



The Half Shekel Journals of 2023 by Pastor Ed Rice
#23025 Mon 27 Mar Timna Tabernacle Materials

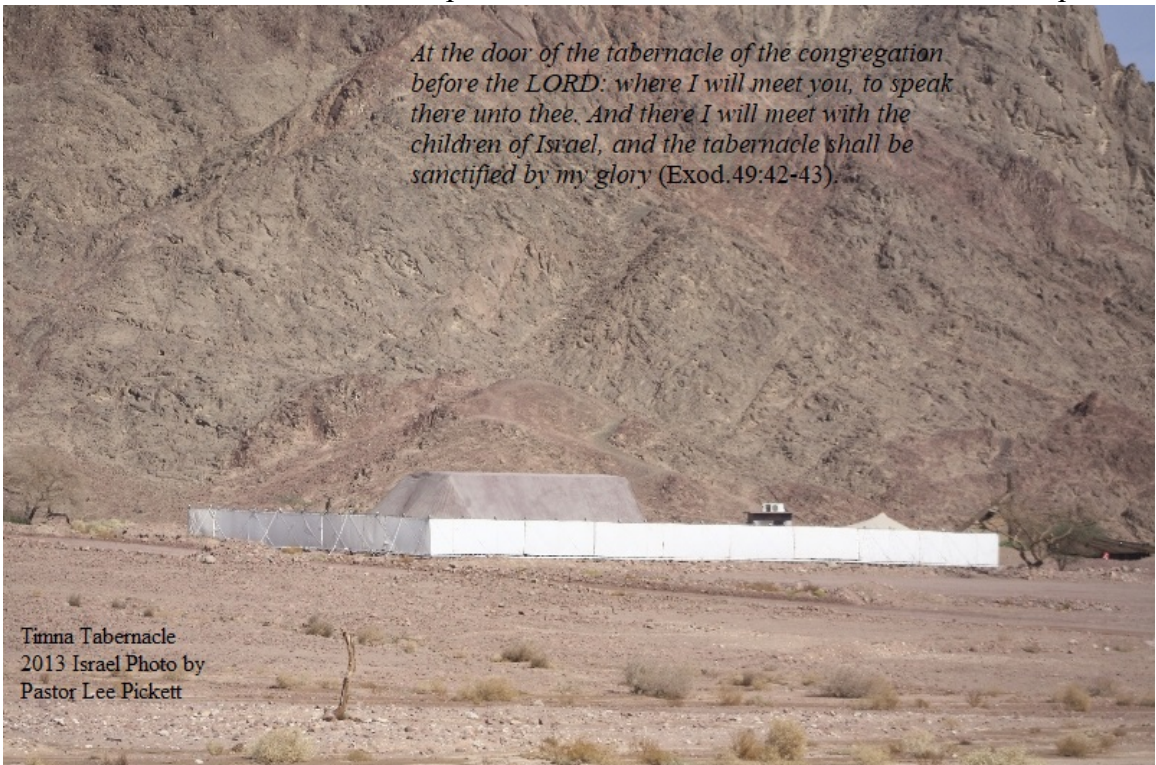
As we pulled away from Solomon's Copper Mines I was excited about our next stop at Timna's Replica Tabernacle. I had done extensive study on the Tabernacle, had built a scale model of it in my study, and taught a couple seminars on it over the past ten years. Now I would visit a full scale replica of it in the very Negev where it was first constructed and stood 3,515 years ago (1492BC+2023AD).

When we say replica we gotta know that they did not build the mercy seat or candlestick out of solid gold, but seeing the replica would provide me an experience that was, ... pure gold.

In October, 2000, a full scale replica of the Old Testament Tabernacle was completed



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At the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee. And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory (Exod.49:42-43).

Timna Tabernacle
2013 Israel Photo by
Pastor Lee Pickett

by Dr. Randy Smith, and erected at the Almog Kibbutz. I've reviewed pictures¹ and found it to be a fabulous model, superior to the Timna model, but, unfortunately, it was taken

¹ View pictures at <https://biblicalisrael tours.com/old-testament-tabernacle-model/>, accessed 01/20/24.

down in October, 2006 because of financial reasons.

The bus pulled into the parking lot and I could see the tabernacle enclosure nestled in the desert backdrop of the Timna Valley. My first thoughts were, wow, it looks exactly like the model I have in my study. Brother Lee had shared photos that he had taken on his previous trips to Timna Valley, so nothing surprised me, but everything moved me.

I had read some excellent books on the Tabernacle from my father, Levi Owen Rice's library. When a mentor, the elderly Rev. Torpico, left Waneta Chapel, NY and moved to Ohio he left me his whole library, and I read some more excellent books on the topic. Pictures sketched in books could not capture what God had constructed in the desert. God had built a place where he would meet with man, and I needed a scale model to comprehend what that meant.

My first model was too small, my second was two large, I think. It was to be 1 inch to one cubit, but while cutting out forty-eight boards to be 1.5 inches wide, 10



inches long, and, I had guessed 3/8 inches thick, I cut my thumb-tip half off on the table saw and quit. Then, while eating a popsicle with my thumb in a bulky band-aid, I was struck with a new and profound thought, use

forty-eight popsicle sticks, and let 1 cubit equal 1/4 inch; I would not need a whole garage to hold the model! I cut forty-eight of the 3/8 inch wide popsicle sticks (1.5 cubits) into 2.5 inch lengths (10 cubits) and voila the Holy Place was ready for glue and gold paint. It was (is) awesome. Now, here in the Timna Valley of Israel, for the first time in my adult life, I stepped into a full scale replica of the Hebrew Tabernacle.² I was moved.

I stopped being moved as soon as the young



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2 In the nineteen-hundreds at Lancaster Pa. we saw a model of just the Holy Place; it was impressive, but not moving.

guide spoke about what we were looking at, well unless one counts being moved to choler (Noah Webster 1828 - “anger; wrath; irritation of the passions.”). The young lad regurgitated what his modernist, ecumenical teachers had told him to say, that the wood used in the tabernacle was “acacia” wood (just like it said in all the modernist, ecumenical, copyright bibles!). I politely interrupted and asked, if he supposed the cubit and half boards that were ten cubits long were made from acacia wood like the modernist bibles said. He said yes, they were all made from acacia wood. So I followed up, “Acacia wood is a very beautiful, aromatic wood that comes from a desert acacia bush that rarely gets ten feet tall, how did they get a 27 inch wide 15 foot long board made out of acacia wood?” Of course modernists-ecumenicals have no answer to that obvious conundrum in their copyright bibles, and it was painfully obvious that the young lad had never considered the folly of what he had been taught to say; painfully obvious, and now publicly awkward. I felt my wife squeezing my arm. I thanked the young man, and let him go on with his well taught, but unthought dialogue.



When God called out the materials for the tabernacle's construction in Exodus 25, he called for three precious metals; gold, and silver, and brass. Brass has a crispness which makes it resonate well in a trumpet, (I still have my childhood trumpet, though it is quite tarnished. As a preteen I took dad's steel wool and removed a thin invisible coat of lacquer, it had superb luster, looking almost like gold, ... but only for 1 week.) The crispness makes brass less malleable and ductile than other precious metals, and it readily tarnishes, ... readily. But it is still a precious metal because of its very high luster and other qualities, you might classify it as barely precious. Brass is also not a pure metal but an alloy of 67% copper and 33% zinc. To much zinc makes brass brittle, to much copper makes brass soft. We will soon find brass representative of judgment, and judgment, like brass, can be too hard or too soft. Other qualities of brass will relate to its use in the tabernacle, so keep these qualities of brass in mind.³

3 From authors “*Tabernacling With God – Lecture I*” seminar, slide 18 of 33, 2013, unpublished.

When the young lad giving the tour of the Timna replica tabernacle saw me cringe at his declaration, about the Brazen Alter he looked away. Although he obviously did not want to hear or address my question, I was going to be obstinate. Again the young guide regurgitated what he had been taught to say, “Obviously the Brazen Alter was not made out of brass, because it was built well before the Bronze Age, and consequently it was made of copper.” He had to know I was going to protest, he had emphasized what he thought was his superior knowledge on the topic.



“Excuse me, excuse me!, Did you just say, The Brazen Alter, that God describes distinctly in the Holy Bible, saying it was to be made out of BRASS, was actually made out of COPPER? And that Moses had not EVOLVED into the Bronze Age yet, and did not know how to make BRASS? Is that what you were taught?”

Beverly was not just squeezing my arm, she was kind of pulling me back into the middle of our crowd at this point. I too observed the utter defeat in the young man, as he, probably for the first time in his life, thought about what he had just said. It showed on his face. He couldn't gracefully retract what he had just said, what he had been taught to say. He had no answer available. He had walked in the counsel of the ungodly; he had stood in the way of sinners, i.e. Bible-changers; he had sat in the seat of the scornful, i.e. apostate, modernist, ecumenical, Bible changers, selling copyright bibles. When Satan accosted Eve in Genesis 3, he started with “Yea, hath God said, ...” Satan has found fertile ground in man's mind by questioning and disparaging God's Holy Word. Modernist-ecumenical apostate bible-changers give what they think God meant to say, to get their lucrative copyrights. Satan is having a “field day”, ... which, in the military, is “a review and an exercise in maneuvering around an enemy.”

I felt bad that his apostate teachers had set him up so badly. Here he was standing in front of a group of Bible Believers, telling us the Bible is a pack of lies. I'll suppose he

had no idea how badly he was set up. He struggled noticeably through the rest of his presentation. I did not. Nor did I behave myself unseemly. I knew where he was coming from, he was regurgitating what he had been taught by apostate modernist ecumenical “scholars.” They would be held accountable, the young lad just needed to meet more Bible believers. God and Beverly reminded me, he needed to meet compassionate believers, not obstinate ones. Touring a replica Tabernacle was to be a great adventure for me, even though it involved a well bit tongue. I needn't bite my tongue in this journal.



The Hebrew Tabernacle carries such weight in the Revelation of God that we are delinquent if we do not study and explore every revealed detail. And this we will do in the pages which follow.⁴ Every detail recorded about this tabernacle will be found rich with insight in an ultimate quest to know the LORD God.

God Tabernacles With Man: The Creator dwelling in fellowship with his creature. Chapter upon chapter of the Pentateuch are consumed with the detailed description of this tabernacling of God with man. The study of this wonder is a revelation about our relationship with God; in the Exodus Tabernacle, in Solomon's Temple, in Herod's Temple, and finally, through the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary's Cross, in his saints. The late Evangelist Loren Dawson would say repeatedly, “In the Old Testament God made a tabernacle for his people, in the New Testament God makes a people for his tabernacle.”

God's intent from the beginning, was to tabernacle with man; Garden of Eden – Fellowship with man in innocence; Pre-Flood – Fellowship with man's clean conscience; Post-Flood – Fellowship with governed man; Abraham – Fellowship with man through promise; OT Israel – Fellowship with Israel through LAW; In Christ – Indwell, Quicken, Justify and Fellowship with born-again believers; On the Throne of David – Rule among man as King of kings; and finally In Eternity – “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men” Revelation 21:3.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. ... Re 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

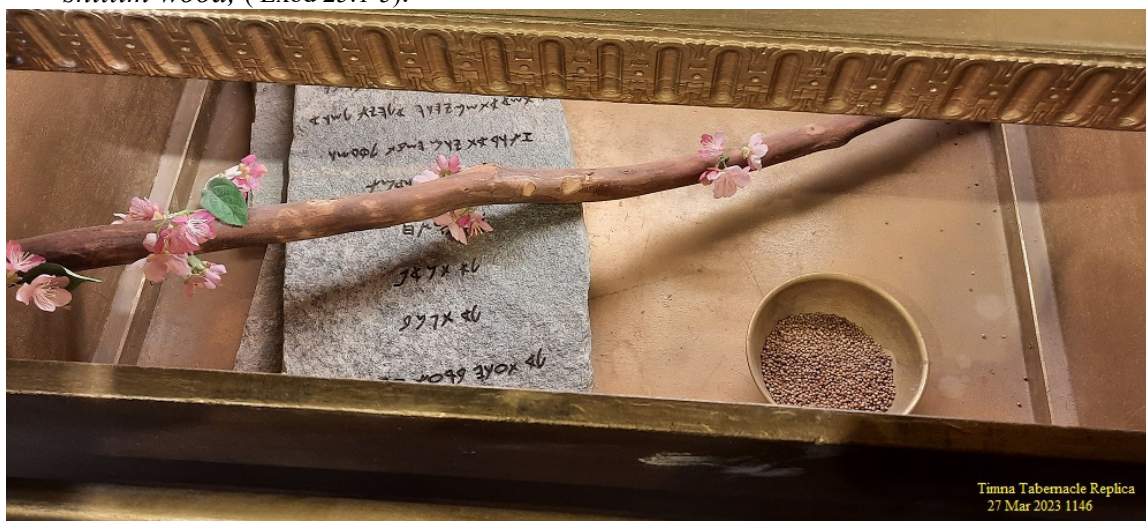
⁴ I shall include material from my first two lectures on the Tabernacle, “*Tabernacling With God – Lecture 1 & 2*”, which include 70 slides which I dare not publish because of a preponderance of copyright pictures taken from internet sources (my high-school science students rounded up pictures without copyright concerns). Pastor Lee Pickett, Fellowship Baptist Church, 20022 NY-3, Watertown, NY 13601, has graciously allowed me permission to include pictures he took in his 2013 Israel tour of the Timna Valley Tabernacle.

Consider this Hebrew Tabernacle unfolded before us in great detail: *“This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee. 43 And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory”* (Exod 29:42-43). Every detail recorded about this tabernacle will be found rich with insight in an ultimate quest to know the LORD God.



The Hebrew Tabernacle finds its first depiction in heaven. Moses is repeatedly instructed to make everything after the image which he was shown in the mountain where he met with God. Thus the very first unfolding of this depiction begins in Exodus 25 that describes the materials to be used in its construction.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. 3 And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass, 4 And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, 5 And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, (Exod 25:1-5).



We will begin this study with a thorough consideration of these materials. Consider the trinity of precious metals, *“And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass.”* The precious metals are not precious for their rarity or costly value, but for their quality and characteristics. It is their quality and characteristics that

make them rare and costly. Gold is most precious because of its untarnished enduring luster and perfect malleability. Gold does not break down, corrode or tarnish when exposed to the elements. It remains pure and retains a high luster. Gold is the most malleable and ductile of all metals; able to be beat into a sheet thinner than a human hair, and stretch into a thread finer than such. Gold was not scarce but it was precious, it might be more scarce now, but it has always been precious because of these qualities. Gold is, of course, to represent the everlasting righteousness of God.



Silver, as a precious metal, shares these qualities but not to such perfection. Silver is a precious metal that needs perpetual attention to maintain its high luster and purity. It oxidizes into a thin layer of tarnish that must be removed to expose the pure, high luster silver beneath. Silver is likewise malleable but hardly comparable to gold. Silver does exceed gold in two areas, it has the highest thermal and electrical conductivity of all metals. It is thus used in modern circuit boards and such.

Compared to gold, silver is less stable, less malleable, less ductile, less lustered but a better conductor of heat and electricity.



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That is an interesting list for its symbolic use in God's tabernacling picture. Wherever God's Tabernacle touched this world, it did it with tarnishable silver.

*Ex 26:19 And thou shalt make **forty sockets of silver** under the twenty boards;*

*Ex 27:17 All the pillars round about the court shall be **filleted with silver**; their hooks shall be of silver, and their sockets of brass.*

*Ex 38:12 And for the west side were hangings of fifty cubits, their pillars ten, and their sockets ten; the hooks of the pillars and their **fillets of silver**.*

We mentioned the brass in the intro. Brass has a crispness which makes it resonate well in a trumpet. The crispness makes brass less malleable and ductile than other precious metals. It is still a precious metal because of its very high luster and other qualities, but you might classify it as barely precious. Brass is also not a pure metal but an alloy of 67% copper and 33% zinc. Too much zinc makes brass brittle, too much copper makes brass soft. We will soon find brass representative of judgment, and judgment can be too hard or too soft. Other qualities of brass will relate to its use in the tabernacle, so keep these qualities of brass in mind. *Ex 30:18 Thou shalt also make **a laver of brass**, and **his foot also of brass**, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein.*



“Bronze is another metal alloy that primarily contains copper and 12% tin. Other elements—such as aluminum, arsenic, manganese, phosphorus, and silicon—are also added to yield different properties. These mixtures form some of the common bronze alloys, including: Leaded bronze.”⁵

The trinity of colors, blue, purple and scarlet; “*And this is the offering which ye shall take of them, ... blue, and purple, and scarlet.*” God purposefully chose the representative colors that would fill his tabernacle. Each tells a story. You cannot consider the question “Why blue?” without hearing a 6 year old ask, “Why is the sky blue?” “*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard*” (Psalm 19:1-3). When we look up to those sun lit heavens and glimpse into his firmament we see a sky that is purest of all blue. Ergo the color blue shall be representative of the glory of God.

The sky is not blue because of the Tyndall effect discovered by John Tyndall in 1859, nor because of the Rayleigh effect, defined by Lord Rayleigh only a few years later, wherein he showed that blue light hitting molecules of air is scattered more than red light by a factor of seven-fourths (1.75) raised to the fourth power (9.37890625).

5 From “Metal Comparisons: Brass vs Bronze”, Sequoia Brass and Copper, www.sequoia-brass-copper.com › Blog, accessed 01/20/2024.

Nor is the sky blue because the human eye has three types of cones and one is the most sensitive to the blue wavelength of visible light, and less sensitive to the indigo and violet colors which approach the ultra violet invisible light.

No, the sky is blue because there is a God in heaven who designed and created the light spectrum with such perfect grandeur that when it strikes the molecules of air in His atmosphere, His Red, orange, yellow and Green spectra of light pierce right through, while the Blue spectrum is scattered by His molecules of air. Indeed it is scattered to such an extent that an effervescent blue glow seems to carpet the sky and produce a closed curtain to the heavens beyond.



Now the Blue, indigo and violet spectra of light all experience this scattering effect but the Blue marks the breaking-point in the effect. Blue demonstrates the most scatter. Also, as previously mentioned, His design of the human eye is such that three cones in the retina respond most markedly to Red, Green, and Blue light. Which is why, Roy G. Biv, used to track the seven major light divisions, keeps these three primary colors capitalized. Thus some of the Blue sky phenomenon is contained in His design for light energy penetrating the atmosphere, and some of it is in the eye of the beholder, who is created in His image and likeness.

God created some amazing properties when he said, "Let there be LIGHT." And this is only our VISIBLE LIGHT. That is a lot of analysis for a single color in God's Tabernacle, but it can develop a resounding appreciation of the glory of God. The curtain that God daily draws across the heavens, which declare his glory, is a rich vibrant blue curtain. The purer the atmosphere, the clearer the blue curtain. The blueness of the blue is only observable because of its resonance from the material world, coupled with the resonance in the eye of the beholder. We are the only creature holding the image and likeness of the Creator. A Creator who has all glory. That is awesome.

“And this is the offering ... purple ... ” Purple, the second color in God's tabernacle, portrays the Majesty of God. We have always been told that, ... Purple, the color of majesty; the color of kings. God did not choose purple in his tabernacle because human kings liked it so and deemed it a color of majesty. No, kings choose purple because God first chose it for his tabernacle. You will be amazed how many times Bible teachers get the cart before the horse⁶ and then keep it there because some Bible commentary backs up their Tom-Foolery. Lets analyze purple for a moment.

Purple is of great interest here. It is a combination of the first visible in the spectrum of visible light, red, and the very last visible in the spectrum of visible light, violet. Like Alpha & Omega to our eyes. As God revealed himself to be the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. So to purple, in the visible spectra is both the beginning and the end. Purple, in God's Tabernacle, represents his majesty, because he designed it to mirror the Alpha and Omega.



When mere human kings wear purple, don't let it detract from this pure and powerful representation of God's majesty. The color purple is a combination of the most separated of the visible light spectra and is rare in nature. When it is seen, may it forever depict the majesty of the only first and last. Watch for purple in the world. It is sometimes in flowers, rare in sunsets, and not really found in purple mountains majesty.

“And this shall be the offering ... and scarlet.” The last of the colors represented in the Tabernacle of God with man is the color of blood. Scarlet is the color of life, and the color of death. It is the color of sacrifice, and thus the color of grace. It is the color of

6 My power point slides on this point have an amazing array of pictures of “carts before the horse,” which were lifted from the internet by my high school science class with little consideration of who copyright what. I use them in lecture, but carefully avoid publishing them because of copyright considerations.

relationship, yea the color of scorning. Red is the beginning color of the visible light spectrum. As you approach the beginning of the beginning the red darkens and as you disappear into the invisible blackness of the infrared spectra of light, the very first of the visible light, being a deep, dark red, is called scarlet. Unlike purple, scarlet is monochromatic. It stands on the boarder between the visible and the invisible, between light and darkness. Therein stands its representative likeness. It stands between life and death, good and evil, sacrifice and offering.

When God chose colors for his tabernacling with man, every color he chose is significant, having characteristics, symbols, and important revelations. Every color, every metal, every fabric is significant and participates in his divine revelation to man. Don't miss a single aspect of it all.

In the Old Testament God built a tabernacle for his people. In the New Testament God builds a

people for his tabernacle. If you are a born-again believer the Bible says, *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? ... 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s”* (1Cor.3:16, 6:19-20).



Timna Tabernacle
2013 Israel Photo by
Pastor Lee Pickett



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If you still need to be born-again, saved from your sin debt, Romans 10:9-10 says, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

... 9:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of

the Lord shall be saved.”

The five most important things: 1) *Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.* When jumping from Long Island to Spain, ... I may jump further than you do. We will both fall short *All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

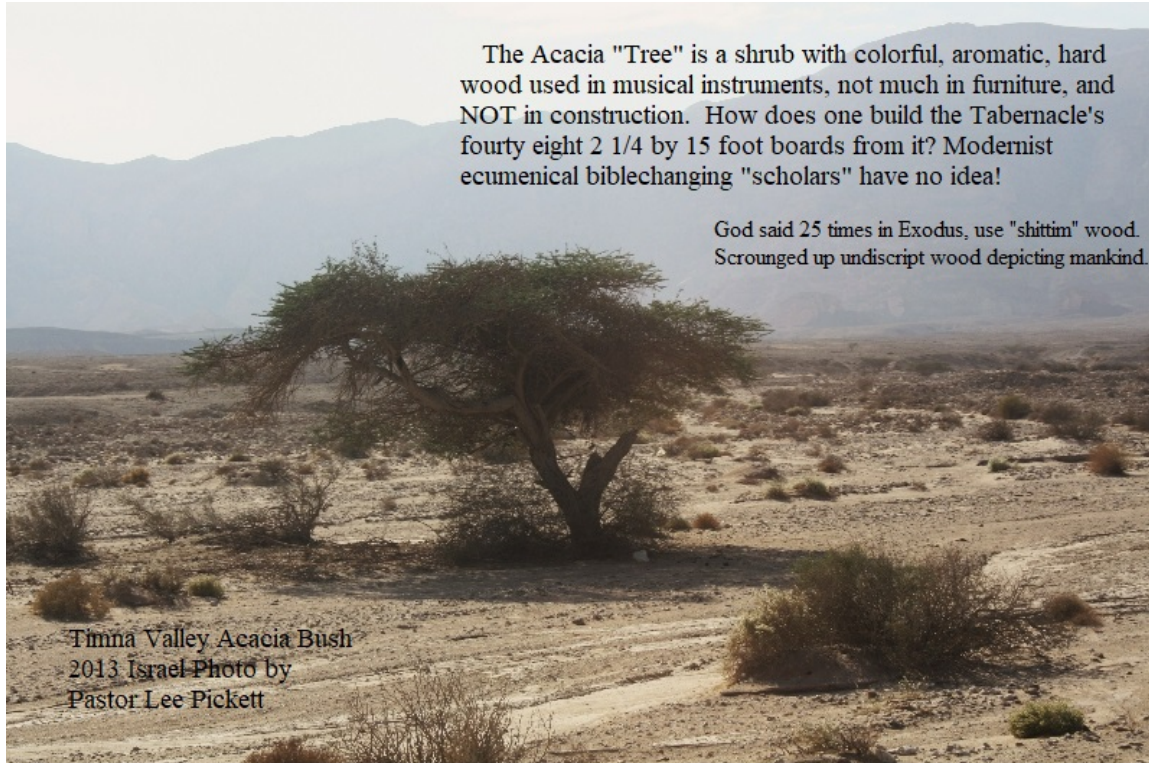
2) *Rom.6:23 The wages of sin is death; Death is Separation; Separation from loved ones here, Separation of body soul and spirit, Separation from God.*

All have sinned, and the wages of sin is DEATH.

3) Rom.5 *As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, ... Even so, by the righteousness of one man, (Jesus Christ,) the free gift came ... justification of life. ... For as by one man's disobedience (Adam) many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one (Jesus Christ) shall many be made righteous.*

4) Rom.5 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* He died FOR us: He died IN OUR PLACE; His Death on Calvary was a Substitutionary Death; He died taking your punishment.

5) Rom.10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*



To be saved, one needs to know: 1) All have sinned, 2) The wages of sin is DEATH, 3) God accepts a Substitute, 4) Jesus is the ONLY Substitute,, 5) Personally Accept His Substitute.

If you are saved, God tabernacles in you: *1Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

In the next Half Shekel there are other important lessons to be learned about the materials in the Hebrew Tabernacle. There are four coverings and wood working lessons. Then there are important furnishings that portray important principles about God's tabernacling with man.