

Series: Exodus  
Title: Fitly Framed Together  
Text: Ex 26: 15-30  
Date: September 29, 2019  
Place: SGBC, NJ

**Exodus 26: 15:** And thou shalt make boards for the tabernacle *of* shittim wood standing up. **16:** Ten cubits *shall be* the length of a board, and a cubit and a half *shall be* the breadth of one board. **17:** Two tenons *shall there be* in one board, set in order one against another: thus shalt thou make for all the boards of the tabernacle. **18** And thou shalt make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards on the south side southward. **19** And thou shalt make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards; two sockets under one board for his two tenons, and two sockets under another board for his two tenons. **20** And for the second side of the tabernacle on the north side *there shall be* twenty boards: **21** And their forty sockets *of* silver; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board. **22** And for the sides of the tabernacle westward thou shalt make six boards. **23** And two boards shalt thou make for the corners of the tabernacle in the two sides. **24** And they shall be coupled together beneath, and they shall be coupled together above the head of it unto one ring; thus shall it be for them both; they shall be for the two corners. **25** And they shall be eight boards, and their sockets *of* silver, sixteen sockets; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board. **26** And thou shalt make bars *of* shittim wood; five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle, **27** And five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle, for the two sides westward. **28** And the middle bar in the midst of the boards shall reach from end to end. **29** And thou shalt overlay the boards with gold, and make their rings *of* gold *for* places for the bars: and thou shalt overlay the bars with gold. **30** And thou shalt rear up the tabernacle according to the fashion thereof which was shewed thee in the mount.” (Ex 26:15-30 AV)

The sides of the tabernacle were comprised of boards of shittim wood overlaid with gold. They stood upon a base of silver sockets made from ransom money taken from the people to remind them that God redeemed them. Then to bind the boards together, five bars of wood overlaid in gold ran along the two sides and one end. It is estimated that there was over 5 tons of pure silver in the sockets. That would be about \$1.8 million dollars today.

**Subject:** Fitly Framed Together

**Proposition:** Like as this tabernacle was fitly framed together on one foundation and held together by bars so we are fitly framed together by Christ, on Christ and we are held together by Christ as his holy tabernacle.

**THE BOARDS**

**Exodus 26: 15:** And thou shalt make boards for the tabernacle *of* shittim wood standing up. **16:** Ten cubits *shall be* the length of a board, and a cubit and a half *shall be* the breadth of one board. **17:** Two tenons *shall there be* in one board, set in order one against another: thus shalt thou make for all the boards of the tabernacle...**23:** And two boards shalt thou make for the corners of the tabernacle in the two sides. **24:** And they shall be coupled together beneath, and they shall be coupled together above the head of it unto one ring; thus shall it be for them both; they shall be for the two corners....**29:** And thou shalt overlay the boards with gold,

The boards are a type of Christ’s people. Like the boards were framed together, Christ fitly frames his people together into his holy temple. “*In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord.*” (Eph 2:21)

Like the shittim tree was rooted in the earth—so we came forth in sin, rooted in this sin-cursed earth, with a sinful nature and guilty in sin. In order to make the boards, the shittim tree had to be cut down—likewise, we had to be brought down by the grace of God and granted repentance from dead works.

At the bottom of each board were two “tenons” or feet, which fit into two silver sockets—two silver sockets for each board—God gives us faith so that we stand on one foundation, Christ in whom our redemption is fully accomplished. The boards were overlaid with pure gold so that when you looked at them all you saw was pure gold—the gold typifies Christ’s righteousness which covers us and adorns us—all God sees when he looks upon us is the gold of Christ’s righteousness; the wood of our humanity has been totally covered by the person of Jesus Christ and His righteousness.

The corner boards were *coupled together beneath and coupled together above*—and that is Christ’s regenerated church. By the Holy Spirit we are *coupled together hear beneath* in this earth. In Christ we are *coupled together above*.

Notice, the boards were equal in height. All of them were 10 cubits high. God sees all his believing children in Christ as equal in his sight.

**THE FOUNDATION**

**Exodus 26: 18:** And thou shalt make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards on the south side southward. **19:** And thou shalt make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards; two sockets under one board for his two tenons, and two sockets under another board for his two tenons. **20:** And for the second side of the tabernacle on the north side *there shall be* twenty boards: **21:** And their forty sockets *of* silver; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board.

Christ is typified in the foundation. Each board was set in two sockets of silver. These sockets formed the one foundation for the tabernacle. Christ is that foundation.

Isaiah 28:16: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Matthew 16:18: [speaking of himself Christ said to Peter] And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The foundation was made from the silver shekel of the sanctuary. In Exodus 30, we find that God required the children of Israel offer the shekel of the sanctuary. That means it had to be the exact coin from the mint. It could not have any silver shaved off due to circulation from hand-to-hand. It is because the silver was melted to make these sockets to remind the people that God had redeemed them through the Passover Lamb. Christ came to manifest the perfect righteousness of God. That is why the shekel had to be the perfect, exact weight of the shekel coming out of the mint in the sanctuary.

So the silver sockets typify redemption accomplished, full atonement made by Christ for God’s elect alone. The good news is that justification is free to us because it cost Christ everything, *“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom 3:24)*. But our foundation is even more sure and more precious than these silver sockets, *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,” (1Pe 1:19-20)*

Christ Jesus by his own precious blood paid the ransom price for each of his elect. He purchased us from the curse of the law. He redeemed us and we are his own possession. It was that solid foundation of redemption that held up the entire tabernacle. So it is Christ our Foundation, redemption accomplished, that holds up the church of Christ.

Acts 4:11: This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

The foundation was not sand—it was the silver sockets firm as a rock as is Christ our Foundation and his redemption accomplished. Hear Christ’s word and God give us grace to heed it.

Matthew 7: 24: Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26: And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

So whatever offerings, whatever works they did in the tabernacle, they did not add to that foundation, they did all upon the foundation already laid. So we do not add anything to Christ’s accomplished redemption by our works. We serve God now and are accepted by God upon Christ our Foundation and the redemption accomplished. *“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 3: 11)*.

Notice, the boards were ten cubits in height. In Exodus 30 we are told there were ten gerahs of ransom money paid (which is a half a shekel). Ten speaks of full responsibility. Christ took full responsibility for his people and paid the redemption price equal to the full demand of God's perfect law which we had been broken. Now our acceptance and standing in Christ is equal to that perfect price he paid—hence we see 10 gerahs of ransom paid and boards 10 cubits in height.

Brethren, the way God sees it, our leprosy is cleansed, our sins are forgiven, and now we stand upon the solid foundation of God's own providing. So like these boards, we rest on the foundation—confessing it is all the merits of Christ in whom we are made to stand.

**THE BARS**

**Exodus 26: 26: And thou shalt make bars of shittim wood; five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle, 27: And five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle, for the two sides westward. 28: And the middle bar in the midst of the boards shall reach from end to end. 29...and make their rings of gold for places for the bars: and thou shalt overlay the bars with gold.**

The bars also typify Christ. On each side there were five bars. These were boards overlaid in gold running front to back for stability. One golden bar ran through the middle of the boards that stood upright. Christ is the gold bar that holds his church together. Christ has his arms of omnipotent mercy and grace wrapped around his tabernacle at all times. He keeps us on the foundation. He keeps us upright pointed to heaven. Heeps us together.

Ephesians 4:16: From WHOM the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Like this gold bar that ran through the middle of the upright boards, Paul said, “*Christ in you the hope of glory*” Peter tells us in regeneration we have become, “*partakers of the Divine nature*” (2Pet.1:4).

One last thing, each bar ran through three golden rings. Each believer has three golden rings through which we are united by almighty grace to God our Savior and to one another, “*And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity*” (1 Cor 13:13)

**Amen!**