

## **The Tabernacle**

Exodus 35:1 – 40:35

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Moses asked the people of Israel to make offerings to the Lord for the building of the Tabernacle, which was also called the Tent of Meeting.

The people brought gold, silver, bronze, fine linen, acacia wood, oil and spices, precious stones, and all the other materials needed for building and furnishing the Tabernacle. They also offered their skills and artistic talents for making everything the Lord had commanded. Soon, more had been collected than was needed for the work, so Moses had to tell the people, "Stop. Don't bring any more offerings."

The Tabernacle was a tent stretched over a wooden frame. It was divided into two spaces: the Holy Place, where only the priests were allowed, and the Most Holy Place, the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant resided. The sacrificial altar was in the courtyard just outside the Tabernacle and both the Tabernacle and its courtyard were enclosed by a tall, linen fence with only one entrance.

The lampstand, the altar of incense, the washbasin, the priestly garments were all richly and ornately made, as was everything produced for the Tabernacle. The materials and the artistic depictions of flora, fauna, angels all harkened back to a time when God lived among human beings in the Garden of Eden.

When the Tabernacle was complete and everything in its place, the pillar of cloud settled on it. Moses could not enter because the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.