

The Tabernacle Boards
"Rooted and Built Up in Christ"

Exodus 26:15-30

The Tabernacle stood in the courtyard of a fenced-in area in the middle of the camp.

- (1). **The Tabernacle stood on the west side of the courtyard facing east.**
- (2). **The sides of the Tabernacle were composed of solid wood:**
 20 boards (10 cubits tall) on the north and south sides with 8 boards (2 corner) on the west.
 Each board was 1 1/2 cubits wide: north and south sides (45 ft.), west end (15 ft.).
- (3). **These boards were stabilized by bars: five on each side of the Tabernacle.**
- (4). **Each board had "tenons" that sat within sockets of silver** (100 total sockets of silver).

I. Notice the Virtue of Christ --- *"thou shalt make the boards of shittim wood"* (v.15).

Shittim is called "the incorruptible wood" (also translated "acacia" wood).

(A). This wood which comes from the acacia tree speaks of the humanity of Christ.

"He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root . . ." (Is. 53:2).

"In all things it behooved Him to be made like unto his brethren" (Hebrews 2:17).

Thus, He is called *"the man Jesus Christ"* (I Timothy 2:5).

(B). The humanity of Jesus Christ is incorruptible.

He is called *"that Holy thing"* (Luke 1:35). *"The Son of Man did no sin"* (I Peter 2:22).

He even *"knew no sin"* (II Cor. 5:21) and *"in Him was no sin"* (I John 5:21).

The seeds of death were not in his manhood: He did not die from pain or weakness, but *"I lay down my life of myself"* (John 10:18). We must die, He simply chose to die.

(C). The Diety of Christ is seen in the boards as well.

These boards were all overlaid of gold (v.29). Gold represents the divine in Scripture.

"Unto you is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). *"The Word was God . . . and the Word became flesh"* (John 1:1,14). (See John 8:24).

II. Notice the Value of Christ --- *"the sockets of silver"* (vs. 19-21 cf. 30:16 and 38:25-27).

The entire framework of boards stood in the sockets of silver which served as the foundation.

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 3:11).

(A). The silver for the Tabernacle given as "atonement" money.

Exodus 30:12 tells us that every Israeli was to give Moses a ransom for his soul.

The rich, the poor, the middle class were all to give the same --- "half a shekel" (v.15).

God then told Moses to "appoint it (the silver) for the service of the Tabernacle" (v.16).

(B). This silver pictures the work of Jesus Christ in giving Himself as "atonement."

"He gave himself a ransom for us" (John 12:24). He is between man's earth and God's habitation. We cannot and must not separate the work of Christ from His person.

"Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold," (I Peter 1:18).

Not silver, but *"He that believeth on the Son hath life"* (Psalm 49:6-8; Psalm 50).

III. Notice the Vitality of Christ --- as seen in the "tenons" (Literally: "hands").

What kept the boards firm in the sockets of silver? Hands (prongs) that gripped the sockets.

"Let thy hand be upon the many of thy right hand" (Psalm 80:17). *"My times are in thy hand"* (Psalm 31:15).

"Father, into thy hands I commend my Spirit" (Luke 23:46).

It was God's hand that sustained Christ during His most difficult times (Garden, cross, etc.).