

2. GOD ILLUSTRATES HIS PLAN



Do you remember the story of God's people, the Israelites, who were traveling through the desert to their new home in Canaan? God was leading the people in a pillar of cloud that went in front of them, showing them where to go. God asked Moses to be His special helper and tell the people what He wanted them to do.

In the desert, the people lived in little tents so they could easily move from place to place as they traveled.

One day God told Moses He loved His people so much that He wanted a special tent so He could live with them. (Exodus 25:8, 9.) How wonderful! God wanted His tent to be very special. It would help people understand His plan to save them from sin. God told Moses just how to build His special tent. It would be called a sanctuary, or tabernacle.

Have you ever seen a doll house? Even though it's very small, it is a copy of a real house. When God gave



Moses the pattern for the sanctuary tent, it was just a very tiny copy of God's big, beautiful sanctuary in heaven.

God's sanctuary in heaven is bigger and more beautiful than we can imagine. It is where the very throne of God is, and it is where His wonderful plan to save us is working out right now. Jesus' disciple John actually saw a vision of the sanctuary in heaven. (Revelation 11:19.)

How kind God was to let the children of Israel build a small model tent to help them, and us, better understand His wonderful plan to save us!

After giving Moses all the instructions about build-



ing the sanctuary, God "gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God" (Exodus 31:18). This is what we call God's law, or the Ten Commandments.

♥ Does God want us to learn about the sanctuary?



9. THE LAMPSTAND

At the entrance to the Holy Place was a curtain. It had the same colors as the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. Golden thread was used to embroider beautiful angels on it. No one but the priests could go beyond the beautiful curtain into the Holy Place.

The walls of the Holy Place were made of boards covered with polished gold. Even though there were no windows in the room, everything sparkled and shone. The light that made everything so beautiful came from a golden lampstand on the left side of the room.



© Sean Eichelberger

The lampstand had seven branches. Each one had a little bowl of oil at the top with a wick in it. When the priest trimmed the wicks and cleaned and filled the bowls with oil, he never put out all the lamps at the same time. So the lampstand gave light all the time, day and night.

The lamps remind us of Jesus who said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12).

Our world is full of the darkness that sin brings, but Jesus is like a bright light that shows us the way to heaven.

Jesus says to us, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

What does it mean to shine for Jesus? It means that just as the lampstand shared its light with all who were nearby, so we should share our love for Jesus with other people. We shine for Jesus when we choose to be like Him and do all we can to help others learn to love and obey Him, too.



The oil in the lamps reminds us that the Holy Spirit wants to live in us to help us shine for Jesus by obeying God’s wonderful Ten Commandments.

♥ Are you asking Jesus to help you do what is right, so you can shine for Him?



Children learning about Jesus for the first time.