

KEY TABERNACLE PIECES / *Hebrews 9:2-4; Exodus 35*

What can we learn today from the details involved in the building of God’s tabernacle? First, the high quality of the precious materials making up the tabernacle shows God’s greatness and transcendence. Second, the curtain surrounding the Most Holy Place shows God’s moral perfection as symbolized by his separation from the common and unclean. Third, the portable nature of the tabernacle shows God’s desire to be with his people as they traveled. For a description of these items, see Exodus 25–31.

Name	Function and Significance
Ark of the Covenant	A golden rectangular box that contained the Ten Commandments Symbolized God’s covenant with Israel’s people Located in the Most Holy Place
Atonement Cover	The lid to the ark of the covenant Symbolized the presence of God among his people
Curtain	The curtain that divided the two sacred rooms of the tabernacle—the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place Symbolized how the people were separated from God because of sin
Table	A wooden table located in the Holy Place of the tabernacle. The holy bread and various utensils were kept on this table
Holy Bread (Bread of the Presence)	Twelve loaves of baked bread, one for each tribe of Israel Symbolized the spiritual nourishment God offers his people
Lampstands and Lamps	A golden lampstand located in the Holy Place, which held seven burning oil lamps The lampstand lighted the Holy Place for the priests
Altar of Incense	An altar in the Holy Place in front of the curtain Used for burning God’s special incense and symbolic of acceptable prayer
Anointing Oil	A special oil used to anoint the priests and all the pieces in the tabernacle A sign of being set apart for God
Altar of Burnt Offering	The bronze altar outside the tabernacle used for the sacrifices Symbolized how sacrifice restored one’s relationship with God
Basin	A large wash basin outside the tabernacle used by the priests to cleanse themselves before performing their duties Symbolized the need for spiritual cleansing