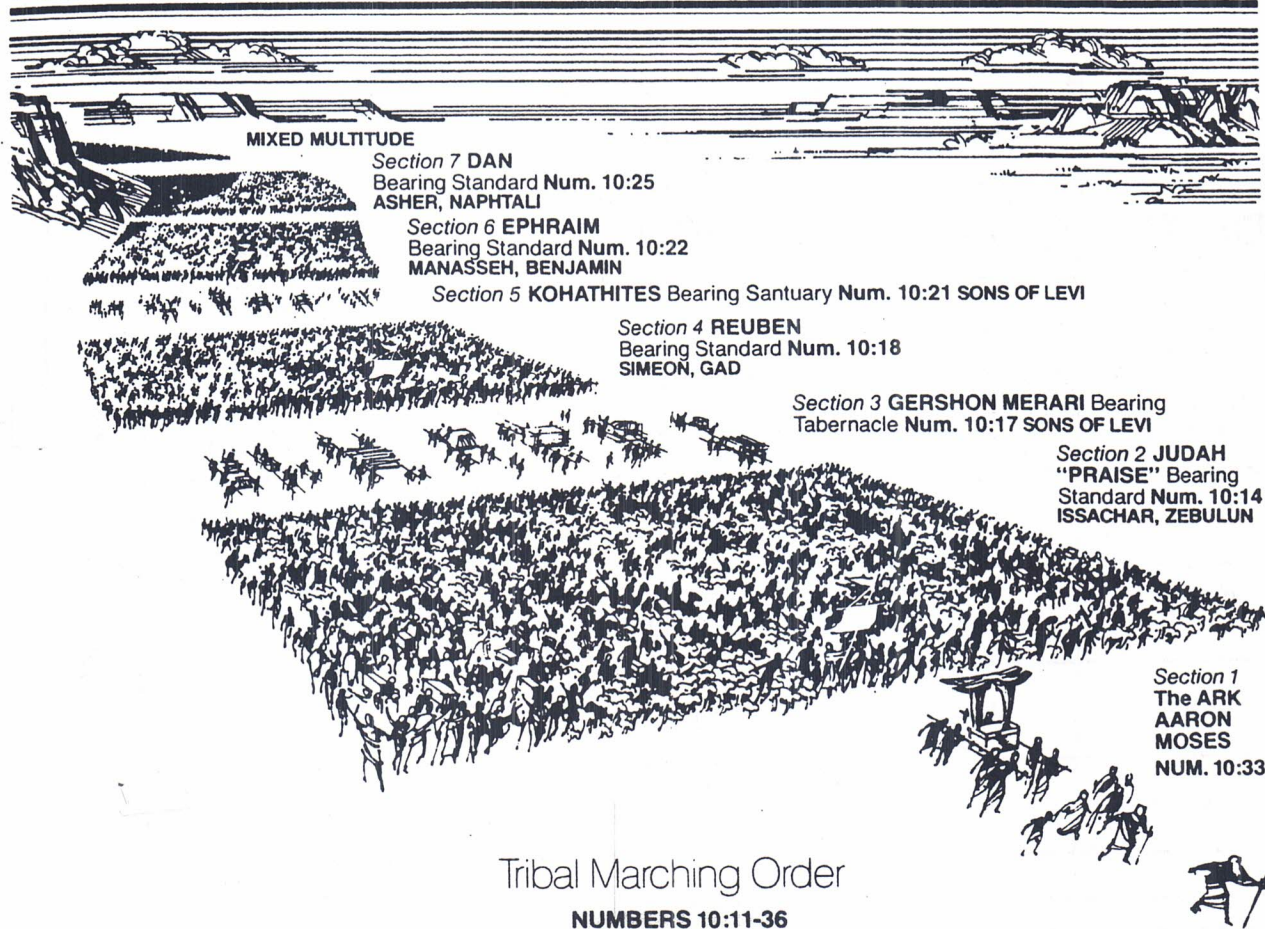


Ancient Near Eastern Deities

DEITY	COUNTRY	POSITION	REFERENCE	Palestinian Deities in Scripture
Baal	Canaan	Young storm god	I Kings 16:31; 18:18-46	
Ashtoreth (Astarte)	Canaan	Mother-goddess; love; fertility	Judg. 2:13; 10:6; I Sam. 12:10; I Kings 11:5	
Chemosh	Moab	National god of War	Num. 21:29; Judg. 11:24; I Kings 11:7, 33; Jer. 48:7	
Molech (Malcam, Milcom)	Ammon	National god	Zeph. 1:5; Jer. 49:1; I Kings 11:5, 7, 33	
Dagon	Philistia	National god of grain	Judg. 16:23; I Sam. 5:2-7	
Queen of Heaven	Canaan	Same as Ashtoreth (similar to Anat and Ishtar)	Jer. 7:18; 44:17-25	
DEITY	COUNTRY	POSITION	REFERENCE	Mesopotamian Deities in Scripture
Marduk	Babylon	Young storm god; chief god	Jer. 50:2	
Bel	Babylon	Another name for Marduk	Isa. 46:1; Jer. 50:2; 51:44	
Nebo (Nabu)	Babylon	Son of Marduk	Isa. 46:1	
Tammuz (Dumuzi)	Sumerian	Young storm god	Ezek. 8:14	
EGYPT	MESOPOTAMIA	CANAAN-SYRIA		Major Deities not in Scripture
Osiris — death Isis — life Horus — sun Hathor — mother goddess Re — sun Seth — evil; storm Ptah — artists; Memphite creator	Anu — head of pantheon Enlil — storm Ea-Enki — fresh water and subterranean water Sin (Nanna) — moon Ishtar — sex, fertility Ninurta — war Tiamat — salt water	El — head of Canaanite pantheon Anat — war Mot — death, sterility Adad — Syrian storm god Teshub — Hittite storm god Hannahanna — Hittite mother-goddess Arinna — Hittite sun goddess		

Deities of these civilizations, particularly Egypt, vary as to attributes and rank, depending on the time period and the area of the country. The ones listed are basic.

THE EXODUS STAGE



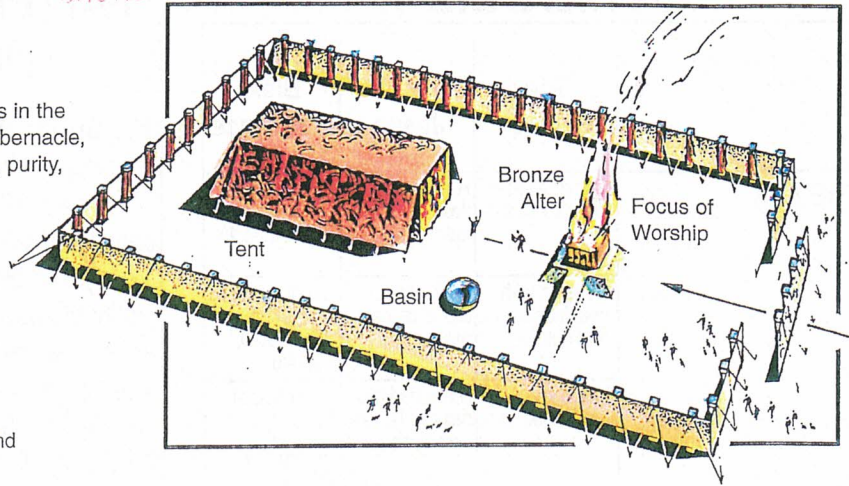
SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM			
NAME	REFERENCE	ELEMENTS	SIGNIFICANCE
Burnt Offering	Lev 1: 6:8-13	Bull, ram, male goat, male dove, or young pigeon without blemish. (Always male animals, but species of animal varied according to individual's economic status.)	Voluntary. Signifies propitiation for sin and complete surrender, devotion, and commitment to God.
Grain Offering Also called Meal, or Tribute, Offering	Lev 2: 6:14-23	Flour, bread, or grain made with olive oil and salt (always unleavened); or incense.	Voluntary. Signifies thanksgiving for firstfruits.
Fellowship Offering Also called Peace Offering; includes: (1) Thank Offering, (2) Vow Offering, and (3) Freewill Offering	Lev 3; 7:11-36; 22:17-30; 27	Any animal without blemish. (Species of animal varied according to individual's economic status.) (1) Can be grain offering.	Voluntary. Symbolizes fellowship with God. (1) Signifies thankfulness for a specific blessing; (2) offers a ritual expression of a vow; and (3) symbolizes general thankfulness (to be brought to one of three required religious services).
Sin Offering	Lev 4:1-5:13; 6:24-30; 12:6-8	Male or female animal without blemish—as follows: bull for high priest or congregation; male goat for king; female goat or lamb for common person; dove or pigeon for slightly poor; tenth of an ephah of flour for the very poor.	Mandatory. Made by one who had sinned unintentionally or was unclean in order to attain purification.
Guilt Offering	Lev 5:14-6:7; 7:1-6; 14:12-18	Ram or lamb without blemish	Mandatory. Made by a person who had either deprived another of his rights or had desecrated something holy. Made by lepers for purification.

The Tabernacle

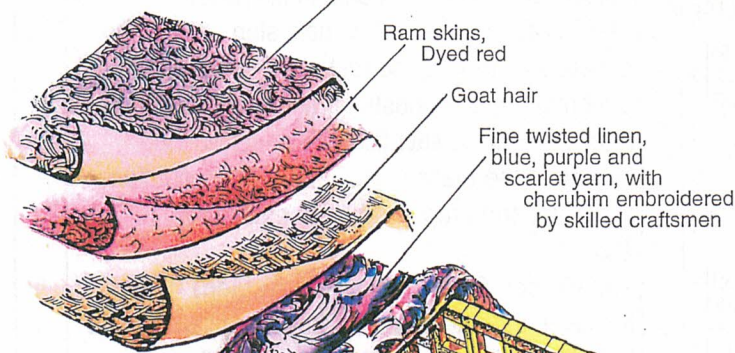
MILLERS CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH LIBRARY

The new religious observances taught by Moses in the desert centered on rituals connected with the tabernacle, and amplified Israel's sense of separateness, purity, and oneness under the Lordship of Yahweh.

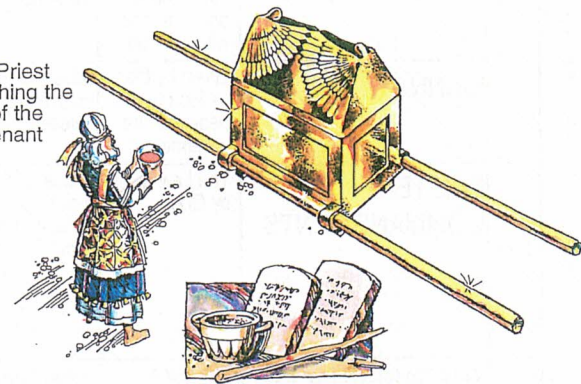
A few desert shrines have been found in Sinai, notably at Serabit el-Khadem and at Timnah in the Negev, and show marked Egyptian influence.



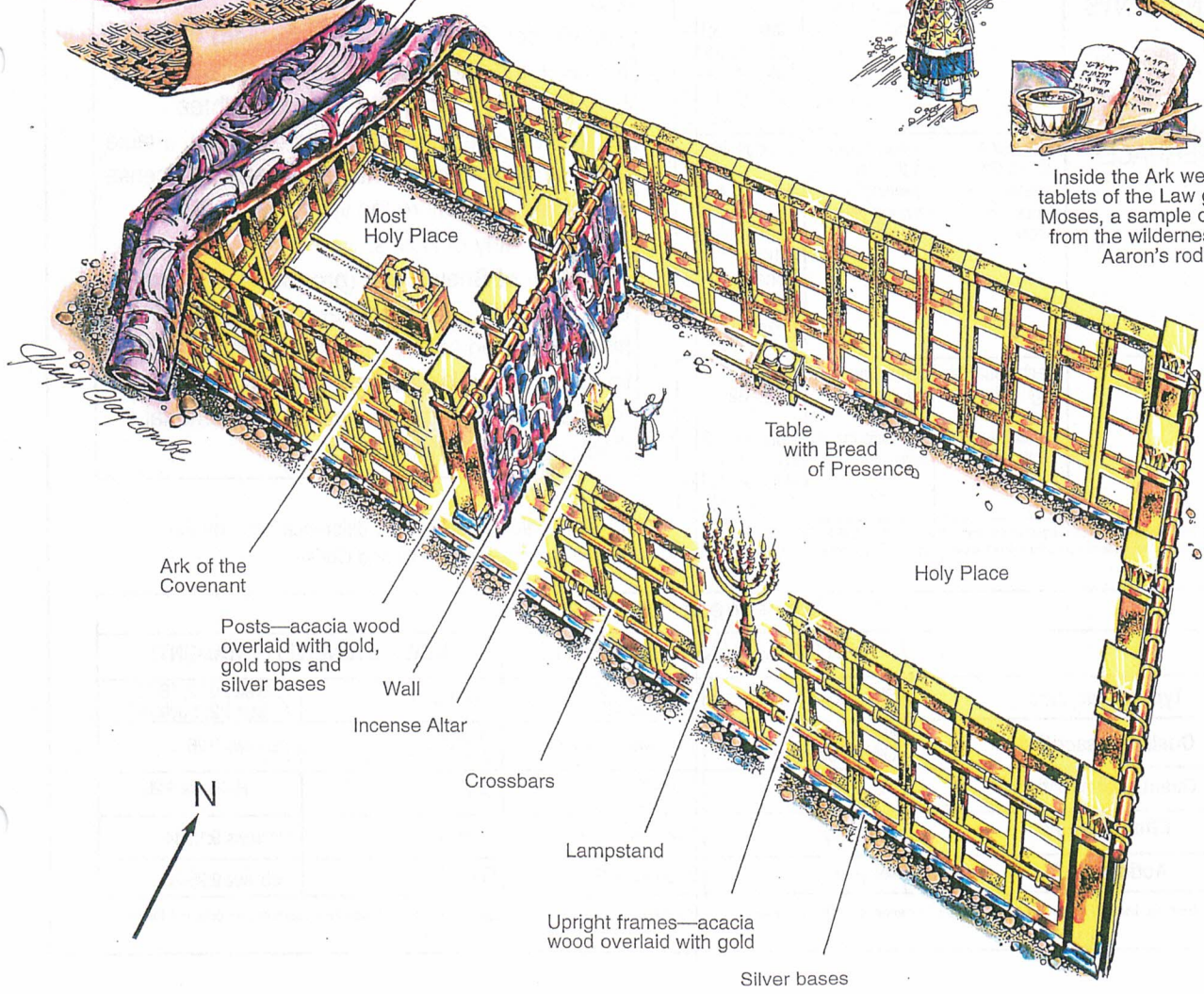
Hides of Sea Cows providing a waterproof covering and "camouflaging" the rich interior from enemies and bandits



High Priest approaching the Ark of the Covenant



Inside the Ark were the tablets of the Law given to Moses, a sample of Mana from the wilderness and Aaron's rod.



SYMBOLISM

	The Symbol	Symbol of Jesus	Bible Reference
THE ARK	Constructed of acacia wood.	Represents Jesus' human nature.	Exodus 25:10 Hebrews 4:15
	Covered with gold inside and out.	Represents Jesus' divine nature.	Exodus 25:11 John 10:30, 33;14:6
	Wood and gold together.	Jesus had two natures, human and divine.	Exodus 25:11 John 1:14, Philippians 2:5-11
AARON'S ROD	A dead stick that budded and bloomed with new life.	Resurrection from the dead.	Numbers 17:8, 10 Hebrews 9:4 Matthew 28:1-9
MANNA	Given by God as food to the people in the wilderness.	Jesus called Himself the "bread of life."	Exodus 16 John 6:35
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS	The Law given by God.	Jesus said that He came to "fulfill the Law."	Exodus 20:1-17 Matthew 5:17-19; 22:36-40; Luke 16:16-17; John 1:45; 12:34;15:25
THE TABERNACLE	The place where God dwelled among His people.	Jesus is God in the flesh dwelling among His people.	Exodus 25 John 1:14; 6:56; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 3:17; Revelation 21:3
THE SACRIFICE	Each year, the High Priest sacrificed a perfect lamb for the sin of the people.	Jesus was the perfect and final sacrifice for all time.	Leviticus 23:26-32 Romans 3:21-25; 5:8-14 Hebrews 9:12-13; 10:1-11

This chart contains a brief summary of one interpretation of the symbolism of the Ark of the Covenant. There are many publications available regarding the Ark of the Covenant, and interpretations of the symbolism may vary.

PATTERN OF WORSHIP IN THE TABERNACLE

The Brazen Altar - God wanted to dwell among his people. How does a holy God dwell among sinful people? First God required the people to sacrifice a perfect animal for their sins (Lev. 17:11). The blood of the animal was important to justify the people before God. Only the finest animal—a perfect one—was good enough.

The person bringing the offering would put his hand on the head of the lamb while it was killed. This symbolically put the person's sins onto the animal, and the animal died in his place.

The Laver of Brass - The next step was for the priests only. In fact, the rest of the work was performed by the priests on behalf of the people. After making the sacrifice, the priest washed himself at the brass laver. This washing purified the priest and prepared him to enter the Tabernacle.

The Golden Candlestick (Lampstand) - From the laver, the priest passed through a veil into the Holy Place. The room he entered had three objects: a golden candlestick on the south, a table of shewbread on the north and an altar of incense to the west just before the veil to the most holy place, the Holy of Holies.

The Table of Shewbread (pronounced show-bread) - On the Table of Shewbread, Aaron and his sons placed twelve loaves of bread made from fine flour. These loaves were a continual reminder of God's everlasting promises, and a memorial of God's provision of food.

The chart below illustrates the difference between the sacrifices of the High Priest and Christ.

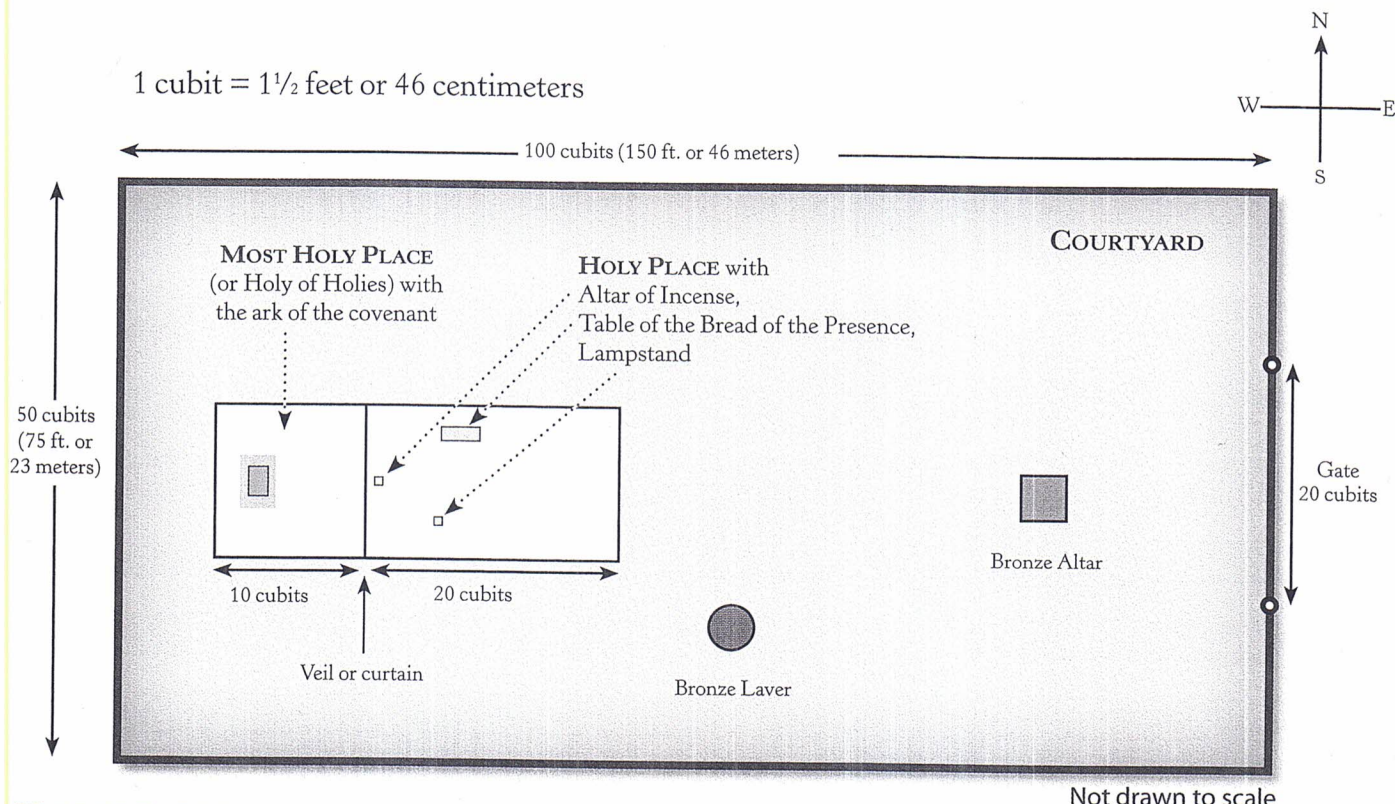
Atonement for Sins

	OLD COVENANT (TESTAMENT)		NEW COVENANT (TESTAMENT)	
Type of sacrifice	Blood of bulls and lambs	Exodus 12:5; Leviticus 3:5	Blood of Jesus	Hebrews 9:12; 13:12; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 1:7
Quality of sacrifice	Not enough Offered over and over	Hebrews 9:7-9; 10:4	Enough Offered just once	Hebrews 9:26
Quantity of sacrifice	Many	Leviticus 1-7; Hebrews 10:1	One	Hebrews 9:26
Effectiveness	For a day	Hebrews 10:1-3	Forever	Hebrews 9:12-14
Action/result	Temporary	Hebrews 9:26	Final	Hebrews 9:25-28

Bible References about the Tabernacle

THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS	
<i>Description/Building of:</i>	
Frame	Exodus 26:15–37; 36:20–38
Covering	Exodus 25; 5:26:7–14; 36:14–19
Second Covering	Exodus 25:5; 26:14; 35:7, 23; 36:19; 39:34
Curtains	Exodus 26:1–14, 31–37; 29:9–16; 35:15, 17; 36:8–19, 35, 37
Court	Exodus 27:9–17; 38:9–16, 18; 40:8, 33
Holy Place	Exodus 26:31–37; 40:22–26
Most Holy Place	Exodus 2:3–35; 40:20, 21
Tabernacle completed	Exodus 39:32
Dedicated and sanctified	Exodus 40; Numbers 7
Preparation for traveling	Numbers 1:51; 4:5–33; 7:6–9
<i>Names</i>	
Sanctuary	Exodus 25:8
Tent of Meeting	Exodus 27:21
Tent/Tabernacle	Exodus 33:7
Tent of Testimony	Exodus 38:21; Numbers 1:50; 17:7, 8
First tent of meeting	Exodus 33:7–11
Pattern revealed by God to Moses	Exodus 25:9; 26:30; 39:32, 42, 43
All strangers and unclean are forbidden to enter	Leviticus 15:31; Numbers 1:51; 19:13, 20
Worship and offerings brought to	Leviticus 17:4; Numbers 10:3; 16:19, 42, 43; 20:6; 25:6; 31:54; Deuteronomy 12:5, 6, 11–14
Trials conducted at	Deuteronomy 17:8–15
All males to appear before three times a year	Exodus 23:17
Encampment around	Numbers 2
Tabernacle tax	Exodus 30:11–16
Furniture of the Tabernacle and its construction	Exodus 25:10–40; 27:1–8, 19; 37; 38:1–8
THE TABERNACLE IN THE PROMISED LAND	
<i>Names</i>	
Tent/Tabernacle	1 Chronicles 5:5
Tent of Testimony	2 Chronicles 24:6
Temple of the LORD	1 Samuel 19; 3:3
Who shall dwell in God's tent?	Psalms 15
At Gilgal	Joshua 4:18, 19
At Shiloh	Joshua 18:1, 19:51; Judges 18:31, 20:18, 26, 27; 21:19, 1 Samuel 2:14, 4:2, 4; Jeremiah 7:12, 14
At Nob	1 Samuel 21:1–6
At Gibeon	1 Chronicles 21:29
At Zion	1 Chronicles 15:1; 16:1, 2; 2 Chronicles 1:4
Brought to the Temple by Solomon	2 Chronicles 5:5; 1 Kings 8:1, 4, 5
TABERNACLE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT	
Tabernacle alluded to (<i>eskenosen</i> means dwelt or pitched his tent)	John 1:14
Priestly functions point to Jesus	Hebrews 8:2, 5; 9:1–24

The Design of the Tabernacle



THREE PARTS

The Tabernacle had three main sections. Each section contained special, sacred objects. Each section was also the place of different sacred activities.

THE COURTYARD

Sacred objects: The Courtyard is the main access to the Tabernacle. The wide gate is the place where ancient Israelites would bring their sacrifices and offerings. There, the priests would receive and bless people. Within the courtyard, the priests would offer sacrifices at the bronze altar. There was also a bronze laver, in which the priests could cleanse themselves to be ritually clean.

THE HOLY PLACE

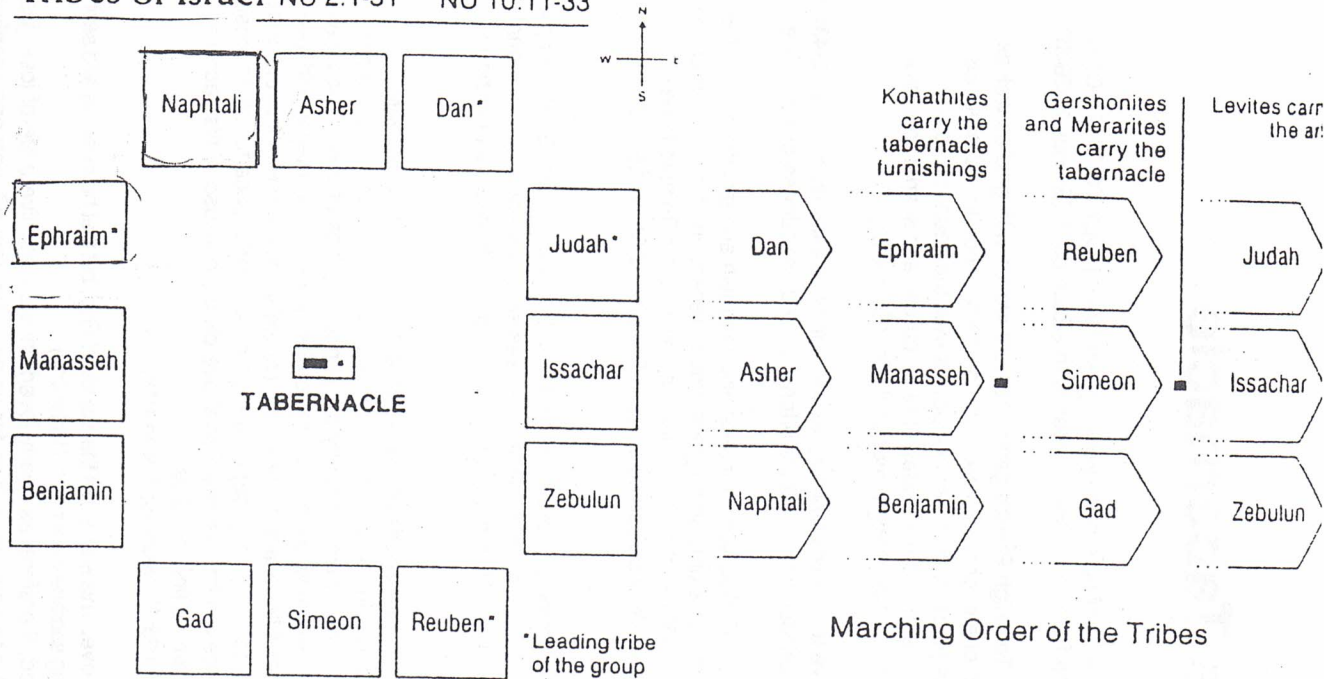
The Holy Place housed three important objects for the service of the Tabernacle: The golden lamp, the table of the bread of the presence, and the altar of incense. The priests performed daily tasks inside the Holy Place: they had to keep the lamps burning, offer incense twice a day, and bring fresh bread weekly to the table.

THE MOST HOLY PLACE

The Most Holy Place was a unique place. The ark of the covenant was in this room. God's very presence dwelt in the Most Holy Place. Only the High Priest could enter this room once a year, protected by a cloud of smoke from burnt incense. The most important celebration in the Jewish calendar, the Day of Atonement, had its climax in the Most Holy Place, where the high priest offered the blood of the sacrificed animal to God to atone for the people's sin.

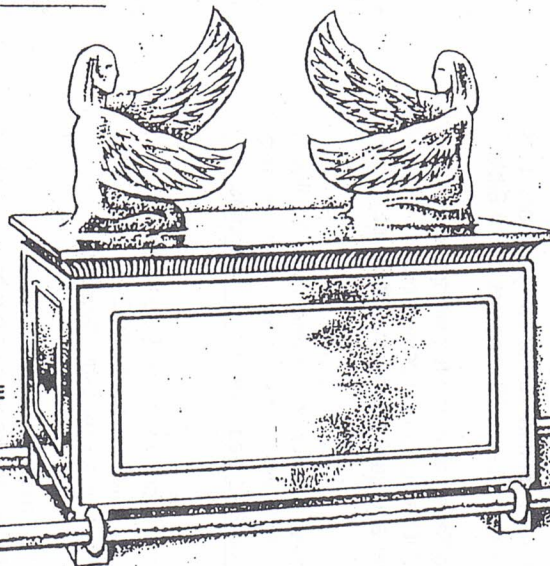
Encampment of the Tribes of Israel

NU 2:1-31 NU 10:11-33



Tabernacle Furnishings

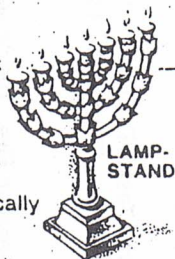
The symbolism of God's redemptive covenant was preserved in the tabernacle, making each element an object lesson for the worshiper. The Levitical priests, including some with Egyptian names and perhaps Egyptian training, gave meticulous attention to facts about the shrine. Reconstruction of the furnishings is possible because of extremely detailed descriptions and precise measurements recorded in Ex 25-40.



ARK OF THE COVENANT

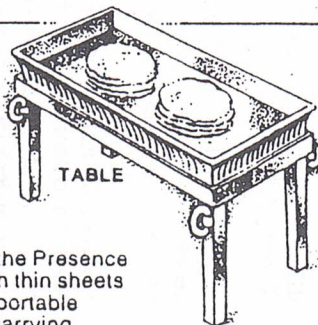
The ark of the Testimony compares with the roughly contemporary shrine and funerary furniture of King Tutankhamun (c. 1350 B.C.), which, along with the Nimrud and Samaria ivories from a later period, have been used to guide the graphic interpretation of the text. Both sources show the conventional way of depicting extreme reverence, with facing winged guardians shielding a sacred place.

The traditional form of the lampstand is not attested archaeologically until much later.

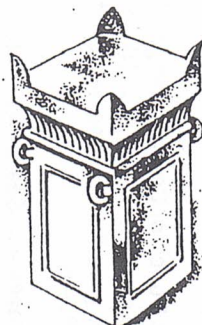


LAMP-STAND

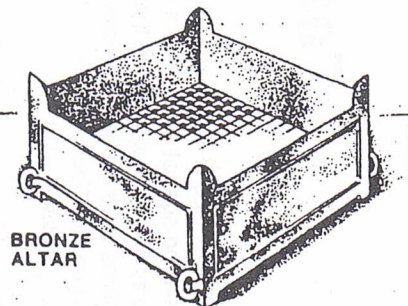
The table holding the bread of the Presence was made of wood covered with thin sheets of gold. All of the objects were portable and were fitted with rings and carrying poles, practices typical of Egyptian ritual processions as early as the Old Kingdom.



TABLE



INCENSE ALTAR



BRONZE ALTAR

The altar of burnt offering was made of wood overlaid with bronze. The size, five cubits square and three cubits high, matches altars found at Arad and Beersheba from the period of the monarchy.

Fascinating Facts About the Tabernacle

- **God's Plans.** God is the creator of all that exists. In the beginning, people started sinning against each other and against God. God loves people and gave them a way to atone for (pay for) their sin with a blood sacrifice (a life). At first, the sacrifices were animals. (Genesis 8:20-21)
God designed the Tabernacle as a place for sacrifice, forgiveness, and fellowship with God. (Exodus 25—26)
- **Super Tent.** The Tabernacle was Israel's spiritual center for 500 years, until Solomon's Temple. Its building and worship take up 50 chapters of the Bible.
- **A Bunch of Carats!** The gold in the Tabernacle and furnishings totaled over one metric ton. (Exodus 38:24) Some of it had originally come from the Egyptians who gave the Israelites articles of silver and gold when they left Egypt. (Exodus 12:33—36)
- **Snails and Sea Cows.** The fabric dyes (Exodus 36:8) came from shellfish (blue), insects (scarlet), and murex snails (purple). The leather outer covering may have come from the rare skin of the Red Sea's sea cow or manatee. (Exodus 25:5)
- **Weight Lifting.** Just the gold, silver, and bronze in the Tabernacle weighed seven tons—not to mention heavy curtains and wooden pillars! Thousands of Levites were needed for this moving job, plus six ox-carts. (Numbers 4)
- **Mobile Church.** When set up, the Tabernacle courtyard was one quarter the area of a football field, and the Tent of Meeting like a two-story house. But God planned its construction in smaller components so that most of it could be hand-carried by individuals or small groups walking. (Numbers 4)
- **A Thorny Task.** The wood in the Tabernacle was acacia, a thorny desert tree tougher than oak. The burning bush that Moses saw (Exodus 3:2) was likely an acacia.
- **Never-ending Fire.** The flames at the bronze altar burned continually as a reminder of God's presence and the need to worship Him. (Leviticus 6:12–13)
- **Aroma Therapy.** The Tabernacle had a unique scent of spices. Its recipes for incense and perfumed anointing oil were not to be used elsewhere. (Exodus 30:22–38)
- **The Turban.** A plate of pure gold was engraved with HOLY TO THE LORD and fastened to the front of the linen turban with a blue cord. (Exodus 28:36–37)

- **The Turban.** A plate of pure gold was engraved with HOLY TO THE LORD and fastened to the front of the linen turban with a blue cord. (Exodus 28:36–37)
- **A Heavy Outfit!** The High Priest's garments were woven with gold as well as linen, and included one engraved onyx stone on each shoulder, 12 precious gems on the breastpiece, two stones in a pocket over the heart, two braided chains of pure gold, and pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn around the hem with gold bells alternating between them. (Exodus 28)
- **Special Underwear.** Priests wore white linen underclothes (Exodus 28:42–43) in contrast to pagan priests, whose rituals often involved nakedness or exposure.
- **People Forsake God.** God sent prophets, like Jeremiah and Isaiah, to warn the people not to worship idols or false religions, and to repent and turn away from their sin. (Isa. 1–3; Jer. 3–5) When they didn't obey, he allowed the Temple to be destroyed and the people were carried away to Babylon. (2 Chron. 36:11–21; Lamentations)
- The Lost Ark?** According to Revelation 11:19, at the end of time, God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.
- **New Covenant.** The sacrifices of the Tabernacle and the Temple were shadows of good things to come, not the realities themselves. They were a picture of future once-for-all atonement for sin by the perfect sacrifice of Jesus. God gave a new covenant so people would not just try to obey laws, but so they would love Him with all their heart and want to obey Him. (Jeremiah 31:31–34; Hebrews 8) Jesus was a perfect lamb (a blood sacrifice) for the sin of the world, once for all, to those who believe and receive him. We see God's love clearly because of his sacrifice. We love him because he first loved us. (John 3:16; Romans 3:25; Hebrews 10; 1 John 4:19)
- **Live a Life of Love.** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10)
Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1, 2)
To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices. (Mark 12:33)

THE HOLY PLACE



- In this painting, the activities the priest performs in the Holy Place are shown.
1. Care for the lampstand holding the golden oil. The lamp light for the table of the LORD.
 2. The second priest pours incense on the special place.
 3. The last priest holds the golden bowl of the LORD.

Tabernacle Symbolism

At the laver in the Courtyard, the priest passed through a veil because of its closeness with the most Holy Place, the place where God separated this area for special, sacred activities that He used objects that became holy because of their nearness to Him. Activities demanded that holy people cared for them. Priests had to atone for their own sins so they could perform their duties inside

The Tabernacle was a place of revelation (Leviticus 1:1). In and through the Tabernacle, God provided guidance for the journey in the wilderness, salvation from the dangers of the journey and sin, and life through provision and His presence. The following table shows some parallels between the Tabernacle, Christ's ministry, and the church.

DESCRIPTION
<p>The unique lampstand was beaten from a single piece of gold, not pieced together. It was fueled by oil, not wax. It had lamps at the top of each branch, not candles.</p> <p>Its purpose was to provide light in this otherwise dark room.</p> <p>Trimming the lamp wicks to keep them burning brightly was an important job for the priest.</p>
<p>The LORD required that special incense be burned constantly on the altar of incense. It was a special sweet incense, a mixture of spices to be used only for the Tabernacle (see Ex. 30:35-37).</p> <p>No other recipe could be burned on the altar. On the Day of Atonement, the high priest took incense from this altar and brought it into the Most Holy Place.</p>
<p>On the table of the bread of the presence, Aaron and his sons placed twelve loaves of bread made from fine flour. These twelve loaves represented the twelve tribes of Israel. The table with the loaves was a continual reminder of the everlasting promises, the covenant between God and the children of Israel, and a memorial of God's provision of food. The bread was eaten by Aaron and his sons and was replaced every week.</p>

TABERNACLE	CHRIST	CHURCH
<p>God guided the Israelites through the wilderness. By lifting the cloud from the Most Holy Place, God indicated that it was time to move on.</p> <p>When the cloud stopped, the Israelites made their camp.</p>	<p>Christ said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). He is the only way to God. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Christ leads believers to true life.</p>	<p>Jesus said that His followers were to be a light: "You are the light of the world..." (Matthew 5:14). Having the Holy Spirit as our guide, the Church becomes an example of life, a living testimony.</p>
<p>Once a year, the high priest offered an atonement sacrifice, a payment for the sins of the people, and entered the Most Holy Place inside the Tabernacle.</p>	<p>Christ became the only and necessary for humanity's sin (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 9:26).</p>	<p>Salvation is through Christ's death on the cross and resurrection. God uses His people to speak about and live the Good News of salvation and repentance.</p>
<p>The bread of the presence inside the Holy Place was a reminder of God's covenant with His people and God's provision for His people.</p>	<p>Christ is the bread of life, the life of the world and the source of life (1 John 5:12; John 1:4; 11:25; 14:6; Acts 3:15). By giving His body, Christ gives life to His followers. The bread of communion reminds us of God's provision and promises.</p>	<p>The church is a gathering of people whose lives God has made new through Christ. Christ gives abundant life to His people. The church is Christ's body. When people become part of this body, they find abundant life. The people in the church are the people of the covenant.</p>








Contents of the Ark

	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT	SYMBOLISM
STONE TABLETS WITH TEN COMMANDMENTS	Deuteronomy 10:5	Hebrews 9:4	The stone tablets with the Ten Commandments, written by God's own hand, were to remind the people of God's holy nature (Exodus 10:1-17). Jesus said that he came to fulfill the law (Matthew 5:17-18).
A JAR OF MANNA	Exodus 16:32-34	Hebrews 9:4	The jar of manna reminded the people of God's constant provision (Exodus 16:32-34). Scripture says Christ is the bread of God who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world (John 6:32-35, 48-51).
AARON'S ROD	Numbers 17:10	Hebrews 9:4	Aaron's rod confirmed God's choice and anointing of Aaron as high priest. The Messiah was the chosen and anointed one (Hebrews 3:1, 4:14), just like Aaron (Numbers 17:5).

The references to the ark in Scripture include:

- Ark of testimony Exodus 25:22
- Ark of the covenant Numbers 10:33
- Ark of God 1 Samuel 3:3
- Ark of the LORD God 1 Kings 2:26
- Holy ark 2 Chronicles 35:3
- Ark of your strength Psalm 132:8

Jesus and the Ark of the Covenant

SHADOW (TYPE)	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT	BIBLE REFERENCES
THE TABERNACLE	 The place where God as spirit dwelled among his people.	Jesus is God in the flesh dwelling among his people.	Exodus 25; Isaiah 9:6 Matthew 1:22-23 John 1:14, 14:8-10
THE HIGH PRIEST	 The high priest offered gifts and sacrifices for sins in the Most Holy Place.	Jesus is our high priest of the true Tabernacle made by God, not by man.	Exodus 28:1; 29:9; Leviticus 16:30 Hebrews 4:14-15; 8:1-3; 9:11
THE SACRIFICE	 Each year, the high priest offered a blood sacrifice for the sin of the people.	Jesus was the perfect and final sacrifice for all time.	Exodus 30:10 Romans 3:21-26; 5:8-10 Hebrews 9:12-15; 10:1-14
THE ARK	 Place of God's presence.	Jesus is God in human form.	Exodus 25:22 John 1:14
ARK CONTENTS: TABLE OF THE LAW	 The Law given by God.	Jesus said that he came to "fulfill the Law."	Exodus 20:1-17 Matthew 5:17-18; 22:36-40 Luke 16:16-17
ARK CONTENTS: AARON'S ROD	 Represented God's choice.	Jesus is God's choice.	Numbers 17:5, 8, 10 Matthew 3:17 Hebrews 3:1-2; 9:4
ARK CONTENTS: MANNA	 Given by God as food to the people in the wilderness.	Jesus called himself the "bread of life."	Exodus 16 John 6:35, 48-51

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THE ARK OF THE COVENANT AND THE MERCY SEAT

- What is the Tabernacle? Why was it built?
- What is the Ark of the Covenant?
- What is the Mercy Seat?
- Where was the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle?
- How was the Ark carried?
- What happened in the Holy of Holies?
- Which tribe was set apart to carry the Ark?

The carrying poles were fifteen feet long. They are not drawn to scale.

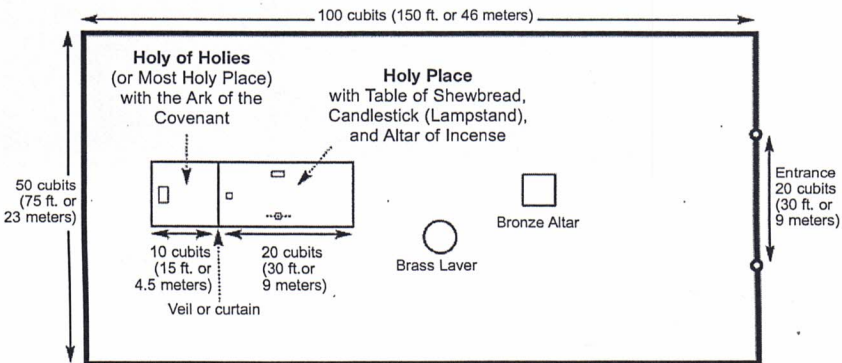
The Ark of the Covenant was the place where God met and talked with Moses (Exodus 25:22). It was made of acacia wood and covered with gold. The Tabernacle (the "tent of meeting") was built to house the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark was the first item of furniture constructed after God told Moses to build the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:10-22).

The Ark of the Covenant was intended to be the central focus of the Most Holy Place in the Tabernacle and later the Temple (Exodus 40:1-21). The Ark of the Covenant rested in the Most Holy Place and both were separated from the rest of the Holy Place by a curtain (veil) according to Exodus 26:31-33.

God set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the Ark and stand before Him, to serve Him, and to bless His Name (Deuteronomy 10:8). Only the High Priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies once a year (Leviticus 16) on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, to sacrifice and to sprinkle blood on the Mercy Seat (the top of the Ark of the Covenant where the winged cherubim face each other) to atone for the sins of the people (Exodus 37:6-9).

2 Samuel 6:2 says that God dwells between the cherubim.

TABERNACLE AND LOCATION OF THE HOLY OF HOLIES



The Tabernacle was a moveable "tent of meeting" (Exodus 25:1-2, 8-9).

The Holy of Holies was the special enclosure for the Ark of the Covenant and was separated from the Holy Place by a curtain (veil).

The Garments of the High Priest

Garments of the high priest

- White linen coat or tunic (woven, one piece, close fitting)
- Dark blue woven robe
 - » Reached to knees, hole in it for head, sleeveless
 - » Blue, purple, scarlet pomegranates upon hem; bells of gold between each pomegranate
- *Ephod* of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet entwined in linen
 - » Apron-like, bound at waist by girdle
 - » Shoulder piece coupled together by 2 edges
- Onyx stone enclosed in pouches of gold with names of the 12 tribes engraved on them (6 on each). One on each shoulder of the *ephod*
- Girdle of the *ephod*
 - » Bound around waist, made of same material as *ephod*
 - » Three fingers broad and perhaps reaching almost to floor
- Breastplate of gold, blue, purple, scarlet and fine twined linen doubled, 4-square (around 8-10")
 - » Contained 4 rows of 3 stones (jewels)
 - » Each jewel contained the name of one of the 12 tribes
 - » Set in gold
 - » Two rings of gold were in top ends of the breastplate; 2 chains fastened to these rings, extended up to where they fastened at the shoulder pieces
 - » Two rings of gold were at bottom ends; two rings in the *ephod* above the girdle at the waist laced together with blue lacing; the breastplate contained the Urim and Thummin

Regular Priest's Garments


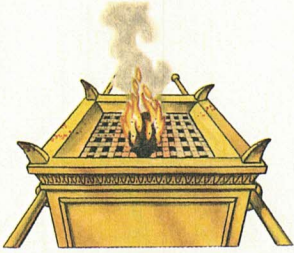

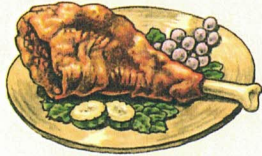
- White woven coat, one piece, close fitting
- Girdle of fine twined linen with blue, purple, scarlet needlework



EXODUS 28:2



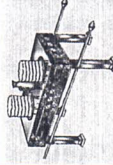

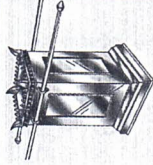


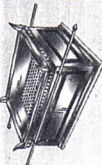
Make sacred garments for your brother Aaron, to give him dignity and honor.

Sacrifices in the Tabernacle

SACRIFICE		SIGNIFICANCE
<p>Sin Offering and Guilt Offering (Leviticus 4–6; Numbers 15:1–12)</p> <p>Sin offerings and guilt offerings focused on paying for sin. The sin offerings atoned for sins against God. The guilt offerings addressed sins against others, and included paying damages with interest. Various animals were offered, depending on the person's position and income. Priests and leaders, as examples to others, had to offer larger sacrifices for sin, while the poor offered what they could afford. Blood was sprinkled on the altar, the parts of the animals were burned, often with wine poured on them (drink offering). Other parts were roasted for the priests. Since the priests were full-time Tabernacle workers, sacrificed animals were their main source of food.</p>		<p>Christ's Offering: Isaiah 53:10; Matthew 20:28; 2 Corinthians 5:21</p> <p>Paying for Damages: Matthew 5:23, 24; Luke 19:1–10</p> <p>Poor: Luke 2:2–24; 21:1–4</p> <p>Leaders as Examples: 1 Timothy 3:1–7; 5:19, 20</p> <p>Providing for Christian Workers: Philippians 4:18; 1 Corinthians 9:13, 14; 1 Timothy 5:17, 18</p>
<p>Burnt Offering (Leviticus 1)</p> <p>This sacrifice represented complete dedication and surrender to God. The animal, usually an unblemished male, bore the worshiper's sins, and died in his/her place. After the blood was sprinkled on the altar, the animal was completely burned up. None of it was roasted for eating.</p>		<p>Surrender: Psalm 51:16, 17; Matthew 26:39; Romans 12:1</p> <p>Dedication: Philippians 2:17; 2 Timothy 4:6–7</p>
<p>Grain (Meal) Offering (Leviticus 2)</p> <p>This offering was given to God in thankfulness. The people brought fine flour, unleavened cakes, or roasted grain to the priests. The priests burned a symbolic handful at the altar, and could partake of the rest. There was very little ceremony involved.</p>		<p>Giving: Matthew 26:6–10; 2 Corinthians 9:7–11</p> <p>Praise: Psalm 100; Hebrews 13:15–16</p> <p>Thankfulness: Psalm 147; Philippians 4:6</p>
<p>Fellowship (Peace) Offering (Leviticus 2; 7:11–21)</p> <p>This offering symbolized fellowship and peace with God through shed blood. After some meat was ceremonially waved and given to the priests, worshipers and their guests could share in the feast as a meal with God.</p>		<p>God's Peace: Colossians 1:20; Acts 10:36; Ephesians 2:14.</p> <p>God's Feast: Luke 14:15–24; 1 Corinthians 11:17–26; Jude 1:12; Revelation 3:20</p>

Jesus and the High Priest

Jesus Christ is the ultimate go-between (intermediary). He is the connection to God's loving forgiveness and there is none other who can make this connection for us (Hebrew 9:15; 10:11-12). The symbolism of the high priest in the Old Testament and his symbolic actions illuminate the life and ministry of Christ. Those actions help us to understand better the Gospel of John's presentation of Christ and his ministry.

THE HIGH PRIEST ON THE DAY OF ATONEMENT		OLD TESTAMENT		JESUS, OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST AND SACRIFICE		JOHN'S WRITINGS	
The high priest took a young bull and a ram to the altar to offer for himself and two goats for the nation.		Leviticus 16:2-5	Jesus is the Lamb of God and perfect sacrifice.	John 1:29, 36			
The high priest washed himself in the living (running) water of the bronze laver before putting on his holy garments and offering the sacrifices needed to enter the most Holy Place.		Exodus 40:30-32; Leviticus 16:4-11	Jesus gives the pure and sanctifying Living Water that cleanses us.	John 4:10-15			
Entering the Holy Place first, the high priest passed by the table of the bread of presence on one side...		Exodus 25:23-30; Leviticus 24:5-9	Jesus is our life-sustaining Bread of Heaven and covenant meal.	John 6:35, 48-51			
... and the golden lampstand on the other side.		Exodus 25:31-40; Numbers 8:1-4	Jesus is the Light of the World. He lights our path in the darkness.	John 8:12; 9:5			
Approaching the altar of incense in front of the veil, the high priest took coals and incense and burned them in the Most Holy Place before God in prayer.		Lev. 16:12, 13	Jesus, our Great High Priest, has prayed for us before God the Father.	John 17:1-26			
Upon the mercy seat, the high priest sprinkled the blood of the bull and the blood of one of the goats.		Lev. 16:14-16	Jesus is our atonement (Romans 3:25). He offered his own blood on our behalf.	John 20:11-12; 1 John 2:2			
The high priest then sprinkled blood in the Holy Place and upon its furniture.		Lev. 16:16-17	Jesus ministers in the Holy Place on our behalf.	Rev. 1:12-20			
The high priest then sprinkled the bronze altar with blood.		Lev. 16:18-19	The heavenly altar declares God's ways true and just.	Rev. 16:7			

Seven Steps to Worshipping God in the Tabernacle

What the Israelites Did

What It Meant Then

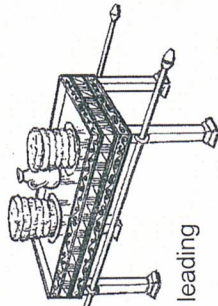
What It Means Today

5 Pray in the Holy Place (Exodus 25:23-26, 37; 30:1-10)

You open another curtain into the Holy Place, which is a room that measures 15 by 30 feet. Your duties may involve tending to the seven lights of the golden candlestick that are always kept burning, or the 12

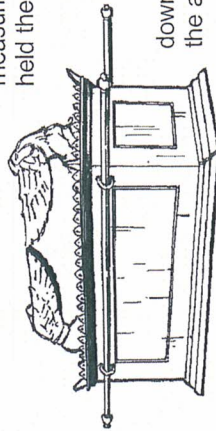


loaves of bread displayed with wine on a golden table. But most likely you will offer prayers, interceding for your people at the golden altar of incense. The altar of incense stands 3 feet tall and 1½ feet square and stands between you and the curtain leading to the Most Holy Place.



6 Tremble in the Most Holy Place (Exodus. 25:10-22, Hebrews 9:4)

Only the High Priest may part the final veil in order to enter God's presence. The veil is 15 feet high and embroidered with guardian cherubim. The 15 by 15 foot room holds the Ark of the Covenant, which is a gold covered wooden chest, measuring 2' 3" x 2' 3" x 3' 9". The Ark held the tablets of the Law, Aaron's rod that budded, and a pot of manna. The gold cover (God's throne and mercy seat) has two cherubim on top. The cherubim are facing down with their wings pointing in toward the area representing God's presence.



7 As High Priest, Plead for the People (Exodus 28; Leviticus 16)

The High Priest may enter that room on only one day of the year, the Day of Atonement. After making sacrifices outside, he sheds his outer garments. The outer garments are designed with twelve gemstones representing the twelve tribes of Israel. He then brings incense to the altar of incense and sprinkles blood on the Ark on behalf of the nation. He emerges and sends another goat, a scapegoat, into the desert, symbolically bearing the nation's sins away.



- The lights stood for God's presence.

- The bread, given weekly, showed thankfulness for His provision, and the joy of fellowship at the table with Him.

- The incense stood for constant prayer.

- Sin separated us from God.

- God was not represented by any statue or idol, for He is a spirit.

- The Ark's contents showed His desire to teach, provide, and dwell among us.

- He offered mercy so sinful people could approach Him—to angels' amazement.

- A single mediator came before God to plead for the entire nation.

- Despite all the other sacrifices, more was needed to atone for all-pervasive sin.

- Guilt could be atoned for and sent away.

Christ's Light: John 1:1-9; Rev 21:22-23

Believers' Light: Matthew 5:14-16;

Philippians 2:14-15; Revelation 1:10-19

Christ as Bread: John 6:35; Luke 22:19

Thanksgiving: 1 Th 5:18; 1 Co 16:2

Feast with God: Matthew 22:1-10; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Interceding in Prayer: Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17 1 Timothy 2:1

Curtain's Meanings: Genesis 3:24; Matthew 27:50-51; Hebrews 10:19-20

God as Spirit: Isaiah 66:1; John 4:24

God's Teaching and Providing: Galatians 3:24-25; John 1:17; Acts 17:24-27

God's Throne and Mercy Seat: Psalm 80:1; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 1:10-12

Jesus as High Priest: Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 9:11-15; Hebrews 9:24-28; Hebrews 13:11-13

Jesus Pleading for Us: Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:23-25

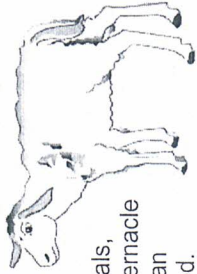
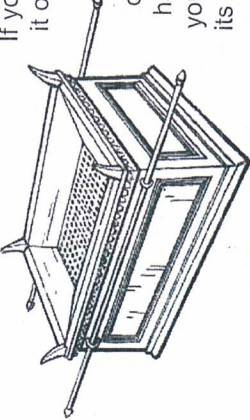

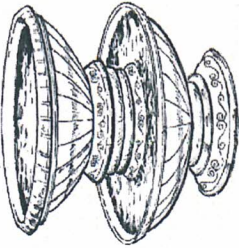
Sin's Power is Banished: Romans 7:14-25; Psalm 103:8-12; Hebrews 13:11-12

Seven Steps to Worshipping God in the Tabernacle

What the Israelites Did

What It Meant Then

What It Means Today

<p>1</p> <p>Enter the Tabernacle Court (Exodus 27:9-19; 40:34-38) As you walk from your family tent, you can see the cloud of God's presence over the Tabernacle ("dwelling place"). You draw open the curtain, which is 7½ feet tall and woven in red, blue, and purple. The courtyard is filled with fire, smoke, bleating animals, bustling workers—and the Tabernacle itself. The Tabernacle is gleaming with gold, silver, and tapestry. You bring an animal, perhaps a lamb, as you offer your best to God.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tabernacle was God's dwelling place. • The curtains stood for the barrier separating people from a magnificent and holy God. • God could only be approached with repentance and sacrifice. 	<p>God With Us: Ezra 37:26-28; John 1:14; Revelation 21:3</p> <p>God's Majesty: Psalm 29; Psalm 104; Isaiah 66:1</p> <p>Sin and Repentance: Psalm 15:1-2; Romans 1:18-20; Romans 3:23; Luke 18:9-14</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Sacrifice at the Bronze Altar (Exodus 27:1-8; Leviticus 1:1-4) If your sacrifice is approved, you lift it onto the huge 7½ by 7½ foot bronze-covered altar and bind it to the horns on the altar's corners. Solemnly, you lay your hands on the animal's head as you sacrifice it. The priest catches its blood in a basin below.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proper sacrifice was offering what was valuable and perfect, not small or flawed. • Sin was serious. Only shed blood, which stands for life, could pay for sin. • By laying your hand on it, you identified with the animal sacrificed. 	<p>Sin's Penalty: Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:22</p> <p>Christ's Sacrifice: Isaiah 53:4-7; John 1:29; Romans 3:22-25; Hebrews 9:13-14; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 5:6-13</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Submit to the Priest (Exodus 28:1-5, 40; Lev. 1:5-9; 17:11) The priest, clad in garments that match the tapestries, is from the line of Aaron, as God ordered. He takes the blood and sprinkles some around the altar, then pours the rest below. He cleans and divides the small animal, then roasts or burns it. As the smoke rises, your sacrifice is accepted by God, and you leave the court. An ordinary Israelite can go no further into the Holy Place.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You could not approach God yourself but only through His chosen mediator. • The blood paid the penalty for sin. • Heartfelt sacrifice was pleasing to God. 	<p>Christ a Mediator: 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 12:22-24</p> <p>Christ's blood: Romans 5:8-9; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:19-22; 1 Peter 1:1-2</p> <p>Pleasing God: Psalm 51:16-17; Ephesians 5:2</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Wash at the Bronze Basin (Exodus 30:17-21; 38:8) Between the bronze altar and the Tabernacle stands a large, shallow basin of water, gleaming as brightly as a mirror. If you are a priest, you must bathe your hands and feet in it before you offer sacrifices and also before you enter the 15-foot-tall Tabernacle and the Holy Place.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washing hands and feet stood for sanctification, or becoming holy and pure. • Serving God requires not just cleansing from sin, but striving for holiness. 	<p>Our Priestly Service: 1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 1:4-6</p> <p>Holiness: John 13:6-9; James 4:7-8</p> <p>Washing Through God's Word: John 15:3; John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26</p>