

Exodus Part 30 (Chapter 37)

Making the Ark

Exo 37:1 Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood--two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high.

Exo 37:2 He overlaid it with pure gold, both inside and out, and made a gold molding around it.

Exo 37:3 He cast four gold rings for it and fastened them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other.

Exo 37:4 Then he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold.

Exo 37:5 And he inserted the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry it.

Exo 37:6 He made the atonement cover of pure gold--two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide.

Exo 37:7 Then he made two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover.

Exo 37:8 He made one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; at the two ends he made them of one piece with the cover.

Exo 37:9 The cherubim had their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim faced each other, looking toward the cover.

Making the Table

Exo 37:10 They made the table of acacia wood--two cubits long, a cubit wide and a cubit and a half high.

Exo 37:11 Then they overlaid it with pure gold and made a gold molding around it.

Exo 37:12 They also made around it a rim a handbreadth wide and put a gold molding on the rim.

Exo 37:13 They cast four gold rings for the table and fastened them to the four corners, where the four legs were.

Exo 37:14 The rings were put close to the rim to hold the poles used in carrying the table.

Exo 37:15 The poles for carrying the table were made of acacia wood and were overlaid with gold.

Exo 37:16 And they made from pure gold the articles for the table--its plates and dishes and bowls and its pitchers for the pouring out of drink offerings.

Making the Lampstand

Exo 37:17 They made the lampstand of pure gold. They hammered out its base and shaft, and made its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms of one piece with them.

Exo 37:18 Six branches extended from the sides of the lampstand--three on one side and three on the other.

Exo 37:19 Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms were on one branch, three on the next branch and the same for all six branches extending from the lampstand.

Exo 37:20 And on the lampstand were four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms.

Exo 37:21 One bud was under the first pair of branches extending from the lampstand, a second bud under the second pair, and a third bud under the third pair--six branches in all.

Exo 37:22 The buds and the branches were all of one piece with the lampstand, hammered out of pure gold.

Exo 37:23 They made its seven lamps, as well as its wick trimmers and trays, of pure gold.

Exo 37:24 They made the lampstand and all its accessories from one talent of pure gold.

Making the Altar of Incense

Exo 37:25 They made the altar of incense out of acacia wood. It was square, a cubit long and a cubit wide and two cubits high--its horns of one piece with it.

Exo 37:26 They overlaid the top and all the sides and the horns with pure gold, and made a gold molding around it.

Exo 37:27 They made two gold rings below the molding--two on each of the opposite sides--to hold the poles used to carry it.

Exo 37:28 They made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold.

Exo 37:29 They also made the sacred anointing oil and the pure, fragrant incense--the work of a perfumer.

Exodus 37, detailing the construction of the Ark of the Covenant, mercy seat, and tabernacle furniture, directly foreshadows Jesus Christ and the New Testament church. The Ark (wood and gold) symbolizes Christ's humanity and deity, while the mercy seat represents the sacrifice and atonement that provide believers direct access to God, replacing the old, temporary system.

Key Connections:

- The Ark of the Covenant (Christ's Person): The shittim-wood (humanity) covered in gold (deity) represents the God-Man, Jesus Christ, who embodies the law.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Col 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,
Col 2:10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

Php 2:5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Php 2:6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

Php 2:7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Php 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

- The Mercy Seat (Propitiation): The lid where God's presence dwelled symbolises Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice covering our sins, fulfilling the atonement mentioned in 7.

Hebrews 10:10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:11 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

Hebrews 10:12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

Hebrews 10:13 and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool.

Hebrews 10:14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

- The Table of Showbread (Provision): This points to Jesus as the bread of life and represents the provision for believers in God's house.

John 6:33 For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

John 6:34 "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

John 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6:36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.

John 6:37 All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

- The Lampstand (Light and Spirit): The beaten gold lampstand represents Christ as the light of the world and the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Eph 1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Eph 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

Eph 1:19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength

Eph 1:20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

Eph 1:21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

2Co 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

- The Incense Altar (Prayer): This symbolizes the intercession of Christ and the prayers of the saints.

Rom 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

Rom 8:27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Rom 8:34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Psa 141:1 I call to you, LORD, come quickly to me; hear me when I call to you.

Psa 141:2 May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

Rev 5:8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

Rev 8:3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne.

Rev 8:4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand.

- Restricted Access vs. Direct Access: In Exodus 37, only priests could see the furniture, but the New Testament teaches that all believers have access to God through Jesus, as discussed in [4](#) and [7](#).

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Eph 2:17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

Eph 2:18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Heb 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin.

Heb 4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- Worship and Holiness: The meticulous, holy construction of the furniture in 2 and 6 reflects the holiness required of the church today.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Eph 5:26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

Eph 5:27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

In short, Exodus 37 describes the, "...pictorial representations of Christ to come," as shown in 2.

Rev 1:12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

Rev 1:13 and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

Rev 1:14 The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

Rev 1:15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

Rev 1:16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

Dan 10:5 I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.

Dan 10:6 His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.