

# (Exodus) Exodus 38 Introduction

by J. Vernon McGee

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*The tabernacle's design and function represent the need for atonement and worship in our relationship with God.*

**Duration:** 4:44

**Scripture:** Exodus 38, Matthew 27:51, Hebrews 9:7-8, Hebrews 10:19-22

**Topics:** "Tabernacle Worship", "Old Testament"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker discusses the structure and significance of the tabernacle in the Bible. The tabernacle was made up of various coverings and furniture, each representing different aspects of worship and adoration of God. The outer court contained the brazen altar and laver, where sin was atoned for and cleansing took place. Inside the holy place, there were three articles of furniture: the table of showbread, the golden lampstand, and the altar of incense, all symbolizing worship. Beyond the veil was the ark and the mercy seat, which only the great high priest could access on behalf of the nation.

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## Transcript

Now today, friends, as we come to the 38th chapter of the book of Exodus, we're still in this section where we are looking at the tabernacle. The blueprint was given beginning at chapter 25 for all of the details of the tabernacle. And now, Bezalel and his helpers are constructing the tabernacle.

In fact, I take it that the tabernacle has been constructed but just hasn't been set in order, as it will be. And chapter 38 pays particular attention to the outer court. I would say that everything that's in chapter 38 relates to the outer court.

And, friends, this is very important for us to see. Now, the tabernacle proper was 30 cubits by 10 cubits. Now, we have paid attention to that.

We've gone into the details of that. And I hope you have before you right now in our notes, we have an entire page given to the chart of the tabernacle. I'm looking at that right now.

I hope you are. And if you are, it'll make this more meaningful to you. Now, the main tabernacle, or the main part of it, was 30 by 10 by 10 cubits.

It was made of boards that were acacia wood overlaid with gold on all sides and joined together by bars and held upright by the fact that they were put down in sockets. And they were carried on the wilderness

march. And then the minute that the children of Israel would come into camp, the pillar cloud would stop.

Then they would come up and under it. And the tabernacle that had been carried all through the camp, we're going to see that in the book of Numbers, that three tribes would move out and then part of the tabernacle. And the ark would always lead on the wilderness march.

So the ark would come in and it was put down, down the sand of the desert. And then all around it, the tabernacle would be put up. And then you'd have in this particular section, you'd have these golden bars that would be put down along the side.

And they were held together by the rings and the boards. And that bound the tabernacle together. Then over it, there would be put these four robes, actually, or four coverings.

You have the first covering, which would be the linen. Then the goat skins dyed red, the ram skin. And then the badgers or seal skin on the outside.

That was to protect it. The beauty of the tabernacle had to be seen from within. And everything within speaks of worship and, of course, praise, adoration of God, blessing to the individual.

Now in this outer court, which was 100 cubits by 50 cubits, there were these two articles of furniture that were out there, the brazen altar and leva. Now here is where the sin question had to be settled. The sinner would come here to the gate and when he would stand there as a sinner, the priest would bring him in.

He'd put his right hand upon the head of the victim, whether it was a lamb or a goat or whether it was another animal like an ox. Then the animal was slain. Then the priest would offer it on the altar.

That is as far as the individual went. From then on, he went in the person of his priest. And the priest had to stop and wash at the leva so that when he entered in to the holy place and he entered in by the door of the tabernacle into the holy place, and in that were three articles of furniture, the table of showbread, the golden lampstand, and the altar of incense.

All of those, as we've seen, speak of worship. Now he didn't dare go beyond that because there was the veil, and beyond the veil was the ark and the mercy seat. And only the great high priest went there, and he went there for the nation.

Now I think today we're going to see something especially significant and especially meaningful actually for us today.

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