



## LESSON 7 - The Ark and the Tent

Watch where I go to get this lesson.

When God gave the people the Ten Best Ways to live, they loved them so much that they wanted to keep them always with them. God told them to build a box called an ark to keep them in and to cover the ark with gold. It had poles on the sides, so the people could always carry it with them wherever they went.

You can't just walk up to something so precious as the Ten Commandments. You need some way to get ready. They wondered what they could do.

God told them to put an altar of incense in front of the ark. They could burn the incense to make a good-smelling cloud of smoke.

You could walk through the smoke and smell its aroma. that could help you get ready. but that was not enough.

God then told them to put a table with twelve pieces of bread on one side and a seven-branched lamp stand called a menorah on the other side.

People would walk between the table with a piece of bread for each of the twelve tribes of Israel on one side and the menorah on the other. That could also help them get ready, but that still was not enough.

Next they decided to put the walls of a tent around the ark, the incense altar, the table and the menorah to keep this place set apart, to help get ready to come close to God's presence.

Inside the tent they made a place called Holy of Holies.

Over the roof they put four coverings. One was linen, with purple and red figures of cherubim woven into it. Another one was made from woven goats' hair. The third was ram's skin dyed red, and finally the outer one was tanned goatskins. But that still was not enough.

Now only the priests could go inside.

Next they put in front of the tent an altar covered with bronze for sacrifices. They also made a huge bowl of bronze that the priests could wash in to get ready for prayer, and put that in front too.



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Then outside the whole tent and courtyard they put a fence made of cloth that could be rolled up and carried with them when they travelled. It marked the whole, special area, called the tabernacle.

This is not all. the priests began to wear special clothes to help them get ready to go inside this special place.

When all of the tabernacle was finished, Moses blessed it. Aaron and all his sons were made the priests, and they took the tent and the ark wherever the People of God travelled. The Levites helped them care for the tabernacle and conduct the worship there.

God gave Aaron and his sons these words to bless the People of God: "The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26)

Wondering

Now, I wonder what part of the story you like best?

I wonder what part of the story is the most important part?

I wonder where you are in the story or what part of the story is about you?

I wonder if there is any part of the story we can leave out and still have all the story we need?