

LESSON SEVEN

THE BOARDS, THEIR SOCKETS, AND BARS

TEXT: EXODUS 26:15-30; EPHESIANS 2:22

A. GENERAL LAYOUT OF THE TABERNACLE:

The Tabernacle consisted of a framework of 48 boards overlaid with gold. These boards stood in 96 sockets of silver and were braced by five bars on each of its three closed sides. The door and veil divided the structure into two compartments, The Holy Place (10 cubits wide by 20 cubits long by 10 cubits high), and the Most Holy Place (10 cubits in each measurement, forming a perfect cube).

B. THE BOARDS:

1. *“And thou shalt make boards for the Tabernacle of shittim wood...” Exodus 26:15).*

Shittim wood comes from the shittah tree, or acacia, as it is now termed. It is native to the Sinai Peninsula and the desert. Today it grows to an average height of about twenty feet with a trunk of up to two feet in diameter. The wood is very knotty and full of gnarls. It has not been known to grow straight. The wood is hard and close grained.

2. *“...standing up” (Exodus 26:15).*

Each board was to be standing up or upright before the Lord. There is no place for sitting or lying down in the Kingdom of God. Each member of the body is to “stand fast in the faith; stand fast in the Spirit; stand fast in the Lord; stand perfect and complete; and having done all to stand, stand...”

3. *“Ten cubits shall be the length of the board, and a cubit and a half shall be the width of the board” (Exodus 26:16).*

Each of these boards was to be overlaid with gold. All of these boards were to measure up to Divine standards in order to qualify to be used.

The boards were to be ten cubits high. The number ten represents trial, testing, law, order and responsibility. Think of the Ten Commandments, the Ten Talents and the Ten Virgins. The width of the boards is identical to the measurement of height for the Grate of the Brazen Altar, The Table of Shewbread and the Mercy Seat on the Ark of the Covenant.

4. *“Two tenons shall there be on one board” (Exodus 26:17).*

Each board had two tenons with which it was set in the foundation. These two tenons enabled the board to stand upright and securely in its own place in the sockets. The Hebrew word “YAD” literally means “hand.”

There are two tenants of the Apostolic Faith that were exposed whenever the apostles preached: Christ's Death and His Resurrection. When a believer believes this, he will walk a balanced, steadfast life in the Holy Spirit.

5. *“Set in order one against the other: Thus shalt thou make for all the boards of the Tabernacle” (Exodus 26:18).*

The Boards were to stand upright on their own, and yet they stood collectively to make up the dwelling place for the Lord. No single board could make up a fit dwelling for Jehovah. It was only as the many Boards came together and were held together by the brass the structure became stable and functional.

Every Board had its place. Each Board needed the support of the other Boards. The Glory of the Lord could only dwell in a unified building.

“We are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:22). See also Ephesians 4:3,13 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-18).

6. The forty-eight boards were positioned thusly:

20 Boards for the South side
20 Boards for the North side
6 Boards for the West side
2 Boards for the corners on the West end
48 Boards

The corner Boards were supported by coupling rings which were to be beneath and above the Corner Boards. These rings gave added rigidity to the framework and would help to keep the walls from leaning.

7. "And thou shalt overlay the Boards with gold..." (Exodus 26:29).

The boards were overlaid with gold, which represents the deity of Christ and also the church is covered with His beauty. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5: 17).

The church is the body of Christ, covered with His glory. Christ is within us (Colossians 1:27), and yet we are in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17). The believer is cut off from the old desert life of sin, his natural glory is stripped off, and he is planed, shaped and fashioned to God's pattern and measurements.

C. THE SOCKETS: (Exodus 26:19-22, 25)

For each of the 48 boards, there were two sockets of silver. There were:

40 Sockets for the 20 boards on the south side,
40 Sockets for the 20 boards on the north side, and
16 Sockets for the 8 boards on the west side.
96 Sockets total

These Sockets were the very foundation of the Tabernacle, holding the tenons of the Boards in place. No Board had its feet in the shifting sand of the desert. The silver Sockets caused the Boards to remain close together and kept them from swaying from side to side. *1 Corinthians 3:9-14* "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus." It is absolutely essential to lay a proper and firm foundation.

D. THE BARS: (Exodus 26:26-29)

On each side of the structure there were positioned five bars of Shittim wood overlaid with gold. These were 15 bars in all, five on each wall. Four bars were run through the golden rings. The fifth bar was run through the middle of the boards.

The bars completed the structure, giving it the necessary strength. Every part was important in order for the whole building to stand perfect and complete. The bars very well could represent the five-fold ministry that was given for the edifying of the entire body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16). Just as the Tabernacle could withstand winds that blew against it, so the ministries keep the church from being swayed by every wind of doctrine.

LESSON SEVEN

SELF HELP TEST

A. Describe briefly the general layout of the Tabernacle.

B. The Boards:

1. Made of _____ overlaid with _____.
2. Each board had _____ tenons.
3. The length of the boards was _____ cubits.
4. There were _____ tenons and _____ sockets for each board.

C. State the number of bars, how they were situated in the construction and their purpose.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.