

## **The Shape of Things to Come**

Exodus 24:9 – 31:18

by Don Falkos

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God said to Moses, "Meet me on the mountain."

Moses went up onto Mount Sinai. The glory of the Lord settled on the mountain and a cloud covered it. From below it looked as though the mountaintop was engulfed in raging fire. The Lord called to Moses from inside the cloud and Moses entered the cloud. He stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

God instructed Moses to build a chest, which was to be known as the Ark of the Covenant, and said, "I will give you stone tablets on which I have inscribed my instructions and commands. From them you will teach the people. When the Ark of the Covenant is finished, place these tablets inside it. Place the Ark inside the Tabernacle, a sacred dwelling place for me to live among the people of Israel."

God then gave Moses detailed instructions for constructing this Tabernacle, as well as plans for the sacrificial altar, for the clothing of the priests, and for all the other accoutrements of purification. God even appointed the craftsmen who were to head up the making of all these things.

The Lord told Moses to remind the people, "There are six days of the week for work, but the seventh day must be a Sabbath day of complete rest – holy, dedicated to me."

Then the Lord gave Moses two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, written by the finger of God.