

"God's Love Story Sermon Outlines"

by Doug Hamilton

Section 5: Behold the Tabernacle Pattern of God's Love (Chapters 14-40)

In the Book of Hebrews, the writer was attempting to encourage Jewish converts to Christianity to stay faithful unto the "new and better covenant" under Jesus Christ. Toward the middle of the letter in 8:5 it mentions a patterned principle first unveiled in Exodus chapters 25-40. He said the Jewish High Priest served a *"copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN."* He goes on to summarize that Christ is the true High Priest and serves in the real heaven as a mediator for His people.

The key focus from that passage would be the "copy and shadow of heavenly things" and why it was *"according to the pattern which was shown on the mountain"*. To understand what the Hebrew writer referred to, we must go back to *"the mountain"* called Sinai. Moses had received the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. Along with them he received the ordinances as well (Exodus 21-23). Together they were ratified with the sprinkling of blood (Exodus 24:8). It was in Exodus 25 that a pattern for the Jewish focus of worship was brought forth.

- Exodus 25:9 "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.
- Exodus 25:40 "See that you make *them* after the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain.

God wanted them to make a center of worship called the Tabernacle. It was to be portable, structured and God-centered. It is in this pattern that we learn a deeper meaning of who we are as a people, Who God is in our lives and what heaven is like for those who await it. Just like they were to "Behold the Pattern", we also are to do the same. It is a pattern of God's Love Story.

The Tabernacle Courtyard

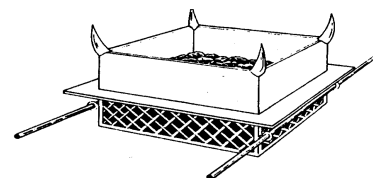
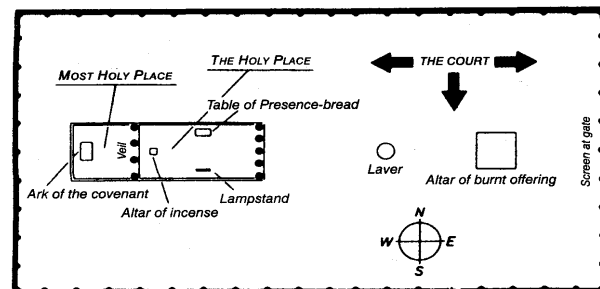
The Courtyard of the Tabernacle (Exodus 27:9-18)

- The courtyard was 75 X 150 ft (about half the size of an American football field). The entire courtyard was not large enough to hold a big crowd; therefore most of the people stood outside, especially on the Day of Atonement.

A) Behold the Pattern of the Altar of Burnt

Offering (Ex 27:1-8)

- The altar was made of acacia wood and overlaid with bronze.
- It was 7 1/2ft x 7 1/2ft x 4 1/2ft in size, being was fashioned with a horn on each corner at the top.
- It was fashioned with bronze grating on the bottom to allow air to ventilate, having bronze rings on each side and had poles fastened through the rings for carrying.
- It was located on the eastern side of the tabernacle courtyard by the doorway of entrance.



"God's Love Story Sermon Outlines"

by Doug Hamilton

The Altar of Burnt Offering is a Pattern of the Death of Christ.

The Copy/Shadow: The altar had horns symbolizing power. (Ex 27:2, 29:12)

The Reality: Jesus is all powerful through His death (Revelation 5:6; Matthew 28:19).

The Copy/Shadow: The Altar of Burnt Offering had a Pattern of continuity. (Ex 29:42)

The Reality: Jesus' sacrifice gives us a Pattern of continual cleansing.

- Heb 7:27 "...He did once for all when He offered up Himself."
- I Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Copy/Shadow: Only sacrifices without blemish could be offered (Ex 29:1; Dt 17:1).

The Reality: Jesus' was offered for us without blemish.

- Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.
- Heb 9:14 "...through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God..."

The Copy/Shadow: Only priests ministered at the altar of burnt offering (Ex 29:44; Lev 1:8).

The Reality: Jesus is our high priest that made the sacrifice for us.

- Hebrews 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

B) Behold the Pattern of the Laver and Base (Ex 30:17-21)

- The Laver was made of bronze and had a base under it.
- It was placed between the altar of burnt offering and tent of meeting for the cleansing of the priests before going into the tent of meeting.
- Later on when the permanent it was expanded in size (15 foot wide and 7 ½ foot deep) 1 Kings 7:23. The priests were expected to pass through the water after it was enlarged.



The Brazen Laver was a Pattern of Baptism for the Church.

The Copy/Shadow: The cleansing was commanded or it meant death (Ex 30:20, 40:32).

The Reality: Baptism was commanded with the promise of eternal life.

- Matt 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Mark 16:15)

The Copy/Shadow: The priests were consecrated through the laver (Ex 40:12).

The Reality: God's people are consecrated through baptism.

- Acts 22:16 'And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'
- Titus 3:5 "He saved us...by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit"

"God's Love Story Sermon Outlines"

by Doug Hamilton

The Copy/Shadow: Nobody could go to the Holy Place without being first cleansed (Ex 40:32).

The Reality: One cannot come into the presence of God unless they are baptized

- John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Tent of Meeting: Exodus 26

- The Tent of Meeting was made of two rooms, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. The latter was exactly half the size of the former and they were separated by a veil.
- The Holy Place included three items, the Table of Showbread, the Lampstand and the Altar of Incense. The Holy of Holies held the Ark of the Covenant.

Behold the Pattern of the Holy Place

The Copy/Shadow: Passage to the throne room of God was through the Holy Place (Heb 9:6).

The Reality: All must go through Christ's church to go to heaven.

- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (See also Eph 4:4-6)

The Copy/Shadow: Within the structure there were procedures to be followed (Ex 25:9).

The Reality: There is a clear pattern to be followed in Christ's church.

- 1 Corinthians 4:17 "...just as I teach everywhere in every church."

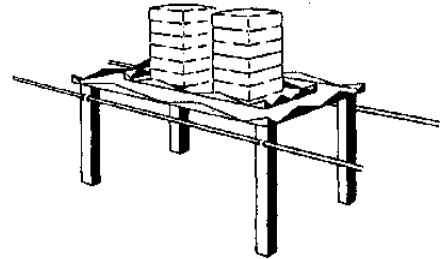
The Copy/Shadow: Poor performance here would not to be tolerated by God (Ex 28:43; Lev 10).

The Reality: Poor performance is not to be tolerated in the Church.

- 1 Timothy 3:15 ...you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.
- 1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

C) Behold the Pattern of the Showbread Table (Ex 25:23-30)

- The frame was made of acacia wood and completely overlaid with gold, being 3 feet long, 1 ½ feet wide and 2 feet high.
- It had a molded gold rim around the top, like a dish, fastened with four gold rings toward the top, two on each side with two poles going through for transport.



The Table of Showbread was a Pattern of the People of God.

The Copy/Shadow: The twelve loaves were identified with the Jewish tribes (Lev 24:5-6)

The Reality: All the church are identified (marked) by God.

- Rev 7:3 "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads." (Eph 1 tells us the mark is the Holy Spirit.)

The Copy/Shadow: The loaves were to be continually before God (Ex 25:30; Num 4:7).

"God's Love Story Sermon Outlines"

by Doug Hamilton

- It was called the “bread of the Presence”.

The Reality: All Christians are to have continual fellowship with God.

- I Jn 1:7 “but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
- Acts 2:42 “And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching...”

The Copy/Shadow: The showbread was to be eaten weekly (Lev 24:8-9).

The Reality: Christians are to assemble weekly.

- Heb 10:25 “...not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging {one another} and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.”
- Acts 20:7 “And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread...”

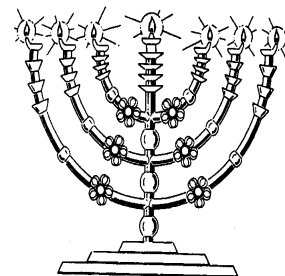
The Copy/Shadow: The loaves were to be placed in the light of the candlestick (Heb 9:2).

The Reality: Christians are to walk in the light of Christ.

- Jesus calls the Christians the “light of the world” in Matt 5:14.
- Paul says of the Christians in Phil 2:15 “...in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,”

D) Behold the Pattern of the Lampstand (Ex 25:31-40)

- It was made of 94 pounds of solid gold with a center stem and six branches, three on a side, coming out from the sides.
- It was referred to as the *Menorah* of God.



The Lampstand was a Pattern of Christ and the Spirit.

The Copy/Shadow: It was symbolic of the perfect light of God (Num 8:2).

The Reality: Jesus is the perfect light of the Christian.

- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.
- John 8:12 “I am the light of the world...”
- Revelation 21:23 New Jerusalem “...lamp is the Lamb.”

The Copy/Shadow: Only the priests could be in the presence of the light (Ex 27:21).

The Reality: Only the priestly saints are in the light of Christ.

- Revelation 1:6 and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- 1 Peter 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- Ephesians 5:8 “...now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light...”

E) Behold the Pattern of the Altar of Incense (Ex 30:1-10)

- It was also made with Acacia wood and overlaid with gold, being called the “Golden Altar”. It was 2’ X 2’ X 3’ and was placed inside the Holy Place in front of the veil.

"God's Love Story Sermon Outlines"

by Doug Hamilton

- It had four golden horns at each corner and four gold overlaid poles on the sides for transport.

The Altar of Incense is a Pattern of the prayer for the saints.

The Copy/Shadow: Incense was offered perpetually (Ex 30:8).

The Reality: Prayers of the Christian are offered perpetually.

- 1Thes 5:17 pray without ceasing;
- Rev 5:8 "...and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."

The Copy/Shadow: It before the Most Holy Place (Ex 40:5; Ps 141:2).

The Reality: Christians' prayers are before God.

- Acts 10:4 "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God".
- Revelation 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.

The Copy/Shadow: The horns on the altar were symbols of power (Ex 37:25).

The Reality: The Christians' prayers have real power.

- Acts 12:5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.
- 2 Cor 1:11 "...through your prayers, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed upon us through {the prayers of} many."
- James 5:16 "...The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

Behold the Heavenly Pattern of the Holy of Holies

The Copy/Shadow: It was a perfect cube (Ex 26)

- The Tabernacle Version: Exodus 26:16-22 (10x10x10 Cubits)
- The Temple Version: 1 Kings 6:20 (20x20x20 Cubits)

The Reality: Heaven is the perfect dimension of God's people.

- Rev 21:16 "...He measured the city [*New Jerusalem*] with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long..."
- John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you."

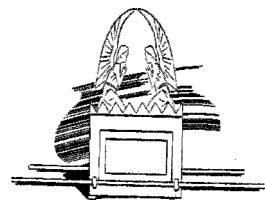
The Copy/Shadow: The High Priest approached the Holy Place through the veil (Heb 9:3).

The Reality: Heaven is approached through the broken body of Jesus, our veil!

- Heb 10:19-20 "...brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh..." (This was accomplished at the crucifixion (Matthew 27:51)).

F) Behold the Pattern of the Ark of the Covenant (Ex 25:10-22)

- It was made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold both in and out. It was a box roughly 3^{1/2} feet long, 2 foot wide and 2 foot high. Mounted on the top were cherubim, facing each other.



"God's Love Story Sermon Outlines"

by Doug Hamilton

- It was placed in the Holy Place behind the veil and was where God would meet for the children of Israel.

The Ark was a Pattern of God's Throne.

The Copy/Shadow: The Ten Commandments were placed inside it (Ex 25:16).

The Reality: God's throne is where all righteousness and judgment emanate (Ps 97:2).

The Copy/Shadow: A jar of manna was kept in the Ark of the Covenant as a reminder of provision (Ex 16:32-33).

The Reality: God's throne is in reality where all spiritual and material possessions emanate.

- Matthew 7:11 "...how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"
- Hebrews 11:6 "...for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

The Copy/Shadow: Aaron's staff in the Ark was to remind of the priesthood authority (Num 17:10).

The Reality: Christ alone is High Priest as ordained from God's throne.

- Heb 2:17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
- Hebrews 3:1-2 "...consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession; ² He was faithful to Him who appointed Him..."

The Copy/Shadow: The Ark was the mercy seat of God (Ex 25:17).

The Reality: Christ resides at the throne and extends his mercies.

- Heb 4:16 "Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need."

The Copy/Shadow Around the Ark (the seat of God) we find Cherubim (guardians of God's glory) (Ex 25:18).

The Reality: There is nothing but glory around God's throne.

- Rev 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, {is} the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come."

Conclusion:

If you want to truly experience God's Love Story, you will have to take a trip through the Tabernacle System of the second half of the Book of Exodus. He has a love which is sacrificial, placing us into His kingdom and dwelling in the light of His Holy Spirit. We know it because we passed through Brazen Laver called baptism. From this kingdom we offer our prayers which we know reach through the veil to His marvelous throne. He hears us, He loves us and looked forward to that time when the clouds will be rolled back like a scroll, the veil will be opened and we will come into His presence forever! This is true love and this is yet another look at His Love Story. In the next lesson we will look at His love through the Sacrificial System.