**Pitching a Tent**

**Exodus 25: 1-9; 26: 1, 31-37**

**25 1 The Lord said to Moses, 2“Tell the Israelites to take for me an offering; from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me. 3This is the offering that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, 4blue, purple, and crimson yarns and fine linen, goats’ hair, 5tanned rams’ skins, fine leather, acacia wood, 6oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, 7onyx stones and gems to be set in the ephod and for the breastpiece. 8And they shall make me a sanctuary so that I may dwell among them. 9In accordance with all that I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.**

**26 1“The tabernacle itself you shall make with ten curtains of fine twisted linen and blue, purple, and crimson yarns; you shall make them with cherubim skillfully worked into them. 31“You shall make a curtain of blue, purple, and crimson yarns and of fine twisted linen; it shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it. 32You shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, which have hooks of gold and rest on four bases of silver. 33You shall hang the curtain under the clasps and bring the ark of the covenant in there, within the curtain, and the curtain shall separate for you the holy place from the most holy place. 34You shall put the cover on the ark of the covenant in the most holy place. 35You shall set the table outside the curtain and the lampstand on the south side of the tabernacle opposite the table, and you shall put the table on the north side. 36“You shall make a screen for the entrance of the tent, of blue, purple, and crimson yarns and of fine twisted linen, embroidered with needlework. 37You shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia and overlay them with gold; their hooks shall be of gold, and you shall cast five bases of bronze for them.**

**I. Terms to Know**

**crimson** - a rich deep red color.

**acacia wood** - a dense, durable hardwood that is resistant to scratches, water, and rot.

**anointing oil** - a mixture of olive oil and aromatic spices used in religious rituals to mark people or objects as holy.

**fragrant incense** - a combustible material that releases a pleasant odor when burned.

**onyx stones** - a special kind of rock that looks like layers of black and white stripes.

**ephod** - a special apron worn by the High Priest in ancient Israel.

**breastpiece** - special chest protector that soldiers used to wear in battle.

**sanctuary** - holy place where God is present.

**accordance** - in agreement with.

**cherubim** - a special kind of angel, often pictured as a cute, winged baby with a chubby face.

**pillars** - a big, strong column; kind of like the main support beams.

**lampstand** - like a special stand that holds a lamp, so the light can shine brightly for everyone to see.

**linen** - a strong fabric, that can withstand frequent washing and wear.

**overlay** - when you put one thing on top of another.

**bronze** - a metal alloy made of copper and tin.

**II** **In Exodus 25:1-9, God instructs the Israelites to build a sanctuary for him to dwell in, and to give generously to support the sanctuary.**

**Giving**

* **God wants people to give with a willing heart, not because of need**
* **Giving is a way to worship God and show faith in him**
* **Giving is a reflection of trust in God that he will provide for needs**
* **The Hebrew word for "contribution" is "terumah," which comes from "rum," meaning "to be high" or "to lift up"**

**Sanctuary**

* **The sanctuary was a place where God would meet with his people**
* **The tabernacle was a central place of worship for the nation**
* **The tabernacle was built according to a detailed blueprint from God, given to Moses by special revelation**
* **The tabernacle was a place where people could come to meet God**

**God's plan**

* **God's plan was to develop the Israelites into the nation he wanted them to become**
* **God wanted people to learn to function as a body, depending on one another and using their gifts to serve others**

**Exodus 26:1, 31-37 describes the construction of the Tabernacle, specifically detailing the curtains that formed the outer covering of the tent (verse 1) and the "veil" that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place within the tabernacle (verses 31-37), signifying the division between God's presence and the people, where only the High Priest could enter on the Day of Atonement.**

**Key points:**

* **vs 1 begins the instructions for building the Tabernacle, outlining the first set of curtains made of fine linen, which would be the inner layer of the covering.**
* **vs 31-33 detail the construction of the "veil," a special curtain made of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine linen, separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.**
* **Symbolic meaning: The veil represented the barrier between humans and God's direct presence, emphasizing the sacredness of the Most Holy Place. In the New Testament, the tearing of the veil at Jesus' death is interpreted as signifying the removal of this barrier and the access to God now available through Christ.**

**III. Questions**

1. **What did the Lord tell Moses to speak unto the children of Israel?**

1. **What was the oil and spices used for?**

1. **What did He say to let them make?**

**4. What colors were used to make the vail?**

**5. What were the pillars made of?**