

## **TABERNACLE** **(THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD)**

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(TABERNACLE by Samson Henry, Kollam)

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## PREFACE

**"TABERNACLE, THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD"** is authored to provide preachers, teachers, evangelists and students a sensible, logic and easy to use Bible Tool. The book for sure, is an outcome of author's many years of reading, studying and teaching on the subject. It effectively show forth how that "Ancient Pattern" is significant and practical in the life of everyone who wants to learn from the teachings of the Word to live godly. The same bears witness about Bro. Samson Henry's insight in the subject matter and commitment to let that enlighten the hearts of others. It is for that reason; we count his service as a valuable contribution to the ministries of Gospel Training Centre.

The book's step by step lessons in large and eye pleasing graphics make it suitable for both class room tutoring and personal reading for devotion. At the same time its skilful presentation and simplicity turns it useful even in the hands of parents and Sunday School teachers for their children's education. All of the pages are carefully worked out to eliminate distraction and to focus the pupils' full attention on the lessons at hand. The readers can testify this because this of course is not the first, only one and the last from the same pen; we have already been blessed by few other writings of him. May God enable His servant to put many more in print for the benefit of God's people!

A prayerful and careful study of the material contained in this book will help the reader not only to strengthen his own faith but also always to be prepared to make a Word based and convincing presentation of the Good News of Our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ. And that is my prayer, may the Almighty cause that to happen for the achievement of author's purpose and the glorification of His name.

Lovingly in His Service,

**Evg. Abraham Chempola**

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Dated:

5th February 2016

## AUTHOR'S NOTE

The Tabernacle was the worship centre of the Israelites during their wilderness journey and served as the dwelling place of the God of Israel during this period. It was really a beautiful tent. The Tabernacle of Israel is one of the best illustrations of God's Design for mankind in the Bible. It was a demonstration of God's grace leading to a relationship with mankind. In order to understand the Jewish sacrifices, Priesthood, feasts etc. the study of tabernacle is essential. The study of tabernacle enables one to understand the biblical truths, doctrines such as death of Jesus on the cross, salvation through repentance and confession of sins, sanctification, fellowship, prayer, praise, worship etc. Every furniture within the tabernacle is an illustration and a teaching tool, to explain the various doctrines of the Bible.

The desert Tabernacle was only a shadow of real things in Heaven. The plan and making of the Tabernacle did not originate from Moses, as is widely believed. It was God who gave the plan and all details regarding materials, construction, ministry etc. It became the centre of Jewish faith because it was the meeting point with the Holy God of Israel, Jehovah. While the account of the creation of the universe is recorded in just two chapters, the Tabernacle and related aspects are recorded in fifty chapters. This shows us the importance of the study of the Tabernacle. Unfortunately, most of the believers do not give much attention and importance to the study of the Tabernacle. It has become merely a portion of the syllabus to students of Bible Schools, Colleges and Seminaries. Each believer will have to study the Tabernacle of Moses for building a spiritual foundation and understanding Christ's fulfillment of God's redemptive works. To a casual reader the Tabernacle seems to be a tough subject. But if you study zealously, guided by the Holy Spirit, you will definitely be amazed at the work of grace, love and peace associated with the Tabernacle.

Study of the Tabernacle is necessary for proper understanding of God's redemptive plans pictured throughout the scriptures. From the outer gate of the Tabernacle to the Holy of Holies we can see God's loving and wise idea of salvation to perfect holiness and rest to man. Each and every furniture and utensils of the tabernacle show the progression in spiritual maturity of a person to a perfect believer. A sinner, who enters through the entrance door, which portrays the door of salvation, will have to come near the Brazen Altar, which symbolizes the cross of Calvary for the removal of his sins. Whenever he passes each furniture, he is fulfilling and practicing the seven fundamental doctrines of the Church from Salvation to Prayer as recorded in Acts.2:41,42.

The important and foremost lesson of the Tabernacle is that the God of Heaven came down to dwell with His people. "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them" (Exo.25:8). In New Testament John in his Gospel recorded the same thing in relation to Jesus who came down to earth to dwell among the people. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt 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). The word dwell is the same word used for Tabernacle in the Old Testament. The Tabernacle was really a prophetic projection of Jesus' redemptive work for mankind.

I have been teaching the subject "Tabernacle" at the Gospel Training Centre (G.T.C), Iringole, Perumbavoor from the year 2009. When I was called first by Bro. Abraham Chempola, Chairman and Bro. Sajeev Varghese, Principal of G.T.C for teaching the students, I was given the liberty to speak on any Biblical subject/topic. The Holy Spirit directed me to select and study the subject of the Tabernacle for preaching to the audience. In the beginning of my study, I felt very disappointed, because of the difficulty in understanding and following the pattern in the subject. But with constant prayer and meditation, the Holy Spirit gave me much needed wisdom and insight to the subject day by day. Now after six years of Holy Spirit guided study and the practical experience gained in teaching the subject at GTC, Perumbavoor and the Kollam Brethren Assembly, Almighty God encouraged me to prepare and publish a book – The Tabernacle – the dwelling place of God.

Throughout the writing of this book, many beloved brethren have contributed with their inputs and feedback. I extend my gratitude to Bro. K.V. Daniel Raj, Evangelist (4/45, III Main Road, Raghava Nagar, Madipakkam, Chennai – 600 091) who has labored much in reading, making corrections and giving valuable suggestions to my elaborate e-mail note. May God bless this dear brother abundantly for spending much time and energy with a patient and submissive mind. I also thank Bro. Abraham Chempola, Director of G.T.C. for giving a preface to the book. I also express my sincere thanks to Bro. Sajeev Varghese, Principal of G.T.C. and Bro. P.G. James, Secretary. G.T.C. for their words of encouragement and prayer in publishing the G.T.C. lesson in the form of a book.

I close this 'Author's Note' by praising God Almighty, who poured blessings to me in properly understanding and delving into the insights of the scriptures. It is my Lord alone, who strengthened and equipped me to print and publish the lesson in a book form. May my endeavor in this regard be useful for all believers and bible students throughout the world in their studies and thereby attaining a victorious spiritual life. I am submitting the book "The Tabernacle, the dwelling place of God" at the feet of Almighty God. Amen, Hallelujah.

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# 1

## **TABERNACLE** **(THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD)**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Gen.1:1). On the sixth day of creation God created Adam in His own image (Gen.1:27). God made man to get fellowship and to dwell with man. God also gave Eve as his wife. Adam was made from the dust, but Eve was made from one of the ribs which the Lord God had taken from Adam. Seeing the woman Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." (Gen.2:23). In other words Man was made from the ground; Woman was made out of Man. Both Adam and Eve had got control over Creation (Gen.1:26).

The original creation of man was in a state of sinlessness, holiness and purity. Man was constituted of body, soul and spirit. He and his wife were in direct fellowship with God. There was a tree in the middle of Eden garden from which they were not permitted to eat the fruit (Tree of Life – Gen.2:9).

Gen.2:16,17 — "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." But the woman was first deceived by Satan and she offered the forbidden fruit to man. He also ate the fruit and caught under sin by the direct violation of God's commandment. By falling into the hands of Satan, they lost glory and fellowship with God.

Gen.3:7 — "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings."

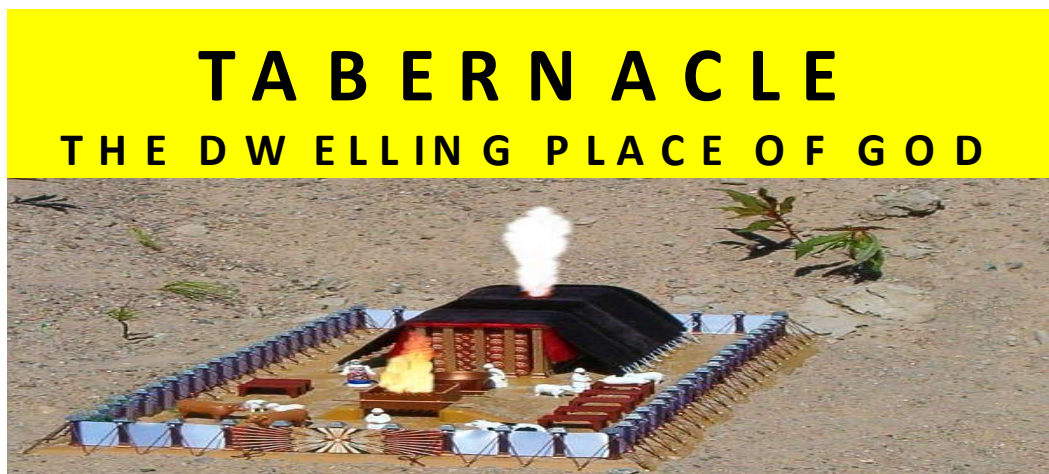
But spiritually this was a false attempt to cover their sin by their own decision. As the sins cannot be covered before God, this was ineffective (Heb.4:13). For this atonement is required. For their atonement of Sin God made suitable arrangement. As a correction to their temporary attempt to cover the sin, God killed one innocent animal and clothed them with the animal's skin. Actually this was a sacrifice for the sins of the Adam and Eve.

Gen.3:21 — "Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them."

Here lies a principle that atonement of sin is made by blood shedding.

Heb.9:22 — "And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."

The same principle was implemented in the Tabernacle of Moses.



(TABERNACLE by Samson Henry, Kollam)

## **TABERNACLE :** (Exo.25:1-9/ Exo.35:4-35/ Heb.8)

The Tabernacle was a tent that was pitched by God in the midst of the camp of Israel during the wilderness wanderings. It was a dwelling place of God in earth which God commanded Moses to make. The Tabernacle was a center of Israel's life because it was here where man approached the Almighty God.

- Exo.25:1,2,8,9 – "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering. And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it."

It was the dwelling place of God in wilderness and in Canaan as well as a place of worship and atonement for sin. God met with men in the tabernacle.

- Exo.25:22 – "And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel."

God gave the design for the tabernacle, the materials to be used, and all the details relating to its construction and its services. Moses was to do all the things according to the pattern given by God.

- Exo.25:40 – "And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain."

### **Purposes of the Tabernacle —**

- (1) God's desire to dwell with man.
- (2) God's provision to give redemption to man through sacrifice.
- (3) God's desire to meet man and to speak to them from the Mercy Seat.

- Exo.25:8 — "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them."
- Exo.40:34-37 – "Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys."

Tabernacle in Hebrew is "mishkan" which means "residence" or "dwelling place." The English word 'Tabernacle' comes from the Latin word 'tabernaculum', meaning 'tent'. It means the tent with the surrounding courtyard. Tabernacle was an important center to the Israelites because it was here where man approached God. In Old Testament, the Tabernacle was a place where God dwell in the midst of His people, Israel. The Tabernacle was the dwelling place of Jehovah-God of Israel.

The term tabernacle sometimes refers to the tent, including Holy Place and Most Holy Place. Also refers to the entire complex, including the curtained court in which the tent stood. The Tabernacle and tent were two separate parts. The Tabernacle was a small structure which housed the Holy Place and Most Holy Place. The tent was a covering which placed over the Tabernacle (Exo.40:19).



### **Tabernacle: An Earthly Sanctuary:**

Tabernacle was made according to the heavenly plan (Exo.25:40). But it was an Earthly Sanctuary because it was made by man (Heb.9:11), erected by man (Heb.8:2), made with earthly materials (Exo.25:3-7) and sacrifices done with animals of earth (Heb.9:12). The redeemed people or the Israelites gave the materials needed for the tabernacle by their free will offering. God gave spiritual wisdom and skill to Bezalel and Aholiab for the construction (Exo.31:1-11). After completion of work as per the heavenly plan, it was dedicated to God (Exo.40:34). Though the glory of God filled the sanctuary, it was an earthly tent or dwelling place, which was constructed by man with earthly materials.

#### **Features of the Tabernacle:**

1. Tabernacle was the Royal residence of the King of Kings of Israel.
2. Tabernacle was the dwelling place of God of Israel.
3. Tabernacle was the worship center of Israel in their wilderness.
4. Tabernacle was built according to heavenly plan.
5. Tabernacle was the meeting place of God and Man (Israel).
6. Tabernacle shows that Israel served the true living God.
7. Tabernacle is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
8. Tabernacle is a picture of the Believer in Jesus Christ.
9. Tabernacle is a picture of the plan of Salvation through Jesus Christ.
10. Tabernacle is a picture of the Grace of God in making relationship with mankind.
11. Tabernacle in the earth is a picture of Heavenly Tabernacle (Heb.8:5).

#### **What is the importance of the study of the Tabernacle?**

1. Shows God's future plans — Tabernacle and the tabernacle form of worship are figures of that which was to come (Heb.9:8,9,24/ Heb.10:1).
2. The Tabernacle pattern suggests that there is a heavenly reality that the earthly Tabernacle was designed to resemble (Exo.25:40 /Exo.26:30/ Exo.27:8 /Acts.7:44/ Heb.8:5).
3. The Tabernacle and experiences of the Israelites are examples and patterns established by God for us (1.Cor.10:11/ Heb.8:5).
4. The Tabernacle pictures the Lord Jesus Christ in such perfect detail that it thrills the believer as the study unfolds (Luke.24:27).
5. Every detail of the Tabernacle points to some aspect of the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ (John.1:14).
6. Tabernacle shows the sinfulness of man.
7. Tabernacle shows the Holiness of God.
8. Tabernacle shows God's redemptive plans.
9. Tabernacle shows Christ's works in God's redemptive plan.
10. Tabernacle shows how a sinful man can approach a Holy God.
11. The Priesthood and ministries in the Tabernacle enables the New Testament Church believers to understand the greater role as believer-priests.
12. Tabernacle shows Christ's High Priestly ministry.
13. Sacrificial system in the Tabernacle teaches the importance of the need of a blood shedding sacrifice to atone the sins.
14. Study of fundamental doctrines of the Church is based on the Tabernacle and its services.

#### **Background of the Tabernacle –**

- God created man in God's image and in perfect manner and placed in Eden.
- But sin entered and man could not stand in the presence of Holy God.
- Mankind from Adam continued in sin and rebelled against God > Flood > Babel.
- God chose Abraham to form a nation > Israel.
- The Jews were God's special people. But they also sinned.

(TABERNACLE *by Samson Henry, Kollam*)

- After 10 plagues and through Passover Lamb, Moses led the Jews through Red Sea.
- God gave Laws to the Israel at Mount Sinai.
- Jehovah, the God was their King and Lord.
- God wanted to live in the middle of the children of God.
- Tabernacle was the dwelling place of God in the midst of Israel.
- It was God's throne, where the Israelites met God.
- It was the center of Administration and Worship.

## **THE TABERNACLE AND THE PRIESTHOOD**

### **— Scripture Settings**

**(Exo.25 to 40)**

The God of Israel who had redeemed them from the slavery of Egypt, revealed His Glory to them in Mount Sinai and given His Law, wished to live in their midst. For this purpose God asked Moses to build a dwelling place as per the divine plan. This dwelling place or the Tabernacle was a tent like structure and can be shifted at any time and erected in another place without much delay and difficulty. Each and every part of the Tabernacle points and teaches spiritual aspects of Jesus Christ. The Priesthood shows the need of a mediator between the Holy God and sinful man. Jesus Christ is the mediator to all the sinners of the universe (1.Tim.2:5,6).

### **Scripture Settings : Tabernacle and Priesthood**

**(Exo.25 to 40)**

#### **I.Exo.25 -27 : Heavenly plan and instructions for building the Tabernacle**

- Exo.25:1-9 : Offerings for the Tabernacle  
(Collection of Materials).
- Exo.25:10-16 : The Ark of the Covenant
- Exo.25:17-22 : The Mercy Seat
- Exo.25: 23-30 : The Table of Showbread
- Exo.25:31-40 : The Golden Lampstand
- Exo.26:1-14 : The Curtains of Linen
- Exo.26:15-30 : The Boards and Sockets
- Exo.26:31-37 : Holy and Most Holy Place – The inner and the outer veil.
- Exo.27:1-8 : The Brazen Altar
- Exo.27:9-19 : The Outer Court, Pillars, Screens
- Exo.27:20,21 : The Oil for the Lampstand

#### **II.Exo.28,29 : The Priesthood**

- Exo.28:1-5 : The Command to make Garments for the Priests
- Exo.28:6-14 : The Ephod
- Exo.28:15-29 : The Breastplate
- Exo.28:30 : The Urim and Thummim
- Exo.28:31-35 : The Robe of Ephod
- Exo.28:36 : The Holy Crown
- Exo.28:37,38 : Holiness to the LORD
- Exo.28:39-43 : The Priest's Coat
- Exo.29: 1-37 : Aaron and His Sons Consecrated
- Exo.29:38-46 : The Continual Offerings of the Priests

#### **III. Exo.30,31 : Additional instructions to the Tabernacle**

- Exo.30:1-10 : The Altar of Incense
- Exo.30:11-16 : The Ransom Money
- Exo.30:17-21 : The Brazen Laver

- Exo.30:22,33 : The Holy Anointing Oil
- Exo.30:34-38 : The Incense
- Exo.31:1-11 : The appointment of Bezaleel and Aholiab
- Exo.31:12-17 : The sign of Sabbath
- Exo.31:18 : Two Tablets of Stone written with the finger of God

**IV. Exo.32,33 : Idolatry**

- Exo.32:1-10 : The Golden Calf
- Exo.32:11-35 : The Intercession and Anger of Moses
- Exo.33:1-6 : The Repentance of the People – Command to leave Sinai
- Exo.33:7-11 : Moses meets with the LORD
- Exo.33:12-23 : The Prayer of Moses and the promise of God’s Presence

**V. Exo.34 : Moses Makes New Tablets**

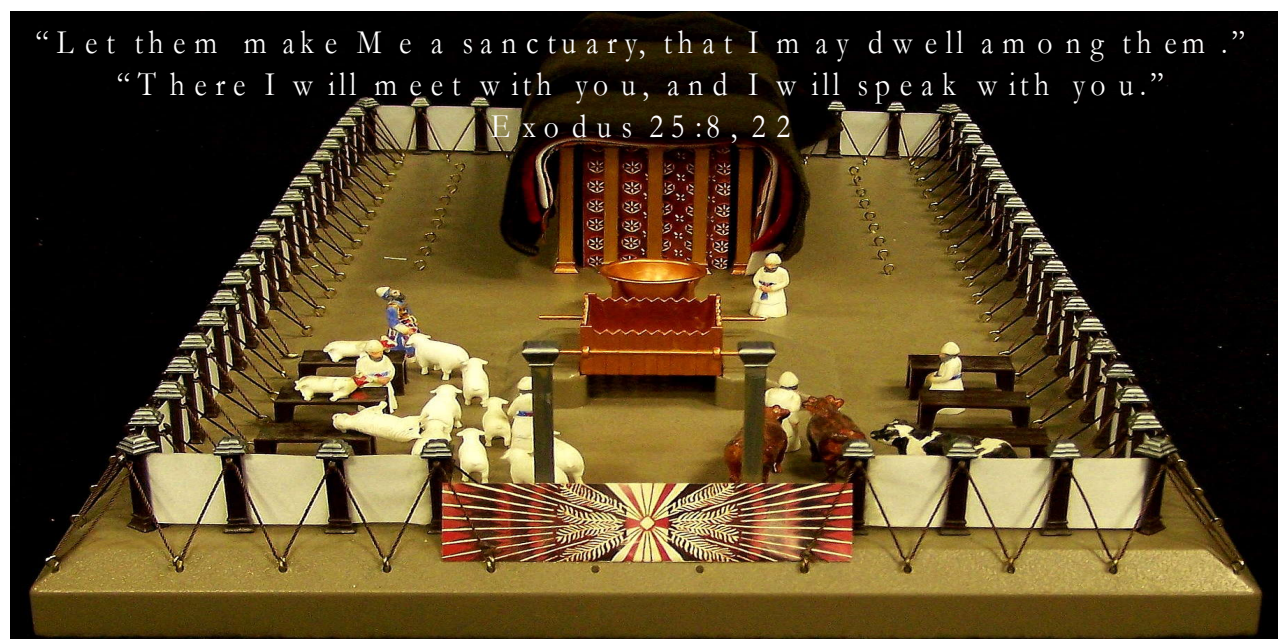
- Exo.34:1-9 : God ask Moses to make two tablets of stone
- Exo.34:10-28 : The Covenant renewed
- Exo.34:29-35 : The Shining Face of Moses

**VI. Exo.35 to 38 : Tabernacle Furnishing**

- Exo.35:1-3 : Sabbath Regulations
- Exo.35:4-29 : Materials for the Tabernacle
- Exo.35:30-35 : Bezaleel and Aholiab
- Exo.36 : The People give more than enough
- Exo.37:1-9 : Making of the Ark of the Testimony
- Exo.37:10-16 : Making of the Table of Showbread
- Exo.37:17-24 : Making of the Golden Lampstand
- Exo.37:25-29 : Making of the Altar of Incense
- Exo.38:1-7 : Making of the Altar of Burnt Offerings
- Exo.38:8 : Brazen Laver for Washing
- Exo.38:9-20 : The Courtyard
- Exo.38:21-29 : The Materials used

**VII. Exo.39 : Making the Priest’s Garments**

- Exo.39:1 : Priestly Garments
- Exo.39:2-7 : The Ephod
- Exo.39:8 -21 : The Breastplate
- Exo.39:22-31 : Other Priestly Garments



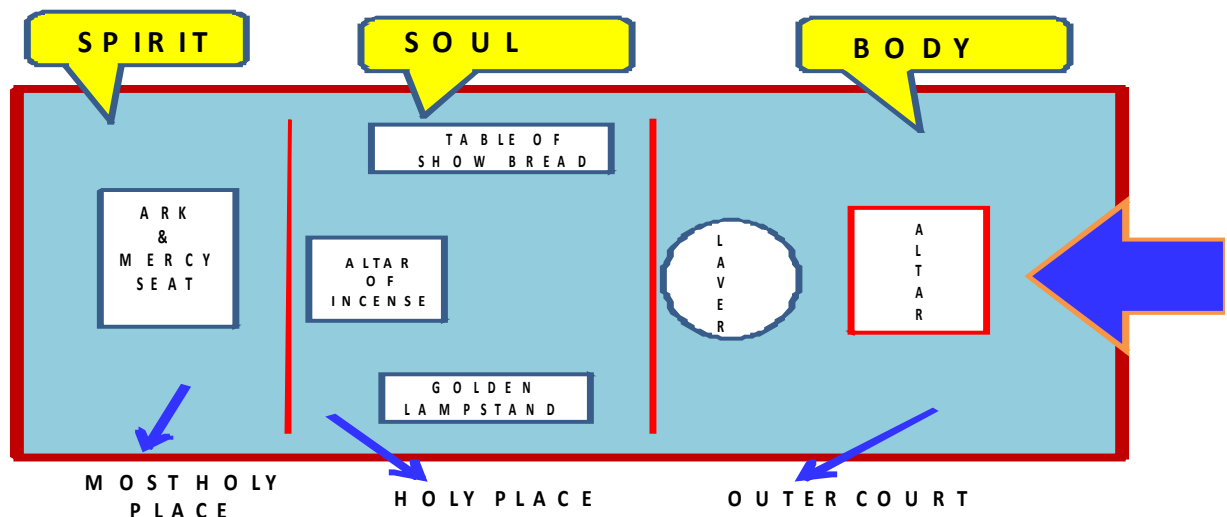
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### Different names of the Tabernacle –

1. **Tabernacle** (Exo.25:9)—dwelling place. Tabernacle, literally, “tent, dwelling,” emphasizes the nearness and closeness of God’s presence dwelling with the Israelites in the midst of their camp.
2. **Sanctuary** (Exo.25:8)—Sacred place. Set apart for the Holy God. Sanctuary emphasizes the sacredness or holiness of the place.
3. **Tent** (Exo.36:19,37) —Temporary dwelling of God.
4. **Tent of the Meeting** (Exo.39:32)— Here God met man. Tent of Meeting, emphasizing that function of being a place of “meeting” between God and His people
5. **Tabernacle of Testimony** (Exo.38:21). The Tablets of Law given to Moses was to be kept in the Ark of Covenant in the Holy of Holies.
6. **Tabernacle of the Congregation** (Exo.29:42-44/Exo.30:16) because here God met with the people.
7. **House of the Lord** (Deu.23:18).
8. **Temple of the Lord** (1.Sam.1:9).

### Tabernacle – different stages:

1. The tabernacle of the O.T. was temporary – (used only for 400 years – (1.Kin.6:1).
2. Then the Temple of Solomon (2.Chr.5:14) was the dwelling place of God on the earth.
3. While JESUS was on the earth during His ministry, He was the dwelling place of God. In Jesus the fullness of the Godhead dwelt bodily (Col.2:9).
4. Today God dwells in the heart of the believers (1.Cor.3:16).
5. The word CHURCH means “those who are called out”, and does not apply to the building, but the believers.
6. The tabernacle is also a picture of the believer, the place where Christ dwells.
7. The Believer in Christ is the dwelling place, the Temple of God (Holy Spirit). The Body is the Outer Court, the Soul is the Holy place, and the Spirit is the Holy of Holies.



### Seven articles of furniture in the Tabernacle – Seven (7) is the number for perfection.

- 1 BRAZEN ALTAR
- 2 BRAZEN LAVER
- 3 GOLDEN LAMPSTAND
- 4 TABLE OF SHOWBREAD
- 5 ALTAR OF INCENSE
- 6 MERCY SEAT
- 7 ARK

(TABERNACLE by Samson Henry, Kollam)

**Measurement of seven furniture of the Tabernacle:** (in Cubits > 1 cubit = 1½ feet)

			Length	Breadth	Height
1	BRAZEN ALTAR	Exo.27:1/38:1	5	5	3
2	BRAZEN LAVER	No measurement			
3	LAMPSTAND	No measurement			
4	TABLE OF SHOWBREAD	Exo.25:23/37:10	2	1	1½
5	ALTAR OF INCENSE	Exo.30:1/37:25	1	1	2
6	MERCY SEAT	No measurement			
7	ARK	Exo.25:10/37:1	2½	1½	1½

**Tabernacle – Seven Furniture and Jesus Christ:**

1	BRAZEN ALTAR	Lamb of God
2	BRAZEN LAVER	Living Water
3	GOLDEN LAMPSTAND	Light of the World
4	TABLE OF SHOWBREAD	Living Bread
5	ALTAR OF INCENSE	High Priest
6	ARK OF COVENANT	Word of God, All sufficient, Everlasting Priesthood
7	MERCY SEAT	Source of Grace

**Tabernacle and Jesus Christ in relation to a Believer –**

Every part of the Tabernacle and each article of furniture represented Jesus Christ and the work of Salvation.

1	BRAZEN ALTAR	Christ, our Sacrifice
2	BRAZEN LAVER	Christ, our Sanctification
3	DOOR	Christ, only way of entrance > Grace
4	GOLDEN LAMPSTAND	Christ, our Light
5	TABLE OF SHOWBREAD	Christ, our Bread of Life
6	ALTAR OF INCENSE	Christ, our Faith > Rest and Prayer Life
7	ARK OF COVENANT	Christ, our sacrifice > Mediator
8	MERCY SEAT	Christ, our propitiation

## **Tabernacle has three parts –**

- 1. THE OUTER COURT** - The outer court was open to all who would bring sacrifices to be burned upon the Altar. The outer court contains --

- (1) The Brazen Altar and
- (2) The Brazen Laver.

The outer Court is a representation of the world. Ordinary Israelites could enter the outer court. Only Priests having required qualifications can enter the Holy Place of the Tabernacle.

So also those who enter the Church (Present Tabernacle) for ministries must be saved in Jesus Christ and separated from the world (1.John.1:9/Acts.2:41,42).

- 2. THE HOLY PLACE** - The Priests of Israel alone was allowed to enter the Holy Place to perform duties of the tabernacle. The Holy Place contains --

- (1) The table of Showbread
- (2) the Candlestick and
- (3) the Altar of Incense.

There was only one entrance to the Holy Place from the outer court. Definite qualifications are prescribed to enter the Holy Place (Exo.28:1/Num.3:10). Only those who are washed in Laver were permitted to enter. Those who are qualified to enter the Holy Place have the benefit of Golden Lampstand. They were permitted to eat the showbread and burning of incense upon the Altar.

The Church is also typical to Holy Place. Only priests have ministries in the Church. All believers of New Testament Church are priests. Old Testament priesthood was from the family of Aaron, High Priest, by birth. New Testament priesthood is also by birth, through Jesus Christ, the High Priest. The specific qualifications for priesthood and ministries are specified in various scriptures (Acts.2:47/ Acts.2:41,42/ 1.Pet.1:18-23).

- 3. THE MOST HOLY PLACE** – The Holy of Holies was the dwelling place of God. The High Priest alone was allowed to enter here once in a year. It contains --

- (1) The Ark
- (2) The Mercy Seat.

The Holy of Holies was separated from the rest of the tabernacle by the veil, a large heavy curtain of fine linen woven of blue, purple and scarlet thread and embroidered with gold Cherubim (Exo.26:31-37). Only the High Priest was permitted to go beyond this veil once a year on the Day of Atonement (Exo.30:10/ Heb.9:7) to enter into God's presence for himself and all of the Israel and make atonement for their sins (Lev.16).

The Holy of Holies shows the divine Perfection of Jesus. The veil was symbolic of Christ Himself as the only way to the Father.

- John.14:6 – "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
- Heb.10:19-22 – "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

### **Three divisions of the Tabernacle and Jesus Christ –**

#### **1. OUTER COURT**

Jesus is the Way | Jesus is the Lamb that was slain | Jesus is the Word of God

#### **2. INNER COURT OR HOLY PLACE**

Jesus is the Truth | Jesus is the Light of God | Jesus is the Bread of Life

#### **3. MOST HOLY PLACE**

Jesus is the Life | Jesus is the Law of God | Jesus is the Glory of God.

### **Three divisions of the Tabernacle and the Believer –**

**1. THE OUTER COURT** - The outer court which contained the Brazen Altar for sacrifices and the Brazen Laver for washing suggest Salvation and Sanctification of a believer.

**2. THE HOLY PLACE** - The Holy Place which contained the table of Showbread, the Candlestick and the Altar of Incense suggest a place of worship and service by believer priest.

**3. THE HOLY OF HOLIES OR MOST HOLY PLACE** – The Holy of Holies which the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat (presence of God) suggest the place of Fellowship and complete Surrender- Personal relationship with God.

### **Materials for the Tabernacle and Israel –**

The Tabernacle pattern was given by God (Exo.25:9). The whole of the materials of which the Tabernacle was built were the free-will offerings of the people of God (Exo.25:2-7). The children of Israel were under slavery in Egypt. God redeemed them from the hand of Pharaoh and from Egypt through Moses. Immediately after the release from the slavery, God asked them to make a contribution to build the Tabernacle. God owns all things of the earth for building the Tabernacle without the contribution of man. God could have made the whole Tabernacle by His powerful word or strength within moments as in the creation of the whole universe. God does not need the gifts of His people, but He receives their gifts as a part of their true worship of Him.

God asked His people to bring offerings for the Tabernacle through voluntary gifts. God wanted the gifts that were given freely and gladly, not under any compulsion. Moreover this was not the tithe. Another reason for the request of the contribution is that God wanted His people to have a participation in the building of the Tabernacle.

Exo.25:1,2 – “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering.”

Exo.35:4,5 – “And Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, “This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying: Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the LORD.”

Giving should be an act of worship to God from the willing heart. We can give God only that which God has given us.

*King David's attitude that everything comes from God is necessary in this regard –*

- 1. Chr.29:12-14 – “Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all. Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You.”

*The Children of Israel gave so much they were told to stop giving –*

- Exo.25:1-7 – “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering. And this is the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats’ hair; ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.”
- Exo.36:3-7 – “And they received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of making the sanctuary. So they continued bringing to him freewill offerings every morning. Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing, and they spoke to Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the LORD commanded us to do. So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. And the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done-indeed too much.”

*Where did the Children of God obtain the materials and valuable things for the contribution immediately after the slavery from Egypt? –*

The answer is that God has given all these things to them for becoming the partakers of the dwelling place of God, the Tabernacle. This was share of the four hundred years back wages that they collected on their way out of the land of Egypt. This was foretold to Abraham. “And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions” (Gen.15:14). The Egyptians were so glad to give the Israelites whatever they asked during their exodus.

- Exo.12:35,36 – “Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.”

God asked His people to bring offerings for the Tabernacle construction because God wished their participation in the work. Through this they have got the privilege to make the sanctuary for their God. Today, all the believers are the living stones and participating in the building of the Church and supplying at their might for a beautiful completion. In this connection we have to remember an important message that we must use only the right and the best materials for the work (1.Cor.3:9-17/1.Pet.2:5).

No outsiders’ or gentile people’s offerings were accepted for the divine construction. This shows that the gifts or offerings of unbelievers / sinners are not to be accepted and used for the Lord’s work in the present age also. God desires that His people give themselves to His service as a living sacrifice (Rom.12:1) and each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity (2.Cor.9:7).

The apostle Paul in his epistle to 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians states that God loves a cheerful giver.

2.Cor.9:6-15 – “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever. Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, while, through the proof of

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this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"

### **Materials used in the Tabernacle – (Pictures Jesus Christ)**

- 1. SHITTIM WOOD (Acacia)** – Acacia or Shittim wood was durable and resistant to disease and insects, making it the most suitable material for the use in the Tabernacle.

The wood pictures the humanity of Jesus Christ. The Shittim (Acacia) wood is a hard, incorruptible, indestructible wood that grows in Sinai Desert. It grows in dry ground and has no beauty in external appearance (Exo.26:15/Num.25:1/Isa.41:19). The name "Shittim" comes from the Hebrew word "Shotate" meaning "to pierce". This is a reference to Christ who was pierced for our transgressions. Wood pictures the humanity of Christ (Ex.25:5) → Isa.53:2,3 – "For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground: He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, and we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him."

- 2. GOLD** – (Exo.25:3). Divinity and Kingship.

Shows the divinity and kingship of Jesus Christ > Mat.2:11 – "And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

- 3. SILVER** - (Exo.25:3). Redemption (Atonement ransom)

Shows redemption through Jesus Christ (Exo.26:19-25/Exo. 30:11-16/1.Pet.1:18,19/Mk.10:45).

- 4. BRASS** - (Exo.25:3; Num.21:6-9) — Judgment

Jesus Christ bore the Judgment of the sinners (1.Pet.2:24/John.3:14,15).

- 5. WHITE: (Colours) FINE LINEN** - Spotless righteousness.

Shows the holiness, purity and sinless nature of Jesus Christ (Exo.25:4; Rev.19:8/Isa.1:18). White > Jesus the Perfect Man (Luke).

- 6. BLUE** - (Exo.25:4) — Heavenly nature and origin. The colour of the sky.

Shows Jesus Christ who came from heaven (Psa.19:1/John.8:23).

Blue > Jesus the Son of God (John)

- 7. PURPLE** - (Exo.25:4) – Royalty and kingship. Purple clothes worn by Kings.

Shows the kingship of Jesus Christ (Luke.1:32).

Purple > Jesus the Messiah King (Matthew)

- 8. SCARLET RED** –(Exo.25:4). Sacrificed blood — Red pictures blood.

Shows the sanctification through the blood of Jesus Christ (1.John.1:7/ Heb.9:19,22/Isa.63:2).

Scarlet Red > Jesus, the Suffering Servant (Mark)

- 9. GOAT'S HAIR** - (Exo.25:4; Lev.16:20-22) – Goats were used in the sin offering. — The sin bearer.

- 10. RAM'S SKINS DYED RED** – The ram was a sacrificial animal. A ram was substituted for the sacrificing of Abraham's son Isaac (Gen.22:13).

The suffering of Christ, the depth and devotion of Christ (Exo.25:5; Luke 22:44).

**11. BADGER'S SKINS** - Humility of Christ (Ex.25:5; Isa.53:2), a common, ordinary-looking skin.

The skin also represents protection and covering. Jesus Christ is the covering for the Church.

**12. OIL for the LIGHT** - (Exo.25:5) – Oil represents the Holy Spirit.

**13. SPICES for Anointing** - Sweetness and preciousness of Christ (Exo.25:6).

**14. ONYX STONES** – Preciousness — Speaks of the Glory of Christ (Exo.25:7; John.17:5).

#### **Tabernacle was called the House of Blood. Why? –**

- THE TABERNACLE was called "THE HOUSE OF BLOOD", because there were blood sacrifices. The blood sacrifices are required by God for redemption.
- Blood was merely prophetic, typical, and a shadow of the blood of the coming Lamb of God, His Son: Jesus Christ.
  1. **Redemption** through the blood (Eph.1:7).
  2. **Forgiveness** through the blood (Eph.1:7).
  3. **Justification** through the blood (Rom.5:9).
  4. **Sanctification** through the blood (Heb.10:10).
  5. **Cleansing** through the blood (1.John.1:7).
  6. **Peace** through the blood (Col.1:20).
  7. **Victory** through the blood (Rev.12:11).

#### **DIFFERENT TEMPLES — FELLOWSHIP OF GOD WITH MAN**

The primary object of God in the creation of man is for conducting fellowship between God and Man. God created man in God's own image and in perfect manner and placed in Eden. But sin entered and the man could not stand in the presence of Holy God. He ran away and hid himself from the sight of God. The Holy God cannot continue the fellowship with man who has sinned. Still God wishes for fellowship and to live with man.

After the fall of man God walked with holy men like Enoch and Noah (Gen.5:24/ Gen.6:9), then God decided to dwell in the midst of His people (Exo.25:8) and God's glory came and filled the Tabernacle (Exo.40:34). But when Israel sinned, the glory departed from them (1.Sam.4:21, 22). Later the Glory came to this world in the person of Jesus Christ (John.1:14). Now God dwells in believers (1.Cor.6:19,20) and in Church (Eph.2:20-22). In future God's glory will fill in New Heaven and Earth and God dwells with men forever (Rev.21,22).

Different temples can be seen from Genesis to Revelation —

- (1) Temple in Eden
- (2) Tabernacle
- (3) Solomon's Temple
- (4) Zerubbabel's Temple
- (5) Herod's Temple
- (6) Temple of Christ
- (7) Temple in Man
- (8) Temple in Tribulation
- (9) God in Millennium Temple
- (10) God with Man and Man with God.

## **(1) Temple in Eden Garden**

God came down from heaven to earth to live with man. This was the first temple having no walls, courts, and altar. God placed man in Eden to have fellowship, to walk, to speak, to live etc. We do not know how much time they had fellowship. One day man fell into sin and hid himself from the sight of God. The Holy God cannot continue the fellowship with the sinned man. Sin separated man from God. If Adam and Eve ate the Tree of Life, they would live forever as sinners. So the Lord drove them out of the Eden Garden. God put angelic guards at the entrance of Eden Garden for preventing them from the access of the Tree of Life. Later God allowed the way to the Tree of Life through Jesus Christ's death on the cross (John.14:6/Heb.10:10-22/Rev.2:7).

Though man lost glory and fell into sin in Eden Garden, God still loved man and wished for his fellowship. Later God walked with men like Enoch and Noah, talked with Abraham, and made fellowship with Moses.

- Gen.3:1-3 — "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"
- Gen.3:24 — "So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life."

## **(2) Tabernacle**

Abraham's descendants were named as Israel. God chose them as His own people. But due to sin they went under the slavery of Egypt. Seeing their tears and pitiable condition, God redeemed them from the slavery in Egypt and led to Canaan through the desert. In the wilderness journey of Israel, God wanted to live and have fellowship with them. So God asked Moses to construct a dwelling place -- the Tabernacle. But this dwelling place was temporary and can be removed from one place to another in their travel.

God gave Israel through Moses the blueprint for the making of the Tabernacle and the pattern for the garments for the High Priest to wear in Exodus Chapters 25 to 40. The Tabernacle was the centre of Israel's life because it was here where they approached Jehovah.

The tabernacle was not a plan that grown in the heart of Moses. It was not a project constructed by Moses to invite God to dwell in it. But it was the plan showed by God to make fellowship with man. God has given detailed plan for the construction including the materials to be used in it and also all the ministries inside.

- Exo.25:8 — "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them."

## **(3) Solomon's Temple**

Temporary dwelling place (tabernacle) was changed to a permanent one in the reign of King Solomon. It was called Temple. Though David wished to construct a temple, God did not allow him because he was a warrior having sword in his hand and caused blood shedding. God said to David that his desire will be fulfilled through his son Solomon.

- 2.Sam.7:1,2 — "Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, that the king said to Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains."
- 1.Kin.6:1 — "And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD."

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- 1.Kin.8:10,11 – “And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, So that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.”
- 2.Chr.5:14 – “So that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.”

The temporary dwelling place changed to a permanent through the Temple of Solomon. Fellowship with man and God resumed here. While the Tabernacle was a moving one, the Temple was a permanent construction. Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem was very beautiful, magnificent and its construction was miraculous. It was one of the wonders of the ancient world. Again man went away from the presence of God to idolatry and served and worshipped other gods. Later the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar came and demolished the Temple and took away the precious furniture, gold, silver, brass etc. The Israelites were captured and brought to Babel as slaves.

The Temple built by Solomon was for a time, the dwelling place of God here on earth. But this will be restored in Millennium reign.

#### **(4) Zerubbabel’s Temple**

The people of God under Babylonian captivity returned to Jerusalem and constructed a temple under the leadership of Zerubbabel. When compared with the temple of Solomon it was not at all good and had no beauty.

- Ezra.3:8, 12 — “Now in the second month of the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all those who had come out of the captivity to Jerusalem, began work and appointed the Levites from twenty years old and above to oversee the work of the house of the LORD. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers’ houses, who were old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid before their eyes. Yet many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard afar off.”

But God liked this temple and lived in it. This shows that God is not looking at the external beauty but the beauty in the heart.

- Ezra.6:15,16 — “Now the temple was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius. Then the children of Israel, the priests and the Levites and the rest of the descendants of the captivity, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.”

Through repeated wars in the country the temple was defiled and later it was destroyed and demolished (Ezra.6:1-22/ Ezra.3:1-8/ Hag.1-2).

#### **(5) Herod’s Temple**

There is no authentication of the scriptures about the construction of the temple by Herod. That means the temple was not constructed as per the wishes or the plan of God. Herod was a cruel, selfish and ungodly king. He had no concern or love to the Jews. Then why did he construct a temple to God? The answer points to his selfish aim. He knew that he was a king hated by the subjects and nobody will honor or remember him after his death. So the aim of the construction was mainly to keep his name in the history for remembrance. Another aim is to get the love and honour from the Jews.

- Prov.24:20 – “For there will be no prospect for the evil man; The lamp of the wicked will be put out.”

As the temple was not constructed as per the will of God, God didn't like this temple and did not live in it. There was no ark of covenant or Shekinah glory inside the temple. Jesus Christ in His earthly ministry stood only in the outer court of the temple having no permission for entry to inside. Jesus said: Mat.21:13 — "And He said to them, It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

The destruction of this temple is foretold in the scripture (Mat.24:2). The temple of Herod was destroyed and demolished by the Roman Empire Titus (Mark.13:2/Luke.1:11-20/Luke.2:22-38/Luke.2:42-51/ Luke.4:21-24/John.2:19,20). Later Muslims had taken over this place and constructed their mosque. Now this place is in the hand of Palestine Muslims.

## **(6) Temple of Christ**

When Jesus Christ was in the earth, Jesus Christ Himself was a Tabernacle. His living was to bring man nearer to God. But the body (Temple) of Christ was destroyed by men. When the Roman soldiers nailed his body with the tree, this temple is also demolished.

- John.2:19-21 — "Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then the Jews said, It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days? But He was speaking of the temple of His body."

Jesus Christ lived with men as Immanuel (God with us) – Mat.1:21-23 – "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, God with us."

- John.1:14 – "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."
- 2.Cor.5:19 – "That God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

## **(7) Temple in Man (God in Man) — Grace Age Temple**

God dwells in man. Man is a temple of God. Today God doesn't live in a man-made building on earth. God dwells in the heart of those who accepted Jesus Christ. Every believer is the Tabernacle of God. We are God's Tabernacle and we are God's Royal Priesthood.

- 1.Cori.3:16 — "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"
- 2.Cor.6:16 — "And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."
- 1.Cori.6:19,20 – "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."
- Col.1:27 — "To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."
- 1.Pet.2:5 — "You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."
- 1.Pet.2:9,10 — "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."

God can live in man as long as he is holy. That is, the Holy God can live only in a holy body. But God can live in this human body only for a short period. Because our body is destined to death due to the sin passed from Adam. With death, the human body will go down the earth for the coming resurrection. The destruction of body or death to human came through sin.

### **Features of Temple in Man (Fleshy Tabernacle) –**

Our body is a type of fleshy Tabernacle. God dwells in our tabernacle. In our earthly life as a believer we have to keep the tabernacle in holiness. Following are the peculiar features of the fleshy Tabernacle:

- Created by God in His own image (Gen.1:27/Gen.2:7)
- Temple of Holy Spirit (1.Cor.6:19)
- Have to Glorify God (1.Cor.6:20)
- Will return to dust or caught alive by God in rapture (Gen.3:19 /Ecc.3:20/ Ecc.12:7 /1.Thess.4:16,17).
- Will be resurrected (Rom.8:11/1.Cor.15:44-54/Phil.3:20,21)
- Must be presented to God (Rom.12:1,2)
- Magnify Christ (Phil.1:20)
- To be kept clean (Heb.10:22)
- Should be disciplined (1.Cor.9:27)
- To be under self control (James.3:2)
- Be a model to all (1.Tim.4:12)
- Produce spiritual fruit (Gal.5:22)
- Allow to use by our Lord (2.Tim.2:20,21)
- Not allow sin to reign (Rom.6:11-13)

### **(8) Temple in Tribulation**

After the rapture of the Church, a temple will be constructed by the Jews with the help of Antichrist in the tribulation period. This temple will be called Temple in Tribulation. This temple will also be destroyed (Dan.9:27/ Dan.11:45/ Dan.12:7/ 2.Thess.2:3,4/Rev.11:1,2). The temple will be constructed in the beginning of tribulation and in the middle of tribulation (Great Tribulation) the Antichrist will breach a treaty with the Jews and place his idol in the temple.

- Rev.13:14 — “And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.”

### **(9) Millennium Temple**

After the Great Tribulation period Jesus Christ with the Church will come down to earth to establish the millennium reign in earth. Before the reign, Satan will be chained for 1000 years in the bottomless pit.

- Rev.20:1-3 — “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”

Christ with the Saints will reign on earth for 1000 years. The temple erected in Jerusalem in the millennium period is called Millennium Temple (Isa.66:20/ Eze.40-48/Zec.6:12,13).

## **(10) Eternal Temple**

After 1000 years reign of Christ with saints, the Satan will be released for a while. As and when he was released he will go over to the nations to assemble all to fight against God as a final attempt. Christ will send fire from heaven and kill all the enemies gathered together. The Satan will be thrown to the lake of fire for eternal torment. Then the new heaven and the new earth will be established in the place of old creation. God will dwell in the New Jerusalem with the saints. Since the whole New Jerusalem is a holy place and the inhabitants are holy saints and with the unbroken presence of God there will not be any separated temple. The New Jerusalem will be the Eternal Temple.

- 2.Cor.5:1 – “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”
- Rev.21:3 – “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.”

God’s ultimate wish of living with saints from the Eden Garden fulfills in the eternal city. The New Jerusalem will be the Eternal Temple.

### **Characteristics of the Tabernacle:**

Tabernacle means a tent. Tabernacle was the worship centre of Israelites in their wilderness and a dwelling place of God of Israel. It was really a beautiful tent. This can be used in travel and can be removed and set up immediately without any difficulty. In order to understand the Jewish sacrifice, priesthood, feasts etc. the study of tabernacle is required. The study of tabernacle enables one to understand the biblical truths, doctrines such as Jesus’ death on cross, repentance and confession of sin, fellowship, praise, worship etc.

The tabernacle was built according to heavenly pattern given to Moses by God at Mount Sinai (Exo.25:1-9/Exo.26:30/ Exo.27:8/Num.8:4/ Acts.7:44/ Heb.8:5). Through the plan of tabernacle given to Moses, God was exhibiting His throne at Heaven and foreshadowing the process of redemption of sinful man. In the book of Revelation apostle John at Patmos also had a vision of heaven and future happenings of the world. He even sees the furniture similar to the one in tabernacle such as – Brazen Altar (Rev.6:9), Golden Altar (Rev.9:13), Lampstand (Rev.1:12), Ark of the Covenant (Rev.11:19).

The Jews were asked to bring the materials needed for its construction by free offerings to God (Exo.25:1-9). They brought more materials than needed and Moses had to say to them to stop the offering (Exo.35:4-36:7). These materials were in the hands of the children of Israel which were given by the Egyptians when they left from the slavery (Exo.12:35,36). God chose the craftsmen to build the house and filled them with Holy Spirit (Exo.31:1-11).

### **Heavenly Tabernacle and Earthly Tabernacle –**

The desert tabernacle was only a shadow of real things in Heaven. It was a copy of the real one in Heaven. The difference in the ministry is explained in Hebrew epistle.

- Heb.9:24-28 – “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another. He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”
- Heb.8:1, 2 – “Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.”

(TABERNACLE by *Samson Henry, Kollam*)

## Features of Moses Tabernacle (Desert Tabernacle) –

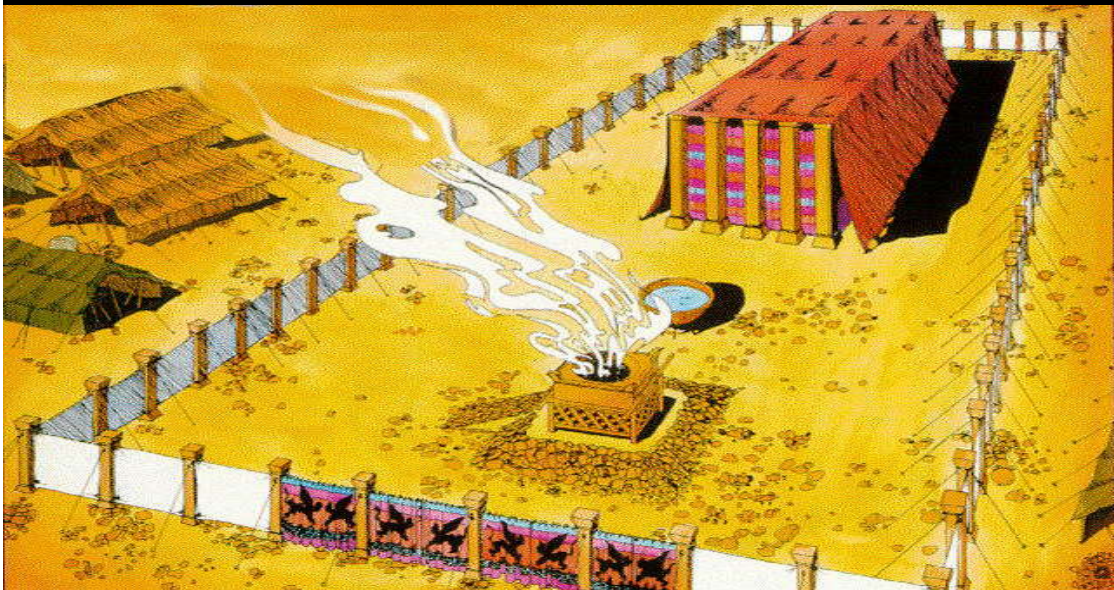
### 1. Tabernacle made according to the heavenly plan:

Tabernacle was a tent like structure. It was the dwelling place of God in the midst of Israel. The plans for the tabernacle were given to Moses by God. He also received instructions how each part of it was to be made. Moses was repeatedly asked to follow strictly according to instructions.

- Exo.25:40 – “And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.”
- Exo.26:30 – “And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain.”
- Exo.27:8 – “You shall make it hollow with boards; as it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make it.”
- Acts.7:44 – “Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as He appointed, instructing Moses to make it according to the pattern that he had seen.”
- Heb.8:5 – “Who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”

**Exo. 25:8-9 - And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them . "According to all that I show you ....**

**Exo.39:42,43/ Exo.40:16,19 ,23,25,29,32 - ..... as the LORD had commanded Moses.**



God gave the plan and all instructions regarding the building of the Tabernacle to Moses (Exo.25:8). Later God gave the plan and details for the building of a Temple to David (1.Chr.28:19,20). God has still plans, patterns, and instructions etc. for the works to be completed by us in the earth. Our duty while construction is to follow strictly the rules and regulations already given to us through His Words (Josh.1:8,9/ Ezz.7:10/Neh.4:17,18).



## **2. Tabernacle was the worship centre of the Israelites for a long time:**

It was the worship centre of the children of Israel in wilderness for about 480 years from Moses to David. It was continued as a tabernacle of witness in the wilderness (Acts.7:44). Being temporary it could be carried over from one place to another. Our Lord, Jesus Christ — the Tabernacle — travelled to various places in the lifespan of 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years in this earth.

## **3. Various scriptures speak about tabernacle:**

There are 50 chapters in the bible speaking on tabernacle and its ministry: (Exodus 13 Chaps. + Numbers 13 Chaps. + Leviticus 18 Chaps. + Deuteronomy 2 Chaps. + Hebrew 4 Chaps). Creation of the universe is recorded in 2 chapters only. This speaks about the importance of tabernacle.

## **4. Tabernacle is a great teaching tool of God to the Israelites:**

Though the tabernacle was the worship centre of Israel, its every furniture was an illustration and teaching tool to explain the various doctrines of Bible > Col.2:17/ Heb.8:5/ Heb.9:23,24,28/ Heb.10:1-5,9-12.

## **5. Tabernacle symbolizes Jesus Christ: Tabernacle symbolizes or pictures the ministry of Jesus Christ.**

The materials used to construct the Tabernacle are pictures of God's redemption in Jesus Christ. The various furnishings show God's great plan of Salvation for the repentant sinner. The Tabernacle of Moses reveals every aspect of Jesus Christ and His work as the Word who became flesh and dwelt (tabernacle) among us. John.1:14 – "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

Col.2:9 – "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

## **6. Tabernacle symbolizes the Church: Tabernacle symbolizes or pictures the ministry of the Church.**

- The Tabernacle was a worship centre in which God dwelt and it stood as witness to the world. So does the church. The Church is a dwelling place of God.

Eph.2:20-22 – "Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."

- The Church is a place where God meets men today. God's presence and witness dwell in the Church in two ways —

(1) God's Spirit dwells in believers : 1.Cor.6:19,20

(2) God's Spirit dwells among believers: when two or three of them gather together. Mat.18:20 — "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

1.Cori.3:16—"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

## **7. Tabernacle symbolizes the Believer: Tabernacle symbolizes or pictures the believer in Christ, the person who truly follows God.**

- John.17:23— "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."

- 1.Cor.6:19,20 – “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

## **8. Tabernacle was only a shadow of real things:**

### **(a) The Heavenly Tabernacle:**

- Heb.9:24 — “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”
- Heb.8:1,2 — “Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.”

### **(b) The Believer:**

- 1.Cor.3:16 — “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”
- 1.Cor.6:19 — “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”

### **(c) Jesus Christ:**

- John.2:19-21 — “Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then the Jews said, It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days? But He was speaking of the temple of His body.”

## **9. The purpose of Tabernacle :**

- (a) The short term purpose was to build God a sanctuary where God might be worshipped and be able to live among His people - Ex.25:8 / Ex.25:22.
- (b) The long term purpose of the Tabernacle was to arouse God’s people to look at the promised Messiah. The promised Messiah would come and fulfill every picture of the Tabernacle within Himself. (John.1:14 / Heb.1:1-3).

## **10. The peculiarity of the word Tabernacle:**

Tabernacle comes from the Hebrew word “mishkan” which means dwelling place, a tent, a place of habitation, a residence. The root word means to pitch a tent — God literally pitched His tent, the Tabernacle, among His people, the Israelites. Jesus Christ pitched His tent, the tabernacle of His body, and He lived and dwelt among us.

## **11. The message of the Tabernacle:**

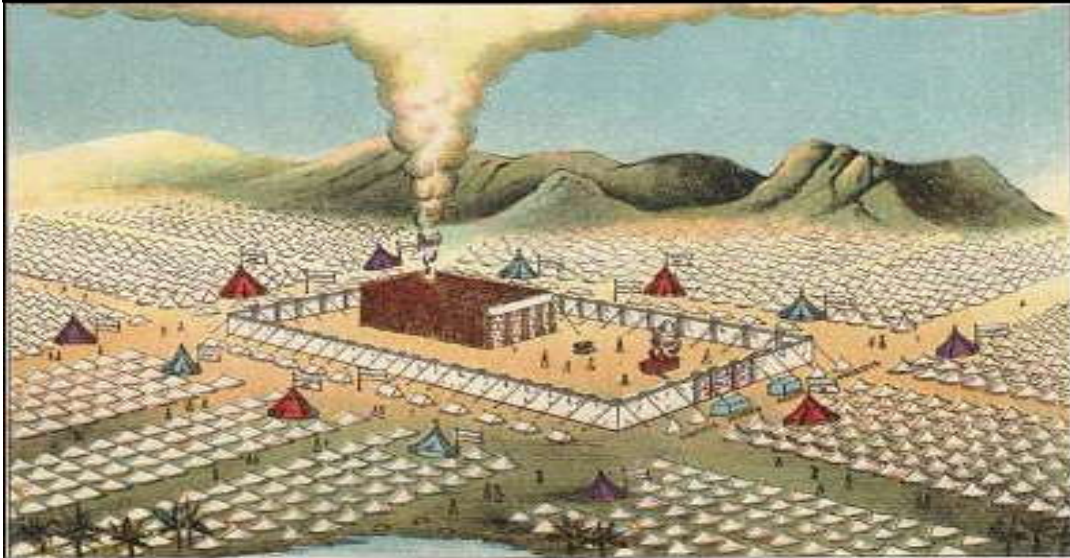
1. The way of Entrance > The Gate of Outer Court. Jesus said : Mat.7:13,14
2. The way of Reconciliation > The Brazen altar :2.Cor.5:19,21
3. The way of Separation > The Laver : Jn.13:10 / Jn.15:3
4. The way of Illumination > The Golden Candlestick : Jn.8:12
5. The way of Satisfaction > The Table of Showbread : Jn.6:35
6. The way of Intercession > The Altar of Incense : Heb.13:15
7. The way of Communion > The Ark of Covenant : 1.Jn.1:3

## 12. Tabernacle is a meeting place of God with Man:

An Israelite who wishes to see God has to come to the outer court and hear through Moses. Moses was the mediator.

- Exo.25:21,22 – “You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.”

**The camp at rest : Twelve tribes, with the tabernacle in the midst ( Tabernacle in the middle of Israel)**



- Mat.18:20 — “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

The Levites got the opportunity to camp near the tent. (The name Levi means joined or united).

As sinners we were not able to approach the Holy God. Through Jesus Christ we are united with God. Believers are priests and they have access to the Holy God at any time. In the Old Testament God dwelt in the **middle** of the children of Israel, in the New Testament God (Jesus) dwelt **with** men as Immanuel in this world and today God (Holy Spirit) dwells **in** each believer. Believer is a temple of God.

## 14. The outward appearance of the tabernacle is not beautiful:

Though it was the dwelling place of Almighty God, it had no attraction to the persons standing outside the tent. The tent was covered with Badgers skin and it was black in color. Solomon’s temple was very beautiful and a magnificent one. But the tent of tabernacle is not an attractive one to a person who is looking from outside.

Our Lord is also like this. When our Lord was in earth nobody saw His beauty except disciples and followers. The Jews never realized or recognized His beauty.

- Isa.53:2,3 — “For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.”

(TABERNACLE by *Samson Henry, Kollam*)

### **15. Tabernacle has only one entrance:**

About 25 lakhs people encamped around the tabernacle which had only one entrance. And it was a wide door having no lintel or door posts. Anybody who wishes to go inside the tent can go through the wide entrance without any hindrance. All are welcome to enter into the Tabernacle Outer Court. The Gate into the outer court of the Tabernacle was normally seems to be closed, but never locked. Anyone who wishes to enter at any time through the gate can push the curtain aside and have easily access to inside. This shows Jesus Christ is the only door for approaching the God Almighty at any time without any hindrance.

- John.10:9 — "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."
- John.10:7 — "Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep."
- John.14:6 — "Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
- Acts.4:12 — "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- 1.Tim.2:5,6 — "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

### **16. The entrance to the tabernacle was in the east:**

The only door of the tabernacle was faced to east that is facing the sun. The Eden Garden, the first tabernacle of God had only one gate that was in East. When man fell in sin he was drove out and God placed cherubim to guard the door.

- Gen.3:24 — "So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the **east** of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life."

When a man accepts Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour he can pass through the gate. Jesus Christ is our Sun of Righteousness. We have to look and walk in the light.

- Mal.4:2 — "The Sun of Righteousness shall arise."
- John.8:12 — "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

### **17. Worshippers to enter through the tribe of Judah:**

In order to meet God and to hear the word of God and worship God, they have to enter the tabernacle through the tribe Judah.

- Num.2:3 — "On the east side, toward the rising of the sun, those of the standard of the forces with Judah shall camp according to their armies; and Nahshon the son of Amminadab shall be the leader of the children of Judah."
- Our Lord is from the tribe of Judah. He is the Lion of Judah. We have got free access to father God through Jesus Christ, the Lion of Judah.
- Rev.5:5 — "Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

### Four colours in the Tabernacle and Jesus Christ –

The curtains of the Gate leading to the Outer Court of the Tabernacle were blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen (Exo.27:16). It was wrought with needle work and was of the same quality as the hangings for the door of the Holy place.

The number "Four" in the Scripture pictures the world number; and in the Tabernacle it described God as He has been pleased to reveal Himself in the world. The Scriptures speak of "four corners of the earth," also of "four winds of the earth." The four Gospels describe the earthly life of the Lord Jesus Christ in four angles. Matthew describes Jesus as the King; Mark describes as the Divine Servant; Luke describes as the Perfect Man; and John describes as the Son of God.

## Exo.27:16 > Thread of BLUE, PURPLE, SCARLET, LINEN

Exo. 27:16	CHRIST	GOSPEL	Phil.2:5-11
<b>BLUE</b>	<b>GOD</b>	<b>JOHN</b>	<b>Form of God</b>
<b>PURPLE</b>	<b>KING</b>	<b>MATTHEW</b>	<b>God exalted Him</b>
<b>SCARLET</b>	<b>SERVANT</b>	<b>MARK</b>	<b>Form of a bondservant</b>
<b>LINEN (White)</b>	<b>HUMANITY (MAN)</b>	<b>LUKE</b>	<b>As a Man</b>

#### (1) WHITE (Fine Linen) –

White pictures the righteousness of God. It shows the holiness, purity and sinless nature of Jesus Christ (Ex.25:4; Rev.19:8/ Isa.1:18). White color is associated with purity. White color in gate curtain speaks of the holy character of Jesus Christ. The White corresponds to the Gospel of Luke and typifies the Lord Jesus Christ as the Perfect Man. Luke records the words of Gabriel — "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke.1:35). Only a perfectly righteous person could be a substitute for making the sinners righteous before God. The apostle Paul sums up Jesus' sinless nature. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2.Cor. 5:21).

## **(2) BLUE –**

Blue is the color representing Heaven (sky) and speaks of our Lord's Heavenly origin (Exo.25:4/Psa.19:1). When God came down upon Mount Sinai to meet with Moses, we read that under His feet was the paved work of a sapphire stone, as it were the body of Heaven in its clearness (Exo.24:10). The sapphire is a precious stone of a bright blue color, and it is here referred to as representing Heaven.

Blue is the color of heaven and divinity. The blue color corresponds to the Gospel by John which describes our Lord as the Son of God. John says, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us; and we beheld His Glory, the Glory as of the only begotten of the Father" (John 1:1,14). Jesus said, "I came down from Heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me" (John 6:38). And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world." (John.8:23).

## **(3) THE SCARLET –**

Red pictures blood. Scarlet red is the color of blood and speaks of sacrificial blood (Ex.25:4/1.John.1:7/Heb.9:19,22/Isa.63:2). Scarlet shows Christ's humanity and the blood that shed for mankind. Scarlet speaks of Jesus as our Redeemer.

The Scarlet corresponds to the Gospel by Mark where the Lord Jesus Christ is described as the Divine Servant, Jesus is the suffering Servant of God. In Mark emphasis is placed upon His obedience to God and the work which He did. He, who "Being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant, and . . . humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross" (Phil.2:5-8).

## **(4) THE PURPLE –**

The purple was a blending of the blue and scarlet. Purple is the color of Royalty (Ex.25:4). Purple clothes were worn by Kings. Tabernacle is the Royal residence of God, the King of Israel. Purple speaks of Jesus as King of Kings.

Purple corresponds to the Gospel by Matthew which is the Gospel of the King and the Kingdom. Matthew portrays Jesus as King. Jesus was born King. When the wise men arrived at Jerusalem from the East, they asked "Where is He that is born the King of Israel?" He declared Himself to be King by sending His disciples forth to announce that the Kingdom was at hand. He was not merely a man, He was greater than David and the greatest King Israel had ever had. And Psalm 24 asks "Who is this King of Glory?" The answer comes back, "The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." Purple shows the kingship of Jesus Christ (Luke.1:32). He is THE KING. He will someday be revealed as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, and His Kingdom will fill the whole earth.

**Court and Gate of the Tabernacle – (Exo.27:9-19 / Exo.38:9-20)**

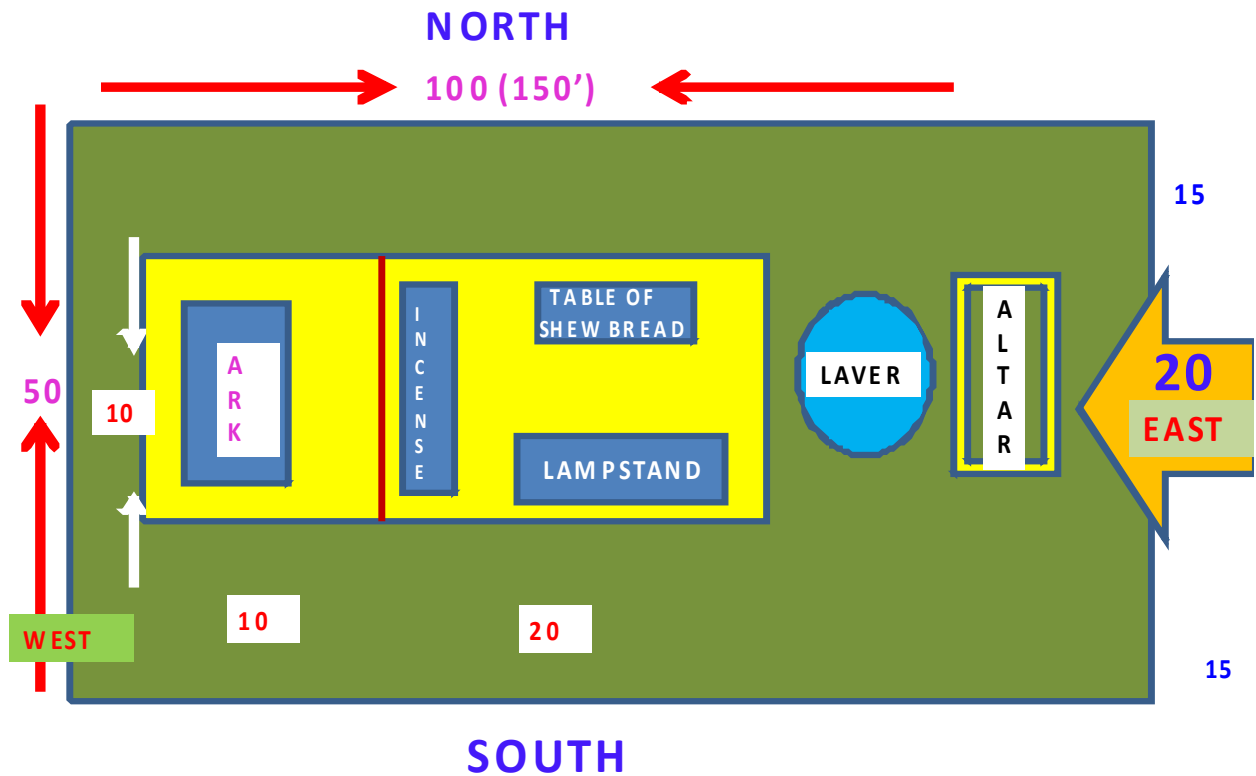
Tabernacle total Length : 100 cubits x Width: 50 cubits x Height:5 cubits (1cubit = 1½ft)

(Length :150 feet / Width: 75 feet / Height: 7.5 feet)

(The cubit was usually a measurement taken from the length of a man’s arm from elbow to extended middle finger. The measurement could vary, but the commonly accepted estimate for a cubit is 18 inches or 1½ft).

Door – Width: 20 cubits (30 feet) x Height :5 cubits (7.5 feet)

- About 25 lakhs people camped around Tabernacle > Exo.27:13-16
- All inside are protected by the wall.
- Entrance in east > Door-20 cubits (30 feet)
- Curtain 20 cubits woven in 4 colors —Blue, purple, scarlet, fine linen (Exo.27:16).



**The Gate of the Tabernacle:**

There was only one gate by which people could enter into the tabernacle courtyard. The gate was 30 feet wide. It was located directly in the center of the outer court on the east end. The gate was covered by a curtain or screen made of finely twisted linen in blue, purple and scarlet.

**Exo.27:13-16** — “The width of the court on the east side shall be fifty cubits. The hangings on one side of the gate shall be fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three sockets. And on the other side shall be hangings of fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three sockets. For the gate of the court there shall be a screen twenty cubits long, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. It shall have four pillars and four sockets.”

The Gate was the only way into the courtyard of the Tabernacle. It signifies that Jesus is the only way for Salvation and access to the Holy God. Jesus is the Gate into the tabernacle of life. The one and only gate is a representation of Christ as the only way through which one could fellowship with God and worship Him.

- John.10:1 – “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.”
- John.10:7 – “Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.”
- John.10:9,10 – “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”
- John.14:6 – “Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
- Mat.7:13,14 – “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

**Features of the Tabernacle Door –**

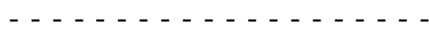
1. Only one door
2. Wide door
3. Beautiful door
4. Never closing door
5. No doorposts & lintel
6. Facing Sun rise – in East
7. Curtain hanged in 4 pillars

The four pillars of the gate into the tabernacle courtyard and the four colors of its curtains refer to the four Gospels writers and their messages.

Mathew	Jesus as King	Kingdom
Mark	Jesus as Servant	Good deeds – Lord and Saviour
Luke	Jesus as perfect Man	Holy Son of Man
John	Jesus as the Son of God	Holy Son of God

**JESUS > Door > Three features for entrance**

- **John.14:6** – Jesus said to him, “I am the **WAY**, the **TRUTH**, and the **LIFE**. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
- (1) Door (as entrance) shows Jesus as a **WAY** to God (not by works, status, good deeds > Eph.2:8,9/ Gal.2:16).
- (2) Door (Free access & passage) shows Jesus as the **TRUTH** of God (Jesus is our light, wisdom).
- (3) Veil (curtain hanging > life) shows Jesus as the **LIFE** of God (1.John.1:1,2/John.3). Veil stand for Jesus’ life, His body.





## 2

# THE BRAZEN ALTAR

(Exo.27:1-8 / Exo.38:1-7)



### SCRIPTURES RELATING TO THE ALTAR:

(1) Altar mentioned in the scripture —

Noah	>	Gen.8:18-20.
Abraham	>	Gen.12:7,8/13:18/22:9
Isaac	>	Gen.26:25
Jacob	>	Gen.33:20/35:1,3,7
Moses	>	Exo.17:15/24:4
Balaam	>	Num.23:1,14,29
Joshua	>	Jos.8:30,31

- |   |   |                                     |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| (2) Designed for Sacrifice                    | — | Exo.20:24                           |
| (3) To be made of earth or unhewn stone       | — | Exo.20:24,25                        |
| (4) Bricks, hateful to God                    | — | Isa.65:3                            |
| (5) Natural stones sometimes used             | — | Judg.6:19-21/13:19,20               |
| (6) Not to have steps                         | — | Exo.20:26                           |
| (7) Idolatrous Worship often erected on roofs | — | 2.Kin.23:12/Jer.19:13/32:29         |
| (8) Idolaters planted groves near             | — | Judg.6:30/1.Kin.16:32,33/2.Kin.21:3 |
| (9) Jews not to plant groves near             | — | Deut.16:21                          |

**SCRIPTURES RELATING TO THE BRAZEN ALTAR:**

- (1) Brazen Altar Dimensions — Exo.27:1/38:1  
 (2) Horns on the four Corners — Exo.27:2/38:2  
 (3) Made with Shittim wood and  
     Covered with Brass — Exo.27:1,2  
 (4) All its Vessels in brass — Exo.27:3/38:3  
 (5) Made after the divine pattern — Exo.27:8  
 (6) Sanctified by God — Exo.29:44  
 (7) Anointed and sanctified with holy oil — Exo.40:10/Lev.8:10,11  
 (8) Cleansed and purified with blood — Exo.29:36,37  
 (9) Was Most Holy — Exo.40:10  
 (10) Sanctified whatever touched it — Exo.29:37  
 (11) All sacrifices to be offered on — Exo.29:38-42  
 (12) Nothing polluted or defective  
     to be offered — Lev.22:22/Mal.1:7,8  
 (13) The fire upon >  
     Came from before the Lord — Lev.9:24  
     Was continually burning — Lev.6:12,13  
     Consumed the sacrifices — Lev.1:8,9  
 (14) Sacrifices bound to the horns of Altar — Psa.118:27  
 (15) The blood of sacrifices put on the  
     horns and Poured at the foot of Altar — Exo.29:12/Lev.4:7,18,25/8:15  
 (16) The priests > Alone to serve — Num.18:2,7  
     Derived support from — 1.Cor.9:13  
 (17) Ahaz removed and polluted — 2.Kin.16:10-16  
 (18) The Jews condemned for swearing lightly — Mat.23:18,19  
 (19) A type of Christ — Heb.13:11,12

**Brazen Altar in Tabernacle:** Verses — Exo.27:1-8/Exo.38:1-7

Among the seven furniture in Tabernacle, Brazen Altar was the biggest. All others can be placed in it. Size shows its importance in the tabernacle. All furniture in the tabernacle speaks about Jesus Christ and His ministries and also the experiences of the believers. The altar represents the death of Jesus Christ. As it holds all items in tabernacle, altar shows all the ministries of Christ. A person who enters through the outer court door will first approach the altar. It speaks the first step to approach the Holy God. It was located by the door of entrance in the outer court. Only when one comes to the altar he can proceed to the laver, the table of showbread, the lampstand etc. In order to have an access up to the mercy seat one should first come to the altar. The very reason for placing the altar first in the tent shows that no one can go forward without the altar. Like the Refuge Cities (Num.35:9-14/Joshua.20:7-9) are standing to give shelter to any criminals or murderer running for his life, the altar welcomes a sinner for his refuge.

The Altar was a place for burning animal sacrifices. It shows that the first step for a sinful man to approach the Holy God was to purify himself by the blood of an innocent animal. For a sin offering, one had to bring an animal (male one without blemish or defect from the flock) to the priest at the Tabernacle gate in the outer court. The priest will lay his hand on the head of the animal to pass the sin from the person to the animal.

**Lev.1:1-9** – “Now the LORD called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of the livestock-of the herd and of the flock. If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD. Then he shall put his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him. He shall kill the bull before the LORD; and the priests- Aaron’s sons- shall bring the blood and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of meeting. And he shall skin the burnt offering and cut it into pieces. The sons of Aaron, the priests, shall put fire on the altar and lay the wood in order on the fire. Then the priests, Aaron’s sons, shall lay the parts, the head and the fat in order on the wood that is on the fire upon the altar; but he shall wash its entrails and its legs with water. And the priest shall burn all on the altar as a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.”

The Brazen Altar was made of Shittim Wood and covered with brass inside and outside (Exo.27:1,2). All the vessels connected with the Brazen Altar were made of brass (Exo.27:3). The brass shows the judgment of sin. The sin must be removed before entering to the Holy Place. The furniture in the Holy Place was made of gold. It shows that the Holy Place is a place of communion, fellowship and worship of God. There should no sin in the Holy Place. So the sin must be removed or settled in the outer court itself. A man when entering to the outer court he has to stand before the Brazen Altar. In order to approach God, he must have a substitute to die for him in Brazen Altar.

- Sacrifices were required by the law, because blood shedding is essential for approaching God. The Tabernacle was not a worship place but a place for sacrifice and holy service. The first furniture in the Tabernacle was the Brazen Altar for sacrifice. This speaks that; no one can come into the presence of God until sin has been atoned. For this sacrificial offering was ordained by God in scripture.

After man had sinned the first time in Eden, they tried to cover themselves using fig leaves. But covering themselves with their own acts and imagination was ineffective. Sin cannot be covered up but it must be atoned for. For this a slaughter of an innocent animal was required. This principle was applied in the Tabernacle of Moses.

- Gen.3:7 – “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”
- Gen.3:21 – “Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.”
- Heb.9:22— “And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”
- Lev.17:11 – “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”

In New Testament, no more blood shedding is required because Jesus Christ gave His blood for removal of sins as a sacrifice. No repeated blood shedding is required as in the Old Testament. Jesus Christ’s sacrifice was a perfect one for the atonement of sins of the world for all time.

- Rev.5:12 — “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.”
- Eph.1:7 — “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

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### **Different names of Altar:**

1. Brazen Altar / Bronze Altar (Exo.39:39/1.Kin.8:64/2.Kin.16:14)
2. Altar of Burnt Offerings (Exo.38:1/Lev.4:10/)
3. Altar of Acacia wood (Exo.27:1)
4. Altar of Burnt Offering at the door of the Tabernacle (Lev.4:7)
5. Altar of God (Psa.43:4).

Different names are given according to its use, place, purpose, materials used for making etc. Altar comes from the Hebrew word "mizbeach" which means slaughter or killing place. It was a place of sacrifice (Heb.9:26/10:4-12).

Altar was placed in the ground right inside the outer Court door. The Latin word for altar is "alta" which means high. So an altar is a high place for sacrifice or slaughter. Another meaning of Altar is "to lift up".

The Cross was a lifted up altar. It is a projection of Christ, our sacrifice, lifted up on cross, which stood on the hill called Golgotha.

Gentiles will usually place their altar in a high place to show that their gods are great.

2.Kin.18:4 — "He (Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah) removed the **high places** and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan."

But when an altar was erected for our God, there is a stipulation that the altar should be placed in ground with no decoration or steps (Exo.20:24-26/Deu.16:21).The blood sacrifice in altar is God ordained and it is essential for the Jewish worship. God must have taught them through the sacrifice to Adam and Eve when God made them coats of skin. The offering of Cain and Abel also speaks of this pattern of worship.

### **Features of the Brazen Altar:**

#### **(1) Altar shows Jesus Christ :**

A sinner who is away from God has to come first to Jesus Christ for getting peace, blessings and to worship God. Through the mediator, Jesus Christ, who has died on cross for the atonement of sins of mankind, any sinner has free access to the Holy God. Altar is a place where animals were killed as sacrifice through burnt offering. As the God is Holy, God will not leave a sinner unpunished. For this purpose either a person or his substitute will have to receive punishment. Lamb, goat, bullock etc. were Israel's substitute and God accepted them through the altar.

When a sinner comes to the Holy God he will have to admit that he is a sinner and must realize that he is coming to the presence of Holy God. For this he has to bring animal for sacrifice. Here he will have to believe that his sins were washed through the blood shedding of the innocent animal. Even today when a sinner comes to the presence of Holy God, he will get washing of sin and holiness through the blood shedding of Jesus Christ at Calvary. Both the altar and cross were places of death where sacrifice was made to atone for sin.

## (2) The Position of Altar:



The Brazen Altar, Bronze Altar or Altar of Sacrifice was situated inside the courtyard. Altar was placed in the court yard inside the gate, so that everyone who enters through the gate can see the Altar. The position of the Altar is just within the gate, easily accessible, unavoidable and unmistakable to the seeker. The Altar was not inside the Tabernacle but inside the court. It stood at the gate of Repentance. Repentance is not salvation; it is only sorrow for the sin. When a sinner comes to the place where he realizes that he is a sinner, admit the matter and seek for the remedy. Then he sees the Altar — like a Cross — two arms outstretched to save, like a watchman in a way of entrance.

Animal sacrifices were made on the brazen altar near the gate. Christ, our sacrifice was offered outside the gates of Jerusalem.

- Exo.29:14 – “But the flesh of the bull, with its skin and its offal, you shall burn with fire outside the camp. It is a sin offering.”
- Lev.4:12,21 – “The whole bull he shall carry outside the camp to a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and burn it on wood with fire; where the ashes are poured out it shall be burned. Then he shall carry the bull outside the camp, and burn it as he burned the first bull. It is a sin offering for the assembly.”
- Heb.13:11,12 – “For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.”

## (3) Altar is made of Shittim Wood:

The Acacia tree was a tree with heavy bark and sharp thorns for protection against its natural enemies. It had roots that sunk deep beneath the desert sands, searching for water, for underground rivers. But in order to be used in the Altar, it had to be cut loose from its roots, its natural source of strength. It was cut loose from all things earthy, and separated alone unto God and His plan. Shittim wood or acacia is a tree often seen in deserts and dry places. It has no attraction or beauty. Shittim wood reminds us the humanity of Christ, which is the symbol of ordinary humanity and not at all special. Jesus as a man was rooted in dry ground (Isa.53:2) and was sinless in human nature (Heb.4:15/Heb.7:26).

Shittim or acacia wood is very hard, durable and incorruptible. It is used for ships because it is very resistant to decay. This shows Jesus’ humanity and incorruptible state – one who had no sin. Death has no authority over Jesus. In Calvary Jesus got victory over death.

- Heb.2:14 – “In as much then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.”
- Heb.4:15 — “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”
- Heb.7:26 – “For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens.”
- Isa.53:2,3 – “For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.”
- Luke.23:31 — “For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?”
- Zech.6:12,13 — “Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: “Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD; Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”’
- Luke.19:10 — “for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
- Mark.10:45 — “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

#### **(4) Altar is covered by Brass:**

Another material used for making altar is brass. Brass is used as a covering to the wood. That is, the wood was strengthened by overlay of brass, strengthened for endurance. Brass is a metal. In olden times it was not well known. But copper is a well known metal. Ordinarily brass will resist great heat than copper. Hence in the altar, wood is covered with brass to resist the excessive heat from fire. Some may suspect that when the fire is heated in the altar the wood will burn due to the over heat. But it will never happen because the wood is absolutely fire proof inside the brass covering.

The London Country Council Fire Brigade put this idea for a test. It stood all, fireproof. This was considered a modern invention to the standing of the brazen altar and stands as witness to the accuracy of the Bible. The Bible is ahead of Science.

Though the altar is made of wood, the altar is called brazen altar. Any part of wood will not be seen since inside and outside are fully covered with brass. Brass is pictured in bible for judgment of God (Rev.1:15/John.3:14,15). Jesus Christ faced the judgment of God for the sins of mankind (2.Cor.5:21/Gal.3:13). As a man (wood) Jesus was judged on the cross for our sins (bronze). If wood alone is used in altar it will be burned. Likewise, if bronze alone is used it will be too heavy to carry. Together they become perfect.

There will be fire in the altar throughout the day. Often the body of animals is burned in the altar with enormous heat and later it will become ashes. Even if this process is continuing throughout the day the wood of the altar will never be burned because of the covering of brass. Brass has ability to sustain the fire at any level. This shows the Deity of Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ was an ordinary man He will be fully burnt in the judgment and wrath of God. The wood shows His humanity whereas the brass here shows His Deity to face the judgment. Jesus Christ is fully a man and also fully God.

- John.1:14 — “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”
- 1.John.5:20 — “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”

### **(5) Only one altar for sacrifice:**

For a multitude of people there was only one altar in the tabernacle. In human view, we may think that if there are a number of altars it will be convenient and time saving. But God has a plan and aim to everything. Only one altar in the tent pictures Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the only savior and there is only one way for salvation.

- Heb.10:12 — "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God."
- Deu.12:13,14 — "Take heed to yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see; but in the place which the LORD chooses, in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you."
- 1.Tim.2:5,6 — "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

### **(6) Altar is in square shape:**

The brazen altar is in square shape with five cubits length and five cubits breadth (5x5 cubits =  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$  feet). All sides are equal and based on the number of five. This altar is designed for the whole world. Our earth is included in five continents, namely, Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe and America. Hence Jesus Christ, the only altar of the world, came to this earth for giving salvation to the mankind. He died in the Calvary and the cross seems to be an altar of the world. Besides the equal four sides of the altar shows that Jesus died for the whole world comprising of four corners of the world.

Exo.27:1,2 > "You shall make an altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide-the altar shall be square-and its height shall be three cubits. You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay it with bronze."

Four sides also picture the four Gospels in the New Testament. The four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John pictures Jesus Christ in four personalities.

### **(7) Height of Altar is three cubits:**

The height of the brazen altar is 3 cubits or  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet. If the height is also as equal to length and breadth then the height will be  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet which will be very difficult to put the sacrifice to the altar. If so steps to the altar are to be made. But the scripture prohibits in making steps to the altar.

- Exo.27:1 — "You shall make an altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide-the altar shall be square-and its height shall be three cubits."
- Exo.20:26 — "Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed on it."

Anybody can see inside of the altar because the height is only  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet. An average man in the world will have height of more than the height of the altar. This shows that Jesus Christ is easily accessible to any man in this world.

The number three have some features in this connection > (1) It shows the perfection of deity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit (2) It shows the three fold aspects of Salvation > Saved > Being Saved > Will be Saved (3) On the third day our Lord raised from the dead > God's acceptance of Christ's sacrifice by raising Him from the dead after three days.

**(8) There were four horns to the Altar** – The horns on four corners of the altar to which the animal that was to be sacrificed could be tied. There was also a grate in the middle between the top and the bottom.

- Exo.27:2 – "You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay it with bronze."

Horns speak for strength and power. When sacrifices were made the blood of sacrifices put on the horns, signifying the power of blood to atone sins (Exo.29:12/ Lev.4:7,18,25 /Lev.8:15).

The four horns on the corners of the altar spoke of power (1.Sam.2:1/2.Sam.22:3) and were used in binding the sacrifice to the altar (Psa.118:27).

The sacrifice tied to the horns pictures Jesus Christ's perfect submission to the Father's will (Heb.10:5-7) and His permission to be nailed to the cross as a sacrifice. Jesus Christ is our Horn of Salvation (Psa.18:2/Luke.1:69-71).

The four Horns were sprinkled with the blood of the sacrifice (Exo.29:12). The blood stained horns of the altar pointing to the four corners of the earth speaks of the saving power of Jesus Christ's blood (1.John.1:7/Acts.1:8).

**(9) All Utensils made in brass:** The five utensils namely (1) Pans (2) Shovels (3) Basins (4) Flesh hooks or Forks (5) Fire pans are made of brass. Pots or pans to receive the ashes; shovels for taking ashes and feeding the fire; basins for holding the blood; flesh hooks or forks for adjusting the sacrifice; and fire pans to carry coal (holy fire) from Brazen Altar to the Altar of Incense.

Exo.27:3 – "Also you shall make its pans to receive its ashes, and its shovels and its basins and its forks and its firepans; you shall make all its utensils of bronze."

These utensils connected with Brazen Altar were types of Christ.

- The ashes show the finished work or sacrifice of Jesus Christ (John.19:30).
- The ashes kept in a clean place shows Jesus Christ's body kept in a new tomb at His burial (John.19:41).
- The blood from the sacrifice drained to the basin and poured out to the base of the altar shows Jesus Christ's blood shedding for our sanctification (Heb.9:12-15).
- The flesh hooks or forks represented the cruel hands of the men who nailed Christ to the cross (John.19:18/John.20:25).
- The fire pans or censers which carried the fire from the Brazen Altar to the Incense Altar shows Christ's intercessory ministry of prayer before Father as an advocate (Heb.7:25/ 1.Jn.2:1)

### **(10) The Sacrifice and the Fire:**

Upon the brazen altar the sacrifices were offered and consumed by fire. Fire came from God's presence to light the fire on the brazen altar and it will never go out.

- Fire came down from Lord > Aaron did not light the fire on the altar. God lit it from heaven.

Lev.9:23,24 – "And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people and fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces."

- Fire in the altar was continually burning. It must never go out.

Lev.6:12,13 – "And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it; and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings. A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out."

The altar in the tabernacle of believer's life should always be burning with the fire from heaven. Once God has lit the fire on the altar of believer's life, it will never go out.

- Fire consumed the sacrifices –

Lev.1:8,9 – "Then the priests, Aaron's sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat in order on the wood that is on the fire upon the altar; but he shall wash its entrails and its legs with water. And the priest shall burn all on the altar as a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD."



➤ **Strange fire / Profane Fire is prohibited >**

- Lev.10:1 – “Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.”
- Num.3:4 – “And Nadab and Abihu died before the LORD, when they offered strange fire before the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children: and Eleazar and Ithamar ministered in the priest’s office in the sight of Aaron their father.”
- Num.26:61 – “And Nadab and Abihu died, when they offered strange fire before the LORD.”

For burning the incense, Nadab and Abihu used the wrong fire. The scripture calls it strange fire or profane fire because it was unauthorized and not commanded by God. The High Priest was commanded to burn the incense on coals taken from the Brazen Altar (Lev.16:12). But Nadab and Abihu brought fire on their choice without obeying the command of God.

The death punishment to Nadab and Abihu in relation to the violation of the command of God is a lesson to us too. The servants of God must be very vigilant and cautious in doing the ministries. We must serve God with fear, reverence and love to bring glory to God. We must not forget that “our God is a consuming fire” (Heb.12:29). The death of Achan (Joshua.7:24-26) and Uzzah (2.Sam.6:1-7) in relation to disobedience and violation of God’s command, the death of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts.5:1-11) in relation to hiding the truth were fearful warnings to us. This shows that merely teaching of God’s words and speaking about its higher value alone is not enough. It must be practiced in our own lives (James.1:22).

The sacrificial offering is ordained by God. God requires perfect sacrifices for the atonement of sin —

- Mal.1:8,14 – “And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably? Says the LORD of hosts. But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished-For I am a great King, Says the LORD of hosts, And My name is to be feared among the nations.”
- Jesus, the Lamb of God offered a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the whole world on the altar of the tabernacle of heaven. Through the blood flowed at Calvary the sinner get redemption and sanctification.
- 1.Pet.1:18,19 — “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”
  - 2.Cor.5:21 – “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
  - Heb.9:13,14 – “For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”
  - Heb.10:10 – “By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”
  - Heb.10:14 – “For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”
  - Heb.10:18 – “Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.”

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### 3

## THE BRAZEN LAVER

(Exo.30:17-21 / Exo.38:8 / Exo.40:7)

After the Brazen Altar there was Brazen Laver in the outer court. The Brazen Laver was made of polished brass and no wood was used (Exo.30:18). The Laver or Basin was a large bowl filled with water located between the Brazen Altar and the Holy Place. The Brazen Altar was available to everyone in the outer court for the atonement of their sins. But the Brazen Laver was only for the priests who serve God. This was the second furniture in the outer court. The priests had to wash their hands and their feet before they could enter the Holy Place of the tabernacle. The washing of hands and legs of the priest was compulsory for entering the Holy Place. To enter the Holy Place unwashed and unclean will result in death (Exo.30:19-21).

### Laver



Without washing of hands and legs the priests are not qualified to enter the holy place. "Be clean, You who bear the vessels of the LORD" (Isa.52:11). The priests were to be both physically and spiritually sanctified. "You shall be holy; for I am holy" (Lev.11:44). The washing of Hands and feet implies both purity in walk and purity in deeds. The Laver speaks symbolically of the daily sanctification of the believers and separation unto God. We are forgiven through Jesus Christ's sacrifice at Calvary cross and washed through the Word of God. The water of the wash basin speaks of the Word of God. We need to be washed daily in Word of God so as to serve God and to minister before God.

**John.15:3** — "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you." We have to purify ourselves daily through the word of God."

**Eph.5:25-27** — "..... Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."

**Heb.10:22** — "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

(TABERNACLE by *Samson Henry, Kollam*)

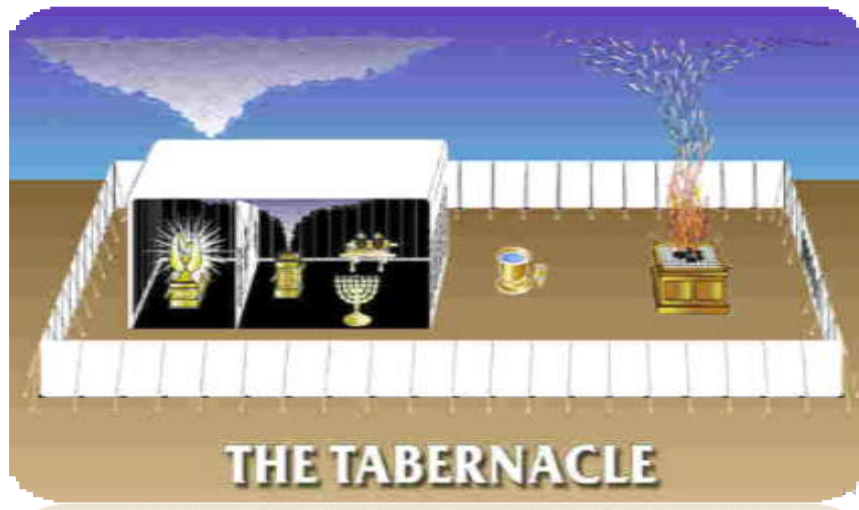
**Exo.30:17-21** -- "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, lest they die. So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them-to him and his descendants throughout their generations."

**Exo.38:8** – "He made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze, from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting."

**Exo.40:7** – "And you shall set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water in it."

### **Position of the Brazen Laver:**

Brazen Laver is the second furniture in the court. It is placed between Altar and Sanctuary. After salvation (whole washing) daily sanctification (moment by moment washing) is needed.



- Second furniture in the court.
- Place > between Altar & Sanctuary.
- Wash basin > after salvation comes daily cleaning. Daily cleaning is also following cross. The laver was the place of cleansing.
- Brazen Laver contains water all time.
- Proceed further only after cleaning hands and legs.
- For the minister in the tabernacle, the washing is unavoidable.
- If the priests disobey death will be the result (Ex.30:20).

## **Priests were washed –**

- ❖ Aaron & his sons were washed as a whole in water and were anointed with oil.
- Exo.40:12,13 – “Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the tabernacle of meeting and wash them with water. You shall put the holy garments on Aaron, and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.”
- Lev.8:6-14 – “Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water. And he put the tunic on him, girded him with the sash, clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod on him; and he girded him with the intricately woven band of the ephod, and with it tied the ephod on him. Then he put the breastplate on him, and he put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastplate. And he put the turban on his head. Also on the turban, on its front, he put the golden plate, the holy crown, as the LORD had commanded Moses. Also Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it, and consecrated them. He sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times, anointed the altar and all its utensils, and the laver and its base, to consecrate them. And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron’s head and anointed him, to consecrate him. Then Moses brought Aaron’s sons and put tunics on them, girded them with sashes, and put hats on them, as the LORD had commanded Moses. And he brought the bull for the sin offering. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the bull for the sin offering.”
- ❖ They were once completely washed > This washing pictures Salvation.
- ❖ Before entering the sanctuary they have to wash hands & legs in each time> This shows daily cleansing of a saved person.
- John.13:10 – “Jesus said to him, “He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.”
- ❖ Washing shows sanctification. Hands > acts / legs > walking.
- ❖ Brazen Laver > An ordinary Jew has no right in laver and washing. But to a priest it is compulsory > Only after salvation daily sanctification is needed. Believers are priests. Hence daily sanctification is a must.
- Heb.12:14 – “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”
- Heb.10:22 – “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”
- 1.Thes.4:3,4 – “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor.”

## **Different feet in Bible –**

1. John.13:8 – Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” > God wants His people to have bathed feet so that we have fellowship with Him.
2. Rom.10:15 – “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace.” > God wants His people to have beautiful feet so that they can share gospel with others.
3. Hab.3:19 – “The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer’s feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills.” > God wants His people to have bounding feet so that we have to jump over obstacles.

## Scriptures on the Laver of Brass:

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| (1) Moses was commanded to make                                     | : Exo.30:18                 |
| (2) Wisdom given to Bezaleel to make                                | : Exo.31:1-6                |
| (3) Made of Brazen mirrors of the women                             | : Exo.38:8                  |
| (4) Was placed in the court between<br>The altar and the tabernacle | : Exo.30:18/40:7,30         |
| (5) Was anointed with Holy oil                                      | : Exo.40:11/ Lev.8:11       |
| (6) The priests washed in   |                             |
| > Before consecration   | : Exo.40:12                 |
| > Before entering<br>the tabernacle                                 | : Exo.30:19,20              |
| (7) Warning for disobey   | : Exo.30:21                 |
| (8) Called the Brazen Sea   | : 2.Kin.25:13/Jer.52:17     |
| (9) Removed from them   | : 2.Kin.16:17               |
| (10) Typical Lavens —   |                             |
| > Solomon's temple  | : 1.Kin.7:23-26/2.Kin.25:13 |
| > River   | : Eze.47:1-5                |
| > Sea of Glass  | : Rev.4:6                   |
| > Sea of Glass mingled<br>with fire                                 | : Rev.15:2                  |
| > Pure River of Water of Life                                       | : Rev.22:1                  |
| (11) Illustrative of Christ, the fountain for sin                   | : Zech.13:1/Rev.1:5         |

## Brazen Altar and Brazen Laver:

- The Brazen Altar says: Without shedding of blood there is no remission (Heb.9:22).
- The Brazen Laver says: Holiness, without which no one will see the Lord (Heb.12:14).
- The Brazen Altar says: Christ died to make us clean (Col.1:22).
- The Brazen Laver says: Christ is living to keep us clean (Jn.15:3/1.Cor.1:30/1.Cor.6:11/ 1.Jn.2:1,2).

## Different Lavens in scripture :

The word "laver," in the Hebrew, means "like a river."

- (1) In Solomon's Temple** — There were TEN LAVENS, standing on their ten bases, and one molten sea, standing on twelve oxen (1 Kings 7.23-26).
- (2) In Ezekiel's Temple** — There will be no laver nor sea, but a RIVER, whose waters will issue out from under the threshold of the house eastward, deepening and widening as it flows (Eze.47:1-5).
- (3) In Revelation 4.6** — We read of a sea of glass like unto crystal before the throne, emblematical of the fixed purity which becomes the presence of God.
- (4) In Revelation 15.2** — A sea of glass mingled with fire, indicative of the fiery trial through which those who come out of the Great Tribulation.
- (5) In Revelation 22.1** — A pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

## Laver :

- Laver and base made of Brass.
- Laver and base pictures resurrected Jesus.
- Water pictures the water from the smitten rock.
- A believer will have to get himself washed with the Word of God.
  - John.15:3 — "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."
  - Psa.119:9 — "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word."

### **Women's service in Lord's Works:**

Exo.38:8 > "He made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze, from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting."

- Women have ministry in Lord's works.
- They are serving at the door of tabernacle.
- Inside of the tabernacle priests are ministering.
- Today > When priests are preaching, advising and giving exhortations, the women priests are ministering silently by prayer — backing up or upholding the ministry inside.
- They have to uphold the priest for their work of the Lord.

### **Features of the Brazen Laver --**

#### **1. Brazen Laver pictures resurrected Jesus Christ:**

In the brazen altar we see the judgment of God on sin through the blood shedding and thereafter through the fire in the altar. But the water in the laver represent for washing or daily sanctification. Those who have approached the altar and got remission of their sin will have to come to the Laver for daily sanctification. Laver is a shadow of Christ as our sanctification.

- John.7:37-39 — "On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."
- Isa.55:1 — "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

#### **2. Water in the Laver - Shadow of Holy Spirit:**

Water in the Laver represents Holy Spirit. It is the spirit of power and might. We can have a vision of water in the laver through John's gospel Chapters 14 to 16.

- Isa.11:2 — Spirit of Might
- Acts.2:2 — "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting."

#### **3. No measurement is given to Laver:**

Most of the furniture in the tent was made with some measurement. But laver was made without a specification regarding measurement. The size or shape was not given, signifying the unlimited daily cleansing in Christ. The power of resurrected Christ is unspeakable. No man can measure its abundance. So also the sanctification receiving through God is unlimited.

- Eph.1:18,19 — "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power."
- John.3:34 — "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure."

#### **4. Laver is used for washing:**

The laver is the place of cleansing — Sanctification. Tabernacle ground is not made of cement or tiles or granite. It is placed in sand in the desert. The priests were ministering in the tabernacle which was placed in desert sand. So their legs may be defiled with sand and dirt. Their hands and legs may be defiled due to the blood poured out in the process of sacrifice. Before entering to the ministries in the holy place their hands and legs have to be washed. Hence washing at the laver is compulsory

for a priest. In the case of a believer priest also daily cleansing is essential. God is a Clean (Holy) God and those who serve Him must be clean. Jesus Christ has washed the feet of His disciples in John.13. This shows that sanctification is required for a believer.

- John.13:5 — "After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded."
- 1. John.1:7 — "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

There were two types of washing in relation to priesthood. The first one was, the priests on the day of their consecration were brought to the door of the Tabernacle and washed all over with water by Moses (Exo.29:4/Lev.8:6). At this time no holy garments or no anointing oil is put upon them. This washing is done by another person (here Moses) and the priests have no role in this. This washing is in relation to their consecration. The second one in relation to priesthood was the washing at the Brazen Laver. This washing of hands and legs of the priest was compulsory and to be repeated each time for entering the Holy Place. The first wash in relation to consecration of priesthood shows the new birth in Jesus Christ and the second one to daily sanctification. As in the case of priests, at the time of rebirth the saved one will get garment of righteousness and anointing of Holy Spirit.

The Laver is only for the priests. The OT priests became defiled, not by sinning against God but by serving God. All New Testament believers are priests (1.Pet.2:5-9). Although they have washed fully one time through Jesus (Salvation), they will be defiled through the sins in their life. When a believer lives in this world he may be defiled with the sins of the world. For this, daily washing or sanctification is necessary. The Altar stands for once-for-all cleansing (Salvation) by the blood of Jesus Christ, whereas the Laver stands for moment by moment cleansing after salvation.

In the Brazen Altar we see our justification. The Brazen Laver speaks of the need of our Sanctification. The water in the laver points to our washing through the Word of God. The word sanctification means anything to be 'set apart'. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord, we are justified and set apart from sin both spiritually (2.Chr.29:5) and physically (1.Thes.4:3). As a believer priest we are sanctified or set apart through Jesus Christ (1.Cor.6:11).

David prayed God twice for washing (Psa.51:2,7). God heard his prayer. The Prophet Isaiah said to the sinners to wash and get purification (Isa.1:16). Paul says > 2.Cor.7:1 > "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." For believer priests washing is a must.

**5. Laver has no rings and rods:** Rings and rods are for carrying from one place to another. There is no need for carrying the laver and water representing Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit. No need for direction, help or advice is required during the travel in the desert. That means Jesus and Holy Spirit in the trinity do not require human help but the believers have to submit themselves to the trinity.

- Psa.32:8 — "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye."
- Isa.55:8,9 — "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

**6. Not mentioned about the travel:** No one has to lead Christ and the Holy Spirit.

- Isa.11:2 — "The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD."

**7. Laver has water at all times:**

Even in desert there was abundant water in the laver. The water in the wilderness came from the smitten rock (Exo.17:6). The laver was filled with water always. This speaks that washing or sanctification is available in tabernacle at any time.

Where is the source of water in the desert for the use of the tabernacle? For getting an answer we have to look Israel's history with water in the wilderness.

- The waters of Marah made sweet by the casting of a tree. At this place, the Lord revealed himself as Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord who heals you (Exo. 15:22-26).
- When the children of Israel came to Elim, there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters (Exo. 15:27).
- The water came out from the struck Rock in the Desert of Sin at Mount Horeb (Exo.17:1-7). It is said that this was source of water while at Mt. Sinai and for the use of the Tabernacle (Exo. 40:7, 12, 30-32) The supply for this water came from the struck Rock!
- When the children of Israel came into the Wilderness of Zin and stayed in Kadesh there was no water. God asked Moses to speak to the Rock for water. Instead of asking, Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly (Num.20:2-13).

In New Testament, Jesus Christ is the Smitten Rock. Jesus is the fountain of Water. We will have to come to Jesus for drinking and washing always.

- 1. Cor.10:1-4 – "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ."
- John.7:37,38 — "On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

#### **8. No wood in the making of Laver:**

Wood shows humanity. No help or act of man needed for God's sanctification. Laver, Lamp stand & Mercy seat contain no wood. Spiritually speaking, wood represents humanity. The furniture picturing complete deity of Christ was made only with Gold. Laver made of polished brass. No weakness of wood or humanity is seen. Holy Spirit also has no weakness.

#### **9. Laver was manufactured out of bronze mirrors :**

Laver was made from the brazen looking glasses (mirrors) of the women of Israel. The looking glass reflects one's self.

- Exo.38:8 — "He made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze, from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting."

These mirrors were once used by the women for looking at their beauty. This conveys some spiritual messages. We see the sacrificial offering of the women to the precious ministry that leads sanctification and separation. This shows that the sisters have an important role in the assembly in backing up all services through their prayer and service.

The mirrors show the persons' actual appearance – beauty or ugly. But it cannot change the appearance.

The Laver made with mirrors speaks that it is a place to look at our own position and also to reflect the purified life to the world. To this we have to look into the Word of God and compare our life to it.

- 1.Peter.3:3,4 — "Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel; rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God."



- o James.1:25 — “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

**10. Base of the laver is also brass:**

The brass laver stands on the brass base. Wood cannot support brass. This shows that the help or support of man is not needed in the ministry of God in sanctification.

The laver presents Christ in two aspects –

- (1) The FOOT = Christ in HUMILIATION on earth
- (2) The Upper part (the Laver proper) = Christ in His exaltation in heaven.

**11. No lid to the Laver:**

Having no lid to cover, it is always opened. This means that for using laver there is no need to remove the lid. Hence there is no time frame in using the laver. At any time anybody can approach the laver. This reveals that neither any work nor any waiting is needed for rebirth or washing of sin.

**Laver and New Testament Believers:**

The Laver was used only by Priests for sanctification or purification. Sanctification before entering the Holy place of the Tabernacle for ministries was compulsory. Any violation will result in death (Exo.30:19-21). The New Testament believer priest will also need to be washed daily in the Word of God so as to serve God and in doing spiritual ministries. The New Testament believers are called priests when they accept Jesus Christ through rebirth. As such we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people (1.Pet.2:9). The ministry of Brazen Laver has a spiritual significance also. When the Brazen Altar shows our Justification, the Brazen Laver shows our Sanctification. The water in the laver pictures our sanctification through the Word of God (John.15:3). The Holy Spirit also persuades and prepares us for sanctification and for spiritual growth for doing ministries.

The words sanctify/ sanctified/ sanctification means “to set apart for God”. Old Testament priests are consecrated or set apart for priestly duties. Likewise we are also set apart for the service of the Lord. We have to get sanctification both physically (1.Thess.4:3-8) and spiritually (2.Chr.29:15). God’s divine plan for our salvation has three parts — Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification.

Justification is God’s unconditional love for us through Jesus Christ’s death on the cross (Rom.8:1).

Sanctification is the continual process after salvation. This means moment by moment sanctification throughout the life (Jude.24).

Glorification is the ultimate reward on the second coming of Jesus Christ (1.Pet.1:4).

Sanctification of a believer priest can be described in three stages also – past, present and future.

- (1) Positional Sanctification (Past tense) — We are eternally sanctified to God when we accept Jesus Christ for our justification (John.3:18/ Rom.8:1/ Rom.5:1/ Eph.2:8/ Heb.10:10/ Heb.10:14/ Heb.13:12).
- (2) Progressive Sanctification (Present tense) — This is related to present time of living in the earth. We are daily sanctified as we walk in obedience to the Word of God and through separation from sin and sinful world (John.17:17/ 1.John.3:3/ Phil.2:12/ 2.Tim.2:19-21 / 2.Pet.3:18).
- (3) Perfect Sanctification (Future tense) — related to future. We will get a Perfect resurrected body at the second coming of Jesus Christ (Rom.13:11/1.Thess.4:16-18/Rom.8:23/ 1.Thess.5:10/Heb.9:27,28/1.John.3:2).

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## 4

# THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND

(Exo.25:31-40/ Exo.27:20,21/Exo.37:17-24)



**Exo.25:31-40** — “You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall be of one piece. And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side. Three bowls shall be made like almond blossoms on one branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond blossoms on the other branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower-and so for the six branches that come out of the lampstand. On the lampstand itself four bowls shall be made like almond blossoms, each with its ornamental knob and flower. And there shall be a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the six branches that extend from the lampstand. Their knobs and their branches shall be of one piece; all of it shall be one hammered piece of pure gold. You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it. And its wick-trimmers and their trays shall be of pure gold. It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.”

**Exo.27:20,21** — “And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually. In the tabernacle of meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening until morning before the LORD. It shall be a statute forever to their generations on behalf of the children of Israel.”

**Exo.37:17-24** — “He also made the lampstand of pure gold; of hammered work he made the lampstand. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and its flowers were of the same piece. And six branches came out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side. There were three bowls made like almond blossoms on one branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond blossoms on the other branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower-and so for the six branches coming out of the lampstand.

(TABERNACLE by *Samson Henry, Kollam*)

And on the lampstand itself were four bowls made like almond blossoms, each with its ornamental knob and flower. There was a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the six branches extending from it. Their knobs and their branches were of one piece; all of it was one hammered piece of pure gold. And he made its seven lamps, its wick-trimmers, and its trays of pure gold. Of a talent of pure gold he made it, with all its utensils."

**Num.4:9** — "And they shall take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand of the light, with its lamps, its wick-trimmers, its trays, and all its oil vessels, with which they service it."

**Lev.24:1-4** — "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Command the children of Israel that they bring to you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually. Outside the veil of the Testimony, in the tabernacle of meeting, Aaron shall be in charge of it from evening until morning before the LORD continually; it shall be a statute forever in your generations. He shall be in charge of the lamps on the pure gold lampstand before the LORD continually."

### **Scriptures on the Lampstand:**

Make	: Exo.25:31-40/37:17-24
Made with Pure Gold	: Exo.25:31
Shall be of hammered (beaten) work	: Exo.25:31
Shaft, branches, bowls, ornamental knobs,flowers in one piece	: Exo.25:31
Six branches with three in each two sides	: Exo.25:32
Each branch had one knob, Three bowls, one flower	: Exo.25:33
Lampstand (shaft) had four bowls	: Exo.25:34
Three knobs, one each under the six branches in the middle portion(shaft)	: Exo.25:35
Held seven golden lamps to give light in front of it	: Exo.25:37/37:23
Had wick-trimmers and its tray of gold	: Exo.25:38/37:23
Weighed a talent of pure gold	: Exo.25:39
After a divine pattern	: Exo.25:40/Num.8:4
Called the Lamp of God	: 1.Sam.3:3
Placed in the outer sanctuary over against the table	: Exo.40:24/Heb.9:2
Lighted with Olive oil	: Exo.27:20/ Lev.24:2
Lighted by the priests	: Exo.27:21/Lev.24:3,4
Directions for moving	: Num.4:9,10

### **THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND:**

After washing hands and feet at the Laver, the Priests could enter the Holy Place. The Golden Candlestick or the Menorah is the first instrument in the Holy Place of the tabernacle. All the ministries in the Holy Place were done from the light of this lamp. In the outer court, light was received from sun or moon. But there was no such light in the holy place because of the covering of the tent. Since there were no windows in the tabernacle, this lamstand provided the necessary light for the priests' ministry in the Holy Place. Moreover no light from outside was permissible for the ministries in the holy place. The golden lampstand was placed on the south wall of Holy place (left side of the entrance). Brazen altar and Brazen laver were in the outer court. But the lampstand was placed in the Holy Place, which was the first room in the tent of Tabernacle.

Three furniture in the Holy Place were (1) Golden Lampstand (2) Table of Showbread and (3) Golden Altar of Incense. The first duty of the priest who enters the holy place is to light the candlestick and replenish the oil. The Lampstand of the tabernacle provides light in the Holy Place. The light was produced by burning of Olive oil through the Lampstand of the tabernacle.

The Golden Lampstand in the Holy place was the Light for Service or ministry. No ministry in the Holy Place can be done without lighting the lamp. No natural or external light was allowed to enter the Holy Place. This shows that the believer priest of the New Testament also is unable to do any ministries without the light of the Word of God. No other light other than the Word of God is permissible in the ministries of the Church. No one can exercise his priestly duties using his own abilities, power, wisdom or understanding. Each and every believer should have to walk and work exclusively with this shining light. We have to worship God also through this illuminating light. The oil for the lamp represents the Holy Spirit.

The Menorah or Lampstand was placed in Tabernacle Holy Place to give light to Priests to serve God and to intercede on behalf of God's people. Jesus Christ is the true light who came to this darkened world to give light to all.

- John.8:12 – I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.
- John.12:46 – I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

The nation of Israel was supposed to be a light to the nations (Isa.42:6 /Isa.49:6 / Isa.60:1,2). Jesus Christ who came to this world is the Light of the world (John.8:12). Believers are the lights and have responsibility to give light and shine in the world (Mat.5:14-16 / Phil.2:14,15).

### **Different names of the Lampstand:**

1. Lampstand
2. Golden Lampstand
3. Gold Lampstand
4. Candlestick
5. Golden Candlestick
6. Pure Candlestick
7. Menorah

### **Lampstand Illustrative of:**

#### **1. Jesus Christ:**

Lampstand was made of beaten gold. There were seven branches of light consisting of one main shaft and three shoots on each side. The main shaft pictures Jesus Christ and the six branches the believers. Jesus Christ is the true vine and the believers are His branches. Through the oil filled in the shaft the wicks are get lighted. Likewise the believers are shining in this world through Jesus Christ, the source of light. As in the holy place, Christ with His saints is giving light to the world of darkness. Jesus is our light.

- John.1:4,5 – "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."
- John.1:9 – "That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world."
- John.1:14 – "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."
- John.8:12 – "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
- John.9:5 – "I am the light of the world."
- Mat.5:14 – "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

## **2. Holy Spirit:**

The golden lampstand pictures Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit gives light and shines in the world of darkness. The olive oil filled in bowl of the lamp is also a symbol of Holy Spirit.

- John.16:8 — “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”
- Rev.4:5 — “And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.”

## **3. Word of God :**

As the golden lampstand giving light in the tent, Word of God gives light in this darkened world.

- Psa.119:105 — “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
- Psa.119:130 — “The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.”
- Pro.6:23 — “For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life.”

## **4. The Church:**

The lampstand is a picture of the Church. Christ is the Head and the believers are the body. Christ as Head we are one in Christ. The church in this world shines and gives light to both believers and unbelievers.

In the book of Revelation, the seven golden lampstands are the seven Churches. Rev.1:12,13 — “Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man.”

- Rev.1:20 — “The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.”

## **5. Believers :**

The Golden Lampstand represents the believers. Believers are the light of this world. As the branches connected to the main shaft of the lamp, believers are joined to Jesus Christ for burning the lamp.

- Mt.5:14-16 — “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
- Phil.2:14,15 — “Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”
- Dan.12:3 — “Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.”

## **Features of the Golden Lampstand:**

### **1. The Lamp is placed in the ground –**

Any priests can light the lamp without consideration of their height since it is placed in the ground. So also any man in this world has free access to Jesus Christ and Word of God. There is no discrimination regarding their education, knowledge, caste, status, wealth etc. There is only one Saviour in this world to redeem from the slavery of sin.

- Acts.4:12 — “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
- Acts.16:31 — “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

## 2. The Lamp is made of pure Gold –

Gold pictures divinity. As the lamp represents Jesus Christ, the making of gold speaks of His deity. Gold is a precious metal; it also shows His glory and exaltation. These are applicable to the Word of God also.

- Psa.19:10 — “More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”

## 3. Wood or any other metals are not used –

Lampstand and its utensils are made of pure gold. No wood or metal was used in its making. This shows that the Word of God is divine inspiration of God.

- 2.Tim.3:16,17 — All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

## 4. Lamp is placed in the Holy Place –



The location of the lamp was inside the holy place and near the Table of Showbread. The believer and Church as a Lampstand of God are living and dwelling in a holy place. In the holy place of the tabernacle there is no provision of lighting arrangement other than through the golden lamp. Sunlight or moonlight will never enter in the holy place. The only source and centre of light for the ministry in the holy place is through the golden candlestick. So also in a world drowned in darkness of sin, the believer and church are placed as lights to reflect the heavenly light. Up to the rising of the Sun of Righteousness we have to shine in this world and give lights to the needy.

- Isa.60:1,2 — “Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you and His glory will be seen upon you.”
- Rom.13:12-14 — The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”
- Mal.4:2 — “The Sun of Righteousness shall arise.”

## 5. Lamp is made of one central shaft and six branches –

Six branches came out of the sides of the main shaft. Even though there were seven lights, they are spoken as one lamp. The middle of the lamp is the main shaft. Main shaft pictures Jesus Christ and its branches to the believers. All the branches are attached to the main shaft. The branches cannot stand erect without the main shaft. Since the shaft is longer than the branches the light in the top of the shaft is seen in a higher position. The light of Christ is above all lights. Though all branches are giving light, the shining of the main shaft is brighter than all the lights. We have to be the lights as bright as our Lord. That must be the aim of the believers. Six is the symbol of man. In the middle, the central shaft, the main shaft (seventh branch) is Jesus Christ.

(TABERNACLE by Samson Henry, Kollam)

When we compare the shaft to the Word of God, we can see the presence of Christ throughout the scripture. From Genesis to Revelation we see Jesus Christ as the central shaft.

- Exo.25:32 — “And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side.”
- Exo.37:18 — “And six branches came out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side.”
- Eph.5:8 — “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”
- Mat.5:14,16 — “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
- John.15:5 — “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

#### **6. Branches are attached to the main shaft –**

This shows the need of believer’s fellowship with Christ. We have to abide with Christ for a victorious spiritual life. Only when we are attached with the shaft, the oil will flow for giving light. There is nothing to boast to the branches in shining.

- Luke.17:10 — “So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘we are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’”
- John.15:4 — “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”

#### **7. Three branches each on two sides –**

Exo.37:18 > “And six branches came out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side.”

The three branches each on both sides of the shaft pictures the believers. So also it denotes to the books of the Bible containing Old and New Testament. Christ is standing as the main shaft to the Bible. The three branches on one side can be compared to 39 books of Old Testament and the three branches on the other side to 27 books of New Testament.

- OT > Three branches > History, Doctrine, Prophecy > Genesis to Esther under History, Job to Song of Songs under Doctrine, Isaiah to Malachi under Prophecy.
- NT > Three branches > History, Doctrine, Prophecy > Matthew to Acts under History, Romans to Jude under Doctrine, Revelation under Prophecy.

#### **8. Seven lights to the Lamp –**

There were seven lamps to the Golden Lampstand. But they are spoken as one lamp. The number seven in scripture shows perfection. This shows the perfection and completeness of the Word of God. The Word of God requires no alteration or correction in accordance with the changing of all things in the universe.

#### **9. Made with one talent of pure gold –**

The dimension of the Golden Lampstand was not given. The lampstand was made with one talent of pure gold. (One talent approximately comes to 75 pounds or 35 kilograms). Number one denotes completeness in scripture and related to God. All other numbers are connected to number one. Likewise, all are coming from God and related to God.

- Eph.1:10 — “That in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.”
- Exo.37:24 — “Of a talent of pure gold he made it, with all its utensils.”

## **10. Lampstand was made of beaten works –**

It was specifically instructed that it shall be made by hammered (beaten) work. Hammered work means it should be molded as one by beating with hammer. Beating is the emblem of sorrow and suffering. This speaks to the suffering of Christ on the cross as the birthplace of the Church. The beating pictures to the bruising and death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God to give life and light to the darkened world. Without beating works, there will be no lampstand. So also without beating / bruising / death of the Second Adam, there could have no Church — His Bride.

There should not be a joint or welding of any kind to attach the branches to the shaft. This shows the peculiarity of the Word of God. Bible was written by many writers with duration of about 1600 years. As God used Bezalel (Exo.36:1) to make the lampstand by hammer work, the Holy Spirit also inspired so many writers in the setting of Bible.

Ex.25:31 — “You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work.”

## **11. Bowls made like almond blossoms with an ornamental knob and flower:**

Exo.37:19-22 – “There were three bowls made like almond blossoms on one branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond blossoms on the other branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower—and so for the six branches coming out of the lampstand. And on the lampstand itself were four bowls made like almond blossoms, each with its ornamental knob and flower. There was a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the six branches extending from it. Their knobs and their branches were of one piece; all of it was one hammered piece of pure gold.”

In each of the six branches, there were bowls made like almonds with a knob and a flower of gold. The almond like bowl speaks resurrection of Christ. The rod of Aaron placed before the Lord during the night had budded with blossoms and almonds in the morning. Bowls made like almond blossoms with an ornamental knob and flower reminds us the resurrection of the Son of God. That is, the rod laid up in death before the Father God had borne its fruits, on the resurrection morning (Luke.24:6,7).

## **12. All of its utensils are made of one talent of pure gold –**

All of the parts of lamp, wick-trimmers, trays etc. are made with pure gold. Wick-trimmers are for cutting the burned ends of the wick and trays are for putting the removed wicks.

- Exo.25:36-40 — Their knobs and their branches shall be of one piece; all of it shall be one hammered piece of pure gold. You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it. And its wick-trimmers and their trays shall be of pure gold. It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.”

The utensils like wick-trimmers and trays are made of pure gold as in the case of lamp. Things of waste materials for dumping outside are removed with gold scissors and collected in gold tray. There must be some lessons for us to pick up. What are the spiritual implications regarding this?

- Word of God to be interpreted with Word of God only > For cutting the burned ends of wicks golden wick- trimmers are used. The bible portions, doctrines and all matters connected with Bible will have to be interpreted with Word of God only. Never give explanation or interpretation on the basis of man’s knowledge or will.



- When your lights are going to dim, wick- trimmers are necessary. Lord will surely approach you with scissors to cut the burned ends with the Word of God. Simon Peter with other disciples was gone for fishing after the death of Jesus. But our Lord still loved them and came to their working place at Sea of Tiberias for bringing back to the ministry. The meeting at the sea shore brought Peter for repentance.

John.21:17 — “He said to him the third time, Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me? Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.”

Heb.12:5,6 — “And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”

- After cutting the burned ends with the golden wick-trimmers, the residue was placed in the golden tray. This was to prevent from falling or flying the ashes in the holy place. It will defile the holy place. So also the downfalls in the Christian life or in the testimony of a believer will have to be corrected with Word of God and not allow spreading around.

- Golden Candlestick of the tabernacle was placed in the muddy sand ground. Still the waste collected from the wick by trimming is kept very safe in the golden tray. This shows that the wick was burned for shining and also to give light for God’s ministry. It was not burned for giving light to self. So the prayers and tears of His servants in ministry are being collected in golden tray for their reward.

2.Cor.5:9,10 — “Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

Psa.56:8- “You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle: Are they not in Your book”.

God will never forget the ministries of His servants. Surely they will get reward at the Judgment Seat in heaven. God will not forget: the murder of righteous Abel, Walk of Enoch, Work of Noah, Faith of Abraham, Reverence of Jacob, Trust of David, Prayer of Daniel, Preaching of Peter, Gospel of Paul etc. and are kept in the golden tray for reward.

### **13. Lampstand & Candlestick –**

Lampstand in the tabernacle was known in different names. They are (1) Lampstand (2) Golden Lampstand (3) Gold Lampstand (4) Candlestick (5) Golden Candlestick (6) Pure Candlestick (7) Menorah. Based on the name Candlestick for the lighting arrangement in the Holy Place, some wrong practices were seen crept into the worship of nominal Christians. As such they were using candles in their churches. But as per the scripture the candles were never used in the tabernacle or worship. Only pure oil of pressed olives was used as fuel in the lampstand. Candles give light by consuming the wax itself. But the Lampstand give light by consuming the Olive oil poured in it. In other words the candle shines on self, whereas the lampstand shines on oil from external source. In the Holy place or in spiritual ministries the light must not originate from self but from the Holy Spirit. The light we shine in Lord’s work must not be on our own abilities, but because of Christ burning in us. “Without Me you can do nothing.” (John.15:5)

The seven lights were not made by candles, but instead seven wicks, burned pure olive oil (representing Holy Spirit) drawn from a common reservoir (Lev.24:1-4). The light was produced by the burning of wicks in the olive oil and not by the use of candles.

**14. Lamp gives light in front of it –**

Light is needed for the ministries that are ahead. Those unbelievers who are living in sin and believers in backslidden condition will not get the light from Christ and Word of God. As believer priests we need heavenly light for our ministries in this world. Only if we get light in front of our steps we can do the ministries fruitfully.

- Exo.25:37 – “You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it.”
- Matthew.5:15,16 – “Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

**15. Lampstand shines before the LORD continually –**

The Lampstand placed in the holy place of tabernacle was for uninterrupted ministries. There was no substitute arrangement of light other than from the golden lamp. So the light has to shine continually. In New Testament all believers are priests and are God’s golden lamps. So also the Church in a locality is a golden lampstand. In the epistle to Ephesians, God had given gifts to the Churches. It is the supreme duty of the believer priests and the talented believers to evangelize the darkened world through the heavenly light of gospel. Another important thing is that the light should shine before God and not before the world.

- Lev.24:2 – “Command the children of Israel that they bring to you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually.
- Lev.24:4 – “He shall be in charge of the lamps on the pure gold lampstand before the LORD continually.”

**16. Lampstand was filled with pure Oil of pressed Olives –**

The fuel for the lamp was from clear oil of pressed olives (Exo.27:20,21). It was purer and better quality. The lamps would be kept burning continually since it provide the only light in the Holy Place. Oil pictures the Holy Spirit. The lamp typifies Christ and the Oil typifies the Holy Spirit. Word of God is illuminated through the work of Holy Spirit. The pressed Olive points to the sufferings of Jesus Christ in relation to crucifixion. After the death in Cross Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead and ascended to heaven. On the day of Pentecost, the oil representing Holy Spirit came to the earth and was filled in the lamp of Jesus’ disciples. Today believers are the tabernacle of God. As a temple of God, Holy Spirit dwells in every believer as earthen vessels filled with oil to light the world. “Command the children of Israel that they bring to you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually” (Lev.24:2).

- (1) The first duty of the priest who enters the holy place in morning and evening service is to light the candlestick and replenish the oil.
  - Exo.25:37 – “You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it.”
  - Exo.40:4 – “You shall bring in the table and arrange the things that are to be set in order on it; and you shall bring in the lampstand and light its lamps.”
  - Exo.40:24,25 – “He put the lampstand in the tabernacle of meeting, across from the table, on the south side of the tabernacle; and he lit the lamps before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.”
  - Num.8:2 – “Speak to Aaron, and say to him, ‘When you arrange the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light in front of the lampstand.’”

- (2) The Priests were to keep the lights burning continuously.
  - Exo.27:20 – “And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually.”
  - Lev.24:2 – “Command the children of Israel that they bring to you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually.”
- (3) The Lamstand or Candlestick is typical to the Word of God (Bible). This is the only light for the believers and Church.
  - Psa.119:105 – “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”
  - Prov.6:23 – “For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life.”
- (4) We should read, meditate and obey the Word of God regularly as a light for our daily life and ministries.
  - Josh.1:8 – “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”
  - Psa.1:1,2 – “Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.”
  - Acts.17:11 – “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the scripture daily to find out whether these things were so.”
  - James.1:22 – “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”
- (5) The Golden Lampstand speaks that God is Light and we are placed as Lights in this darkened world to give light. As the lamps were drawing oil for shining, we have to shine with the power of Holy Spirit and live a holy life as a witness to our Lord.
  - 1.John.1:5 – “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”
  - Mat.5:14-16 – “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
  - Acts.1:8 – “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- (6) We should show, teach and ask to practice to our children and new generations.
  - Deu.6:7-9 – “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

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## 5

# THE TABLE OF SHOWBREAD

(Exo.25:23-30/ Exo.26:35/ Exo.37:10-16/ Lev.24:5-9)



**Exo.25:23-30** — “You shall also make a table of acacia wood; two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a molding of gold all around. You shall make for it a frame of a handbreadth all around and you shall make a gold molding for the frame all around. And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that are at its four legs. The rings shall be close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table. And you shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be carried with them. You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold. And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.”

**Exo.26:35** — “You shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand across from the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south; and you shall put the table on the north side.”

**Exo.37:10-16** — “He made the table of acacia wood; two cubits was its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. And he overlaid it with pure gold, and made a molding of gold all around it. Also he made a frame of a handbreadth all around it, and made a molding of gold for the frame all around it. And he cast for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that were at its four legs. The rings were close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table. And he made the poles of acacia wood to bear the table, and overlaid them with gold. He made of pure gold the utensils which were on the table: its dishes, its cups, its bowls, and its pitchers for pouring.”

**Lev.24:5-9** — “And you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it. Two-tenths of an ephah shall be in each cake. You shall set them in two rows, six in a row, on the pure gold table before the LORD. And you shall put pure frankincense on each row that it may be on the bread for a memorial, an offering made by fire to the LORD. Every Sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place; for it is most holy to him from the offerings of the LORD made by fire, by a perpetual statute.”

### **TABLE OF SHOWBREAD – Scriptures**

#### **Table:**

- Dimensions (1.cubit =1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> feet) : Exo.25:23  
(L=2C,B=1C,H=1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>C)
- Covered with gold : Exo.25:24
- Had an ornamental border : Exo.25:25
- Had staves of shittim wood  
covered with gold : Exo.25:28
- Had rings of gold in the corners  
for the staves : Exo.25:26,27
- Had dishes, spoons, covers,  
and bowls of gold : Exo.25:29
- Placed in the north side of  
the tabernacle : Exo.40:22; Heb.9:2
- Directions for removing : Num.4:7

#### **Bread:**

- Twelve cakes of fine flour : Lev.24:5
- Called hallowed bread : 1.Sam.21:4
- Materials for, provided  
by the people : Lev.24:8; Neh.10:32,33
- Prepared by Levites : 1.Chr.9:32; 1.Chr.23:29
- Placed on two rows  
on the table : Exo.25:30; Exo.40:23;  
Lev.24:6
- Pure frankincense  
placed on : Lev.24:7
- Was changed every  
Sabbath day : Lev.24:8
- After removal from the  
table given to the priests : Lev.24:9
- Not lawful for any but the  
priests to eat, except in  
extreme cases : 1.Sam.21:4-6; Mat.12:4
- Illustrative of :
  - Christ as the bread of life : John.6:48
  - The Church : 1.Cor.5:7;10:17

### **Position of the Table of Showbread:**

The place of the Table of Showbread is in the second part of the tabernacle in the Holy place. As the priest enters into the holy place from the outer court, he can see on the right side the Table of Presence (Showbread) bread and on the left side the Golden Lampstand. The incense altar is placed on ahead near the curtain.



### **THE TABLE OF SHOWBREAD:**

While the Brazen Altar is for making sacrifices, the Brazen Laver is for keeping water for washing, the Table of Showbread is for placing bread. The light from the Golden Lampstand illuminated the Table of Showbread. Table was made of Shittim wood covered with gold. Gold pictures deity. Shittim wood shows Jesus' humanity and incorruptible state -- one who had no sin. Shittim or acacia tree grows in unfavorable circumstances and are seen in desert. In external appearance the tree has no beauty. It is too hard and resistant to decay and the attack of insects. These features suits to our Lord having no attraction to the world. The prophet Isaiah says — "For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him." (Isa.53:2,3).

Jesus Christ once came to this world as a bread of life. Table made of wood shows His humanity. The covering of the Wood with Gold shows His deity. This shows that, He was not merely a man but also God.

Table is also known as Gold Table. The measurement of the table was 2 cubits length, 1 cubit breadth and 1½ cubit height. The table had four rings and two poles to carry in travelling. It was the duty of Kohathites to carry the table while in transit. In order to prevent the falling of Showbread from the table in transit there was a gold border crown around the top of the table.

The word Showbread (Shewbread) comes from a Hebrew word "lechem" means "Bread of the Face" or "Bread of Presence". The bread was called "the Bread of the Presence" or "Showbread" because it was placed in God's presence. It was placed symbolically before the "Face" of God.

The presence of twelve loaves of bread in the holy place reminds the priests that they were serving or representing the twelve tribes of Israel. It pictured the fellowship and communion of God with His people. The tribes were also represented by the jewels on the breastplate and the shoulders of the High Priest (Exo.28:6-21). Altogether, the bread and jewels reveal that God feeds His children, holding them in His heart and carries on His shoulders. When the old bread was replaced on each Sabbath it was given to the priests as their regular

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share. The Priests are allowed to eat the replaced bread on each Sabbath (Lev.24:9). The eating of the bread by the priests shows the spiritual fellowship that supports their spiritual life.

The Table of Showbread (Table of the Bread of Presence — Bread of Faces) was known as one and never be said divided as table and bread. While the Brazen Altar in the outer court pictures Jesus Christ who died as a sacrifice, the Table of Showbread pictures the Son of God who became the bread of Life and got victory over death and hell. If Jesus is seen as Savior in outer court, here Jesus is seen as Bread of Life in Holy place.

### **WOOD AND GOLD (SON OF MAN AND SON OF GOD):**

John in his Gospel presents Jesus as Son of God and Son of Man. The combination of wood and gold can be seen through the first six chapters.

1. John.1 — Jesus as a Table in the presence of God.
  - John.1:14-18 — “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me. And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”
2. John.2 — The glory of gold shines on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day at the time of a marriage in Cana of Galilee.
  - John.2:11 – “This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.”
3. John.3 — Exalted Son of Man and only begotten Son of God.
  - John.3:13,14 — “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up.”
4. John.4 — Introducing as Messiah to the Samaritan woman —
  - John.4:25,26 — “The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”
5. John.5 — Eligible for honor as Father — Judgment is given to Son.
  - John.5:22 — “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, “that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”
6. John.6 — Illustrating the use of bread on the table.
  - John.6:31-35 — “Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always. 35. And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”
  - John.6:48-51 — “I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

## Features of the Table of Showbread:

### 1. The Table of Showbread was a Table of Fellowship –

There was only one table in the tent. The Lord desires to have fellowship with us and to sit around the table.

- John.6:35 – “And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

The table is large enough to accommodate all who wish the fellowship.

- 1.Cori.11:27-29 – “Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”

### 2. Always there was bread on the Table –

The Showbread was kept always on table. Twelve loaves of bread were baked each week (Lev.24:5-9). The priests will see always bread on the golden table. It was made of fine flour received from the children of Israel as their offering. This bread is also called Holy (hallowed) Bread and Continual Bread.

- Exo.25:30—“And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.”
- Lev.24:5-8 – “And you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it. Two-tenths of an ephah shall be in each cake. You shall set them in two rows, six in a row, on the pure gold table before the LORD. And you shall put pure frankincense on each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, an offering made by fire to the LORD. Every Sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant.”
- 1.Sam.21:4 – “And the priest answered David and said, “There is no common bread on hand; but there is holy bread, if the young men have at least kept themselves from women.”
- 2.Chr.2:4 – “Behold, I am building a temple for the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to Him, to burn before Him sweet incense, for the continual showbread, for the burnt offerings morning and evening.”

### 3. Bread was replaced in every Sabbath –

On every Sabbath the bread was removed and twelve new and hot bread was replaced in its place. The old bread was given to the priests to eat in the holy place. This shows that in every week the saints will come to Jesus, the bread of life, with new songs and praise. The state of hot and new bread exhibits the first love and fellowship of the believers. Only priests could eat the bread, and it could be eaten in the Holy Place, because it was holy.

- Lev.24:8,9—“Every Sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place; for it is most holy to him from the offerings of the LORD made by fire, by a perpetual statute.”

### 4. There was twelve bread on the table –

Though the bread on the table was more than one in number, it will never be said in plural. Always it is known as bread and not breads because the bread represent Jesus Christ. There is only one Lord to the whole world. We are the partakers of that one bread.

- Exo.25:30 – “And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.
- Heb.9:2 – “For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary.”
- 1. Cor.10:17 – “For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.”



**5. Twelve bread represent twelve tribes –**

The twelve loaves representing the twelve tribes were placed in two rows with six loaves in each row (Lev.24:6). They have equal share in the bread. For the twelve bread two-tens of an eph of fine flour was used. The size of the bread is a mystery to us. It will be sufficient to the priests.

**6. Bread was baked with fine flour –**

The showbread was made of "fine flour" having no impurities, scraps or uncrushed parts. This shows the refined and unadulterated life of our Lord and Christ's perfect humanity. In Him is no roughness or unevenness. He is flawless, without sin.

**7. The Showbread was "baked with fire" –**

This pictures Christ's suffering.

**8. Each bread was sufficient to the priests –**

The priests can eat the replaced bread at the holy place. It was not made according to the plan and calculation of men. Each bread was made with two-tens of an eph! An eph approximately comes to 13.5 pounds. The servants of God need not live in half stomach. So the bread was made to feed the priests in the ministry abundantly.

- **Bread was unleavened one** – There was to be "*no leaven*" in the showbread – picturing Christ's sinlessness. Leaven is a picture of sin and impurity. It is like a cancer in the body that requires urgent surgery to remove.
- 1.Cor.5:6-8 – "Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

**9. Pure frankincense was placed on bread –**

Lev.24:7-9 – "And you shall put pure frankincense on each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, an offering made by fire to the LORD. Every Sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place; for it is most holy to him from the offerings of the LORD made by fire, by a perpetual statute."

- The bread is treated like a meal offering complete with frankincense. On Sabbath, when the bread is replaced, the priests would take a memorial portion from a loaf, add frankincense, and burn it on the altar. The priests could then eat it in the holy place. When the priests eat the bread replaced, the frankincense will be a sweet-smelling aroma to God in the altar. This speaks that the priests who eat the bread and the God who dwells in the tent were both satisfied when the tent was filled with sweet-smelling aroma.
- ➔ Frankincense will spread a sweet smell. Jesus Christ who loved us and became a sweet smelling aroma to God. Frankincense, the incense that was used, pictures Christ's fragrant life.
- Eph.5:2 – "And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."
- Lev.24:7 – "And you shall put pure frankincense on each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, an offering made by fire to the LORD."
- Frankincense in altar will spread sweet smell.
  - ➔ Frankincense is known for its sweet smell, but bitter taste. This speaks of the Word of God. The Word of God is very sweet to ear (to hear), but difficult to eat because of bitter (difficult to practice in life).
- Rev.10:10 – "Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter."

## 10. Bread set in two rows –

Lev.24:6 — “You shall set them in two rows, six in a row, on the pure gold table before the LORD.”

The twelve loaves of bread represent the twelve tribes of Israel. The table of showbread was a constant reminder of God’s everlasting covenant with His people and His provision for the twelve tribes of Israel, represented by the twelve loaves.

- In New Testament only one bread is placed on the Lord’s Table. The one bread on the table of the Lord is a symbol of the oneness of the Church, the unity of the Church.
- One bread on the table of the Lord represents the “one body”.
- 1.Cor.10:17 — “For we, though many, are one bread, one body, for we all partake of that one bread.”

## 11. The priests alone are eligible to eat the showbread –

No one else other than the priests can eat the bread. This is applicable to the believers also. The priests of the Old Testament were not allowed to enter the tabernacle and eat bread unless they are purified at the Brazen Altar and Brazen Laver. Likewise no believer can share the Lord’s Table unless he is purified before the sharing. In the New Testament those who are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ are priests. They are eligible to become the partakers of the bread. Any people who are not saved are not permitted to take part in the Lord’s Table. Those who disobey to the instruction contained in the word of God will have to face the punishment from God.

1. Lev.24:9 — “And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place.”
2. 1.Sam.21:4-6 — “And the priest answered David and said, “There is no common bread on hand; but there is holy bread, if the young men have at least kept themselves from women. Then David answered the priest, and said to him, “Truly, women have been kept from us about three days since I came out. And the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in effect common, even though it was sanctified in the vessel this day. So the priest gave him holy bread; for there was no bread there but the showbread which had been taken from before the LORD, in order to put hot bread in its place on the day when it was taken away.”
3. 1.Pet.2:9 — “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”
4. Rev.5:10 — “And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”
5. 1.Cor.11:28-30 — “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.”
  - We have an example in this regard — Judas Iscariot shared the Passover bread with his Master in an unclean heart. This has led to his tragic death and to get the name as betrayer of the Lord. **Luke.22:19-21** — “And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table.”
  - **Mat.27:5** — “Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.”

## 12. Priests can take the bread by themselves –

When the bread is replaced with the new, they can themselves take and eat it at the holy place. There is no need, for anybody to give them the bread. This shows an important truth in relation to the Lords Table. As per New Testament teaching, all who have accepted Jesus Christ are priests. Those who are eligible to take part in Lord's Table are privileged to take the bread themselves. Appointing of any person to distribute bread to the believers or putting of the bread by a person to another person's mouth is not scriptural.

The Bread also speaks of the spiritual nourishment through the Word of God.

- Mat.4:4 – “But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”
- Deu.8:3 – “So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.”

## 13. All things for the ministry were set on the table –

The dishes, pans, pitchers, bowls etc. were made of pure gold and kept ready for use. The setting of dishes, pans, pitchers and bowls at hand shows that when the priests are doing the ministries need not search for the utensils related to the Table of Showbread. The use of pure gold for making these items shows their highest value and importance in the ministry.

The various utensils provided in the ministry of the Table of Showbread can be seen in New Testament Church also. In order to assist the believers God himself gave some gifts to the Church. They serve God in various ministries and also assist the believers in developing strong fellowship. Believers are not necessary to search them elsewhere for Lord's ministry.

- Exo.25:29 — “You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold.”
- Eph.4:11,12 — “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

## 14. There were no chairs for the Table of Showbread –

The Levitical priests always stood before God. There were no seats in the sanctuary because the priests work never finished. In contrast, Jesus Christ sat down (Heb.1:3/ Heb.8:1) after offering Himself as a sacrifice. Sitting indicates that His work of atonement is finished. Jesus' final words on the Cross, 'It is finished' (John.19:30), declare the finishing of His redemptive works.

Having no provision of chairs to sit in the tabernacle, the Priests had to eat the bread by standing up. The Passover bread also had to be eaten by standing up. This shows that their ministry is not completed to take rest. At any time without further preparation they must be ready to travel as per the divine direction.

- Exo.12:11 — ‘And thus you shall eat it: with a **belt** on your waist, your **sandals** on your feet, and your **staff** in your hand. So you shall **eat it in haste**. It is the LORD'S Passover.”

Wearing belt on their waist shows that they are ready for service at any time. Wearing of Sandals on feet shows their readiness to travel. In Old Testament ages slaves are not permitted to wear sandals. Here they are wearing the sandals. This exhibit that they were not slaves anymore but free. The staff in hand shows that they

are not trusting on their own strength but in Lord Almighty. Eating the Passover in haste and in standing position pictures that they have to travel at any time and there is no time to relax and rest. Altogether this shows the incompleteness and imperfection of the sacrifice of the Old Testament.

With the coming of the Passover Lamb Jesus Christ and through His sacrificial death the weaknesses and imperfections of the Old Testament sacrifices were removed. Now the New Testament believer can take part in the Lord's Table by sitting. This shows the perfection, completion, rest and no blemishes in the new system.

We can see that the disciples with Jesus sat down to eat the Passover bread.

- Mark.14:17,18,22 — "In the evening He came with the twelve. Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said... And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

In these lines we see three important actions of Jesus Christ in the Passover with the disciples — 1. Jesus took bread (2) Jesus broke the bread (3) Jesus gave the bread. These three actions reveal some divine truths behind His sacrifice.

**1. Took the bread** = Jesus took the form of humanity to perform the sacrifice.

- John.6:48 -51 — "I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."
- Phil.2:6-8 — "... who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

**2. Jesus broke the bread** = Jesus broke his body in Calvary Cross.

- Psa.22:1 — "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?"
- Mark.14:36 — "And He said, Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."
- Mark.15:33 — "Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour."

**3. Jesus gave the Bread** = Jesus gave Himself to us.

- Exo.21:23 — "But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life."
- John.10:28 — "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."
- Phil.2:8 — "He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."
- Psa.116:12,13 — "What shall I render to the LORD For all His benefits toward me? I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the LORD."

#### **15. There will be bread in transit also —**

The showbread will be available always in their sight. This shows that Jesus Christ, the bread of life will be with us always in our journey and have fellowship at all times.

- Mat.28:20 — "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- Heb.13:8 — "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

## 16. The Showbread typifies the Lord's Supper —

The bread removed from the Golden Table, placing new bread on the Table and eating of the bread removed, shows the Lord's Table to the New Testament believer priests. The believer priests (Rev.1:6) are commanded to eat the bread on the first day of the week in memorial of our Lord's redemptive works.

- Acts.2:42 – "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, *in the breaking of bread*, and in prayers."
- Acts.20:7 – "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came *together to break bread*."
- Mat.26:26-29 – And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body. Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."
- 1.Cor.11:23-26 – "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me. In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."

## 17. Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life –

The Showbread typifies Jesus Christ —

- John.6:35,49,50 – "And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, which one may eat of it and not die."

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, means "House of Bread".

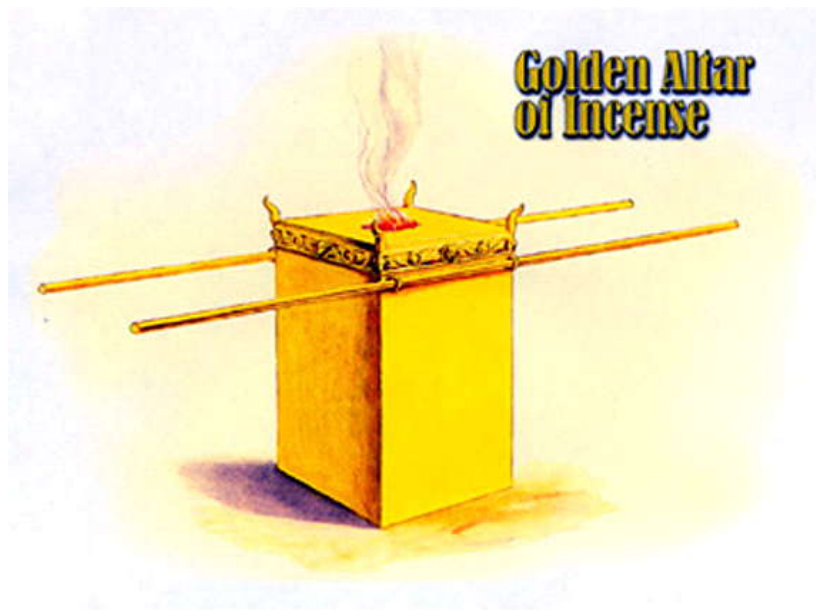
- Mat.2:5,6 -- "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel." (Mic.5:2).
1. The Showbread was made of "*fine flour*," – picturing Christ's perfect humanity. In Him is no roughness or unevenness. He is flawless, without sin.
  2. There was to be "*no leaven*" in the showbread – picturing Christ's sinlessness (1.Cor.5:6-8).
  3. The Showbread was "*baked with fire*," – picturing Christ's suffering.
  4. Frankincense, the incense that was used, pictures Christ's fragrant life.

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## 6

# THE ALTAR OF INCENSE

(Exo.30:1-10/ Exo.30:34-38/Exo.37:25-29)



**Exo.30:1-10** — “You shall make an altar to burn incense on; you shall make it of acacia wood. A cubit shall be its length and a cubit its width-it shall be square-and two cubits shall be its height. Its horns shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay its top, its sides all around, and its horns with pure gold; and you shall make for it a molding of gold all around. Two gold rings you shall make for it, under the molding on both its sides. You shall place them on its two sides, and they will be holders for the poles with which to bear it. You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. And you shall put it before the veil that is before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the Testimony, where I will meet with you. Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it. And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations. You shall not offer strange incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it. And Aaron shall make atonement upon its horns once a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement; once a year he shall make atonement upon it throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD.”

**Exo.30:34-38** — “And the LORD said to Moses: “Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, and pure frankincense with these sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each. You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy. And you shall beat some of it very fine, and put some of it before the Testimony in the tabernacle of meeting where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you. But as for the incense which you shall make, you shall not make any for yourselves, according to its composition. It shall be to you holy for the LORD. 38 “Whoever makes any like it, to smell it, he shall be cut off from his people.”

**Exo.37:25-29**—“He made the incense altar of acacia wood. Its length was a cubit and its width a cubit-it was square-and two cubits was its height. Its horns were of one piece with it. And he overlaid it with pure gold: its top, its sides all around, and its horns. He also made for it a molding of gold all around it. He made two rings of gold for it under its molding, by its two corners on both sides, as holders for the poles with which to bear it. And he made the poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold. He also made the holy anointing oil and the pure incense of sweet spices, according to the work of the perfumer.”

#### **SCRIPTURES ON THE ALTAR OF INCENSE:**

1. Dimensions : Exo.30:1,2/37:25  
(L=1cubit /B= 1cubit /H=2cubits)
2. Made of Shittim wood Covered with gold : Exo.30:3/37:26
3. Had 4 rings of gold under crown to the staves : Exo.30:4/37:26,27
4. Staves covered with Gold : Exo.30:5
5. Called the Golden Altar : Exo.39:38
6. Placed before the veil in the outer sanctuary : Exo.30:6/40:5,26
7. Said to be before the Lord : Lev.4:7/1.Kin.9:25
8. Anointed with Holy Oil : Exo.30:26,27
9. The priests burned incense on every morning and evening : Exo.30:7,8
10. No strange incense or sacrifice to be offered on : Exo.30:9
11. Atonement made by the high priest once every year: Exo.30:10/ Lev.16:18,19
12. The blood of all sin offerings put on the horns : Lev.4:7,18
13. Punishment for offering strange fire on : Lev.10:1,2
14. Punishment for unauthorized offering on : 2.Chr.26:16-19
15. Covered by the priests before removal from sanctuary: Num.4:11

#### **Instructions regarding Incense Altar: (Exo.30:1-10)**

1. Make an altar to burn incense (30:1).
2. Make it of acacia wood (30:1).
3. A cubit shall be its length and a cubit its width-it shall be square-and two cubits shall be its height (30:2) > (square with L=1 x B=1> Height =2).
4. Its horns shall be of one piece with it (30:3).
5. Overlay its top, its sides all around, and its horns with pure gold; and you shall make for it a molding of gold all around (30:3).
6. Two gold rings you shall make for it, under the molding on both its sides. You shall place them on its two sides, and they will be holders for the poles with which to bear it (30:4).
7. You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold (30:5).
8. And you shall put it before the veil that is before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the Testimony, where I will meet with you (30:6).

9. Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it (30:7).
10. When Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations (30:8).
11. Not offer strange incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it (30:9).
12. Aaron shall make atonement upon its horns once a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement; once a year he shall make atonement upon it throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD (30:10).

#### **Different Names of Incense Altar:**

1. The Altar of Incense
2. The Incense Altar
3. The Altar of God
4. The Golden Altar of Incense
5. The Altar before the Lord
6. The Altar to burn Incense
7. The Altar of Sweet Incense

#### **ALTAR OF INCENSE:**

The Incense Altar was located directly in front of the veil leading to the Most Holy Place of the tabernacle. The altar of Incense was one of the three pieces of furniture in the Holy place. The other two are Table of Showbread and Golden Lampstand. It was the tallest piece of furniture in the Holy Place. It stood just in front of the curtain that separated the Holy place from the Most Holy place. It was 1 cubit (1.5 feet) square and 2 cubits (3 feet) high. It is for offering sweet incense. It was made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold. There were four horns in the four corners of the altar. The golden altar was not used for sacrifice. God commanded the priests to burn incense on the golden altar every morning and evening (Exo.30:7,8). The incense was burned on coals brought from the brazen altar where the sacrifices were offered to God (Lev.16:12,13/Num.16:46). This signifies that true prayer must be based on the work of Christ on the cross. The incense was to be left burning continually throughout the day and night as a pleasing aroma to the Lord. It was made of an equal part of four precious spices (stacte, onycha, galbanum and frankincense) and was considered holy. God commanded the Israelites not to use the same formula outside the tabernacle to make perfume for their own consumption; otherwise, they were to be cut off from their people (Exodus 30:34-38).

#### **Features of the Altar of Incense:**

##### **(1) Incense Altar was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold –**

The Incense Altar was made of wood and gold, the earthly and the divine. Wood shows Jesus' humanity and gold to His deity. As a man, Jesus bore the judgment of God for us, now He represents us in heaven and He will come to receive us. Acts.1:11 > "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

##### **(2) Incense Altar was used for burning Incense only –**

The word Altar means the place of slaughter, but no slaughter takes place at the Golden Altar. Any kind of sacrifice was prohibited in the Golden Altar. But once in the year, on the Day of Atonement, the blood of sin offering was put upon the horns of the Golden Altar. It was a witness for the sacrifice offered. The Golden Altar was not used for sacrifice or for anything other than burning of incense (Exo.30:9). This means that there is no substitute for prayer.



The incense was made of an equal part of four precious spices (stacte, onycha, galbanum and pure frankincense) and was considered holy. God commanded the Israelites not to use the same formula outside the tabernacle to make perfume for their own consumption: otherwise they were to be cut off from their people.

- Exo.30:34-38 –“And the LORD said to Moses: “Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, and pure frankincense with these sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each. You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy. And you shall beat some of it very fine, and put some of it before the Testimony in the tabernacle of meeting where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you. But as for the incense which you shall make, you shall not make any for yourselves, according to its composition. It shall be to you holy for the LORD. Whoever makes any like it, to smell it, he shall be cut off from his people.”
- The four different spices used in the Golden Incense Altar speak the four aspects of Christ’s redemption work – Life, Death, Resurrection and Ascension.
- The four different spices also points to the required ingredients in our prayers — Supplications, Prayers, Intercessions, Giving of Thanks (1.Tim.2:1 – “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men”).

### **(3) Used only right fire –**

The priests had to use only right fire on the altar and also to use prescribed mixture of spices for the incense (Exo.30:34-38). No fire other than that from the Brazen Altar could be used on the Golden Incense Altar. Nadab and Abihu tried to worship God with strange fire in the incense and were killed.

Lev.10:1,2 — “Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.”

Profane fire or Strange fire means fire of any source other than from the Brazen Altar. Nadab and Abihu were anointed priests. They came with the true incense also. But they were killed by the wrath of God because they used the fire not prescribed by God (Lev.6:12,13/ Lev.16:12). This points to a truth that God’s ministries should be done as prescribed by God and not according to the ideas and thoughts of man. Partial obedience to the Word of God in fulfilling spiritual ministries result to total disobedience in the sight of God (Jos.1:7,8/ 1.Sam.15:22/Jer.17:5/Jer.48:10).

### **(4) A border or crown round the edge of the Altar —**

Exo.30:3 > “And you shall overlay its top, its sides all around, and its horns with pure gold; and you shall make for it a molding of gold all around.”

- The Golden incense altar had a golden crown round the top of it as in the case of Showbread Table. This signifies that Jesus crowned with glory and honour (Heb.2:9).
- The border or crown round the edge of the Incense Altar kept the coals from falling to the ground. The purpose of burning is to let the incense rise up to God. We know that the prayers of Christ will never fail as long as the coals are kept inside the altar.

**(5) There was a horn at each top corner --**

Horn speaks for strength and power. There were four horns to the altar. The four horns represent four corners of the world. The whole world can trust and get refuge at the feet of Jesus through prayer.

The horns of the Altar of Incense were not for decoration but for a specific purpose in relation to the blood sacrifice. The horns of the golden altar were sprinkled with blood from the animal sacrifice to cleanse and purify it from the sins of the Israelites (Lev.4:7 / Lev.16:18). Just as the horns on the brazen altar represent the power of Christ's blood to forgive sins, the horns on golden altar signify the power of His blood in prayer as we confess our sins and ask for His forgiveness.

- Lev.4:7 – "And the priest shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of sweet incense before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of meeting; and he shall pour the remaining blood of the bull at the base of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of meeting."
- Lev.16:18,19 – "And he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD, and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. Then he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, cleanse it, and consecrate it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel."

Like the Ark and table of Showbread it was carried by two staves covered with gold. When transported the Golden altar was covered with a cloth of blue over which was a covering of badger skins.

- Num.4:11 – "Over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth, and cover it with a covering of badger skins; and they shall insert its poles."

Just as the horns on the Brazen Altar represent the power of Christ's blood to forgive sins, the horns on the Golden Altar signify the power of His blood in prayer as we confess our sins and ask for His forgiveness.

- James.5:15,16 – "And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

**(6) Priests were to burn the incense and to tend the lamp –**

- Exo.30:7 – "Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it."

Every time when the High Priest would light the Golden Lampstand he would also burn incense. This shows that God's light comes with prayer. He would take a golden censer [shallow bowl] and gather burning coals from the brazen altar outside. The burning coals taken from the brazen altar was put inside the altar of incense, and then sprinkles the incense upon it. The smoke and smell would rise up, symbolic of our prayers going up to heaven. The incense was a symbol of the prayers and intercession of the people going to God as a sweet fragrance. God wanted His dwelling to be a place of prayer.

- Isa.56:7 – “Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”
- Psa.141:2 – “Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”

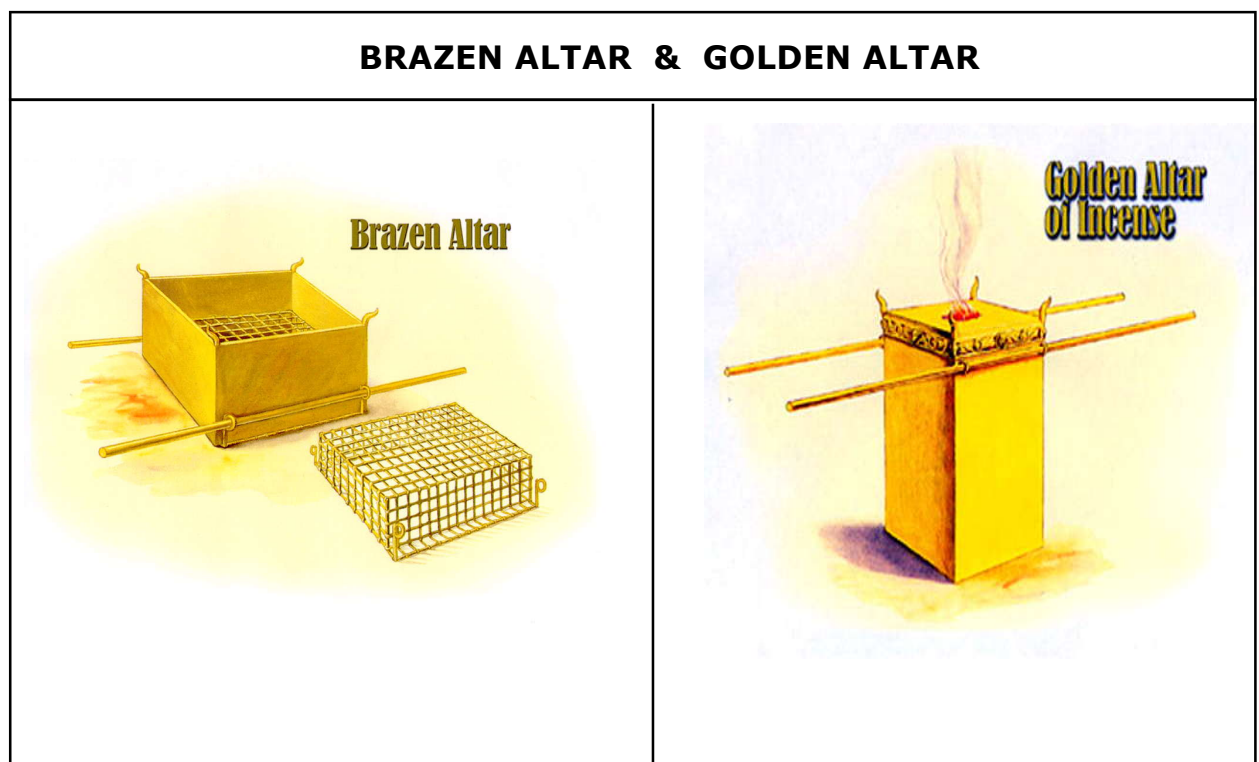
**(7) Carrying rings and staves were attached to the Incense Altar –**

- Exo.30:4 > “Two gold rings you shall make for it, under the molding on both its sides. You shall place them on its two sides, and they will be holders for the poles with which to bear it.” This speaks that prayer and intercession is not limited to time or place.

**(8) Intercession is only for priests –**

Only priests are allowed to burn incense in the Golden Altar. All New Testament believers are Priests. They are allowed to make intercessions and give petitions to God. Unbelievers have no right for intercession for others. Only after coming to the altar of cross and laver of sanctification they get the right to intercede for others. We have an example of a proud King Uzziah who got punishment for burning incense to God.

**2.Chr.26:16-21** – “But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the LORD-valiant men. And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You shall have no honor from the LORD God. Then Uzziah became furious; and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar. And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he was leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the LORD had struck him. King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. Then Jotham his son was over the king’s house, judging the people of the land.”



**DIFFERENCES IN THE BRAZEN ALTAR & THE GOLDEN ALTAR**

<b>BRAZEN ALTAR</b>	<b>INCENSE ALTAR</b>
1 Made of wood and covered with brass	Made of wood and covered with gold
2 Placed in the outer court	Placed in the Holy place
3 All who enter the gate can see	Can be seen only by the priests
4 Sacrifices at all times	Incense on morning and evening only
5 Christ's Humiliation	Christ's Exaltation
6 Shows the work of Jesus in earth > Died in Calvary > > Atonement of Sin > Salvation	Shows Jesus' work now at Heaven > Resurrected and living in Heaven < Intercesion
7 Have a fire and a grate	No grate – Fire from brazen altar
8 Made sacrifices	No sacrifices > burning incense only
9 Was a place of suffering	Place of joy and victory
10 Have no crown	Had a crown > shows Christ's present Glory
11 Brazen altar pictures Justification	Golden altar pictures our Acceptance

**SIMILARITIES OF THE BRAZEN ALTAR AND THE GOLDEN ALTAR:**

1. Both are called Altars.
2. Both are in square.
3. Fire in both Altars.
4. Both can be carried in travel.
5. Ministries are done by priests in both.
6. Both have four horns.
7. Both are situated near the door.
8. Fire from heaven was used in both the altars.

**THE GOLDEN ALTAR & PRAYER:**

**The Golden Altar and the Incense is a picture of prayer –**

The incense was a symbol of the prayers and intercession of the people going up to God as a sweet fragrance. God wanted His dwelling to be a place where people could approach Him and pray to Him. The prayers are going up to heaven like incense.

- Psalms 141:2 – “Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”
- Rev.8:3,4 – “Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.”
- Rev.5:8 – “And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.”

- Luke.1:8-10 – “So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.”

### **The Golden Altar is a type of prayers of Jesus and believers —**

Altar of Incense is a place for Worship and Prayer. The sweet incense was burned on the Golden Altar morning and evening. This is a type of prayers of priests send up to God day and night.

Lev.16:12,13 – “Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, with his hands full of sweet incense beaten fine, and bring it inside the veil. And he shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the Testimony, lest he die.”

- 2.Cor.2:15 – “For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.”
- Eph.5:1,2 – “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

Because of Christ’s payment for sin at cross, He can come to the Father on our behalf. So also through Calvary we have access to God. Our prayers are accepted through Christ’s finished work. For this reason we are instructed to pray in Jesus’ name (John. 16:23). Through the incense of Christ’s precious name and work at Cross ascends with our prayers and causes them to be heard by God. God is saving our prayers in heaven. No prayer will go unnoticed. This can be seen from the picture of golden censer.

- Rev.8:3 – “Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the Altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.”
- 1. Thes.5:17,18 – “Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

### **Christ’s Intercessory work and Prayers —**

The golden altar is a representation of Christ, who is our intercessor before God the Father. Just before He was betrayed and sentenced to death, Jesus interceded for His disciples and all believers, asking God to guard them from evil and sanctify them by His Word, and that they may see God’s glory and be a witness to the world (John 17:1-26). The Incense altar was a type of Christ’s intercession. The brazen altar was a symbol of Christ’s substitution death at Calvary cross. The judgment and wrath of God towards the whole mankind was inflicted on the Son of God. The Golden Altar pictures Christ’s present work of intercession. He is now at Heaven before the throne for interceding us. The present ministry of intercession can be seen in various scriptures.

- John.14:13,14 – “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”
- Eph.5:2 — “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”
- Heb.7:25 — “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”
- Rom.5:10 — “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”
- Rom.8:34 — “It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

- Heb.9:24 — “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”
- 1.John.2:1 — “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

**PRAYER OF JESUS:**

1. In mountain, in the evening > Mat.14:23
2. In the morning before the day light > Mark.1:35
3. After taking baptism > Luke.3:21
4. After sending disciples in boat > Mat.14:23
5. After healing of the leper > Luke.5:16
6. Before selecting disciples > Luke.6:12
7. Before the transfiguration > Luke.9:29
8. After preaching and return of 70 > Luke.10:21
9. Before teaching disciples to pray > Luke.11:1
10. At the tomb of Lazarus > John.11:41
11. When the Greeks came to see > John.12:28
12. In Gethsemane before crucifixion > Mat.26:36
13. Prays at cross for enemies > Luke.23:34
14. In Cross to Father when in pain > Mat.27:46
15. At the time of death > Luke.23:46

**WHAT IS THE NEED OF PRAYER:**

- God has commanded > 1.Chr.16:11 / Lam.2:19
- Jesus taught how to pray > Mat.6:1-9/ Mat.7:7
- Holy Spirit persuade to pray > Rom.8:26
- Early believers set an example > Acts.2:42
- Advised in Epistles > Eph.6:18/ 1.Thes.5:17
- Jesus set an example > Heb.5:7
- Not praying is a sin > 1.Sam.12:23

**ELEMENTS OF PRAYER:**

1. Praise > Phi.4:6,7
2. Repentance of Sin > 1.John.1:9
3. Supplication > Phi.4:6,7
4. Intercession > 1.Tim.2:1,2
5. Thanks giving > Phil.4:6

**REASONS FOR NOT GETTING ANSWERS TO THE PRAYERS:**

- 1.Presence of sin > not repented > Psa.66:18
- 2.Self motivation > James.4:3
3. Unbelief > James.1:6,7 / Mark.11:23,24
- 4.Mechanical prayers > Mat.6:7/ Isa.29:13
- 5.Not forgiving others > Mark.11:25,26
- 6.Not considering the poor > Pro.21:13
- 7.Without unity by believers > Mat.5:23,24

**PRAYER IN WHOSE NAME:**

1. To the Holy Father (Acts.12:5)
  2. In the name of Jesus Christ (John.14:13,14)
  3. With the help of Holy Spirit (Eph.6:18/ Jude.20)
- Prayer should be in the name of Jesus Christ
  - Prayer should be closed in the name of Jesus Christ and not in the name of Jesus.

➤ **How we get Joy in prayer?**

- J → Jesus first = Praising God.
- O → Others second = Intercession.
- Y → Yourself last = For your needs.

**MODEL PRAYERS:**

- Pray like Samuel in the childhood (1.Sam.3).
- Pray like Simeon when old (Luke.2:29).
- Pray like David in the early morning (Psa.5:3).
- Pray like Daniel three times (Dan.6:10).
- Pray like Paul & Silas at midnight (Acts.16:25)
- Pray like Jesus at all times
- Pray like Eliezer when you start any work (Gen.24:12).
- Pray like Solomon when you finish any work (1.Kings.8:22-53).
- Pray like Peter in faith (Mat.14:30/Acts.9:40,41).
- Pray like Hannah in sorrow (1.Sam.1).
- Pray like Job in suffering & sickness (Job.42:10).
- Pray like Stephen while dying (Acts.7:59,60).

**The Altar of Incense & Jesus Christ:**

(1) The Altar of Incense speaks of Jesus Christ:

Eph.5:2 — “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

(2) The smoke of the incense speaks of Prayer:

Rev.8:4 — “And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand.”

(3) Jesus is always praying for us; Jesus Christ, fully God and fully Man, is always interceding for us at the Father in Heaven.

Rom.8:33,34 — “Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

Heb.7:24,25 — “But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

**Jesus and Tabernacle as per Gospel of John:**

- Brazen Altar : John.1 > Jesus, the Lamb of God.
- Brazen Laver : John.4 > Jesus, the Water of Life.
- Table of Showbread : John.6 > Jesus, the Bread of Life.
- Golden Lampstand : John.9 > Jesus, the Light  
of the World.
- Golden Incense Altar : John.17 > Jesus, the High Priest  
(High Priest's Prayer).

**Was the Altar of Incense in the Holy Place or in the Most Holy Place?**

According to Old Testament scriptures, the Altar of Incense was in the Holy place in front of the veil, not in the Most Holy Place behind the veil (Exo.30:6/ Exo.40:5,26). But in Hebrew it was in the Most Holy Place.

Heb.9:3,4 - "And behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant ....."

In Hebrew epistle the word censer comes from the Greek word 'thumiasterion' which mean either the Incense Altar (Exo.30:6/ Exo.40:5,26) or the censer (a devise for burning incense or a cup) with which the High Priest carried the incense. It is better to take the second meaning of the censer in this regard. In the light of this, we can think that the censer (cup) related to the Most Holy Place was carried by the High Priest from the Incense Altar to the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement.

The Golden Incense Altar was one of the three furniture in the Holy Place; other two were the Golden Lampstand and the Table of Showbread. The Incense Altar was for burning incense only. It stood in the Holy Place just in front of the veil that divided the two parts of the Tabernacle. In each morning and evening, a priest burned incense on this Altar. The smoke of the incense would go through the veil, and such be 'a perpetual incense before the Lord (Exo.30:8). Thus the fragrance might fill the Most Holy Place continually. So even if the physical presence of the Altar is in Holy Place its ministry belonged to the Holy of Holies.

On the Annual Day of Atonement, the High Priest took coals from this Altar to burn incense before the Mercy Seat in the Most Holy Place (Lev.16:12-14). Moreover, the rending of the veil in holy of holies at the time of death of Jesus Christ had brought the Golden Lampstand, the Table of Showbread and the Golden Incense Altar from the Holy place into the Most Holy Place, heaven.

When Jesus died on cross at Calvary, the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom (Mat.27:50,51) and the way was opened into Holy of Holies. There is no need of Holy place or Most Holy Place because any sinner who believes in Him could come to the presence of God, calling Abba, Father (Rom.8:15/ Gal.4:6).

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# 7

## THE HOLY OF HOLIES

The Tabernacle has three parts – Outer Court, Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Inside the Holy Place there was an inner room called the Holy of Holies, or the Most Holy Place. The Holy of Holies was also called the Sanctuary (Lev.4:6), the Holy Sanctuary (Lev.16:33), the Holy Place (Exo.28:29) and the Most Holy Place (Exo.26:31-33). The Holy of Holies of the Tabernacle/Temple in which was kept the Ark of the Covenant (Exo.25:10-22), the Mercy Seat (Exo.26:34), Cherubim (Exo.25:18-22), The Golden Pot with Manna (Exo.16:33), Aaron's budding Rod (Num.17:1-10), Two Tablets of Stones of Ten Commandments (Deu.31:26/Exo.20:1-17).

It was the most sacred place, where God dwells in glory that no ordinary person or priests could enter. The Holy of Holies was accessible only to the High Priest. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest was permitted to enter this place to burn incense and sprinkle the blood of a sacrificial animal on the Mercy Seat of the Ark (Lev.16:15-33).

During the Israelites' wanderings in the wilderness, God appeared as a pillar of cloud or fire in and above the Holy of Holies (Num.12:5/Deu.31:15). The Holy of Holies was separated from the rest of the Tabernacle by a veil made of fine linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn and embroidered with Gold Cherubim. The Holy of Holies measured 20 cubits by 20 cubits by 20 cubits. Therefore, it was a cube (2.Chr.3:8).

- Exo.26:34 – "You shall put the mercy seat upon the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy."
- Lev.16:2 – "The LORD said to Moses: Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat."
- 2.Chr.3:8 – "And he made the Most Holy Place. Its length was according to the width of the house, twenty cubits, and its width twenty cubits. He overlaid it with six hundred talents of fine gold."
- 2.Chr.3:10 – "In the Most Holy Place he made two cherubim, fashioned by carving, and overlaid them with gold."
- Heb.9:3 – "Behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All."

The Holy of Holies typifies the heavenly sanctuary into which Christ was entered as a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. "For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another" (Heb.9:24,25).

The Holy of Holies served as a representation of God's presence with the nation of Israel. The veil protected the sinful people of Israel from God's holiness. The death of Jesus upon the cross ended the need for this method of worship, opening access to God for all who would believe in Jesus as Son of God (John.1:12/John.3:16/ Rom.8:1). When Jesus Christ was crucified, this veil was torn in two from top to bottom (Matt. 27:51/Mark.15:38/Luke.23:45), thus opening a new and living way (Heb.10:19-20).

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# 8

## THE VEIL

(Exo.26:31-33/Exo.36:35-38/Mat.27:51/Heb.9:3/Heb.10:19,20)

There were three veils in the Tabernacle. The first veil was the eastern gate which opened into the courtyard. Those who came to sacrifice could pass through this veil or gate (Exo.40:33). The second veil allowed only the priests to enter the Holy Place (Exo.40:28). This was the first veil into the tabernacle. The third and last veil was only for the High Priest, who once a year could enter into the Holy of Holies (Exo.40:21).

### **There were three entrances to the Tabernacle:**

#### (1) The Outer Gate:

- Exo.27:16 — “For the gate of the court there shall be a screen twenty cubits long, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. It shall have four pillars and four sockets.”

#### (2) The Door to the Holy Place:

- Exo.26:36,37 — “You shall make a screen for the door of the tabernacle, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold; their hooks shall be of gold, and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them.”
- Exo.36:37,38 — “He also made a screen for the tabernacle door, of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver, and its five pillars with their hooks. And he overlaid their capitals and their rings with gold, but their five sockets were bronze.”

#### (3) The Veil to the Holy of Holies:

- Exo.26:31-33 — “You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim. You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Their hooks shall be gold, upon four sockets of silver. And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy.”

### **Three Veils or Curtains for the Tabernacle:**

#### **(1) The First Veil:**

This Veil was at the entrance of the Tabernacle Gate (Exo.40:33). One can pass through the gate by removing the veil with his hand and can see the Brazen Altar and Brazen Laver. The veil neither hindered any one from entering nor concealed anything from the sight. This door was an ever opened one so that any Israelite can come with his sacrifice at any time. There the priests will examine his sacrifice to see whether it is without blemish and fit for sacrifice.

#### **(2) The Second Veil:**

This veil hung at the entrance of the Holy Place of the Tabernacle (Exo.40:28). The entry to this area was restricted to priests only. Before passing through the second veil, the priests had to wash their hands and feet. The washing of hands and feet by the priest was compulsory for entering the Holy Place through the second veil. Any violation to this will lead to death. On entering the Holy Place, the priests will have to keep the lamps burning, feed at the Royal Table and put incense on the Golden Altar. They were not allowed to go further to the Most Holy Place.

### **(3) The Third Veil:**

This veil hung at the entrance of the Most Holy Place (Exo.40:21). Priests were not allowed to enter through the third veil. The High Priests alone can pass through this veil once in a year with so many preparations (Lev.16:2/ Heb.9:6,7).

#### **Different Veils in the scripture:**

- (1) The veil of the Tabernacle (Built by Moses): Exo.26:31-33
- (2) The veil of the Temple (Built by Solomon): 2.Chr.3:14
- (3) The veil of Moses (It concealed God's glory from mortal eyes): Exo.34:29-35
- (4) The veil of Christ (flesh of Christ which concealed His divinity): Heb.10:19,20/Mat.17:2
- (5) The Veil of Women – (Head covering): 1.Cori.11:5
- (6) The veil of unbelief (They read the law but could not understand): 2.Cor.3:13-16
- (7) The veil of spiritual Blindness (Israel / Nations): Isa.25:7 /Rom.11:25

#### **THE VEIL TO THE MOST HOLY PLACE:**

- (1) Moses was commanded to make : Exo.26:31
- (2) Made by Bezaleel for the tabernacle : Exo.36:1,35
- (3) Veil woven of blue, purple and scarlet thread and fine woven linen: Exo.26:31
- (4) Woven with an artistic design of cherubim : Exo.26:31
- (5) Suspended from 4 pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold : Exo.26:32
- (6) Hung between the holy and most holy place: Exo.26:33 / Heb.9:3
- (7) Designed to conceal the ark, mercy seat,  
and the symbol of the Divine Presence : Exo.40:3
- (8) The High Priest alone was allowed to enter within: Heb.9:6,7
- (9) The High Priest alone was allowed to enter but once in a year: Lev.16:2/ Heb.9:7
- (10) The High Priest could not enter without blood : Lev.16:3/ Heb.9:7
- (11) During journey —  
Aaron & sons take down the veil and cover the ark of Testimony: Num.4:5
- (12) Was rent at the death of our Lord: Mat.27:51/ Mark.15:38/ Luke.23:45
- (15) Insight:
  - The obscurity of the Mosaic age : Heb.9:8
  - The flesh of Christ which concealed His divinity : Heb.10:19/ Isa.53:2
  - The rending of veil : the death of Christ which opened heaven to saints : Heb.10:19,20/Heb.9:24

#### **VEIL WAS RENT WHEN CHRIST DIED**

(Mat.27:51/ Mark.15:38/ Luke.23:45)

Insight:

1. Divinely Rent : From top to bottom, beyond man's reach.
2. Rent in the middle : Before all men, not secret, can enter directly, not through sides.
3. Rent completely : Opened fully = Can enter boldly, get mercy & grace (Heb. 4:14-16).

#### **THE VEIL TO THE MOST HOLY PLACE:**

A thick curtain separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place. This curtain was hung between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Inside the Most Holy Place there was (1) the Ark of covenant (2) the Mercy Seat and the Cherubim. This curtain, known as the veil, was made of fine linen- blue, purple and scarlet yarn. There were figures of cherubim (angels) embroidered onto it. Cherubim, who serve God, demonstrate His almighty power and majesty. Cherubim are the protectors of God's glory.

In Hebrew the word veil means a curtain, screen, divider, partition, separator that hides from ordinary view. In Tabernacle this curtain hides the Holy God from sinful man. The Holy God is enthroned at this place. Hence anyone who enters to the Most Holy place is entering to the very presence of God. So anyone except the High Priest who enters the Holy of Holies will die. Even the High Priest could only pass through the veil and enter this sacred place once a year, on a prescribed day called the Day of Atonement.

The Veil stands as a barrier between man and God, showing man that the holiness of God could not be shown. The High Priest, God's chosen mediator with His people, can enter the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement. To this he had to make some precautions and preparations. He had to wash himself, put on special clothing, bring burning incense to let the smoke cover his eyes from a direct view of God, and bring blood with him to make atonement for sins (Lev.16).

- Lev.16:1,2 – "Now the LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered profane fire before the LORD, and died; and the LORD said to Moses: "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat."

The presence of God and glory was separated from man behind a thick curtain during the history of Israel. Jesus' death on the cross removed that separation. When Jesus died, the curtain in the Jerusalem temple was torn in half, from the top to the bottom. Only God can do such an act because the thick veil was too high for human hands to have reached it. Moreover, the veil was torn from top down, meaning this act must have come from above and not by a man.

King Solomon's temple has a measurement of 60 cubits length, 20 cubits width and 30 cubits height. "Now the house which King Solomon built for the LORD, its length was sixty cubits, its width twenty, and its height thirty cubits" (1.Kings.6:2). The height of the temple comes to 30 cubits is equaling of 45 feet. The first century Jewish historian Josephus records that Herod extended the temple's height to 40 cubits high, about 60 feet tall. He also records that the veil has four inches thick. It was so heavy that Josephus says 300 priests were required to move the veil slightly. He also states that with the power of 2 teams of oxen to rend the veil was also in vain. This shows that God only can able to do such act because the veil was thick and too high for human hands. The rending took place at the time of Jesus' death, the ninth hour (3.00PM)—(Mat.27:45,46).

The torn veil spoke Jesus' body broken for us, opening the way for us to come to God. As Jesus cried out "It is finished!" (Jn.19:30) on the cross, He was proclaiming that God's redemptive plan was now complete. There is no need of repeated animal sacrifices for removing sins. In the Old Testament, the High Priest had to repeat the ritual of the Day of Atonement year after year. But Jesus Christ came at the right time to finish the work. We can now boldly enter into God's presence, the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf.

- Gal.4:4,5 – "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."
- Heb.6:19-20 – "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

- Heb.9:26 – “But now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”
- Heb.9:7 – “But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.”
- Heb.9:24-26 – “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another. He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”
- Heb.10:19-22 – “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

The Holy of Holies is a representation of heaven itself, God’s dwelling place, which we have access now through Christ. In Revelations, John’s vision of heaven – the New Jerusalem – also was a perfect square, just as the Holy of Holies (Rev.21:16).

## **Features of the Veil at the Most Holy Place (Exo.26:31-33)**

### **(1) The Veil was a Way :**

No one was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place through this veil. But one man can pass through this veil once in a year. So it was a way to the presence of God, Most Holy Place, for the High Priest on the Day of Atonement. On that day, the High Priest was allowed to pass through the veil and minister in the Holy of Holies, sprinkling the blood of the sacrifice on the altar and atoning for the sins of the people.

Lev.16:15,16 – “Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.”

- Heb.10:19-22 – “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

### **(2) The Veil was a warning:**

The Priests after passing through the veil at the entrance of the Holy Place will minister everyday there. Their ministry was in front of the veil hung at the entrance to Most Holy Place. But this veil serve as a warning to the priests, that they are not permitted to pass through that veil. If he tries to enter, his death is sure. Actually the veil in front of the Holy Place was a barrier between Holy God and sinful man.

Moses was asked to "make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim" (Exo.26:31). The cherubim are angelic creatures that serve as the guardians of the holiness of God. Cherubim were seen first in scriptures in the Eden Garden. They were posted at the entrance of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life (Gen.3:24). The cherubim on the veil seem to serve the purpose of telling those who entered the Tabernacle that they are prohibited to go further. The presence of Cherubim in the veil and their service reveals the kindness of God in two ways – one by warning man from entering Holy of Holies that leads to death and other by saving from death and to preserve life.

### **(3) The Veil was like a Wall:**

Before the rending of the veil, mankind had no direct access into God's presence. The veil before the Most Holy Place serves as a wall that separate Holy God and the sinful man. The Holy God cannot commune with sinful man.

- Lev. 16:2, "And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the veil before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat."
- Isa.59:2 –"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."
- Lev.11:44,45 – "For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy."
- Eph.2:14-16 – "For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity."

### **(4) The Veil speaks man's sinful life:**

The veil serves to remind man that he is a sinner. The wages of sin is death. The veil reveals the need of a Saviour as mediator. The High Priest alone can enter the Most Holy Place of Tabernacle once in a year. Jesus Christ made the way for us to enter into the presence of God by giving His life as sacrifice in Calvary cross.

- Rom.3:23 – "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- 1.Pet.1:18,19 – "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

### **Conclusion:**

The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom at the time of Christ's death (Mat.27:50,51). Jesus had finished the work of salvation by opening a new way to Holy Father. The rending of the veil reveals the truth that the way to God was opened through Jesus Christ (Heb.10:18-22). Jesus Christ, the High Priest, inaugurated a new way for direct access to God by His own blood and through the veil, that is, His flesh (Heb.6:19,20/ Heb.9:1-9/ Heb.9:25). The rending of the veil also pictures the end of Jewish Priesthood.

The rending of the veil also proclaims the following:

- No need of Temples
- No need of Altars
- No need of Animal Sacrifices
- No need for appointment of Priests for ministries
- No need of wearing special garments to priests
- No need of waving incenses burned in censors
- No need of an earthly High Priest as in Old Testament.

When Jesus' flesh was torn on the cross and His life sacrificed, God tore the veil in the temple. This shows a new and living way now opened for all who believe. The new way is opened to all through Jesus' flesh or body (Heb.10:19). Moreover the New Covenant is made and sealed with the blood of the Covenant Maker itself (Heb.13:20 / Col.1:20/ Eze.37:26/ Zech.9:11).

As the **Good Shepherd**, Jesus died for the sheep (John.10:11) for giving Eternal Life.

As the **Great Shepherd**, Jesus lives for the sheep in heaven today (Heb.13:20 / 1.John.2:1,2) as a mediator before Father.

As the **Chief Shepherd**, Jesus will come for the sheep and give crown of glory that does not fade away (1.Pet.5:4).

### **Did the High Priest have a rope tied to him when he entered the Holy of Holies?**

It is said that when the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies at the Day of Atonement a rope or chain was tied to his waist or foot. If the High Priest's sins were not atoned, he would die in the Most Holy Place. Since no one could enter into the Most Holy Place, the dead body from there can be pulled out with the rope or chain tied.

But the Bible is silent regarding the precautions to be taken for drawing the dead body of the High Priest from the Most Holy Place.

Bible does not record any incident of death of a High Priest and drawing his body from the Most Holy Place. The only incident of death recorded in scripture was the sudden death of Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron who offered profane fire before the Lord (Lev.10:1/ Num.3:4/ Num.26:61 /Lev.16:12).

There are very clear and specific instructions regarding the dress of the High Priest of Israel (Exo.28/Exo.39/Lev.8). He could not come in clothing in his own wishes. Because each piece of clothing had divine truth and spiritual teaching that was typical of Lord Jesus Christ and His ministry.

In short the High Priest has to be dressed in holy garments specified. Nothing is mentioned in scripture about any hooks, chains, rope or any provisions as precautionary measures to be taken in case of death of the High Priest inside Holy of Holies.

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## 9

# THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

(Exo.25:10-22/Exo37:1-9/Heb.9:3-5/Heb10:19-22)



**Exo.25:10-22** — “And they shall make an ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits shall be its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. And you shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and shall make on it a molding of gold all around. You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four corners; two rings shall be on one side, and two rings on the other side. And you shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them. The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. And you shall put into the ark the Testimony which I will give you. You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.”

**Exo.37:1-9** – “Then Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits was its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. He overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold all around it. And he cast for it four rings of gold to be set in its four corners: two rings on one side, and two rings on the other side of it. He made poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold. And he put the poles into the rings at the sides of the ark, to bear the ark. He also made the mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits was its length and a cubit and a half its width. He made two

(TABERNACLE *by Samson Henry, Kollam*)



cherubim of beaten gold; he made them of one piece at the two ends of the mercy seat: one cherub at one end on this side, and the other cherub at the other end on that side. He made the cherubim at the two ends of one piece with the mercy seat. The cherubim spread out their wings above, and covered the mercy seat with their wings. They faced one another; the faces of the cherubim were toward the mercy seat."

**Deu.10:1-5** — "At that time the LORD said to me, 'Hew for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain and make yourself an ark of wood. 'And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke; and you shall put them in the ark.' So I made an ark of acacia wood, hewed two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain, having the two tablets in my hand. And He wrote on the tablets according to the first writing, the Ten Commandments, which the LORD had spoken to you in the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly; and the LORD gave them to me. Then I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tablets in the ark which I had made; and there they are, just as the LORD commanded me."

**Heb.9:3-5** – "And behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat."

**Heb.10:19-22** – "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

**THE ARK OF THE COVENANT**

(Ex.25:10-22/Ex.37:1-9/Heb.9:3-5/Heb.10:19-22)

**What is an Ark ?**

An ark is a chest or cupboard for keeping valuables or secret things. It may be like a box or boat for keeping something that needs protection and safety.

**God's Ark —**

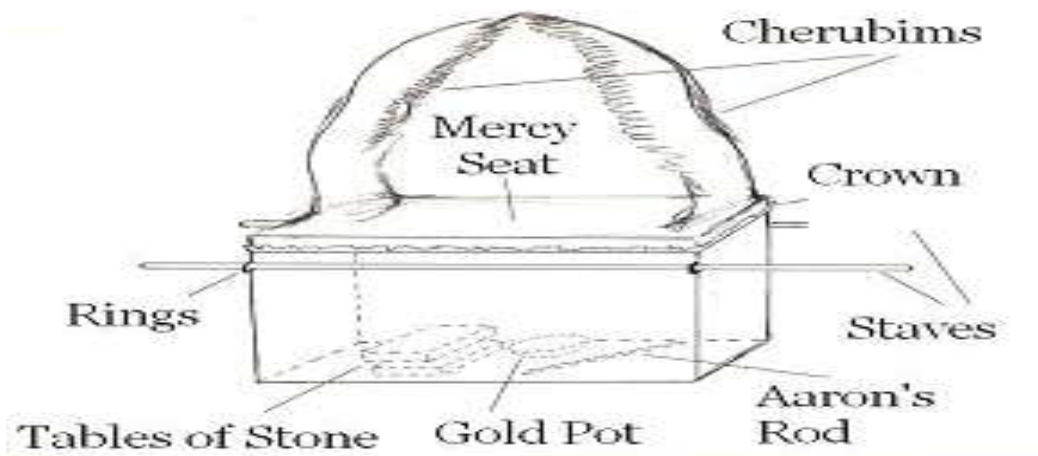
The chest hid the Law of Holy God because man could not keep it. Ark shows the presence of God and Believer's safety in Christ.

**Different Arks –**

1	God's Ark	Exo.25:10
2	Noah's Ark	Gen.6:13,14
3	Moses' Ark	Exo.2:3
4	Householder's Ark	Matt.13:52

**Make and Position:**

Dimensions	Exo.25:10;37:1 (L= 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> cubits x B=1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> x H =1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> )
Position	In the Holy of Holies (Exo.26:33/40:21/Heb.9:3,4)
Made of Shittim Wood	Exo.25:10/37:1
Entirely covered with gold	Exo.25:11;37:2
Surrounded with crown of gold	Exo.25:11
Furnished with rings and staves	Exo.25:12-15;37:3-5
Tables of testimony alone placed in	Exo.25:16,21/1.Kin.8:9,21/ 2.Chr.5:10/Heb.9:4
Mercy-seat lay upon	Exo.25:21/26:34
The pot of manna and Aaron's rod laid up before	Heb.9:4/Exo.16:33,34/Num.17:10
A copy of Law lay in the side of	Deu.31:26
Anointed with sacred oil	Exo.30:26
Covered with the veil by the priests before removal	Num.4:5,6



**Features:**

A symbol of the presence and glory of God	Exo.25:22/Num.14:43,44/ 1.Sam.14:18,19/ Ps.80:1/ Ps.132:8
A type of Christ	Rev.11:19
Esteemed the glory of Israel	1.Sam.4:21,22
Was Holy	2.Chr.35:3
Sanctified its resting place	2.Chr.8:11
The Israelites enquired of the Lord before the Ark	Josh.7:6-9/ Judg.20:27/ 1.Chr.13:3
Protecting of, rewarded	1.Chr.13:14
Captured by the Philistines	1.Sam.4:11

**Was carried in travel:**

By priests of Levites alone	Deut.10:8/Josh.3:14/ 2.Sam.15:24/1.Chr.15:2
Before the Israelites in their journeys	Num.10:33/ Josh.3:6
Sometimes to the camp in war	1.Sam.4:4,5

**Miracles connected with:**

Jordan divided	Josh.4:7
Fall of the walls of Jericho	Josh.6:6-20
Fall of Dagon	1.Sam.5:1-4
Philistines plagued	1.Sam.5:6-12
Manner of its restoration	1.Sam.6:1-18

**Travel/ removal / resting of Ark :**

Paran	Num.10:12,13/Num.12:16
Jordan	Josh.3:9-15
Jericho	Josh.6:6-14
Bethel	Judge.20:26-28
Shiloh	1.Sam.3:3,4/4:3
Country of Philistines	1.Sam.6
Kirjath-jearim (20 years)	1.Sam.7:1,2
Removed from Kirjath-jearim to the house of Obed-edom	2.Sam.6:1-11
David made a tent for the Ark	2.Sam.6:17/1.Chr.15:1
Brought into the city of David	2.Sam.6:12-15/ 1.Chr.15:25-28
Brought by Solomon into the temple	1.Kin.8:1-6/2. 2.Chr.5:2-9/2.Chr.35:3

**Different names of Ark :**

1 The Ark of God	1.Sam.3:3/2.Sam.6:2
2 The Ark of the Lord God	1.Kin.2:26
3 The Ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth	Josh.3:13
4 The Ark of God's Strength	2.Chr.6:41/Ps.132:8
5 The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord	Num.10:33/Josh.3:3
6 The Ark of the Testimony	Exo.25:22/Exo.30:6/Num.7:89
7 The Holy Ark	2.Chr.35:3
8 The Ark of Glory	Psa.78:61
9 The Ark of the Covenant of God	Judges.20:27
10 The Ark of the Covenant of the LORD of Hosts	1.Sam.4:4

**THE ARK OF THE COVENANT —**

The Ark of Covenant was an important piece of furniture in the tabernacle. It looks like a box. It was made of shittim wood, but covered both inside and outside with gold. The top of the ark was a piece of pure gold. There were two cherubim on the top looking down as it was guarding something precious inside. The Ark was the best known item in the tabernacle for its miraculous power against enemies of Israel (1.Sam.5,6). Out of the seven pieces of furniture Holy Spirit speaks first through the Word of God relating to the Ark of Covenant (Exo.25:10-14). The ten commandments of Law of God written in two tablets were kept in this Ark. The only one furniture taken from tent to the Temple of Solomon was the Ark of Covenant. This was the first furniture of the tabernacle mentioned in scripture and made by Moses himself (Due.10:1-5). The Ark of Covenant stands first in importance because the Ark represented the power and authority of God in the Camp of Israel.

The Ark was God's throne in the Holy of Holies. The Ark and Mercy Seat above it was the place where God would meet the children of Israel. It was the place for them to approach their God. The Ark was in Most Holy Place where God's presence dwelt. From the God's view point, that is in making of Tabernacle, we have to look from inside to outside -- Holy of Holies to outer gate of the Tabernacle. If we are approaching from man's viewpoint we have to look from outside to inside -- outer gate of tabernacle to the Most Holy Place. The blueprint for the making of Tabernacle was given to Moses as per God's view point -- from The Ark of Covenant to the Outer gate. From Chapters 25 to 30 of Exodus God gives Israel the blueprint for the Tabernacle and the pattern for garments for the High Priest.

In the Most Holy Place there was two pieces of furniture — (1) Ark of Covenant and (2) Mercy Seat. While all other furniture in the tent reveals the various redemptive work of Jesus, the Ark of the Covenant portrays Jesus Christ. The tent was made around the Ark. The tent without the Ark is just like body without soul and Church without Christ. The Ark which called as Ark of God or Ark of Jehovah exhibits the holiness, omnipotence, sovereignty, righteousness and mercy of the Almighty Holy God. The wrath of God on enemies who dishonor the Ark and the protection given to those who honor the Ark can also be seen in the scripture.

The Ark contains — (1) the Two Tablets of Law (the Ten Commandments) (2) Aaron's rod that budded and (3) the Golden pot of hidden manna. The ark was covered by the "mercy seat" on which the High Priest sprinkles the blood of the goat seven times on the Day of Atonement. The ark represented the footstool of God's throne.

### **Dimension and location:**

The Ark was a small box made of acacia wood, overlaid with gold inside and outside. The measurement of Ark was  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cubits length,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cubits breadth and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cubits height (1.5 meter length, 0.7 meter wide and 0.7 meter high).

The location of the Ark of Covenant was in the Most Holy place just behind the curtain that separates the Holy and Most Holy place. The Golden Altar of Incense was in front of the Curtain. The Ark was covered with veil by the priests when it was removed in transit (Num.4:5,6).

### **Access to the Ark:**

The Ark of the Covenant was placed in the Most Holy place. Access in relation to ministry was permitted only once in a year, on the Day of Atonement. Access was restricted to the High Priest only. He had to come into the Holy of Holies with the blood of a goat, on behalf of his own and the people of Israel's sins (Lev.16:11,34/ Heb.9:3-7).

The restriction in access to the Ark speaks some spiritual thoughts also. No one except the High Priest can enter the Most Holy place or to see the Ark. The rules and regulations prescribed regarding the entrance have to be observed by the High Priest. This shows that Laws of Moses neither allow anyone to come near God nor it saves anyone. When the Law was first introduced 3000 men who rebelled were killed by the wrath of God (Exo.32:28). But when the Gospel of Grace was introduced 3000 men were saved and were alive (Acts.2:41). Law of Moses never gives free access to Holy God. It always arouses fear of death to man. 1.Tim.6:16 — "Who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen."

### **Noah's Ark, Baby Moses' Ark and God's Ark:**

All the three arks picture God's protection from Judgment.

- Noah's Ark protected eight people from the judgment of flood (Gen.8:18 / 1.Pet.3:20).
- Moses' Ark specially made for baby Moses was for escaping from death. It protected him from death or judgment by the hand of Pharaoh (Exo.2:1-10).
- The God's Ark in the tabernacle provides divine grace and justice from judgment of sin (Exo.25:10-22).

In order to prevent leakage of water, Noah's ark and baby Moses' ark were smeared with pitch. The same Hebrew word for pitch (kaphar) is used for atonement. The ark of covenant was not smeared with pitch but covered by the blood of atonement.

### **The Ark was made of wood and gold —**

➤ Exo.25:10 — "And they shall make an ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits shall be its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height."

The ark was to be made of shittim wood. This wood is almost incorruptible and speaks of the perfect humanity of Christ.

➤ Exo.25:11 — "And you shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and shall make on it a molding of gold all around."

The Shittim wood typified the humanity of Christ and the gold pictures His deity. Gold in Scripture often speaks of God's righteousness, and can also speak of His glory, but, when used here as a type of Christ, it speaks of His deity: that He is divine. On speaking of the humanity of Christ and His deity, we must never think it in separate but one divine Person having two perfect natures — in a mystical union. Jesus Christ is the God-man. His deity is represented by the Gold and humanity by the Wood.

- 1.Tim.3:16 — “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.”

The Ark was covered with gold both inside and outside. Though Jesus Christ was born as a man, He was God too. When Jesus was in earth, He spoke as God, He lived as God, and He acted as God. He was a perfect Man and at the same time He was God. He was perfectly human and perfectly divine.

- 1.Tim.2:5,6 – “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”
- Col.2:9 – “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”
- Phil.2:6-8 – “Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

### **The Ark has three distinct parts:**

The Ark made of wood and gold and placed in the Most Holy place has three distinct parts namely — (1) Ark (2) Mercy Seat (3) Cherubim.

The Ark speaks of divine grace, the Golden lid of Ark (Mercy Seat) speaks of divine mercy and the Cherubim speak of divine justice.

## **Cherubim**

A Cherub is a type of angel usually involved in the worship and praise of God. Cherubim (the plural form of cherub) are generally described as angelic winged creatures with feet and hands. Cherubim first appear in the Bible in the Garden of Eden, to guard the way to the Tree of life (Gen.3:24).

Gen.3:24 — “So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”

Satan was a Cherub before his fall from heaven. Ezekiel portrays the king of Tyre to Satan being an enemy to God and His children because the power behind the king was from Satan. Satan was called as ‘Lucifer, son of morning’ by Isaiah (Isa.14:12), ‘the anointed cherub who covers’ by Ezekiel (Eze.28:14), ‘the ruler of this world’ by Jesus Christ (John.14:30) and ‘the god of this age’ by Paul (2.Cor.4:4).

- Eze.28:12-16 – “Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones.”’

King Hezekiah prays Jehovah as “One who dwells between the Cherubim” (Isa.37:16). A detailed description of the Cherubim is recorded by Ezekiel (Eze.10:1-22). Ezekiel describes the “four living creatures” (Eze.1:5) as the same beings as the cherubim. Each had four faces — that of a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle (Eze.1:10/Eze.10:14) and each had four wings (Eze.1:6).

The tabernacle of Moses (Exo.25:18-22 /Exo.26:1 /Exo.26:31/ Exo.36:8) and the temple built by King Solomon (1.Kin.6:23-35 / 1.Kin.7:29-36 / 1.Kin.8:6,7/ 1.Chr.28:18/ 2.Chr.3:7-14 / 2.Chr.3:10-14 /2.Chr.5:7,8) contained many representations of cherubim.

Two Cherubim formed part of the Mercy Seat inside the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle. Cherubim are the protectors of God's glory.



**Exo.25:18-22** — “And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.”

The Cherubim were made with the same solid gold of which the Mercy Seat was made. It speaks of God's justice that demands punishment for the sin of the world. The difference between the cherubim in Genesis and in Exodus will have to be born in mind.

- **Gen.3:24** — “He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”
- **Exo.25:18-20** – “And you shall make two cherubim of gold ..... cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat.”

In Genesis a flaming sword with the Cherubim was seen; but in Exodus there was no such sword. In Genesis there was no mercy seat with blood to look upon; whereas, in Exodus the cherubim were looking upon the blood-stained mercy seat. As the atonement was made there was no need for the sword of judgment. At Eden it was Judgment. At the Ark it was the Mercy Seat because blood makes the difference. At the Mercy Seat, though the two Cherubim were facing one another they were not looking at each other. They were looking towards the Mercy Seat and the blood. The blood of Jesus Christ through the death covers guards and protects the sinners from the judgment of God.

(TABERNACLE by *Samson Henry, Kollam*)

In the New Testament, the only reference to cherubim is in Hebrew. "Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat" (Heb.9:5).

Another glimpse of the two Cherubim can be seen in connection with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb of Jesus Christ. She saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. As she was weeping with great grief she saw a miraculous sight there.

John.20:11,12 – "But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain."

The position and seating of two angels one at the head and the other at the feet speaks about two cherubim. Just as the cherubim were placed on the two ends of the mercy-seat on the Ark of the Covenant (Exo.25:17-19), the two angels were sitting on each end of the tomb on which the body of Jesus was laid. Jesus while answering to the Jews compared His body to the Temple (John.2:18-22). The Hebrew writer invariably records Jesus' death, burial, resurrection and ascension as a better sacrifice for the atonement of sins through His body (Heb.9:1-28/ Heb.10:10-22).

### **Ark of the Covenant and Jesus Christ:**

The Ark of Covenant is one of the seven pieces of furniture in the tabernacle and it stands first in importance. But the prime factor that brings the importance is that it typifies Jesus Christ. It pictures Jesus Christ in Glory and also His various attributes. The writer of Epistle Hebrew points out all of these things related to the earthly Tent of God as a shadow of the one in Heaven.

Luke chapter 24 details the walking of two discouraged disciples of Jesus from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They could not believe the news about Jesus' resurrection from the dead. They have a hope that Jesus would redeem Israel (Luke.24:21), but their hopes were gone after the death of Jesus on the Cross. They had seen the glory of their Lord but failed to understand the suffering of their Lord. In other words they had seen Him as the Son of God but never as a Suffering Servant. But our Lord by walking closely with them in the Emmaus Road patiently divided the Word of God relating to the Suffering Servant. Jesus explained the relevant portion that speaks about Him.

- Luke.24:25-27 – "Then He said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

The whole Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi speaks about and points to our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. In Pentateuch we have Christ prefigured, in historical books we have Christ paralleled; in the Psalms we have Christ pictured; while in the prophetic books we have Christ prophesied.



## The Ark and its movements in travelling:

The Ark of the Lord and the Pillar of cloud led the way as the Israel marched from place to place (Num.10:33-36). In the life of a believer also he will get directions from the throne of God. But he has a responsibility to follow the Glory of God in this pilgrim journey.

### (1) Ark to Jordan –

- Josh.3:15,16 — “And as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho.”
- Joshua.4:7 — “Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.”

When the Ark is carried into the Jordan upon the shoulders of the priests, the waters rolled back to the city of Adam. Here we have a picture of the death of Jesus Christ. The river Jordan in Scripture speaks of death. Passing of the Ark in Jordan speaks the passing of Christ in death. Jesus passes through death as a propitiation for the sins of the world. The waters went all the way back to Adam, the first man to sin. This means that Jesus Christ died for the whole world for the sins from the time of Adam.

### (2) Ark passes Jordan –

Joshua.3:17 — “Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.”

Here we see the Ark is passing the Jordan. The Ark not only goes into the Jordan but also comes out of Jordan. Ark going into Jordan pictures Jesus’ death and the Ark coming out of Jordan pictures victory over death and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### (3) Ark travels in the middle and ahead of the Tribes –

- Num.10:33 — “So they departed from the mountain of the LORD on a journey of three days; and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them for the three days’ journey, to search out a resting place for them.”

Normally the Ark was carried in the middle of the 12 tribes, six in the front and six in the back. This shows the ministry and comfort of Jesus Christ in the middle of His children. But only once in the book of Numbers the order of travelling in the middle of the tribe is seen changed. Here the Ark went before the 12 tribes for the three days’ journey. It was for searching out a resting place to the children of God. We see here a wonderful picture of the One who has gone before to prepare a place for His own. It will be a comfort and rejoicing matter to the believers, that our Lord is waiting at the other end to give us a beautiful resting place. Though we are passing through a world full of trials, misery and persecutions, it will be very sweet and rejoicing news that our Lord is waiting for us after keeping a beautiful eternal resting place.

## THE ARK AND ITS CONTENTS

The Holy Spirit through the Hebrew epistle details the Holy place, Ark and the contents in the Ark of the Covenant. There are three things in the Ark of Covenant. These three things together form the Testimony and hence the Ark is called "The Ark of the Testimony."

- Heb.9:3-5 — "And behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat."

### **The three things in the Ark —**

- (1) The Two Stone Tablets of the Law — remembers continuously the covenant between God and Israel (Exo.25:16,21).
- (2) The Golden Pot of Hidden Manna — remembers the bread from heaven given to the children of God in wilderness (Exo.16:32-34/ John.6/ Heb.9:4).
- (3) Aaron's Rod that Budded — remembers God's election to priestly service (Num.17:10/ Heb.9:4).



### **The contents of the Ark and Jesus Christ —**

- (1) The Two Stone Tablets of the Law or the Ten Commandments speaks of the life of Jesus lived on earth fulfilling the Law and fulfilling the prophecies spoken of Jesus.
- (2) Manna speaks that Christ is the Bread of Life.
- (3) Aaron's Rod that budded speaks of the Lord's resurrection.

**The contents of the Ark and Jesus' official capacity –**

- |  |   |             |
|--|---|-------------|
| (1) Tables of Covenant – Born King - Kingship of Christ    | > | King        |
| (2) Manna – Christ as a Prophet                            | > | Prophet     |
| (3) Aaron's Rod that budded - The Work of Christ as Priest | > | High Priest |

**(1) The Testimony (Tablets of the Law):** The Two Stone Tablets of the Law:

God engraved the Law (Exo.20) or ten commandments on two stones. Although it was broken, a second set was made and it was this second set placed in the Ark of the Covenant. God has chosen the Israelites as God's special people and gave laws to them. They were commanded to obey the Ten Commandments. But they disobeyed and violated God's Holy Law. The stone tablets in the Ark were a reminder of the covenant between God and Israel. It shows God's care to the people of Israel and their rejection of God's Holy Laws. The Two Stone Tablets of the Law in the Ark remind Israel that they had sinned and needed the blood-sprinkled mercy seat or they would be condemned.

- Exo.24:12 – "Then the LORD said to Moses, Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."
- Exo.25:21 -- "You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you."
- Exo.19:5,6 – "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

In contrast to the old law written on stones, the new law (Gospel of Christ / Gospel of Grace) is written in our hearts and based on grace.

Jer.31:31-33 – "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

John.1:17 – "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

2.Cor.3:2,3 – "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart."

**(2) The Golden Pot of Hidden Manna (A Bowl of Manna):**

Manna was a gift from heaven to the Israelites in their wilderness journey. God had given bread like food (Manna) to the Israelites when they grumbled during the wilderness. It was actually a bread from heaven. God supplied manna continually day by day but they were not thankful to God. After sometimes they complained and wanted something else. The pot of manna was a reminder of God's provision to Israel in their wilderness journey and also their rejection and ingratitude to God's provision.

- Exo.16:32-34 – "Then Moses said, "This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt. And

Moses said to Aaron, Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations. As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept."

- John. 6:31 – "Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat."
- John.6:48-51 –"I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

### **(3) Aaron's Rod that budded (Num.16 and 17)**

It was an emblem of God's chosen priesthood. The people of God rebelled against Aaron, the High priest. To solve their rebellion and dispute, God asked the people to take 12 sticks written with the names of the leader of each tribe and place before the ark overnight. The next day, Aaron's rod from the house of Levi had budded with blossoms and almonds. God confirmed His choice of Aaron's house as priestly line.

- Num.17:7-10 – "And Moses placed the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness. Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and behold, the rod of Aaron, of the house of Levi, had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds. Then Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD to all the children of Israel; and they looked, and each man took his rod. And the LORD said to Moses, Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their complaints away from Me, lest they die."

### **The Golden Pot of 'Hidden' Manna:**

Manna was the food that came down from God to feed the children of Israel daily in the wilderness journey to Canaan (Exo.16:11-15). They ate manna for forty years, until they came to the border of the land of Canaan (Exo.16:35 / Josh.5:12).

- The children of Israel got Manna for the first time when they came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt (Exo.16:1).
- The name "manna" comes from their anxious question "*what is this?*" when they saw this in the early morning (Exo.16:15). The Hebrew words "man hu" means what is this.
- Manna was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey (Exo.16:31).
- Manna only came in the early morning with the dew (Exo.16:13-14).
- Gathered according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons in his tent (Exo.16:16)
- Any left on the ground after gathering melted away in the Sun's heat (Exo.16:21).
- It had to be gathered every day, any residue would breed worms and smell (Exo. 16:20).
- They had to collect a double portion on the sixth day, because none would fall on the Sabbath (Exo.16:22-27).
- Aaron was commanded to collect an omer of manna in the golden bowl and place it inside the Ark of Covenant (Exo.16:33).
- Manna ceased to fall when they ate the food of the promised land (Exo.16:35/ Joshua.5:11,12).

**Features of Manna & Jesus Christ- the Hidden Manna:**

	<b>Manna</b>	<b>Scripture</b>	<b>Jesus Christ</b>	<b>Scripture</b>
1	Sweet like honey	Exo.16:31	Sweet words	Luke.4:22
2	White as Snow	Exo.16:14,31	Purity, Holiness, Sinless	Heb.7:26
3	Round as coriander seed	Exo.16:31	Perfection Rev.1:17	Heb.2:10/ Phil.2:7,8
4	Very small	Exo.16:14	Become Low / Humble	Luke.2:16/ Phil.2:7,8
5	Heaven to Earth	Exo.16:14	Heaven to Earth	1.Tim.1:15
6	Heavenly Food	Exo.16:4	Bread of Life	John.6:35,41

**Different names of Manna in the scriptures:**

1	Bread of Heaven	Psa.78:24 / Psa.105:40
2	Angel's food /Bread of Angels	Psa.78:25
3	Bread from Heaven	Exo.16:4
4	Bread of the Lord given to eat	Exo.16:15
5	Spiritual Food	1.Cor.10:3
6	Light Bread (worthless bread)	Num.21:5

The Lord commanded Moses to fill an omer vessel with Manna and keep it for a memorial to future generations of how God fed them in their wilderness journey (Exo.16:32,33). This is the Golden Pot of Hidden Manna in the Tabernacle.

If the Manna was gathered for more than one day, or two days (if it was a Sabbath), the Manna would breed worms causing smell. Why then try to keep it for a memorial to future generations? Manna was kept in the Golden pot in the Ark. The Golden Pot pictures permanence. It is round in shape, indicating eternal; it is gold, indicating 'of God, divine'. Our life needs to be "hidden with Christ in God" (Col.3:3). Jesus Christ our life — the eternal life (Col.3:4). The Hidden Manna was a memorial of how the Lord had sustained His people in impossible and difficult situations.

## **When the Manna stopped falling?**

God provided the Israelites with manna six days a week for forty years of their wilderness journey (Exo.16:35). Every morning, they got the heavenly food or bread of heaven. Manna, sweet like honey contained in it all the nutrients they needed for their travel in the wilderness. Since the Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years cultivating or sowing the land for food was not possible. When the people entered into the promised land, Canaan and ate the food of the land, the next day, manna stopped.

- Joshua.5:11,12 – “And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.”

When the children of God entered the Promised Land, Canaan, it was a time of harvest. The natives who lived there were fled to Jericho for their life, leaving behind abundant grains. Thus the God’s people were got sufficient food in the new land. This was exactly God’s provision like manna they have received in wilderness and here preparing a new table in the presence of enemies as David witnessed in his Psalm.

Psa.23:1,2,5 – “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.”

### **The Manna and the New Testament Believers:**

Jesus Christ is our manna in the wilderness life in the earth. His sweet words, purity, holiness, sinless life, perfection, humility etc. are resemblances of manna. Jesus is the bread of life. Just as God provided manna to the Israelites to save them from hunger and physical death, God provided Jesus Christ for the salvation of our souls. The literal manna temporarily saved the Israelites from physical death. The spiritual manna saves us from eternal death.

- John.6:49-51 – “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

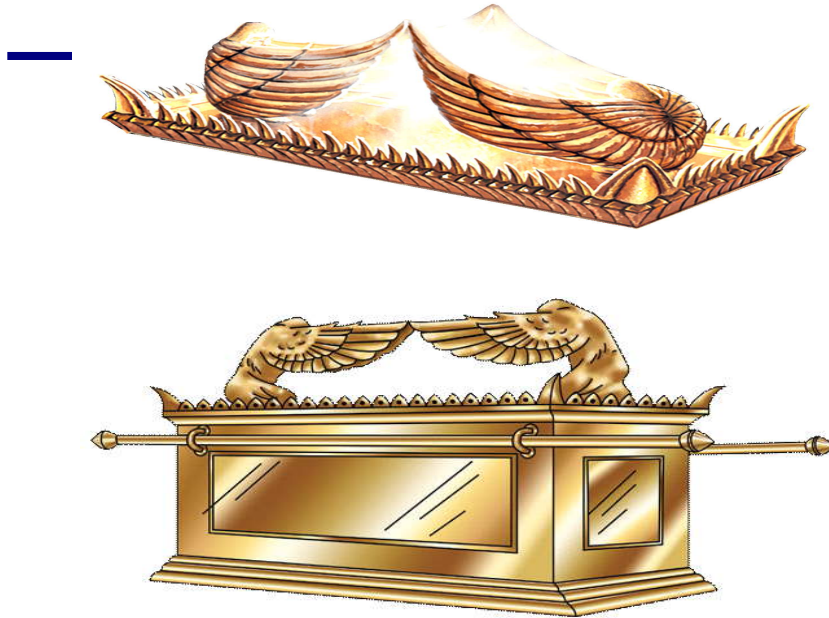
Stopping of Manna to the Israelites on entering the Promised Land and getting a new harvest in the new land also have a lesson to the present believers. God never stops His provision or blessings to His people without giving them another one. When manna was stopped, God arranged another provision of food in the new land. The golden pot of manna in the Ark was a reminder of God’s provision to Israel in their wilderness journey. So also Jesus Christ, our Manna from heaven will definitely preserve us throughout the journey in this world. Sometimes we may be anxious about the next moment in the daily life. God who preserved His servants in the Old Testament will surely preserve us too. The Mighty One who preserved Elijah in the brook of Cherith and then through the widow of Zarephath is still living. When one door is closed He will surely open another one to His beloved.

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# 10

## THE MERCY SEAT

(Exo.25:17-22 /Exo.37:6-9/Num. 7.89)



**Exo.25:17-22** — “You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.”

**Num.7:89** — “Now when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim; thus He spoke to him.”

**Psa.99:1** — “The LORD reigns; Let the peoples tremble! He dwells between the cherubim; Let the earth be moved!”

The Ark of the Covenant was a small chest made of acacia wood overlaid with gold. The Mercy Seat was the lid or cover of solid gold the same size as the top of the Ark ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  cubits long x  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cubit wide). At each end of the Mercy Seat, and of one piece with it, were two hammered gold cherubim facing one another. Their outstretched wings overshadowed the gold lid and their faces constantly looked down upon it. They were symbols of the presence and holiness of the Lord.

The Mercy Seat was the lid for the ark as well as the base on which the cherubim were to be placed. The meaning of the root word in Hebrew for Mercy seat is "to atone for" or "to cover over" or "to make propitiation." It was a covering lid of the box type Ark containing the Law. This also denotes the covering of Law of Judgment on sinners or covering of the sins.

The Greek word for Mercy Seat is "hilasterion" which means propitiation. Paul uses the same word for propitiation in **Rom.3.24-25** — "Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed."

Mercy seat is also known as Lid of the Covenant Box (Exo.26:34). The word "Seat" speaks of a resting place. So the Mercy Seat is a place of mercy or propitiation. The Mercy Seat was not really a seat. There were no seats in the Tabernacle, as the work of the priest was not finished until Christ came to this earth. After Christ's redemptive work in this earth have finished, Christ returned to heaven and seated with God.

- Heb.10:12,13 – "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool."

Wood was not used in making the Mercy Seat or covering lid of the Ark containing Law. The Mercy Seat and the two cherubim were made with pure gold. Gold pictures divinity. Here the gold used in mercy seat reveals that the Salvation arranged by God is totally divine.

Once in each year during the great Day of Atonement, the High Priest will enter the Most Holy Place and sprinkle blood upon the mercy seat for the sins of Israel. Above the entire Ark dwelled Shekinah Glory of God. In the old covenant, the Mercy Seat was a place of propitiation for sin and thereby peace with God.

The Mercy Seat, which was the lid of the box-like container, would speak of Christ as 'the place of meeting' and propitiation. In short, God presented Christ as a propitiation or Mercy seat. This shows that Jesus Christ is the Mercy Seat.

### **The Mercy Seat is a type of Christ:**

The blood of Christ is a theme throughout the bible. It starts with a blood shedding of an innocent animal to cover the sin in Eden (Gen.3). It ends with Christ, the Lamb slain and resurrected (Rev.22). In the tabernacle the blood of the animal was shed at the Brazen Altar and then poured on the Mercy Seat to cover the sins.

The High Priest who served in the Tabernacle rushed into the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement, sprinkled the blood on the Mercy Seat, and rushed out again. But Jesus Christ, our High Priest, offered one sacrifice for sins forever and sat down at the right hand of God (Heb.10:12). He is still there for us.

The mercy seat protects man from the judgment of God. The Cherubim above it represents the judgment by the angels. Because of the blood that was sprinkled on the mercy seat, man's sin and guilt were washed away and the curse of the law has no effect. The mercy seat foreshadows the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ stands between holy God and the sinful man. Just as the sins of the Israelites were atoned for by the sprinkling of the blood on the mercy seat, so also Christ, by the shedding of His own blood atoned for the sins of the entire world. Jesus Christ is our Mercy seat in heaven (Propitiation in 1.John.2:2/ Rom3:25). When the Mercy Seat in tabernacle covers the sin, Jesus Christ, our Mercy Seat takes away the sin.



- Lev.17:11 – “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”
- 1.John.2:2 – “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”
- Luke.22:20 – “Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”
- Eph.2:13 – “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”
- Heb.4:11-16 – “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
- Heb.9:12 – “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”
- Heb.10:4 – “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.”
- Heb.10:10-13 – “By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.”
- Heb.9:26 – “But now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

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# 11

## PRIESTS

(Exo.25:17-22 /Exo.37:6-9/Num. 7.89)

The word for priest is 'kohen' in Hebrew, 'hierus' in Greek and 'sacerdos' in Latin. All of the words denote to a person who offers sacrifices to God. In the Bible, the word priest is used first in relation to Melchizedek, the king of Salem (Gen.14:18).

In the beginning, as per Genesis records, every man presented his own sacrifices before God (Gen.4:4). Afterwards the offering was done by the head of the family, as in the cases of Noah (Gen.8:20), Abraham (Gen.12:7), Isaac (Gen.26:25), Jacob (Gen.31:54) and Job (Job.1:5).

Later under the Levitical arrangements the office of the priesthood was limited to the tribe of Levi and to only one family of that tribe, the family of Aaron. Various laws and instructions were prescribed in scripture relating to priests' qualifications (Lev.21:16-24, dress (Exo.28:40-43) and the manner of consecration (Exo.29:1-37).

A priest is a mediator who stands between God and man. He offers sacrifice to God on behalf of man. The selection and duty of a priest can be seen in Hebrew. Heb. 5:1—"For every high priest, being taken from among men, is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins." It was God's desire that the nation of Israel be "A kingdom of Priests" (Exo.19:6) in the world. The scriptures regarding priesthood are:

**Exo.19:6** — "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

They should reveal His glory and share His blessings with the unbelieving nation around them. In order to expose the Holy God, Israel had to be a holy people. For this purpose Aaronic priesthood was introduced. It was the duty of the priests (Aaron's family) and Levites (the family of Kohath, Gershon, Merari – Num.3 & 4) to serve in the tabernacle and to represent the people before God. The Priests were also to represent God to the people by teaching them the Law and helping them to obey it (Lev.10:8-11/ Deut.33:10/Mal.2:7).

**Lev.10:8-11**—"Then the LORD spoke to Aaron, saying: Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. *It shall be* a statute forever throughout your generations, that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them by the hand of Moses."

**Deut.33:10** —"They shall teach Jacob Your judgments, And Israel Your law. They shall put incense before You, And a whole burnt sacrifice on Your altar."

**Mal.2:7** – "For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And *people* should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts."

But Israel failed to live like a kingdom of priests. The spiritual leadership in the nation gradually led the people to idol worship. They permitted to worship idols in the Temple of God (Eze.8). For this act God punished them. God allowed the Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem and to take away the children of God as slaves. Why God allowed this?

- ▶ Lam.4:13 – "Because of the sins of her prophets and the iniquities of her priests, Who shed in her midst The blood of the just."

### **The Priesthood in Old Testament and in New Testament:**

(1) The Old Testament priesthood belonged to the order of Aaron, the High Priest. The New Testament priesthood comes from Jesus Christ and belongs to the order of Melchizedek (Heb.5:1-10/7:1-28). Melchizedek was both a King and Priest (Gen.14:18-24). But Aaron was only a priest and not a King. In Old Testament, King Uzziah, on one occasion tried to do priestly duties and caught leprosy due to the wrath of God (2.Chr.26:16-23). In New Testament Jesus Christ hold both the offices of King and Priest.

(2) The Aaronic priesthood and animal sacrifices were a failure. Jesus Christ fulfilled the work of salvation and redemption by shedding His own blood and a complete success (Heb.10:10).

(3) No chairs were provided in the Tabernacle or the Temple for the priest to rest. This shows that their ministries were never finished. But Jesus Christ finished the work after the sacrificial death at Calvary cross. Now Jesus is sitting on the heavenly throne and interceding for us (Heb.10:11-13).

(4) The Old Testament High Priest died and to be replaced by some another. But Jesus Christ never dies. He lives forever and ever, because Jesus Christ is God (Heb.13:8).

Today, God wants His Church to minister in this world as a "Holy Priesthood" and a "Royal Priesthood" (1.Pet.2:5,9). If God's people are faithful in their priestly ministries, they will expose the Holy God. They will proclaim the praises of Him who called out of darkness into His marvelous light (1.Pet.2:9).

- **1.Pet.2:5,9** – "You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

### **The concept of priesthood was not new with the Tabernacle.**

- (1) Job offered burnt offerings for his family: Job 1:5,
- (2) Noah : Gen 8:20,
- (3) Abraham : Gen 12:7-8 /13:18/ 22:9,
- (4) Isaac : Gen 26:25,
- (5) Jacob : Gen 33:20.
- (6) Mosaic Covenant – Israel was to be a kingdom of priests (Exo.19:5,6).

Israel refused to obey. Their standing as kingdom of priests was dissolved. God then chose Aaron and his sons.

### **QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRIESTLY SERVICE:**

- Must be a male (Exo.28:1)
- Must be a descendant of Aaron (Exo.28:1)
- Must be unblemished (Lev. 21:16-23)
- Must have no uncleanness (leprosy, etc.). (Lev. 22:3-9)
- Must be properly dressed. (Exo.28:1-4; Eze.44:17-19).

## **FEATURES OF THE PRIESTS :**

### **(1) Priests were divinely called by God.**

The priests were not chosen by the people or self appointed. So also Christ our High Priest was commissioned and sent into the world by the appointment and authority of God the Father (John.17:18). Priests are chosen to serve God. They are also chosen to serve the people.

### **(2) Priests were to have no Physical defects.**

Levites were rejected for body blemishes, blindness, lameness, flat nose, limbs deformed, broken hand or foot, hunchback, dwarfism, defective eyes, scabs (Lev.21:18-21).

The priests were a picture of Jesus our Great High Priest. Jesus our High Priest was without any sin or blemish (2.Cor.5:21/1.Pet.2:22/1.John3:5).

### **(3) The Church has been called to be a Kingdom of Priests.**

Today the believers are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood who are called out of darkness into His marvelous light (1.Pet.2:9).

Under the OT Law you had to be born into the priesthood. When we accept Jesus Christ we are born into the family of God. We also become believer priests on the basis of birthright. Our position as believer priests is far above that of the Aaronic priests. Our priesthood is a royal priesthood. We are believer priests through Jesus Christ and not after Aaron. Jesus is the King of Kings. We are born again into His family and made believer priests and that makes it a Royal priesthood. The whole body of believers has been formed into a Kingly Priesthood. Therefore there is no need for an earthly man to be selected and appointed as priest to represent believers before God. Jesus tore away the barrier between God and mankind. Now every believer has direct access to the throne of God (Heb.10:19-22/1.Tim.2:5). All believers today are believer Priests. Every believer can approach the throne for himself.

### **(4) And as believer priests we are to be a people to be set apart.**

We are to be holy distinct separated people. We are called to serve our Lord (1.Pet.2:9-11). Our heart should not desire to be like the lost world around us. We have been bought with a price (1.Cor. 7:23). The Old Testament priesthood has ended.

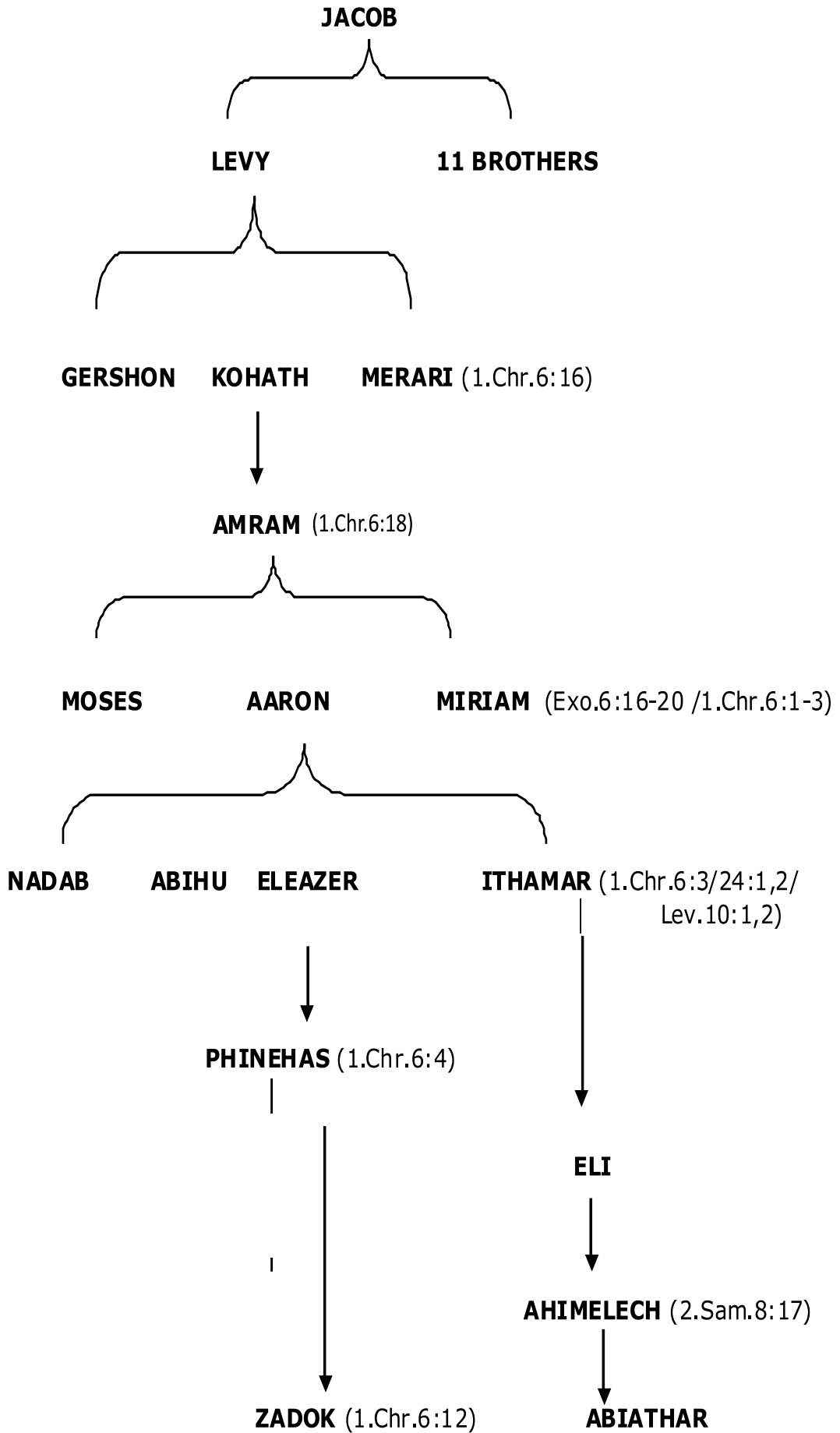
### **(5) We have been given garments of righteousness.**

Rev.19:7,8 — "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."

## **Line of Priesthood:**

- (1) The Priesthood was hereditary in the family of Aaron (Num 3:5-10).
- (2) The office continued in the line of Eleazar, Aaron's eldest son.
- (3) Then it passed to Eli, the first of the line of Ithamar, who was the fourth son of Aaron.
- (4) Continued to Abiathar, whom Solomon removed, and appointed Zadok, of the family of Eleazar (1Kings. 2:35), in which it remained till the time of the Captivity.
- (5) After the return, Joshua, the son of Josedek, of the family of Eleazar, was appointed to this office.
- (6) After him the succession was changed from time to time under priestly or political influence

**GENEOLOGY OF PRIESTHOOD**



(TABERNACLE by Samson Henry, Kollam)

## The High Priest and Jesus Christ

The High Priest and his office prefigured Christ

(1) The Aaronic priesthood described -

**Heb. 4:14** – “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession.”

(2) The superior priesthood identified -

**Heb.8:1-2** – “Now *this is* the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.”

(3) Contrasted with the Aaronic priesthood -

**Heb. 8:5-6** – “Who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See *that* you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain. But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.”

(4) The Jewish priesthood belongs to the order of Aaron.

(5) The priesthood of Christ belongs to the order of Melchizedek (Heb.5:1-10 /Heb.7:1- 8:13). Melchizedek was both a king and a priest (Gen.14:18-24/ Psa.110:4). Melchizedek means “King of Righteousness”. Salem means “peace”. Hebrew 7 and Ps.110 connect Melchizedek with Jesus Christ – “The king of righteousness” and “The King of Peace”. Like Melchizedek in Abraham’s day, Jesus Christ is our King-Priest in heaven, enabling us to enjoy righteousness and peace as we serve Him.

(6) When king Uzziah tried to force himself into the priesthood, God smote him with leprosy (2.Chr.26:16-23).

(7) The Aaronic priests never finished their work, because the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin.

(8) Christ finished the work of redemption by shedding His own blood.

(9) The tabernacle had no chairs for the priests to rest. But Jesus has sat down on the throne in heaven because He finished His work.

(10). The Old Testament high priests died and had to be replaced. But Jesus lives forever by the power of everlasting life (Heb.7:16,25).

All believers in Christ are considered by God to be priests under the New Covenant (1.Pet. 2:5,9; Rev. 5:9). We have one High Priest– Jesus the Christ. He is now sitting on the right hand of the throne of the Father and intercedes for us (Heb.7:25). As our High Priest, He is both the one who offered the sacrifice and the sacrifice itself.

### **Priestly duties**

- Offer sacrifices (Exo.29:38-42)
- Offer the morning and evening sacrifices, each accompanied with a meat offering and a drink offering, at the door of the Tabernacle. Exo. 29:38-44
- Teach the children of Israel the statutes of the Lord—(Lev.10:8-11; 2.Ch.15:3; Eze 44:23-24)
- Assess impurity (Lev.13 to15)
- Serve as judges to resolve controversy (Deut. 21:5)
- Bless the people (Num.6:22-27)
- Keep the tabernacle (Num.3:38/Num.4:16)
- Watch over the fire on the Altar of Burnt Offering to keep it burning continually both by day and night (Lev.6:12/2.Chr.13:11)
- Burn incense (Exo.30:7-8)
- Maintain the golden lamp outside the veil Exo.27:20-21/ Lev 24:2
- Take care of the altar (Lev.6:8-13), the lamps, and the showbread (Lev.24:1-9)
- Prepare the holy things for each day's journey. (Num.4:5-15)
- Continue the sacred fire. (Lev.6:12,13)
- Cover the Ark and all the vessels of the sanctuary, with a purple or scarlet cloth, before the Levites might approach them. Num 4:5-15
- Blow "an alarm" with long silver trumpets at the beginning of each day's march- (Blow the trumpet) Num 10:1-10

### **High Priest: Duties:**

In addition to regular priestly duties, the high priest would also:

- Offer the regular meal offering (Lev 6:14; Lev 6:15).
- Share with the priests in the caring for the lamp that burned continually (Ex 27:21; Lev. 24:1-4).
- Assist in arranging the showbread (Ex 25:30; Lev. 24:5-9).
- Officiate at the ceremony of the two goats, when one is sent into the wilderness to Azazel, and the other slain to make atonement for the sanctuary (Exod 30:10; Lev 16:8-10).
- Make atonement for the sins of the people, the priests and his own house (Lev 4:3; Lev 9:8; Lev 16:6; Num 15:25).
- The High Priest was to enter the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement (Lev 16:3; Lev 16:15; Lev 16:33; Lev 16:34).
- Act as mediator between Israel and God (Ex 28:29) when he carried the breastplate with the names of the tribes inscribed thereon.
- Consult the Urim and Thummim before Jehovah (Num. 27:21).

# THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE PRIESTHOOD

(Exodus.28,29)

## CONSECRATION OF THE PRIEST (Exo.29)

Israel's priesthood was vested in the family of Aaron of the tribe of Levi. The priesthood was hereditary so that only by birth this can be obtained. The first priests were: Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

### All believers are now priests (NT believers) –

Today, all believers are priests through the spiritual new birth in Jesus Christ (1.Pet.2:5,9). The New Testament shows Jesus Christ as High Priest (Heb.3:1/Heb.10:12)). Aaron was a type of Christ. His sons, priests are types of all believers.

## CONSECRATION OF THE PRIESTS

(Exo.29:1-37/Exo.30:22-33).

(SUMMARY OF EXODUS.29)

Sl.No	Details	Scripture
1	The purpose of the ceremony	Exo.29:1
2	Ingredients needed for consecration	Exo.29:1-3
3	Washing	Exo.29:4
4	The Cloth and Anointing	Exo.29:5-9
5	The Sin Offering	Exo.29:10-14
6	The Burned Offering	Exo.29:15-18
7	The application of blood	Exo.29:19-21
8	The Wave Offering	Exo.29:22-28
9	The Week Consecration	Exo.29:29-37
10	The continual Consecration	Exo.29:38-41
11	Why God want daily sacrifices	Exo.29:42,43
12	Sanctification by God	Exo.29:44-46

### Features of the consecration of Priests:

The word "Consecration" literally means "to set apart /to belong to the sacred". The act of consecration was one in which a person or thing was wholly set apart, dedicated for the worship and service of God. One who is consecrated belongs wholly to the Lord.

**(1) Priests were Chosen** – The God chose Aaron and his sons to minister by grace. They never deserve for the position.

Exo.28:1 – "Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar."

The same God, saves sinners like us, makes us His children, and to the holy priesthood. This is also His grace.

John.15:16 – "You did not choose Me, but I chose you".

John.15:19 – "But I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

1.Pet.2:9 – "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."



**(2) Priests were consecrated** — After choosing of priests they were hallowed.

Exo. 29:1- "And this is what you shall do to them to hallow them for ministering to Me as priests..."

Hallow means to 'set something or someone apart' for the particular service of God. The ceremony was conducted by Moses and took place at the entrance to the tabernacle within the courtyard. The God ordained specific ceremonies for the consecration of priests which lasted for seven days.

**(3) The Priests were washed with water** (Exo.29:4/Lev.8:6) —

The priests-elect were first washed the whole body with water. The process of consecration starts with washing. Accordingly Aaron and his sons were washed whole with water. A peculiar aspect in this regard was Aaron and his sons were not washed by themselves but they received washing. They need not be washed as a whole again after the first washing at the time of consecration. But before carrying out priestly duties, the priest would frequently have to wash his hands and feet at the bronze laver symbolizing his need for constant cleansing in what his hands did and where his feet went (Exo.29:4).

This ceremonial bath is a picture of the new birth (John. 13:10) and never to be repeated (Titus 3:5). This was symbolic for complete cleansing of old sins at the time of new birth. Sins are pictured in bible as disease (Isa.1:4-6), darkness (1.John.1:5-10), drowning (Psl.130:1-4), death (Eph.2:1,5/John.5:24). Also sin is pictured as dirt and defilement (Isa.1:16,18 / Jer.4:14 /2.Cori.7:1 /Heb.9:14/ James.1:21;4:8).

"A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean" said Jesus (John.13:10). Those who have trusted Christ have experienced this inward cleansing from the Lord (1.Cor.6:9-11). The washing spoke of personal cleansing or sanctification. After washing the priests were also sprinkled with blood. The sprinkling of blood spoke of legal cleansing or justification.

**(4) The Priests were Anointed with oil** (Exo.29:7,21/Lev.8:10-12,30).

After priests are washed, they were anointed with oil. In order to anoint the priests, tabernacle and furnishings a special oil prepared was used (Exo.30:22-33). In Old Testament, Prophets, Priests and Kings were anointed. The anointing was a symbol for the acceptance by God and giving Holy Spirit for power and service (Luke.4:17-19/Isa.61:1-3). Moses poured the oil on his brother's head. The oil ran down his beard and therefore bathed all the stones on the breastplate. This is an act of filling full of Holy Spirit. Those who trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord have received an anointing of the Holy Spirit (1.John.2:20,27/2.Cor.1:21,22).

**(5) The Priests were clothed with Holy Garments** (Exo.29:5,6,8,9,30/Lev.8:7-9,13)—

They were dressed in their distinctive garments. Moses clothed his brother Aaron and his sons with their linen tunics and bonnets. These were their official uniform. They are not allowed to enter the tabernacle dressed in other garments. In scripture, the wearing of garments is a picture of the character and life of a believer. We have to lay aside the filthy garments of old life. We have to dress with new beautiful garments of grace provided by the Lord (Eph.4:17-32/Col.3:1-15). Christ has removed our dirty garments and given us new robe of righteousness. He purchased the new garment for us on the Calvary cross (Isa.61:10/2.Cor.5:17,21).

**(6) The Priests were atoned for sin with sacrifice (Exo.29:10-14)**

A bull was slain as a sin offering to atone for the sins of the priests (Lev.4/Lev.8:14-17). This sacrifice was repeated each day for a week (Exo.29:36,37). This is for the cleansing of the priests and for sanctifying the altar where the priests are ministering. Jesus Christ is our sin offering and through Him alone we get forgiveness (Isa.53:4-6,12/ Matt.26:28/ 2.Cor.5:21/1.Pet.2:24/Rev.1:5,6).

**(7) The Priests were dedicated to God (Exo.29:15-18/Lev.8:18-21)**

In the sacrifice of burned offering, the animal was completely given to the Lord. This is a picture of total dedication (Lev.1). Our Lord gave Himself fully to us. The High priest and priests are expected to dedicate themselves fully to the God. Believers as priests also fully dedicate themselves as a sacrifice (Rom.12:1/1.Tim.4:15).

**(8) The Priests were marked with blood (Exo.29:19-22/Lev.8:22-24)**

The Priests were sprinkled with blood. The sprinkling of blood speaks legal cleaning or justification. The Priests were marked by the blood on the ear, the hand and the foot. This was a sign that they must listen to God's Word (blood on the ear), serve God and do the work of God (blood on the hand), and walk with God and walk in God's way (blood on the foot).

**(9) Priests were laid hands on the sacrifice –**

Laying hands upon the sacrifice is an act to show his identity with it.

Exo.29:10 – "Aaron and his sons shall put their hands on the head of the bull."

**(10) Priests were to minister before God –**

The Priests are ministered to the people. But their first obligation was to minister to the Lord and please Him. If they forgot their obligation to the Lord, they would soon minimize their responsibilities to the people. God's people today must remember that our first obligation is to please the Lord and serve Him. If we do this, He will work in us, and we can do much for Him.

**(11) The Priests were fed (Exo.29:22-28, 31-34/Lev.8:25-29)**

Then the priest's hands were filled from the food basket and from the altar. The priests waved these gifts toward the altar in dedication to God (wave offering-Exo.29:24) and then shared them in a fellowship meal (Exo.29:33,34). The eating speaks of continuing relationship of the priests with God. The filling of the hands of priests shows that they are cared for their physical needs from their ministry.

The tabernacle, the priesthood, the sacrifices, and the ceremonies, all spoke of God's glory that would be displayed fully in the Person of Christ. The apostle John in his gospel said – "And the Word became flesh and dwelt 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). Believers are a holy priesthood who offer spiritual sacrifices as priests (1.Pet.2:5). They are a royal priesthood (1.Pet.2:9) and sons of God (Gal.3:26) through faith in Christ Jesus. They are all kings and priests in Christ (1.Pet.2:9). There is no difference or grade among believer priests. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal.3:28,29).

## The High Priest and His Garments

(Exo.28, Exo.39 and Lev.8)



Everything in the Tabernacle pictures the person and work of Jesus Christ. The services of the priests inside the Tabernacle and their dresses also points to Jesus Christ, our living High Priest. The Levites are qualified to do the ministry before God in the Tabernacle. Aaron and his sons are serving there.

Aaron was the first High Priest; he was Moses' brother. After the death of Aaron, subsequent high priests were his descendants, the sons of Aaron. The high priest was responsible for the tabernacle, its daily offerings and functions. He is also responsible for its regular Feasts, three times in the year: at Passover, at Pentecost and the Day of Atonement (Lev.23).

The High Priest has to be dressed in "Holy Garments". The uppermost holy garment is apron-like and is called the Ephod. On top of the Ephod there is the square breastplate, with twelve precious stones. On the shoulders are two additional precious stones. All of these garments and items have a wonderful significance.

### **Priestly Garments:**

There are three biblical passages regarding the priestly garments.

- (1) Instructions for the Garments (Exo.28:1-43)
- (2) The preparation of the Garments (Exo.39:1-31)
- (3) Wearing of the garments at the time of consecration (Lev.8:5-9).

### **The Craftsmen:**

The craftsmen who made the garments may have been the same persons who constructed the Tabernacle (Exo.36:1-3). The skill for the work of making the garments also was given by God (Isa.28:26).

### **The Materials:**

The garments were to be made from materials received in offerings from the people (Exo.25:2-7). This included the usual offerings of colored yarn (blue, purple, and scarlet). Woolen fabrics were identified by the costly dyes used in their manufacture. In addition, gold thread was received, along with fine-twined linen, which had been spun from flax by the women (Exo.35:25). The people also contributed precious stones for the ephod and the breastplate (Exo.25:7).

### **The Purpose** (Exo.28:2)

A divine purpose can be seen in the Garments: Exo.28:2- "And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty" (Decorative, Functional, and Symbolic).

These garments were not holy in the sense we think today. The Hebrew word for holy means 'set apart'. These garments were set apart for the exclusive service of God. So anything set apart for God is called holy.

The Holy six garments that are used in the service of God are:

- o Exo.28:4 – "And these are the garments which they shall make: a **breastplate**, an **ephod**, a **robe**, a skillfully woven **tunic**, a **turban**, and a **sash**. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest."

(1) Ephod : Exo.28:5-14

(2) Breastplate : Exo.28:15-30

(3) Robe : Exo.28:31-35

(4) Tunic : Exo.28:39

(5) Turban : Exo.28:36-38

(6) Sash : Exo.28:39.

The High Priest will have to dress in "Holy garments" as per the specific instructions of God (Exo.28:2-4). He could not come in clothing of his own wishes. This was because each piece of clothing had divine truth and spiritual teaching that was typical of the Lord Jesus Christ and His ministry.

There is no more need for us to wear this clothing. Everything has now been revealed. God's word is complete. We are complete in Christ. We do not need robes and funny hats today. The thick curtain in the temple was torn and thereby the necessity of priest has gone. Also the High priest torn his garment at the time of the trial before killing Jesus (Mat.26:63-65). Tearing of Holy Garments was forbidden in OT (Lev.21:10). Wearing of the priestly garments some might argue for tradition. But the Bible warns us against tradition and world practices (Col.2:8-10). In the New Covenant priests (believers) are to be clothed with garments of righteousness.

## TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

“Israel” is the name that God gave to Jacob, the son of Isaac and grandson of Abraham (Gen.32:28/Gen.35:10). In the Old Testament the children of God from the family of Jacob is usually called Israel. When they were under slavery in Egypt, God redeemed Israel from Egyptian bondage through Moses (Exo.3 to14).

The twelve tribes of Israel came from the twelve sons of Jacob. His twelve sons were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin (Gen.35:23-26/ Exo.1:1-4 /1.Chr.2:1,2).

When the tribes inherited the Promised Land, Levi’s descendants did not receive a territory for themselves. It has been repeatedly recorded in the scripture that to the tribe of Levi had given no inheritance (Jos.13:14/Jos.13:33/Jos.14:3,4/ Jos.18:7) because the Lord God of Israel was their inheritance (Jos.13:14/ Jos.13:33/ Jos.18:7/ Deu.10:8,9/Deu.18:1-8/ Num.18).

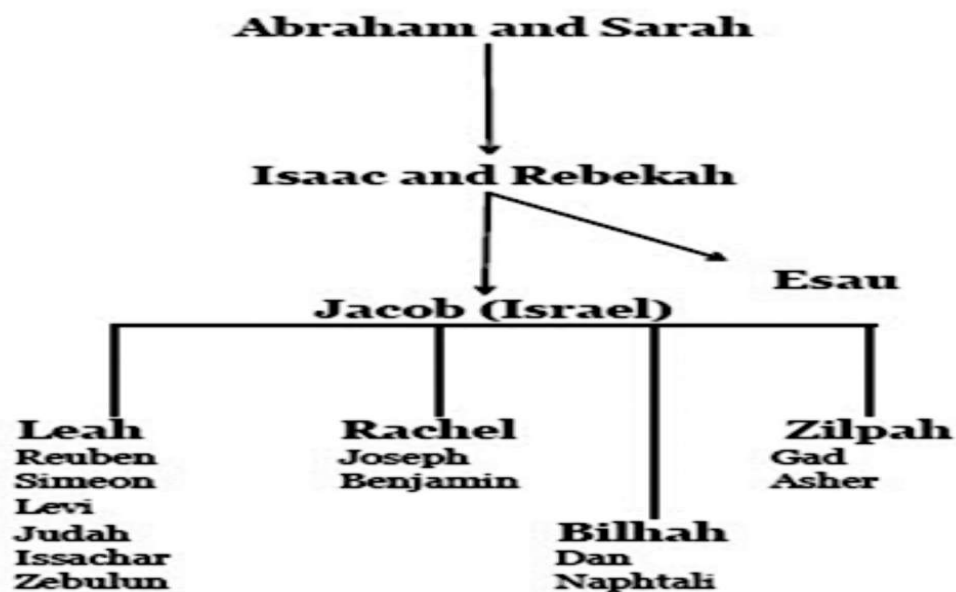
When the twelve tribes of Israel entered the Promised Land, they formed the nation of Israel under David and Solomon. Soon after Solomon’s death, this empire was divided into two. The northern ten tribes formed the kingdom of Israel, while the southern two tribes, Judah and Benjamin (joined by the priestly tribe of Levi), formed the southern kingdom of Judah. The northern kingdom of Israel was called “Israel” because it was led by the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh who bore the name of “Israel” (Genesis 48:16). The southern kingdom was led by the tribe of Judah.

God gave Jacob six sons through **Leah**, the wife whom he did not like and selected (Gen.29:31-35/ Gen.30:14-21). They are **Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun and Isaachar**. But Leah was honored to be the mother of Levi, the founder of the priestly tribe and Judah, the founder of the kingly tribe – the tribe of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Bilhah, Rachel’s maid**, was given to Jacob to bear him children because Rachel was at that time childless (Gen.30:1-8). They are **Dan and Naphtali**.

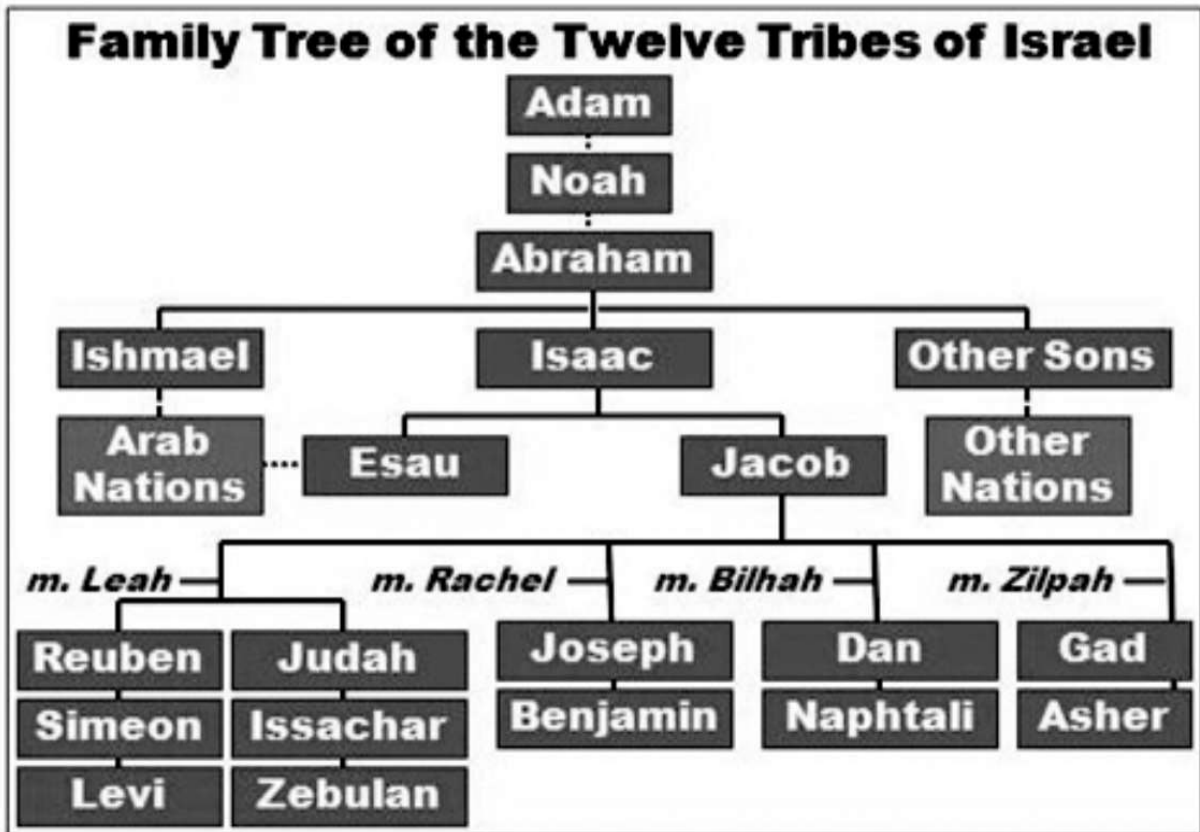
**Zilpah was Leah’s maid**, given to Jacob to bear him more children after Leah had ceased bearing (Gen.30:9-13). They are **Gad and Asher**. (However, later Leah gave birth to Isaachar, Zebulun and Dinah – Gen.30:14-21).

**Rachel** gave two sons to Jacob. They are **Joseph and Benjamin** (Gen.49:22-27).



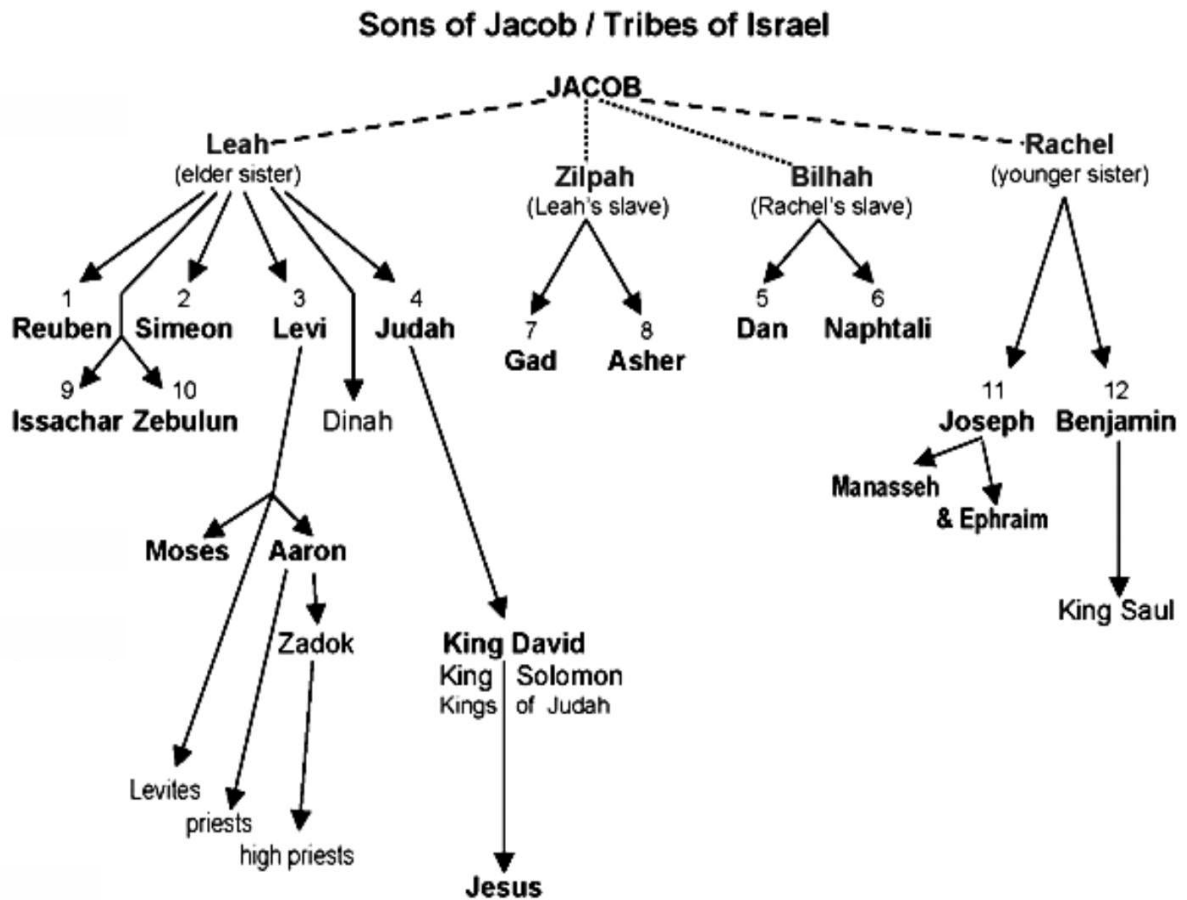
12 Tribes of Israel

(TABERNACLE by Samson Henry, Kollam)



<b>Jacob</b>			
<b>Leah</b>	<b>Zilpah</b>	<b>Bilhah</b>	<b>Rachel</b>
(Elder sister)	(Leah's maid)	(Rachel's maid)	(Younger sister)
Reuben	Gad	Dan	Joseph
Simeon	Asher	Naphthali	Benjamin
Levi			
Judah			
Issachar			
Zebulun			

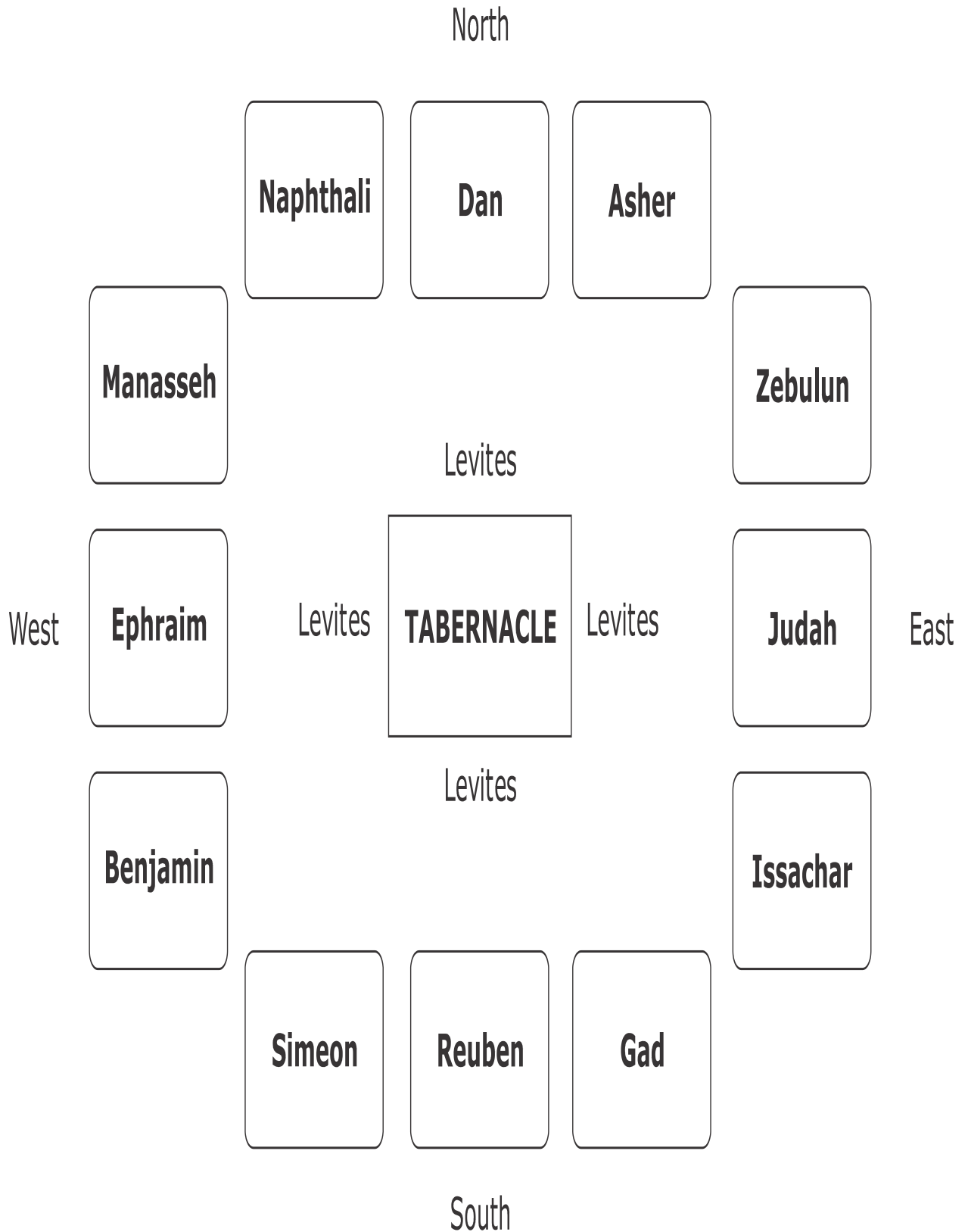
<b>The 12 Tribes (Families) of Israel (Jacob)</b>			
<b>Birth order</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Birth Ref:</b>	<b>Blessing Ref:</b>
1	Reuben	Gen.29:32	Gen.49:3
2	Simeon	Gen.29:33	Gen.49:5
3	Levi	Gen.29:34	Gen.49:5
4	Judah	Gen.29:35	Gen.49:8
5	Dan	Gen.30:5,6	Gen.49:16
6	Naphthali	Gen.30:7,8	Gen.49:21
7	Gad	Gen.30:10,11	Gen.49:19
8	Asher	Gen.30:12,13	Gen.49:20
9	Issachar	Gen.30:17,18	Gen.49:14
10	Zebulun	Gen.30:19,20	Gen.49:13
11	Joseph	Gen.30:23,24	Gen.49:22
12	Benjamin	Gen.35:16-18	Gen.49:27



(TABERNACLE by Samson Henry, Kollam)

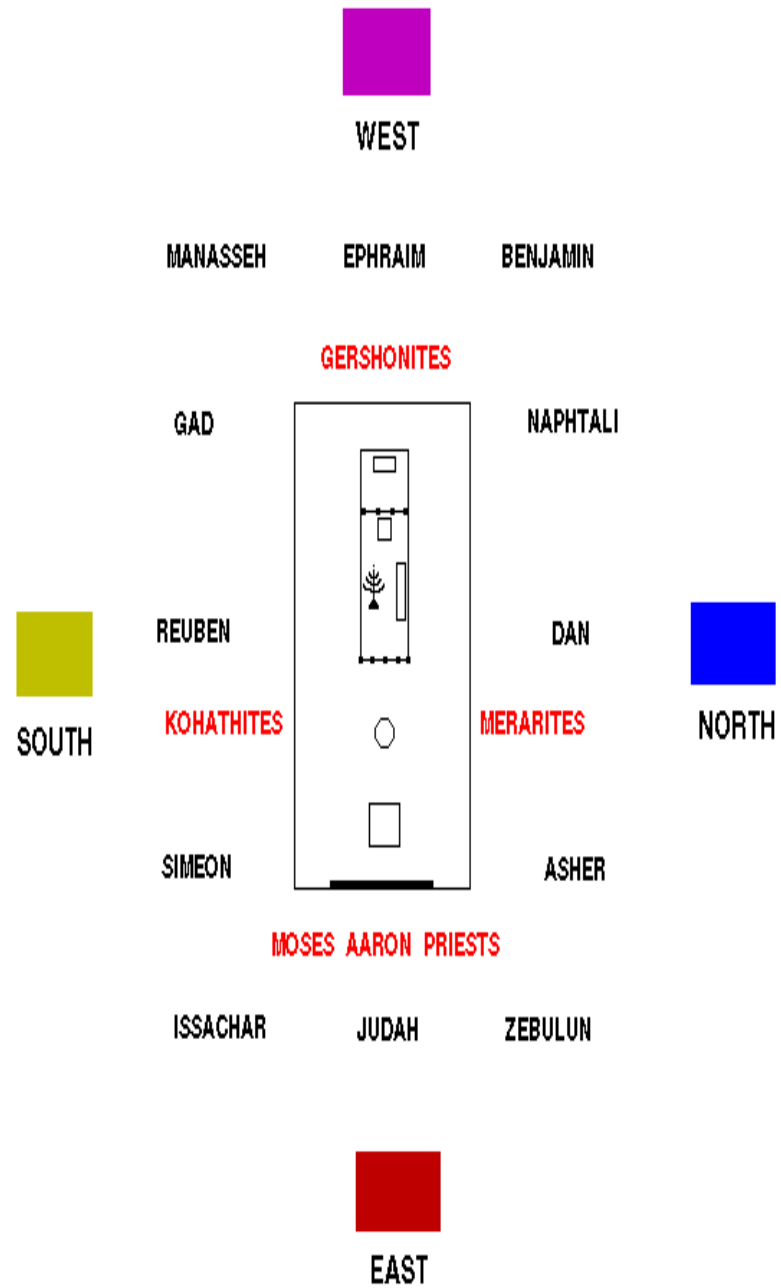
**Tabernacle: Encampment of Children of Israel**  
(Num.2:1-34 / Num.3:17,25,30,36)

# CAMP OF ISRAEL





## Tabernacle: Encampment of Tribes of Israel



(TABERNACLE by *Samson Henry, Kollam*)

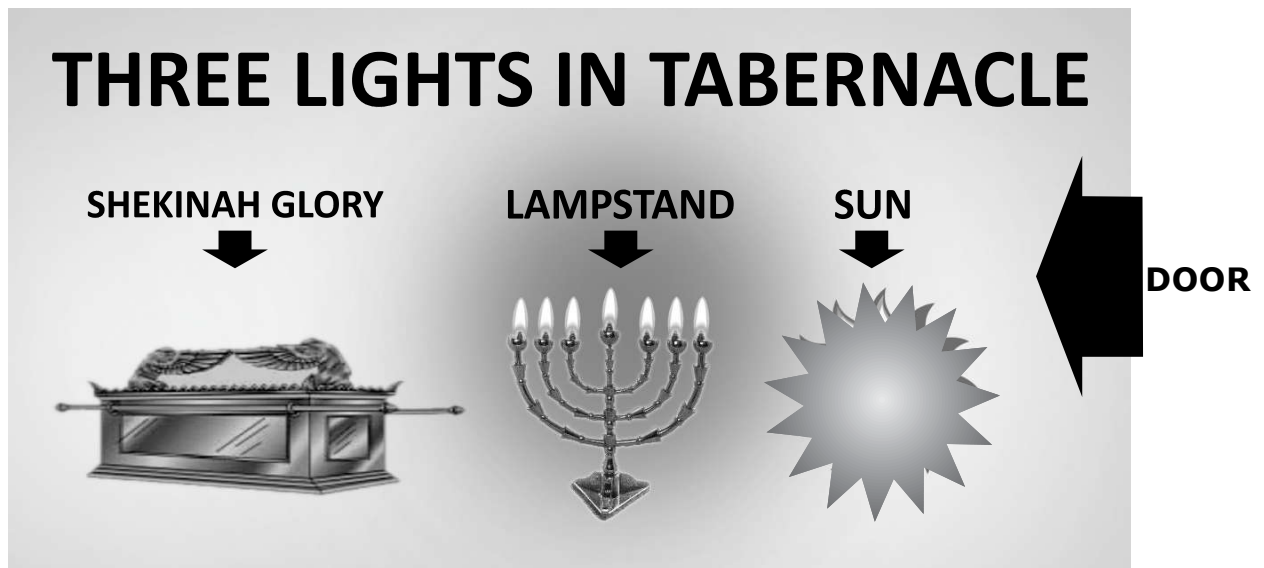
# 12

## LIGHTING SYSTEM IN THE TABERNACLE

The first book of the Bible, Genesis, the book of beginnings starts with God’s creation of the universe. On the first day of creation God said “Let there be light” and there was light. God separated the light from the darkness (Gen.1:1-3). In scripture light is associated with God (Jn.8:12), the Word of God (Psa.119:105/119:130), Children of God (Mat.5:14-16/Eph.5:8) and Blessings of God (Prov.4:18). But darkness is related with Satan, sin, spiritual ignorance, unbelief and all evil acts. Light is needed to everyone in this world, to perform the duties and day to day activities. But, we believers need both physical and spiritual light. Physical light comes from sun, moon, solar power, electricity etc. Whereas the spiritual light comes from God and it is channeled through God’s words – Bible.

Tabernacle, being the dwelling place of God in Old Testament among Israelites, also had separate lighting system. The Tabernacle had three parts -- The Outer Court, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Separate lighting system was arranged by the Almighty God in these three parts for the smooth functioning and service. Besides giving light, these lights speak many spiritual insights too.

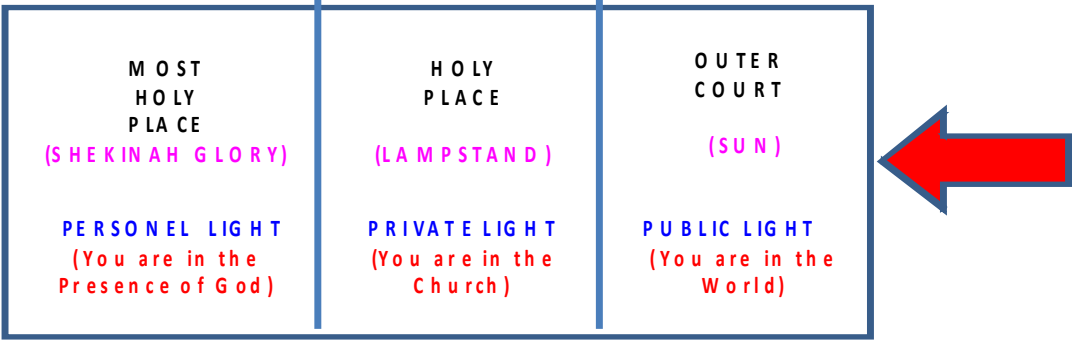
### Heavenly lighting system arranged in the Tabernacle –



### Tabernacle – three lights for Outer Court, Holy Place and Most Holy

	Place	Type of Light	Actual Light
1	Outer Court	Public Light	Sun, Moon
2	Holy Place	Private Light	Golden Lampstand
3	Most Holy Place	Personal Light	Shekinah Glory of God

# Tabernacle > 3 Lights



Saturday, July 16, 2016

Samson, Kollam

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### **I. PUBLIC LIGHT – SUN in the outer court**

Having no roof in the outer court the whole area is exposed to sky. Sun in the day and moon in the night is the sources of lights in the outer court. Here the light speaks to our testimony in the world. As believers we live and walk in the light. The world is watching and examining us as believers or followers of Jesus Christ (Acts.16:25). So we have to live and work as per the heavenly standard (Mat.5:16). We are also called and appointed as lights to shine in this world (Mat.5:14/ Phil.2:14,15/Isa.60:1,2).

In the Outer Court of Tabernacle we see two furniture -- The Brazen Altar and The Brazen Laver. Spiritually these are the two testimonies of the believer – Salvation and Separation (Acts.2:41,42).

#### **Brazen Altar** (Exo.27:1) — The Light of Salvation

(1) Among the seven numbers of furniture in the Tabernacle, Brazen Altar is the biggest. This shows its importance in the tabernacle. Salvation is very important and necessary in the life of an unsaved person.

(2) Brazen Altar is standing in the sunlight in the outer court. This shows the testimony of a believer in Christ. Our light will have to shine in this world.

(3) Brazen Altar is a place of sacrifice and removal of sin. Likewise we have to speak and preach the gospel and show the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ for the removal of sin.

(4) The animal brought to the altar is killed and sacrificed and becomes ashes in the fire of Altar. This shows our submission. All our self will have to be crucified for bringing glory to God.

#### **BRAZEN Laver** — Light of Separation & Sanctification.

Brazen Laver is available in the outer court for sanctification. Laver is exclusively for priests who serve God. For the service in holy place the priests had to wash their hands and feet. So also a person saved and baptized in Christ is a priest in New Testament view. All who serve and doing the ministries of God will have to get moment by moment sanctification. The believer under public light will be watched and examined by the public. So the Laver standing as a sanctification center is like a light illuminating for believers separation and sanctification. The bible says – “For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness” (1.Thes.4:7).

(TABERNACLE by Samson Henry, Kollam)

Main features of the Laver standing in the Outer Court under public light are:

- Separation is the major testimony in believer's life.
- Moment by moment cleaning is needed for service.
- Washing of Hands & Feet – Purity in our works and walk.
- World is looking upon us – We are in outer court under sun. Believers and unbelievers are watching us. Walk as a disciple of Christ.

## **II. PRIVATE LIGHT – Light of Golden Lampstand in the Holy Place**

In the Holy Place of Tabernacle we see three furniture -- The Golden Lampstand, Table of Showbread and Golden Incense Altar. Spiritually these are the three testimonies of the believer – Abide and shine through Christ, Fellowship and Prayer.

**LAMPSTAND** > in the middle of believers and in Church.

All the ministries in the Holy Place were done from the light of this Lamp. In outer court light was received from sun or moon. There is no such external or public light in the Holy Place other than Golden Lampstand. Likewise no light from outside is permissible to bring, light or shine in the Holy Place. This means that all spiritual ministries are to be done exclusively with the spiritual light – Word of God. The Lampstand is an illustrative of (1) Jesus Christ (2) Holy Spirit (3) Word of God (4) The Church and (5) The Believers.

- Features and importance of Lampstand :
  1. Light from heaven – All ministries inside the Church and spiritual activities are to be executed according to the Word of God only.
  2. One central shaft – shows Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the Light.
  3. Six branches – shows Believers abiding in Christ. Six branches, three on each side are attached to the main shaft.
  4. Light shine in the Holy Place – The people living under public light could not understand the illumination inside. The believer and Church are in Holy Place dwelling with God.

**Table of Showbread** > Light of Fellowship.

After Salvation, Baptism, Separation, Study of the Word of God (Abide in Christ), comes Fellowship and Lord's Table (Act.2:41,42). Table of Showbread is a typical to Fellowship and partaking in Lord's Table. The Table of Showbread stands in the Holy Place under the private light of Golden Lampstand. We have regular fellowship with God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit and believers in Christ. We are taking part the Lord's Table in memorial of Jesus Christ's redemptive work and blessings to us.

**Golden Incense Altar** – Prayer

The Golden Incense Altar stands in the Holy Place under the private light, Lampstand. When the Altar of Incense speaks of Jesus Christ as sweet smelling aroma, the smoke of the incense speaks of Jesus' prayer— intercessory prayer by the High Priest.

While the Table of Showbread pictures our fellowship with God and brethren, the Golden Altar of Incense pictures our prayers especially intercessory prayers for believers, our family, friends and the unsaved.

### **III. PERSONAL LIGHT – Light of the Ark of Covenant in the Most Holy Place.**

In the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle we see two furniture in one -- The Ark of Covenant and Mercy Seat. Spiritually these are the two testimonies of the believer – Perfect rest and highest service – alone with God.

In the Most Holy Place there is no light except Shekinah Glory of God. After passing through the outer court and Holy Place, we enter the Holy of Holies. In the Outer court there was sun. In the Holy place we see the private light, the Lampstand with seven branches. Here in Most Holy place God is seated in His throne. God, being source and creator of light, no additional light is needed. The Most Holy place is illuminated with the glory of God. In our Christian walk we now end our journey by reaching to our Lord and Saviour. There we are in personal relation – alone with God.

God has given detailed plan for the construction of the Tabernacle including its materials to be used and also all the ministries inside. Moses obeyed every detail in construction and completed the work strictly as per the heavenly plan given to him. His obedience is specially expressed in the scripture. "Thus Moses did; according to all that the LORD had commanded him, so he did" (Exo.40:16,19,23,25,29,32). The repetition of this phrase emphasizes that Moses precisely obeyed God. After describing the Tabernacle construction in details throughout the book of Exodus from chapters 25 to 40, the Holy Spirit reserves just five verses (Exo.40:34-38) for a remarkable event. The God of Israel moved to reside in the midst of His people in Holy Holies. God's glory filled the Tabernacle.

Exo.40:34-38 – "Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys."

The King of glory and source of light was in the midst of Israel. The glory of the Lord also directed the Israelites movement in the wilderness. The appearance of glory is called Shekinah or Shekinah Glory. God himself was their personal light. In New Testament, the glory of God was manifest not in a tent, but in His Son, Jesus Christ.

John.1:1-5,14 – "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

#### **Features of Personal Light: God's Shekinah Glory**

- Public → Private → Personal
- Light of Personal relationship – God and Me alone.
- Light of tabernacle narrowed to personal (sun > candlestick > God's glory)
- Light of Personal satisfaction.
- Presence of Mercy seat — God's Throne. After salvation you are growing step by step in spiritual life. Growing in Christ leads you in perfect rest and peace and equipped for highest service.

While living in personal Light of God, Satan will come to defeat us and try to break fellowship with God.

- 2. Cor.2:11 – “Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”
- Eph.6:11 – “Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
- 1. Pet.5:8 – “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

**Believer and the Lighting system (Summary):**

<b>Believer’s place</b>	<b>Type of Light</b>	<b>Effect of Light</b>	<b>Where you are</b>	<b>How to shine</b>
Outer Court	Sun /Moon	Public Light	You are in the World	Witness to the world
Holy Place	Lampstand	Private Light	You are in the Church	Model to believers
Most Holy Place	Ark of Covenant Shekina Glory	Personal Light	You are in the presence of God	Perfect submission to God

Tabernacle has three levels of shining lights: Sun in the outer court, Golden Lampstand in Holy Place and Shekiina Glory of God in Most Holy Place. So believer’s walk and growth are also in three levels – Public, Private and Personal.

**How can we walk and shine with God with these lights?**

- Mat.5:14-16 – “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
- Isa.60:1,2 – “Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.”
- John.15:5 – “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

If anyone is trying to approach the Holy God in the throne of Mercy Seat without passing through Brazen Altar, Brazen Laver, Golden Lampstand, Table of Showbread and Golden Incense Altar they have to face divine judgment from the Ark of Covenant and Mercy Seat. For leading a victorious Christian life, one has to pass through public and private lights before approaching personal light (Isa.40:31). Then only the person will get perfect peace and equipped for higher service of God.

(TABERNACLE by *Samson Henry, Kollam*)

## **Tabernacle - Conclusion**

### **Tabernacle and Believers — God's redemption : Seven steps —**

#### **1. BRAZEN ALTAR:**

As sinners on the outside, we must first enter and stop at the Brazen ALTAR (the cross) — Salvation — (Altar > Christ our Sacrifice).

John.1:29 — "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Eph.1:7 — "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

Brazen Altar as a Refuge Center (Joshua.20:7-9)

#### **2. BRAZEN LAVER:**

Separation and daily sanctification at the Brazen Laver — (Laver > Sanctification).

John.3:3 — "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Heb.10:22 — "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

1.John.1:9 — "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

#### **3. GOLDEN LAMPSTAND:**

WALK in the light of Lamp stand. (Christ > Light).

John.1:14 — "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

John.8:12 — "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

John.12:46 — "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness."

#### **4. TABLE OF SHOWBREAD:**

FELLOWSHIP with the Lord at the TABLE. Jesus Christ is our Bread of Life — (Christ > Bread of Life).

John.6:35 — "And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

Mat.26:26-28 — "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body. Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

#### **5. ALTAR OF INCENSE:**

Power in Prayer at the Altar of Incense. (Altar of Incense > Prayer, Intercession).

Jesus teaches disciples to pray (Mat.6:9-13) and Jesus' High Priestly prayer of intercession (John.17).

Heb.7:24,25 — "But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

1.John.2:1,2 – “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

**6. ARK OF THE COVENANT:**

Most Holy Place for highest service (the personal power and communion of the Holy Spirit) — (Christ’s sacrifice > Mediator) — John.18

1.Tim.2:5,6 – “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

1.Tim.3:16 – “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.”

**7. MERCY SEAT:**

Perfect Rest and Peace at the blood-sprinkled Mercy Seat under the shadow of the Cherubim. John.19 -- Blood poured out -- Our Mercy seat is Jesus Christ.

Rom.3:24,25 – “Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith..”

1.John.2:2 – “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

In the Tabernacle we see the Glory of Jesus Christ’s Cross through the Brazen Altar, the Glory of His Word through the Brazen Altar, the Glory of His Revelation through the Golden Lampstand, the Glory of His Provisions for His People through the Table of Showbread, the Glory of His Perfect Worship and Intercession on our behalf before Holy God through Altar of Incense and the Glory of His Perfect Mediation through the blood on the Mercy Seat in Holy of the Holies.

The Glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle when Moses finished the work of Sanctuary as per heavenly plan (Exo.40:34-38). The glory departed from the Tabernacle when Israel sinned against God (1.Sam.4:21). Then God’s glory came into the temple built by king Solomon (1.Kin.8:11), but it departed when the nation turned to idols and gentile gods (Eze.9:3/10:4,18,19/11:22-23). In connection with the plan of redemption of the mankind, the glory came to this world in the person of Jesus Christ (John.1:14). But the glory departed when Jesus was nailed to the cross by the earth dwellers. Now the glory dwells in believers individually (1.Cor.6:19,20) and the Church collectively (Eph.2:20-22). One day God’s glory will be revealed in the new heaven and earth called New Jerusalem, where the God’s children will dwell forever (Rev.21 and 22). This will be the Tabernacle of God with men (Rev.21:3).

===== AMEN, HALLELUJAH =====



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