

As we read Exodus 37, we aren't just looking at ancient blueprints for a portable tent; we are looking at "types" and "shadows" that point us directly to the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The Ark of the Covenant: The God-Man

The Ark was a chest made of acacia wood overlaid with pure gold. This is a beautiful picture of the hypostatic union—Jesus being fully man (the wood) and fully God (the gold). Inside that Ark were three items that told a story.

- The Law: Representing Jesus as the only One who could say, "Your law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8).
- The Manna: Reminding us that He is the true Bread of Life who came down from heaven (John 6:33).
- Aaron's Rod: A branch that was dead but sprouted life, pointing to Jesus as our Great High Priest who was raised from the dead (Hebrews 7:24-26).

While these items reminded Israel of their rebellion, they remind us that Jesus fulfilled every requirement we couldn't meet.

The Mercy Seat: Where Grace Meets Justice

The "lid" of the Ark was the Mercy Seat. This was God's throne on earth. When the high priest sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice there, it covered the Law. When God looked down, He didn't see our brokenness or our failure; He saw the blood.

The Bible tells us that God set forth Jesus to be our "propitiation" or our Mercy Seat (Romans 3:25). It is only because Jesus shed His precious blood on the cross that a holy God can dwell with sinful man. The Law condemns us, but the Blood cleanses us.

The Provision and the Light

We see the Table of Showbread, which reminds us of God's constant provision. Just as there were twelve loaves for the twelve tribes, God has a place for you at His table. He sustains us and keeps us "acceptable" in His sight through Christ.

Then there is the Golden Lampstand. Some see this as the Holy Spirit who illuminates the things of God, while others see it as Christ, the Light of the World. I love the fact that it was beaten out of *one piece* of gold. The branches are connected to the center shaft, just as we must abide in the Vine to have light and life.

The Sweet Aroma of Intercession

Finally, we have the Altar of Incense and the Anointing Oil. The oil speaks of the Holy Spirit's power, and the incense speaks of the prayers and the "sweet aroma" of Jesus. Even right now, Jesus is at the

right hand of the Father, interceding for you. His life is a constant delight to the Father, and because you are "in Him," you are a delight to the Father too.

Practical Application

The Tabernacle teaches us that access to God is only possible through the blood of the Lamb. We don't come to God based on our performance or our "theological camp." We come through the finished work of Jesus. Today, stop trying to carry the weight of the Law on your own. Rest in the fact that the "Mercy Seat" has been sprinkled with the blood of Jesus on your behalf.

A Challenge for the Believer

Are you "abiding" in the Lampstand today? It's easy to get busy doing "church things" and forget to stay connected to the Shaft. My challenge to you is to spend time in the "Holy Place" of prayer. Let the Holy Spirit illuminate the Word to you, and let your life be a sweet incense of worship back to Him.

An Invitation to the Unbeliever

Perhaps you are reading this and you feel the weight of your mistakes. You feel like those items in the Ark—defined by your rebellion. I have good news: Jesus Christ died for your sins, shedding His blood on that cross to pay your debt in full. The resurrection of Jesus proves once and for all that He is God, He is Savior, and He is Lord. He isn't a dead historical figure; He is a living Savior. If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Turn from your sins and give your life to Him today.