

THE TABERNACLE MODEL

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## THE TABERNACLE

"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they may bring me an offering. . . And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them."(Exodus 25;1,8)

With this commandment, the children of Israel began the construction of the "Tabernacle of the Congregation", or "the place to meet with the Lord." As a project for this class, we have undertaken the construction of a model of this Tabernacle. While much of the detail is not available, since many instructions were given to Moses while he was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 25:40), enough information was available to permit a fairly accurate representation of the Tabernacle.

Our sources of information were the Book of Exodus, chapters 25-27, the November, 1973 issue of the Ensign magazine, numerous Bible dictionaries, and the book The Tabernacle of Israel in the Desert, written by James Strong (Baker Book House. Grand Rapids, Michigan. 1952).

The scale used for the model was found by converting the cubit measurement to feet (1.5ft.=1 cubit) and then converting the feet to inches and dividing by 24. One interesting note was that tradition assigns a size of about five feet in height and three feet across to the candlestick, which makes it quite large (See page 44 of Strong's book).

Much speculation has been applied to many of the details of the construction of the Tabernacle. Many sources varied, and in such cases the simplest and most reasonable method was decided upon. For example, the boards for the frame of the Tabernacle were placed edge to edge and were made the same size as those described in the Bible, the method which

has been accepted at least as far back as Josephus. However, some modern authorities (for example, the Jewish Encyclopedia) consider a type of wood frame to be the construction mode rather than full boards. In this case, it was decided to follow the exact Bible description and use full boards simply for want of sufficient supporting evidence for any other method other than the opinions of some authorities.

One of the major differences between the model and the Bible description is the use of purple instead of blue in the curtains for the interior of the Tabernacle. This was based upon the opinion of James Strong in his book, where he states that the original Hebrew word for the color used referred to a type of color received from a shellfish in the Mediterranean Sea. This color is purple rather than blue. (See page 18 in Strong's book). Strong's rationalization on this point seemed sound so it was decided to use the purple in the curtains. This detail did not significantly alter the model, and the color used would be no detriment in giving a good representation of what the Tabernacle looked like.

No attempt was made to embroider cherubims on the curtains, simply because no one is quite sure what a cherubim looks like, and even if we had a description of a cherubim, it is not certain that our needle work would do him justice. Other than that, the model construction is pretty much in accordance with the details found in the Bible.