

Friday, November 25, 2022 ◻ Read Exodus 26:15–30

Questions from the Scripture text: What are they to make in v15? To be used in what position? How long and wide (v16)? How will they be connected (v17)? How many boards for which side (v18)? How many sockets for receiving/connecting the tenons (v19)? Of what material? What other side will have the same boards (v20)? And what else the same (v21)? Which side is the far side (v22)? How many boards will it have? What other boards for what location (v23)? How will the corner boards be attached (v24)? How many boards and sockets total for the west/back side (v25)? What else is to be made of what material (v26)? And what else (v27)? What would these bars connect/support, in what way (v28)? With what would these boards and bars be overlaid (v29)? What will they do, according to what plan (v30)?

What do we learn from the structure of the tabernacle? Exodus 26:15–30 looks forward to the p.m. sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these sixteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the tabernacle received its structure from strong, splendid boards and bars—a visible (if lesser) glory, appropriate to the infant state of the church.**

While the furnishings, and especially the covering(s) of the tabernacle emphasized God's glorious presence in a mobile and modular package in God's "tent," the boards that this passage now prescribes build on the tent motif by distinguishing it from other tents as stronger and more splendid.

God's tent is a tent of strength. Where portability has been such a priority, the inner weight (acacia wood, v15), length (15 feet, v16), and overlaying (gold, v29) of each board stands out. Each of these boards would take several men to carry.

This is no ordinary tent! The passage gives us not just the strength and solidity of the raw materials, but also of the construction. Tenons (v17), sockets (v19, 21, 25), reinforced corners with rings (v23–24), and cross-bars (v26–28) all fortify the tent. They are not the strength of God, but they convey that He is a God of strength.

And now the Lord has done much more than strengthen a tent. He Himself, in His almighty strength, is now our tabernacle in Jesus Christ. He is the tabernacling of God among us (cf. Jn 1:14; Heb 8–9; Rev 21:3). And, He is the temple, built from His body (cf. Jn 2:19–22), of which He is the foundation and the chief cornerstone. And from Himself and upon Himself, Jesus is building a temple not from materials of earthly strength like acacia wood, but instead building from redeemed sinners, who are being conformed to His image (cf. 1Cor 3:9–17; Eph 2:14–22; 1Pet 2:4–10). How strong is the everlasting tabernacling and temple of God in His people!

God's tent is a tent of splendor. From all of these passages in which we have considered the strength, we can see also the great glory of the ultimate tabernacling of God with His people. So, it doesn't surprise us that great glory is another thing conveyed by these boards and sockets and rings and bars.

Strength itself is glorious. For instance, the size of the boards, as they are carried with Israel through the wilderness, would leave an impression upon the people. Though the boards would not be visible to them once the tabernacle was set up, even the procession of the boards among the people would communicate heavenly glory, the presence of a great God and King.

Once erected, from inside the Holy Place or Holy of Holies, the gold walls now contribute a truly splendid reflection of gold with the gold furnishings and the gold light from the lamps, all under the finely woven linen of the first curtain above. It is a place of light and glory and splendor.

But this was true to the eye. An outward, visible glory. Like a picture book for those so under-age that they cannot read. The church was still in its infancy (cf. 2Cor 3:14–15; Gal 3:22–25, 4:1–3; Heb 10:1). The true brilliance to come is seen first and foremost with the eye of faith not the eye of sight (cf. 2Cor 3:16–18). Even in the new heavens and the new earth, when resurrected physical eyes behold magnificent new creation, what we know by the Word will be the way by which the light of the actual knowledge of God's actual glory will shine in our hearts in the face of Jesus Christ (cf. 2Cor 4:2–6).

Living in the age of the Word and the Spirit, rather than the infant age means that the glory is less outward, but that the glory is fuller, with more evidence from the finished work of Christ and completed Scriptures, and more efficacy with the ministry of the Spirit (cf. WCF 7.6 and Scripture proofs). Let us be grateful to God Who has given us to live in the time of this revelation. And, if He has placed us in this time (cf. Ac 17:26), let us seek from Him that heart-work of His Spirit that will make us know in truth the greatness of this glory!

How does God's record of this tent's construction communicate strength to you? But what is the true strength to which it points? How are you being helped by that strength in your day to day life? When you come to God through Christ in private or family worship, what is the glory that you are meant to see? How well have you been perceiving it? Who can help with this? What even greater glories are present for you to see in public worship? How are you enabled to perceive them? How well have you been doing so? How does the outward simplicity of this New Testament worship further help?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for being the strength and glory of Your people. Thank You for dwelling among us in a communication of that strength and glory. Thank You for giving us to live in a time when that communication is not the childish picture of the tabernacle but the mature reality of Christ risen, ascended, and enthroned. Grant unto us the ministry of Your Spirit to stir up our faith that we might know what is the hope of our calling, the greatness of Your power toward us, and the love of Christ which passes knowledge. Thus, grant that by Your Spirit's use of Your Word to apply to us Christ in Whom the fullness of the Godhead dwells, we too might be filled with all the fullness of God. To You be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Suggested songs: ARP73C "Yet Constantly, I Am with You" or TPH332 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Exodus 26 verses, 15 through 30. These are God's words. And for the tabernacle you shall make the boards of acacia wood standing upright. 10 cubits should be the length of a board. And the cubit in half, Should be the width of each board two tenons. Shall be in each board for binding.

One to another Thus you shall make for all the boards of the tabernacle, You shall make the boards for the tabernacle. 20 boards for the south side. You shall make 40 sockets of silver under the 20 boards for the south side, you shall make 40 sockets of silver. Under the 20 boards, two sockets under each of the boards.

For its two tenants. And for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, there shall be 20 boards and there 40 sockets of silver. Two sockets under each of the boards. For the far side of the tabernacle Westward, you shall Make six boards. You should also make two boards.

For the two back corners of the Tabernacle. They shall be coupled together at the bottom and they shall be coupled together at the top by one ring. Thus, it shall be for both of them. This will be for the two corners. So there should be eight boards with their sockets of silver.

16 sockets. Two sockets under each of the boards. And you shall make bars of acacia. Wood five for the boards, on the one side of the tabernacle, five bars, for the boards. On the other side of the tabernacle and five bars, for the boards of the side of the tabernacle for the far side, westward.

The middle bar. So I'll pass through the midst of the boards from end to end. You shall overlay. The boards with gold, make their rings of gold as holders for the bars. And overlay, the bars with gold. And so raise up the tabernacle. According to its pattern, which you were shown On the mountain.

So far the reading of God's inspired and And there and toward So far, the Tent has been fairly light. Fairly mobile fairly modular. And he's actually used the word or the covering of a tent that we have translated in the previous passage as curtains. To describe the covering. And so he's emphasized to us that the tent is very mobile.

Which, By contrast. In this passage makes us to be impressed with. How? Solid. And unlike Others tents. It is. Yes, God is. Going to dwell as it were and a tent, or at least make its presence known in a tent. But this tent is going to have these massive 15 foot long.

Boards of heavy occasional wood, And be covered in gold. And so, he's emphasizing a couple things about this tent of his. The first is that God's tent is a tent of strength. Where portability has been such a priority now. The weight and length of these boards in and of themselves and then their weight.

After overlaying them with gold will be very impressive. At least two man job if there are two very strong men, maybe a three or four man job just to carry one board. And you can imagine the Impression given about the Lord's tent that. Just one of these dozens Boards.

Has multiple men as Israel are. Are moving through the wilderness, groaning grunting under The weight. Of the board, the strength and solidity. Of God's presence among his people. Communicates. The. The greatness of God and the permanence. And strength of Of our God. I'm among his people. And now, we don't.

Carry around. Boards and certainly not occasional wood boards overlaid with gold. But the Lord has given. Us a tabernacle intent. That is much stronger. Then one that has these. Boards for side, paneling. He himself and his Almighty strength. Is now the tabernacle in Jesus Christ. John 1:14. Reminds us that the word was made flesh and tabernacle, among us.

It uses the word for tent. Where many translations will say, dwelt among us. Uses the word for 10 to tinted or tabernacle among us. And Hebrews chapters eight and nine spends two chapters. On how the tabernacle was a foretaste of The good thing, which was to calm the heavenly reality of which it was a copy.

And Revelation, 21 and verse 3. Announces, the Tabernacle of God. Is with man, Jesus himself is a tabernacle Jesus himself as the temple. The fullness of the Godhead, the Apostle says, dwells in embody. And of course, The Lord Jesus, who said that by his Spirit, through the apostle said himself with his own lips.

Destroy this temple and I will raise it up again in three days. And John chapter 2 tells us, he was speaking. Of the temple of his body. And so, you have this. This very kind of strong. Temple with its primary or tabernacle, which is primary structural component being these Metal overlaid, acacia wood tenons in sockets, assembled with two boards reinforcing.

The back corners, very strong raw materials, very strong construction. And yet the true and everlasting Tabernacle as much stronger. It's built out of Jesus. He has. As. When the New Testament uses the Metaphor not of tabernacle or but of temple. He is the foundation and the chief cornerstone. Out of which, And upon which and into which Chief Capstone into it, all of the temple.

Is built. Indeed. We sometimes tell the joke, if the black box always survives the plane crash. Why not build the whole plane out of the black box? While the whole temple is actually built out of Christ, isn't it? Because we are living stones. Who are fashioned and fit together by the Lord, as we are conformed more and more to Christ.

And it's his life by which we live, and it's only his goodness. That is produced in us. We don't have any goodness of our own. This is a this is our destiny. That we would be conformed to the image of his son that he would be the firstborn among many brethren.

And this is why the temple at the last. Described. Such glorious terms and The closing. Section of Revelation. First Corinthians, 3 9 to 17, Ephesians 2 14 through 22. Frisbeater. 2. 4 through 10. All describing How we are built upon the Lord Jesus Christ. And the temple of God is His son and those were united to him and conformed to him.

So, yes, the tabernacle for a tent was a marvelously, strong tent. That's the big thing about the boards, or one of the two main things about the boards in this passage. How much stronger is the Everlasting Tabernacle and temple? Of God. And then it's not just attentive strength. God's tent is also a tent of splendor.

Note that although the sockets which received the tenons that are underneath the boards, are made out of silver maybe because they're going to be in the director. Who knows why? But they're made out of silver which isn't that inexpensive unless Solomon's raining than it's just like stones. The boards themselves are overlaid with gold and the rings for the bars.

That go through the boards to hold them up and reinforce them or The rings are made of gold On. The bars are overlaid with gold. And so thinking about the furnishings that are made with gold and the light that would be given off by the lamp. Remember the tree lamp or the lamp tree?

And then the the ceiling with the finely woven linen and shimmering. Shimmering white. For that to reflect on. And now we find out all of the walls inside are going to be overlaid with gold. And what I heavenly? Glorious display. That would be. And yet, it's not so heavenly.

It's not so heavenly as The Lord Jesus himself. Who is the glory of God that we behold in worship. It's not so heavenly as holiness. Which we have in the Lord Jesus. And we worship the Lord, not in the beauty. The. Comparatively. Mundane beauty. Of an entirely golden room with golden furnishings.

And And, The oil lamp light shimmering off of all of it. But we worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. But we worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness where he himself. Is. The glory. Of his tabernacling among us and we shine with the glory of Christ.

Even as the Lord has already made us to know the light of the knowledge of His glory to shine in our hearts. And the face of Jesus Christ. And so, This outward visible glory is is appropriate to the age of the church and which we're in and Exodus chapter 26.

Second Corinthians, 3:14 and 15 Galatians 3:22 to 25, inflation's. Four, just a few verses later and versus one through three hebrews 10 verse 1. All of these passages. Describe the age of the church in Exodus 26, as being an age of infancy. Still needing to be under. The schoolmaster the guide.

Who. Once the church has grown out of its childishness and it's use of pictures. Like a kid who. They love the picture book. Why? Because They don't know how to read yet. We they can't make sense of the words. And so they have The, their understanding is limited to the images on the page rather than having a An entire world opened up by words?

Well, there's something even greater than the world of imagination, though. You wouldn't think it to hear people talk to children about imagination, how wonderful that is? But our imaginations are nothing close to the reality of Jesus. And he is the one whom we see by way of words. The plane, speaking of the truth.

And so God has replaced the picture book of his people. With a mechanism and attendance of the spirit. That that presents in greater fullness. The glory of the Lord Jesus. This is why now that Jesus has come, now that the revelation has been completed, and we know who it is in, who is the tabernacle of God among us, and who it is, in whom we become the temple of God.

That he's taken away. These things. The glory is less outward but it's more full. The glory is less outward but it comes with final and completed and full evidence. The glory is less outward but in the providence of God and His plan, for the age of the gospel and the attendance of the spirit, as the poured out spirit of the risen Christ, In greater saving efficacy.

Among his church. Now. What time do you live in? Do you live in Tabernacle time? Or do you live in risen ascended and throned Jesus? And pour it out, Holy Spirit, and completed the Bible time. You live in the second one, don't you? And so there's a greater strength and the greater glory that is presented to us.

And we should seek from God, the Holy Spirit that faith in Christ. To be sure of the strength. The enduring and powerful. And undefeatable presence of the Lord, Jesus. Among his people of God among us people, in the Lord Jesus. And, The unimaginable glory. Of the Lord Jesus, that the Spirit would communicate to us a reality.

By his word. That is beyond our ability to imagine. And he would make our hearts to know. The glory of God. In Jesus Christ. Let's ask God to do that. Our Father, you are the one who appoints to us the boundaries and time of our dwelling. And you've picked for us to dwell.

Now, Time in which you dwell, among your people, you tabernacle, among your people, in Jesus, and by your spirit And we look forward to the day when our faith shall be sight. And we ask that. That you would be preparing us for that day by so, strengthening our faith and giving us that heart and faith perception of Christ's glory.

That the visible glory. Would be to us. Something that Participates in but cannot exceed. The greatness of the glory that you have made us to know by faith. So help us Lord. Because we are such sensory people. So tied down to and easily impressed by. The things that are eyes, see And our minds imagined, And grant to us to grow up into faith.

And not to be children any longer. Maturous and our confidence and knowledge of your strength. Maturous in our Adoration and knowledge of your glory. For we ask it in Christ's name. Amen.