

May 2–8
Exodus 35–40; Leviticus 1; 16; 19
“Holiness to the Lord”



Building the Portable Tabernacle

Exd 25:1-2,8-9

What does the Lord require to those who “bring [Him] an offering”?

What is the purposes of the tabernacle?

How did Moses know how to build the tabernacle?

Rex C. Reeve

“He wants us to know how we feel in our heart....

“Of offerings, the Lord has said, ‘Speak unto the children of Israel, that they may bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.’

“There was no concern as to the gift itself, but only that he give ‘it willingly with his heart.’” (CR, Oct 1982)

David E. Sorensen

“Temples have always symbolized being in the presence of the Lord. ‘Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them,’ said the Lord. ‘And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee.’ There is a closeness to God that comes through consistent worship in the house of the Lord. We can come to know Him and feel welcome, ‘at home,’ in His house.” (CR, Oct. 1998)

Brigham Young

“Particular instructions were given by revelation to Moses, how every part of said Tabernacle should be constructed, even to the curtains—the number thereof, and of what they should be made; and the covering, and the wood for the boards, and for the bars, and the court, and the pins, and the vessels, and the furniture, and everything pertaining to the Tabernacle. Why did Moses need such a particular revelation to build a Tabernacle? Because he had never seen one, and did not know how to build it without revelation, without a pattern.” (JD, 2:29)

Building the Portable Tabernacle

Exd 35:4-5,20-21

How did the Israelites react to the commandment to give willingly of the materials needed to build the tabernacle, the instruments, and the priesthood garments?

Antoine R. Ivins

“In [reading the Old Testament] recently I was struck with the very frequent references in which, in the reconstruction after the exodus from Egypt they had to ask for contributions from the people for their work. And the thing that appealed to me was that almost invariably they asked that the people should voluntarily contribute with a willing heart. I think that is a very important attitude for us to take at the present time—the voluntary contribution with a willing heart.” (CR, April 1963)

Building the Portable Tabernacle

Exd 36:3-7

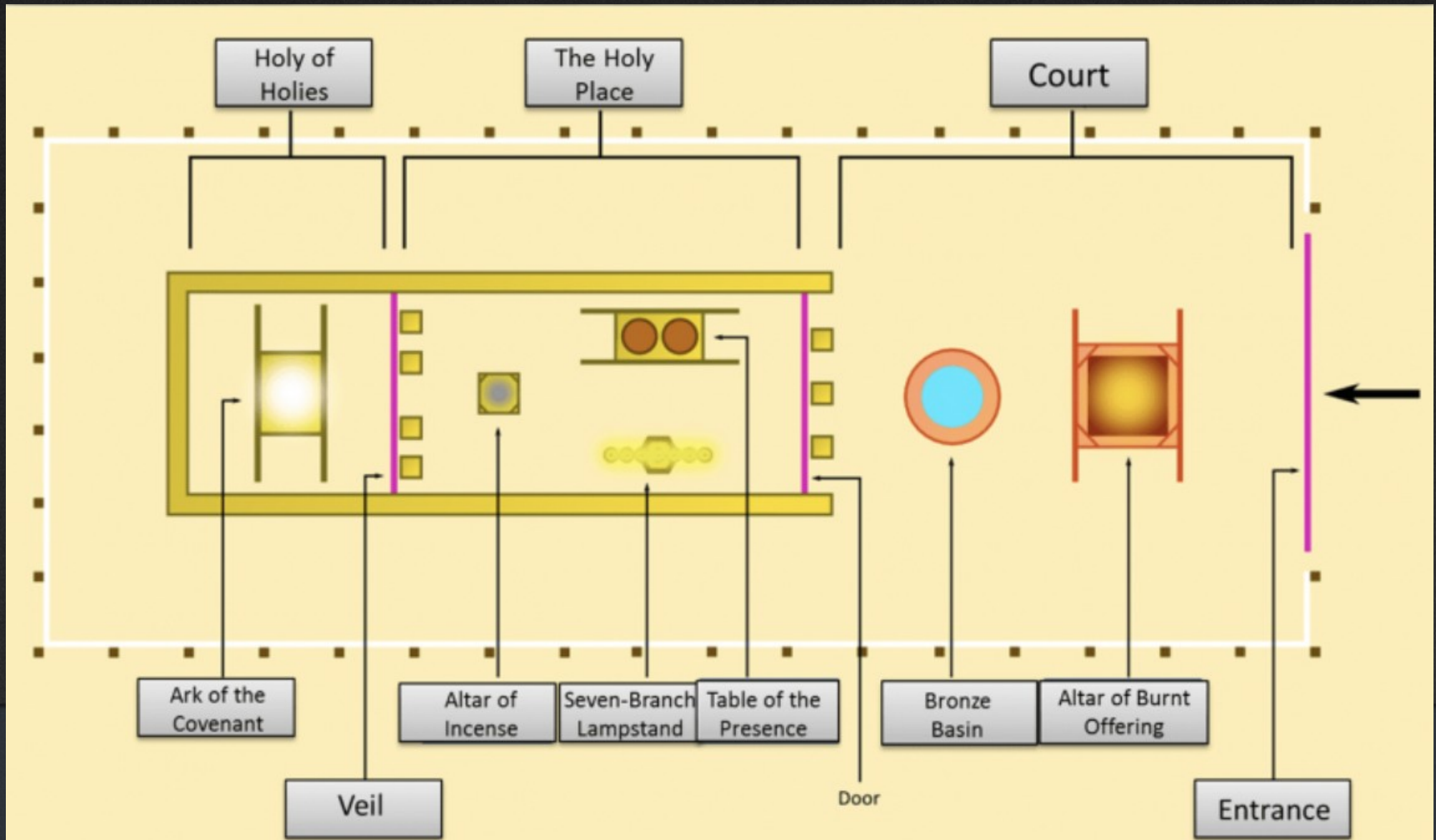
Why did Moses command the people stop bringing their offerings for the building of the tabernacle?

What can we learn from the response of the Israelites?

Lorenzo Snow

“Israel when, in the desert, and journeying to the land of Canaan, they were required to build a movable tabernacle for certain sacred purposes, and the people brought their offerings etc., even more than were sufficient, and Moses had to cry out to the people to stop. So it would be with us, as far as willingness on the part of the people was concerned to take an active part in any general movement that might be projected. Whatever means or property or time might be devoted by the community for the establishing of any certain enterprise, would be done in good faith, for every heart would be inspired with confidence, everyone considering his interest identified with that of the whole.” (JD, 18:371)

Tabernacle: Layout



Todd B. Parker and Robert Norman

“The tabernacle the Lord commanded Moses to build bears similarity to Mount Sinai. Both had a three-level structure. First, an altar was constructed at the base of the mountain where all of Israel could sacrifice to the Lord. Similarly, the tabernacle had an outer court where Israel could make their sacrifices at the altar.

“The next level was higher up the mountain. There, after their sanctification, Moses took Aaron, [and others]... and ate in his presence, even as the priests were only allowed to eat the shewbread while in the Holy Place.

“The highest level was the top of the mountain, where only Moses could go and where he received the law. Similarly, the tabernacle contained the Holy of Holies, which represented the presence of the Lord. Only the high priest was allowed to enter these quarters...

“Mount Sinai was the first sanctuary for the children of Israel. It was there that Moses received direction to build the tabernacle, which became a second sanctuary.” (“Moses: Witness of Jesus Christ,” Ensign, Apr. 1998)

Tabernacle: Holy of Holies

Exd 25:22

What was built onto the Ark of the Covenant?

Where will the Lord reside and commune His will?

What is contained in the Ark of the Covenant?



Tabernacle: Holy of Holies

Hebrews 9:3-5

3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

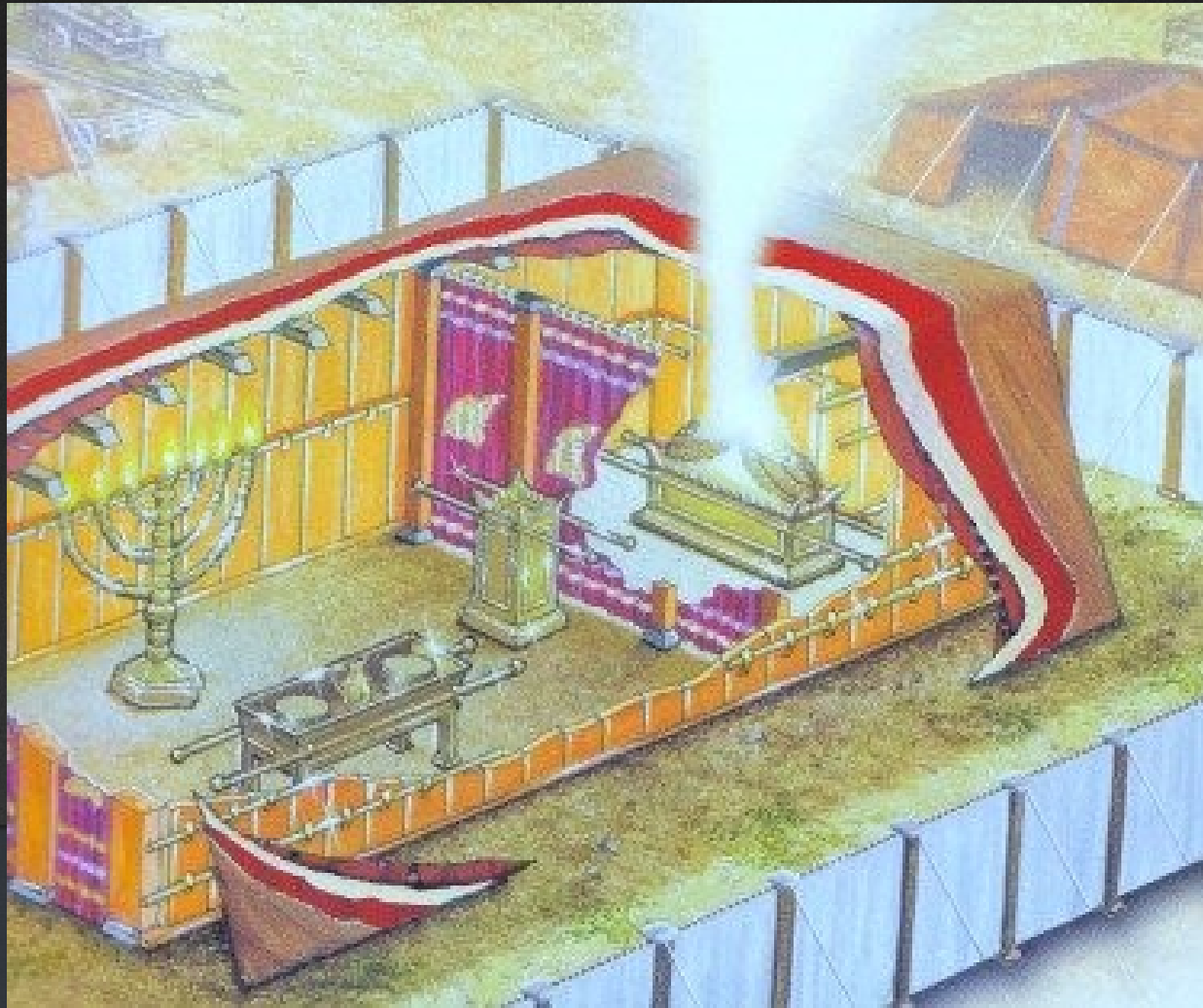
5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

Tabernacle: Holy of Holies

Lev 16:15-16,30

What event was to take place annually in the Holy of Holies?

Tabernacle: The Holy Place



The Holy Place: Shewbread Table

Exd 25:29-30



The Holy Place: Shewbread Table

Most scholars and old Jewish traditions agree that wine was also placed on the table along with the bread, although it is not mentioned specifically in the biblical account. The spoons were actually vessels or cups, rather than spoons as they are known today, and were probably the containers for the liquid. Thus, the items placed on the table of shewbread have distinct parallels in the emblems of the sacrament. (Old Testament Student Manual Genesis-2 Samuel, Exodus 25–30; 35–40 The House of the Lord in the Wilderness)

The Holy Place: Candlestick

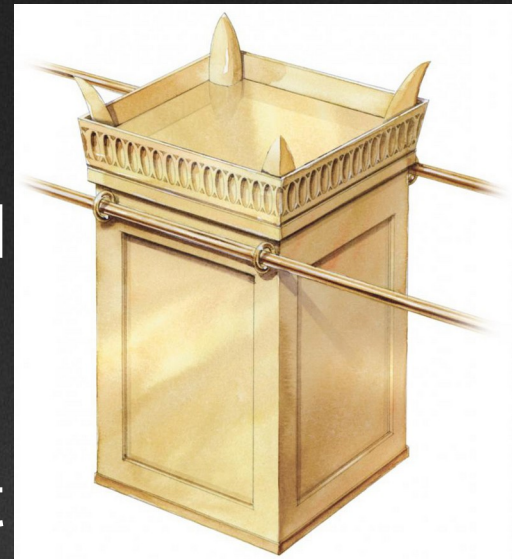
The source of light for the tabernacle was the sacred candlestick. Called menorah in Hebrew, which means the “place of lights”, it held not candles but rather seven cup-shaped containers filled with pure olive oil into which a wick was inserted and lit....



Other scriptures indicate that olive oil represents the Holy Spirit, probably because it provided fire, heat, and light when burned in the lamps (see D&C 45:56–57). Thus, the sacred menorah was a type or symbol of the true source of spiritual light, namely the Holy Ghost as He bears witness of the Father and the Son. (Old Testament Student Manual Genesis-2 Samuel, Exodus 25–30; 35–40 The House of the Lord in the Wilderness)

The Holy Place: Altar of Incense

The altar of incense stood directly in front of the veil.... Hot coals were placed on the altar, and each morning and evening the high priest would burn incense. This ritual seems to signify that one can approach the presence of God only through prayer, for scriptures elsewhere indicate that incense is a symbol of prayer (see Revelation 5:8; 8:3–4; Psalm 141:2). (Old Testament Student Manual Genesis-2 Samuel, Exodus 25–30; 35–40 The House of the Lord in the Wilderness)



Courtyard: Altar of Sacrifice

Russell M. Nelson

“Scriptures teach us more about the word atonement. The Old Testament has many references to atonement, which called for animal sacrifice. Not any animal would do. Special considerations included: the selection of a firstling of the flock, without blemish, the sacrifice of the animal’s life by the shedding of its blood, death of the animal without breaking a bone, and one animal could be sacrificed as a vicarious act for another.



“The Atonement of Christ fulfilled these prototypes of the Old Testament. He was the firstborn Lamb of God, without blemish. His sacrifice occurred by the shedding of blood. No bones of His body were broken. And His was a vicarious sacrifice for others.” (CR, Oct. 1996)

Courtyard: Laver

The Laver stood between the altar of sacrifice and the tabernacle. It was used by the priests for cleansing, preparatory to entering the tabernacle.



In Solomon's day, when a permanent temple was constructed, the laver was set on the backs of twelve oxen (see 1 Kings 7:23–26). (Old Testament Student Manual Genesis-2 Samuel, Exodus 25–30; 35–40 The House of the Lord in the Wilderness)

The Priesthood Garments: High Priest



High Priest: Robe

The robe was blue and was woven without seams with a hole for the head to go through (see Exodus 28:31–32). Jesus, the Great High Priest, was clothed in a similar seamless garment prior to His Crucifixion (see John 19:23). (Old Testament Student Manual Genesis-2 Samuel, Exodus 25–30; 35–40 The House of the Lord in the Wilderness)



High Priest: Ephod

The ephod [pronounced ay'fode] [sometimes translated “apron”], worn over a blue robe, was made of blue, purple, and scarlet material.... This garment was fastened at each shoulder with two onyx stones, and had an intricately woven band with which it could be fastened around the waist.... Fastened to the ephod was a breastplate into which the Urim and Thummin could be placed. (Exod. 28:15–30.)

The high priest entered the tabernacle carrying Israel on his shoulders (see Exodus 28:12). (Old Testament Student Manual Genesis-2 Samuel, Exodus 25–30; 35–40 The House of the Lord in the Wilderness)



High Priest: Breastplate

The breastplate was attached to the ephod with golden chains and fasteners.... Upon the exposed half of the breastplate were precious stones inscribed with the names of each of the tribes of Israel. Thus, the high priest bore “the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart... for a memorial before the Lord continually” (v. 29).

The symbolism of the high priest carrying Israel next to his heart lends added meaning to the promise that the Lord will some day select His “jewels” (D&C 60:4; 101:3). (Old Testament Student Manual Genesis-2 Samuel, Exodus 25–30; 35–40 The House of the Lord in the Wilderness)



High Priest: Urim and Thummim

The Urim and Thummim was carried in the pouch formed when the breastplate was folded over (see Exodus 28:30).

Boyd K. Packer

“The... Urim and Thummim, which is referred to a number of times in the Old Testament and described by Hebrew scholars as an instrument “whereby the revelation was given and truth declared.” [John M’Clintock and James Strong, Cyclopaedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature (1867–1881), s.v. “Urim And Thummim.”] (CR, Oct. 2001)



High Priest: Mitre

The mitre (or hat) was made of fine linen (see Exodus 28:39), and each priest wore one. In addition, the high priest wore a golden band on the front of his mitre on the forehead. Engraved on the band were the words “Holiness to the Lord” (v. 36; see also vv. 37–38), signifying first that the high priest should be characterized by this attribute, and second that Christ, the Great High Priest, would be perfectly holy before God. (Old Testament Student Manual Genesis-2 Samuel, Exodus 25–30; 35–40 The House of the Lord in the Wilderness)



The Priesthood Garments: Levite Priest

The Lord directed that the priests were not to wear ordinary clothing during their service, but they were to have 'holy garments' made by those whom the Lord had 'filled with the spirit of wisdom.' (Exod. 28:2–3.) These sacred garments were to be passed from father to son along with the high priestly office itself. (Exod. 29:29.) (Old Testament Student Manual Genesis-2 Samuel, Exodus 25–30; 35–40 The House of the Lord in the Wilderness)



Tabernacle Completed

Exd 40:33-34,38

How did the Lord manifest Himself after the Tabernacle was complete?

Orson Pratt

“In that tabernacle the Lord showed forth his power among Israel. It became visible not only on the inside, but on the outside the glory of God was made manifest and rested upon it. By this the Children of Israel knew that God was near unto them. They not only believed, but the testimony manifested before their eyes gave them a knowledge that God was in the midst of their camp” (JD, 19:311)

Gospel Principals

Lev 19:9-10

What is the method of providing for those in need?

Marion G. Romney

“To implement his instructions to care for the poor and the needy, the Lord has in all dispensations given specific programs. To ancient Israel, he gave this very simple procedure:

“... when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest....thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger. ...’

“Simple as was this program, it was nevertheless founded upon the two basic principles of action operative in all inspired welfare programs, namely: (1) those who have are to give, and (2) those who receive are to work.” (CR, Oct. 1972)

Gospel Principals

Lev 19:11-13,34-37

How does the Lord expect us treat others?

Joseph B. Wirthlin

“The world desperately needs men and women of integrity. Nearly every day we hear of fraud, misapplication of funds, false advertising, or other dealings designed to obtain gain by cheating or deception. The Lord abhors such practices....

‘Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another. ...

‘Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him. ...

‘Ye shall do no [injustice] in judgment, ... in weight, or in measure.

‘Just balances, just weights ... shall ye have.’” (CR, April 1990)

Gospel Principals

Lev 19:18

Next Week:

May 9–15

Numbers 11–14; 20–24

“Rebel Not Ye Against the Lord, Neither
Fear”

