

Exodus 25

Verses 1-7

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Tell the sons of Israel to raise a contribution for Me; from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution. ³ This is the contribution which you are to raise from them: gold, silver and bronze, ⁴ blue, purple and scarlet *material*, fine linen, goat *hair*, ⁵ rams’ skins dyed red, porpoise skins, acacia wood, ⁶ oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, ⁷ onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

² “Tell the sons of Israel to raise a contribution for Me; from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution.

In order to make the Tabernacle, its furniture and all the items for the priesthood, it would require an enormous amount of expensive materials. Nevertheless, God wanted their gifts to be a free will offering.

³ This is the contribution which you are to raise from them: gold, silver and bronze, ⁴ blue, purple and scarlet *material*, fine linen, goat *hair*, ⁵ rams’ skins dyed red, porpoise skins, acacia wood, ⁶ oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, ⁷ onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

Many of these items were probably gifts that they had received from the Egyptians. However, the dolphin skins suggest that Israel was or would shortly be trading goods with some of the surrounding nations.

Verses 8 - 9

⁸ Let them construct a sanctuary for me, that I may dwell among them.

⁹ According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct *it*.

The tabernacle and its furniture were to be made according to the pattern that God gave to Moses. This included the size and shape of each item, and the materials to be used.

Verses 10 - 16

The Ark

¹⁰ “They shall construct an ark of acacia wood two and a half cubits long, and one and a half cubits wide, and one and a half cubits high. ¹¹ You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and you shall make a gold molding around it. ¹² You shall cast four gold rings for it and fasten them on its four feet, and two rings shall be on one side of it and two rings on the other side of it. ¹³ You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. ¹⁴ You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, to carry the ark with them. ¹⁵ The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be removed from it. ¹⁶ You shall put into the ark the testimony which I shall give you.

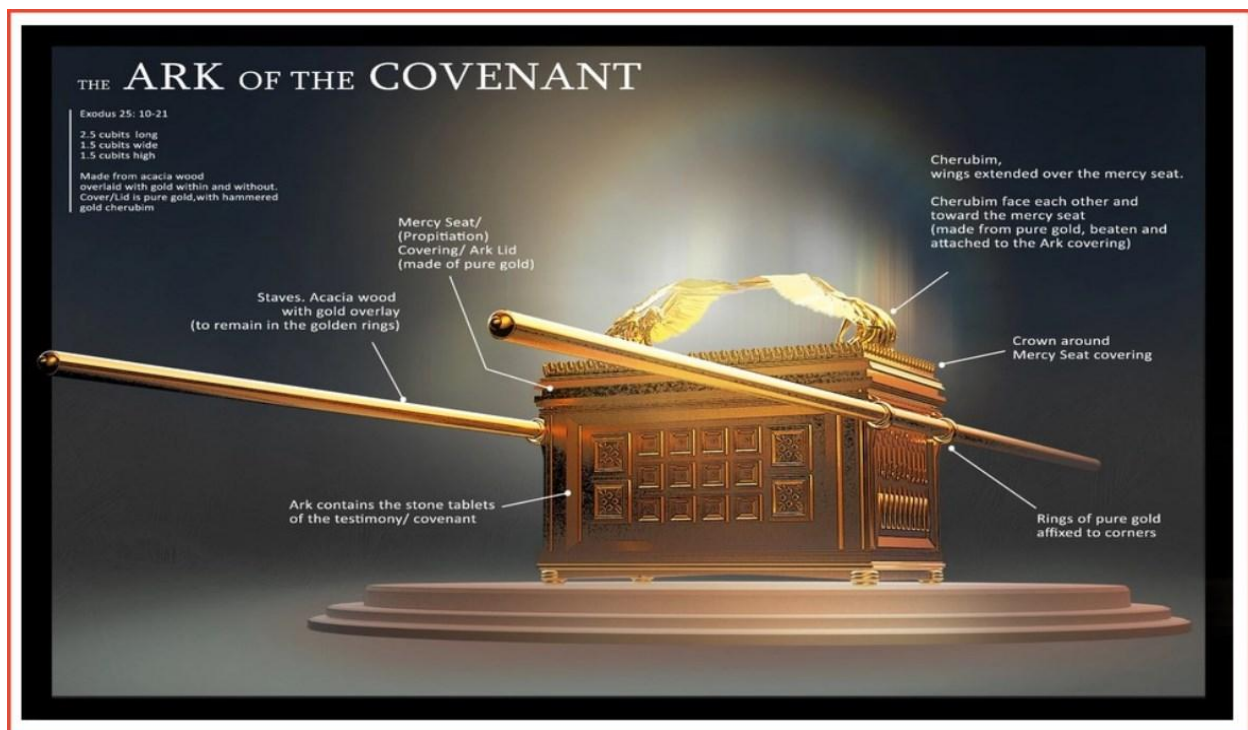
¹⁰ “They shall construct an ark of acacia wood two and a half cubits long, and one and a half cubits wide, and one and a half cubits high.

The Ark was two and a half cubits (3.75 feet) long and one and a half cubits (2.25 feet) wide and high.

See Video 2505 The Ark

<http://www.levickfamily.com/9.4.html>

See pics 2506 The Ark of the Covenant



¹² You shall cast four gold rings for it and fasten them on its four feet, and two rings shall be on one side of it and two rings on the other side of it.

This picture is better than most you will see online however this picture is wrong because the poles should be fastened to its feet not the side of the ark.

¹⁵ The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be removed from it.

See 2 Chron. 5:9

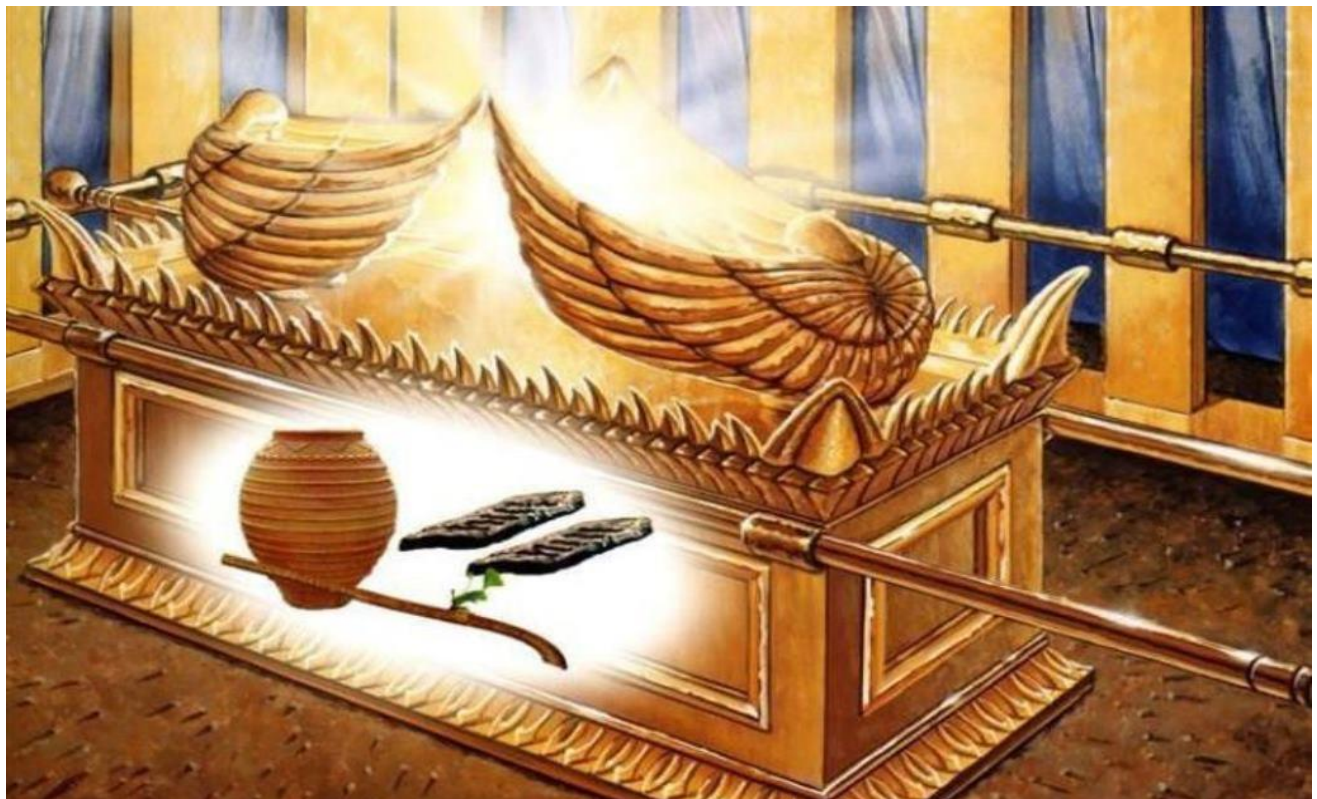
⁹ The poles were so long that the ends of the poles of the ark could be seen in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen outside; and they are there to this day.

See Video 2510 Staves of the ark

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.44.html>

¹⁶ You shall put into the ark the testimony which I shall give you.

See Pic 2515 Items in the Ark



For now only the two stone tablets containing the law and the 10 commandments were to be in the Ark. Two other articles will be added later, a pot of manna, and Aaron's rod that budded.

See Hebrews 9:3 – 5

³ Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Most Holy Place, ⁴ having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron's staff which budded, and the tablets of the covenant; ⁵ and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the atoning cover; but about these things we cannot now speak in detail.

However, by the time of the 1st temple, the jar of manna and the budding rod were gone

See 2 Chron. 5:10

¹⁰ There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets which Moses put there at Horeb, where the Lord made *a covenant* with the sons of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

This picture is wrong for two reasons.

1. The poles are on the wrong sides in this picture, but that is true for 95% of the Ark pictures one sees online.
2. The poles should be attached to the feet not the sides of the ark. Details matter.

Verses 17-22

The Mercy Seat

¹⁷ “**You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold,** two and a half cubits long and one and a half cubits wide. ¹⁸ **You shall make two cherubim of gold,** make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat. ¹⁹ **Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end;** you shall make the cherubim *of one piece* with the mercy seat at its two ends. ²⁰ **The cherubim shall have *their* wings spread upward,** covering the mercy seat **with their wings and facing one another;** the **faces of the cherubim are to be *turned* toward the mercy seat.** ²¹ You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony which I will give to you. ²² There I will meet with you; and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak to you about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel.

Moses was probably given much more detail about how to make all of the items that are mentioned in chapters 25 thru 30 but these were the essentials.

See Video 2520 The Mercy Seat

<http://www.levickfamily.com/9.5.html>

²¹ You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony which I will give to you.

One author mentioned that the placement of the mercy-seat on top of the ark symbolized that God's mercy ranks higher than God's law. That sounds good, but it likely that it was just a matter of function, since the lid of a container normally belongs on the top. ☺

²² There I will meet with you; and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak to you about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel.

The High Priest only went into the Holy of Holies, where the Ark was placed, once a year on the Day of Atonement. The only exceptions to this rule were for the following reasons.

1. When the Tabernacle was moved during the wilderness wanderings.
2. When the Ark was taken to the location of a battle.

Verses 23 - 30 The Table of Shewbread

²³ “You shall make a table of acacia wood, two cubits long and one cubit wide and one and a half cubits high. ²⁴ You shall overlay it with pure gold and make a gold border around it. ²⁵ You shall make for it a rim of a handbreadth around it; and you shall make a gold border for the rim around it. ²⁶ You shall make four gold rings for it and put rings on the four corners which are on its four feet. ²⁷ The rings shall be close to the rim as holders for the poles to carry the table. ²⁸ You shall make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold, so that with them the table may be carried. ²⁹ You shall make its dishes and its pans and its jars and its bowls with which to pour drink offerings; you shall make them of pure gold. ³⁰ You shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before Me at all times.

See Video 2525 Table of Shewbread

<http://www.levickfamily.com/9.6.html>

³⁰ You shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before Me at all times.

See pic 2530



Verses 31- 40

Lampstand

³¹ “**Then you shall make a lampstand of pure gold.** The lampstand *and* its base and its shaft are to be made of hammered work; its cups, its bulbs and its flowers shall be *of one piece* with it. ³² Six branches shall go out from its sides; three branches of the lampstand from its one side and three branches of the lampstand from its other side. ³³ Three cups *shall be* shaped like almond *blossoms* in the one branch, a bulb and a flower, and three cups shaped like almond *blossoms* in the other branch, a bulb and a flower—so for six branches going out from the lampstand; ³⁴ and in the lampstand four cups shaped like almond *blossoms*, its bulbs and its flowers. ³⁵ A bulb shall be under the *first* pair of branches *coming* out of it, and a bulb under the *second* pair of branches *coming* out of it, and a bulb under the *third* pair of branches *coming* out of it, for the six branches coming out of the lampstand. ³⁶ Their bulbs and their branches *shall be of one piece* with it; all of it shall be one piece of hammered work of pure gold. ³⁷ Then you shall make its lamps seven *in number*; and they shall mount its lamps so as to shed light on the space in front of it. ³⁸ Its snuffers and their trays *shall be* of pure gold. ³⁹ It shall be made from a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. ⁴⁰ See that you make *them* after the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain.

³¹ “Then you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand *and* its base and its shaft are to be made of hammered work; its cups, its bulbs and its flowers shall be *of one piece* with it.

See video 2535 9.10 The lampstand

<http://www.levickfamily.com/9.10.html>

The Tabernacle had one lampstand and it was the only source of light in the sanctuary.

See pic 2536



In the temple of Solomon, there were 10 lampstands, 5 on each side.

See 1 Kings 7:48 - 50

⁴⁸ Solomon also made all the furniture that *was in* the house of the Lord: the golden altar and the golden table on which *was set* the bread of the Presence;
⁴⁹ and the lampstands of pure gold, five on the right side and five on the left, in front of the inner sanctuary; and the flowers, the lamps, and the tongs, of gold;
⁵⁰ also the cups, the shears, the bowls, the ladles, and the firepans, of pure gold; and the hinges *both* for the doors of the inner house, the Most Holy Place, *and* for the doors of the house, *that is*, for the main room, of gold.

³⁹ It shall be made from a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. ⁴⁰ See that you make *them* after the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain.

A talent of gold would equal about 1,200 ounces. It would cost about 4 million dollars in today's value of gold.

The golden lampstands in the Temple of Herod were taken from the temple by the soldiers of Titus before the temple was destroyed. A carved representation of one is engraved on the Arch of Titus.

See Pic 2540 The Arch of Titus



The engraving is on the inside of the Arch

See pic 2545



There are two good videos that give us some history behind the Arch.

See video 2550

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.18.html>

See video 2555

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.17.html>

⁴⁰ See that you make *them* after the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain.

Moses was given and shown information about these items while he was on the mountain that is not recorded in chapters 25 thru 30.

God also provided men that he had gifted to make all that he commanded.

See Exodus 31:1-11

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. ³ And I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *kinds of* craftsmanship, ⁴ to create artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, ⁵ and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, so that he may work in all *kinds of* craftsmanship. ⁶ And behold, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the hearts of all who are skillful I have put skill, so that they may make everything that I have commanded you: ⁷ the tent of meeting, the ark of testimony, the atoning cover that is on it, and all the furniture of the tent, ⁸ the table and its utensils, the pure *gold* lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense, ⁹ the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the basin and its stand, ¹⁰ the woven garments as well: the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, *with which* to carry out their priesthood; ¹¹ the anointing oil also, and the fragrant incense for the Holy Place, they are to make *them* according to everything that I have commanded you.”