

Tour of the Tabernacle

CHARACTERS: Tour guide, MOSES, AARON, Bezalel, Hur, Oholiab

SETTING: Tabernacle

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Exodus 25-31, 35-40

TOUR GUIDE: We are here with Moses, Aaron and Miriam to take a tour of the tabernacle. Where are we standing?

MOSES: In the courtyard.

TOUR GUIDE: How large is it?

AARON: 150 feet by 75 feet and 7.5 feet high.

TOUR GUIDE: How does that compare to a football field or basketball court?

AARON: It is half as long as a football field.

MOSES: It is as wide and a middle school basketball court is long.

MIRIAM: The ceiling is about three-fourths of the way up to a basketball goal.

TOUR GUIDE: The posts holding the linen curtains sparkle and shine.

MIRIAM: That's because the posts holding the linen are silver put into bronze bases.

TOUR GUIDE: When was the tabernacle set up?

AARON: The first month of the second year we left Egypt, on the first day of the month

TOUR GUIDE: Before we tour the actual tabernacle, tell us how you came up with the plans for it.

MOSES: God showed me a pattern, a model.

TOUR GUIDE: How was the construction funded?

MOSES: The Israelites freely gave 2,193 pounds of gold,

AARON: 7,544 pounds of silver, and 5,310 pounds of bronze

MOSES: acacia wood; oil spices, onyx and other gemstones.

AARON: My son Ithamar and his Levites did the inventory.

MOSES: Everyone whose heart was moved and whose spirit prompted him brought an offering.

AARON: These were given to the Lord for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its services, and for the holy garments.

MIRIAM: Both men and women came; all who had willing hearts.

AARON: They brought brooches, earrings, rings, necklaces, and all kinds of gold jewelry.

MIRIAM: Some brought blue, purple, or scarlet yarn, fine linen or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or manatee skins.

MOSES: Others offered silver or bronze or acacia wood.

MIRIAM: All of the talented women whose hearts were moved spun yarn.

TOUR GUIDE: So all the men and women whose hearts prompted them brought something for all the work that the Lord, through Moses, had commanded to be done?

AARON: The people brought more than was needed for the construction

MOSES: They were so generous, I had to tell them to stop giving.

TOUR GUIDE: Amazing! Absolutely marvelous.

MOSES: Yes. In addition, when the people register, they will pay a ransom for themselves to the Lord.

MIRIAM: Everyone who registers pays half a shekel.

AARON: The wealthy did not give more

MOSES: and the poor did not give less.

TOUR GUIDE: How many men total?

MOSES: 603,550 that were 20 years old and up.

AARON: This atonement money from the Israelites will be used for the service of the tent of meeting.

MIRIAM: It will serve as a reminder that the Lord saved our lives during the Passover.

TOUR GUIDE: Why did you build this tabernacle?

MOSES: So that God might live with us.

TOUR GUIDE: Here we are at the outside of the tabernacle. What is this inner covering?

AARON: Fine linen with blue, purple, and scarlet yarns.

MIRIAM: We used 10 curtains, each 42 by 6 feet.

MOSES: The curtains join together here at these 50 blue loops.

TOUR GUIDE: I see. Each pair of loops is held together with a gold ring.

MIRIAM: Over the linen are goat hair curtains.

TOUR GUIDE: 10 of them?

AARON: Eleven slightly bigger curtains.

MOSES: Each goat hair curtain is 45 by 6.

MIRIAM: These also have 50 loops on each side so they can be joined to the next curtain by bronze clasps.

AARON: The 11th curtain forms a flap or doorway in.

TOUR GUIDE: And what about this third outer layer of coverings?

AARON: Those curtains are ram skins dyed red covered by manatee skins on top of that.

MOSES: The frames to hold the curtains are made from acacia wood overlaid with gold.

MIRIAM: At the entrance, we have a screen embroidered with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen.

TOUR GUIDE: Let's go inside and meet the men who were the general contractors for this building project.

MIRIAM: This is my grandson, BB. Bezalel and Oholiab

BEZALEL: This is OHOLIAB, from the tribe of Dan

OHOLIAB: God especially chose us and filled us with God's Spirit.

BEZALEL: He gave us wisdom, understanding, and ability to design artistic works in gold, silver, and bronze.

OHOLIAB: We can cut gemstones for mounting, and to carve wood for work in every craft.

BEZALEL: Plus, God gave us the ability to teach others.

TOUR GUIDE: What is this gold square 7.5 feet by 7.5 feet and 4.5 feet high on the north side of the tabernacle?

AARON: The altar of burnt offering.

MIRIAM: Underneath all that bronze is acacia wood.

TOUR GUIDE: Why does it have poles attached to it?

MOSES: So it can be carried as we move about the wilderness.

BEZALEL: We constructed this table of acacia wood and overlaid it with gold.

TOUR GUIDE: I bet the rings in the side are so you can carry it.

BEZALEL: Correct.

OHOLIAB: All the plates, cups, pitchers and bowls for pouring drink offerings are pure gold.

AARON: We put the bread of the Presence on the table before God at all times.

BEZALEL: I used bronze mirrors the women contributed to make this bronze basin.

TOUR GUIDE: What do you do with the bronze basin?

AARON: My sons and I wash our hands and feet whenever we enter the tent of meeting or minister before God.

TOUR GUIDE: Tell me about the lampstand on the south side of the tabernacle

MOSES: It is made of a single hammered piece of pure gold.

BEZALEL: I used 75 pounds for the lamp and utensils.

TOUR GUIDE: What do you use the oil for?

MIRIAM: To keep the lamp burning continually.

AARON: My sons and I make sure it never goes out.

TOUR GUIDE: Is that another, smaller gold altar by that veil?

MOSES: Yes, it is an altar for the burning of incense.

AARON: Every morning and twilight when I tend the lamps, I burn fragrant incense on it.

TOUR GUIDE: It smells lovely. What's in it?

AARON: Fragrant spices including pure frankincense.

BEZALEL: This incense is especially holy.

OHOLIAB: This formula is restricted to this one purpose.

BEZALEL: It is to be regarded as sacred to the Lord.

MIRIAM: Once a year Aaron performs the purification rite on this altar because it is especially holy to the Lord.

TOUR GUIDE: What is behind the veil of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen?

MOSES: The ark.

MIRIAM: That veil marks the separation between the holy place and the most holy place.

BEZALEL: The ark is made from of acacia wood plated with pure gold.

OHOLIAB: It is 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches high.

AARON: The rings in the side allow us to carry it.

TOUR GUIDE: What is inside the ark?

MOSES: The stone tablets of the testimony God gave us.

TOUR GUIDE: What is on top surrounded by the wings of those cherubim?

MOSES: The mercy seat of pure gold.

AARON: God speaks with us from the mercy seat.

TOUR GUIDE: Did the Israelites do all the work according to everything the Lord had commanded you, Moses?

MOSES: They did. I inspected all the work they had accomplished.

MIRIAM: They had done just as the Lord commanded.

MOSES: I blessed the people and anointed the tabernacle and everything in it

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The Tabernacle matching (Exo 25-31)
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