

Seven Deeper Lessons from the Tabernacle Types

Open: 22

Close: 208

I. Introduction

Deeper, not in the sense of advanced knowledge, like the Apostle Paul refers to in Hebrews; but rather deeper in the sense of not quickly apparent. In fact, many of these pictures reflect very basic truths, but couched in beautiful figures.

Since the theme of this convention is the Precious Promises, we are going to proceed in a way harmonious with the Theme. For each of these lessons we are going to use a theme text that illustrates the lesson and then close with a Precious Promise that allows us to apply it.

II. Body

1. The Coverings of the Ark of the Covenant

Theme Text: 1 Cor. 15:50 - "Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."

Number 4:5, 6 - "And when the camp setteth forward, Aaron shall come, and his sons, and they shall take down the covering vail, and cover the ark of testimony with it: **6** And shall put thereon the covering of ~~badgers'~~ seal skins, and shall spread over it a cloth wholly of blue, and shall put in the staves thereof."

Vail = sacrificial death

Sealskin = the flesh as seen by the world

Blue = faith

This order is strikingly significant!

The veil represents the death of the flesh and therefore is a boundary. The sealskin, representing the flesh is then placed on top. Note that it remains on

the outer side of the veil. In other words, **the flesh does not go beyond the veil!** But the sealskin itself is covered by the blue cloth. **The flesh is no longer seen.** But when is seen is the blue - the faith of those who have gone beyond the veil!

“And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. Jehovah will count, when he writeth up the peoples, This one was born there.” - **Psalms 87:5, 6**

Precious Promise: 1 Cor. 15:52,53 - “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.”

2. The Way into Glory

Theme Text: Phil. 3:14 - “I press toward the mark for the prize of **the high calling** of God in Christ Jesus.”

The Upward Way

Altar of Burnt Offering:	3 Cubits high
Copper Laver:	no measurement given
Golden Lampstand:	no measurement given
Table of Showbread	1-1/2 Cubits high
Altar of Incense:	2 Cubits high
<u>Ark of the Covenant:</u>	<u>1-1/2 Cubits high</u>

Total of Height Measures: 8 Cubits

8 - a symbol of New Life, Resurrection Life, Divine Nature Life!

- Circumcision under the Law on the 8th day after birth - new acceptance
- 8 individuals saved through the Flood to new life in a cleansed, new world (new dispensation)
- Jesus Raised on the 8th day
- Lepers inspected by the Priest are declared cleansed on the 8th day

Precious Promise: 2 Peter 1:10 - "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: **for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:**"

3. The Tabernacle Artisans

Theme Text: 1 Peter 2:5 - "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up *spiritual sacrifices*, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

Exodus 31:2-6 - "See, I have **called by name Bezaleel** the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: **3** And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, **4** To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, **5** And in cutting of stones, to set *them*, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. **6** And I, behold, I have given with him **Aholiab**, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee;"

Is. 11:1-2

Bezaleel - filled with:

- the spirit of God
- in wisdom
- in understanding
- in knowledge
- in all manner of workmanship

Stem of Jesse, a Branch (**JESUS!**)

- the spirit of Jehovah
- of wisdom
- of understanding
- of knowledge
- of counsel and might
- of the fear (reverence) of Jehovah

Bezaleel - "called by name" and his name means "**the shadow of God**"

- **Hebrews 1:3** - "Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the **express image** of his person..."

His pedigree:

- the son of **Uri** - Uri means "**light**"
 - o **John 1:9** - "That was **the true Light**, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."
- the son of **Hur** - Hur means "**noble**"

- **2 Cor. 8:9** - "...though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor"
- **Hebrews 2:9** - "...should taste death for every man."
- of the tribe of **Judah** - Judah means "praised"
 - **Philippians 2:9** - "Wherefore **God** also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:"
 - **Revelation 5:5** - "And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, **the Lion of the tribe of Juda**, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."

Aholiab - "the Father's tent"

- **1 Corinthians 3:16** - "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the **Spirit of God dwelleth in you?**"

His pedigree:

- the son of Ahisamach - Ahisamach means "my brother has supported"
 - **John 15:5** - "I am the Vine, ye are the branches . . . without me ye can do nothing."
- of the tribe of Dan - Dan means "judge"
 - **1 Corinthians 6:2** - "Do ye not know that **the saints shall judge the world?**"

Precious Promise: Galatians 3:29 - "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Precious Promise: Acts 20:32 - "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."

Precious Promise: Ephesians 2:20 - "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

4. The Bread of Life

Theme Text #1: John 6:51 - "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

Lev. 8:26 - "And out of the basket of unleavened bread, that was before the LORD, he took **one unleavened cake**, and **a cake of oiled bread**, and **one wafer**, and put *them* on the fat, and upon the right shoulder:"

(Ex. 29: 2 - "...wafers unleavened anointed with oil:...")

Contained in the Consecration of the Priesthood (Lev. 8)

Three Items:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. One Unleavened Cake | - Justification |
| 2. One Cake of Oiled Bread | - Sanctification |
| 3. One Oiled Wafer | - Hope of Glorification
- <i>based on the Precious Promises!</i> |

Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, **the evidence of things not seen.**"

These are part of what completes a consecration!

Theme Text #2: Lev. 7:11-13 - "And this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he shall offer unto the LORD. If he offer it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, of fine flour, fried. Besides the cakes, he shall offer *for* his offering leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offerings."

A Type of Peace Offering, namely a Thank Offering

- *to be offered with the sacrifice:*
 1. unleavened cakes with oil
 2. unleavened wafers with oil
 3. fried cakes with oil ("fine flour" - ASB; "best meal" - BBE) ("fried flour cakes mixed with oil;" - Youngs)
 4. leavened bread

We would suggest here that this type, among other things, teaches us about what to be thankful about and how to be thankful.

1. unleavened (righteousness) with oil (holy spirit)

- a. We are to be thankful for the **gift of justification** we have from our Father and for **the begetting of the Holy Spirit for our sanctification**.
 - i. **1 Peter 1:2** - "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: *Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*"
2. unleavened wafers (righteous hopes) with oil (holy spirit)
- a. We are to be thankful for the precious promises that come from the holy spirit and the hope they engender in us. And for the strength and courage we derive from these hopes.
 - i. **Titus 3:7** - "That being **justified by his grace**, we should be made heirs according to **the hope of eternal life.**"
3. Fried cakes, fine flour, best meal (righteous trials for our new creature) with oil (holy spirit)
- a. We are to be thankful for the trials that God kindly arranges for us each day knowing and believing that they are for our development as new creatures and eternal blessing.
 - i. **1 Peter 1:7** - "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"
4. leavened bread - leaven = sin
- a. We can't be thankful for sin! But we can be thankful in spite of sin!!! We acknowledge our sinfulness, our innate disqualification from divine favor. But we also acknowledge all of the above and do not let sin to keep us from thanksgiving for all things.
 - i. **Romans 8:28** - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his purpose.*"

Precious Promise: 1 Peter 4:13 - "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are **partakers of Christ's sufferings**; that, when his glory shall be revealed, **ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**"

5. The Goats Hair Curtain

Theme Text: Rev. 14:1 - "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him **an hundred forty and four thousand**, having his Father's name written in their foreheads."

Ex. 36:14, 15 - "And he made curtains of goats' hair for the tent over the tabernacle: eleven curtains he made them. The length of one curtain was thirty cubits, and four cubits was the breadth of one curtain: the eleven curtains were of one size."

Dimensions of this curtain show some amazing numbers.

Each part was 4 x 30 cubits

The whole was 11 curtains, so it measure 44 x 30 cubits

But Moses was told to do something with it!

Exodus 26:9 - "And thou shalt couple five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves, and **shalt double the sixth curtain** in the forefront of the tabernacle."

This has the effect of changing the whole dimension to 42 x 30 cubits.

AND it creates a perimeter of 144 cubits!!

It also produces another interest number! What is its area?

$30 \times 42 = 1260$ cubic cubits

Precious Promise: 2 Cor. 5:1 - " "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, **we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**"

6. The Word of God in the Tabernacle

Theme Text: John 17:17 - "...Thy Word is Truth"

A question I received frequently from those in the world is why I believe the Bible is the Word of God? One person who had studies Christian history asked me why I

thought that the books in the Bible were the right books, considering there were many other candidate books that the church rejected. Have you ever thought about this?

Well, we have a Bible with 66 books.

But is that the original number?

The New Testament is 27 books and that hasn't changed in centuries.

The Old Testament, however, was originally 22 books. (See Josephus)

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy
6. Joshua
7. Judges & Ruth
8. Samuel (1st and 2nd)
9. Kings (1st and 2nd)
10. Isaiah
11. Jeremiah & Lamentations
12. Ezekiel
13. The Prophets (12 of them)
14. Psalms
15. Proverbs
16. Job
17. Song of Solomon
18. Ecclesiastes
19. Esther
20. Daniel
21. Ezra-Nehemiah
22. Chronicles

Interesting that **it is the same number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet!**

So our original correct number of books is 22 plus 27 or **49 books**.
Now you might like this number because it is 7 squared!

Not only that, but the NT books of 27 is 3 cubed!!

The Hebrew Bible was later changed to 24 books and it has been suggested that this was done to destroy the 49 total that developed with Christianity!!!

Does the Bible itself give any indication of the correct number?

The Golden Lampstand -

Exodus 26:31-35 - "And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the same. And six branches shall come out of the sides of it; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side: Three bowls made like unto almonds, with a knop and a flower in one branch; and three bowls made like almonds in the other branch, with a knop and a flower: so in the six branches that come out of the candlestick. And in the candlestick shall be four bowls made like unto almonds, with their knops and their flowers. And there shall be a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, according to the six branches that proceed out of the candlestick."

The Golden Candlestick had several lessons. It is a picture of the church. But the Pastor also mentions that it is a picture of God's Word:

"Renouncing our justified human wills, and all our human aspirations and hopes, we pass the first vail, or vail of human-mindedness—counting the human will as dead; henceforth consulting not it, but the will of God only. We now find ourselves as 'new creatures' in the 'Holy'—in the first of the 'Heavenlies' or Holies (**Ephesians 2:6**—Diaglott), **and begin to be enlightened by the 'Golden Candlestick' (God's Word) respecting spiritual things—the deep things of God**—and to be refreshed and strengthened daily with the truth, as represented in the 'shew-bread,' lawful for only the Priests to eat. (Matt. 12:4) And thus enlightened and strengthened, we should daily offer up sacrifices at the 'Golden Altar,' acceptable to God through Jesus Christ—a sweet perfume to our Father. (**1 Peter 2:5**)" (T22)

So, we will draw a further lesson from the Lampstand as a picture of God's Word.

Many artists have endeavored to portray what the Lampstand looked like and all to the merit. But without trying to visualize this, we can still note several important features about it.

- It had seven branches.
- The main support or pillar had four bowls (cups), four knops (buds) and four flowers.
- The remain six branches each had three bowls (cups), three knops (buds) and three flowers.

So the number each of bowls and knops and flowers is 22! Seems to testify quite nicely to the number of books in the OT!

But things get more interesting when we notice that the total number of bowls, knops and flowers is 66!!! Hmmmmm....

Add to this an observation about the shewbread on the Table of Showbread. It had 12 loaves arranged in two rows of 6 each, i.e. $6 + 6 = 66$ again?!!

Precious Promise: John 8:32 - "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

7. The Ransom Price in the Tabernacle

Theme Text: 1 Corinthians 6:20 - "for **ye were bought with a price**: glorify God therefore in your body."

Since the doctrine of the ransom is the **foundation** of God's plan for the redemption of mankind, it would seem logical to find some picture of it in the Tabernacle types. We are not disappointed.

Consider the following from **Exodus 26:15-25** about the construction of the Tabernacle itself. Of particular interest is the **foundation** of the Tabernacle - the silver sockets:

Verse 19-25 - "And thou shalt make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards; two sockets under one board for his two tenons, and two sockets under another board for his two tenons. And for the second side of the tabernacle on the north side *there shall be* twenty boards: **And their forty sockets of silver; two sockets under one board, and two sockets**

under another board. And for the sides of the tabernacle westward thou shalt make six boards. And two boards shalt thou make for the corners of the tabernacle in the two sides. And they shall be coupled together beneath, and they shall be coupled together above the head of it unto one ring: thus shall it be for them both; they shall be for the two corners. And they shall be eight boards, and **their sockets of silver, sixteen sockets; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board.**"

Each of the forty-eight boards of the Tabernacle has two tenons, cylinders of wood of which each plugged into two silver sockets and gave the boards a firm, unmovable setting.

- Thus, there were two times forty-eight or ninety-six silver sockets.
- And **there were four more silver sockets under the four pillars within the Tabernacle** which held the inner veil dividing the Holy from the Most Holy.
- The total number of silver sockets was **one hundred**.

The **source of the silver** that was used to make the sockets gives us a clue to their meaning. We first observe in **Exodus 30:11-16** that a collection is taken from Israel. Note a couple of the expressions used:

"And Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying, When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel, according to those that are numbered of them, then shall they give every man **a ransom for his soul** unto Jehovah, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them. This they shall give, every one that passeth over unto them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary; (the shekel is twenty gerahs;) half a shekel for an offering to Jehovah. Every one that passeth over unto them that are numbered, from twenty years old and upward, shall give the offering of Jehovah. The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half shekel, when they give the offering of Jehovah, **to make atonement for your souls**. And thou shalt take **the atonement money** from the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tent of meeting; that it may be a memorial for the children of Israel before Jehovah, **to make atonement for your souls.**"

This collection is called:

- "a ransom for his soul"
- "the atonement money."

Both of these expressions remind us very strongly of the atonement price Jesus paid with his life.

How was this "atonement money" used? The specific answer is given in [Exodus 38:25-27](#):

"And the silver of them that were numbered of the congregation was an hundred talents, and a thousand seven hundred and threescore and fifteen shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary: A bekah for every man, that is, half a shekel, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for every one that went to be numbered, from twenty years old and upward, for six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty men. And of the hundred talents of silver were cast the sockets of the sanctuary, and the sockets of the vail; an hundred sockets of the hundred talents, a talent for a socket."

So this scripturally associates the ransom or atonement price with the foundation of the Tabernacle. And the Tabernacle foundation beautifully connects with Jesus as the foundation of the church.

The lesson does not stop there. We saw from those texts that each silver socket weighed one talent. This weight or quantity of silver also connects with the value of a man's life. Turn to [1 Kings 20:39](#)

"And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king: and he said, Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver."

This text specifically defines a value of a man's life as one talent. Thus the value of each silver socket relates to the value of a man's life. And in the case of our lesson here, the life can be non other than Jesus' life, especially as a ransom for the life forfeit by Adam - another man's life.

There is yet one more lesson which related the silver sockets to Jesus.

- There are exactly 100 Silver Sockets.
- This number 100 seems to be another symbol of Jesus.

Further confirmation of this number 100 as a symbol identifying Jesus and the atonement he made for us may be seen in **the firstborn redemption price**. While Israel was in the wilderness, God made a change in the worship of Israel. Prior to the giving of the law, the firstborn male of each family eventually became the priest for the family. But under the Mosaic Law, God now chose to use the Levites to be the priestly tribe. In this exchange described in Numbers chapter 3, we are told that there were **273 more firstborn than Levites**. Therefore, a redemption needed to be made for the firstborn. **Numbers 3:47** (also **Numbers 18:16**) specifies the redemption price:

"Thou shalt even take **five shekels apiece** by the poll, after the shekel of the sanctuary shalt thou take them: (**the shekel is twenty gerahs**)"

- So the redemption price turns out to be 100 gerahs.
- Thus the number 100 is associated with the redemptive price.
- It is even more intriguing when we consider that this **same redemptive price** for a firstborn was given earlier as **a lamb!** (in **Ex. 13:13**)
- So the Bible provides an equation that 100 gerahs equals one lamb and thus authenticates the symbol.

One further prophetic note:

In **Revelation 16:21** we read about mighty hailstones each weighing a talent bombarding the earth.

- This symbolic picture combines two symbols. Hail is water that has frozen. Water is a general symbol of truth.
- Hard water - ice - would seem to be a picture of 'hard' truths, that is, truths that are not particularly appreciated because of the pain they cause.
- What truths might these be? Perhaps it would include truths associated with the value of life - the weight of a talent.
- By the sacrifice of his life, Jesus purchased mankind which makes him the legitimate ruler and King. The nations do not want to have their rulership terminated. But this prophecy and that also of **Psalms 2** indicates that Jesus, as the rightful and King, will break the nations in pieces. This 'hard' truth is not quickly accepted by men and is perceived as a great plague.

And if we make the general connection of the weight of a talent with the value of life, **we might also see an extension to the less to truths about the value of human life in general which has been violated by rulers and governments to their shame during the whole rule of sin and death.** They will have to learn that hard way that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son..." (**John 3:16**).

Precious Promise: 2 Cor. 5:1 - "Precious Promise: 1 Thessalonians 5:11 -
"Wherefore exhort one another, and build each other up, even as also ye do."

III. Conclusion

As we mentioned at the outset, these are not deep in the sense of advanced, intellectual truths, but rather a review at basic truths camouflaged in the types and shadows.

The Tabernacle is such a beautiful type and it is primary a picture of God's dealings with us. And when all is said and done for this Gospel Age, we will then be fitted for the glorious work of helping mankind to perfection.

Rev. 21:3 - "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."**