

The Holy Place



The table held 12 cakes of bread, from each tribe of Israel. It was a pleasing aroma to God; a meal offering. It served the practical purpose of nourishing the priests.

Lev. 24:8

It was a visual reminder of the covenant between God and His people. (Covenants were often finalized with a meal). It pointed to Christ— the bread of life, who would be the source of nourishment in this life and the next.

Mt. 6:28; Jn. 6:35, 27-29; Deut. 8:5



This was a small altar standing before the Most Holy Place. Incense was burned twice a day made of a specific perfume— a sweet-smelling aroma to God. It was a “place of intercession”; a mark of prayer with God.

Ps. 141:2; Rev. 5:8, 8:4

Christ is the ultimate place of intercession for His people. He was and is the sweetest smelling aroma. It's only through His obedience that people can pray to God effectively.



It illuminated the Holy Place enabling priests to complete daily tasks .

Christ is the true light; bringing the truth of the Gospel allowing fellowship between God and His people

Is. 9:2; 60:19; Jn. 8:12; Rev. 21:23

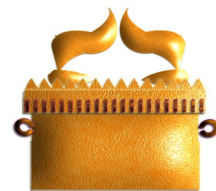
The Church is called to be the light of the world, being Holy as God is Holy.

Mt. 5:14-16

The Most Holy Place



VEIL
“Veil” in Hebrew means “to separate” (parkoeth). The veil was a reminder of the separation between God and man due to sin. Only a High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place once a year, and recautions were taken to prevent him from full exposure to God’s glory. When Christ died, the veil tore in two. Through his death, Jesus inaugurated a way for men to have direct access to God. *Mattt. 27:51; Heb. 6:19; 9:3-15; 10:19*



ARK OF THE COVENANT

The most sacred object in the tabernacle; symbolic of God’s presence. Contained the ten commandments, jar of manna, and Aaron’s rod.

The mercy seat was “God’s throne”. It was here that atonement was made through propitiation once a year on the Day of Atonement.



AARON’S ROD

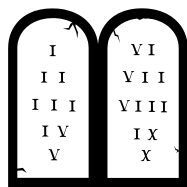
In Numbers 16 & 17 a number of leaders in the 12 tribes questions the leadership of Moses and Aaron. 250 leaders selected by Korah and Dathan to challenge Moses were destroyed [by God] Many still questioned their leadership; especially Aaron’s right to be the High Priest. Moses told them to select one person in each tribe to bring a rod to the tabernacle. The rod which buds would signify the one God chose to be High Priest. Aaron’s rod budded, proving him to be chosen.



JAR OF MANA

Manna literally means “what is it”. It referred to the bread God sent from heaven to nourish Israel during their 40 years of wandering. Manna appeared every morning with the dew. Some was collected to place in the ark. The manna signifies

God’s providing for Israel’s nourishment: physically and spiritually. Years later, Jesus called himself the “bread of life” indicating that nourishment (and fellowship with God) was only possible through Him.



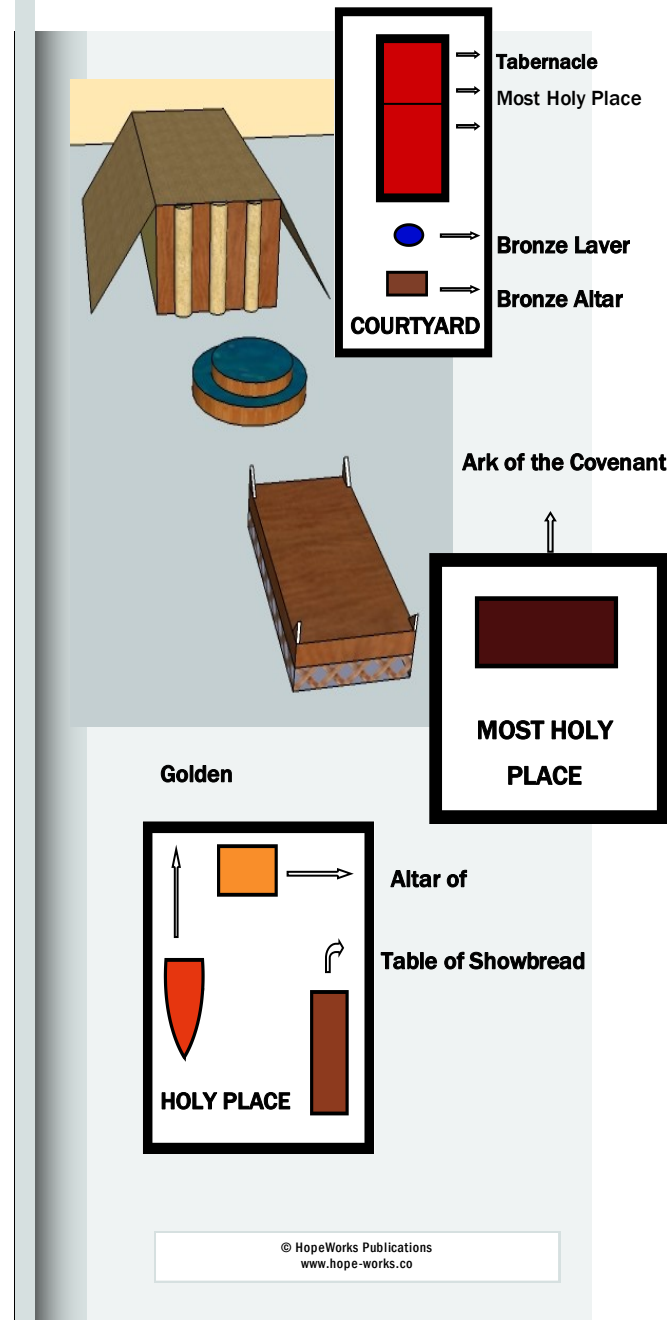
TEN COMMANDMENTS

The tablets contained the law (ten commandments) God gave Moses for His people. These were placed in the tabernacle to remind God’s people of His holiness...and his reminder that His people ought to be holy. Years later, Christ noted that he was the fulfillment of the

law.

TABERNACLE STUDIES:

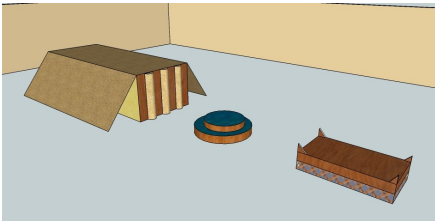
THE STRUCTURE



GOD dwells with man

Tabernacle (verb) : to dwell amongst

A clear pattern in scripture: God dwells with man. Man does not attempt to dwell with God, but God alone as planner, initiator, and implementer dwells with undeserving men.



And let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may tabernacle* among them.

Exodus 25:8

And the Word became flesh and tabernacled* among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.



John 1:14 * NKJV uses "dwelt"



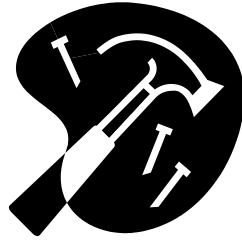
And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Revelation 21:4

Introduction

HISTORY OF THE TABERNACLE

- Before the tabernacle was built, there had never been a "centrally established sanctuary" for God's people.
- God's tent was set up in the center of the camp with tribes of Israel around it.
- The central location of the king's tent was commonplace among nomadic people in the Ancient Near East. In Israel, God was their King.



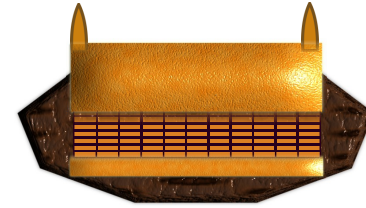
CONSTRUCTION OF THE TABERNACLE

God instructed His people to build his dwelling-place. He began with specifications about the Ark of the Covenant in the Most Holy Place, moving outwards to the Holy Place, then Courtyard. Reflective of spiritual life, God started with the place of His abode and moved outward towards the sinners.

As one approached the tabernacle's center, the materials used reflected the holiness of God. The closer to the Holy place one was, the more valuable the metals.

- **The Courtyard:** brass and silver
- **The Holy Place:** silver and gold
- **The Holiest Place:** pure gold alone.

The Courtyard



BRONZE ALTAR

A hollow altar made of wood and bronze. Four offerings frequently conducted on this altar were : *burnt offering, peace offering, meal offering, and trespass offering.* The altar provided a place for God's people to make sacrifice for sin; without sacrifice there was no atonement for sin. Sinful man could not be in God's presence without a sacrifice. This points to the dual sacrifices of both God and His people.

God's sacrifice involved the blood of Christ offered to restore relationship between men and God. It speaks of justification: men are declared righteous and restored to right relationship with God.

The sacrifice of His people is a response to God's sacrifice. It involves a complete submission to God's Lordship; it involved a complete "consecration" of oneself to God.

BRONZE LAYER

The bronze laver was a large basin made of brass mirrors. Before priests entered the Holy Place they had to be entirely clean: spiritually and physically. During the consecration they washed themselves entirely. Subsequently, priests would wash their hands & feet before entering the tabernacle.



This represents the need for God's people to be sanctified (set-apart). God requires his people to be set apart FROM sin and set apart FOR God.

2 Chron. 29:5; 15-18; 1 Th. 4:3; 1 Cor. 1:2, 6:11

