

Doctrine of the Tabernacle

1. God told Moses to build the Tabernacle according to the pattern that He showed him in the mount.
 - *Exodus 25:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.*
 - *Exodus 25:8 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.*
2. The earthly sanctuary would reveal a heavenly meaning.
 - *Hebrews 8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.*
3. The Tabernacle was typical of Christ and His redemptive work on the Cross.
4. Exodus 25 provides the first of the God given descriptions of the Tabernacle.
5. The cost to build the Tabernacle was to be provided by a free will offering of the people with money taken from the Egyptians.
 - *Exodus 11:2 Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold.*
 - *Exodus 12:35 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: 36 And the Lord gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians.*
6. So much money was collected that the people were told to stop giving.
 - *Exodus 36:5 And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the Lord commanded to make. 6 And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing. 7 For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.*
7. God called two chosen men to oversee the building of the Tabernacle (Exodus 31:1-6). Bezaleel was of the tribe of Judah while Aholiab was of the tribe of Dan.

- *Exodus 31:1 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 2 See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: 3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, 4 To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, 5 And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. 6 And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee;*

8. To minister in the Tabernacle once it was completed God ordained Aaron and his sons to be High Priests (Ex. 28:1-29:46; Lev. 8:1-9:24; Heb. 5:1-10, 22).

9. The High Priest had to meet specific qualifications (Heb. 5:1-4).

- He had to be a man.
- He had to be called of God.

Hebrews 5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: 2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. 3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. 4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

10. The duties of the High Priest were threefold.

- He had to offer gifts and sacrifices for sin.
- He had to have compassion on the ignorant and the erring.
- He had to pray for the people before the golden altar of incense. Hebrews 5:5-10 tells us that Jesus Christ fulfilled the qualifications of the High Priest.

11. In preparing for the priesthood, Aaron was anointed with oil before the bloody sacrifices were offered and he was given the robe of beauty and glory. His sons were anointed after the bloody sacrifices were made.

12. The garments of glory, which Aaron wore, were the embroidered linen coat, the girdle of needlework, and the blue robe of the ephod which was ornamented with golden bells and pomegranates.

- *Exodus 28:4 And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a brodered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.*

- *Exodus 28:8 And the curious girdle of the ephod, which is upon it, shall be of the same, according to the work thereof; even of gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.*
- *Exodus 28:33 And beneath upon the hem of it thou shalt make pomegranates of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, round about the hem thereof; and bells of gold between them round about: 34 A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe round about. 35 And it shall be upon Aaron to minister: and his sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy place before the Lord, and when he cometh out, that he die not.*

The ephod was an outer garment; a long sleeveless tunic which reached below the waist a little below the knees. The ephod was made of a front and back with a slit for the head to fit through. It was fastened together by two precious onyx stones on the shoulders. It was made of gold and of fine white linen, embroidered in blue, purple, and scarlet. It was held in place by the girdle fashioned of the same beautiful materials as those which went into the making of the Ephod.

The breastplate was the crowning glory to the ephod. It was "foursquare...being doubled." It was secured to the shoulder pieces of the ephod by golden chains, and to the ephod just above the girdle by a lace of blue which passed through rings of gold. The breastplate had twelve precious stones large enough for the name of a tribe to be engraved upon it--four rows of stones, with three jewels in each row set in gold.

- *Exodus 28:30 And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the Lord: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the Lord continually.*

Row 1	Sardius	Topaz	Carbuncle
Row 2	Emerald	Sapphire	Diamond
Row 3	Ligure	Agate	Amethyst
Row 4	Beryl	Onyx	Jasper

Two onyx stones sat upon the shoulders, one on each shoulder.

- The miter and the holy crown was also worn by the High Priest. The word "*miter*" comes from a Hebrew word meaning "*to wrap*" or "*to roll around*." The headdress of the High Priest was a kind of turban wrapped around the head. It was made of white linen. Upon the forefront of the miter was the holy crown or a plate of pure gold upon a lace of blue. Engraved upon this plate of gold were the words, "*HOLINESS TO THE LORD*" (Ex. 28; 36-38; 29:6; Lev. 8:9).

13. Prior to entering into the priesthood, Aaron and his sons were washed at the door of the Tabernacle (Ex. 30 cf. John 17:17-19; Eph. 5:25, 26) and then anointed with oil.

14. For seven days Aaron feasted with his sons in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle. On the eighth day Aaron and his sons went out of the Holy Place and the Lord appeared unto all the people.

- *Leviticus 9:1 And it came to pass on the eighth day, that Moses called Aaron and his sons, and the elders of Israel; 2 And he said unto Aaron, Take thee a young calf for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering, without blemish, and offer them before the Lord. 3 And unto the children of Israel thou shalt speak, saying, Take ye a kid of the goats for a sin offering; and a calf and a lamb, both of the first year, without blemish, for a burnt offering; 4 Also a bullock and a ram for peace offerings, to sacrifice before the Lord; and a meat offering mingled with oil: for to day the Lord will appear unto you. 5 And they brought that which Moses commanded before the tabernacle of the congregation: and all the congregation drew near and stood before the Lord. 6 And Moses said, This is the thing which the Lord commanded that ye should do: and the glory of the Lord shall appear unto you. 7 And Moses said unto Aaron, Go unto the altar, and offer thy sin offering, and thy burnt offering, and make an atonement for thyself, and for the people: and offer the offering of the people, and make an atonement for them; as the Lord commanded. 8 Aaron therefore went unto the altar, and slew the calf of the sin offering, which was for himself. 9 And the sons of Aaron brought the blood unto him: and he dipped his finger in the blood, and put it upon the horns of the altar, and poured out the blood at the bottom of the altar:*
- *Leviticus 9:23 And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto all the people. 24 And there came a fire out from before the Lord, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.*
- *Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

15. To assist Aaron and his sons the other men from the tribe of Levi were dedicated to God for service.

- *Numbers 8:19 And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and to his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the service of the children of Israel in the tabernacle of the congregation, and to make an atonement for the children of Israel: that there be no plague among the children of Israel, when the children of Israel come nigh unto the sanctuary.*
- *Numbers 8:21 And the Levites were purified, and they washed their clothes; and Aaron offered them as an offering before the Lord; and Aaron made an atonement for them to cleanse them.*

16. The Levites pitched their tents on three sides of the Tabernacle, between the tents of the other tribes and the sanctuary itself.

- *Numbers 3:23 The families of the Gershonites shall pitch behind the tabernacle westward.*
- *Numbers 3:29 The families of the sons of Kohath shall pitch on the side of the tabernacle southward.*
- *Numbers 3:35 And the chief of the house of the father of the families of Merari was Zuriel the son of Abihail: these shall pitch on the side of the tabernacle northward.*

17. The priests and the Levites were nearest to the Tabernacle, to minister there for all the people.

18. The Gershonites had charge of the coverings and curtains, the hangings and cords.