



Spiritual
Lessons from
the life of
Moses

Lesson 15- The
Ark of the
Covenant and
the holy items

Exodus 25

<https://d3h6k4kfl8m9p0.cloudfront.net/stories/PIDbOjryanTSIM9gDRKhQw.jpg>

(1)Background: Moses and the Israelites were at Mt Sinai.

(2)After giving the 10 Commandments and the various laws to the Israelites, God gave instructions for the building of the:

- Ark of the Covenant,
- Table for the Bread of Presence, and
- Lampstand

in Exodus 25.

They were part of the Ceremonial Regulations of the Mosaic Law.

(3) The Mosaic Law has 3 parts:

(a) The Decalogue (Ten Commandments)

- Exod 20:1-21

(b) The Book of the Covenant

- Exod 20:22-24:11

(c) The Ceremonial Regulations

- Exod 24:12-31:18

(4) Watch video Chap 25, Bible Movies app, start-end:

(a)Chap 25: <https://biblemovie.subspla.sh/dec05bd>

Please watch with discernment as parts of the movie may be inaccurate.



Moses and the Tabernacle

Exodus 25 – 40



The tabernacle: Ark of the Covenant

Exodus 25:10–22



Exod 25:10- God said to Moses, 'They shall make an ark of acacia wood.'



Exodus 25:10:
'Two cubits and a half shall be its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height.' (A cubit is the distance between the elbow and the tip of the middle finger - in Biblical times 44.4cm or 17.5 inches.)



Exodus 25:11:
'You shall
overlay it with
pure gold, inside
and outside shall
you overlay it ...'



Exodus 25:11:
'... and you
shall make on it
a moulding of
gold around it.'



Exodus 25:12:
'You shall cast
four rings of
gold for it and
put them on its
four feet, two
rings on the one
side of it, and
two rings on the
other side of it.'



Exodus 25:13:
'You shall make
poles of acacia
wood ...'



Exodus 25:13-15:
'... and overlay them with gold. And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark by them. The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it.'

Exodus 25:16:
'And you shall put
into the ark the
testimony that I
shall give you.'
(The two stones
with the ten
commandments,
Aaron's rod that
budded and a pot
containing manna).





Exodus 25:17:
'You shall make
a mercy seat of
pure gold. Two
cubits and a half
shall be its
length, and a
cubit and a half
its breadth.'



Exodus 25:18:
'And you shall
make two
cherubim of
gold; of
hammered work
shall you make
them, on the
two ends of the
mercy seat.'



Exodus 25:19:
'Make one
cherub on the
one end, and
one cherub on
the other end.'



Exodus 25:19:
'Of one piece
with the mercy
seat shall you
make the
cherubim on its
two ends.'



Exodus 25:20:
'The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be.'



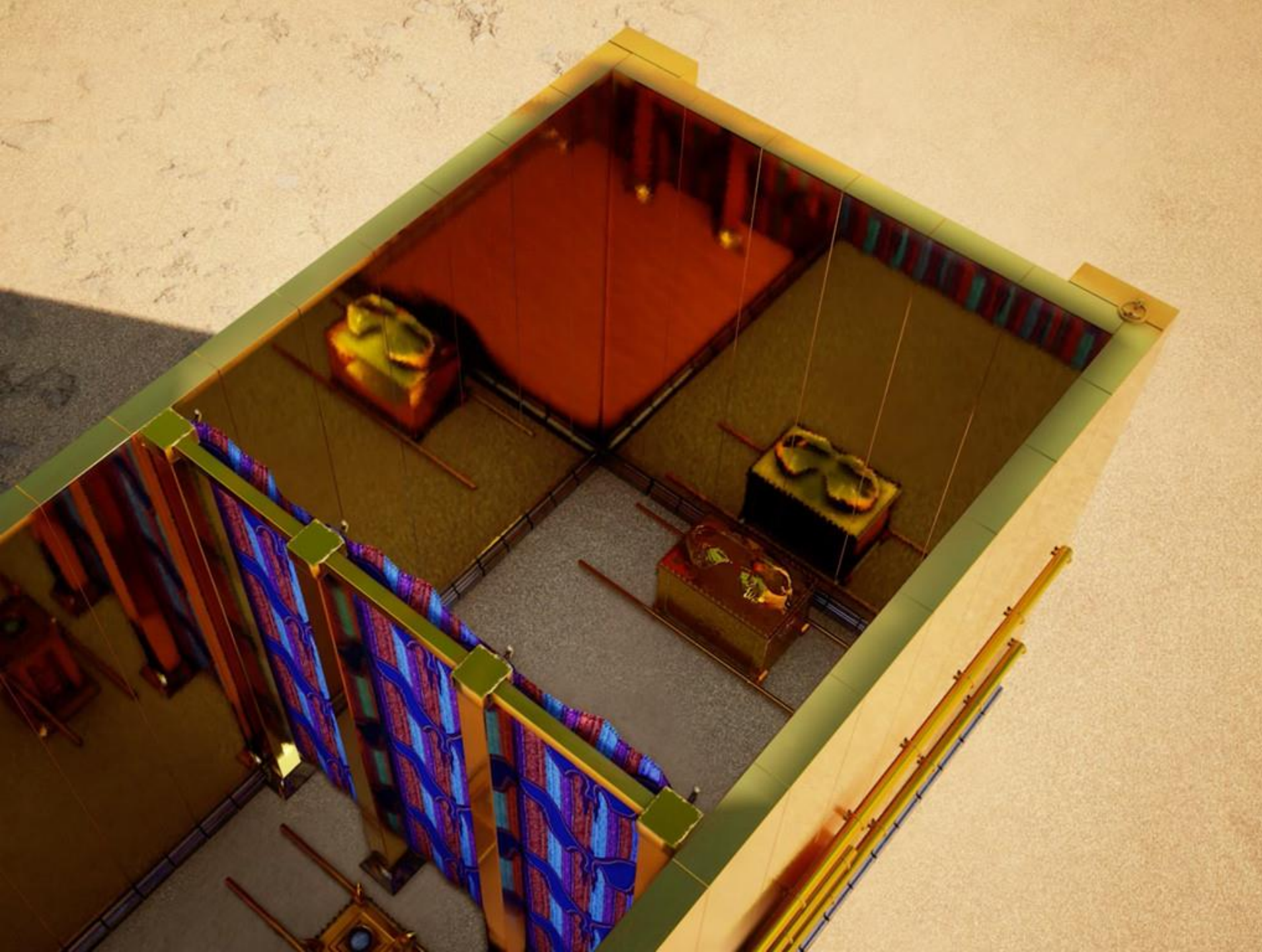
Exodus 25:21:
'And you shall
put the mercy
seat on the top
of the ark, and
in the ark you
shall put the
testimony that I
shall give you.'

The most holy is the **Ark of the Covenant**:

- God will meet with His people above the Mercy Seat between the 2 cherubims. (Exod 25:22)
- On the Day of Atonement, being the Jewish most holy event of the year, the high priest sprinkles blood on the Mercy Seat. (Lev 16:15).
- The blood is accepted by God in atonement for the sins of Israel.
- The atonement cover (Mercy Seat) symbolises for Israel what would be accomplished by Christ who made atonement for sin as the lamb of God.

The Ark of the Covenant and Jesus Christ:

<https://feedingonchrist.org/the-symbolism-of-the-ark-of-the-covenant/>



The ark was to be placed in the Holy of Holies (also known as the 'Most Holy Place') in the tabernacle.



Exodus 25:22:
'I will speak with
you about all
that I will give
you in
commandment
for the people of
Israel.'



The table of the Bread of the Presence

Exodus 25:23-28:

- A table of 46cm in wide x 92cm long x 69cm high.
- Made of Acacia wood.
- Covered with gold.
- Carried by gold-covered poles.



- On the table would be 12 loaves of bread (perhaps representing the 12 tribes of Israel).
- Also on the table:
 - Golden plates
 - Ladles
 - Pitchers
 - Bowls

The table of the Bread of the Presence

- This table with the 12 loaves pictures the fellowship and communion of God with His people.
- The priests eating the bread demonstrate that fellowship among believers supports spiritual life.





The Lampstand (Menorah)

- As the Lampstand provides light for the function of the priests, so Christ is the Light of the world today.
- *“I am the way and the truth and the life”* (John 14:6).





(4) Significance of this lesson

- (a) Wherever the Israelites went, God signified His presence with the Israelites through the Ark of the Covenant.
- (b) God was with His people.
- (c) The High priest had to atone for the sins of the Israelites - Day of Atonement (future lesson).

Lesson in Exodus

The Ark of the Covenant

- God will meet with His people above the Mercy Seat between the 2 cherubims. (Exod 25:22)

What we should do

- God no longer speak to us above the Mercy Seat between the 2 cherubims.
- After 586 BC, when the Babylonians invaded Judah, the Ark of the Covenant went missing.
- But God is present with us today through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). There is no need for God's presence in the Ark of the Covenant.

Lesson in Exodus

The Ark of the Covenant

- On the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16), the High Priest sprinkles bull and goat's blood on the Mercy Seat for the atonement of sin for the Israelites.
- The atonement cover (Mercy Seat) symbolises for Israel what would be accomplished by Christ who made atonement for sin as the lamb of God.

What we should do

- By the blood of Christ, the sins of believers have been atoned for. There is no need for a high priest to conduct annual Day of Atonement by sprinkling of blood on the Mercy Seat.

Lesson in Exodus

What we should do

The Ark of the Covenant

- We are in God's presence wherever we are. We need to be sensitive to God's still, small voice in the midst of our busyness.
- God's Word is with us, the Bible, instructing us what we must do, or not do. We need to read, meditate and obey God's Word.
- We also need to constantly thank God for His mercy, by saving us from our sins through Jesus who is the Lamb of God.

Lesson in Exodus

The Table of the Bread of the Presence

- This table with the 12 loaves pictures the fellowship and communion of God with His people.
- The priests eating the bread demonstrate that fellowship among believers supports spiritual life.

What we should do

- We need to prioritise our communion with God.
- Hence, it is important for us to do our Quiet Time daily. A private time between God and us everyday through God's Word.
- As our loving heavenly Father, He listens to us during our prayer in Quiet Time.
- We also need to fellowship with other believers to strengthen each other's spiritual lives.

Lesson in Exodus

The Lampstand (Menorah)

- As the Lampstand provides light for the function of the priests, so Christ is the Light of the world today.
- *“I am the way and the truth and the life”* (John 14:6).

What we should do

- Thank God for Jesus who is the only Saviour of the world. Be sure that you are truly born-again through faith in Jesus. Love Jesus and walk close with Him.