

## Exodus 25:10-28:43 – Tabernacle Articles and Priestly Garments

### I. Ark Of The Covenant: 10-16.

The Ark of the Covenant was a box. It was made of acacia wood, overlaid with gold, **3 foot 9 inches long; 2 foot 3 inches wide; and 2 foot 3 inches high.** It was to be carried by inserting gold-overlaid wood poles into gold rings at each corner. Apart from touching the poles, it was forbidden to touch the Ark of the Covenant.

God instructed Moses to put the Testimony – that is, a copy of the Law – into the Ark of the Covenant. Later on the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant were to be put in the ark.

- Mercy Set: 17-22.

The Mercy Seat – actually, the lid to the Ark – was to be made of pure gold, and made with the sculpted figures of cherubim. In the picture provided by the Ark of the Covenant, it was as if God dwelt between the two cherubim, and met Israel there.

**Psalm 103:8** - *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.*

### II. Table: 23-29

This Table was to be made of acacia wood, overlaid with gold; 3 feet long, 1 foot, 6 inches wide, and 2 feet, 3 inches high. On the Table were set twelve loaves of bread – literally, “bread of faces” to be eaten by a Priest before God. Once a week, the bread was replaced and normally only priests could eat the old bread.

**John 6:35** - *And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*

### III. Lampstand: 31-36

The Lampstand was hammered out of pure gold, with no specific dimensions given, but after the pattern of a modern-day menorah. It had one middle shaft with three branches coming out of each side, for a total of seven places for lamps.

The Lampstand is representative of the glory of the LORD shining in the Tabernacle.

## **Exodus 26: Tabernacle structure and curtains.**

**Luke 23:45** - *Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two.*

## **Exodus 27:**

- 1-8: The Altar

The idea behind the Hebrew word for altar is essentially, “killing-place.” It was a **place of death and sacrifice, where atonement for sin was made and consecration** unto God was marked.

- 20-21: Oil for the Lampstand

The oil for the lamps on the Lampstand – the only light in the tabernacle – came from pressed olives.

Oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

## **Exodus 28:**

Gifted and full of wisdom artisans;

- IV. Priestly Garments; An Ephod, A robe, Breastplate, Turban and Sash.

The priestly garments were made for glory and beauty before the LORD.

- 5-14: Ephod

On the shoulder straps were polished gemstones on each strap, with the inscription of twelve of the tribes, six on each stone. Therefore, the High Priest would bear their names before the Lord on his two shoulders as a memorial.

- 15-30: The Breastplate

The breastplate was also made with gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread. It was attached to the ephod with gold chains. The breastplate also held the Urim and Thummim (Lights and Perfections) which were tools for discerning God’s will.

With the Ephod and Breastplate, the Priest was to have the Nation at heart.

- 31-35: The Robe.

This was the basic covering of the Priest, made of all blue, and seamless and with no tear for the head opening.

On its hem, between the ornate pomegranates of blue and purple, were bells, so the priest could be heard while ministering before God – if he were to die, the bells would stop ringing and he could be pulled out of the Most Holy Place. The sound of

the bells would remind the priest of the solemn nature of his work, and remind him so that he may not die.

- 36-38: Turban and engravings

The turban was a simple wound linen headpiece, with a gold plate with the inscription HOLINESS TO THE LORD.

**1 Thessalonians 4:7** – *For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.*

- 28:39: The tunic, the turban, and the sash. These basic garments are simply described as being woven of fine linen.
- 40-43: Tunics for the other priest, sons of Aaron

Anoint describes the application of the sacred oil upon the head; it represents the filling and continual reliance upon the power and work of the Holy Spirit.

**Revelation 1:4-6** - *John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*