

Exodus 38-40

September 18, 2011

Introduction:

This lesson finishes the book of Exodus. The Tabernacle and all of its contents are constructed and put in their place. Each of the “pieces” listed below are “pictures” of New Testament characters or principles.

What do you think that they represent? The Tabernacle

- The Tabernacle is a picture of God / Jesus being with us. It was plain on the outside but incredible on the inside. Jesus was ordinary on the outside ([Isaiah 53:2](#)), but incredible on the inside (His character). Jesus *became flesh and dwelt* (literally “tabernacled”) *among us* ([John 1:14](#)).

The Porpoise Skin Roof – [39:34](#)

- Fish skin does not leak. The roof gave perfect protection. In Christ we are *protected by the power of God* ([1 Peter 1:5](#)). See [John 10:27-29](#). [[27](#) My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. [28](#) I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, [29](#) for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father’s hand.] [NLT](#)

The Red Ceiling – [39:24](#)

- Our sin has been “covered” by the blood of the Lamb of God. See [John 1:29](#) & [Isaiah 1:18](#). [[29](#) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! [Isaiah 1:18](#). [18](#) “Come now, let’s settle this,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.]

The Ten Commandments in the Ark – [40:20](#)

- God met with Moses above the Ark. Our relationship with God is through His Word. Without the Bible, we are just making God up.

The Mercy Seat – [37:6-9](#)

- The Mercy Seat is where the blood was sprinkled on the Day of Atonement to atone for (cover) our sin. It is a picture of Calvary where Jesus shed His blood for us. The word “propitiation” is “mercy seat” ([1 John 2:2](#)). See [Hebrews 9:11-14](#). [[11](#) So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come.* He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. [12](#) With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever. [13](#) Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow could cleanse people’s bodies from ceremonial impurity. [14](#) Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.] [NLT](#)

The Cherubim above the Mercy Seat – [37:6-9](#)

- The Cherubim were judgment angels. They withheld God’s judgment when they saw the sprinkled blood on the Mercy Seat. It was like when the death angel saw the blood on the doorposts in Egypt and passed over those houses.

The Veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies – [40:3](#)

- This veil kept ordinary men from the presence of eternal God. When Christ died, the veil was torn from top to bottom (**Mark 15:37-38**) by the Lord to signify that men could now come into the very presence of God.

The Table of Showbread – 40:4,23

- Jesus is the Bread of Life (**John 6:32-35**).

The Lampstand – 40:4

- Jesus is the Light of the World (**John 8:12**).

The Altar of Burnt Offering – 40:6

- This altar represented the fiery judgment of God. Jesus suffered our punishment for our sin.

The Laver – 40:7

- Our sin is washed away in Christ. See **Titus 3:4-6**. [4 But—“When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, 5 he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. 6 He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.] **NLT**

The Altar of Incense – 40:5

- The incense burning and the smoke going up represent the prayers of God’s people (**Revelation 5:8**).

39:25-26 Why do you think that Aaron’s High Priestly robe had bells on the bottom?

- We will not read it now, but **Leviticus 16** makes it very clear that Aaron would die behind the veil if he did not follow God’s directives or if he had not properly dealt with his sin. If the bells quit jingling and he wouldn’t answer the priests from the other side of the veil, then they knew that he would have died before the Lord. Jewish historians tell us that they later also tied a rope around the High Priest’s ankle so that they could pull him out if he died behind the veil.

40:34-38 How did the “glory of the Lord” appear to these people in chapter 40 verses 34 to 38?

- God appeared to them in a cloud by day and a fire by night. The cloud would descend into the Tabernacle and did so when it was dedicated. The same thing happened when Solomon dedicated the Temple (**1 Kings 8:11**). [11 The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple.] **NLT**

40:36-38 What do we learn about following the Lord from chapter 40 verses 36 to 38?

- The people would not move until God moved. They had to be patient and “stay put” having no idea when the cloud/fire would move next. How many times have we messed up because we moved before God wanted us to move? When we get impatient, we tend to go ahead and act rather than waiting upon the Lord. God is never in a hurry. **2 Peter 3:15** tell us to *regard the patience of our Lord as salvation*.

Did you notice that the cloud was “on” the Tabernacle by day and the fire was “in” the Tabernacle at night and that the people could see that the fire was in the Tabernacle? Also, the fire did not burn and consume the Tabernacle.

38:22 39:5,21,26,29,31,32,42,43 40:16,25,27,29,32 In all of these verses we have this reoccurring phrase: *just as the Lord commanded*. How has your life been made more difficult by not doing *just as the Lord commanded*? Who would share some examples with us?

- Each group leader should share some example from his or her life. Examples could include friends, dating, marriage, sex, abortion, money, etc.