

A Reflection of JESUS

Lesson 4 The Holy Place

There were two rooms within the Tabernacle. The outer room was known as the Holy Place. The inner room was called the Holy of Holies. Another name for it was the *Most Holy Place* (Exodus 26:33). The curtains at the entrance of the Holy Place were made of linen that was blue, scarlet, and purple. The curtains then had a broad edge of white goats' hair.

The Holy Place was furnished with three items: the Altar of Incense, the Gold Lampstand, and the Table of Shewbread.

The Altar of Incense

Exodus 30:1-10

At the western end of the room, there was a veil that separated the holy place; from the Most Holy and this is where the altar of incense (or golden altar) was placed.

The altar was not put there because the Levites thought it was the best place, it was put there because God said to put it there (Exodus 30:1-10).

Every morning and evening incense was burnt on this altar by the priests. There was only one kind of incense burned on the altar and it was a recipe that God gave (Exodus 30:35-37).

In Psalm 141:2, incense is compared to prayer. Our prayers are a sweet-smelling incense to God.

The golden altar of incense may be com-

pared to Christ as our Intercessor. Jesus Christ is the One who prays continually for each of us (Hebrews 7:25).

The Gold Lampstand

Exodus 25:31-40; Exodus 37:17-24; 39:37

On the left side (northern side) of the room the gold lampstand was placed. It was not placed on the right because God said to place it on the left.

It was a seven-branched lampstand hammered out of one piece of gold. It was decorated with flowers and buds like almond blossoms. It was the only source of light in the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:31-39).

Every day the priests would fill it with oil. The light was never allowed to go out except when the Tabernacle was being moved.

This lampstand may be compared to Christ. Jesus is the Light of the world. He is a light that will always shine (John 8:12).

The Table of Shewbread

Exodus 25:25-30; Leviticus 24:5-9

On the right side (southern side) of the room the table of shewbread was placed. It was not placed on the left because God said to place it on the right.

It was a table made of wood and then covered with gold (Exodus 25:23-50). Every Sabbath twelve loaves of bread, representing the twelve tribes of Israel, were placed on the

table (Leviticus 24:5–9).

The loaves of bread remained for the entire week on the table. When the bread was removed, the priests would eat them.

The Levites made the bread. They used wheat that was crushed into a fine flour. After the bread was beaten together with the rest of the ingredients, it was pierced with a sharp fork and then baked in a hot oven.

When the loaves were placed on the table, they were sprinkled with pure frankincense (a sweet savor), for a meal offering. Frankincense was rigidly excluded from the sin offering.

The bread pictures Jesus Christ, the true Bread of Life (John 6:33,35).

The preparation of the bread is a reminder as well of the suffering of Jesus. As we read and study God's word, we are given sustenance by Him, receiving our nourishment from the Bread of Life. □

Scripture for Today

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever" (John 6:51)

Choose Your Questions

For class discussion ask your students any of the following:

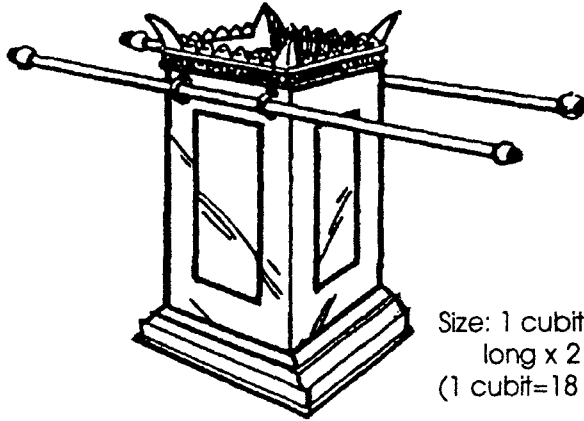
1. What is the name of the outer room within the

Tabernacle? *The Holy Place.*

2. Name the 3 furnishings within the Holy Place.
(1) The Altar of Incense; (2) The Golden Lampstand; (3) The Table of Shewbread.
3. What separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies? *A Veil.*
4. When was incense burnt on the altar?
Morning and evening.
5. How many kinds of incense were burned?
Only one.
6. Incense is compared to what? *Prayers*
(Psalm 141:2).
7. The Golden Lampstand burned what type of fuel? *Oil.*
8. How many "branches" did the lampstand have? *Seven.*
9. How many loaves of shewbread were placed on the table? *Twelve.*
10. What fully represents the Bread of Life?
Jesus.

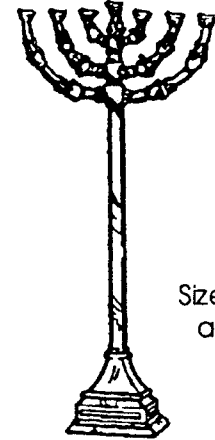
Ideas and Notes:

The Altar of Incense



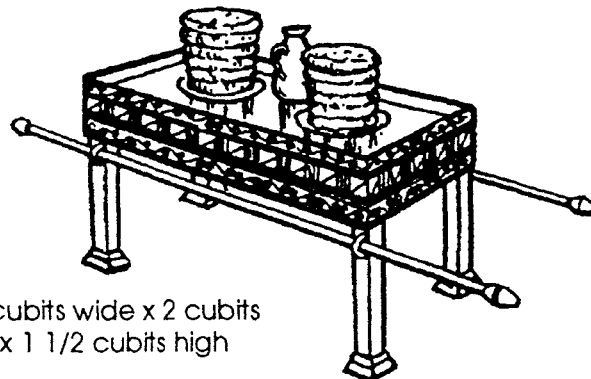
Size: 1 cubit wide x 1 cubit long x 2 cubits high
(1 cubit=18 inches=46 cm)

The Golden Candlestick (Lampstand)



Size: dimensions are unknown

The Table of Shewbread (pronounced *Show-bread*)



Size: 1 cubits wide x 2 cubits long x 1 1/2 cubits high

The Altar of Incense

Special incense was to be burned constantly on the altar of incense. It was a special sweet incense, a mixture of spices to be used only for the Tabernacle. None other was to be burned on the altar. It was a matter of life and death, as Leviticus 10:1,2 clearly shows when two of Aaron's sons offered "strange fire" before the LORD and were struck dead.

The Golden Candlestick

This unique candlestick was beaten from a single piece of gold. Scripture says

it was fueled by oil, not wax. It had lamps at the top of each branch. Trimming the lamp wicks was a very important job for the priest.

The Table of Shewbread

The bread was eaten by Aaron and his sons and was replaced every week on the Sabbath. The table with the loaves was a continual reminder of the everlasting promises, the Covenant between God and the children of Israel, and a memorial of God's provision of food. □