

THE HOUSE OF EL SHADDAI WORKBOOK

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QUESTIONING THE TABERNACLE

The House of El Shaddai Workbook—Questioning the Tabernacle
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While this workbook may be used as a stand-alone resource, it was primarily developed as a supplement to *The House of El Shaddai—God's Dwelling Place Reconsidered* book, as well as *The House of El Shaddai—Exodus Tabernacle PowerPoint® Presentation*. PowerPoint® is a registered trademark of Microsoft.

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“*It is the glory of God to conceal a thing:*
but the honour of kings *is to search out a matter.*”
~ Proverbs 25:2, KJV ~

“Consider the work of God:
for who can make *that* straight,
which he hath made crooked?”
~ Ecclesiastes 7:13, KJV ~

WORKBOOK INTRODUCTION

As my personal Tabernacle discovery and journey began with a few simple questions, I hope that this workbook is instrumental in impressing a single principle upon the audience:

QUESTION EVERYTHING.

Earnest inquiry, along with attentive observation, is absolutely essential in an individual's personal quest for truth. Some truths are found sitting in plain sight, and other truths can be obtained for free of charge and are available to anyone who asks. However, there are also some great truths which have been deliberately concealed. For good reason, we are told to ask, seek, and knock; after all, the Proverbs reveal that it's the glory of God to conceal a matter, and the glory of kings to search things out. That being said, it is important to understand that questioning alone is not a lone or guaranteed path to knowledge; true and great revelation ultimately requires pursuit.

Given these principles, this book is not exclusively created for prescribed curriculum; it is more so intended for the inquisitive who aspire to be counted as kings. By this, I mean to say that this book is for those who wish to get a real and more intimate understanding of God's Tabernacle or "dwelling place", which is described in the book of Exodus. Despite being mentioned in 50 chapters of the Bible, this unusual Tabernacle is regularly dismissed by even the most zealous "Bible-thumpers" as something that is old and even as obsolete. However, those willing to look more closely will discover how the majestic structure has been decrypted such that we may begin to explore it and come to understand its many secrets, which have been hidden for thousands of years. Naturally, a revelation of such significance is only made possible by questioning relentlessly and seeking attentively.

The content of this workbook is presented with several intentions, and a reader familiar with the subject matter is thus likely to infer an underlying agenda. Admittedly, the questions are designed to bias the student in a particular direction and toward a predetermined conclusion (i.e., a round Tabernacle exegesis). However, questions are also written with the intention of familiarizing the reader with the Exodus Tabernacle texts in a way never done before. Students are challenged to first and foremost give thought to actual Bible text details—as opposed to deferring to visual aids that lead to illogical and unrealistic conclusions.

Although this workbook is designed to supplement two other extensively illustrated publications, including *The House of El Shaddai—God's Dwelling Place Reconsidered*, and *The House of El Shaddai—Exodus Tabernacle PowerPoint® Presentation*, I've come to conclude in hindsight that it might also be employed as a sort of puzzle book—as God's house is perhaps one of the more interesting mysteries a person could attempt to decipher. Without complementary works or visual aides, the user of this workbook is obligated to go back to the original Bible sources, without being spoon-fed every graphical detail—such that Exodus text details may be considered and reconciled instead.

I believe that God is anything but superfluous, and it is my hope that this workbook's two hundred questions can help the user draw this out of the Bible texts—such that he/she may come to appreciate how purposeful the divinely inspired writ really is. A Hebrew-savvy audience, of course, is at a distinct advantage over English-only readers; but this too will hopefully be part of the discovery for readers willing to venture outside the familiarity and comfort of English Bibles and commentaries and into and uncharted Hebrew waters.

In conclusion, the best questions pertaining to God's residence are not in this book, but are yet to be discovered by the reader. Workbook questions are intended for seeding the mind—as opposed to feeding it. So get your Bible, concordance, scratchpad, pencil, eraser, ruler, and calculator, and may you enjoy your Tabernacle learning journey as much as I did.

WORKBOOK OVERVIEW

As indicated on the previous page, this workbook was created to supplement two other publications, including *The House of El Shaddai—God's Dwelling Place Reconsidered*, and *The House of El Shaddai—Exodus Tabernacle PowerPoint® Presentation*. Given the sequence of the Exodus text flow, and given the formatting of the preexisting works, content of this workbook is similarly color-coded, and main Tabernacle sections are grouped as follows:

GROUP 1: (EXODUS 26:1-13)	GROUP 2: (EXODUS 26:15-27)	GROUP 3: (EXODUS 26:27-37)	GROUP 4: (EXODUS 27+)
FABRIC BARRIERS AND COVERS	TENT FRAME HARDWARE	INTERNAL TENT PARTITIONS	EXTERIOR AND COURT ITEMS

While there are a number of Tabernacle-design-pertinent verses that exist outside the contiguous Exodus texts as identified above, answers to many of the workbook questions can be readily found in the two aforementioned Bible chapters, which are highly condensed. However, Tabernacle hardware illustrations, layout/assembly diagrams, and other visual aids are not included in this workbook, as duplicating graphical materials contained in the book and digital media was deemed to be redundant.

Although many of the questions herein are very objective and non-negotiable—demanding answers that ultimately fall into an absolute right-or-wrong category, several questions are written with a deliberate measure of ambiguity. As few people are accustomed to physics or mathematics being integrated into Bible studies or religious coursework, teachers and students alike should understand that this workbook was not created with the primary objective of testing technical proficiency or mechanical comprehension. Instead, subjective questions posed herein are intended to stimulate the imagination, to refine critical thinking skills, to familiarize students with the material, and to charter students on their own quests for truth. Students are highly encouraged and even expected to “think outside the box”.

As this workbook might be used in a religious facility or educational institution for the sake of testing individual student comprehension and mastery of the subject matter, teachers are encouraged to create an open forum whereby students might engage one another in discussion in order to address the more challenging questions herein (refer to PowerPoint® product for presentation aids). As an engineering professor with over four decades of teaching experience, my father used to say, “Tell me, and I forget; show me, and I remember; involve me, and I understand.” With this simple and practical motto in mind, questions are not only designed to call the individual student to reason, but they are also created to stimulate discussion so that students may get involved and intellectually engaged in a communal setting.

In conclusion, the Exodus Tabernacle description is one of detail and irreducible complexity. Despite the relatively small text volume, such detail has been trivialized for centuries—and is even treated with contempt by modern gurus who counsel students to think first of the “big picture”, and to “not get distracted by all the details”. However practical it may sound, this “big-picture-first” philosophy is hardly a foolproof approach to learning or problem solving. Life is full of details, and the devil is only found in the details when they are ignored. At first glance, students may feel overwhelmed by the Tabernacle texts, but they should not be discouraged or intimidated as multiple engagements are generally required in order to fully absorb the material. Remember, the Bible never gives final measurements of God’s dwelling place for a reason; the structure is intentionally built upon details—precept upon precept.

TABERNACLE INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

I-1. Why did God command Pharaoh to release the Israelites from slavery?

I-2. Why did God want the Israelites to build the Tabernacle?

I-3. Who first received and recorded the instructions to make the Tabernacle?

I-4. What is the meaning of the names of the Tabernacle's two lead builders?

I-5. Where was the Tabernacle constructed?

TABERNACLE INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

I-6. How long was the Tabernacle used in the wilderness?

I-7. Where was the Tabernacle first used in Israel?

I-8. Where was the Tabernacle stationed the longest, and for about how long?

I-9. When did God tell the Israelites that he no longer wanted the Tabernacle?

I-10. How long was the Tabernacle used, and when was it probably dismantled?

TABERNACLE PLANNING QUESTIONS

P-1. Who gave Moses plans to build the Tabernacle?

P-2. What type of metals were used to build the Tabernacle?

P-3. What type of fabrics were used to build the Tabernacle?

P-4. What type of wood was used to build the Tabernacle?

P-5. What type of leather was used to cover the Tabernacle?

TABERNACLE PLANNING QUESTIONS

P-6. Who provided the materials used for building the Tabernacle?

P-7. How much copper, silver, and gold was used, and what is its current value?

P-8. Who or what determined the camp location and Tabernacle's placement?

P-9. How many Levites served as the Tabernacle moving and setup crew?

P-10. How were the Tabernacle materials transported between camp locations?

GROUP I QUESTIONS — EXODUS 26:1-6

1-1. Why are Tabernacle curtain details important?

1-2. Why does the Bible specify multiple curtains to create a Tabernacle?

1-3. What material is used for the Tabernacle's first curtain set?

1-4. Why does the Bible specify a particular fabric type for the curtains?

1-5. How many curtains are created for the first Tabernacle set?

GROUP I QUESTIONS – EXODUS 26:1-6

1-6. How long are linen curtains, and why does the length matter?

1-7. What is the width of the curtains, and why does the width matter?

1-8. Why are curtains joined into two sets of five?

1-9. What colors are used to dye the Tabernacle curtains?

1-10. What provisions are included to secure Tabernacle curtains in place?

GROUP I QUESTIONS — EXODUS 26:1-6

I-II. How many loops are attached to curtain ends, and what color are they?

I-12. To which curtain ends are loops attached?

I-13. In which direction are the axes of the Tabernacle curtains oriented?

I-14. How do Tabernacle curtains correspond with other hardware quantities?

I-15. How many loops are attached to curtain ends, and what color are they?

GROUP I QUESTIONS – EXODUS 26:1-6

1-16. How many taches are used for the Tabernacle curtains?

1-17. What material is used to make taches, and where are they installed?

1-18. Why are fifty metal parts used to join the two sets of five curtains?

1-19. What shape is created as all Tabernacle curtain edges are joined?

1-20. Why are Tabernacle curtains introduced before the frame hardware?

GROUP I QUESTIONS – EXODUS 26:7-13

1-21. What type of fabric is used to create the second curtain set?

1-22. Why is the second curtain covering created using a different fabric type?

1-23. How many curtains are specified to be created for the second curtain set?

1-24. What is the width of the curtains, and why does the width matter?

1-25. What is the length of the curtains, and why does the width matter?

GROUP I QUESTIONS — EXODUS 26:7-13

1-26. Which curtain is folded in half, and which way is the curtain folded?

1-27. What is the length of the wool curtains if they are all joined end-to-end?

1-28. What is the length of the wool curtains assuming ends overlap 1 cubit?

1-29. How are wool curtains oriented?

1-30. What part of the Tabernacle are wool curtains specified to cover?

GROUP I QUESTIONS — EXODUS 26:7-13

I-31. What shape is created if all curtain edges are joined end-to-end?

I-32. Why are Tabernacle curtains grouped into a set of five and a set of six?

I-33. What color are the second set of curtains?

I-34. How many taches are made for the second set of curtains?

I-35. What material is used to make the wool curtain taches?

GROUP I QUESTIONS — EXODUS 26:1-13

1-36. How are the first and second curtain sets similar?

1-37. How are the first and second curtain sets different?

1-38. How do the properties of wool and linen differ?

1-39. What purposes do the linen curtains serve?

1-40. What purposes do the wool curtains serve?