

## Study Notes and Questions for Exodus 25, 26 and 27

- What was the purpose of the tabernacle (see 25:8)?
- NOTE: **Sanctuary** ... **tabernacle** (25:8–9). Literally, “holy place” and “dwelling place.” Before Israel became a nation, God communed mainly with individuals and families (see Genesis 6:8; 12:1–3; 26:2–5; 28:13–15). Now He shows that His concern is not only for the privileged few, but for an entire people through whom He plans to bless all mankind (see Genesis 12:3).

The Old Testament progressively develops the theme of God in the midst of His people. The birth of Christ, however, marked the beginning of the final phase. The gospel of John says literally that “the Word became flesh and [tabernacled] among us” (John 1:14).

- During His incarnation, Jesus fulfilled God’s promise to tabernacle or dwell with His people. How is He dwelling among His people now?
- God told the people to contribute to the building of the Tabernacle as they were moved in their hearts to do so. Why is voluntary giving so important?
- How were the tabernacle and its furnishings to be financed (see Exodus 25:2–7; 30:11–16)?
- Paul speaks of believers individually and corporately as God’s temple (see 1 Corinthians 6:12–20; Ephesians 2:19–22). How does the description of the tabernacle and its furnishings enrich your appreciation of what it means to be God’s holy dwelling?
- The atonement cover or mercy seat was the lid of the ark. What was the purpose of the atonement cover (see Exodus 25:22)?
- The lampstand (see 25:31–40) gave the only light in the Holy Place. The Most Holy Place was lit only by the Lord’s glory itself. The people were commanded to provide oil for the seven lamps so that they would never go out at night (see 27:20–21). Besides its practical function, what might the lampstand have symbolized?
- Israel’s worship involved all the senses: sight, sound, touch, even the taste of sacrifice and the smell of incense. Should this be true of our worship? Why or why not?
- Why do you think the Lord preserved all these details about the Tabernacle and its furnishings? What benefit do we have from knowing this today?