

These instructions for making the temple furnishings are kind of interesting and surprisingly detailed. Translating the dimensions into inches in length and width makes it easy for us to understand. It makes quite a picture for our imaginations. There are a lot of detailed descriptions but I'll just comment on a couple things.

God calls for a "a table made of acacia wood...." Such an ordinary item, it seems - a table. We all have tables in our homes. Plain wooden tables. Ornate decorative tables. But a table is a table. But what it signifies is important. A table is about fellowship. Or, hospitality.

A table is where we break bread together. Jesus sat at table with his disciples. Jesus also sat at table with sinners and outcasts. Disciples and sinners together with Him at the table of fellowship. Relationships are so central in all of our lives.

There is a very special table Christ invites us to. The Lord's table. The Apostle Paul speaks about examining ourselves as we come to the Lords Table – Holy Communion. Our relationship to God centers around our being forgiven people who are restored into fellowship with Jesus.

Lastly the table is an image of how God provides for us so abundantly. The psalmist said, "you prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies". What a wonderful promise of God's care for us – that God provides for us in all of life. So, I like the wood table in the early Hebrew tabernacle as a great image.

Another item God wants crafted for his tabernacle is a lampstand. For light! What a good image given us repeatedly in scripture for God's presence and guidance. "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," the psalmist tells us. John's gospel tells us "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"

Jesus tells us to let our lights shine brightly for others to see. And we love to sing "this little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine". Or "light of the world you stepped out into darkness...here I am to worship...". Jesus is the light of the world. How God's people need to reflect His light to those around us. How we need God's light in a world of darkness.