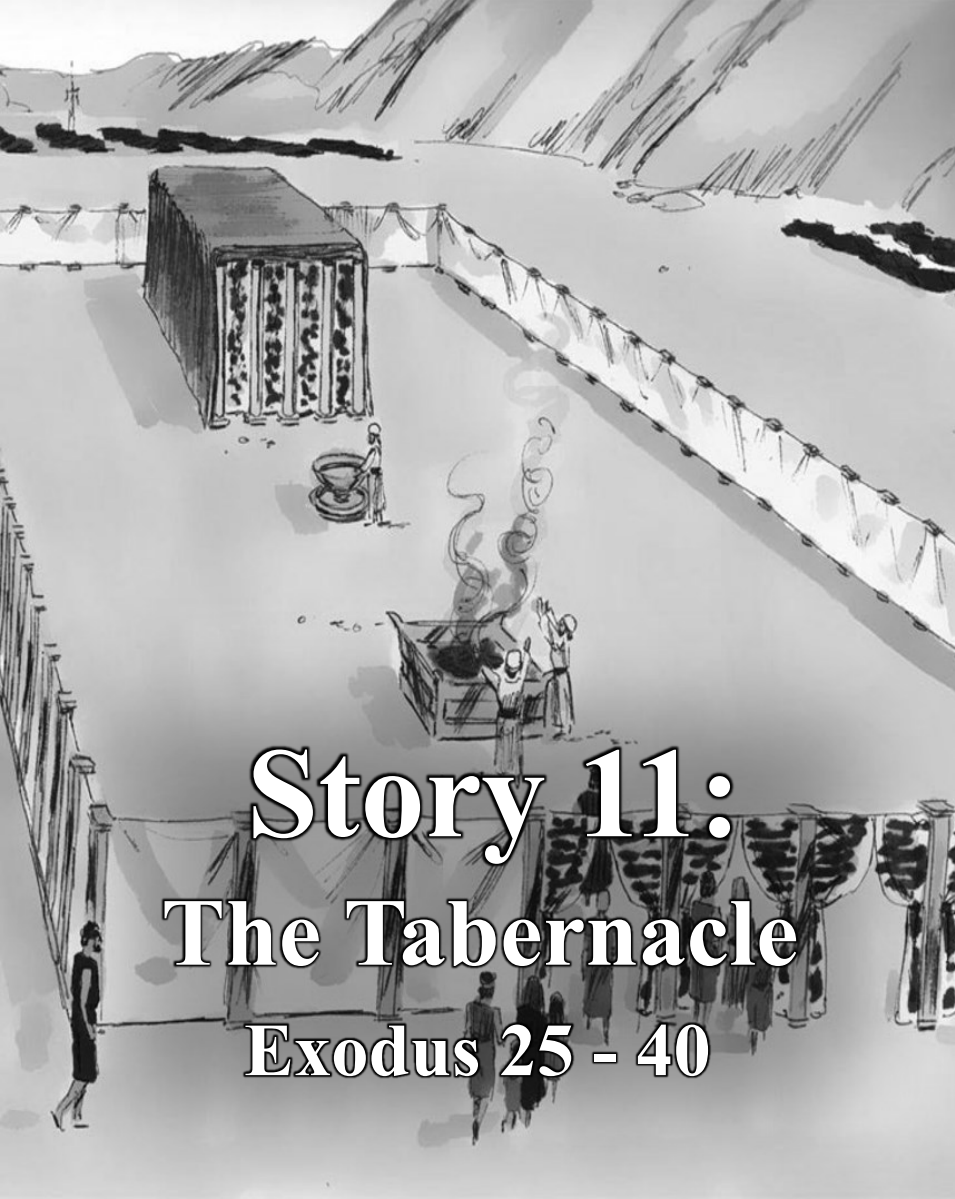




# Story 11:

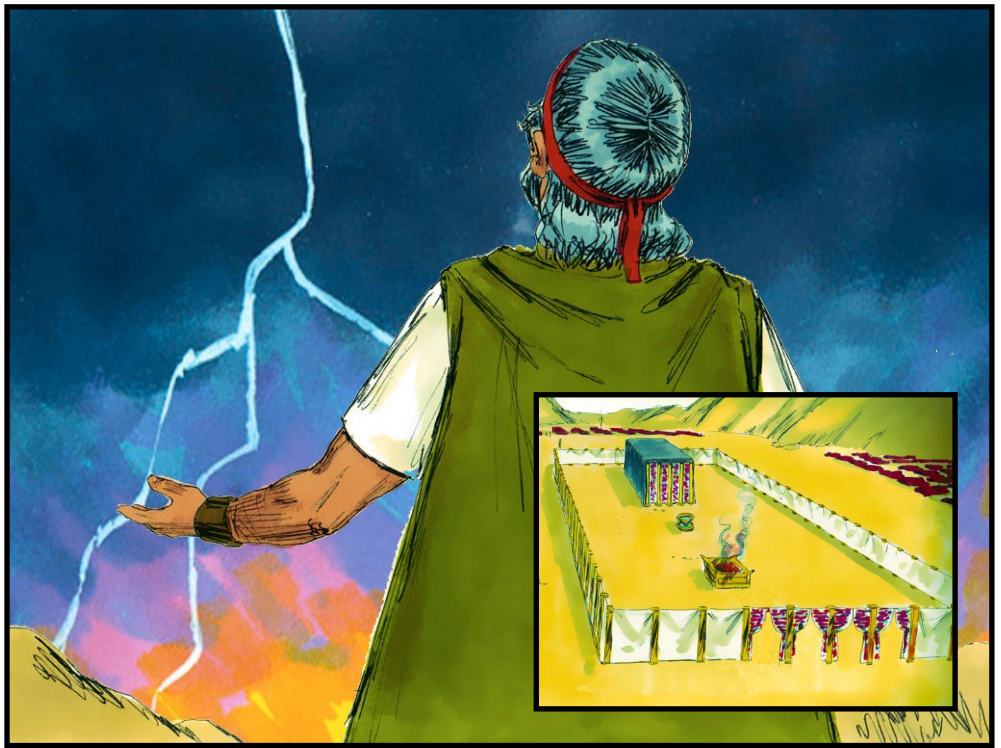
## The Tabernacle

Exodus 25 - 40



# Story 11: The Tabernacle

Exodus 25 - 40



While Moses was meeting with God on Mount Sinai, God gave him instructions to build a special place called the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle would be a place where God would live among the Israelite people.



When Moses came back down from the mountain, he said to all the Israelites, “God wants to us to build Him a place so that He can dwell among us. We are going to take up an offering. We’ll need gold, silver, bronze, and precious stones. We’ll also need blue, purple and red cloth. Finally, we’ll need tanned leather, wood, olive oil, and spices.”

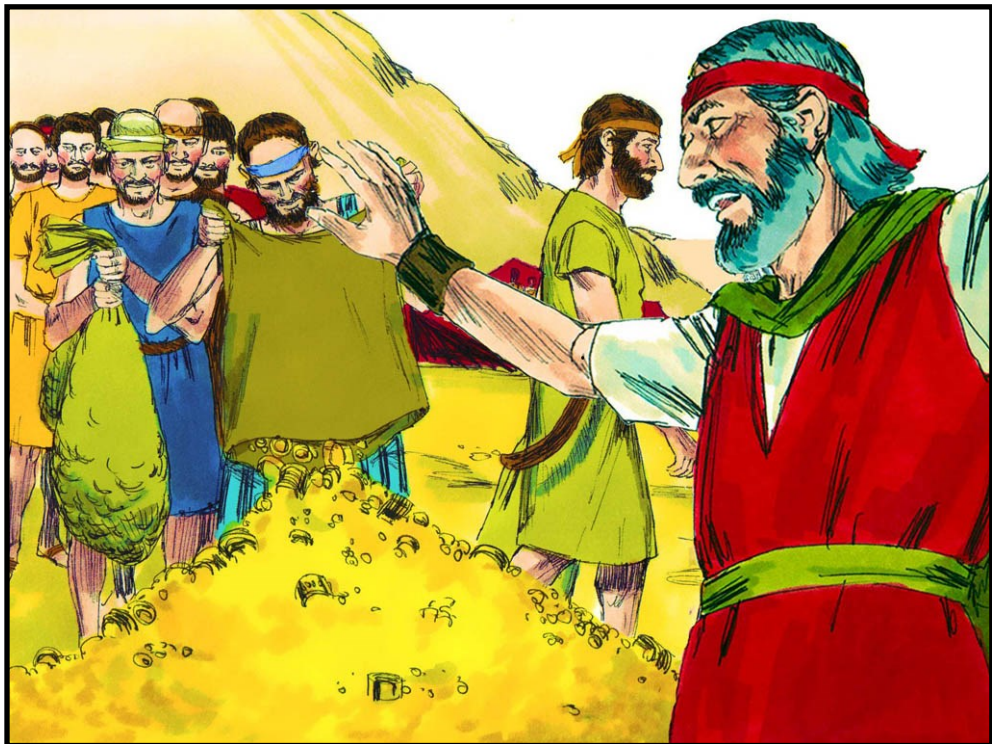




Early the next morning, the people came and gave their offerings so that the Tabernacle could be built. Many of the things that they brought were given to them by the Egyptians when they had left Egypt.



God told Moses to put Bezalel and Oholiab in charge of all the work. Both of them were skilled craftsmen who were filled with the Spirit of God. The LORD gave them the ability to make everything needed for the Tabernacle. God also used them to teach other workers how to make the supplies.



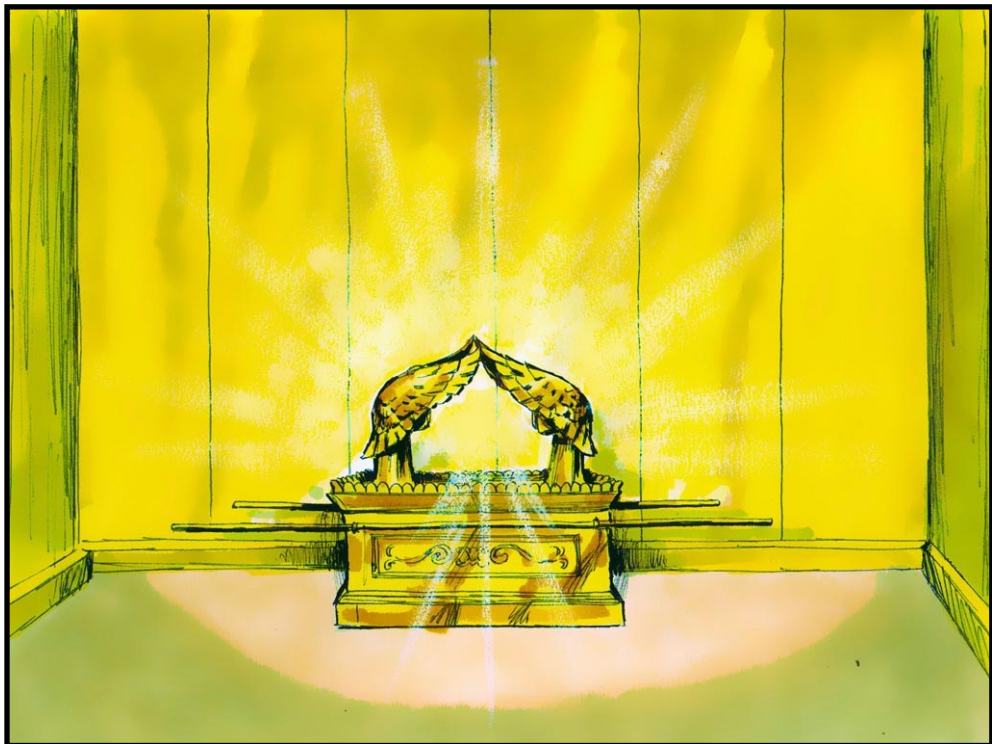
Every morning, the people kept bringing their gifts. Finally, Moses told them to stop because they had brought more than enough materials to complete all of the work.





The outside walls of the Tabernacle were giant curtains made of fine linen. The entrance was always facing the east. Inside the walls of the Tabernacle, toward the back, was a tent that had two rooms in it.



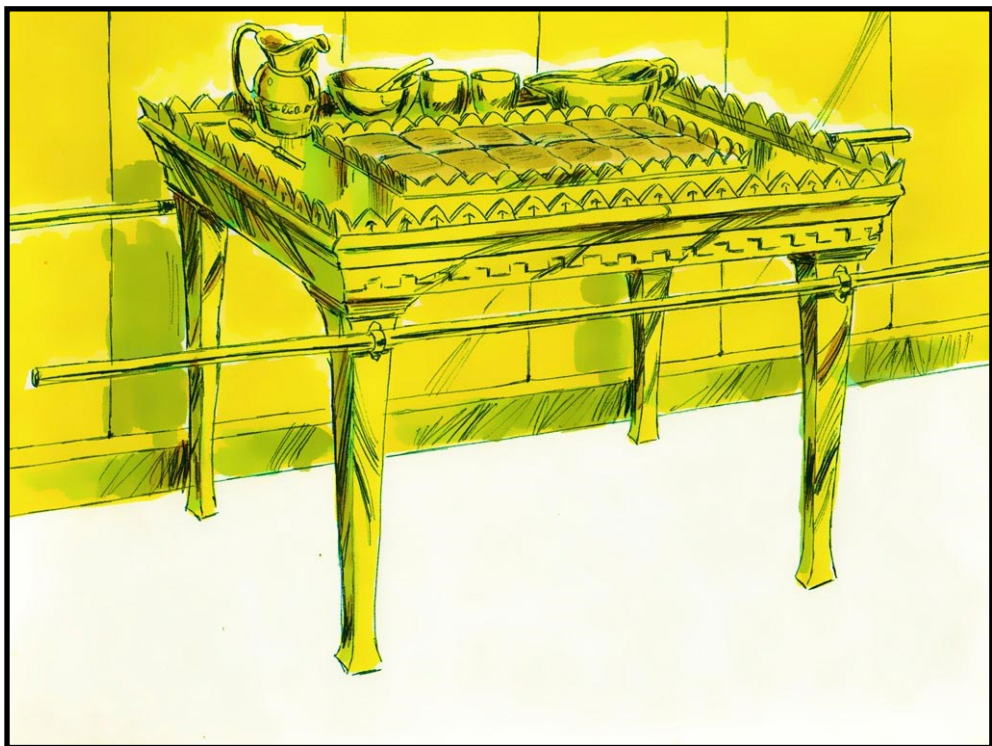


The back room of the tent was called the Most Holy Place. No one was allowed in it except the High Priest, and he was only allowed in once a year.

In addition, The Most Holy Place contained the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark was made of wood and covered with gold. It had two angels on top whose wings spread out over it. The Ark was where the presence of God dwelt. Once a year, the priest would sprinkle the blood of a sacrifice on the Ark for the sins of the people.



No one was supposed to touch the Ark of Covenant. If the people needed to take down the Tabernacle and go to another place, the priests would carry the Ark only by touching the poles.

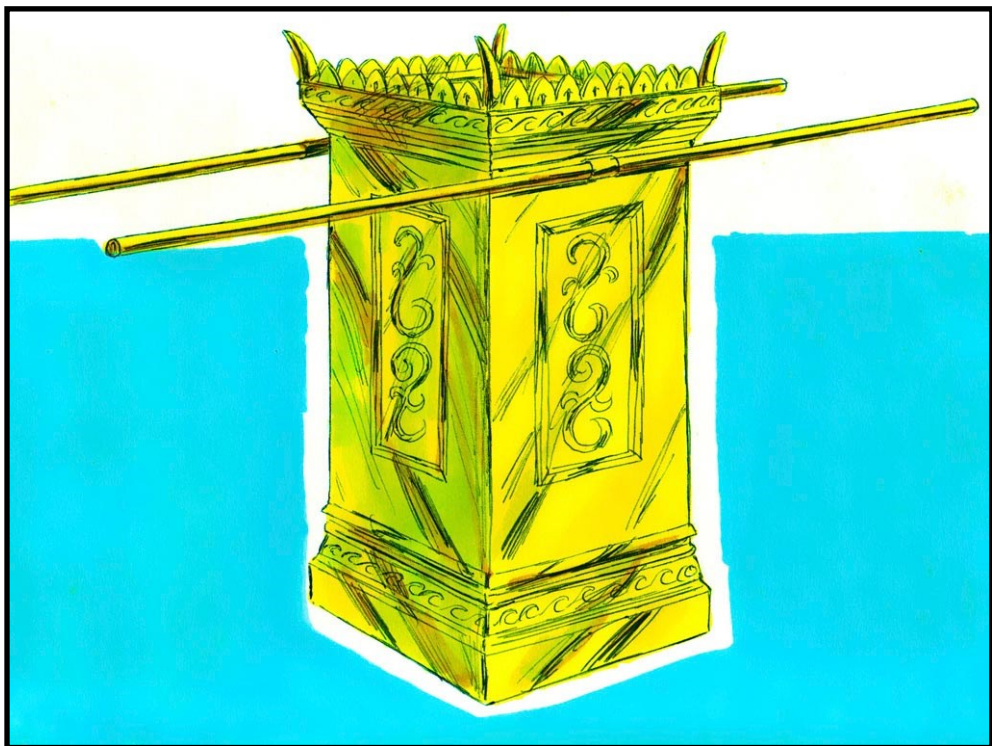


The front room of the tent was called the Holy Place. In it was a table made of wood that was covered in gold. Each week, the priests would set out twelve loaves of bread on the table. The twelve loaves of bread represented the twelve tribes of Israel.



A lampstand called a Menorah was also kept in the Holy Place. It had seven branches with seven flames and was used to provide light inside the tent.

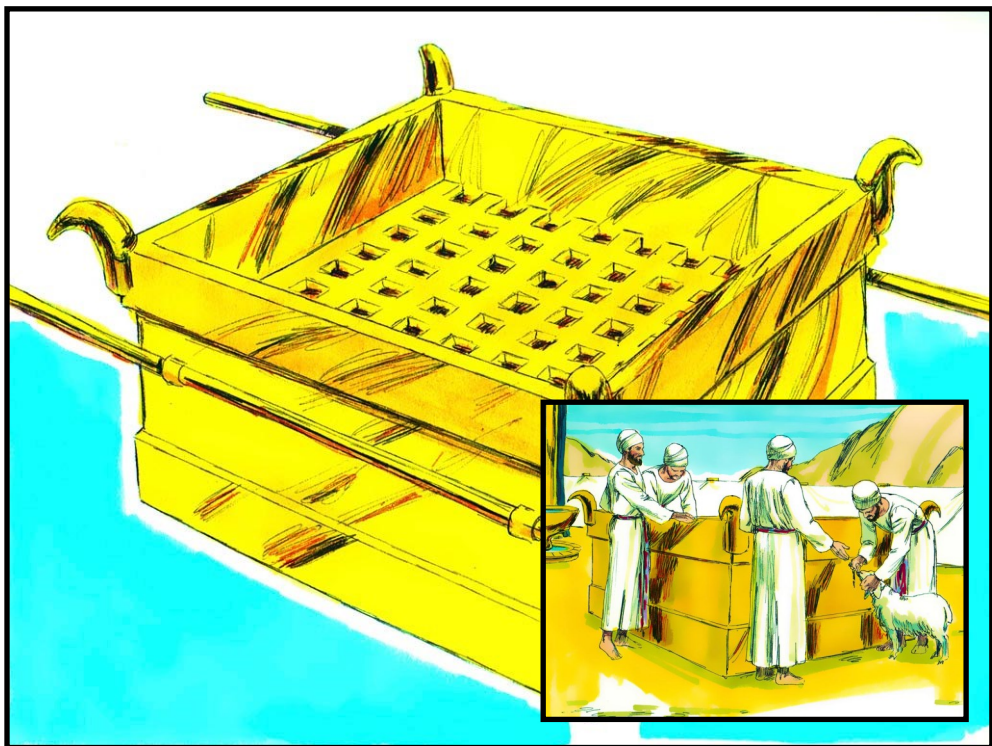




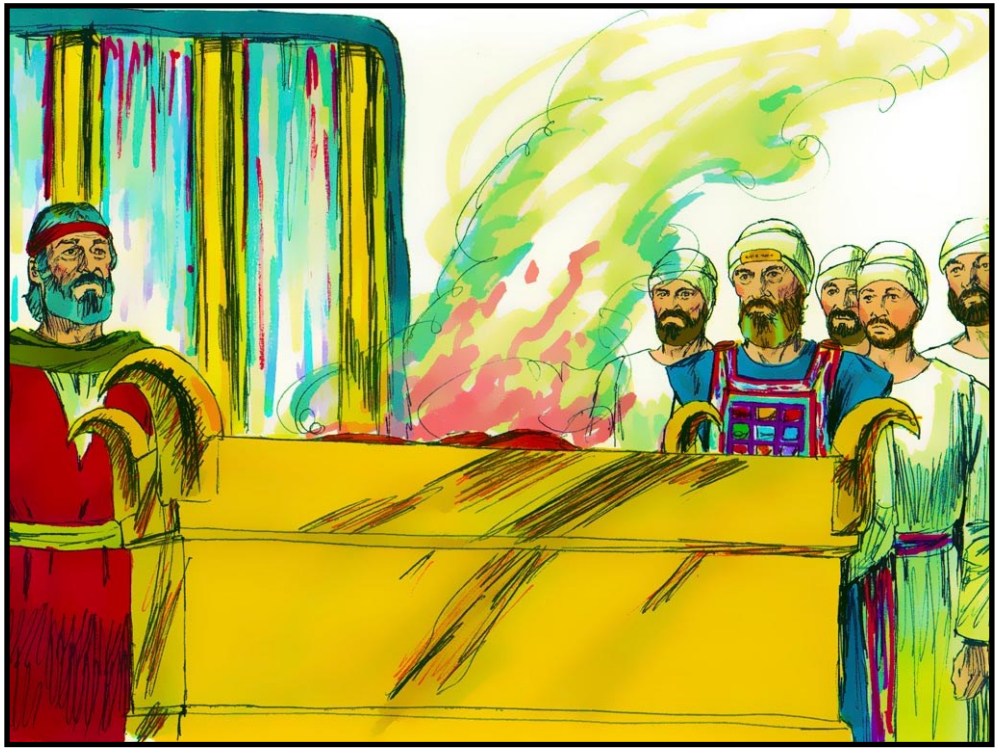
The third piece of furniture in the Holy Place was the golden altar. The priests would use it everyday to burn incense in the mornings and the evenings. The incense was burned as a pleasing smell for God to enjoy.



In the courtyard of the Tabernacle, just outside the tent, was a large wash basin made of bronze. It was used for the priests to wash their hands and their feet before serving God.



A big square altar made of bronze was also kept in the courtyard. The altar was used when people brought their animal sacrifices to the priests.



The animals that they brought had to be perfect. They could not be blind, or deaf, or have any other problems. The animals would be sacrificed and their blood would be sprinkled on the altar. Next, the animals would be burned on the altar. This was how God forgave the people for their sins.





The priests were to wear all white. However, a special blue tunic was made for Aaron, who was the High Priest. Over his tunic was an apron called an ephod. The ephod had a breastplate containing twelve precious stones. Each stone was engraved with one of the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.



When everything was finished, all the priests put on their robes and the glory of God filled the Tabernacle. The cloud of God was over the Tabernacle during the day and the fire of God was over the Tabernacle during the night.

Whenever the cloud moved from its place, the Israelites would take the Tabernacle apart and follow the cloud. This way, God's presence was always with them wherever they traveled.

M  
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