

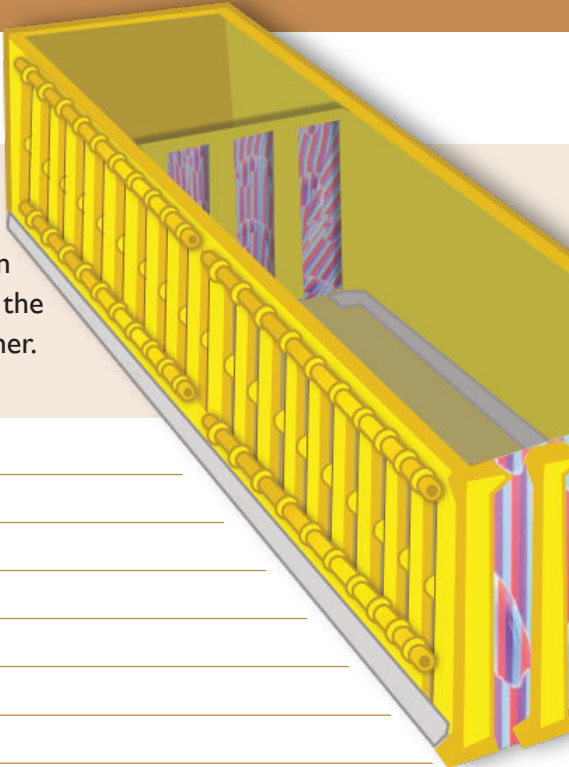


EPISODE 15: THE STRUCTURE

THE RINGS & BARS FOR THE BOARDS

“DRAWING” ON YOUR IDEAS

Last week’s lesson considered the separate boards that made up the walls of the tabernacle. Based on the lesson from last week, create a prediction of the importance of the bars that hold the boards together.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple horizontal lines for writing.

WATCH & FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

- 1. It was not enough for the boards to have solid foundations; they must be _____ to one another.
- 2. A series of gold rings near the _____ and _____ and across the _____ of each board, with the five acacia wood bars covered in gold, _____ each of the three sides.
- 3. There were _____ rows of rings, but _____ bars.
- 4. The middle bar extended _____ across each wall; the tops and bottoms were divided in _____.
- 5. The three rows that secured the bars “**standing uprightly**” may well speak of the three _____ who hold us fast:
 - “That you may **stand** perfect and complete in all the will of _____” (Col 4:12).
 - “**Stand** fast therefore in the liberty by which _____ has made us free” (Gal 5:1).
 - “**Stand** fast in one _____, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Php 1:27).

6. C.W. Slemming suggests that the five bars represent the five _____ that the risen Christ gave His Church, as found in Ephesians 4:11 – “*And He Himself gave some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors** and **teachers**.*”

7. The bars and the spiritual _____ were given for a similar purpose: “*For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the _____ **of the faith**...that we should no longer be...carried about with every wind of doctrine,...but...may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, **joined and knit** _____ by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (vv 12-16).*

8. What an apt illustration the Lord gives us of the _____ of His people, secured by the _____ God!

READ & REFLECT ON: Ex 26:26-30; Eph 4:1-16; Rom 8:26-38

What thoughts stand out as you read these portions of Scripture? How do these thoughts relate to this study and your life?

ACTIVITY: THINKING IT THROUGH

KEEPING IT ALL TOGETHER...

Write a summary from the above passages about the provisions from the Lord to help the church stand in unity.

SOME HELPFUL QUOTES

“We look at the fact that those frames, poles, and rings were overlaid with gold. I cannot forget the words of the Lord Jesus as he stood on the threshold of Gethsemane and Calvary. Judas, who never was a believer, was already betraying him. Peter was a true believer, but he would deny him. Within a few hours the others would all leave him and flee. Yet he prayed for them that God would keep them. Having made many requests for those whom the Father had given [him], he then adds, ‘And the glory ...’. O what a wonderful addition it is... ‘And the glory which thou hast given me I have given unto them; that they may be one’ (John 17:22 RV).”

—**David Gooding** (Myrtlefield.com “The Approach to God”)

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“The middle bar would thus bind all the boards together. The many boards by it were framed into one tabernacle, and thus formed a manifest visible unity. An onlooker could see outward unity of the board but not the bar that formed and sustained it. It was hid within the heart of the boards where no rude hand of man could break or displace it. And thus it is with that which binds together and unites the saints of God. The saints of God are one—one with Christ and one with each other... The deep mysterious oneness that exists between the Risen Head and His members is divine and eternal. So is the union of the members one with another.”

—**John Ritchie** (*The Tabernacle in the Wilderness*, p 68)

“Each board had a perfectly secure foundation apart from its connection with the other boards, as the individual believer’s security does not depend upon his fellow-Christians, but upon Christ’s work alone. But this gives no thought of the dwelling-place for God; but God’s purpose is to build them together for His habitation... The fact that each board in the tabernacle was prepared with a distinct purpose for its place in the building, shows that God, by the Spirit, has a distinct purpose to place each believer where he belongs in the house of God... No board was complete until it had these rings upon it, and they plainly declared that no board was for itself, but had a connection with all the others.”

—**Samuel Ridout** (*Lectures on the Tabernacle*, pp 195-196)

“We have hitherto considered each board as an individual board. We shall, however, not get a proper idea of what God had in view unless we see that the board was intended to be an integral part of the whole Tabernacle. It was never intended to remain a single board ‘standing up.’... We have proceeded from the individual board to the boards “fitly joined together.” What did it signify? We answer, God would have a people among whom He might dwell, a spot where He can place His name... God has a house here on earth composed or built up of His own redeemed people, among whom He is pleased to dwell. How good it is that believers are not saved to remain as individuals, that there is a wonderful Christian fellowship, likened to a building, reared up by the Holy Spirit of God. How we should prize such fellowship. It is indeed a source of strength and encouragement when God’s people get together as gathered to the Lord by the Holy Spirit.”

—**Algernon J. Pollock** (*The Tabernacle’s Typical Teaching*)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Identify and explain the idea that was most profound or most helpful to you in this fifteenth lesson. What questions do you have from this lesson?
2. What was the most impactful thing you learned about the structure of the tabernacle (from lessons 5-15)?
3. Explain how this study should make us more mindful of our connection with Christ as His body, and with other believers in His body. What practical choices should we make as a result?
4. How does this study reiterate the following three things: The attention to detail that was required to be followed for the tabernacle according to God’s pattern? The typology that it presents? The same attention to detail we need to have in following Him?