



The Lord has met Moses on the mountaintop & given him instructions regarding the ark, mercy seat, table, & lampstand. In chapter 26, the instructions continue with the materials & construction of the tabernacle itself.

Remember that at this description, we are looking at the tabernacle as a pattern or representation of heaven. Hebr. 8:5

So these things are a pattern, or model, of what is in heaven. As the detailed tabernacle descriptions arise in future studies, we will look at the tabernacle from other angles, including being representative of Jesus Christ, the way we should pray, & spiritual truths for ourselves & lives.

26:1-6 The Tabernacle Curtains

The tabernacle would be constructed with layers of materials: two curtains & two coverings. The first, inside layer would be visible only from the inside of the tabernacle. This inner layer was made of ten curtains that were fine linen with blue, purple, & scarlet material.

There were to be images of cherubim embroidered or woven into these curtains. Remember that the tabernacle is a model of heaven. We know that there are bunches of angels around heaven & God's throne. Matt. 18:10 Rev. 5:11; 7:11 With the inner curtains embroidered in this way, when you entered the Holy Place, you would see cherubim all around.

God built beauty into the walls & ceiling of the tabernacle, not only with the colors used but also with the images of the cherubim on the curtains. The commandment against making graven images did not prohibit the people from engaging in artistic work & making beautiful things, for they did not intend to worship these things they made for God's glory.

26:7-13 The Tent Curtains

The next layer of curtains were eleven curtains made of goats' hair. With larger measurements, these curtains completely cover the fine linen curtain. No one could see inside unless they entered in through the single door. Such is heaven as well. There is one door, one way. Jn 14:6; 3:3; Lk 13:23-24

26:14 Coverings For The Tent

Keep in mind that the tabernacle proper was a tent located within a courtyard, with the various coverings placed over a

wooden framework. There were four different coverings, the inner two of woven fabric & the outer two of animal skins.

The innermost covering was of beautifully-colored linen, covered by fabric of woven goat's hair. Then came two protective coverings for the tent—ram's hide dyed red & leather-like badger's skins. These materials were in common use among the nomadic peoples of that day.

The appearance of this heavenly dwelling place is not all that impressive from the outside. The true beauty cannot be seen except from the inside. This is a picture of heaven as well. As we try to imagine from the outside, we have no grasp at all of the beauty of heaven. Rom. 8:18 2 Cor. 12:4 We have not a clue of the beauty & glory waiting for us.

26:15-30 Boards For The Tabernacle

These gold-plated boards for the walls of the tabernacle were to sit in silver sockets. Each socket was a full talent of silver (about 250 pounds). Exod. 38:27

Now what about heaven does this represent? Silver in the Scriptures speaks of redemption. The first-born son was to be redeemed with silver (Dt. 18:16). It also speaks of blood, as the price for Jesus' life was 30 pieces of silver. The silver sockets were what connected the tabernacle to earth. What has connected heaven to earth? What made it accessible. Jesus blood, His redemption for us.

26:31-35 The Veil

The veil acted as a partition between the two rooms inside the tabernacle - the holy of holies, where the ark was to be placed, & the holy place, where the rest of the furniture sat. The priests would enter the holy place daily to maintain the lamp & weekly to change out the showbread. But they were never allowed behind the veil. Only the High Priest was permitted behind the veil, & he could only enter once a year, on the Day of Atonement.

This again is a picture of heaven, but as it was formerly. Heaven is no longer veiled to us. 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 & sacrifices.

26:36-37 The Screen

The Most Holy Place had a separate screened doorway. Here there are five pillars instead of four, & sockets of bronze rather than silver. Bronze speaks of judgment in the Scriptures. We may enter the Holy Place once we have stood before the

judgment seat of Christ. Everything outside the tabernacle tent then represents God's kingdom on the earth.

27:1-8 The Altar Of Sacrifice

The altar of sacrifice was to have horns on its four corners. Sacrificial blood was to be put on the horns by the high priest once a year for atonement. Another purpose for the horns was to use them to bind sacrifices to the altar. Ps. 118:27

Halfway up the altar was a bronze net, like a barbecue screen. This would allow the ashes to drop down & be removed with the pails. 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 & taken away. In Hebrews 10:1-18, Jesus Christ is portrayed as the ultimate sacrifice.

27:9-19 The Court

The rectangular court was surrounded by a large linen fence, with pillars every three cubits. At one end was a single gate, the material being the same blue, purple & scarlet color as the two veils. Just to be inside the tabernacle courts was a blessing. (Ps. 84:10; Ps. 100:4) During the Great Tribulation, the newly-rebuilt temple will not have a court. Rev. 11:1-2

27:20-21 Oil For The Light

The candlestick (lampstand) was to have clear oil of beaten olives as a fuel source. Cheap olive oil used heat in extracting it from olives. When burned, cheap olive oil smokes. Pure olive oil does not use heat & does not smoke. It would be the priests' duty to maintain the oil, keeping the light going.

