	Exod. 25:18-22; 1 Kgs. 8:6-7; 6:29, 32-35
The menorah was to be kept lit all the time. This would serve as a reminder that God made his presence known in the tabernacle precincts just as he did throughout Eden, which itself represented heaven.	Leviticus 24:1-4	The golden lampstand may be modeled after the tree of life. The lampstand in the tabernacle and temple looked like a small, flowering tree with seven protruding branches from a central trunk, three on one side and three on the other, and one branch going straight up from the trunk in the middle – with bulbs and flowers, branches, and almond blossoms	Exodus 25:31-36
		The account in 1 Kings 6-7 of the temple construction includes a proliferation of garden-like descriptions of the interior, much of which are descriptions of carvings, structures or pieces of furniture covered with precious metals.	1 Kgs. 6:29, 32; 7:20, 22, 24-26, 42, 49
Eden had a rich source of water.	Gen 2:10	The end-time temple of God is depicted as having water flowing from the temple. The image of water is also used as flowing from Israel's temple in Psalms 36:8-9 .	Ezek. 47:1-12; Rev. 21:1-2

The Garden	Scripture	The Temple/Tabernacle	Scripture
The garden was a rich source of precious stones: gold, bdellium, and onyx	Gen 2:12	various items of tabernacle furniture were made of gold, as were the walls, ceiling and floor of the holy of holies in Solomon's temple. Furthermore, the onyx stones decorated both the tabernacle and temple, as well as the high priestly garments Gold and onyx are also found together on the priest's clothing.	Exod. 25:7; 28:9-12, 20; 1 Chr. 29:2
Ezekiel portrays Eden as being on a mountain.	Ezek. 28:14, 16	Israel's temple was on Mount Zion, and the end-time temple was to be located on a mountain.	Ezek. 40:2; 43:12; Rev. 21:10
Eden seems to have an East facing entrance.	Gen. 3:24	The temple also has an East-facing entrance.	Ezek. 40:6