

12.22 Fire on the Altar and Glory in the Tabernacle (Exodus 40:1–38; Leviticus 9:1–24; Hebrews 9:28–24)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- “The Tabernacle” Flash-a-Cards from A Beka Book and/or pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- *Herein Is Love Commentary Series; Exodus, A Commentary for Children*, by Nancy Ganz, Shepherd Press, 2002.
- The tabernacle model or classroom tabernacle with boxes used in Lesson 12.19.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- (No Tips and Terms for this lesson)

Scripture: (NASB)

Exodus 40:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. 3 You shall place the ark of the testimony there, and you shall screen the ark with the veil. 4 You shall bring in the table and arrange what belongs on it; and you shall bring in the lampstand and mount its lamps. 5 Moreover, you shall set the gold altar of incense before the ark of the testimony, and set up the veil for the doorway to the tabernacle. 6 You shall set the altar of burnt offering in front of the doorway of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. 7 You shall set the laver between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it. 8 You shall set up the court all around and hang up the veil for the gateway of the court. 9 Then you shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and shall consecrate it and all its furnishings; and it shall be holy. 10 You shall anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar, and the altar shall be most holy. 11 You shall anoint the laver and its stand, and consecrate it. 12 Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doorway of the tent of meeting and wash them with water. 13 You shall put the holy garments on Aaron and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister as a priest to Me. 14 You shall bring his sons and put tunics on them; 15 and you shall anoint them even as you have anointed their father, that they may minister as priests to Me; and their anointing will qualify them for a perpetual priesthood throughout their generations.” 16 Thus Moses did; according to all that the LORD had commanded him, so he did.

17 Now in the first month of the second year, on the first *day* of the month, the tabernacle was erected. 18 Moses erected the tabernacle and [did all that God said to do]. . . . 33. . . Thus Moses finished the work.

34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35 Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 36 Throughout all their journeys whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the sons of Israel would set out; 37 but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day when it was taken up. 38 For throughout all their journeys, the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel.

Leviticus 9:1 Now it came about on the eighth day that Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel; 2 and he said to Aaron, “Take for yourself a calf, a bull, for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering, both without defect, and offer them before the LORD. 3 Then to the sons of Israel you shall speak, saying, ‘Take a male goat for a sin offering, and a calf and a lamb, both one year old, without defect, for a burnt offering, 4 and an ox and a ram for peace offerings, to sacrifice before the LORD, and a grain offering mixed with oil; for

today the LORD will appear to you.” 5 So they took what Moses had commanded to the front of the tent of meeting, and the whole congregation came near and stood before the LORD. 6 Moses said, “This is the thing which the LORD has commanded you to do, that the glory of the LORD may appear to you.” 7 Moses then said to Aaron, “Come near to the altar and offer your sin offering and your burnt offering, that you may make atonement for yourself and for the people; then make the offering for the people, that you may make atonement for them, just as the LORD has commanded.”

8 So Aaron came near to the altar and slaughtered the calf of the sin offering which was for himself. . . .

15 Then he presented the people’s offering . . . the goat of the sin offering . . . the burnt offering . . . the grain offering, and filled his hand with some of it and offered it up in smoke on the altar . . . the ox and the ram, the sacrifice of peace offerings which was for the people. . . .

22 Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he stepped down after making the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. 23 Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting. When they came out and blessed the people, the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. 24 Then fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the portions of fat on the altar; and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

Hebrews 9:1 . . . 2 For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place. 3 Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies, 4 having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was . . . the tables of the covenant; 5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail. . . .

11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? . . .

23 Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.

Introduction/Review:

God gave Moses instructions about building a tabernacle/tent for worship. He gave instructions for the priests’ garments and duties. He gave instructions for the sacrifices to be made and the feasts to be observed.

After the people brought the materials for the tabernacle, a tent that could be assembled and disassembled and moved, Bezalel and Aholiab worked with others for about one year until all was completed. God had said, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain” (Hebrews 8:5), for this tabernacle was to be a symbol of heavenly things.

What was made?

- A 7½-foot-tall white linen fence that enclosed the tabernacle and its courtyard
- Bases of bronze and hooks of silver for the fence
- A 30-foot screen woven with blue, purple, and scarlet yarns to cover an opening
- Four coverings over the tabernacle: blue, purple, and scarlet fabric with embroidered cherubim/angels; goats’ hair fabric; rams’ skins dyed red; goat skins sewn together
- The gold ark of the covenant with the mercy seat on top
- The tapestry veil to separate the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies
- The gold altar of incense

- The gold lamp stand
- The table of shew (pronounced “show”) bread
- The bronze laver
- The bronze altar of burnt offering
- The poles used to carry the furniture
- Utensils, like hooks and pans, needed at the altar and in the tabernacle
- The priests’ garments

Story:

The tabernacle set up

The work of Bezalel and Aholiab and the other craftsmen was complete. At that time, the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “On the first day of the first month of this second year since you came out of Egypt, you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.” Then God gave exact instructions as to the placement of each piece of furniture. [Teacher, review the list of tabernacle items with your classroom tabernacle set-up or a chart found below to show each location. If you are privileged to have flannelgraph overlays, use them.]

- A 7½-foot-tall white linen fence that enclosed the tabernacle and its courtyard, which measured 150 by 75 feet, about one-fourth the size of a football field.
- A 30-foot screen woven with blue, purple, and scarlet yarns to cover the opening on the west side
- Four coverings over the tabernacle: from inside out they were blue, purple, and scarlet fabric with embroidered angels; fabric made from goats’ hair; rams’ skins dyed red; goat skins sewn together
- The gold ark of the covenant with the mercy seat on top in the Holy of Holies
- The tapestry veil to separate the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies
- The gold altar of incense in front of the tapestry veil to the Holy of Holies
- The gold lamp stand on the south side (to the left as one faces east) of the Holy Place
- The table of shew (pronounced “show”) bread on the north side (to the right as one faces east) of the Holy Place
- The bronze laver filled with water and located outside the tabernacle in front of the opening screen
- The bronze altar directly east of the laver

When Moses and the workers had erected the fence and the tabernacle, had placed every piece of furniture, had seen that Aaron and his sons were washed and clothed in their priestly garments, then Moses anointed everything with holy oil.

The cloud of God

Suddenly, the cloud that had led them to this place covered the tabernacle, and the glory of the LORD filled it. Moses was not able to enter the tent because the cloud had settled on it; its glory was just too much for mere man to approach. What an awesome experience that must have been—too see the glory of God Himself! To see Him manifested in such a wonderful way must have caused the fear of God to come upon every Israelite.

From then on, whenever that cloud lifted up from the tabernacle, Israel knew it was time to move on, and they would set out. If the cloud stayed on the tabernacle, they would not set out until it was taken up. As long as Israel journeyed, the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle during the day, and the fire in the cloud by night was visible in to all the Israelites.

The consecration of the priests

We have already learned about the consecration—the setting apart for special service—of the priests. We will just remind you of what went on in that consecration. Before they could actually perform their duties as priests, Aaron and his sons had to offer special sacrifices every day for seven days. On the eighth day, after they had fulfilled the seven-day requirements, Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel, and he said to Aaron, “Make one more sacrifice for yourself and offer it to the LORD. Then you shall offer a sin

offering, a burnt offering, peace offerings, and a grain offering mixed with oil to sacrifice for the sons of Israel, for today the LORD will appear to you.”

So they did what Moses had commanded in front of the tent of meeting, and the whole congregation came near and stood before the LORD as Aaron placed the animals on the altar of burnt offering. Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them. Then he stepped down from the altar after placing the offerings there. Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting and returned, blessing the people.

The fire from God

Then a stupendous thing happened. The glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. Fire came down from the LORD and burned up the offering on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces. A second time they had seen the glory of the Lord in terrifying majesty.

By burning up the sacrifice, God was showing His wrath for sin on the substitute animals, and He also showed His grace to the people by sparing them the punishment they deserved. Rather, the lamb took the punishment. So it is today: the Lamb of God (Jesus) takes away the sin of the world. Those who believe on Him have everlasting life. Those who do not believe on Him are condemned.

The final Sacrifice

This is what Jesus Christ is for believers: He took God’s wrath for the sin of those for whom He died. Conversely, by that sacrifice, He grants grace to His people by sparing them the punishment they deserve. More than that, He blesses and cares for those He saves and promises them eternal life with Him.

All the Old Testament sacrifices pointed to this final great Sacrifice for sin. “If the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? . . . Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” (Hebrews 9:13, 14, 24).

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus
“When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption” (Hebrews 9:11, 12).
- The shedding of blood pictured the covering and forgiveness of sin; shedding of blood also pictures the sad consequence of sin.
- We can fear God as the Israelites did, for we read of His terrifying majesty in His Word.

Activities:

- Play dough: tent; altar; laver; fire; cloud
- Snack: Cotton candy (pure sugar, ugh!) reminds one of the cloud. Although still sweet, perhaps whipped topping on pudding or Jello® would be a better alternative.
- Sing “Stop! It’s the Law!” found in Lesson 12.15 “God Gives Laws,” or on the songs page at teachingthebibleto kids.org, where an audio and visuals are available.
- Play Hangman with the Ten Commandments. Find the tools for this game on the Lessons page, Lesson 12.15k, at teachingthebibleto kids.org.
- Review questions: (Game: Use the cross and furniture pieces found in Lesson 12.19 for this game. For

each correct answer, a student places a piece of furniture at its correct location on the cross. Print two crosses and furniture if playing with teams.)

1. In what year after the Israelites had come out of Egypt was the tabernacle erected? [Second year.]
2. Name the one article of furniture in the Holy of Holies. [The ark of the covenant with the mercy seat.]
3. Name one of the three pieces of furniture in the Holy Place. [Altar of incense, lamp stand, table of shew bread.]
4. Name one of the tabernacle outdoor pieces of furniture. [Laver, Altar of burnt offering or of bronze.]
5. What did Moses use to consecrate the tabernacle and its furnishings? [Holy oil.]
6. What did Aaron and his sons have to do before getting dressed in their priestly garments? [Wash.]
7. What happened when the tabernacle was completed? [The glory of God showed forth in the cloud's filling the tabernacle.]
8. How many days did Aaron and his sons need to consecrate themselves? [Seven.]
9. What happened on the eighth day? [Fire came from God to burn the offering on the altar.]
10. Why is Jesus a better sacrifice than animals? [He is God; the sacrifices are fulfilled in Him and never need to be made again; He presented His blood in heaven.]

Memory Verse[s]:

- Continue to learn Exodus 20:1–17. An enlarged copy of these words, the “Exodus 20:1–17” song sheet, and motions are in Lesson 12.15 or on the “Lessons” and “Songs” pages at teachingthebibleto kids.org.

Handwork:

- On a piece of paper in landscape orientation, students will color bands of red, blue and purple. They will cut out the printed 7.5-inch by 4.5-inch altar and red flame found below and glue them to the background of colored bands.

Inside Furniture
(long x wide x high)

Ark of
Covenant: 45''
x 27'' x 27''

Altar of
Incense:
18'' x 18'' x 3'

Lampstand:
Unmeasured

Table of Shew
Bread:
3' x 18'' x 27''

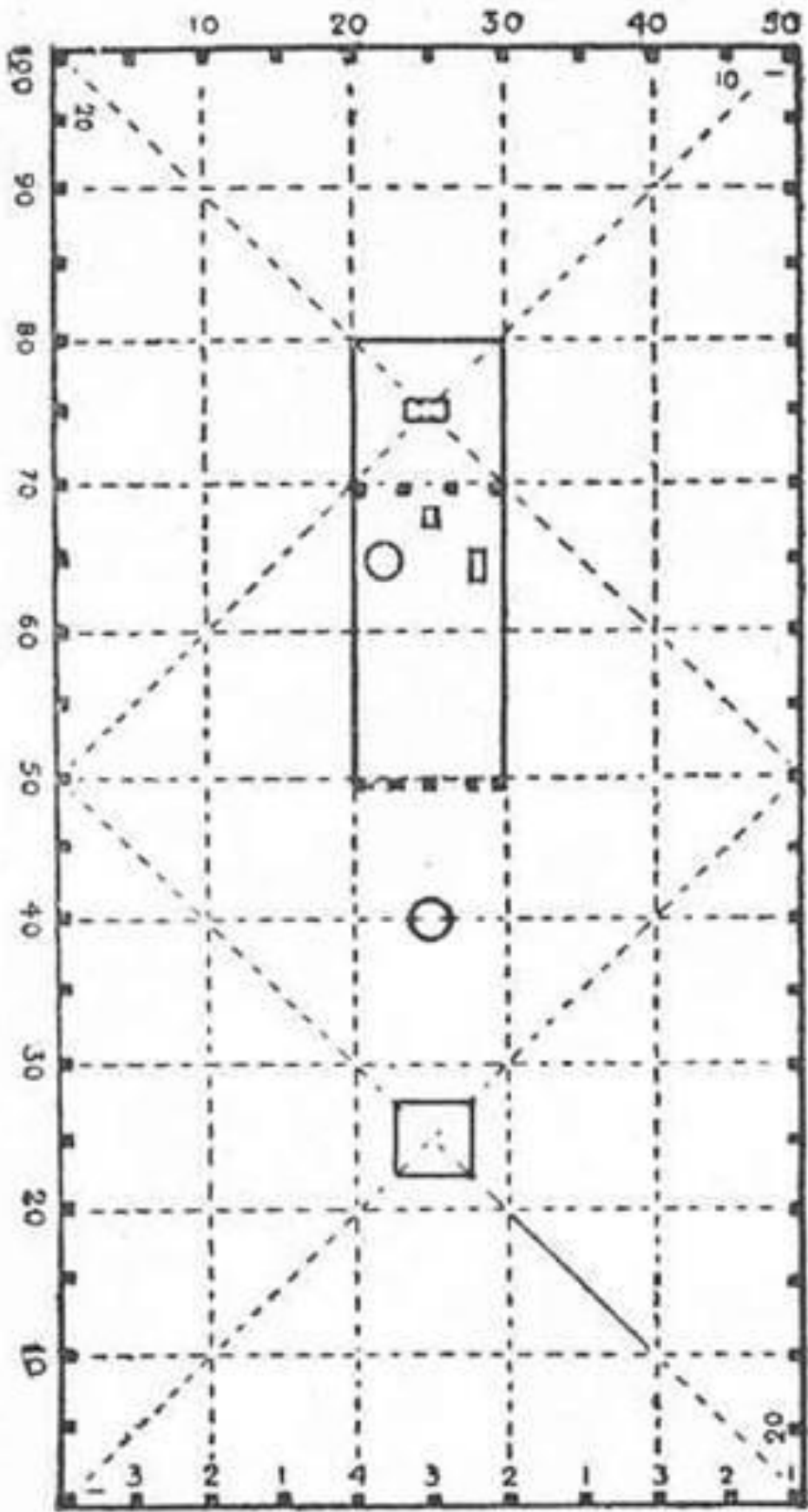
Tabernacle was
15 feet tall.

Holy of Holies
was 15x15x15
feet, a cube.

Holy place was
30x15 feet;

SOUTH

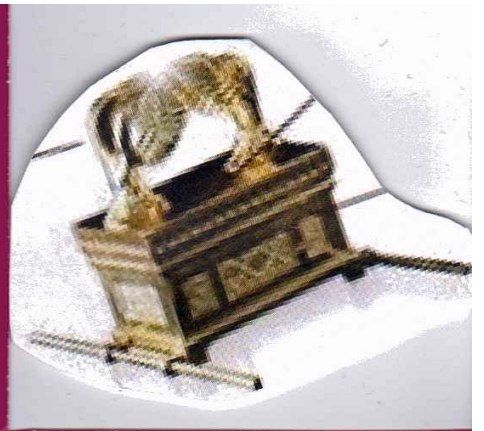
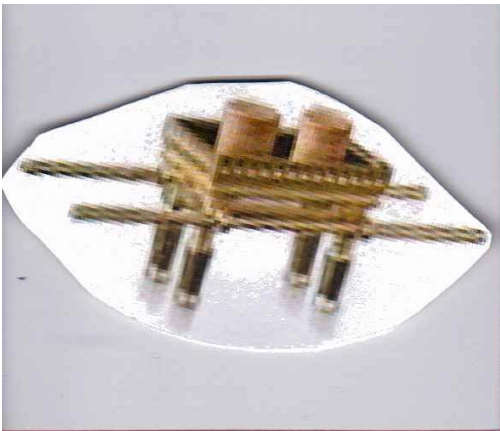
NORTH



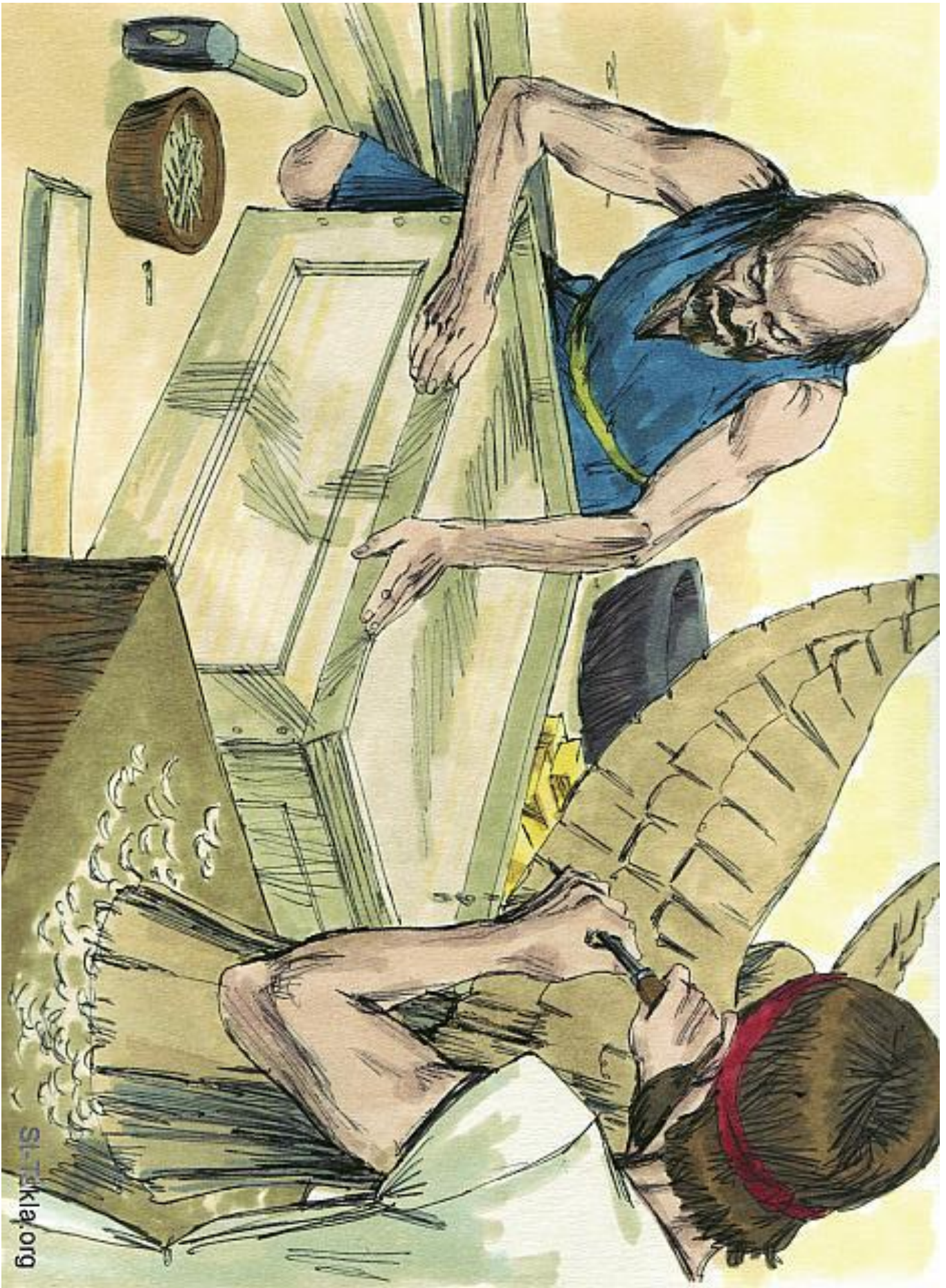
Tabernacle coverings were (top to bottom) badgers' or goats' skins; rams' skins dyed red; woven goats' hair; and blue, purple, and scarlet linen.

PLAN OF THE COURT OF THE TABERNACLE.

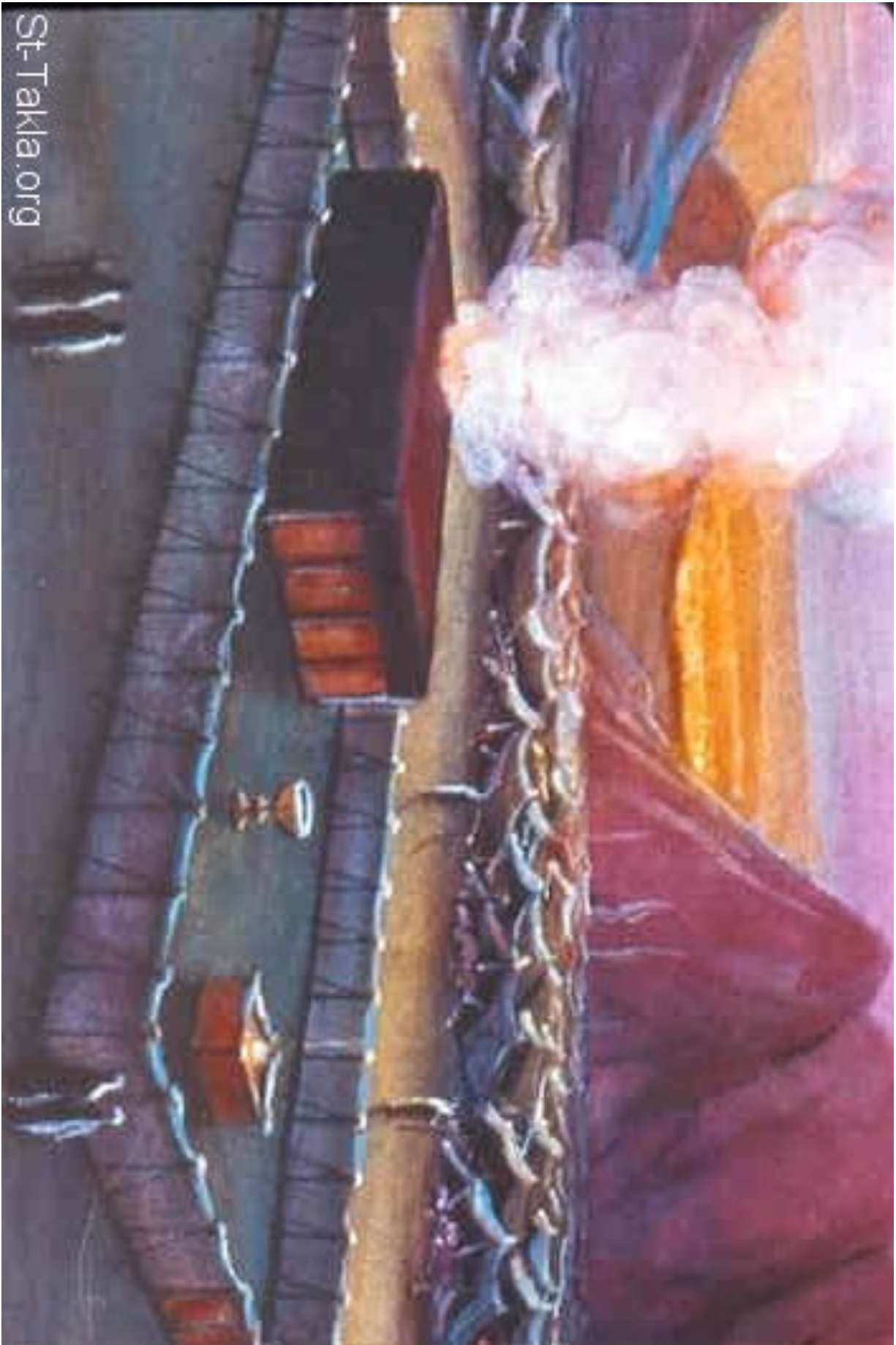
Numbers indicate cubits; multiply by 1½ in order to get measurements in feet: court was 150x75 feet; fence was made of fine linen and was 7.5 feet tall; entrance was 30 feet and was on the east side.



Print and cut out furniture. Place in correct location.



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