

#1

*The Tabernacle, Part 13: Fitted Together*

***Ephesians 2:19-21 (NASB95)*** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,

#2

***Ephesians 4:15-16 (NASB95)*** but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

***God is preparing a habitation, a holy temple.***

***The preparation fits us together as a holy sanctuary.***

***What is realized in Christ's church is foreshadowed in the tabernacle.***

#3

***Exodus 25:1-9 (NKJV)*** Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering. And this is the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair; ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood;

#4

6 oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate. ***And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.*** According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.

#5

מִקְדָּשׁ *mik-dawsh*; a sacred place, sanctuary

*God wanted them to make a place where He may dwell among them.*

The concept of making a place so that God may dwell among them is almost inconceivable.

***How can you build a place for God to dwell in?***

They must follow the instructions given by God.

#6

***This is a nation of people who have been exposed to all of the idols of Egypt.***

*They spent over 400 years in Egypt.*

*They were forced to build shrines to the idol gods.*

*The Egyptians made gods of all manner of things.*

*Their oppression became great.*

#7

***Exodus 3:9 (NASB95)*** “Now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them.

They know very little about the holiness of the Living God.

They know very little of His power and greatness.

What they know is what they see and hear.

#8

***They were made to see the Living God in His power.***

The plagues proved God to be superior to the religion and gods of the Egyptians.

***God delivered them from Pharaoh’s kingdom and army.***

God miraculously delivered them across the Red Sea on dry ground.

They were brought to the base of Mount Sinai and begin to see the glory and the power of God.

#9

***Now Moses comes down and tells them to make God a sanctuary that he may dwell among them.***

***How do you build a sanctuary for the Living God?***

These people have been the craftsman of Egypt.

They could build monuments to Kings.

They knew how to build tombs and pyramids.

They were skilled in the wisdom of Egypt's architecture.

***What kinds of materials are necessary to build a sanctuary for God?***

***How do you build a sanctuary for the living God?***

God did not leave the design for their architects.

He was not interested in constructing a building like they had built in Egypt.

Egypt's monuments were built of stone.

#10

***In Exodus 26:15(NKJV) God says:*** "And for the tabernacle you shall make the boards of acacia wood, standing upright."

***The tabernacle foreshadows many things that relate to Christ and the church.***

The language that is used corresponds to Jesus Christ, the church, and the activities of heaven.

The sacrifice, cleansing, reconciliation, offering, atonement, veil, and mercy seat refer to the work of Jesus Christ.

The basis of the tabernacle directly correlates and corresponds to the atoning work of Jesus Christ.

***Although God gave them everything necessary to build the tabernacle, they would not be able to build it without His help.***

In Egypt, they did not possess the riches that were necessary to construct the tabernacle.

God promised Abraham that when they came out of Egypt they would have great possessions.

Israel plundered the wealth of Egypt when they left.

Although they have great wealth, they need God's help to construct a sanctuary for God.

***I have spoken some about acacia wood.***

***We are not familiar with the acacia wood.***

We do know something about oak, pine, and redwood.

***God specifically required the sanctuary to be constructed with acacia wood.***

#11

***The "Illustrated Manners and Customs of the Bible" page 249***

Two species of the acacia are found in Palestine: the *Acacia nilotica* and the *Acacia seyal*. These are quite similar. They grow 15 to 20 feet high, with large thorns and hard wood suitable for building. Both have yellow flowers and produce long pods with beans inside.

Packer, J., Tenney, M. C., & White, W. (1997, c1995). *Nelson's illustrated manners and customs of the Bible* (249). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

#12

***Easton's Bible Dictionary says:***

Acacia wood is derived from the Shittah Tree. It was indigenous in the desert in which the Israelites wandered. It was the acacia or mimosa. "The wild acacia (*Mimosa Nilotica*), under the name of *sunt*, everywhere represents the seneh, or senna, of the burning bush. A slightly different form of the tree, equally common under the name of *seyal*, is the ancient 'shittah,' or, as more usually expressed in the plural form, the 'shittim,' of which the tabernacle was made."

Easton, M. (1996, c1897). *Easton's Bible dictionary*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

#13

***This is the tree that God had chosen to manifest Himself upon before Moses. (Exodus 3:2-6)***

When Moses saw the burning bush, he was standing before the shittim tree.

When God brought His people out of Egypt, He required them to build a sanctuary out of the Acacia tree.

***It is not a coincidence that God requires them to build out of this wood.***

*In the Wilderness tabernacle, God required them to build the sanctuary out of wood that He had chosen to manifest His glory on.*

Moses saw the fire of God upon that tree.

Now the Sanctuary was to be constructed out of that tree.

***In the New Testament, God has chosen to build His church out of a people that have had the Spirit of God settle upon.***

They cannot represent Him without the Holy Spirit descending upon them.

#14

***Isaiah 43:1(NKJV)*** But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.

#15

***Deuteronomy 14:2 (NJKV)*** For you are a holy people to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

#16

***1 Peter 2:9-10 (NKJV)*** But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a

people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

#17

**1 Peter 2:4-5 (NKJV)** Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Look at the Church in the Book of Acts.

When the Holy Spirit came down and settled on the church He brought the power, anointing, and glory.

Without the work and presence of the Holy Spirit the church is dead wood.

***How do you establish a place for God to dwell?***

#18

**1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV)** Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

***What is it that makes you the temple of God?***

The church cannot be constructed by man's ingenuity.

You must be born again.

You must have a true transformation.

You cannot become a temple of God and remain like you were.

#19

***The Acacia tree was knotty, and covered with long thorns.***

***Do you remember how rough you were when Jesus found you?***

***You were in a dry and barren place.***

***You were without God and without hope.***

When they had finished preparing the boards, they were smooth and covered with gold.

We are looking forward to a greater change.

When God saved you He changed you.  
He did not leave you like He found you.

We have not had our final change.

#20

**2 Corinthians 5:2-5 (NKJV)** For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

***Do you understand that?***

***First, we have been clothed.***

***Second, we shall be further clothed.***

***Our mortality shall be swallowed up by life.***

I hope you see the correlation here.

The boards of the tabernacle were covered with Gold.

They no longer looked like the tree from the wilderness.

They were swallowed up with Gold.

***I know that we have already been changed.***

Many of you are surely different than you were before you came to Christ.

You have been made a new creation in Christ Jesus.

***But, there is a greater change coming.***

This body shall be changed.

We shall be like Him.

We shall be have an immortal resurrected body.