

Temple Furnishings

Previously we examined the historical and structural significance of the temple. This week, we'll take an in-depth look at some of the furnishings within the temple and consider its meaning.

Courtyard

1. The sacrificial altar

(Exodus 27:1-3)

[27:1] “You shall make the altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits broad. The altar shall be square, and its height shall be three cubits. [2] And you shall make horns for it on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it, and you shall overlay it with bronze. [3] You shall make pots for it to receive its ashes, and shovels and basins and forks and fire pans. You shall make all its utensils of bronze.

(2 Chronicles 4:1)

[4:1] He made an altar of bronze, twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide and ten cubits high.

2. Bronze Basins

(2 Chronicles 4:6)

[6] He also made ten basins in which to wash, and set five on the south side, and five on the north side. In these they were to rinse off what was used for the burnt offering, and the sea was for the priests to wash in.

3. The Sea

(2 Chronicles 4:2, 4, 5b)

[2] Then he made the sea of cast metal. It was round, ten cubits from brim to brim, and five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference... [4] It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. The sea was set on them, and all their rear parts were inward... [5b] It held 3,000 baths.

4. Bronze Pillars

(2 Chronicles 3:15-17)

[15] In front of the house he made **two pillars** thirty-five cubits high, with a capital of five cubits on the top of each. [16] He made chains like a necklace and put them on the tops of the pillars, and he made **a hundred pomegranates and put them on the chains**. [17] He set up the pillars in front of the temple, one on the south, the other on the north; that on the south he called **Jachin**, and that on the north **Boaz**.

Holy Place

5. The menorah

(Exodus 25:31-32, 39)

[31] “You shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand shall be made of hammered work: its base, its stem, its cups, its calyces, and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. [32] And there shall be six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it... [39] It shall be made, with all these utensils, out of a talent of pure gold.

6. The incense altar

(Exodus 30:1-3)

[30:1] “You shall make an altar on which to burn incense; you shall make it of acacia wood. [2] A cubit shall be its length, and a cubit its breadth. It shall be square, and two cubits shall be its height. Its horns shall be of one piece with it. [3] You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and around its sides and its horns

7. The table of the bread of presence

(Exodus 25:23-24, 29)

[23] “You shall make a table of acacia wood. Two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. [24] You shall overlay it with pure gold and make a molding of gold around it... [29] And you shall make its plates and dishes for incense, and its flagons and bowls with which to pour drink offerings; you shall make them of pure gold.

(Leviticus 24:8-9)

[8] Every Sabbath day Aaron shall arrange it before the LORD regularly; it is from the people of Israel as a covenant forever. [9] And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place, **since it is for him a most holy portion out of the LORD's food offerings, a perpetual due.**”

Holy of Holies

8. Ark of the Covenant

(Exodus 25:10-11)

[10] “They shall make an ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. [11] You shall overlay it with **pure gold, inside and outside** shall you overlay it

Two purposes:

a. A chest

(Exodus 25:16)

[16] And you shall put into the ark **the testimony that I shall give you.**

b. Represented God's presence

(Numbers 10:33b-35)

[33b] And the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them three days' journey, to seek out a resting place for them. [34] And the cloud of the LORD was over them by day, whenever they set out from the camp. [35] And whenever **the ark set out**, Moses said, "**Arise, O LORD**, and let your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate you flee before you."

9. Cherubim

(1 Kings 6:23-24, 28)

[23] In the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olivewood, each ten cubits high. [24] Five cubits was the length of one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the length of the other wing of the cherub; it was ten cubits from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other...[28] And he overlaid the cherubim with gold.

(Genesis 3:24)

He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.