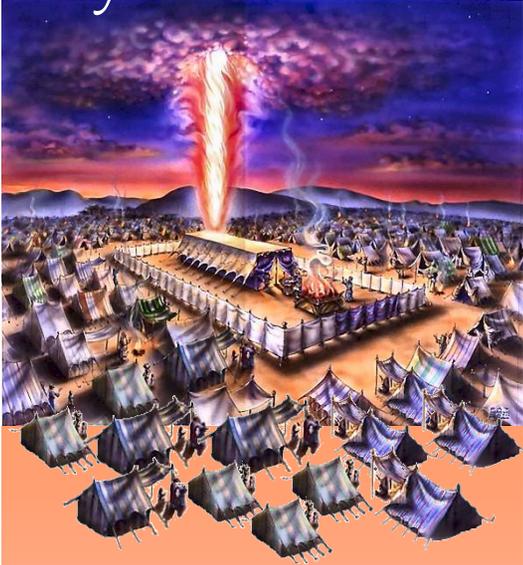


The Tabernacle of Moses Part 2

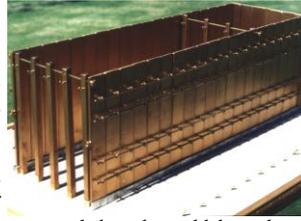


The House of the Lord



THE WALLS OF THE TABERNACLE

Under the tents lied the house of the tabernacle. The house was built using wooden boards, each measuring 10 cubits in height and 1½ cubits in width. The thickness of each board is not given in the bible; however, Josephus says that they measured 4 fingerbreadths thick. If these dimensions are correct, each board would have been approximately 14 ½ feet tall, 2 ¼ feet wide, and 3 inches thick.



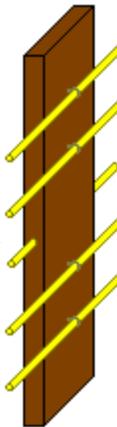
The main entrance to the house always faced east, looking towards the coming of the Messiah. This has symbolic implication to those that worship at the temple, their heart, might, mind, and strength should be focused on their Savior.

The north and south wall of the tabernacle consisted of 20 boards side by side. This resulted in an overall length of 30 cubits or 43 feet and 9 inches for the house. The west wall consisted of 6 boards and an additional 7th board that was the same size as the rest except for the fact that it was only 1 cubit wide. This made the west wall 10 cubits or approximately 14 ½ feet in length.

Midway up each board was a horizontal hole drilled into the 3 inch side of the wood through the width of the board. Through these holes was run a long pole holding the various boards together to form a wall. Additionally, there were 4 rings on each



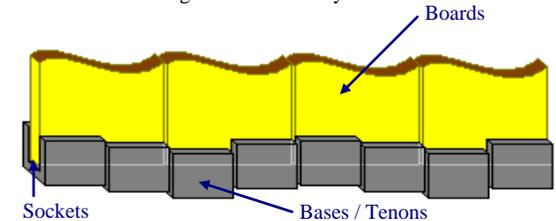
board through which additional bars passed. No board was complete without these rings. Rings symbolize eternity. A circle has no beginning and no end. The rings speak of the eternal link between God and Man. We are symbolically the boards. Wood is commonly used as a symbol of humanity. Wood is imperfect and different from piece to piece. The pole or rods can be likened unto the iron rod, which is the word of God. It is straight and exact. Applying it to the boards we find unity, strength, and structure. The boards of the tabernacle were plated with pure gold. Gold is a symbol for perfection and godliness. The boards of the tabernacle had symbolically been made perfect. Notice that there are 5 rods. Five being the number for grace or mercy, one can see that man's perfection can only come through God's mercy.



In speaking of the tabernacle there are three metals used for various items. They should be mentioned.

Gold symbolizes deity. It is the color of royalty. It is the color of God, the Father. It also symbolizes the Celestial Kingdom. **Silver** is similar to gold in symbolism. Like gold, it is a symbol of royalty; however, it is consider lesser to gold in status. As such, it is symbol of redemption. Silver is the metal used to symbolize the Terrestrial Kingdom. It is also the symbol for the second member of the Godhead, Jesus Christ. **Brass** is lower than gold and silver in status. It is a worldly metal and symbolizes the Telestial Kingdom. It is the symbol for judgment. It is used exclusively in the court. It is also the symbol for the third Godhead, the Holy Ghost.

The boards, with their supporting rods, needed a foundation. The boards stood on silver bases. The bases had large spikes that drove into the ground for stability.



The top of the bases were notched creating a socket for the boards to attach. Silver is the metal for the Terrestrial Kingdom, it is also the color for the third member of the Godhead. Symbolically, the saints of Gods have Jesus Christ as their foundation. The Lord designed the tabernacle as a portable temple in the wilderness. The ground was not always flat, yet his house was to be made perfect and orderly. There were two bases to each board. The bases were fastened to the uneven ground. As the boards were set in, the rods would keep them straight, any difference in ground level would be made up by the bases, also called "Tenons." Similarly, the Savior makes up for our inadequacies. Through Him and by Him we become equal to any call, challenge, or mandate. Interestingly, the silver was obtained through Israel's payment of the ransom price. Each Israelite paid ½ shekel of silver (10 gerahs) for redemption as a payment for ransom. Indeed, these silver bases have reference to the Savior.

THE ENTRANCE OF THE TABERNACLE

As one approached the front of the tabernacle a beautiful veil would block the view of it's interior. The veil hung on five pillars. While the veil barred the way into the presence of God, the veil was for the constant entrance of the priests into the holy place. In other words, those that are worthy and qualified were permitted to enter into the house of God. The 5 pillars of "shittim" wood, overlaid with gold, and "chapters," or capitals, and fillets of gold. These pillars rested upon sockets of brass, not silver. This suggests a change from one state to another. The number 5



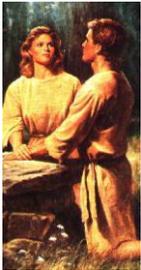
suggests grace and mercy. The veil hanging from the 5 pillars consists of 4 curtains. The number 4 suggests earthly perfection. The veil represents a separation between God and man. The Epistle to the Hebrews says that the veil represents the flesh of Jesus Christ. Such symbolism teaches that the atonement can bridge the barrier between man and heaven.



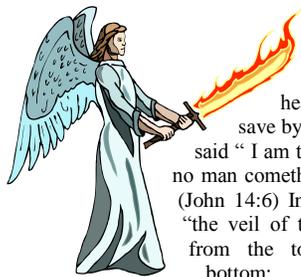
After passing through the first veil, one would find the Holy Place was called the "Mishkan" by the Jews. Within the Mishkan, the sanctuary, were three vessels: the menorah, the incense altar, and the shewbread table. Each of these items testify and teach of Christ. Christ is the bread of life, the light of the world, and the great mediator.

THE ENTRANCE INTO THE HOLY OF HOLIES

At the west end of the Holy Place was another set of veils.



They hung on 4 pillars. The number 4, as stated previously, is a number of earthly perfection; however, on the 4 pillars hung three veils. The number three is the number of the godhead. It is the number of exaltation. The two numbers together convey the idea of mortal man's potential to become perfect and be like unto the Father. Adding to the veil were depictions of cherubim, conveying similar teachings. When God turned Adam and Eve out of the garden for their sin, he set cherubim at the entrance with a flaming sword to keep the way of the tree of life. No mortal man can pass by the angels that stand as sentinels guarding up eternal life from men of sin.



Even so, we know that the veil represents the flesh of Christ! In other words, no man can pass the angels of heaven and enter God's presence save by the power of the Savior. Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6) Interestingly, when Christ died "the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom;

and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent" (Matthew 27:51). As we take upon ourselves the blessings of the atonement and partake of the ordinances and covenants of the Gospel, we will receive that which is necessary to pass the angels. The Apostle



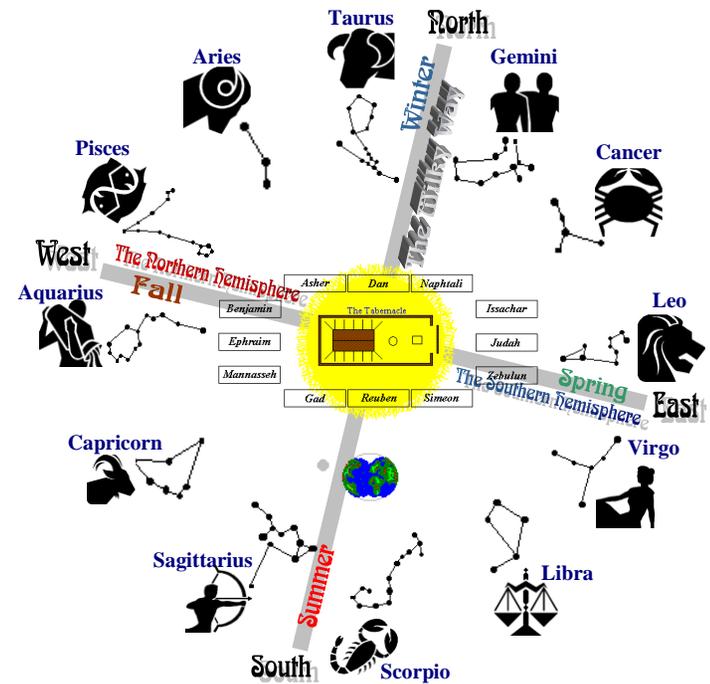
John wrote "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out." (Revelation 3:12)

Passing through the veil brings one symbolically into the presence of God. This room or chamber in the tabernacle is called the Holy of Holies. The room is vacant except for a relatively small object in the middle of the room. The object is the famed Ark of the Covenant. It's lid is called the 'mercy-seat'; should have been translated as 'covering' (כַּפֶּרֶת - kapporeth whose root word is to bow down or humble oneself). Again we see connection to the Savior ability to cover our sins. Within the ark lie three items, a pot of manna, Aaron's blooming rod, and the tablets of the Ten Commandments. These symbolize exactness in keeping God's commandments, honoring and respecting the Priesthood, and a willingness to give all one has to the Lord. Such are fitting symbols when considering the requirements to being in God's Presence. This Holy room is a representation of the Celestial Kingdom, which is often symbolized by the Sun.

THE TABERNACLE REPRESENTS THE UNIVERSE

There appears to be a correlation between the location of the constellations and the placement of the twelve tribes of Israel with respect to the Tabernacle. The Twelve tribes of Israel were commanded of the Lord to camp around the Tabernacle in specific fashion. The tabernacle was always to face the east, and the tribes were to camp around the tabernacle in the same position every time. The tribe of Judah, for example, would always camp to the east of the tabernacle. The twelve tribes also had symbols associated with them. Though some of these symbols have been lost over time, the tribe of Judah for instance is associated with the Lion, the tribe of Dan with the Bull, Rueben with an Eagle (typically called Abraham's Eagle), and Ephriam with the Man. The tribes line up in almost exact relation to the constellations. One immediate exception would be Rueben who should have been symbolized by an eagle but the corresponding constellation symbol is a scorpion. This exception is amazingly resolved when it is discovered that another symbolic name for the constellation of Scorpio is the eagle. The constellations apparently match the symbols used to represent each of the twelve tribes of Israel. They also correspond in general layout.

Another similarity between the constellations and the tribes of Israel is their relationship to the four cardinal directions, and the four seasons. Each tribe faced a cardinal direction. Facing the North was the tribe of Dan, Asher, and Naphtali. Facing the East was the tribe of Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun. Facing the South was the tribe of Rueben, Gad, and Simeon. Finally, the tribe of Ephriam, Benjamin, and



Mannasseh faced the West. Similarly, the constellations are divided between Taurus and Gemini and again between Sagittarius and Scorpio by the Milky Way. The Northern and Southern hemispheres also divides the constellations. It is divided between the constellations Pisces and Aquarius and the constellations Leo and Virgo. This neatly divides the 12 constellations into a North, South, East, and West arrangement. As one might expect at this point, the zodiac signs that match the tribes of Israel also match the cardinal directions. The cardinal directions symbolize all the directions of the earth and consequently represent all of the creations of God. Each direction has its own symbolism associated with it. The following is a symbolic definition for each of the four directions.

North - The Hebrews symbolized the north as the winged ox. It is also a symbol for winter. It is related to death, coldness, darkness, and destruction.

South - The Hebrews symbolized the south as the winged eagle. It is also a symbol for summer. It is related to fire, warmth, the noonday sun, purification, and cleansing.

East - The Hebrews symbolized the east as the winged lion. It is also a symbol for spring. It is related to the dawn or rising sun, hope, and the second coming of Christ.

West - The Hebrews symbolized the west as the winged angel or man. It is also a symbol for fall. It is related to the dying sun or sunset.

It should be noted that with each direction that Israel faced existed a symbolic season. Our modern Salt Lake Temple is aligned to face the celestial direction corresponding to April 6th. It would appear that so did the Ancient Tabernacle.