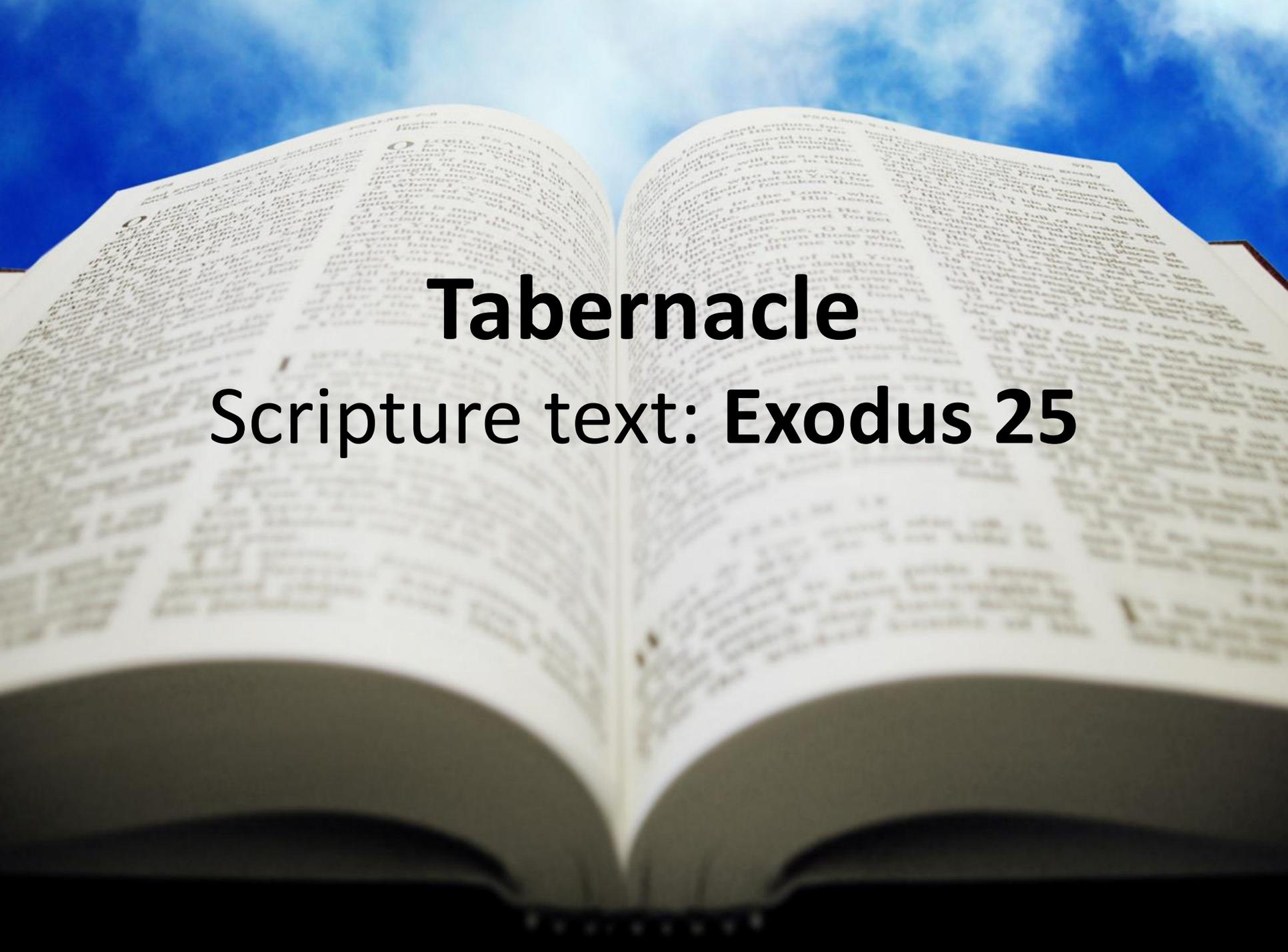


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church  
We're glad you're here!



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered over the open pages.

# Tabernacle

Scripture text: **Exodus 25**

In the Book of **Genesis**, it is recorded that **God walked with His people.**

**Genesis 3:8** And they heard the sound of the **LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day**, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the **LORD God** among the trees of the garden.

**Genesis 5:22-24** Enoch walked with **God** after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. **Enoch walked with God**, and he was not, for **God took him.**

**Genesis 6:9** These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation.  
**Noah walked with God.**

**Genesis 17:1-4** When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; **walk before me, and be blameless**, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." Then **Abram fell on his face**. And God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.

But in Exodus, **God said that He wanted to dwell with His people.**

**Exodus 25:8** And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.

**Exodus 29:43-46** There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory. I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. **I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God.** And they shall know that I am **the LORD their God**, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

**The tabernacle built by Moses is the first of several dwellings that God blessed with His glorious presence.**

**Exodus 40:34-38** Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and **the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle**. Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. **For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.**

**However, when Israel sinned, the glory departed.**

**1 Samuel 4:19-22** Now his daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant, about to give birth. And when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed and gave birth, for her pains came upon her. And about the time of her death the women attending her said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer or pay attention. And **she named the child Ichabod**, saying, "**The glory has departed from Israel!**" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband. And she said, "**The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.**"

**The second dwelling place is the temple of Solomon.**

**1 Kings 8:9-13** There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, **a cloud filled the house of the LORD**, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, **for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD**. Then Solomon said, **"The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. I have indeed built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever."**

**The prophet Ezekiel saw that glory depart.**

**Ezekiel 8:4-6** And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the valley. Then he said to me, "Son of man, lift up your eyes now toward the north." So I lifted up my eyes toward the north, and behold, north of the altar gate, in the entrance, was this image of jealousy. And he said to me, "**Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel are committing here, to drive me far from my sanctuary?**" But you will see still greater abominations."

**Ezekiel 9:3-6** Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his waist. And the LORD said to him, "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it." And to the others he said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity. Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, but touch no one on whom is the mark. And begin at my sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the house.

**Ezekiel 10:4** And the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the house, and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD.

**Ezekiel 10:17-19** When they stood still, these stood still, and when they mounted up, these mounted up with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in them. **Then the glory of the LORD went out** from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes as they went out, with the wheels beside them. And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the LORD, and the **glory of the God of Israel was over them.**

**Ezekiel 11:19-23** And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, **I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord GOD.**" Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them. And **the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain** that is on the east side of the city.

**The glory of God returned to earth in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ** (John 1:14, where “dwelt” means “tabernacled”), and men nailed Him to a cross.

**John 1:12-14** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, **full of grace and truth**.

**God's people today are the temple of God,**  
universally (Eph. 2:20–22), locally (1 Cor. 3:16), and  
individually (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

**Ephesians 2:19-22** So then you are no longer  
strangers and aliens, but **you are fellow citizens with  
the saints and members of the household of God,**  
built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom  
the whole structure, being joined together, grows into  
**a holy temple in the Lord.** In him **you also are being  
built together into a dwelling place for God by the  
Spirit.**

Ezekiel 40–46 promises a kingdom temple where God’s glory will dwell (Ezek. 43:1–5). We also see that the heavenly home will be a place where God’s presence is eternally with His people (Rev. 21:22)

**Revelation 21:22-25** And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day--and there will be no night there.

**Ezekiel 43:1-5** Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing east. And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory. And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and just like the vision that I had seen by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face. **As the glory of the LORD entered the temple** by the gate facing east, **the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.**

## Offerings for the Sanctuary (25:1–9)

God gave Moses the pattern for the tabernacle (v. 9), but He asked the people to contribute the materials needed for its construction (vv. 1–9). This was a one-time offering that had to come from willing hearts (see 35:4–29).

Fourteen different kinds of material are listed here, from precious stones and gold to various colors of yarn. Paul later used the image of “gold, silver, and precious stones” when he wrote about the building of the local church (1 Cor. 3:10ff.).

**1 Corinthians 3:10-14** According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. **For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.** Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw-- each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, **because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.** If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.

It is important to note that the various pieces of furniture were constructed so that they could be carried; **for the tabernacle emphasizes that we are a pilgrim people.**

**The design was changed for Solomon's temple, for the temple illustrates the people of God permanently dwelling in God's glorious kingdom.**

Without going into tedious detail, we will consider the various pieces of furniture of the tabernacle **and the spiritual lessons that they convey.**

# **The Ark of the Covenant (25:10–22)**

**God began with the ark because it was the most important piece of furniture in the tent proper.**

It was the throne of God where His glory rested (v. 22; Pss. 80:1 and 99:1). **It speaks of our Lord Jesus Christ in His humanity (wood) and deity (gold).**

**Exodus 25:22** There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, **from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony**, I will speak with you **about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.**

**Within the ark were three special items:** the tables of the Law (v. 16), Aaron's rod that budded (Num. 16–17), and a pot of manna (Ex. 16:32–34).

**It is interesting that each of these three items is connected with rebellion on the part of God's people:**

the tables of Law with the making of the golden calf;

Aaron's rod with the rebellion led by Korah;

and the manna with Israel's complaining in the wilderness.

**These three items within the ark could have brought judgment to Israel were it not for the mercy seat upon the ark, the place where the blood was sprinkled each annual Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:14).**

**The shed blood covered the sins of the people so that God saw the blood and not their rebellion.**

**The phrase “mercy seat” also means “propitiation,” and Jesus Christ is the propitiation (mercy seat) for us today (Rom. 3:25; 1 John 2:2).**

**Romans 3:20-25** For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, **since through the law comes knowledge of sin.** But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it--**the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.** For there is no distinction: **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,** and are justified by his grace as a gift, through **the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,** whom **God put forward as a propitiation by his blood,** to be **received by faith.** This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

**1 John 2:1-6** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And **by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.** Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: **whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.**

**We come to God through Him and offer our spiritual sacrifices.**

**1 Peter 2:5** you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, **to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

**1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.