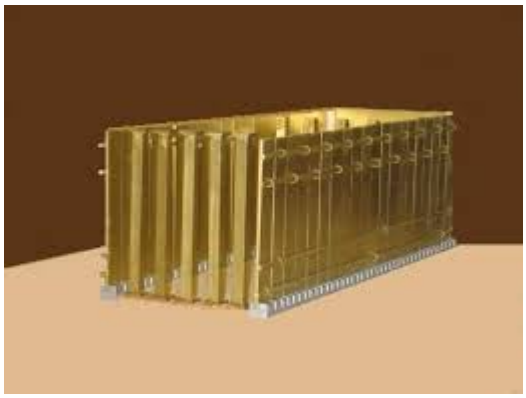
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The Structure of the Sanctuary
26:15-29 and 36:20-29

The structure of the Sanctuary DIG: Do you think the Canaanites saw Isra'el's Tabernacle as God's dwelling place on earth? How would the sight of this dwelling place strike terror in the hearts of the Canaanites? Why were the frames overlaid with gold? Why were the sockets made of silver?

REFLECT: What holds you together? Is your spiritual frame virtually indestructible? Why or why not? Does your base rest on the blood of Christ? Why or why not?

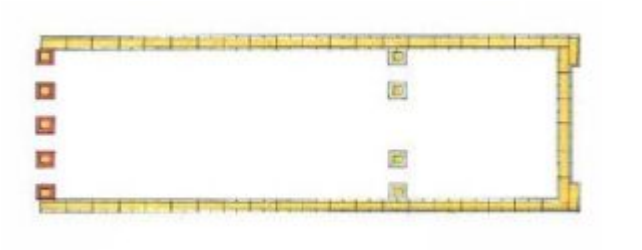
We have seen that the Tabernacle was a type of **Christ**, dwelling in the midst of **His** people. In these **frames, bases and crossbars** we see some beautiful and minute details, illustrating this eternal truth. A description of the framework for the construction of **the Sanctuary** was then given. This was the structure over which the coverings would be spread and into which the furniture would be placed.[567]



Make upright frames of acacia wood for the Sanctuary. The Hebrew word *qeres,* means *frame of wood.* The "walls" were not solid but consisted of wooden upright **frames** forming a trellised construction over which the white linen curtains were draped. If the "walls" had been solid, the colorful curtains could not have been seen from inside.[568] This made **the Sanctuary** very portable. The boards, or **frames,** were made with *shittim wood* that foreshadowed Messiah's humanity,

particularly the incorruptibility of it. In fact, the Septuagint, Greek version of the TaNaKh, actually translates it *incorruptible wood.* **For this reason He had to be made like His brothers in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people (Hebrews 2:17).**[569] And then the **frames** were overlaid **with gold**, which points to **Christ's** divine glory. **Each frame** was **ten cubits**, or fifteen feet high **and a cubit and a half**, or two feet, three inches **wide.** They were laid out **parallel to each other** about two feet apart **(26:15-17** and **29, 36:20-22).**

*The cosmic temple of the Canaanite god El had a dwelling place with **frames and bases**. It included a throne with a footstool, lamp and table, somewhat similar to the furniture in **the Sanctuary**. However, in contrast to **ADONAI**, who **will neither slumber nor sleep (Psalm 121:4)**, the Canaanite god El's dwelling place also had a chest for clothes and a bed.*[570]



There would be forty-eight acacia wood **frames** altogether; **twenty frames** on each side of **the Sanctuary** and eight in the rear. There were **twenty frames for the south side and forty silver bases** were made **to go under them – two bases for each frame** were laid side by side to form a continuous foundation for **the Sanctuary** walls**. Twenty frames and forty silver bases** were also made for **the north side.** Each **frame** has **two** tenons, or **projections** at the end of it that fit into the **two silver bases** to form a mortise joint. **Six frames** were made **for the** back **end, that is the west side, and two frames** were made **for the corners at the** back **end** to give it extra support**.** Those **two corners** were doubled **from the bottom all the way to the top, and fitted into a single gold ring** to increase the stability of **the** whole **Sanctuary. So the** back **end** had **eight frames and sixteen sliver bases (26:18-25, 36:23-29).** Therefore, ninety-six **silver bases** formed the foundation, and upon them rested the whole **Sanctuary**. This tells us, in language too plain to be misunderstood, that redemption is the basis on which **Christ** has become the meeting-place between a holy **God** and a sinful people.[571]

As to the roof, did it have a peak or was it flat? This question is settled by the single word **tent**, which was specifically applied to the upper portion of **the Sanctuary**. **Then** Moses **spread the tent over the Sanctuary . . . as ADONAI commanded (40:19).** The common usage for a **tent**, in any language, can mean nothing but a canvas covering with a peak. The necessity of shedding rain, and the normal style of Bedouin encampments, makes this obvious. An Oriental house roof of motor, clay, and the like could not be considered because of the portable nature of the Tabernacle. The flat roof scheme is utterly impracticable.[572]

The **frames** were held in place by a total of fifteen **crossbars**. **Gold rings** were placed on the **frames** and **crossbars** ran through the **rings** horizontally. **Crossbars** were made **of acacia wood,** and then overlaid **with gold.** There were **five crossbars for the frames on the south side, five for those on the north side, and five for the frames on** the back, or **the west side. The center crossbar** of the **five** ran the whole length of **the Sanctuary** in **the middle of the frames**. It united all the twenty **frames** together. The other four **frames**, two of which were placed above, and two below **the center crossbar**, did not run the length, but perhaps only extended half the distance **(26:26-29, 36:31-34)**. The wooden **frames** overlaid **with gold**, pointed to **Christ's** two natures and **the crossbars** foreshadowed the perfect union between them. **Yeshua Messiah** was not fifty percent man and fifty percent **God**; **He** was one hundred percent man and one hundred percent **God**. Two natures perfectly and forever joined together.[573]

In the last few sections of the book of **Exodus** the splendor and magnificence of **the Sanctuary** have been emphasized. The inside curtains of the Holy Place had Cherubim stitched in the white linen curtains with blue, purple and scarlet yarn. The very frame of the structure was overlaid with **gold**, the **wood** for the frame, even **the crossbars** that held the framework together. The five pieces of **gold** furniture will be seen next. It was all very splendid indeed. But the book of **Revelation** tells us that the glory of the New Jerusalem will far exceed that of the Tabernacle and the later **Temple**. For there, even **the city** will be **pure gold, as pure as glass,** and **the street of the city** will be **pure gold, like transparent glass.** And **John** continued saying: **I did not see a Temple in the city, because God of heaven's armies and the Lamb are its Temple (Revelation 21:18, 21-22).** So let us not look back on the Tabernacle and the **Temple** with envy. For something awaits the believer in **the Messiah** that is far superior and grander than that, or any mere earthly structure.[574]