

The Tabernacle Boards Exodus 26 Verses 15-30

Ex 26:15 ¶ "And thou shalt make boards for the tabernacle of shittim wood standing up. 16 Ten cubits shall be the length of a board, and a cubit and a half shall be the breadth of one board. 17 Two tenons shall there be in one board, set in order one against another: thus, shalt thou make for all the boards of the tabernacle. 18 And thou shalt make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards on the south side southward. 19 And thou shalt make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards: two sockets under one board for his two tenons, and two sockets under another board for his two tenons. 20 And for the second side of the tabernacle on the north side there shall be twenty boards: 21 And their forty sockets of silver; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board. 22 And for the sides of the tabernacle westward thou shalt make six boards. 23 And two boards shalt thou make for the corners of the tabernacle in the two sides. 24 And they shall be coupled together beneath, and they shall be coupled together above the head of it unto one ring: thus, shall it be for them both; they shall be for the two corners. 25 And they shall be eight boards, and their sockets of silver, sixteen sockets: two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board. 26 And thou shalt make bars of shittim wood; five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle, 27 And five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle, for the two sides westward. 28 And the middle bar in the midst of the boards shall reach from end to end. 29 And thou shalt overlay the boards with gold and make their rings of gold for places for the bars: and thou shalt overlay the bars with gold. 30 And thou shalt rear up the tabernacle according to the fashion thereof which was shewed thee in the mount."

We are now given the support structure of the tabernacle in the making of the boards, their base and top rails, including the bars that bound them all together. Those four layers of curtains would have been very heavy and would need substantial support to hold them up.

As we consider these boards and what they might represent to us, since they are boards standing upright, and they carry the weight of the tabernacle complete, we see the bible. What do you mean? What is the bible? We believe that the King James bible is the written word of God. Remember that this tabernacle was pointing to the coming of Christ, so we see the Old Testament and all the prophesies of the coming of Jesus, as described by Jesus in: ***Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*** The mercy seat, the central focus of the tabernacle, was to keep the focus of God's people on God and to keep them looking for the coming of the Messiah.

As the Old Testament scriptures prophesied of the coming of the Messiah, Jesus, the mercy seat, was hidden from their view behind the vail of the most holy place. Now, we have the New Testament, which explains to us that God did all he promised pertaining to the first coming of Christ. The vail, of the most holy place, being rent at the death of Jesus on the cross, has revealed to us the fulfillment, of the prophesy of the first coming of Jesus. We also have the revelation of the prophesy of the second coming of Jesus, in both Old and New Testaments.

As the boards were made of the same wood as the ark of God, so we see the promises of God concerning the Messiah, in the revealed word of God. This demonstrates to us; if you are a child of God, you have Christ in you. The boards were overlaid with gold which kept them protected from the parasites of sin. This shows us the result of rightly dividing the truths of God and applying them in our lives, as seen in: ***2Ti 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*** Herein, we see the people of God, the church of salvation by the grace of God, to whom Christ has revealed himself in the new birth, walking uprightly and standing firm upon the word of God. This is the support of the covering of the church on earth, as seen in: ***1Ti 3:14-16; 14 ¶ "These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: 15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. 16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."*** Remember, as the mercy seat was hidden from view, the church is hidden from view as seen in: ***Mt 11:25 "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. 26 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. 27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any***

man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. 28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The boards of wood overlaid with gold are also representative of God's people on earth, in this age of salvation by the grace of God. How? Today, the church is comprised of people who have been changed from nature to grace. We started out as people, the wood, but through the washing of regeneration, we have been overlaid with the righteousness of Christ and robed in his love; thus, we are overlaid with gold.

Remember, each board was the same size. Each Child of God is a sinner saved by the grace of God. They are all the same size in the sight of God, they are all precious to him. The boards were held in place by sockets and tenons, rings, and bars. This is how the church is builded as we see in: ***Eph 4:16 "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."*** The revealing of Christ in the resurrection is the foundation stone upon which the church is built. As we take up our cross and follow Jesus, we see the tabernacle displayed as the church in the world. This is why we are commanded, by God, to take up our cross and following Jesus as disciples.

The tabernacle boards would have provided protection from the winds of the earth and given stability to the curtains that they be not moved and would not allow those to see things they should not. This would apply to us today as seen in: ***Eph 4:10-16; 10 "He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."*** Wherefore, each child of God, acting in their proper station as appointed by God, and living by "***thus saith the Lord,***" is upholding the doctrines of Jesus Christ and the commandments of God. Fitly joined together they keep the truth of God, and the church, from being blown every which way by the false doctrines of the devil. God's people, standing firm on the solid rock Jesus Christ and his word, do not allow the worldly and false doctrines to come into the tabernacle of the congregation, the holy place, and the most holy place, in the organized church setting.

Finally, There were special corner boards and chapters, and hooks and rings that held these walls of boards together, just as the individual boards were held in place by sockets and tenons, rings, and bars. All these things show us that God had a plan to bring to pass the plan of eternal salvation through Jesus Christ. God prepared the scriptures that prophesied of these things, and God brought them to fulfillment, each in its proper place and time. As the tabernacle complete was giving us a picture of Jesus, so the bible today gives us the picture of Jesus. The New Testament scriptures tell us the vail of the most holy place was rent to reveal the fulfilled prophecies of Christ and his finished work. They further demonstrate how each member of the church has their proper place and position. We are all connected together by the rich forgiving love of Christ, and the indwelling of the holy Spirit. When we are in the right place, doing the right thing, then Christ is revealed, and God smiles upon us in compassion and abundance of blessings.

Praise the Lord that we are not under the sacrificial law system any longer. Praise God that we can see Jesus, the Lamb of God, crucified, risen in resurrection, and glorified in the eternal heaven on the throne of God. Thank you, King Jesus, for being the willing and obedient Son of God that has wrought for us eternal forgiveness of sins and given us eternal life. Hallelujah! Amen!