

Exodus Chapter Thirty-Seven

Read **Exodus 37:1-9** – The Ark

v.1 “THEN BEZALEL MADE THE ARK OF ACACIA WOOD; TWO AND A HALF CUBITS **was** ITS LENGTH, A CUBIT AND A HALF ITS WIDTH, AND A CUBIT AND A HALF ITS HEIGHT.”

Now we turn our attention to the furniture and fixtures within the tabernacle. The first addressed by God in his instructions to Moses was the Ark of the Covenant. So it is the Ark of the Covenant that we begin with in this chapter. It was also made of acacia wood and measured 45 inches long by 27 inches wide and 27 inches high.

v.2 “HE OVERLAID IT WITH PURE GOLD INSIDE AND OUTSIDE, AND MADE A MOLDING OF GOLD ALL AROUND IT.”

As God had commanded it was overlaid with pure gold and on top a border or molding was formed

v.3 “AND HE CAST FOR IT FOUR RINGS OF GOLD **to be set** IN ITS FOUR CORNERS: TWO RINGS ON ONE SIDE, AND TWO RINGS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF IT.”

The rings were fastened to the corners of the below the molding so as not to cause the molding to interfere with those who were to carry it.

v.4-5 “HE MADE POLES OF ACACIA WOOD, AND OVERLAID THEM WITH GOLD. AND HE PUT THE POLES INTO THE RINGS AT THE SIDES OF THE ARK, TO BEAR THE ARK.”

As we noted above the ark was to be carried and carried only by the priests. We remember well what happened when David and the people of Israel decided to move it by ox cart:

II Samuel 6:6-7 “AND WHEN THEY CAME TO NACHON’S THRESHING FLOOR, UZZAH PUT OUT **his hand** TO THE ARK OF GOD AND TOOK HOLD OF IT, FOR THE OXEN STUMBLER. THEN THE ANGER OF THE **LORD** WAS AROUSED AGAINST UZZAH, AND GOD STRUCK HIM THERE FOR **his** ERROR; AND HE DIED THERE BY THE ARK OF GOD.”

v.6 “HE ALSO MADE THE MERCY SEAT OF PURE GOLD; TWO AND A HALF CUBITS **was** ITS LENGTH AND A CUBIT AND A HALF ITS WIDTH.”

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The mercy seat, where God resided, was of the same dimension as the top of the ark, 45 inches long by 27 inches wide. This is where the priest sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice on the day of atonement.

v.7-8 “HE MADE TWO CHERUBIM OF BEATEN GOLD; HE MADE THEM OF ONE PIECE AT THE TWO ENDS OF THE MERCY SEAT; ONE CHERUB AT ONE END ON THIS SIDE, AND THE OTHER CHERUB AT THE *other end* ON THAT SIDE. HE MADE THE CHERUBIM AT THE TWO ENDS *of one piece* WITH THE MERCY SEAT.”

The cherubim and the mercy seat were to be of hammered gold consequently they were solid gold.

v.9 “THE CHERUBIM SPREAD OUT *their wings* ABOVE, *and* COVERED THE MERCY SEAT WITH THEIR WINGS. THEY FACED ONE ANOTHER; THE FACES OF THE CHERUBIM WERE TOWARD THE MERCY SEAT.”

As we can see in the picture the cherubim faced each other, and their wings were spread just as God had commanded them to be. We also see that they are positioned in such a way as to be bowing toward God.

Read **Exodus 37:10-16** – The Table for Showbread

v.10 “HE MADE THE TABLE OF ACACIA WOOD; TWO CUBITS *was* ITS LENGTH, A CUBIT ITS WIDTH, AND A CUBIT AND A HALF ITS HEIGHT.”

The table for showbread was also to be of acacia wood, 36 inches long, 18 inches wide and 27 inches high when we use 18 inches to represent a cubit. As I was studying this chapter the thought went through my mind that the Israelite people must have been small people compared to people of today. The height of these items for the tabernacle are only 27 inches high, while I think the standard floor mounted cabinet or vanity today is 33 inches and those in our house are 36 inches high.

v.11 “AND HE OVERLAID IT WITH PURE GOLD, AND MADE A MOLDING OF GOLD ALL AROUND IT.”

In common with the ark it also had a molding around the top.

v.12 “ALSO HE MADE A FRAME OF A HANDBREADTH ALL AROUND IT, AND MADE A MOLDING OF GOLD FOR THE FRAME ALL AROUND IT.”

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The top of the table had a frame or border the width of a hand all around it with a molding on the frame. None of the artists' renditions that I found gave us enough detail to determine whether that frame extended above the top of the table or not. I would assume that it did because that would seem to give it purpose.

v.13 "AND HE CAST FOR IT FOUR RINGS OF GOLD, AND PUT THE RINGS ON THE FOUR CORNERS THAT *were* AT ITS FOUR LEGS."

In common with the ark and in fact anything that God had consecrated and made holy the table was to be carried by the priests. So rings were made and mounted at each corner of the table.

v.14-15 "THE RINGS WERE CLOSE TO THE FRAME, AS HOLDERS FOR THE POLES TO BEAR THE TABLE. AND HE MADE THE POLES OF ACACIA WOOD TO BEAR THE TABLE, AND OVERLAID THEM WITH GOLD."

The rings were mounted close to the frame and the poles were identical to those made for the ark.

v.16 "HE MADE OF PURE GOLD THE UTENSILS WHICH WERE ON THE TABLE: ITS DISHES, ITS CUPS, ITS BOWLS, AND ITS PITCHERS FOR POURING."

We didn't dwell on the utensils in our study of chapter 25 and as I read this it came to me that these utensils were for the making of the showbread as that is the only commodity on the table. Can you imagine cooking with vessels of pure gold? As was true with all things that were used in worship, the cookware used to make the showbread was also holy.

Read **Exodus 37:17-24** – The Golden Lampstand

v.17 "HE ALSO MADE THE LAMPSTAND OF PURE GOLD; OF HAMMERED WORK HE MADE THE LAMPSTAND. ITS SHAFT, ITS BRANCHES, ITS BOWLS, ITS *ornamental* KNOBS, AND ITS FLOWERS WERE OF THE SAME PIECE."

The lampstand, or probably more commonly called the candlestick or perhaps even candelabra was to be made of pure gold hammer out, all from one piece. Verse 24 tells us that it contained a talent of pure gold and one web-site reports that that would equal 88 lbs.

v.18 "AND SIX BRANCHES CAME OUT OF ITS SIDES: THREE BRANCHES OF THE LAMPSTAND OUT OF ONE SIDE, AND THREE BRANCHES OF THE LAMPSTAND OUT OF THE OTHER SIDE."

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The six branches shown are shown in the picture as described in scripture.

v.19 “THERE WERE THREE BOWLS MADE LIKE ALMOND *blossoms* ON ONE BRANCH, WITH AN *ornamental* KNOB AND A FLOWER, AND THREE BOWLS MADE LIKE ALMOND *blossoms* ON THE OTHER BRANCH, WITH AN *ornamental* KNOB AND A FLOWER—AND SO FOR THE SIX BRANCHES COMING OUT OF THE LAMPSTAND.”

This is the only picture that I found that shows the almond blossoms on each of the branches with the full petals of a bloom.

v.20 “AND ON THE LAMPSTAND ITSELF *were* FOUR BOWLS MADE LIKE ALMOND *blossoms, each with* ITS *ornamental* KNOB AND FLOWER.”

As we can see the center shaft or candlestick itself has the four almond blossoms, one below, two between and one above the branches.

v.21 “*There was* A KNOB UNDER THE *first* TWO BRANCHES OF THE SAME, A KNOB UNDER THE *second* TWO BRANCHES OF THE SAME, AND A KNOB UNDER THE *third* TWO BRANCHES OF THE SAME, ACCORDING TO THE SIX BRANCHES EXTENDING FROM IT.”

This gives the location of the four bowls on the candlestick.

v.22 “THEIR KNOBS AND THEIR BRANCHES WERE OF ONE PIECE; ALL OF IT *was* ONE HAMMERED PIECE OF PURE GOLD.”

Again the instruction is emphasized that the candlestick is to be one piece of hammered gold.

v.23 “AND HE MADE ITS SEVEN LAMPS, ITS WICK-TRIMMERS, AND ITS TRAYS OF PURE GOLD.”

Just like the utensils for the table of the showbread the tools to maintain the light on the lampstand were to be of pure gold.

v.24 “OF A TALENT OF PURE GOLD HE MADE IT, WITH ALL ITS UTENSILS.”

So a talent of pure gold was to be used to make the lampstand and the utensils or tools that was used with it.

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Again we evaluated the content of this lampstand and utensils in terms of the value of gold today. The Israel gold talent equaled 3600 gold shekels but we don't know which talent is being considered. The royal talent weighed 1.01kg, while the common talent weighed .9824 kg. Be that as it may with 3600 shekels at .51 troy ounces each we have 1836 troy ounces of gold. At the market price on April 19, 2012 of \$1,639.60 per troy ounce the lampstand would contain \$3,010,305.60 of gold in today's dollars. By the way; all those folks who try to get to invest your savings in gold won't tell you this but the value of the gold in this candlestick dropped over 10% since our study in December.

Read **Exodus 37:25-29** – The Incense Altar

v.25 “HE MADE THE INCENSE ALTAR OF ACACIA WOOD. ITS LENGTH **was** A CUBIT AND ITS WIDTH A CUBIT—**it was** SQUARE—AND TWO CUBITS **was** ITS HEIGHT. ITS HORNS WERE **of one piece** WITH IT.”

This was the altar upon incense was burned to represent the prayers of the people. It was to be made of acacia wood and measured a cubit square and two cubits tall or 18 inches square and 36 inches tall. This is the most comfortable counter or cabinet height for many people. The horns of this altar were to be made into the altar rather than just being made and then attached. An artist's rendition:

v.26 “AND HE OVERLAID IT WITH PURE GOLD: ITS TOP, ITS SIDES ALL AROUND, AND ITS HORNS. HE ALSO MADE FOR IT A MOLDING OF GOLD ALL AROUND IT.”

It, like the brazen altar for burnt offerings, was to be have the acacia wood overlaid with gold and then the top had a molding of gold around it, much the same as the ark, table and altar inside the Holy Place.

v.27 “HE MADE TWO RINGS OF GOLD FOR IT UNDER ITS MOLDING, BY ITS TWO CORNERS ON BOTH SIDES, AS HOLDERS FOR THE POLES WITH WHICH TO BEAR IT.”

Just like the other furniture within the tabernacle God was very specific about how this altar should be constructed. It would have two gold rings, built under the molding on each side where they would act as holders for the poles or staves with which the altar was to be carried.

v.28 “AND HE MADE THE POLES OF ACACIA WOOD, AND OVERLAID THEM WITH GOLD.”

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The poles used to carry the altar were to be made of acacia wood overlaid with gold just like the poles to carry all of the other large items used in worship.

v.29 "HE ALSO MADE THE HOLY ANOINTING OIL AND THE PURE INCENSE OF SWEET SPICES, ACCORDING TO THE WORK OF THE PERFUMER."

We discussed the recipes for the anointing oil and the incense in our study of chapter 30. The only comment here is that God is very exact in what he wants in our worship to Him; not only under the Mosaic Covenant with Israel but also under the Law or Covenant of Christ.