

# **Second Baptist Church of Doylestown**

## **Bible Study Notes**

**11-11-20**

**Exodus 26**

### **The Tabernacle - Curtains of Linen - Verses 1-6**

**26** "Make the tabernacle with ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, with cherubim woven into them by a skilled worker. <sup>2</sup> All the curtains are to be the same size—twenty-eight cubits long and four cubits wide. <sup>3</sup> Join five of the curtains together, and do the same with the other five. <sup>4</sup> Make loops of blue material along the edge of the end curtain in one set, and do the same with the end curtain in the other set. <sup>5</sup> Make fifty loops on one curtain and fifty loops on the end curtain of the other set, with the loops opposite each other. <sup>6</sup> Then make fifty gold clasps and use them to fasten the curtains together so that the tabernacle is a unit.

**26:1-6** These were to be the inner curtains for the tabernacle. The curtains would be somehow hung over the boards. This would create a rich and beautiful and vibrant inside for the tabernacle. See again that only the absolute best materials were to be used. God deserves our very best. Even our best is not nearly good enough, but we should give it anyway. These curtains were to be made piece by piece with interlocking pieces to connect them into one big sheet. This would make them very mobile so that they could be put together and taken apart easily and quickly for transport. These curtains, too were to be made with cherubim woven into them.

### **Curtains of Goats' Hair - Verses 7-14**

<sup>7</sup> "Make curtains of goat hair for the tent over the tabernacle—eleven altogether. <sup>8</sup> All eleven curtains are to be the same size—thirty cubits long and four cubits wide. <sup>9</sup> Join five of the curtains together into one set and the other six into another set. Fold the sixth curtain double at the front of the tent. <sup>10</sup> Make fifty loops along the edge of the end curtain in one set and also along the edge of the end curtain in the other set. <sup>11</sup> Then make fifty bronze clasps and put them in the loops to fasten the tent together as a unit. <sup>12</sup> As for the additional length of the tent curtains, the half curtain that is left over is to hang down at the rear of the tabernacle. <sup>13</sup> The tent curtains will be a cubit longer on both sides; what is left will hang over the sides of the tabernacle so as to cover it. <sup>14</sup> Make for the tent a covering of ram skins dyed red, and over that a covering of the other durable leather.

**26:7-14** These were the outer curtains. They were not as fancy or beautiful. The function of these curtains was different. They served as a tent for the whole tabernacle. The tabernacle was actually a tent, not a building. Again, this was for the purpose of mobility. These curtains of goats' hair would protect the inside of the tabernacle from natural forces like the sun, sand, dust, dirt and water (the skins were used to waterproof the outside of this tent.)

### **Boards and Sockets - Verses 15-30**

<sup>15</sup> "Make upright frames of acacia wood for the tabernacle. <sup>16</sup> Each frame is to be ten cubits long and a cubit and a half wide, <sup>17</sup> with two projections set parallel to each other. Make all the frames of the tabernacle in this way. <sup>18</sup> Make twenty frames for the south side of the tabernacle <sup>19</sup> and make forty silver bases to go under them—two bases for each frame, one under each projection. <sup>20</sup> For the other side, the north side of the tabernacle, make twenty frames <sup>21</sup> and forty silver bases—two under each frame. <sup>22</sup> Make six frames for the far end, that is, the west end of the tabernacle, <sup>23</sup> and make two frames for the corners at the far end. <sup>24</sup> At these two corners they must be double from the bottom all the way to the top and fitted into a single ring; both shall be like that. <sup>25</sup> So there will be eight frames and sixteen silver bases—two under each frame. <sup>26</sup> "Also make crossbars of acacia wood: five for the frames on one side of the tabernacle, <sup>27</sup> five for those on the other side, and five for the frames on the west, at the far end of the tabernacle. <sup>28</sup> The center crossbar is to extend from end to end at the middle of the frames. <sup>29</sup> Overlay the frames with gold and make gold rings to hold the crossbars. Also overlay the crossbars with gold. <sup>30</sup> "Set up the tabernacle according to the plan shown you on the mountain.

**26:15-30** These boards were to serve as the primary structure/frame for the tabernacle. The curtains would be hung over them. Notice that there were no nails or permanent fixtures. The boards were fitted with notches. This appears to be a type of interlocking connection by which the boards could fit together like a puzzle and then also be snapped out. The entire design is based on mobility. These boards were to be overlaid with gold. Only the best was to be used for God's tabernacle.

### Veil - Verses 31-36

<sup>31</sup> "Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim woven into it by a skilled worker. <sup>32</sup> Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases. <sup>33</sup> Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the covenant law behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. <sup>34</sup> Put the atonement cover on the ark of the covenant law in the Most Holy Place. <sup>35</sup> Place the table outside the curtain on the north side of the tabernacle and put the lampstand opposite it on the south side. <sup>36</sup> "For the entrance to the tent make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen—the work of an embroiderer. <sup>37</sup> Make gold hooks for this curtain and five posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold. And cast five bronze bases for them.

**26:31-33** This special curtain separated the two sacred rooms in the tabernacle—the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. The priest entered the Holy Place each day to commune with God and to tend to the altar of incense, the lampstand, and the table with the bread. The Most Holy Place was where God himself dwelt, his presence resting on the atonement cover, which covered the ark of the covenant. Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place. Even he could do so only once a year (on the Day of Atonement) to make atonement for the sins of the nation as a whole. When Jesus Christ died on the cross, the curtain in the temple (which had replaced the tabernacle) tore from top to bottom (Mark 15:38), symbolizing our free access to God because of Jesus' death. No longer did people have to approach God through priests and sacrifices.

## Exodus 27

### The Altar of Burnt Offering - Verses 1-8

<sup>1</sup> "Build an altar of acacia wood, three cubits high; it is to be square, five cubits long and five cubits wide. <sup>2</sup> Make a horn at each of the four corners, so that the horns and the altar are of one piece, and overlay the altar with bronze. <sup>3</sup> Make all its utensils of bronze—its pots to remove the ashes, and its shovels, sprinkling bowls, meat forks and firepans. <sup>4</sup> Make a grating for it, a bronze network, and make a bronze ring at each of the four corners of the network. <sup>5</sup> Put it under the ledge of the altar so that it is halfway up the altar. <sup>6</sup> Make poles of acacia wood for the altar and overlay them with bronze. <sup>7</sup> The poles are to be inserted into the rings so they will be on two sides of the altar when it is carried. <sup>8</sup> Make the altar hollow, out of boards. It is to be made just as you were shown on the mountain.

**27:1-8** The altar of burnt offering was the first thing the Israelites saw as they entered the tabernacle courtyard. Here sacrifices were constantly made. Its vivid presence constantly reminded the people that they could only come to God by means of the sacrifice. It was the only way their sins could be forgiven and taken away. In Hebrews 10:1-18, Jesus Christ is portrayed as the ultimate sacrifice. This teaches that we are not to seek any other means to having a personal relationship with God. No counseling theory, Eastern mysticism, or modern ideas of spirituality can remove our sin. Jesus is our only High Priest today. Put all your confidence in him.

### The Courtyard - Verses 9-19

<sup>9</sup> "Make a courtyard for the tabernacle. The south side shall be a hundred cubits long and is to have curtains of finely twisted linen, <sup>10</sup> with twenty posts and twenty bronze bases and with silver hooks and bands on the posts. <sup>11</sup> The north side shall also be a hundred cubits long and is to have curtains, with twenty posts and twenty bronze bases and with silver hooks and bands on the posts. <sup>12</sup> "The west end of the courtyard shall be fifty cubits wide and have curtains, with ten posts and ten bases. <sup>13</sup> On the east end, toward the sunrise, the courtyard shall also be fifty cubits wide. <sup>14</sup> Curtains fifteen cubits long are to be on one side of the entrance, with three posts and three bases, <sup>15</sup> and curtains fifteen cubits long are to be on the other side, with three posts and three bases. <sup>16</sup> "For the entrance to the courtyard, provide a curtain twenty cubits long, of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen—the work of an embroiderer—with four posts and four bases. <sup>17</sup> All the posts around the courtyard are to have silver bands and hooks, and bronze bases. <sup>18</sup> The courtyard shall be a hundred cubits long and fifty cubits wide, with curtains of finely twisted linen five cubits high, and with bronze bases. <sup>19</sup> All the other articles used in the service of the tabernacle, whatever their function, including all the tent pegs for it and those for the courtyard, are to be of bronze.

**27:9** The tabernacle sanctuary stood in the western half of a rectangular courtyard whose dimensions were 100 x 50 cubits (150 feet x 75 feet). The tabernacle was situated from East to West with the entrance facing East. The visible cloud of God descended down upon the tabernacle.

**27:9-14** Any common Israelite could enter the courts but only the priestly tribe could go beyond and into the Tabernacle and only the high priest could go beyond still into the holy of holies once per year on Yom Kippur, The Day of Atonement.

**27:9-19** First, we will see how one of the children of Israel, who was a covenant believer, could enter into the front part of the outer court, to the bronze altar, where the sacrifice was offered. God had said that the soul that sinned must surely die. Sin always brings death. That is a law of God. Therefore, the person that sinned immediately had the sentence of death upon him. However, God said that the one who had sinned was permitted to bring a substitutionary sacrifice to die in their place. It had to be a clean and perfect sacrifice of the kind specified for sin. They could not bring money or fruit or anything except a blood sacrifice. If an Israelite sinned and if he was circumcised he had the opportunity to approach the tabernacle with his sacrifice. This gave him access through the gate or the first curtain to the outer court.

**27:9-19** If he were a covenant person and had an acceptable sacrifice he could bring it to the bronze altar. There he could lay his hand on the head of the sacrifice and confess his sin. Then the priest gave him a flint knife and he cut the throat of the sacrifice. By laying his hand on the head of the sacrifice and confessing his sin he identified his life with the sacrifice's death. He realized that the sentence of death was upon him but the lamb or goat was dying in his place. The priest, then, caught the blood in a basin and dipped his finger in the blood and put it upon the four horns of the altar and splashed the blood on the side of the altar and the person's sin was forgiven. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. HEB 9:22 "In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

#### **Oil for the Lampstand - Verses 20-21**

<sup>20</sup> "Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning. <sup>21</sup> In the tent of meeting, outside the curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law, Aaron and his sons are to keep the lamps burning before the LORD from evening till morning. This is to be a lasting ordinance among the Israelites for the generations to come.

**27:20** The oil for the lamps on the lampstand - the only light in the tabernacle - came from pressed olives, not beaten olives. God uses a pressing work in the life of His people. We, like Paul, may be hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed 2 Corinthians 4:8 - and God uses our times of pressing for His glory.

**27:21** The priests were to tend the lamps, making sure that the lamps had oil to burn and that their wicks were trimmed, so that the lamps would never go out - especially during the night. God never wanted the lamps to lose their fire. Only by a continual supply of oil and trimming of the wicks could keep them burning. We can only continue to be on fire for God if we are continually supplied with the oil of the Holy Spirit and are "trimmed" by God to bear even more light.