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The Tabernacle

The Tabernacle of Israel is perhaps the most brilliant illustration of the Design of God in the Bible.

- It is a straightforward illustration of the grace of God in providing a way to have a relationship with mankind.
- The Tabernacle was part of the Mosaic Law the Covenant that the Lord made with Moses.
- The Law was included ritual for worship.
- The center of the ritual was the Tabernacle.
- The overall plan of the Tabernacle illustrated the grace of God in providing a dwelling among mankind.
- The Tabernacle served as a shadow of the heavenly things.
- To violate the grace plan of the Tabernacle meant instant death.
- The Bible has documented some of those who have violated the operational plan of the Tabernacle (that is violating procedure), and died as a result (Num. 3:4; 16:32-33, 49; 26:61).

Tabernacle Layout:

- The Tabernacle was a tent that was pitched in the midst of the camp of Israel during the wilderness wanderings.
- The Tabernacle had a wall of linen which was five cubits high (7.5 feet).
- Tabernacle area was 150 X 50 cubits or 225 feet x 75 feet (Exodus 27:18).
- The white wall of linen marked the boundary between sanctified, or holy, ground on God's side against the world on the outside.
- The world was not allowed to have fellowship with God. Only recipients of the grace of God were allowed access to Him.
- Only Moses and the sons of Aaron Priesthood were allowed access to the Tabernacle.
- The Tabernacle was the center of worship for Israel until the coming of Christ.
- The curtains of the Tabernacle marked off the boundaries of the grace of God.
- The outer wall of linen separated the dwelling of God from the world.
- The curtain of the Gate with four colors marked the way of salvation.

- The Door of the Holy Place with five posts represented Grace Orientation.
- The Veil of the Holy of Holies separated man from the presence of the Holy and Righteous God, who dwelt between the Cherubs of the Mercy Seat as the Shekinah Glory, the pre-incarnate manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Tabernacle was divided into three major parts:

- **A** -The Outer Court - represented the body of Christ.
- **B** -The Holy Place - represented the soul of Christ.
- **C** -The Holy of Holies - represented the Spirit of Christ.

Everything in the Tabernacle points to the Lord Jesus Christ:

- **1** -The Gate – Christ, the only way
- **2** - Brazen Altar - Christ, our sacrifice
- **3** - Laver - Christ, our sanctification; Rebound.
- **4** - Door - Grace orientation
- **5** - Altar of Incense - Faith-Rest and the Prayer Life
- **6** - Table of Shewbread - Christ, the Bread of Life - Doctrinal Orientation
- **7** - Golden Lampstand - Christ, our Light - Personal Sense of Destiny
- **8** - The Veil – Christ, our Mediator
- **9** - Ark of the Covenant - Christ, our all in all
- **10** - Mercy Seat - Christ, our propitiation

The Gate:

- The single Gate was the only means of access into the Tabernacle.
- The only access was the Gate with four posts and a curtain of Blue, Purple, Scarlet, and Grace is God's unmerited favor on us undeserving sinners and Grace is God's unmerited favor on us undeserving sinners.
- The Gate illustrates clearly that Jesus Christ is the only one way of salvation (John 14:6).
- Entering the curtain of the Gate represents the decision to believe in Christ for salvation.
- It represents man's decision to accept the work of Christ for salvation because directly inside the Gate was the Brazen Altar, a symbol of Christ, our sacrifice.

The Brazen Altar:

- The reliance upon the work of Christ on the cross as symbolized by the Brazen Altar where animals were sacrificed.
- The blood of the animal represented the blood of Christ, who provided redemption for our sins.
- Salvation is all of grace. Mankind does nothing to earn or deserve salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- Through salvation, God provides a way whereby mankind can have a relationship with God.
- The Gate and Brazen Altar illustrated God's grace plan for salvation.

- Salvation could be provided only one way, God's way. Any other attempt would be fruitless and disastrous.

The Laver:

- The Laver (Exodus 30:18) was a trough of water where the Levitical Priests washed their hands and feet.
- Washing was needed after offering animal sacrifices to remove the blood.
- The Laver represented Christ, our sanctification.
- Sanctification means to be set apart (Heb. 2:11). The believer is set apart from the world.
- He can never lose his salvation because the work of salvation is complete the moment He believes in Christ (Heb. 10:14).
- It does not matter what happens after salvation (Heb. 10:29, John 10:28).
- The Levitical Priests were washed all over once (Ex. 29:4; 40:12) to symbolize their positional sanctification (Titus 3:5).
- Thereafter, they washed their hands and feet in the Laver (Ex. 30:19-20), which symbolized experiential sanctification or Rebound.
- Experiential sanctification for the believer is required every time he sins after salvation.
- To Rebound, the believer who has sinned must name his sins to God.
- The believer who sins after salvation does not lose his salvation; he simply loses fellowship with God, which means the loss of the Filling of the Holy Spirit.
- Rebound is experiential non-meritorious procedure which is practiced out of fellowship illustrates God's grace provision for living the Christian life.
- In Israel fellowship with God did not mean the Filling of the Spirit; but it was required in order to execute the Plan of God in submission to divine authority.
- In the Age of Israel, an animal sacrifice had to be offered by the Priest after Rebound.
- In the Church Age, animal sacrifice is no longer required because the Lord Jesus Christ paid for all sins on the cross.

The Door:

- Entrance into the Holy Place by the Priests illustrated Grace Orientation.
- The door was covered by a curtain of Blue, Purple, Scarlet and Fine White Linen which provided access (Ex. 26:36-37).
- The Door represented Christ, our access (Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2:18; 3:12) into the Plan of God, the new spiritual life for the believer, the abundant life (John 10:10; Eph. 3:20).
- The Door was the only access into the Holy Place (Rom. 5:1-2).
- The Holy Place was the illustration of the spiritual life in Israel.
- It represented Faith-Rest and the Prayer Life. As the incense rose to heaven, it illustrated prayers going up.

The Golden Table of Shewbread:

- There was also the Table of Shewbread (which means "in the presence of the Lord") (Ex. 25:23-30) with twelve loaves of bread.
- The twelve loaves of bread symbolized the Lord Jesus Christ, "the bread of life" (John 6:35, 48).
- The Levitical Priests would eat the bread every Sabbath (Leviticus 24:5-9).

The Golden Lampstand:

- The Golden Lampstand (Ex. 25:31-39) on the other side of the room represented Christ, "the light of the world" (John 8:12; 9:5) and also the believer's Personal Sense of Destiny (Psalm 119:105; 1 John 1:7).
- This was the only light in the Holy Place.
- The furniture of the Holy Place illustrated God's grace provision for executing the spiritual life after salvation.
- The Lampstand includes both tactical and strategic advance of the believers in the plan of God.

The Veil in the Tabernacle:

- The veil was necessary to protect mankind from God.
- The Lord Jesus Christ dwelt between the Cherubs on the Mercy Seat behind the Veil.
- To come into His presence without following the grace procedures would have meant instant death.
- The Veil also illustrated the separation between a Holy God and sinful mankind in a totally depraved state.
- The Veil was a curtain from floor to ceiling that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies (Ex. 26:31-34).
- The Veil represented the humanity Christ (Heb. 10:19-20).
- When Christ was crucified the Veil in the Temple (90 feet high, 30 feet wide and 18" thick) was severed in two (Mat. 27:51).
- The Veil represented Christ, our Mediator. Through his substitutionary spiritual death on the cross, Christ opened direct access for the Church Age believer to the Throne of God in Heaven itself.

The Holy of Holies

- Grace is God's unmerited favor on us undeserving sinners.
- Inside the Holy of Holies represented Christ our all in all as well as the fruit of the Spirit of the adult Christian life.
- All that we have in our grace relationship with God is compliments of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The Holy of Holies represented both the love relationship with the Godhead and bearing fruit.

- Aaron's rod which has blossomed and bore almond fruits was kept in the Ark of the Covenant as symbol of divinely ordained authority and fruit bearing (grace production).

The Ark of the Covenant

- The Ark was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold.
- The wood represented the humanity of Christ while the gold represented His deity.
- The combination represented the Lord Jesus Christ, the uniquely born Son of God in Hypostatic Union - perfect humanity and undiminished deity.
- The Lord Jesus Christ was uniquely qualified to satisfy the demands of a Holy and Righteous God and bear the sins of the world.
- As deity, He was equal with God.
- The Holy of Holies represented both the love relationship with the Godhead and bearing fruit.
- Aaron's rod that was kept in the Ark of the Covenant had budded, blossomed, and bore almond fruits.
- Aaron's rod was kept in the Ark as a symbol of divinely ordained authority and spiritual fruit bearing (grace production).
- As humanity, He was equal with mankind.
- As deity, He was acceptable to God.
- As humanity, He represents mankind before mankind.
- The Lord Jesus Christ, thus, became the mediator between God and man.
- The problem is that God is absolute righteousness and His perfect justice can have nothing to do with sin.
- To come into God's presence with sin would mean instant death. So the mediator had to be equal with God to be acceptable to Him and equal to mankind to be able to represent them.
- The perfect humanity of Jesus Christ is the only one who could meet these criteria. Christ became the perfect mediator.
- The mediation required the payment for the sins of the world to satisfy the demands of a righteous God.
- By the work of Christ on the cross, He reconciled all mankind to Himself. Christ was perfect righteousness; so He was acceptable to God.
- Mankind was reconciled to Christ, and God accepted mankind as being in Christ.
- So mankind was reconciled to God on the basis of the finished sacrifice of Christ for the sins of the world (1Tim. 2:5-6).

The Mercy Seat:

- The Ark was covered with a Mercy Seat of pure gold, which represents Christ, our propitiation (Rom. 3:25; Heb 9:5).

- The blood was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat on the Day of Atonement; and God was satisfied, which means that God the Father was satisfied (propitiated) by the work of Christ on the cross on behalf of mankind.
- The Mercy Seat, in addition to the previously mentioned symbolism, represents Occupation with Christ.
- The articles in the Ark also represent God's grace provision for solving problems.
- The Ark of the Covenant contained three things.
 1. The pot of manna represents the work of God the Father in providing Logistical Grace and symbolizes Personal Love for God, the source of Logistical Grace provision.
 2. Aaron's rod that budded represents grace blessing, which corresponds to Sharing the perfect Happiness of God.
 3. The Tables of the Law represent relationship with people, Impersonal Love for All Mankind.
- For the Church Age Believer, the Holy of Holies represents the Adult Spiritual Life
- The Holy Place represents Spiritual Childhood.

The grace of God is manifested through the Tabernacle:

1. God's perfect plan is executed through God's perfect operating procedures.
2. God's perfect system and standard is God's boundaries of grace.
3. God's boundaries of grace if violated results to destruction and even death.
4. God's grace is separate from the world.
5. God wants to dwell among us, have a love relationship with us, and bless us.
6. God cannot compromise His perfect Integrity.
7. God found a way to bless us through the work of Christ on the cross.
8. Grace procedures are always available as long as we are alive.