

The Tabernacle.

(ORIGINAL.)

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IN Exodus xxv. 22, we read that God said (speaking of the Ark and Mercy Seat), "There I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee." The Tabernacle was the tent or covering for the Ark, which was to be situate in the midst of the camp of Israel. Why should God institute this Tabernacle? He loved the people whom He had redeemed from the bondage of Egypt. He loved the covenant He had made with their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; and though they proved a disobedient and rebellious people, full of murmuring and unbelief, yet for His name and mercy's sake He would dwell among them, that He might guide them to the Land of Promise. Because He loved the world, He sent His Son to live and die therein, that by this means He might shew

His mercy to sinners, and fit them to dwell with Him in holiness and glory. The Tabernacle, then, formed the meeting-place between God and His people, and also the place of communicating with them. Jesus is the meeting-place between God and man, and through Him we have access unto God. The appearance of the Tabernacle from the outside was unattractive, but within it was full of glory and beauty. So Isaiah writes, "There is no beauty that we should desire Him," whilst St. John adds, "We beheld His glory." The *frame-work* of the Tabernacle consisted of 48 boards overlaid with gold, dropped into 96 sockets of silver, and held together by 15 wooden bars overlaid with gold, reminding us that the foundation of all communion with God rests on

the atonement of Christ, who was Son of Man as well as Son of God. Over the framework were thrown, 1st, ten curtains made of fine linen, embroidered in blue, purple and scarlet, the pattern of the embroidery being that of the Cherubim; 2nd, eleven curtains of goat's hair; 3rd, the covering of ram's skins, dyed a red color; 4th, a covering of badger's skins. Jesus, when here upon earth, was the humble and obedient One, the suffering One on the Cross for sin, and is now risen in glory to the right hand of God the Father, clothed in glory and beauty.

The structure, thus reared, was divided into two rooms, the longer one called the Holy Place, the shorter one the Holy of Holies. A curtain made of fine linen richly embroidered in blue, purple and scarlet, and hung on four pillars, divided the two rooms. This curtain was called the *Vail*. In the Holy Place stood three pieces of furniture: the Incense Altar, the Candlestick, and the Shew Bread Table. These are to remind us that Jesus is in heaven interceding

for us, and sending up to God continually the sweet incense of His prayers for us; that Jesus is the Light of Heaven as well as of our souls; and that He is now in the presence of God for us, to represent all our claims and needs.

In the Holy of Holies, hidden behind the Veil, stood the Ark of the Covenant, with its golden lid, called the Mercy Seat, and containing the Two Tables of Stone, written by the finger of God. Had this law of condemnation and death not been kept covered over, no mercy could ever have been shown to the people. But every year the Mercy Seat was sprinkled with the blood of the sin offering, that the people might remember how they deserved death for having broken God's law, but that God could pardon and bless them,

