

# The Tabernacle

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### Structure

- Exodus 26:15-37
- The outer walls are made of 48 gold-plated boards of shittim (acacia) wood – 10 cubits (15 feet) tall by 1½ cubits (2¼ feet) wide
  - 20 boards on north, 20 on south, 6 on west, and 2 in the western corners.
- These boards are placed vertically with two tenons to sit securely in silver bases.
  - tenon – “a projecting member in a piece of wood or other material for insertion into a mortise to make a joint” (Merriam-Webster.com)
  - There will be 100 total bases and it is assumed they weigh 100 pounds each, which I think would make a cube with 6.8-inch sides.
- The boards are further secured by 15 gold-plated wooden rods, five for each wall.
- Four pillars of gold-plated shittim wood set in single silver bases are placed within to hang the veil.
- Five pillars of gold-plated shittim wood set in single brass bases are on the east side to hold linen door.

### Two Veils

- Exodus 26:32-37
- Outer Door
  - Made of the same material and manner as the courtyard gate.
  - Linen with embroidered designs
- Inner Veil
  - Made of the same material and manner as the lowest of the outer coverings.
  - Woven of linen with images of cherubim, visible on both sides.
  - Thiessen - “The cherubim are mentioned in Gen. 3:24; 2 Kings 19:15; Ezek. 10:1-20; 28:14-16.... From the fact that they guard the entrance to Paradise; that they are represented as somehow supporting the throne of God (Ps. 18:9, 10; 80:1; 99:1); that figures of them were wrought into the curtain and veil of the tabernacle and temple; and that, as the "living creatures" in the book of Revelation they are seen surrounding the Throne of God (Rev. 4:6ff.), we gather that they are chiefly the guardians of the Throne of God.”
  - Separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

### Four Outer Coverings

- These were placed in layers (bottom-to-top) over the Tabernacle structure.
- Woven linen – Exodus 26:1-6

- Images of cherubim visible on both sides.
- Ten curtains – 28 cubits (42 feet) x 4 cubits (6 feet)
- Two sets of five curtains are sewn together.
- These two sets are then connected 50 loops and gold clasps.
- Total size – 28 cubits (42 feet) x 40 cubits (60 feet)
  - Note – Tabernacle size = 15 feet wide, 45 feet long, 15 feet tall
- Goat hair – Exodus 26:7-13
  - Eleven curtains – 30 cubits (45 feet) x 4 cubits (6 feet)
  - One set of five and another of six curtains are sewn together
  - These two sets are then connected 50 loops and brass clasps.
  - Total size – 30 cubits (45 feet) by 44 cubits (66 feet)
  - Would completely cover the previous layer.
- Ram skins – Exodus 26:14
  - These are to be dyed red.
  - No dimensions are given, but it likely completely covered previous layer.
- Badger's skins – Exodus 26:14
  - The meaning of the Hebrew word *tachash* (Strong's H8476) has been debated for centuries. While the exact species may be unclear, we can safely assume this hide was durable and hardy as it was exposed continually to the elements.
  - No dimensions are given, but it likely completely covered previous layer.

## Truths from the Tabernacle

- The outer coverings speak of Christ: the outer layer of skins of His humanity (Isaiah 53:2), the red-dyed skins layer of His blood, the goat's hair layer of His bearing our sins (Leviticus 16:19-22, Isaiah 53:6), and the beautiful linen of His divine nature and holiness (John 1:14).
  - You cannot see that inner layer without passing through the outer layers, so you cannot realize the beauty of Christ and His work outside of salvation.
- The door/way into the Tabernacle is based on judgment (brass) so none may pass inward without blood atonement being made.
- The gold-plated boards speak of Christ in His incarnate divinity (wood representing humanity, gold representing divinity).
  - We can have access to God by entering into Christ (II Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 1:3).
  - Note also that this is founded upon redemption (silver) – Ephesians 1:7
- Once inside the Tabernacle, there was still a veil separating man from God. Christ tore down that final barrier at His death (Matthew 27:51), allowing us to enter boldly before God (Hebrews 10:19-22).
  - In Ezekiel's vision of the Millennial Kingdom Temple (Ezekiel 40-42), there is no mention of a veil.