

## The Reading

- Exodus 26 – the Tabernacle
- Exodus 27 – Altar of Burnt Offerings, Courtyard, Oil for the Lampstand
- Exodus 28 – Priestly Garments, The Ephod (**sleeveless type of Garment worn by priests**), the Breastplate (**who was Aaron and who were his sons?**)
- Exodus 29 – Consecration of Priests
- Exodus 30 - The Altar of Incense, Atonement Money, Basin for Washing, Anointing Oil, Incense
- God tells Moses to get very specific contributions from the people. In addition to the standard currency of the day (gold, silver, and bronze), Moses is to ask for specific things like lamp oil and goats hair. (**Exodus 25:1-7**)
- God further tells Moses that he should have the people dwell in the sanctuary (“that I may dwell in their midst”). God also tells Moses that He will tell him exactly how He wants it built, even all the furniture. (**Exodus 25:8-9**)
- Under the new covenant, Paul is going to write to the Corinthians (who were practicing sexual immorality) that our bodies are temples. (**I Corinthians 6:19**) We don’t build tabernacles to God under the new covenant Jesus Christ established for us, because God now dwells in each of us.
- God tells Moses to make an Ark (basically a large box with a lid on top, like a chest) which measures about 3 1/2 feet long x 2 ¼ feet deep x 2 ¼ feet wide. On each side of the Ark (as he calls it) should be two rings (four in all) with poles through them. The Ark, rings, and poles should all be made of Acacia wood and then plated with Gold. In it should be placed “the testimony that I shall give you.” (the ten commandments) (**Exodus 25:10-16**)
- God tells Moses to construct a “mercy seat” to put on top of the Ark of the Covenant. He gives specific instructions how to construct this seat, including putting two cherubim’s (angels) on each side facing each other with their wings spread out over the seat. God says he will speak to Israel from this place. (**Exodus 25:17-22**)
- God also gives Moses specific instructions to make a table for offering food to Him and commands Him to “set the bread of the Presence on the table before me regularly.” (**Exodus 25:23-30**) This reminds of communion, which we are commanded to do regularly under the new covenant (**I Corinthians 11:26**). There is no specific commandment as to the frequency we are to observe communion, but it seems to us that it was often, probably as often as the early Christians were gathered together.
- God also instructs Moses to make a golden lampstand presumably so that there will be light in the tabernacle. (**Exodus 25:31-40**) Under the new covenant, Jesus tell us that we are the light of the world and this is how people are to see today (**Matthew 5:14-16**) In Revelation, John uses highly figurative language which refers to this same old covenant lampstand to refer to the fact that the church at Ephesus is not letting its light shine anymore. (**Revelation 2:5**)

### Ark of the Covenant

- Contained the “tables of the law” (**Exodus 25:16**). What is that?
- On top of the Ark was the “mercy seat” where priests would go in once a year to the Ark (where it was kept in a place called the “Holy of Holies”), sprinkled blood from an animal they would sacrifice, and in that way cover all the sins against God the people have committed. (**Leviticus 16**)
- This is because God knew everyone sins, because we’re human. He also knew we needed something better than a yearly sacrifice for our sins. That is why instead of the blood of bulls and goats under the old law, the blood of Christ now redeems us under a new law. (**Romans 3:25-26**).

### Nadab and Abihu

- God participated directly in sacrifices when they did it right: (**Leviticus 9:22-24**) and killed them when they did it wrong: (**Leviticus 10:1-3**). So they had to get replacements (verse 4).
- Taking away their lampstand, give it someone else (**Revelation 2:5**)
- Lesson: all these things very specific instructions God gave Israel were to show that he was very serious about the law, and killed those who didn’t obey him. We are not under that law today, but God is still serious about the rules of the new game.
- Under the new covenant Christ established the stakes are higher, but they are different. The wages of sin is still death (**Romans 6:23**) but does God still consume people by fire? Not during this life, but in the afterlife that is what will happen to the people who disobey God’s law. But the gift of God is what? (Eternal life) and therefore the people who obey God’s law get to live with him forever.

### Questions:

1. Who does God tell Moses to get contributions from?
2. Why does God tell Moses to have them build Him a temple?
3. Who lays out the specifications for the temple?
4. What was the Ark of the Covenant? What did it look like? What did it contain?
5. What was the mercy seat and what was its significance?
6. How does the table God instructs Moses to make remind us of communion?
7. How often should we take communion?
8. What is the significance of the lampstand and what is the new equivalent of that?
9. What is an Ephod?
10. What was the Holy of Holies?
11. Who were Aaron and his sons?
12. What sins does God know?
13. What is the difference between the old and the new covenant?