

MESSIAH IN THE OT

Week 8 – Made According to Pattern/The Tabernacle

March 12, 2019

The central thought of the Book of Exodus is redemption by blood. The Jewish people were delivered from bondage to slavery in Egypt by the blood of the Passover lambs. Around this thought gathers the story of a people saved by the Blood – looking forward to THE perfect Passover Lamb, Jesus the Messiah. And in the tabernacle they have access to GOD by the blood which looks forward to the precious blood of the Messiah Jesus, God the Son, as the ultimate sacrifice.

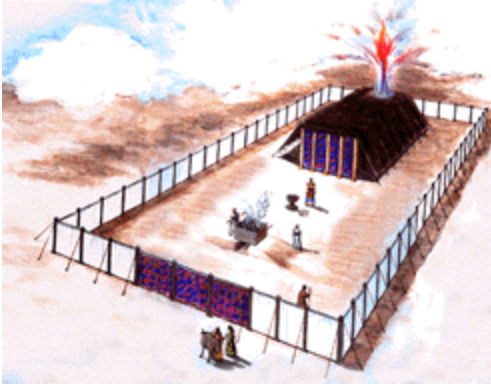
Ex. 25:1-9 - *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ² Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering. ³ And this is the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze; ⁴ blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair; ⁵ ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; ⁶ oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; ⁷ onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate. ⁸ And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. ⁹ According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.*

Ex. 25:10 - *And they shall make an ark...*

This is where we began in our discussion of the tabernacle...because this is where God began in His instructions to Moses concerning the tabernacle...because this is exactly where God would dwell...and this is where the blood would be sprinkled once a year at the Day of Atonement.

Ex. 25:2 - *... Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take **My** offering.* The tabernacle was constructed from freewill offerings of the people. From where did the children of Israel get such quantities of gold, silver, and clothing?

Ex. 12:35-36 - *Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. ³⁶ And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered (took the spoils from) the Egyptians.*



The tabernacle proper, comprised of the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies, was a tent-like structure surrounded by a courtyard (Week 6 handout; this handout pg. 3)

- An outer court enclosed by curtains supported on pillars surrounded the tabernacle compound. The entrance was on the east side.
- The tabernacle proper was located at the western part of the court.
- The Tabernacle was divided by a veil into two chambers.
 - The first chamber was the Holy Place, it contained the Table of Showbread, Lampstand, and Altar of Incense. Only priests (sons of Aaron [Num. 3:3]) were allowed into this section. (High Priests: Nadab & Abihu [killed] and Eleazar and Ithamar. Eleazar was the designated line of the High Priests [Num. 25:10-13]. Through Phineas [of Eleazar's line] would come all the legitimate High Priests [Psa. 106:30-31; Eze. 40:46; Eze. 44:10, 15; Eze. 48:11]).
 - The second chamber was the Holy of Holies which contained the Ark of the Covenant.

If you were approaching the tabernacle what would you see? You would see a white fence, with a cloud of smoke rising from the center of it, after passing through the many dark/black tents of the children of Israel encamped around it.

Num. 2:2 - *Everyone of the children of Israel shall camp by his own standard, beside the emblems of his father's house (their individual tribes); they shall camp some distance from the tabernacle of meeting.* Because the tabernacle was a portable, temporary dwelling, the children of Israel were living in tents moving from place to place as God led them through the wilderness to the Promised Land. Might we understand God becoming a "pilgrim" with the pilgrims and occupying a "tent" with tent-dwellers? This is a foreshadowing of the Messiah...as He is Emmanuel (Isa. 7:14), God with us, God incarnating – coming to earth – to identify with us – to dwell with us! And so we can comprehend that God did indeed dwell with the children of Israel to fellowship with them...to meet with them.

How do we know that the tents of the Israelites were dark? Tents in the Middle East are made of goats' hair and are spoken of by the Bedouin as their "home of hair." Song of Songs 1:5 – *I (the Shulamite) am black, but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar (grandson of Abraham through Ishmael), like the curtains of Solomon.* Picture the contrast between the dark tents where the children of Israel were dwelling and the white fence surrounding the tabernacle compound! God desired to dwell amidst the darkness of sinful man!

The tabernacle was situated in the midst of the camp of the children of Israel. The tents were pitched at a distance from the building.

Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun, on the east, numbered 186,400 men.

Reuben, Simeon, and Gad, on the south, numbered 151,450 men.

Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin on the west, numbered 108,100 men.

Dan, Asher, and Naphtali, on the north, numbered 157,600 men.

Totality of men twenty years (military age) and upwards: 603,550, not including the tribe of Levi.

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The tribe of Levi, divided into three families, pitched between the tabernacle and the camp, a family on each side. Their proximity spoke to their service of the tabernacle.

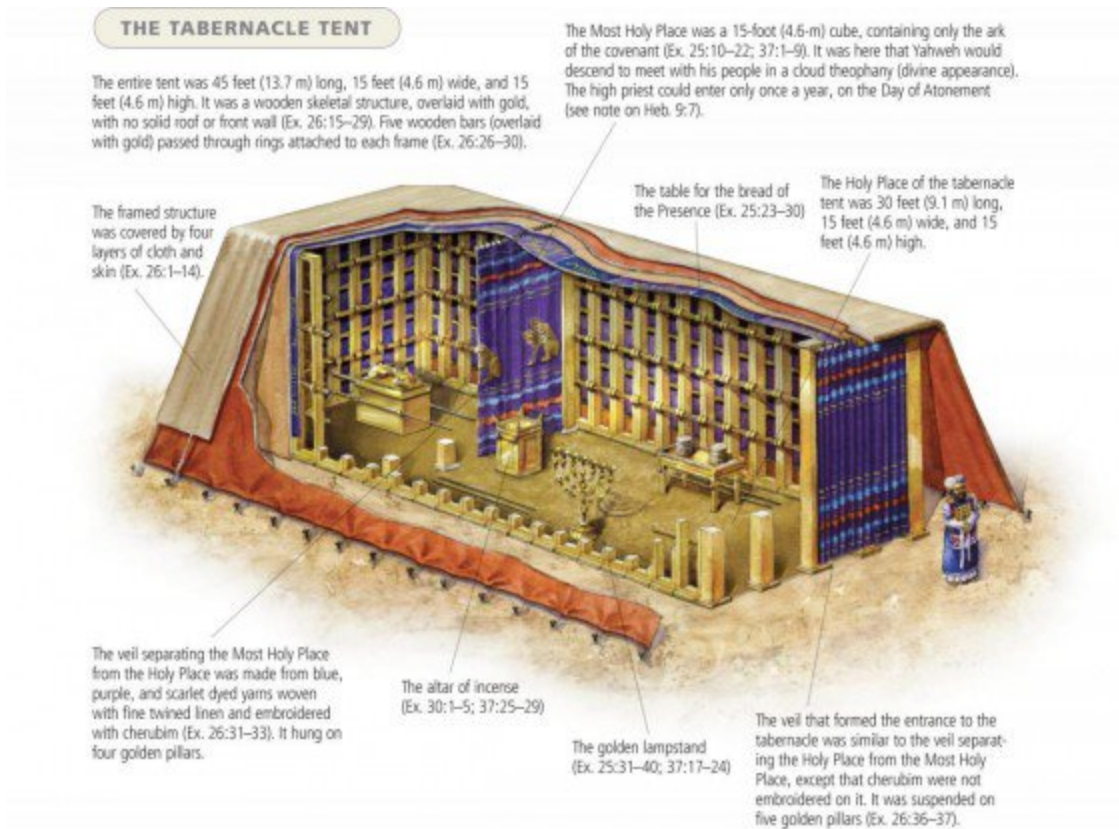
Kohath on the south: 8,600 men. Gershonites on the west: 7,500 men. Merarites on the north: 6,200 men. At the east were the tents of a subdivision of Kohathites: Moses the leader, Aaron the High Priest, and the sons of Aaron, the priests.

In the center was GOD!

The tabernacle was positioned within a rectangular courtyard 150 ft. long and 75 ft. wide. It was bounded by curtains or "hangings" made of white linen which were supported by sixty bronze pillars, twenty on each side and ten on each end with two pillars united at each corner. The curtains were attached by silver hooks.

The foundation of this courtyard consisted of sixty sockets of bronze buried into the ground, or sand, into which the pillars were inserted. Each one of the pillars was topped off with a cap which was overlaid with silver.

At the east end four center pillars formed a gate from which hung a 35 ft. screen woven of blue, purple, and scarlet yard and fine linen thread.



The tabernacle itself was comprised of 48 boards each 10 cubits high and 1.5 cubits wide...having feet. The boards were inserted into 96 silver sockets each weighing approximately 125 lbs. (estimated total).

A “door” of curtains of blue, purple, and scarlet yard and fine linen thread was placed in front of the tabernacle proper – directly in front of the Holy Place (where the priest is standing in the graphic)

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A veil of the same size and materials, embroidered with cherubim, hanging on four pillars set into sockets of silver made a partition between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. The Holy Place was 20 cubits long and 10 cubits wide. The Holy of Holies was a perfect cube of 10 cubits long and 10 cubits wide. The Holy of Holies was a perfect cube.

NOTE: The length of a cubit was based on the distance from the elbow to the fingertips, so it varied between different ancient groups of people. Here are some samples from Egypt, Babylon, and ancient Israel:

Culture	Inches (centimeters)
Hebrew (short)	17.5 (44.5)

Egyptian	17.6 (44.7)
Common (short)	18 (45.7)
Babylonian (long)	19.8 (50.3)
Hebrew (long)	20.4 (51.8)
Egyptian (long)	20.6 (52.3)

What of these boards?

Ex. 26:15 - *And for the tabernacle you shall make the boards of acacia wood, standing upright.* The acacia tree is native to the Sinai Peninsula and the desert. The natural condition of the acacia tree is knots and twists. There is nothing upright/straight about it. It is of little or no use for building purposes...unless trimmed.

Are we full of knots and are we twisted? God comes to dwell in us when we place our trust in Him, coming to Him broken (Isa. 66:2), and He gives us His righteousness for our sins...and then we can be useful to the Master!

II Tim. 2:21 – When God cleanses us, we become *a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.*

The acacia boards after having been transformed from their natural condition, were then overlaid with pure gold. Wood is a type of humanity and gold speaks to divinity. And so Jesus came as 100% man and 100% God. AND, through Jesus, God transforms the human nature. II Pet. 1:2-4 - *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust*

Each board had at its lower portion two projections that allowed it to stand solidly in the sockets of its foundation. Ordinary tents were erected by driving in stakes and pins that gripped the desert. But, God instructed the construction of the two feet to be prepared for

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each board so that each board stood independently of the sand of the desert. And what separated the boards from the sand? Silver – which was a ransom price!

Ex. 30:11-16 – During taking the census of the children of Israel, (603,550 men of military age [Ex. 38:25-28]) *every man shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD, when you number them, so that there may be no plague among them when you number them. ...Everyone included among those who are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering to the Lord. The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less...to make atonement for yourselves. And you shall take the atonement money of*

the children of Israel, and shall appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of meeting...to make atonement for yourselves.

Ex. 38:25, 27-28 - informs us that this offering called “atonement money” (ransom money) was silver - *And the silver from those who were numbered of the congregation was one hundred talents... ²⁷ And from the hundred talents of silver were cast the sockets of the sanctuary and the bases of the veil: one hundred sockets from the hundred talents, one talent for each socket. ²⁸ Then from the one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five shekels (of silver) he made hooks for the pillars, overlaid their capitals, and made bands for them.*

The silver given was a ransom price – a price for a life – so that no plague would be among them. It was in the payment of half a shekel that the men of Israel were delivered from the visitation of a plague. Silver typifies “redemption” as redemption must incur a price paid; a ransom is a price paid for a life. God fixed the price – the same for all, rich and poor. Jesus’ blood was shed for all. All who come to Jesus by faith are equal (the rich and the poor). And, the silver was given *for the service of the tabernacle...* The silver sockets became the foundation of the tabernacle which was necessary as the ground was sandy. Sand is unstable.

As believers God dwells in us. Our foundation is solid. Our foundation is found in the redemption that is in Jesus and His death – in His blood. A ransom price was paid for us. REDEMPTION is accomplished through a purchase price! The message of the tabernacle puts includes great detail about the foundation of where we fellowship and commune with God...and how. The basis is always through the blood of the Messiah Who was to come – Jesus!

How could the boards provide a frame for the tabernacle proper? While the knotted/ twisted acacia wood had been trimmed/prepared for use in the tabernacle, how would each board alone support the tabernacle? Ex. 26:15-29 - *...bars were passed through the midst of the boards....* The 48 boards of the tabernacle proper were fitly framed together as to become one building, resting on a solid foundation. We are speaking of unity and fellowship based on a sure foundation which is Jesus!

The silver sockets kept the boards from sinking into the sand or losing their standing upright or losing equality of height.

Ex. 26:29 - *You shall overlay the boards with gold, make their rings of gold as holders for the bars, and overlay the bars with gold.* These bars made of gold (gold speaks to deity) consolidated the whole into one.

Consider the foreshadowing and what has transpired since Pentecost...

Eph. 2:19-22 - *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief*

cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

And over the tabernacle proper...the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies...curtains and coverings formed its roof.

Ex. 26:1 - *Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim you shall weave them* This set of curtains were the innermost curtains which served as the ceiling of the tabernacle proper. They were woven of finely twisted linen and thread and a design of cherubim were woven into these curtains. They were seen from only the inside by the priests (the Holy Place) and the High Priest once a year (the Holy of Holies) NOTE: Egypt had a reputation for excellence in producing finely twisted linen.

These colors were used in the fabric of the gate, the door, and the veil and the High Priest's ephod – the garment to which the breastplate of judgment was attached (Ex. 28:5-30).

Blue – considered a heavenly color which speaks of divinity. God dwells in the third heaven (II Cor. 12:2). The tabernacle foreshadows Jesus and His work on our behalf. Jesus is God the Son.

Scarlet – it has been said that this color speaks of humanity. Jesus, the Son of Man (and yet in Dan. 7:13 we understand the Son of Man as deity).

Purple – some have said this is a blending of blue and scarlet and thus we understand the Messiah as the Mediator (I Tim. 2:5).

Within the message of the tabernacle we comprehend God's work of reconciliation through the One Mediator between God and men, the Man Messiah Jesus.

Fine Linen – the background for the colors. Jesus is the One Mediator because He is perfect, holy, pure, spotless.

Cherubim – speaks to us of protection. Cherubim were at the gate of the Garden of Eden, guarding the way to the Tree of Life. Cherubim were above the mercy seat, seemingly guarding the sprinkled blood. Guarding the throne of God!

The next layering of cloth

Ex. 26:7 - *You shall also make curtains of goats' hair, to be a tent over the tabernacle. You shall make eleven curtains.* Goats' hair which is typically white in the Western world, is black in the Middle East. (Song of Songs 1:5 as previously mentioned) Gen. 9:27 we read that God would dwell in the tents of Shem (Shemites/Semites) And we remember Jesus came as Emmanuel, God with us, to identify with us. It has been said that a Middle Eastern shepherd wears a sheepskin coat because he believes the sheep like to see him as one of them. Heb. 2:16-17 - *For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.* ¹⁷ *Therefore, in all things He had to be made*

like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

The goat in Scripture has been seen as a type of sin:

- Two goats were used on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:5-28).
- Goats are noted as the unsaved of the nations in the judgment of the nations when Jesus returns to establish His kingdom (Matt. 25:31-46).
- Rom. 8:3 tells us that the Messiah Jesus came in the likeness of sinful flesh.
BUT, Jesus is sinless...
 - II Cor. 5:21 – *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
 - Heb. 4:15 - *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

Ex. 26:14 - *You shall also make a covering of ram skins dyed red for the tent, and a covering of badger skins above that.*

The ram is the animal of substitution that we read about in Gen. 22. The ram died in Isaac's place. The ram skins were dyed red. The ram shed its blood in Isaac's place.

The badger (or in some translations, "porpoise" or "dolphin") was an unknown animal on the Sinai Peninsula. Eze. 16:10 speaks of sandals made of badger skin which was a most durable skin...most likely weathered/worn from its use – not an attractive skin.

The badger skin was what was seen from the exterior – our first picture of the tabernacle proper. Isa. 53:2-3 - *For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*

How did the tabernacle appear...viewed from without? A long black, unattractive tent of badgers' skins.

The focus within the encampment of the children of Israel was clearly the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud

Ex. 40:34 - *...the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶ Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. ³⁷ But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.*

Num. 9:15-23 – Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the Testimony; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of fire. ¹⁶ So it was always: the cloud covered it by

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day, and the appearance of fire by night. ¹⁷ Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents. ¹⁸ At the command of the LORD the children of Israel would journey, and at the command of the LORD they would camp; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped. ¹⁹ Even when the cloud continued long, many days above the tabernacle, the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD and did not journey. ²⁰ So it was, when the cloud was above the tabernacle a few days: according to the command of the LORD they would remain encamped, and according to the command of the LORD they would journey. ²¹ So it was, when the cloud remained only from evening until morning: when the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they would journey; whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud was taken up, they would journey. ²² Whether it was two days, a month, or a year that the cloud remained above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would remain encamped and not journey; but when it was taken up, they would journey. ²³ At the command of the LORD they remained encamped, and at the command of the LORD they journeyed; they kept the charge of the LORD, at the command of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

We first read of the pillar in Ex. 13:20-22 – So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness. ²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. ²² He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

It was not a hovering cloud but a pillar of cloud. A pillar stands as an emblem of strength and stability. It was not only a pillar of cloud but also a pillar of fire that pierced the darkness.

When the tabernacle was built and the glory of the LORD filled the place, then the pillar moved and took up its abode over the ark of the covenant. The pillar of cloud and fire became the outward evidence to man of the LORD's presence among them!

The children of Israel SAW the presence of the LORD...the glory of the LORD...

They SAW the Angel of the LORD Who is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus in the OT...

And then in the fullness of time, the "Seed of the woman", "Shiloh," the "Prophet"...came...

...and He dwelt among them.

JESUS fulfilled ALL of what the tabernacle foreshadows.

JESUS dwells in the redeemed (John 17:26 – *I in them*; Col. 2:27 – *Christ in you the hope of glory*)

...because He is the ultimate sacrifice for sin...He poured out His blood and died.

AND, because Jesus rose from the dead and must fulfill ALL that God had promised when He made the covenant with Abraham...Jesus will return and we will see Him coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory and He will establish His kingdom and reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

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Regarding the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire, nothing could obliterate the pillar. The strong east wind that blew all night and parted the waters of the Red Sea never blew the cloud across the sky (Ex. 14:19-31). In Exodus 14 we see the pillar as Israel's protection and source of light.

How long did the pillar of cloud and fire journey with the children of Israel?

Num. 33:1-49 - *These are the journeys of the children of Israel, who went out of the land of Egypt by their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron. ² Now Moses wrote down the starting points of their journeys at the command of the LORD. And these are their journeys according to their starting points:....And following the death of Aaron at Mount Hor we read, ...They departed from the mountains of Abarim and camped in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho. ⁴⁹ They camped by the Jordan, from Beth Jesimoth as far as the Abel Acacia Grove in the plains of Moab.*

Throughout the 40 years in the wilderness, in the midst of disobedience and unbelief...GOD REMAINED with the children of Israel. How does this speak to us?

Can you imagine how the nations viewed the pillar of cloud and fire?

Num. 22:1-5 - *Then the children of Israel moved, and camped in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan across from Jericho.*

² Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. ³ And Moab was exceedingly afraid of the people because they were many, and Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel. ⁴ So Moab said to the elders of Midian, "Now this company will lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field." And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time. ⁵ Then he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying: "Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me!"



Note the cross like shape of the camp's layout.

And, while journeying in their tribes, the three tribes positioned on the east of the tabernacle moved forward first

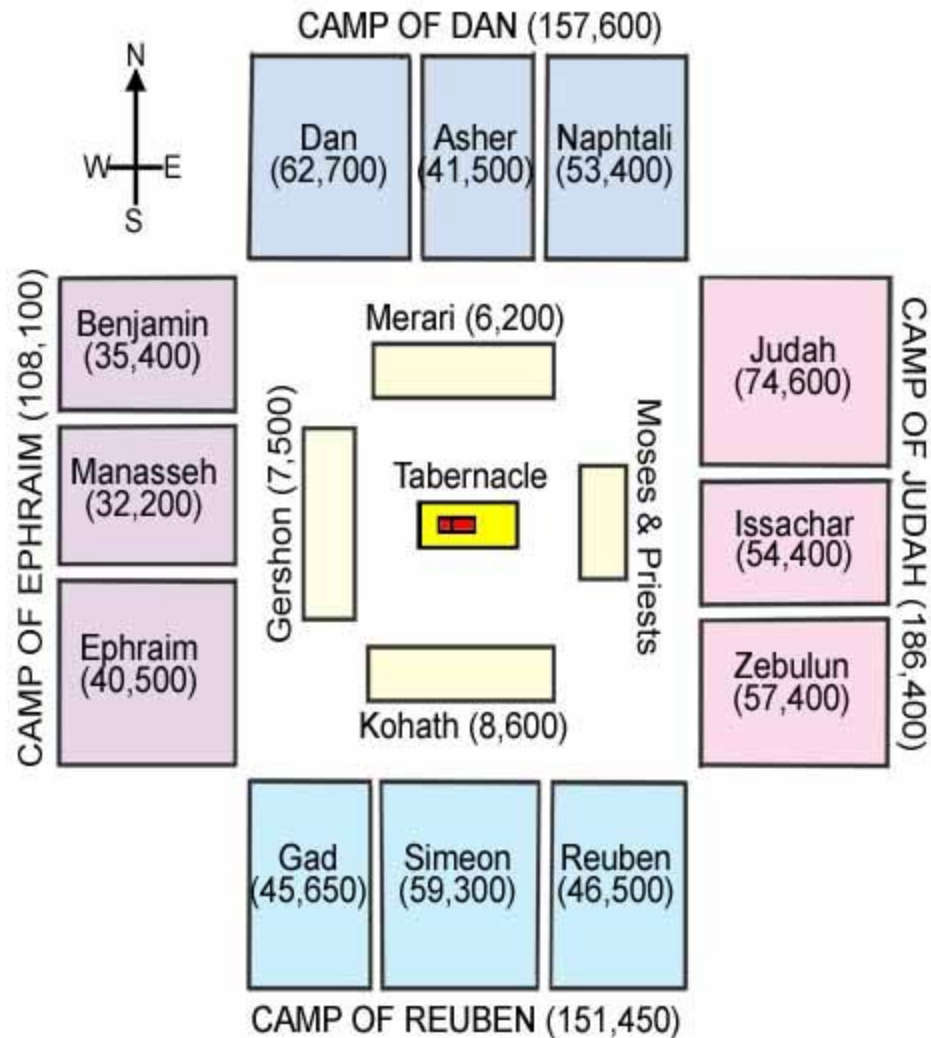
Num. 10:11-14 - *Now it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle of the Testimony. ¹² And the children of Israel set out from the Wilderness of Sinai on their*

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journeys; then the cloud settled down in the Wilderness of Paran. ¹³ So they started out for the first time according to the command of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

¹⁴ The standard of the camp of the children of Judah set out first according to their armies; The kingly tribe led. Judah – “Praise” – God always puts praise first (II Chron. 20:1-30).

Following Judah...the camps of Reuben (v. 18), Ephraim (v. 22), and Dan (v. 25).



Arrangement of the Camp of Israel Numbers 2:1-3:39

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Questions

V8 moments?

What impacted you?

What will you share with others?

Are you going to invite a Jewish person to the Purim Celebration on 3/24?

Suggested Homework

Reread the handout with the Bible references.

Make observations and jot down questions.

Begin to discover answers within Scripture.
Share what you've learned with at least one person.
Invite a Jewish person to the Purim Celebration.
Read Week 9's handout when you receive it.