



**The Half Shekel Journals of 2023** by Pastor Ed Rice  
**#23026 Mon 27 Mar Timna Tabernacle.**

In my last journal we began a walk through the materials God requested for the construction of his tabernacle, where he would meet with Israel while he led them from Egypt into the Promised Land.

*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).*

And we learned that the Tabernacle was an important revelation for knowing God, and his desire to tabernacle with man.

*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).*

We learned the importance of the trinity of precious metals: Gold – Most pure and untarnishable, representative of the pureness of God's righteousness; Silver – Pure but quite tarnishable, representative of the man to God relationship; Brass – Alloy, ideally of 67% copper, 33% zinc but may be mixed harder or softer, representative of judgment.

We learned the importance of the trinity of colors: Blue – The color of the curtain which God draws across the heavens, representative of the glory of God; Purple – Combination of infrared and ultraviolet, representative of the Majesty of the Alpha and Omega; Scarlet – The closest man can come to seeing into the infrared, representative of blood and life, and death and scorn; though your sins be as scarlet ...

God uses materials he created to portray his tabernacling principles and requirements. God created precious metals, precious. God created light with characteristics that most of us have barely acknowledged. Bible scholars and teachers all too often get the proverbial cart before the horse (allow me liberty to show one photo that a helpful high-schooler sent me, undoubtedly gleaning it off the internet). In this study of God's created materials; God did not use them to make his point because he found them available, he created them with that purpose. So one might ask, "Where does that leave Badgers Skin?"



Glad you asked: lets look at the tabernacle coverings. "*And this is the offering which ye shall take of them, ... fine linen, and goats' hair, And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood*" (Exod.25:3,4-5). Each of the four materials that covered the holy place are significant in God's picture of his tabernacling with man. Consider first the fine-linen.

The Fine Linen is often called Fine Twined Linen. Linens were once used to make all our sheets, tablecloths, handkerchiefs and underwear (i.e. used to). Linen is laboriously made from flax fiber (no machine can efficiently card and spin flax into thread it must be done by hand, so linen is very rare today. God chose a fabric that would never be cheapened by mass production). The more Linen is worn, the softer it becomes. Other fabrics yellow in the sun, Linen bleaches whiter and becomes more refined when exposed to the sun. Linen is a picture of the righteousness of saints.



*Ex 26:1 Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with **ten curtains of fine twined linen**, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them.*

*Ex 26:31 And thou shalt make **a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work**: with cherubims shall it be made:*

*Ex 26:36 And thou shalt make **an hanging for the door of the tent, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen**, wrought with needlework.*

*Ex 27:9 And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle: for the south side southward there shall be **hangings for the court of fine twined linen** of an hundred cubits long for one side:*

*Re 19:8 And to her was granted that she should **be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white**: for the **fine linen is the righteousness of saints**.*

When considering the goat's hair, Cashmere and Mohair are words that should come to mind. Mohair is the long silky hair from the angora goat. Cashmere is the fine-downy hair grown beneath the outer hair of the goat. Goat's hair is very fine, very eloquent, a precious and coveted material. It is very soft, not rugged, very thermal, not water resistant, very stretchable (it is very



producible but not so much as wool or cotton). It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Layer of Material in the Tabernacle, covering the fine-linen. Consider its softness and its warmth in the representative picture of tabernacling with God.

Now consider the layer of tabernacle covering, provided only when an animal gave its life. Clear symbology is found in the rams skin dyed red; an animal must be slain to acquire it. The ram is the adult male sheep, the ewe is the female, the lamb is the young. (God calls out an ewe of the first year, but never so for a ram. God is careful.) The first Bible occurrence of a ram, is found when Abraham offers a selection of animals to confirm God's covenant. Second, was Abraham's ram caught in a thicket, wherein he had told his son, "God will provide himself a sacrifice."

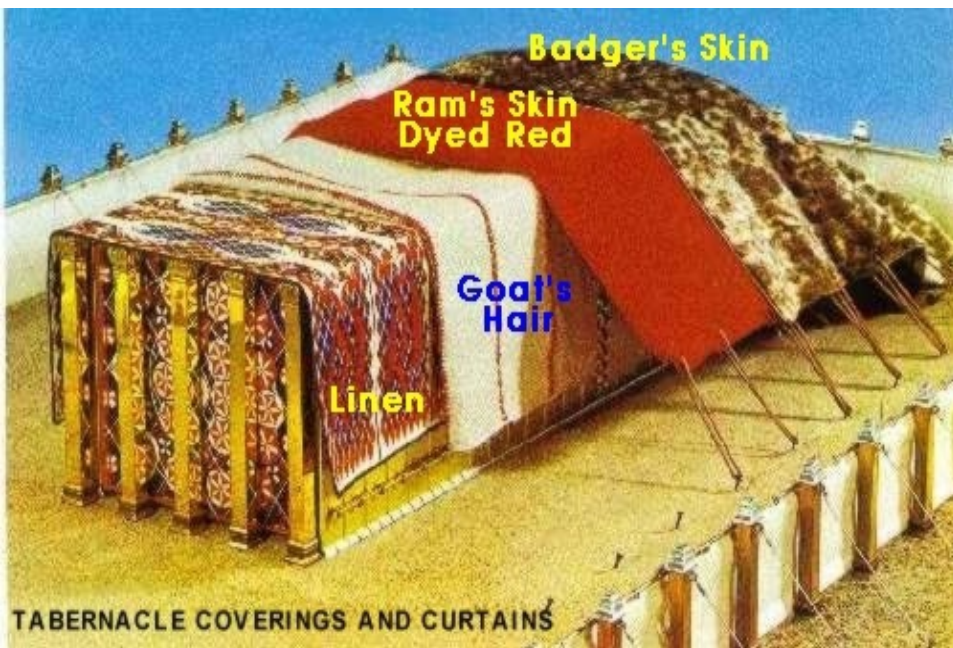
The ram is a sacrifice. The life is in the blood (Lev 17:11,14, Deut 12:23), and without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin (Heb 9:22). Ram's skin dyed red is the third layer over the holy place of the tabernacle.

The fourth covering for the holy place of the tabernacle, is the outer covering of badger skin. It very likely emphasizes an inward beauty over an outward ugly appearance.

The badger, has rugged individualism, is tenacious, and independent. It survives in a barren wilderness. It is an unclean carnivorous (meat eating) mammal with short legs and long claws on the front feet. A badger can burrow faster than its food, a rodent or rabbit. Its skin turns into a thick commercial leather, often shoe leather; "*I shod thee with badgers skin*" (Ezek.16:10).

Their heavy grizzled hair used in all kinds of brushes, most commonly in shaving brushes once sold door-to-door by the Fuller Brush Man. The badger's name comes from its white badge. Why Badger's Skin? Why not a camel? It's similar in leather and hair,

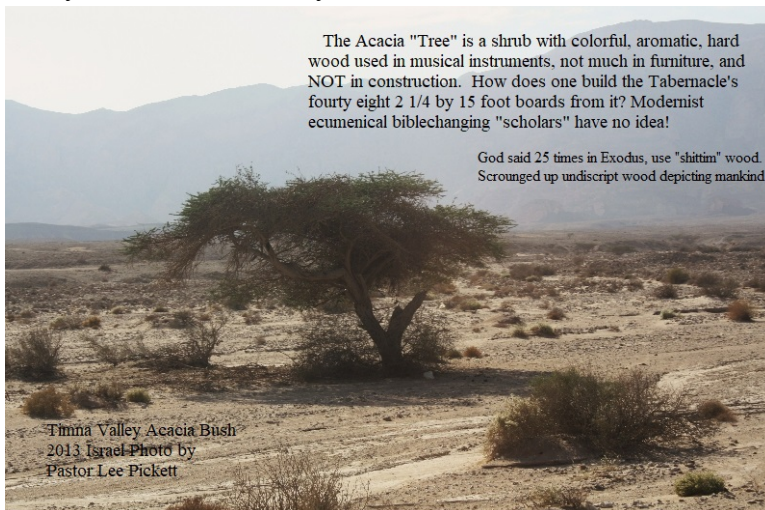
has a larger hide, and it is plentiful. Why not the fox? They are more plentiful in the wilderness. Why not the skunk, they are everywhere?... Well, Okay, we get that. Anyway God said use the badgers skin for the outer covering. In the desert wilderness, all these covering might be



important to keep cool more than to keep warm, but the four layers were selected for far more than creature comfort.

Those four layers covering the holy place of the tabernacle of God: first, fine twined linen, interlaced with cherubims, made wholly from the flax plant with amazing characteristics; then goats hair, from an animal but not requiring the shedding of blood; then rams skin dyed red, from a slain, domesticated 'clean' animal; and finally, the badgers skin, the thick grizzly hide from a slain, wild carnivorous, unclean animal.

The next tabernacle construction material mentioned is “shittim wood”, a very important revelation is found in its use. The Hebrew word “shittah” is of uncertain origin, but carries the connotation of refuse or discarded. The English word “Shittim” is a transliteration devised by the fifty-seven (57) expert linguists that took seven years to translate the King James Bible. It has the same connotation of refuse or discarded. That is why we do not like to pronounce it in Church. Shittim Wood is not likely a specific type of wood, as much as it is refuse or discarded wood. Shittim Wood is ALWAYS covered with a precious metal, and most certainly represents man in the tabernacling of God with man. Precious metals always would cover the shittim wood; both gold, representing the righteousness of God, and brass, representing judgment were plated onto the wood. The world supposes that only the choicest of hard woods might be used by God in his Tabernacle, but in a King James Bible we see God will use the basest of wood. God's ways are not man's ways; in his service he will even use a “wretch like me.”



*Ex 25:10 And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. ... 13 And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay*

*them with gold. ... 23 Thou shalt also make a table of shittim wood: two cubits shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a*

*half the height thereof. ... 28 And thou shalt **make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold**, that the table may be borne with them.*

*Ex 26:15 And thou shalt **make boards for the tabernacle of shittim wood standing up.** ... 26 And thou shalt **make bars of shittim wood**; five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle, ... 32 And thou shalt hang it (the veil of cunning work) upon **four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold**: their hooks shall be of gold, upon the four sockets of silver. ... 37 And thou shalt make for the hanging **five pillars of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold**, and their hooks shall be of gold: and thou shalt cast five sockets of brass for them.*

*Ex 27:1 And thou shalt **make an altar of shittim wood**, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof shall be three cubits. ... 6 And thou shalt make staves for the altar, **staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with brass.***

*Ex 30:1 And thou shalt make **an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it.** ... 5 And thou shalt **make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold.***

*Ex 35:24 Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the LORD'S offering: and every man, **with whom was found shittim wood** for any work of the service, brought it.*

Shittim wood is NOT acacia wood, as is misnomered in modernist, ecumenical, copyright bibles. If God wanted only acacia wood, he would have said only acacia wood, he did not! He said “shittim wood” <Strong's 07848> שִׁטִּיּוֹן shittah [shit-taw'] meaning the sticks of wood; n f; AV-shittim used 27 times, shittah tree used 1 time; 28 times total in the Holy Bible. (Be careful of all modernist concordances and lexicons, they errantly suppose it means “Acacia Wood!” Acacia is not used one time in the Holy Bible.) Acacia is any of 800 small trees or shrubs. Some Acacia yield true gum-arabic, a substance used in adhesives, pharmaceuticals, inks, confections, and other products. Several Australian acacias are valuable sources of tannin. Few produce timber of any kind, none can represent a wretch like me.

That covers the materials that God required for the construction of his tabernacle in the wilderness, lets now consider the furnishings that are required to host his tabernacling with man. The first call is for the Ark of Covenant, literally the container of the covenant.

I'll suppose we all heard about the agnostic who said only a fool would believe the Bible, because in Genesis, God told Noah to build an Ark that would hold all the animals in the world, in Exodus baby Moses floated in it on the Nile River, and then in the book of Joshua four priests carried it over the Jordan River! Okay, I guess he's got us there. But the truth is in English the word “ark” means a vessel. That is what Noah built, and what baby Moses floated in. In Exodus 25 when God describes the ark, or vessel that would carry the covenant of Israel, he uses a slightly different Hebrew word <0727> that is more conducive to a vessel like a chest or repository, but that still fits the exceptional English of “ark.”

*And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. 11 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. 12 And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the*

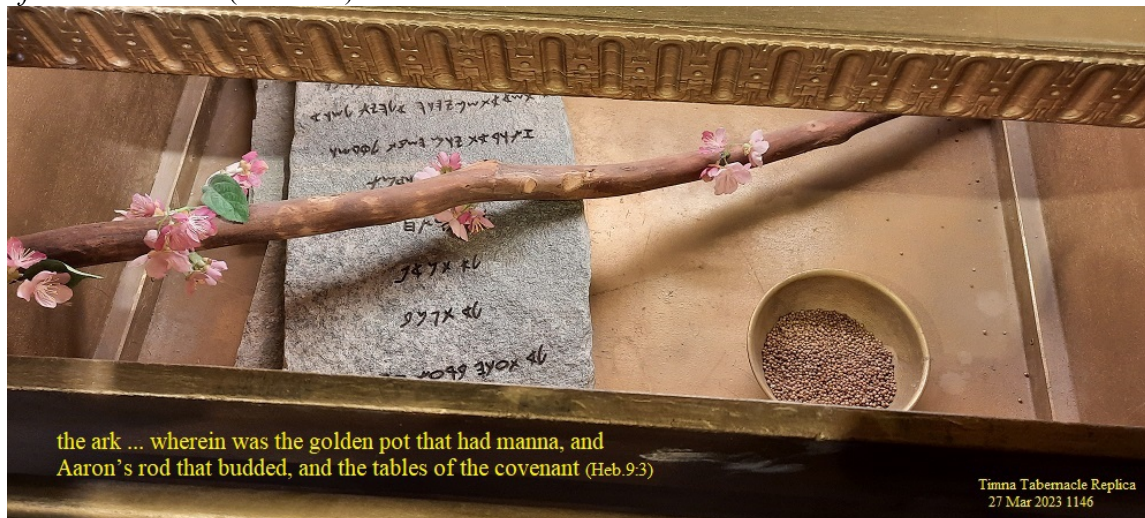
other side of it. 13 And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. 14 And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them. 15 The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it (Exod.25:10-15).



The box (Ark) itself was made of shittim Wood! Again, this did not imply some beautifully scented exotic hardwood like Acacia! Shittim wood is what the language implies in Hebrew and is aptly transliterated into KJV English, i.e. wood no better than ... well refuse! The box or Ark itself was plated with Purest Gold. The shittim wood, no matter its type, had to be completely covered. In the tabernacle all the wood was shittim wood. In representation: The wood, - the depravity of man, Covered with - Pure Gold, the Righteousness of God.

The box or Ark itself, always had the carrying staves installed and ready. Staves were likewise made of shittim wood, and plated with pure gold. The carrying staves, always present implied the covenant was to be readily transported.

*“And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; 4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant”* (Heb.9:3-4).



Over the ark of the covenant there was a covering called “The Mercy Seat.” *“And*

over it (the ark) the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly” (Heb.9:5).

The Mercy Seat is never called “the ark cover” although that is what it was, and that is how I, as a teen, understood it. The name is very significant. The Mercy Seat was made of pure beaten gold. The Mercy of God must rest on the covenant between God and man. MERCY is the guilty NOT getting what is DESERVED; GRACE is ones getting what is NOT Deserved, or unmerited.

Cherubim is the plural of Cherub, which are mighty beings always connected with the throne of God. More than just angels, they were connected with God as a symbol of the presence of God himself. They kept man from the Garden of Eden; *”So he drove out the man; and he placed at the end of the garden of Eden cherubims, and a flaming sword, which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life”* (Gen. 3:23, 24). They were over the Mercy Seat, and the veil and ten curtains of fine twined linen, had cherubims of cunning work (Exod.26:1,31).

Beside cherubims in the angel realms, there are six winged “seraphims” that are only mentioned in Isaiah 6, and there is an “archangel”, implying authority or position, mentioned in 1Thes.4:16 and Jude.1:9. It seems seraphims declare the Glory of God, the cherubims protect the Glory of God. Satan was once a “cherub”: *“Thou are the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire”* (Ezek. 28:14).<sup>1</sup>



The cherubims, symbolizing the presence of God, were above the Mercy Seat that covered the Ark of the covenant. They and the cover were made of pure gold. A Holy Righteous God, symbolized in pure gold, made a covenant with unrighteous man, symbolized via shittim wood, wood which must needs be covered with His

<sup>1</sup> I have often pondered, but not said to loud, that perhaps God had an archangel, Michael, the Holy Ghost had an archangel, Gabriel, and Christ had an archangel, Lucifer. Lucifer fell (after Gen.1:31) and Saints are to be his replacements. That's profoundly logical, but with little, or no Scriptural basis.

Righteousness, symbolized in gold plating. That is the only way such a covenant could be made, the only way God could tabernacle with man, and Jesus Christ the righteous, is the only gold that can plate shittim wood. “2Cor. 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*” Consider what is in that covenant, sinful man, able to tabernacle with a sinless God; “1Jo 2:1 *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*”

*Exo.25:17 And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof.*

*Exo.25:18 And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat.*

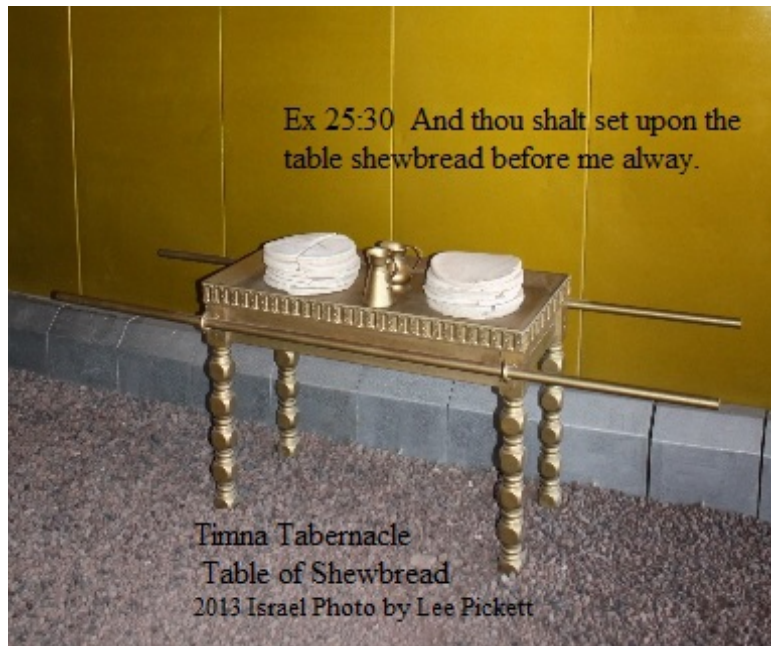
*Exo.37:6 And he made the mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half was the length thereof, and one cubit and a half the breadth thereof.*

*Exo.37:7 And he made two cherubims of gold, beaten out of one piece made he them, on the two ends of the mercy seat*

*Exo.25:22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.*

The next order of business in God's tabernacling with man is a table, quite like, “*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.*”

*Thou shalt also make a table of shittim wood: two cubits shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. 24 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about. 25 And thou shalt make unto it a border of an hand breadth round about, and thou shalt make a golden crown to the border thereof round about. 26 And thou shalt make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings in the four corners that are on the four feet thereof. 27 Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table. 28 And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them (Exod.25:23-28).*



This table holds vessels, and shewbread: “*And thou shalt make the dishes thereof,*



*and spoons thereof, and covers thereof, and bowls thereof, to cover withal: of pure gold shalt thou make them. And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me always*" (Exod.25:29-30). For the Christian the type and symbology is clear, the table is prepared, the bread is the Word, both the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Word of God that is "*quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*" Both Christ and the Word of God should be "*our daily bread*" and be before us always.

There is much more that is to be said about God tabernacling with man, and the Hebrew Tabernacle is the most detailed portrait of what God has revealed about it. A companion of this printed journal will be my printed book that documents insights to the rest of this study. Furnishings yet to be explored are the candlestick, the incense altar, the altar of burnt offering, the laver and his foot. God tabernacling with man is a big deal, consuming page after page of the Pentateuch. Christians are encouraged to pursue it to its fullest because, "*Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them*" (Ps.119:165).

The last chapter of my "*God Tabernacling with Man*" book, to be published this year, has this excerpt:

Exodus 35 gives complete instruction for the making the tabernacle, and Exodus 39 gives complete revelation of what they actually made. I would be remiss, if I didn't compare them here.

What was commanded for building the tabernacle is in Exod.35:4-19:

- 4 *And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying,*
- 5 *Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass,*
- 6 *And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair,*
- 7 *And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood,*
- 8 *And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and for the sweet incense,*
- 9 *And onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and for the breastplate.*
- 10 *And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the LORD hath commanded;*
- 11 *The tabernacle, his tent, and his covering, his taches, and his boards, his bars, his pillars, and his sockets,*
- 12 *The ark, and the staves thereof, with the mercy seat, and the vail of the covering,*
- 13 *The table, and his staves, and all his vessels, and the shewbread,*
- 14 *The candlestick also for the light, and his furniture, and his lamps, with the oil for the light,*
- 15 *And the incense altar, and his staves, and the anointing oil, and the sweet incense, and the hanging for the door at the entering in of the tabernacle,*
- 16 *The altar of burnt offering, with his brasen grate, his staves, and all his vessels, the laver and his foot,*
- 17 *The hangings of the court, his pillars, and their sockets, and the hanging for the door of the court,*
- 18 *The pins of the tabernacle, and the pins of the court, and their cords,*
- 19 *The cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, the holy garments for*

*Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office.*

The finished product, what was actually built, is given in Exod.39:32-43, and it aligns with the command.

- 32 ¶ *Thus was all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation finished: and the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did they.*
- 33 *And they brought the tabernacle unto Moses, the tent, and all his furniture, his taches, his boards, his bars, and his pillars, and his sockets,*
- 34 *And the covering of rams' skins dyed red, and the covering of badgers' skins, and the vail of the covering,*
- 35 *The ark of the testimony, and the staves thereof, and the mercy seat,*
- 36 *The table, and all the vessels thereof, and the shewbread,*
- 37 *The pure candlestick, with the lamps thereof, even with the lamps to be set in order, and all the vessels thereof, and the oil for light,*
- 38 *And the golden altar, and the anointing oil, and the sweet incense, and the hanging for the tabernacle door,*
- 39 *The brasen altar, and his grate of brass, his staves, and all his vessels, the laver and his foot,*
- 40 *The hangings of the court, his pillars, and his sockets, and the hanging for the court gate, his cords, and his pins, and all the vessels of the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of the congregation,*
- 41 *The cloths of service to do service in the holy place, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and his sons' garments, to minister in the priest's office.*
- 42 *According to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel made all the work.*
- 43 *And Moses did look upon all the work, and, behold, they had done it as the LORD had commanded, even so had they done it: and Moses blessed them.*

The next stop on our trip through Israel's Negev was a visit to Solomon's Pillars.