

THE TABERNACLE

INTRODUCTION: (WHERE GOD MEETS MAN)

The study of the Tabernacle is a thrilling story: GOD'S DESIRE TO DWELL WITH MAN, and TO BRING REDEMPTION TO MAN.

THE TABERNACLE WAS:

1. The dwelling place of God in Israel (in the Wilderness and Canaan)
2. A picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, and God's salvation in Him

WHY STUDY? There are 50 chapters in the Bible on The Tabernacle:

1. The TABERNACLE and the Tabernacle FORM OF WORSHIP are FIGURES of that which was to come (Heb 9 8,9,24, 10:1); God's future plans.
2. The TABERNACLE and EXPERIENCES OF ISRAELITES were EXAMPLES and PATTERNS established by God for us (1 Cor 10:11; Heb 8:5)
3. The TABERNACLE pictures THE LORD JESUS CHRIST in such perfect detail that it thrills the believer as the study unfolds (Luke 24:27)

Every detail of the Tabernacle points to some aspect of the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:14)

THE TABERNACLE: The Dwelling Place of God

The word 'tabernacle' means "temporary dwelling place":

1. THE TABERNACLE OF THE Old Testament. was temporary,
2. Then, THE TEMPLE (2 Chr. 5:14) was for a time the dwelling place of God here on earth, (will be restored for the Millennium)
3. While JESUS was on the earth during His ministry, He was the dwelling place of God, in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwelt bodily (Col 2:9)
4. After which Christ took up abode in THE FLEAT OF THE BELIEVER (1 Cor 3:16). The word CHURCH means "that which is called out", and does not apply to the building, but the BELIEVERS. Therefore, the Tabernacle is also a picture of the believer, the place where Christ dwells. 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.
5. Finally, IN HEAVEN (Heb 8:1,2; 9:23,24; Rev 11:19; 21:3)

THE TABERNACLE TELLS MORE: THE COMPLETE PICTURE OF SALVATION

The Tabernacle is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, and a picture of the believer "in Christ", and also a complete picture of the PLAN OF SALVATION. In God's redemption there are seven steps:

1. As sinners on the outside, we must first ENTER and STOP at the ALTAR (the cross)
2. Next comes SEPARATION and DAILY CLEANSING at the LAVER
3. We enter into FELLOWSHIP of the Word at the TABLE
4. We learn to WALK in the LIGHT of the Golden CANDLESTICK
5. Then, and only then, comes POWER in PRAYER at the TABLE OF INCENSE
6. We are then ready to enter the HOLY OF HOLIES of HIGHEST SERVICE (the personal power and communion of the Holy Spirit)
7. Thus, we reach PERFECT REST and PEACE at the blood-sprinkled MERCY SEAT under the shadow of the cherubim.

THE SUBJECT OF THE TABERNACLE IS INEXHAUSTIBLE, and as we permit the Holy Spirit to help us to understand these truths, we are then to be drawn closer to the Lord Jesus, and by knowing more about Him from this study we will love Him more, and in loving Him more we will serve Him more. STUDY, THEN, SHOULD RESULT IN LOVING SERVICE!!!!

THE TABERNACLE PATTERN

Threefold Division -the number of divine completeness and perfection (John 14:6)

1. THE OUTER COURT - the fence, the brazen altar, the laver
2. THE HOLY PLACE - the table of shewbread, the candlestick, the altar of incense
3. THE HOLY OF HOLIES - the ark and the mercy seat

THE FOURTEEN MATERIALS:

Fourteen is the number of TESTIMONY. The Tabernacle is a place of fellowship, communion, and TESTIMONY. Each material has a typical meaning, the meanings are the same wherever found used in the Tabernacle. Christ is seen in them all:

1. GOLD - deity (Ex. 25:3)

2. SILVER - redemption (Ex 25:3)
3. BRASS -judgment (Ex 25:3; Num. 2 1:6-9)
4. BLUE - heavenly nature and origin (Ex 25:4)
5. PURPLE - royalty (Ex. 25:4)
6. SCARLET - sacrificed blood (Ex 25:4)
7. FINE LINEN spotless righteousness (Ex. 25:4; Rev 19:8)
8. GOAT'S HAIR - the sinbearer (Ex. 25:4; Lev. 16:20-22)
9. RAM'S SKINS DYED RED - the suffering of Christ, the depth and devotion of Christ (Ex. 25:5; Luke 22:44)
10. BADGER'S SKINS - humility of Christ (Ex. 25:5; Isa. 53:2), a common, ordinary-looking skin
- 11 SHITTIM WOOD (Acacia) - humanity of Christ (Ex. 25:5)
12. OIL for the LIGHT - the Holy Spirit (Ex. 25:5)
13. SPICES for ANOINTING OIL - sweetness and preciousness of Christ (Ex. 25:6)
14. ONYX STONES - speaks of the Glory of Christ (Ex. 25:7; John 17:5)

SEVEN ARTICLES OF FURNITURE:

Seven is the number of perfection:

ARK, MERCY SEAT, ALTAR OF INCENSE, TABLE OF SHEWBREAD, CANDLESTICK, LAVER, BRAZEN ALTAR

THE TABERNACLE has been called "THE HOUSE OF BLOOD", because of the blood of the sacrifices required by God. But, all of this blood was merely prophetic, typical, and a shadow of the blood of the coming Lamb of God, His Son:

1. We have redemption through the blood (Eph. 1:7)
2. We have forgiveness through the blood (Eph. 1:7) 3. We have justification through the blood (Rom 5.9)
4. We have sanctification through the blood (Heb 10:10)

5. We have cleansing through the blood (1 John 1:7)

6. We have peace through the blood (Col. 1:20)

7. We have victory through the blood (Rev 12:11)

"And let them make me a sanctuary; **that I may dwell among them.** According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it." Exodus 25:8-9

"And there **I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee** from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel." Exodus 25:22

"It was therefore necessary that **the patterns of things** in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with heifer sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the **figures of the true**; but into heaven itself now to appear in the presence of God for us." Hebrews 9:23-24

I). The Tabernacle was God's restoration of fellowship with man.

A). From the beginning of time God has sought communion with His creation.

- 1). God dwelt with Adam in the Garden of Eden. Gen. 2:15; 3:8
- 2). God dwelt with man in the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:22)
- 3). God dwelt with man in the Temple (called the house of God 1 Kings 6)
- 4). God dwelt with man in Jesus (God incarnate in John 1:14; 1 Tim 3:16)
- 5). God dwells with man through salvation (1 Cor.3:16)

B). Since Adam sinned God has made provision to redeem us from our sin.

- 1). Gen. 3:21 God used bloodshed to atone for the sin of Adam and Eve.
- 2). The shedding of blood is necessary.

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." Heb 9:22

3). The Tabernacle was a place where man could bring his blood sacrifice for his sins and then he could commune with God.

4). The Tabernacle and its sacrifices were only preparation for the true sacrifice that was the Messiah. (Heb. 9:1-28)

II). The Tabernacle is symbolic of the Savior, of man and their fellowship with God.

A). The Scriptures declare that the Tabernacle is symbolic.

1). It is described as a "shadow" a "figure for the time then present", "patterns of things in the heavens" and "figures of the true". (Hebrews 8:5; 9:9,23-24; 10:1)

2). Jesus Christ is the true High Priest who has atoned for sins in the "true and perfect tabernacle" that we might have "eternal redemption". (Heb 8:1-5; 9:11-12)

B). These symbolisms are no coincidence and are Divinely ordered.

1) God told Moses to build the Tabernacle according to His instruction.

"And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount." Exodus 25:40

2). God ordained certain men with His wisdom to build the Tabernacle.

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: 6 And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee;" Ex. 31:1-2,6

*Bezaleel means: "in the shadow of God"

3). God provided the specific materials to build the tabernacle. (Ex 12:37; 36:6-7).

C). God intended for man to learn from this portion of Scripture.

1). There are some 50 chapters in the Bible dealing with the tabernacle, whereas there are only 2 chapters dealing with the entire creation of the world.

2). "There is no portion of Scripture richer in meaning, or more perfect in it's teaching of the plan of redemption, than this divinely designed building" Dr. M.R. DeHaan

D). The 3 Sections of the Tabernacle Correlate to the 3 parts of God and Man

1). The Outer court- the Body- Jesus Christ This is the outer visible part of man's personality. In the tabernacle it was a place of sacrifice and cleansing. Jesus was God incarnate and sacrificed for sin. (Romans 12:1-2, 1 John 1:7,9)

2). The Holy Place- the soul-God the Father. This is the aspect of man that desires to worship and enjoys fellowship with spiritual things. It is holy as God is, (Ps42:1-663:1; Lev 11:45, 19:2,20:7)

3). The Holy of Holies- Man's spirit- the Holy Spirit This is the place where man meets God at the mercy seat for forgiveness and strength (John 4:23-24; 1 Cor 2:11-16)

THE FENCE AND THE OUTER COURT

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Exodus 27:9-18; 38:9-19

I). The Position of the Tabernacle:

A). It was the centre of the camp.

1). The tabernacle was the center of the camp for 2 ½ million people covering approximately 12 miles (Numbers chap.1-3)

***Biblical significance in the NT:**

"The lesson we learn from the position of the Tabernacle in relation to the camp is that our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the Tabernacle speaks, should be ever and always central in the life of the Christian and the Church." (Stephen Olford, *The Tabernacle*, 51)

"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." Col. 1:18

B). The Tabernacle always faced East toward the sunrise.

1). The believer should always be faced East toward the Son, spiritually speaking. The return of Christ is said to be from the East.

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt 24:27

II). The Materials of the Fence.

... the fence was of fine twined linen suspended on 60 pillars (shittim wood and brass), resting on sockets of brass, capped with chapters (crowns) of silver, held in place with linen fillets (cords) on silver hooks and brass pins. This fence was 50 cubits (75 feet) by 100 cubits (150 feet).

A). The main material was fine twined linen (Ex 38:16)

1). Fine linen represents the righteousness of God.

"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;" Heb. 5:9

2). The fine linen also represents the righteousness of the saints. (Is 61:10)

"And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." Rev 19:8

B). The Pillars.

1). 60 in number. 20 on the North and South sides and 10 on the East and West sides.

2). Made of Shittim wood covered with Brass (Ex.27:10).

3). Shittim (acacia) wood is nearly imperishable speaking of the perfect humanity of Jesus

"He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption." Acts 2:31

4). The pillars rested on Brass Sockets. Brass representing the endurance of God. And judgement of sin.

"And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace;..." Rev ` 1:15

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Heb. 12:2

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Cor. 5:21

5). The Silver Chapters represent the Redemption of the sinner by Jesus.

*all the silver used in the Tabernacle was gathered as "redemption money" a half-shekel from every person over age 20. (Ex. 30:12-16)

6). The Silver Fillets (cords) speak of the drawing love of God.

"I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love:..."
Hosea 11:4

III). The Gate.

...there was only one opening in the fence which was the gate. There are three total openings in the various sections of the Tabernacle (the gate, the door and the veil). Each of these three are equal in size (100 cubits square) however, the gate is 5x20 cubits whereas the door and the veil are 10x10. The difference is that the entrance to salvation is extra wide for "whosoever will come..." (Rev. 22:17).

A). Description of the Gate. Ex. 38:18

1). 20 cubits wide, 5 cubits tall, supported on 4 pillars. Made of fine twined linen embroidered with blue, purple and scarlet.

2). Symbolism of the embroidery:

Blue: heavenly origin, nature **John:** Son of God

Purple: royalty **Matthew:** King of Jews

Scarlet: sacrifice, death **Mark:** Suffering Servant

Linen: righteousness **Luke:** perfect Son of Man

3). There were 4 pillars like the number of the world (North, East, West, South), but there were only three entrances between the pillars: (The Way, The Truth and the Life- Jn 14:6).

THE BRASEN ALTER AND THE LAVER

Exodus 27:1-8; 30:17-21

The brasen altar and the laver are the 1st of 7 pieces of furniture in the Tabernacle. These 2 pieces are found in the court area whereas the other 5 are in the Tabernacle proper (the holy place and the holy of holies).

The 7 pieces of furniture show the 7 steps of victory in the Christian' life through Jesus Christ:

- 1). The Brasen Altar- a picture of the cross (salvation)
- 2). The Laver- cleansing of sin, confession & forgiveness (separation)
- 3). The Table of Shewbread- a place of fellowship & feeding (Bible reading)
- 4). The Candlestick- testimony of believer and illumination of the Holy Spirit (Testimony)
- 5). The Altar of Incense- prayer and worship
- 6). The Ark- full surrender of the believer (covenant)
- 7). The Mercy Seat- complete victory, rest and peace from God.

1). The Brasen Altar: The shadow of the cross. (Ex. 27:1-8)

"...and without shedding of blood is no remission." Heb. 9:22



"No blood, no altar now,
The sacrifice is o'er;
No flame, no smoke, ascends on high;
The Lamb is slain no more!
But richer blood has flowed from nobler veins,
To purge the soul from guilt, and cleanse the reddest stains."

(Poem and picture by Geo C. Needham, 1879)

*Altar means to raise or lift up or a place of sacrifice. The cross was a "lifted up altar" (Jn 3:14; 12:32). It was also a place of sacrifice (Heb 9:26; 10:4-12).

A). The Materials:

1). Shittim wood overlain with brass.

Shittim wood represents the incorruptible humanity of Jesus Christ.

Brass represents the strength of Christ and his deity that could withstand the judgment of God on sin.

B). The Size and Design:

1). 5 by 5 by 3 cubits ($7\frac{1}{2}' \times 7\frac{1}{2}' \times 4\frac{1}{2}'$). It was the largest piece in the tabernacle. All of the other items could be placed in this altar representing the fact that all future blessings of the believer are within the fold of Calvary.

2). It was 5 cubits square. 5 being the number of death

*It was foursquare. It was equal on all sides. The salvation of God is equal on all sides for all people!

*It was 3 cubits high. God raised Jesus after 3 days.

3). It had 4 horns on the 4 corners.

*Salvation is open to the 4 corners of the earth (to the Jew first and also to the Greek... Rom 1:16).

*The sacrifices were bound to the horns (Ps. 118:27) but Jesus was only bound by His own will (Jn10:18). However we must daily bind our flesh (Rom 12:1-2).

C). The 5's of the Altar: Exodus 27:3

5 Utensils:

- 1). Pans: used to carry the ashes away (Lev. 6:10-11)
- 2). Shovels: used to remove the ashes or coals.
- 3). Basins: used to hold the blood, sometimes taken into the holy place (atonement) other times poured at the foot of the altar.
- 4). Fleshhooks: used to arrange the sacrifice on the altar
- 5). Firepans: (censers) used to carry the coals or fire.

5 Animals for sacrifice:

Lamb, Bullock, Goat, Heifer, Turtledove.

5 Offerings:

Burnt, Meat (or meal), Peace (or wave), Sin, Trespass

D). Other Details:

- 1). The **ashes** were taken to a clean place (Lev. 6:10-11)

This depositing of the ashes speaks of the body of Christ which was sacrificed for our sin and carried to a new tomb (Mt 27:60)

- 2). The Altar had **rings** and two **staves** with which it was to be carried as they moved. The altar representing Calvary must be carried (the gospel) by two staves which are :Jesus' death and resurrection. Without both it cannot be carried!
- 3). The **fire** on this altar was "ever burning" (Lev. 6:12-13). The salvation made possible at Calvary is ever standing ready and waiting for those who would come to it's fire for forgiveness and atonement.
- 4). The **fire** was kindled by God! (Lev. 9:24). Salvation is kindled by God and nothing can be added to it. Remember Nadab and Abihu who offered "strange fire" (Lev 10:1-2).
- 5). The **grate** on which the sacrifices were burned was half way down in the altar at the same height as the mercy seat in the holy of holies. This speaks of the equality of Jesus' sacrifice and the mercy of God.

II). The Laver: Sanctification of the Believer. Ex 30:17-21



"The Laver stands. If earth-defiled,
Go, wash thy hands, thy feet;
And simply as a pardoned child,
Approach the mercy-seat;
Within the veil thy censer bring,
And burn sweet incense to the King."

A). Material:

1) The Laver was solid brass. It was made from the "looking glasses" (mirrors) of the women who gave (Ex 38:8). These mirrors suggest pride or vain glory which was set aside for the sake of cleanliness before God! (That's true sanctification).

2). It held water for washing. Scripture teaches that the Word of God is our looking glass (James 1:23-25).

*It was this water that was used to wash off the dirt and dust of the floor in the tabernacle. We need the water of the Word to wash us from the defilement of our world. (John 15:3; 17:17; Eph. 5:26; Ps 119:9).

B). Size and Design:

1). Interestingly enough, these are not specified. As specific as God was about all the other items of the tabernacle the Laver is not specified as to the size or shape. This alone suggests the Word of God in our own life. It is there for us to use as much as we will. It is limitless as to its application and the form it can take in our life if we will only use it!

C). The Position of the Laver:

1). It stood between the Altar and the Tabernacle (holy place).

2) This position suggests that cleansing follows the cross and not before. Holy/Holiness is found 84 times in the book of Leviticus. (Rom 12;1-2)

"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:" 1 Peter 3:21

3). At the Altar man was justified from sin's penalty, at the Laver man found cleansing from the daily walk on the earth (the tabernacle had no floor). The priests had to constantly wash as we must constantly wash with the water of the Word to keep from being defiled by the world that we must walk in.

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." Psalm 119:9

THE FENCE AND THE OUTER COURT

Exodus 25, 30, 37



Having passed by the Brasen altar for salvation and the laver for forgiveness (daily cleansing) the Priest was now prepared to enter into the Holy Place where God dwelt.

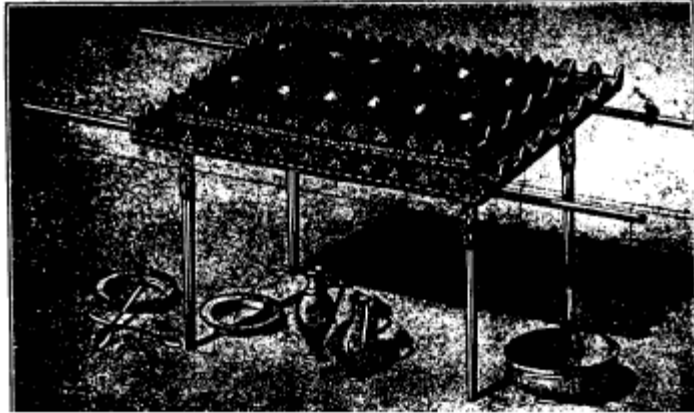
It is in this Holy Place that the Priest could meet God and commune with Him.

For the believer, one who has passed by the Brasen altar and the laver, there is reserved precious privileges that only the Priests could have:

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" 1 Peter 2:9

It is in this Holy Place that was found three pieces of furniture that have wonderful meaning and symbols in the Christian's life.

1). The Table of Shewbread. Ex. 37:10-16, 25:23-30



A place of fellowship and feeding that comes through Christ.

A). Materials & Size:

- 1). Shittim wood covered with Gold (humanity & deity). Ex 25:23-24
- 2). 2x1x1½ cubits (3'x1½'x2¼'tall) Ex 37:10

B). Description:

- 1). The Border with 2 Crowns. This table had a ledge (border) with an inner and outer crown.
- 2). These crowns speak of the crowns of Jesus. He was once crowned with a crown of thorns, but will one day receive His crown: King of kings and Lord of lords.
- 3). This Border was intended to keep the shewbread on the table just as the saved are kept by the power of God safe in the hand of Jesus. (1 Pe 1:5, Jn 10:28-29).

*there is safety in fellowship with God!

- 4). This table had 4 rings of gold and staves for carrying it. We have the Word of God which must be carried to the 4 corners of the earth!

C). The Shewbread:

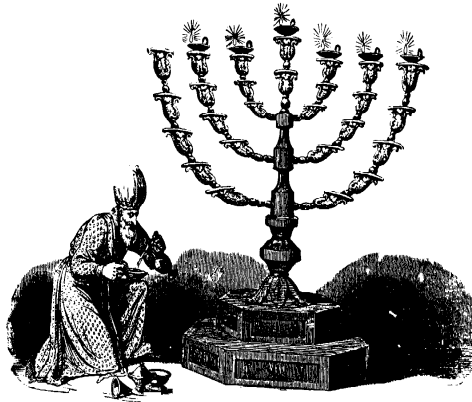
"And Jesus said unto them, *I am the bread of life*: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." John 6:35

- 1). It is at the fellowship table that we commune with God through His Word. We need more than physical food as Jesus said in Matt 4:4:

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

2). Notice there were no chairs at this table. The priest had to eat standing or kneeling (due to size). This has 2 significance's: 1). We should meet before God on our knees. 2). As we are fed we cannot sit back and enjoy the "good life" there is work to do. We are sustained for service!

II). The Golden Candlestick. Ex. 25:31-36; 36:17-24



A symbol of Testimony. Testimony of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life, of Jesus Christ the light and the believer who bears that light.

A). Materials and Size:

- 1). Pure Solid Gold beaten into shape which speaks of the beaten and bruised Savior (Isa. 53:5,10).
- 2). It used pure beaten Olive Oil which speaks of the beaten Holy Spirit who is sometimes used and abused in our lives (Eph 4:30).
- 3). This was one of the more elaborate items in the Tabernacle. It had a center shaft with 3 branches on each side, making 7 lamps. Christ is the center (Jn 15:5) and we are the branches (Mt. 5:14).
- 4). It was decorated with bowls, knops and flowers. The branches differed from the main shaft. The branches had 3 bowls, 1 knop, & 1 flower each, but the main shaft had 4 of each and a knop under each branch. We are to be like Christ, yet He is altogether grander!
- 5). The illustration of the almond bowls etc. It has been said that the Hebrew word almond means wakeful or hastener because the almond tree is the first to awaken after the winter in early January. This also

speaks of Christ who is "risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." (1 Cor 15:20)

*the bowls (buds), flowers & the knops (almond) speak of the order of the risen Savior. After resurrection there was early evidence (bud) that He was risen (Mt 28:2), there was confirmation (flower- Jn 20:12) and there was many infallible proofs of resurrection (almond- Acts 1:3, 1Cor 15:1-8).

B). Symbol of the Holy Spirit, Jesus and our Testimony:

1). The Holy Spirit is the oil which is used in anointing and is burned for light.

a). the word "Christ" means anointed. The scriptures tell that Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit. (Isa. 61:1; Acts 10:38; Lu. 4:16-22)

b). the Holy Spirit is the light that teaches us and brings things to our remembrance. (Jn 14:26; 1 Jn2:27)

2). Jesus said "I am the light of the world" (Jn 9:5). In New Jerusalem Jesus will be the light (Rev. 21:23).

a). In Rev. 1:12,13,20 there are 7 golden candlesticks and the middle is Christ (the Son of man). These seven candlesticks are churches (ages) and Christ is what gives them union.

b). Notice that in the Holy Place there is no light except from this candlestick! In our life there should be no light but God's light. We must force out the influence of the world or false light (Satan is transformed into an "angel of light" 2Cor.11:14).

3). The Testimony of the believer is a light in the world (Mt 5:13-16). Just as the shaft of the candlestick is different we will never be as bright as the Son, but the "church" is likened to the moon which reflects the light of the sun at night.

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;" Phil 2:15

III). The Altar of Incense. Ex. 30:1-11; 36:25-28



This altar is the place where man speaks to God, whereas the table of shewbread is where God speaks to man and nourishes him. However, this altar is consecrated with blood and the incense is offered from a blood sprinkled basin suggesting that prayer is closely linked to the shed blood of Jesus.

A). Materials and Size:

- 1). Shittim wood overlain with Gold. (Christ makes intercession in Heaven for believers on Earth) Heb7:25
- 2). 2x1x1 cubits (3'x1½'x1½')
- 3). Horns represent power- there is power in prayer!
- 4). 4 rings and 2 staves for carrying this altar. Prayer can be carried with you wherever you go!

B). The Position of Prayer:

- 1). The altar stood "before the veil...before the mercy seat...where I will meet with thee" (Ex 30:6)
- 2). God has given us the gift of prayer that we might "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb 4:16).
- 3). This altar was the closest item and the closest place to the Holy of Holies. It is when we stand before God in prayer that we enter the throne and are closest to God!

C). The Incense: Ex 30:34-38

1). 4 ingredients: **Stacte**- natural gum of myrrh tree found by cutting the tree. **Onycha**- perfume from shell-fish. **Galbanum**- resinous, yellow-brown incense of unknown origin. **Frankincense**- resin of the Boswellia tree growing in India & Arabia. Smells like balsa and burns white.

2). For the believer we are told that our prayers are kept like incense before God (Ps 141:1,2; Lu 1:10; Rev 5:8, 8:3,4).

THE ARK AND THE MERCY SEAT

Here is the last piece of furniture found in the Tabernacle, but the ark is the most important and valuable of all the items studied thus far. This ark fully represents the salvation of Jesus Christ given to mankind by grace (mercy).

Here we see Jesus "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Col 2:3

I). The Ark: Exodus 25:10-22; 37:1-9

A). 3 Arks in the Bible

*Ark defined: from Latin- arcere, meaning to hold off, defend. Something that affords protection and safety.

- 1). Noah's Ark Gen 6:13,14
- 2). Moses' Ark Exodus 2:3
- 3). The Ark of the Covenant Exodus 25:10

B). Size and Description: Exodus 25:10-16

- 1). Made of Shittim wood overlain with gold. As studied before the imperishable shittim wood representing the perfect humanity of Jesus and the gold representing the Deity of Jesus.
- 2). The dimensions are 2½ cubits long x 1½ cu. wide x 1½ cu tall. (3¾'x2¼'x2¼')
- 3). The ark had a crown of gold around the top edge which speaks of our Saviour "crowned with glory and honour" (Hebrews 2:9). A crown is a symbol of sovereignty and power.
- 4). The ark had 4 rings of gold with which 2 gold covered staves of shittim wood were used to carry the ark. The priests were to carry the ark with these staves.

C). The contents of the ark (Ex. 25:16; Hebrews 9:4)

- 1). The 2 tables of stone (the law) Exodus 20:1-17.
- 2). A golden pot of manna Ex. 16:11-33, Num 11:1-9
- 3). Aaron's rod that budded. Num 16-17:13.

D). The meaning of the contents

1). The law was placed in the ark which symbolizes Jesus Christ who was the only man who could keep the law without breaking it.

*However, in the New Testament God said: "I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:" Heb 8:10. We are supposed to keep God's word close to our heart (Ps. 1:1-3; 119:11)

2). The golden pot of manna. Manna in Hebrew means: "what is it?". To the unsaved world looking at Christianity from without says: "what is it?", but to the believer we know Jesus as "the bread of life" (Jn 6:48-51). A golden pot speaks of deity and our bread or provision comes from God. As the Lord's Prayer says: "Give us this day our daily bread." Matt 6:11.

*The Israelites learned a lesson in trusting God in that the manna was to be gathered daily and would not last until the next day except for the 7th day. (Ex. 16:22-30)

*Daily we must meet with Jesus. He cannot be stored up.

3). Aaron's rod. Korah, Dathan & Abiram led a revolt with 250 men against Moses & Aaron saying that Moses had usurped authority in making Aaron (his brother) the High Priest. (Ex 16). After these died by God's wrath, God instructed the princes to choose a rod for each of the 12 tribes and put them in the tabernacle and God would cause one to blossom whom He had chosen to be the High Priest.

"...the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds." Num. 17:8

*remember the almond is the "hastener" the first to bloom just as Jesus was the first to rise from the dead (like on the lampstand).

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." 1 Cor 15:20

II). The Mercy Seat. Exodus 25:17-22

A). Size and Materials:

- 1). It was solid gold with 2 cherubims facing toward each other looking down with their wings overspread touching in the center.
- 2). It was the same size as the top of the ark fitting like a cover.
- 3). The cherubims were faced together, but looking down on the mercy seat. Cherubims are guardians in the Bible (Gen 3:24). There is power in the blood and so God has it covered and protected by His cherubims.
- 4). 1 Peter 1:12 says of the salvation of God: "[which things the angels desire to look into](#)". The cherubims looked upon the mercy seat which was only offered to men. (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6, Isa. 14).

B). Use of the Mercy Seat.

- 1). It was the place where the Priest placed the blood of the sacrifices for sin once a year on the day of Atonement. (Lev 16).

However, this blood was not good enough (Heb. 10:4) and was only a symbol of the blood shed at Calvary. Jesus after shedding His own blood acted as the High Priest and placed the blood on the mercy seat of God in heaven (Heb 9:11-15, Rev. 11:19).

For this reason, Jesus would not let Mary touch Him in the garden (Jn 20:16-17) as He had not yet placed the blood on the mercy seat.

- 2). God spoke to Moses from the mercy seat:

["And when Moses was gone into the tabernacle of the congregation to speak with him, then he heard the voice of one speaking unto him from off the mercy seat that was upon the ark of testimony, from between the two cherubims: and he spake unto him."](#) Num 7:89 (see also Ex 25:21-22).

*In the New Testament we are told that we can "...come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb 4:16

III). Important Points concerning the Ark.

A) The ark was a holy and sacred thing and was not to be touched except as prescribed.

- 1). The Philistines learned this lesson when they confiscated the ark from Israel and sent it back after only 7 months! (1 Sam 5-6).
- 2). David learned this lesson when Uzzah died trying to steady the ark from falling from an ox cart. (It was not carried properly). 2 Sam 6
- 3). The ark was to be carried by the Kohathites and it was to be covered by the veil, the badger skins & then a cloth of blue (Num 3-4:6)

B). Where the ark was carried properly God blessed people working miracles.

- 1). God parted the Jordan (Josh 3-4)
- 2). Jericho defeated (Josh 6)
- 3). The house of Abinadab blessed (1 Sam 7)
- 4). The house of Obed-Edom (2 Sam 6:12-19).

*God has offered grace and mercy through His Son Jesus Christ, but one cannot do anyway he pleases and expect that God will continue to bless.

THE COVERINGS AND THE VEIL

Exodus 26:1-14, 31-33

1). The Veil.

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;" Heb. 10:19-20

Having moved through the Holy Place and towards the Holy of Holies we are faced with a beautiful veil made of fine twined linen of blue, purple and scarlet. This veil is what separates the priest from the dwelling place of God and the mercy seat atop the ark. This veil clearly speaks of the flesh of Jesus Christ.

A). The Materials: Ex. 26:31-33, 36:35-36

1). Fine twined linen which has been spoken of before in the fence of the outer court. Fine twined linen represents RIGHTEOUSNESS. This righteousness can only be that of Jesus Christ as our righteousness is "as filthy rags" (Isa. 64:6).

*The believer is partaker of this veil because of Jesus' righteousness "...for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;" Rom 4:24. (see also Rom 4:6-8,11,22-25, Ja. 2:23, Rev. 19:8, Isa. 61:10).

2). The colors of the veil also speak of Jesus:

Blue: speaks of heavenly origin "...the second man is the Lord from heaven." 1 Cor 15:47

Purple: speaks of Jesus' royalty. Jesus was the son of David & crucified as the king of the Jews, but will one day sit on David's throne as King of kings!

Scarlet: speaks of the price that was paid for our access to the mercy seat of God. Scarlet is the color of the blood shed at Calvary.

White: the linen was white with these other 3 colours woven into it. The white speaks of Jesus' sinless humanity (Heb 4:15; 7:26, 2 Cor.5:21, 1Peter 1:19;2:22).

3). This veil of Jesus' flesh hung on hooks of gold. The flesh of Jesus was supported (hung from) by His deity and God the Father.

4). When Jesus spoke the words: "**It is finished**" the veil was torn from top to bottom. This veil of Jesus flesh was torn at Calvary, but the method is clear. (Matt 27:51)

a). It was torn from top to bottom. Only God could tear the veil from top to bottom (man would have to start at the bottom, it was 15 feet tall). Jesus gave His life and no one could take it (Jn 19:11, Jn 3:16) Salvation is a gift of God (Eph. 2:8-9)

b). Salvation is something that only Jesus could pay for. Man could not tear the veil himself.

"according to a Jewish writer, it would have required the strength of a yoke of oxen pulling in opposite directions to rend it apart" (Needham, Geo. C. *The True Tabernacle* 1879, p 99).

c). The tearing of the veil simultaneously made access to the mercy seat of God available and destroyed the Levitical priesthood.

*We have **access** by faith into the grace of God. "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Rom 5:2 (see also Eph. 2:18; 3:12, Heb 4:16).

*Jesus is the High Priest of our faith and we are become the priests of the tabernacle (temple).

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession." Heb. 4:14

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 2:5

II). The Coverings: Ex. 26:1-14; 36:8-19.

The coverings of the Tabernacle are 4 in number.

A). The first covering is called a curtain of "fine twined linen" of blue, purple and scarlet with cherubims woven into it just like the veil.

This covering was made up of 10 curtains each 28w x 4L cubits. These 10 curtains were sewn together in two halves (5 apiece). These two pieces were then taken and "loops of blue" were made on the edges facing each other and then 50 rings of gold were to hold the loops together making this one covering. Sewed together the size then was 28w x 40L cubits. (9 cu. hanging off each side and 10 cu off the back).

*this all shows the same symbolism as the veil which represents the body of Jesus Christ. From inside the Tabernacle the Priest could see a physical representation of the glory and beauty of the Savior along with His heavenly origin.

B). 11 Curtains of Goats Hair: Ex 25:4

These were sewn together making 2 halves (one 5 & one 6). This curtain was 30w x 4L cubits. The 2 halves were sewn together and 50 taches (clasps, hooks) of brass were placed on each end to hold the curtain on top of the Tabernacle. The 6th curtain in the 2nd half was folded over on the front side, thus making this covering 30w x 42L cubits. (10 cubits hanging over each side and 12 cu. off the back)

1). The symbol of a goat is that of a "sin-bearer". In Lev. 16:20-22 if found where a goat is used to carry the sins of the people. The goat's hair woven together (Ex 35:26) would have been a very dark material which speaks of the nature of sin.

*Jesus was the "scape-goat" for our sins. Heb 13:12.

2). The taches (hooks) of brass represent the judgment on sin (see Num. 21:9- Moses and the brasen serpent).

C). The Covering of Ram's Skin. Ex 26:14

1). This skin was dyed red which speaks of the suffering of Christ and the depth of His devotion. The red clearly speaks of the shed blood of Jesus.

2). The symbol of a ram is the symbol of substitution as God provided a ram for Abraham in place of his only son Issac (Gen. 22:1-14).

3) The ram is also used for consecration. In Ex 29:15-26 the ram is used as a "ram of consecration". The animal was killed and the blood was sprinkled on the altar and placed on the priest's ear, thumb and great toe as a sign of separation to God's service. Jesus Christ is our consecration and His blood is placed on us to dedicate us to God's service.

4). This ram, stripped of its skin also speaks of the Christ who was stripped of His glory, and even His clothing at Calvary. (Heb. 12:2, Jn 19:23-24, Phil 2:7-8).

D). The Covering of Badger's Skin. Ex 26:14

1). This outer layer clearly speaks of the humility of Christ.

"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Phil 2:7-8

2). The nature of badger's skin which is an unsightly skin speaks of Jesus humanity as described in Isaiah 53:2

"For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he **hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.**".

3). However, it must be pointed out that however Christ looked on the outside is nothing to be compared to the inner beauty that is seen in the fine linen of the inside of the Tabernacle. The unsaved world cannot see the beauty and glory of Christ until they will enter in faith!

THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE PRIESTHOOD



Having studied the Tabernacle and its furniture one must finally consider the High Priest and the priests who were specifically ordained by God to serve in and about the Tabernacle. The priests were specifically chosen by God. These were from the tribe of Levi. Aaron was to be the High Priest (Num. 3:3-10) and his sons were to be the priests (Exodus 28:1).

Three other families of the tribe of Levi had responsibilities within the tabernacle. These were: Merarites (Num.3:36), Gershomites (Num. 3:25), and Kohathites (Num. 3:31). These three families had the responsibilities of erecting and transporting the parts of the Tabernacle.

I). The High Priest, a picture of Christ. *Hebrews 9:11-26*

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession." Heb. 4:14

A). The High Priest had 7 listed duties:

- 1). To offer sacrifices and make atonement for sin (Lev. 16)
- 2). To offer incense (Lev. 16:12,13)
- 3). To judge evil (Lev 13:2)
- 4). To declare to the people God's will (Nu.27:21)
- 5). To decide controversies and solve difficulties (Deut. 17:8-12,19:17,21:5)
- 6). To represent the names of Israel on his shoulders and heart (Ex. 28:9-29)
- 7). To bless the people in the name of the Lord (Nu. 6:23-26, Deut. 21:5).

The present ministry of Jesus Christ on earth today is closely connected to that of the ministry of the High Priest listed above. Jesus has already made atonement for our sins, but he daily intercedes for us (Heb 7:25); He rebukes evil (2 Tim 4:1); He declares the will of God by His Word (Heb. 1:2); He judges our thoughts and ways (Heb. 4:13); He represents His people (Heb. 9:24) and He will soon return to bless them with an everlasting benediction (Heb. 9:28).

B). The Garments of the High Priest speak of Jesus.

1). The Blue Robe. (Ex. 28:31-35). Its colour suggests heavenly origin. It was woven as one piece with a hole in the middle speaking of the eternal nature of Christ (Micah 5:2, Jn 17:5). This robe was to have under its hem, blue, purple and scarlet pomegranates and bells of gold. This fruit speaks of the saved souls that Jesus has in the hem of His protection (Jn 11:9-12, 18:9).

2). The Ephod (like an apron). (Ex. 28:6-12). This was fine twined linen with gold, blue, purple and scarlet embroidery which all speak of Jesus righteousness, deity, origin, royalty and blood. There were 2 onyx stones placed on the shoulders with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel engraved in them. The High Priest was to carry on his shoulders the burden of the people just as Jesus carried the burden of our sins to Calvary

(Matt.22:44, 1 Peter 2:24). The High Priest carried these names with him as Jesus carries our cares and struggles daily (1 Peter 5:7).

3). The girdle (like a sash). (Ex. 28:8). This girdle suggests preparation for service. It was made of fine twined linen with gold, blue, purple and scarlet embroidery. These all speak of Jesus' heavenly origin and deity and yet He came to earth as a servant. (Jn 13:4,5; Isa.11:5, Mt 20:28)

"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:" Phil 2:7

4). The Breastplate of Judgement (Ex. 28:15-30). This was also fine twined linen (2 span x 1 span, folded in half "foursquare"). It was embroidered with gold, blue, purple and scarlet. It had on it 12 precious stones set in gold. These stones were set in 4 rows of 3. The names of the 12 tribes were engraved in these stones. The breastplate had 2 rings of gold and 2 gold "wreathen" chains connecting it to the onyx shoulder plates. It also had 2 golden rings and a lace of blue connecting the bottom side to the ephod. Finally, this breastplate was to contain the "Urim and Thummim" (lights and perfection) which were used for wisdom from God.

It is significant to see that as the High Priest wore the people on the breastplate of judgement Jesus bears us near His heart. The people were doubly represented in the garments. 1st on the shoulders (the seat of strength) and 2nd upon the breastplate (the seat of love).

5). The Mitre (Ex. 28:36-39). This headpiece was fine white linen which speaks of the righteousness of Jesus. Upon this Mitre was a golden plate with the inscription, "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" fastened with a blue ribbon. This was worn on the forehead bearing sin and speaks of Jesus who alone could bear sin and yet be holy in himself.

6). The Coat and Breeches. (Ex. 28:39-43). These were actually worn under the other items of the High Priest. All the priests wore the coat and breeches. These were made of fine linen "for glory and beauty." It is because of the imputed righteousness of Jesus that we have glory and beauty (Rom 4:22-25).

II). The Priesthood.

The New Testament church that Jesus founded (Matt 16:18) changed the Old Testament priesthood. The Old Testament priests were ordained by God to carry on the work of the tabernacle and the temple. Their duties ranged from keeping the lights burning, performing various offerings as the people brought them to the temple,

receiving tithes, keeping the temple in order and teaching the law. The High Priest was ordained by God to stand before Him in the "holy place" once a year and to offer sacrifices which were symbolic of the Lamb that would take away the sins of the world (Heb 9:6 all of Lev.). When Jesus died for the sin of the world He became the High Priest (Heb. 3:1; 4:14; 5:5; 6:20; 7:26; 8:1; 9:11; 10:21) and the saved became the priests who are to carry on the daily tasks of the ministry. (Rev. 1:6,5;10, 1 Peter 2:9,

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 2:5

"By him therefore let us offer the **sacrifice of praise** to God continually, that is, **the fruit of our lips** giving thanks to his name. But **to do good and to communicate** forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Heb 13:15-16

2). As priests of the New Testament we all have free access to the Father with out the aid of any other person. We can go boldly to the throne and speak to our Father and receive instruction directly from Him. (Heb 4:14-16)

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also **we have access by faith into this grace** wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Rom 5:1-2

"For through him **we both have access** by one Spirit unto the Father." Eph 2:18 (see also Eph. 3:12).

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

"And Solomon determined to build an house for the name of the LORD, and an house for his kingdom." 2Chron 2:1

480 years after Moses led Israel out of Egypt King Solomon began to build a permanent dwelling place for God (1 Kings 6:1). The year was 966 BC. This temple was constructed in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah (2Chron 3:1) and took 7 years to build (1 Kings 6:38). This Temple was more than twice the size of the Tabernacle that Israel had used for nearly 500 years.

I). The Temple.

A). Size: 60 x 20 cubits (90'x30')

The Tabernacle was 20 x 10 cubits (30'x15')

1). The Porch was 20cu. long and 120 cubits high (30'x180')

2). The Most Holy Place was 20 x 20 cubits (30'x30')

The Tabernacle's holy of holies was 15'x15'

B). The Materials: (\$56 Billion in modern currency)

1). Primarily pre-cut stone

"And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building." 1 Kings 6:7

2). The floor and ceiling were covered with cedar (fir) wood that was engraved and overlain with gold (2Chron 4:7)

3). There were 2 cherubim placed in the holy of holies which were made of Olive Wood and overlain with gold. These stood 10 cu high (15') and had wings of 5 cu each 7½' facing each other.

4). Brasen altar: 20 x 20 cubits (30'x30') 2Chron 4:1

the Tabernacle's altar was (7½'x 7½'x4½')

5). There were 10 Lavers for washing sacrifices (5 on each side) 2Chron. 4:6

6). Molten Sea (like the laver in the tabernacle). This was for priests to wash in. 30 cubits around, 5 cu high (45'x7½')

It rested upon 12 oxen facing outward, 3 on each side (North, East, West, South) 2Chron 4:2-5

7). 10 Candlesticks of gold. 5 on right, 5 on left. 2Chr.4:7

8). 10 Tables 5 on each side with 100 basins of gold.

9). A golden altar (no description given) 1 Kings 7:48

10). The Ark of the Covenant was brought from the city of David (Zion, south of Jerusalem) where David had left it. Solomon had the Ark moved to the Temple 2 Chr.5:2

C). Solomon Dedicated the Temple.

"It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then **the house was filled with a cloud**, even the house of the LORD; 14 So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God." 2Chron 5:13-14

II). History of the Temple and It's Destruction.

1). Temple was built around 966 BC. Later, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon besieged Jerusalem and took the Israelites captive and destroyed the Temple (586 BC).

2). In 538 BC under decree of King Cyrus Zerubbabel led a group of Israelites back to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple.

Josephus said, "the Holy of holies was empty. Evidently the ark had been destroyed in 587 and was never replaced. A single slab of stone marked it's place. The Babylonian Talmud asserts that 5 things were lacking in the new temple: the ark, the sacred fire, the Shekinah, the Holy Spirit, and the Urim and Thummim" (Zondervan Pictorial Dictionary).

3). In 168 BC Antiochus Epiphanes (a Syrian King) slaughtered 10's of thousands of Jews and stole the Temple gold and offered swine on the altar.

4). 165 BC Judas Maccabeas led a revolt to reclaim Jerusalem. They rededicated the Temple (the origin of Hanukkah).

5). 63 BC Roman General Pompei captured Jerusalem and within 9 years all the gold was stolen.

6). King Herod (d. 4 BC- Greek Empire) helped to restore the Temple to it's glory around 20-19 BC. This effort took 46 years (John 2:20)

7). AD 70 Roman General Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple never to be rebuilt (until Christ returns Ezekiel 40-48)

III). The New Testament Temple.

"Know ye not that **ye are the temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" 1 Cor 3:16

"What? know ye not that **your body is the temple** of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor 6:19-20

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for **ye are the temple of the living God**; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you," 2 Cor 6:16-17