

Part 1 - Instructions for the Tabernacle

In chapter 24 we learned how God sealed the National Covenant with Moses, Aaron, his two sons and seventy elders (representatives) of Israel. We also learned an animal blood sacrifice was made to ‘seal’ the covenant. The blood was then sprinkled on the altar, *and* the people. This, of course, looked forward to the precious blood of the *true* Sacrifice, Jesus Christ. The sprinkling of the blood onto the people symbolized how we are now spiritually ‘sealed’ to a ‘New Covenant’ through the ‘sprinkling’ of the Holy Spirit of God in our hearts (Ezek 36:25-27, Heb 9:19-21, 10:22). They then ate and drank in the presence of God Almighty, which is symbolic of how we now spiritually eat and drink in His presence when we study the Word of God and pray to our Heavenly Father; for our prayers are heard when we pray in the name (and belief) of Jesus Christ. And, although they were ‘afar off’ from God (Ps. 138:6), they did get to see the bottom of His throne (as they worshiped at His feet). Moses then went further up the mountain to commune with God and we learned that the ‘glory of God’ is like a devouring fire, which explains why *our God is a consuming fire* (Deut 4:24, 9:3, Heb 12:29). We now will learn what God was communing with Moses about for the forty days and nights Moses was on the mountain...

Exodus 25

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.

As we’ll soon find out, our Heavenly Father is now going to give Moses the ‘blueprints’ for an earthly Tabernacle wherein He can dwell and be close to His people. Since He brought them out of Egypt, He has been in the ‘pillar of a cloud’ by day and ‘pillar of fire’ at night. We learned that, in the cloud, He sat on His throne in a specialized flying vehicle (which the Bible often calls ‘whirlwinds’ due to the way they make the dust swirl when they land or take off). When He wanted to communicate with Moses, God called him up to Mount Sinai. But that was not to be a permanent arrangement. God wanted to be (Ex 30:45-46) near His people; so He gave Moses instructions to make a Tabernacle for Him (Ex 33:7). This building was *constructed to be mobile*, since the children of Israel were going to be migrating (eventually) into the Promise Land. Many years later, God would allow Solomon to build Him a permanent residence in what we call ‘Solomon’s Temple’. So, it would be in Jerusalem where God decided to ‘put His name’ (Deut 12:5-18, 1 Kings 9:3, 11:36, 2 Kings 21:4, 7, 2 Chron 33:7). But until that time, God still wanted an earthly tabernacle, which we are now about to get many specifics of. It’s important to understand that the Tabernacle was made from materials that were *willingly* given to God by the children of Israel. So, God’s earthly Temple was made from physical gifts *willingly* given from His chosen people, Israel. Keep this in mind as we go along for, we’ll see this is a type for the spiritual Temple He is building today. In fact, so much of what we’ll learn about is still relevant today because the physical Tabernacle (and Temple) is symbolic of the spiritual Temple God wants to reside in... which is our very own soul - *know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?* (1 Cor 3:16-17, 6:15-20, 2 Cor 6:14-18). With this knowledge in mind, let’s proceed to learn about the great Tabernacle of God (YHVH)...

Exodus 25

3 And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass,

Gold, silver and brass are timeless commodities that have been long used as money (Gen 13:2, 24:22), for implements of war or elsewhere in society. All three have practical uses and are valuable. So, God is asking Israel to *willingly* give Him these three precious metals. It was important to Him that His Tabernacle was made of components *willingly* given from Israel because the National Covenant was a two-party agreement. Israel willingly agreed to it, remember? The bottom line for this means that God won't try to force us to love Him. Love must come willingly from within our soul. Therefore, this was not to be a tax, but a *willing* gift. 2 Cor 9:7 sums it up beautifully when it says: *every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver*. What father does not love to have gifts willingly give to him from his children? Our Heavenly Father is no different in that way. He too loves us to give Him gifts but the most precious gifts are truly not physical (although they are appropriate at times). What means the most to Him are spiritual gifts such as our love, obedience, thankfulness, praise *and loyalty*. Let's look at the spiritual significance of these three precious metals to see how the spiritual Temple (in your soul) is supposed to be created...

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:7

God considers our faith in Him *much* more precious than silver and gold. And our faith can only grow with trials, tribulations and testings... so we should not complain when they come! Look at it as an opportunity to learn and to grow closer to your Heavenly Father [**Overcoming Problems in Life** <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/740>].

*29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought **not** to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.*

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Acts 17:29-31

Why do you think people (now, as back then) worshiped precious metals like gold and silver? Because of what they got from them: *power and wealth*. Our God (though He is more powerful and wealthy than anyone else) cannot be symbolized by wealth and/or power *of this world*. His government does not run on corruption but on righteousness, which is not dictated by money. Although He will give us blessings that may be monetary in form, He is not to be connected with

the corruption that money brings. Our Heavenly Father cannot be bought off with *anything*, not even all the gold and silver in the world. Therefore, we should not liken riches of this world to Him (James 4:4). He is the creator of all that's in the Universe and so there is nothing we can bribe Him with. What He wants is something that cannot be bought: our love and loyalty, which cannot be separated from each other. Loving Him **is** being loyal to Him (i.e., obeying Him).

Worshiping money is, on the other hand, an integral part of worshiping Satan. Satan tempts people by telling them they can keep all their sins and become extremely rich by following his ways. And he promises the same thing that he told Eve: *Ye shall not surely die* (Gen 3:4). Satan's corrupt system (explained in Ezekiel 28) is based upon unsound money and other deceptive means which lead to death: first of the flesh and then of the spirit (if not repented of). People buy into it (believe it) because they want to 'get ahead' in life. **Most people love money more than their Heavenly Father because they think money can get them more blessings than God Almighty.** They forget about the spiritual blessings and only see the carnal (1 Cor 3:1-3, 2 Cor 10:3-6). They only see the short term 'blessings' and do not have foresight to see what their future will hold for them. And so, it is written: *Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction. The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty. The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin* (Prov 10:14-16).

8 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1 Peter 1:18-19

There is no amount of money that can purchase our soul. We all do things that cut ourselves off from our Heavenly Father, who is the only true source of life. Therefore, we basically put the sword into our own heart; we choose death by our willingness to sin (Rom 6:23). But our Heavenly Father doesn't want to see anyone have to die (Ezek 18, 33, 2 Pt 3:9). Therefore, a fundamental part of His 'plan of Salvation' is that He created this flesh realm and our flesh bodies as a means where **He could pay for our sins**. As Lev 17:11 states: *the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul*. The blood of Jesus Christ made atonement for our soul IF we accept Him. And **it is ONLY the blood of Jesus Christ that can redeem our soul**. So, when He asked Israel for silver, gold and brass to build a Temple, He was asking them to give their physical valuable to Him because *it was a type of how He wants us to give Him our spiritual valuables, which are spiritual gifts such as love, loyalty, obedience, righteousness, thankfulness, praise and so forth. **By building the physical Tabernacle, God is, through analogy, explaining how we are to build our spiritual house (and it is our body, soul and spirit that is to house His Word and Holy Spirit).***

Also, it's important to understand that the way precious metals are purified is by *putting fire to them*. They have to be heated up by fire; so hot that the slag burns off. How do you know when the metal is pure? When you can see your reflection in it! This is a stunning type for how our

Heavenly Father purifies our soul. He allows us to go through trials, tribulations and testing's so we can get the 'slag' (sin) burned out of our heart and mind; and it's only when we reflect His Light (Word) that we are purified in our heart and mind (Mth 5:15-16). God told Israel that He proves (tests) them in Ex 16:4 and 20:20 and He would continue to do so throughout Israel's history (Isa 48:10, Mal 3:3, Ps 66:10, Prov 17:3). Putting heat to the 'metal' is also called 'tough love' or 'chastisement' (Deut 8:5-6, Heb 12:5-11). God 'refines' our soul because it '*yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness*', which is what pure silver, gold and brass are symbolic of (Zech 13:8-9).

Moreover, our Heavenly Father does the same for us today. And, because the Holy Spirit now dwells within us, we are commanded to 'prove' ourselves as well (Rom 12:1-2, 2 Cor 13:6, Gal 6:4, 1 Thess 5:21, Phil 2:12). We all have a duty to look inside our own soul (heart and mind) to search for our sins and *burn them out, with conviction from the Word of God*. The Holy Spirit will help in this process for we are told that salvation is given us *through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth* (2 Thess 2:13). Believing the truth also means we will obey God's Word! (1 Pt 1:2, 1 Thess 5:23-24). There are so many Scriptures that give additional insight into '*the peaceable fruit of righteousness*' that God's refining Word (and Holy Spirit) brings. As a side study, check out: Ps 12:6, Ps 119:72, Prov 3:13-18, Prov 8:10-11, Prov 8:19, Prov 10:20, Prov 16:16, Prov 22:1, Prov 25:4, Prov 25:11-12, Prov 2:1-11... we could go on and on but the point should be clearly made that the trials and tribulations we *all* go through in life (1 Cor 10:13, Ecc 3) are God's way of purifying us, just as one would purify precious metals.

But... what if we don't want to be purified? God explains what those people are like to Him in the book of Ezekiel...

18 Son of man, the house of Israel is to me become dross: all they are brass, and tin, and iron, and lead, in the midst of the furnace; they are even the dross of silver.

19 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye are all become dross, behold, therefore I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem.

20 As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it; so will I gather you in mine anger and in my fury, and I will leave you there, and melt you.

21 Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst thereof.

22 As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the LORD have poured out my fury upon you.

Ezek 22:18-22

To be clear, the dross is the worthless junk that you cannot use for anything - it is *not* the precious metal! So, **God is saying stubborn and rebellious people are... good for nothing.** *Those are God's Words.* Your Heavenly Father is telling you that if you *refuse and rebel* against Him (Isa 1:20) you are worthless to Him. And, if you do not change your heart and become *willingly* obedient to Him, you'll lose your very soul to the lake of fire – in fact, He'll burn all

incorrigible rebels to death (from the inside out), which is the same punishment already sentenced to Satan, the instigator of all rebellion (Rev 20, Ezek 28:18). Like it or lump it, God simply won't keep the slag (dross), folks.

So again, when God (YHWH) asked Israel for silver, gold and brass to build a Temple, He was asking them to give their physical valuable to Him because *it was a type of how He wants us to give Him our spiritual valuables, which are spiritual gifts such as love, loyalty, obedience, righteousness, thankfulness, praise and so forth. **By building the physical Tabernacle, God is, through analogy, explaining how we are to build our spiritual house (and it is our body, soul and spirit that is to house His Word and Spirit).*** God wants us to glean wisdom, knowledge, understanding, discernment (yea, all spiritual gifts) from His Word because those are all characteristics that make our soul a good place for Him to live! And we need Him within us in order to live forever (John 17:3). He lightens up our soul when His Word and Holy Spirit comes into our soul (Prov 6:23, Eph 5:13, 1 John 1:5). This is why we must have truth (His Word) in our 'inward parts', because *His truth is Light* (Prov 6:23, 1 John 1:5, Jer 31:31, Heb 8:10, 10:16). We cannot truly worship Him, *from the heart*, if we don't have truth in our heart (John 4:23-24, Ps 145:18). Let's always remember Jesus' admonition...

*19 Lay **not** up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:*

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

*21 For **where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.***

Matt 6:19-21

Exodus 25

*4 And **blue, and purple, and scarlet**, and fine linen, and goats' hair,*

5 And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood,

Blue, purple and scarlet are colors often associated with royalty and wealth, especially purple (Judges 8:26, Prov 31:22, Lk 2:14, Mk 15:17, 20). Blue and purple were also very difficult to obtain from nature, so they were expensive dyes to get. Scarlet dye was not as hard to get but still precious and valuable. Purple was the most precious dye sought out for at that time as it required many mollusks (supposedly 250,000) to make just *one ounce* of dye. Scarlet, of course, is the color of blood and is symbolic of our sins and Jesus' atonement for them (Isa 1:18) while blue symbolizes service to God and living in obedience to Him (Num 15:38-40). Purple can represent royalty, majesty and high officials (Judges 8:26, Esther 8:15) as well as conveying the meaning of wealth, prosperity and luxury (Exodus 28:5, Ezekiel 27:7, Proverbs 31:22, Song of Solomon 3:10, 7:5, Luke 16:19, Acts 16:14, Revelation 17:4, 18:12, 16).

A few more notes on these colors in the Bible:

- Scarlet was the color of the thread put on Judah's twin son, Zarah (Gen 38:30) to note that he was the firstborn son yet, he drew his hand back in and his brother, Pharez, came

out first. Scarlet was also the color of the cord hung from Rahab's window to notify Israel she, and her family, were to be saved from destruction; because she protected the spies from Israel and let them escape through her window by that scarlet cord (Josh 2:18).

- Acts 16:14 tells us that: *a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.* So, we see that selling the precious dyes was the trade a woman of God... apparently women were involved in business even back in those days. Proverbs 31 confirms this when it depicts the 'ideal woman' as a good businesswoman (vs 13-24) who helps her family with her trade. Interesting! (Ecc 1:9)
- Speaking of women, we see also that purple and scarlet are colors worn by the 'harlot' in Rev 17, again showing us that these colors are symbolic of wealth and power as well as royalty albeit, with this 'woman', they are gained by *unjust* means; for this 'woman' symbolizes Satan's evil religion, which goes against the Law of God Almighty.

Exodus 25

*4 And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and **fine linen**, and goats' hair,
5 And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood,*

Along with precious dyed cloth, God also asked for fine linen to be given *willingly*. Linen is a plant-based fabric made of flax and noted for its strength, coolness, and luster. It is highly resistant, strong, durable, and rigid, making it ideal for clothing. Linen is also lightweight, easy to wear and care for. It is hypoallergenic, making it suitable for people who suffer from asthma, allergies, and skin complications. It is also antibacterial and does not absorb odors. Linen clothes are generally more sustainable than cotton and other common fabrics we have today; thus, they can be passed down from generation to generation with long-lasting appeal. It is no surprise that linen was therefore such a sought-after fabric. Egypt was well known for making fine linen (Ezek 27:7, 16, Prov 7:6), and was where Solomon got the fine linen for YHVH's Temple (2 Chron 1:16), so it's likely where Israel got the fine linen for the first Tabernacle of God (along with all the other items they 'spoiled' from the Egyptians). Linen has long been given as gifts, such as was given to Joseph (Gen 41:42). King David also wore a linen robe and ephod at times (1 Chron 15:27) and God mentioned linen as one of the gifts He gave Jerusalem in Ezekiel 16. Linen is also one of the riches of Satan's worldwide governmental (and religious) system spoken of in Revelations 18. So, the Bible is full of mentions of linen and fine linen. It was clearly a very precious commodity back then, as it is still today. Now, the spiritual significance of fine linen is made quite clear in Rev 19:8 when we're told that *the fine linen is the righteousness of saints*. This is why, then, that Jesus Christ was wrapped in fine linen for burial (Mk 15:46). It's therefore quite evident why this material was used so much in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness and also why Israel's clothing did not wear out after 40 years in the wilderness (Deut 29:5).

Exodus 25

*4 And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and **fine linen**, and **goats' hair**,
5 And **rams' skins dyed red**, and **badgers' skins**, and shittim wood,*

Goats' hair, rams' skins dyed red and badger' skins were also a part of the Tabernacle and we'll learn in the next chapter (Ex 26:7,14) that the goat's hair will be used for curtains while the rams' skins dyed red and badgers' skins will be as outer coverings for the Tabernacle. The word 'badger' is a bad translation. The Hebrew word (#8476) actually means *a (clean) animal with fur*, probably *a species of antelope*. This required quite a few animals to be killed for the only way you get the skin or hair from an animal is to kill them (to this day). And remember, animals were a form of wealth at that time. This therefore would be another form on monetary wealth people were to willingly give to God.

Now, since the goats' hair was to be for curtains (Ex 26:7) it was likely spun and not on skins. Exodus 35:26 says: *All the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair*. This was likely woven into a coarse, dark-colored cloth, quite common to this day in the East for making tents. The dark color of these tents is suggested in the words of the bride in the Song of Solomon 1:5: *I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon*" and again in Song of Solomon 6:5: *Thy hair is as a flock of goats*. Rev 6:12 also tells us that, after the sixth seal was opened *there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood*. Thus, the goats' hair was likely dark or black. But what would the spiritual significance of goat hair be?

Goat hair is the outermost covering of the animal, even over the skin, and *is the point of contact between the animal and the outer world* - it is also *the point of separation*. The hair shields the animal from the rain, and protects it from extremes of cold and heat. Thus, *hair indicates separation*. Of course, we have a Biblical example that back this up. The Nazarite lets his hair grow long in token of his separation from everything that defiles (Num. 6:5). If defilement came in, he had to shave off his hair in token that he had lost his separation. One of the signs of leprosy (a disease that caused people to be separated from society) was the hair turning its color, or sometimes its falling out was the precursor of this disease (Lev. 13:30, 42). So, we see that, our Heavenly Father requires that we separate ourselves from sin (Rev 18:4).

This is why, then, that the prophets of the Old Testament separated themselves from surrounding evil. Samuel was separated from before his birth by the promise his mother made even before she conceived him: "I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head" (1 Sam. 1:11). His long hair of being a Nazarite marked his separation from sin and closeness to God. He was the 'point of contact' between God and Israel in that he was to be a witness to the nation of their separation from God Almighty (YHVH). Jeremiah too was separated from the time he was in the womb, but by God Himself (Jer 1:5) and he carried out this separation throughout his life (Jer. 15:17). The ministry of the prophets did not begin till the failure of the people *and of the priesthood* made it necessary. It was because the people did not separate themselves from sin (false gods and idols) that the prophets were called to separate themselves from sin and come close to God *so they could call the people to do the same*. The garment of hair as the prophets' garb was thus connected with the witness against sin and separating oneself from sin. This is why it's written to *Cry aloud, spare not ... show My people their transgression* (Isa. 58:1) and *Repent ye, and believe the gospel*" (Mark 1:15). John the Baptist *clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins* while he warned the people to separate themselves from their sins before the Messiah came (Mark 1:6-8).

Ram's Skins Dyed Red and Badgers' Skins

Although there is very little information given about the use of the *skins* of the rams and badgers (which were likely an antelope of some sort), the fact they are used suggests our Heavenly Father wanted an impervious covering, not to be penetrated by the elements. Further, the covering was twofold: first the rams skins (dyed red) and then the badgers skins. The rams' skins were to be died red, which, of course, symbolizes the precious blood of our dear Savior Jesus Christ. Further, rams were often used in the burnt offerings (Lev 8:18, 9:2, 16:3, 5), peace offerings (Lev 9:18, Num 6:14, 7:88) and trespass offering (Lev 5:16, 6:6, 19:21). It was even used in the consecration of the priests (Ex 29:15-26). So, it's not surprising that their skins would be used to also protect God's Tabernacle and that they were to be died red, symbolic of the precious blood of Christ that protects His Temple (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, 2 Cor 6:16) to this very day. Since the Tabernacle (and Temple) of God symbolize our soul and how we are to make a Temple for Him to dwell in, we see that we too are to have two un-penetrable layers of protection. Ephesians 6 tells us what it is. While all the spiritual armor is important, we find that it is all founded upon two simple things: The Word of God and the Holy Spirit. We must study His Word and write it upon our mind and heart (Jer 31:31, Heb 8:10, 10:16) and allow His Holy Spirit to guide us and clean our heart (Eph 5:26, Titus 3:5, John 15:3, 14:15-31, 16:33, 1 Cor 6:11, Heb 10:22, Rev 1:5, 7:14). This then is why we're told by Jesus...

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

*25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: **for it was founded upon a rock.***

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Matt 7:21-27

When our mind (thought process) and heart (intentions, feelings, emotions) are set firmly on the Word of God we are protected by His Holy Spirit. Ps 112:7 declares that when we are founded upon Jesus Christ that we shall *not be afraid of evil tidings*: our heart will be *fixed, trusting in the LORD*. No amount of spiritual storms (from evil spirits or pressures from man [i.e., guilt trips, emotional trips, peer pressure, etc.]) can make us fall from the rock which we have put our moral compass on: Jesus Christ. It does not matter what is said or done to us, we won't move from the rock (Jesus Christ) when the rain, wind and other stormy elements (symbolic of spiritual warfare) are thrust at us. It's important we have these two un-penetrable elements covering our heart and mind so our soul is protected from evil.

Exodus 25

4 And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair,

*5 And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and **shittim** wood,*

Next, we're told that shittim wood was to be *willingly* given. The word *shittim* is #7848 and it means: the *acacia* (from its scourging thorns). The acacia tree comes in a vast array of species, with more than 1,000 varieties found worldwide. This tree is known for its striking appearance, with its thin, often twisted trunk and branches reaching high into the sky. Its unique canopy, resembling a giant green umbrella, provides shade to countless creatures that seek refuge from the scorching sun. The acacia tree has a range of unique characteristics that set it apart from other trees. One of the most distinctive features is its leaves, which are typically small and feathery. These leaves serve as an adaptation to conserve water, making the acacia well-suited for arid environments. Additionally, the tree produces clusters of small, fragrant flowers, which can be white, yellow, or even red, depending on the species. It is found in many areas of the world but predominantly in arid and semi-arid regions of Africa, Australia, the Americas, and even Asia. The acacia tree is not just a sight to behold; it has many practical uses. The wood of the acacia tree is known for its durability, making it ideal for construction and furniture which is likely one of the reasons why our Heavenly Father chose to use it in His Tabernacle. The strength from this tree would make the structure of the Tabernacle (though it was a tent) very firm. Exodus 36 tells us that, along with the acacia wood there will be two heavy sockets of silver under each board giving the Tabernacle a very solid foundation, and the five bars running through rings would hold all firmly together. Our Heavenly Father truly is a Master Builder both physically and spiritually; which is why it is written that *other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ*. And those who are of the household of God... *are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone* (Eph 2:19-20).

But surely the shittim (acacia) wood has a spiritual significance to it? Yes, it does. Apart from the tabernacle there is but one passage which refers directly to this wood, but it helps shed a bit of light as to the spiritual meaning.

17 When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

*19 I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the **shittah** tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together:*

20 That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

Isa 41:17-20

The word translated ‘shittah’ in verse 19 is actually the same word translated as ‘shittim’ (#7848) but it’s actually bearing its Hebrew name, for the word in the Hebrew is literally *shittah* (pronounced as: shit-taw'). But the point is that: Isaiah 41 uses this wood to explain the future day of Israel's blessing God would make the wilderness and solitary place to rejoice in – in other words, it’s talking about the time of restoration. The nation of Israel was, at the time of this prophesy in Isaiah 41 (and is yet again) a moral cesspool in which nothing grew for God (there was no righteousness ‘springing’ forth and growing); but God promised that would not always be the case. The trees common to the area (including the shittim/acacia tree) would once again grow in abundance. So, the wood of the shittim tree points to a promise of restoration, even in the midst of a wasteland.

So, we see that the acacia (shittim) tree was durable and strong and used in the promise of restoration but we must wonder why God chose this tree above all others for the Tabernacle? In Solomon's temple cedar and olive trees were used (1 Kings 6:15, 31-33). The answer is found in the meaning of the Tabernacle of the Wilderness verses the Temple of Solomon. The Tabernacle of the Wilderness depicted (looked forward to) the true Sacrifice, the true Bread of Life and the true High Priest, which is (of course) our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Solomon’s Temple, on the other hand, was a type of the post resurrection era, which many call the Christian Era. Additionally, the acacia (*shittim*) tree was the only tree which grew in the desert, making it the only one practically available for the purpose intended. This proves that our Heavenly Father knows how to build Himself a Tabernacle, even in the wilderness, where there are a lack of materials. So, no matter how ‘dry’ you think your own soul might be, our Heavenly Father is well able to ‘make due’ with who you are and *help you change* into a spiritual garden flowing with the Living Water and many good plants and trees. That’s the significance the Bible teaches us over and over again. So, no matter how broken we are, no matter how much pain and/or sin we have, He is able to heal us and bring life back to our soul.

The catch? We must partake of the Living Water and Bread of Life, which is, (of course) the Word of God. Jesus said: *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*** (John 6:63). The Proverbs also declare that the Words of God *are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh* (Prov 4:22). We can enjoy both physical health and spiritual health when we obey God’s Word but we must be willing to cooperate with Him, just as the children of Israel were to be willing to give God gifts to build the Tabernacle. As with all His blessings (as Lev 26 and Deut 28 reveal), the better we obey Him the more blessings we receive. So, if you are feeling a bit spiritually parched (stressed, worried, scared, in pain, know something just is not right inside, etc.) then get into the Word of God and *keep your mind and heart on it throughout the day*. Never forget, we need the Word of God every day. Would you go a day without food and water? Spiritual food is just as important (if not moreso); so why deprive our soul of spiritual food and water?

47 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*

48 *I am that bread of life.*

49 *Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.*

*50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.
51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*
John 6:47-51

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir; thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:10-14

Every thought, action and word from Jesus Christ was in accordance to the Word of God because Jesus Christ is the Living Word (John 1:1, 14, 3:34). And, as Jesus revealed in John 6:63, His Word symbolizes His flesh and His Holy Spirit symbolizes His blood, which was shed for us. What does that mean? *Your Heavenly Father's heart was broken because of your sins* (Ps 51:17). And, it's because He is ever so merciful, gracious, loving and patient that we are able to return to Him and find eternal life (because it is He who sustains our life in the flesh and in the spiritual realm). *But*, we must partake of our daily spiritual food and water (the Bible) in order to find that eternal life, for Jesus said: *this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent* (John 17:3).

We'll pick this up in Part 2...

AMEN.