

## 'WORSHIP GOD WANTS'

### *(Previews of the Savior in the Tabernacle)*

#### Exodus 27-30

#### Interior Decoration

You can tell a lot about people by the *spaces* they occupy, especially their homes, offices, or other places they frequent. An unannounced visit to somebody's *space* will usually reveal whether they are neat or sloppy, clean or not, depressed or happy, etc.

When it comes to God, you can tell that He is holy, righteous, just, and gracious from His tabernacle in the wilderness. The exterior was simple and meaningful, so the main focus of attention would be upon the divine Resident, not the architecture or landscaping. From the 3-layer covering (*goat skin inside, ram skin, then badger skin outside*) to the multi-colored curtain (*blue, purple, scarlet and white*), everything informed the observant seeker something special about the LORD God they had come to worship. Everything was built to be a symbolic portrait of the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior. No wonder **John 1:14** says of God the Son: ***"The Word became flesh and dwelt (literally 'tabernacled') among us."***

Like the tabernacle covering (*ceiling*) – Jesus is our *scape goat* upon Whom our sin transfers. Like the next layer of blood-red ram's skin, Jesus is the sacrifice for our sins. And like the exterior unadorned badger skin tanned by the hot desert sun, Jesus simply came with His humanity covering all the other awesome things about Him. Entry to the tabernacle came through the narrow way, a picture of the one and only way to God through Jesus Christ, symbolized by the curtain's blue (*heavenly*), purple (*royalty*), scarlet (*sacrifice*) and white (*holiness*). Everything about the *'house of God'* helps us see Christ's majesty better and worship the LORD God through Him, more reverently.

On the way to the tabernacle house of God, one would be confronted first with the 5' (*for the five kinds of sacrifices*) by 3' (*for the Triune God to Whom the sacrifices ascended*) brazen altar, where mandatory sacrifices had to be made for tabernacle access. Between the altar and tabernacle door was the laver of cleansing made of reflective, polished brass, filled with water for cleansing of feet (*one's walk*) and hands (*one's work*), as one proceeded into the tabernacle for ministry.

From the outside, it was symbolically obvious how holy, forgiving, and loving the Lord is toward all humble worshipers. But on the inside, in the first of two simple compartments (*the holy place & Most holy place*), portraits of Christ's glories and eternal purposes elevated worship to new levels of spiritual enlightenment. Uncluttered by any extraneous religious props, just three pieces of sacred furniture said it all about walking with and working for the Savior in this earthly part of our eternal life.

On the other side of the elaborate curtain of separation, was the most awesome furniture of all. Seen only by the high priest (*just once a year*) – a holy, golden chest, symbolized the atoning work of Christ (*our great High Priest*), Who Himself, has now entered heaven, once for all, forever, for us, into the infinitely holy presence of the Triune God (***Hebrews 10:11-14***). All of this done by the holy Designer of the universe to help believers feel reverently welcome in the house of Almighty God.

**Can you place the worship furniture of the tabernacle in the positions chosen by God?**



