

# Source night

## Topic- Tabernacles and Temples



**Introduction** God wants to abide with his people Exodus 25 :8, Rev 21 :3

The concept of God in the midst, is important as;

1. God's presence with us gives us peace Exodus 33 :14,
2. God can communicate with us Exodus 33 :9
3. God blessed the people Leviticus 9 :23

Tabernacle in  
50 Bible chapters

Jesus 'tabernacled' amongst us John 1 :14, and Jesus is the embodiment of the Tabernacle, and he is where God and man meet. Jesus is the only way to God. The Tabernacle was meant to point to Jesus Hebrews 8:5

The Tabernacle was a temporary place to find God in the wilderness, & was humble on the outward appearance.

**The Tabernacle** Hebrew: מִשְׁכָּן *mishkan*, "residence/dwelling place". Tabernacle is ground plan of salvation.

The people dwelt in tents so God identified with the people by his presence being seen in a tent.

You can study it from inside out, or outwards in. God always reaches out to us first, so we start with the Ark.

**The Ark** The glory of God was found above the Mercy Seat (lid) *Shekinah* glory in Holy of Holies (15' cube)

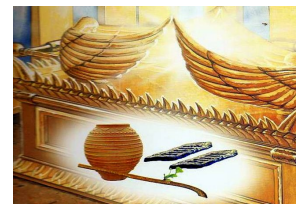


The Ark was made of Acacia wood (hard wood, long lasting) covered in gold.

Mixing humanity and divinity in Jesus Romans 1 :3-4

The Mercy Seat ( Heb *ha-kappōret* meaning Covering)  
Exodus 25 :17-22, Hebrews 9 :3-7, Romans 3 :24-25

Greek - *hilasterion* seat - that which makes propitiation



In the Ark, there was the unbroken law on tablets of stone, Aaron's budding rod (life, authority Numbers 17 :10 ), Pot of manna ( provision, end of that which is corruptible John 6:32-50 ) Cherubs wings. Adds meaning to these verses? Psalm 57 :1, 61 :4, Cherubim guard holiness e.g. Eden Gen 3 :24

### **Table of Shewbread**

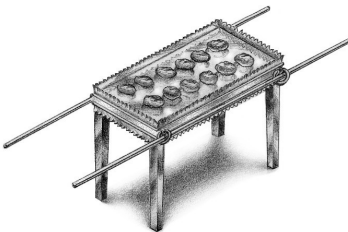
Hebrew *Lechem haPānīm* -'Table the presence' 2'3" high, 3' wide, 1 1/2' deep

12 loaves of unleavened bread, (leaven symbol of sin) represent 12 tribes (people)

People gather around table for fellowship/communion

Jesus 'Bread of Life' John 6 :57 Loaves go through the heat!

Most experts believe wine would be on the table too.



**Candlestick / Lampstand** Made from gold, which had to be put through fire, and hammered out



Hollow, filled with oil, and wicks lit each day. Oil picture of the Spirit in Bible

Light speaks of Jesus John 9 :12

Six (number of man) branches off one central stem. John 15 :5

We to be light too Matthew 5 :14 In Revelation 2-3 the churches were lamps

The light from this was to be kept going night and day.

Decoration almonds, almonds first fruit to develop in spring

**Altar of Incense** 3' high, 18" wide Ex 30 :1-11 Coals from main altar brought in and put on Lev 16 :11-13



Fire brought out the fragrance of the incense

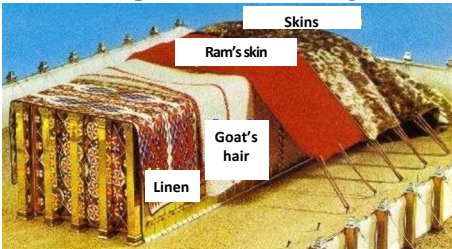
Incense has always been a symbol of prayer and intercession. Psalm 141 :2, Rev 5 :8, 8:4

Today Jesus intercedes for us Hebrews 7 :25, John 17 :9

This altar was placed immediately in front of the veil (Heb - *paroket*)

Our prayers are acceptable to God

**Coverings** Four coverings; 1. Linen white, but beautifully embroidered Exodus 26 v1-14 Using colours



a) Blue = heavenly b) Purple = Kingship c) Scarlet = death

2. Goats hair a) substitution (scapegoat) b) forgiveness

3. Ram's skin dyed red Genesis 22 :13-14

4. Leather/badgers skins. Dull and unattractive on the outside Is 53 :2

Only when you entered in, could someone appreciate the real beauty.

The veil showed the holiness of God, that he is separate from common

### **The Laver**



Ex 30;17-21, 38;8 This was made of a mirrored bronze, so people could see their own reflection,

blemishes would be visible. It symbolised cleansing and would follow the sacrifice on the altar.

Hebrews 10 :22, Ephesians 5 :25-27

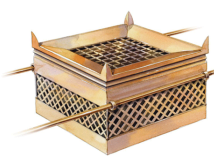
Only item where no size instructed by God.

At Laver priests were washed their hands and feet, also where they were anointed with oil.

Represents to us baptism, visual image of sins washed away and being fully clean

Also, tells us we can daily be cleansed by the Word and Spirit. Titus 3 :5

### **Brazen Altar**



Leviticus 1 :3-4, 7 1/2' square, 4 1/2' high Place of blood sacrifice to be cleansed from sin

Couldn't enter the sanctuary without going first to the altar for sacrifice (cross)

No forgiveness of sin without loss of life, bulls, sheep, goats all killed and then burnt.

The area would have been noisy, smelly, and with unpleasant sights, sin has a terrible cost.

The rebel Abonijah, clung to an altar horn for protection, asking for mercy 1 Kings 1 :50-53

**Fence and Gate** 7 1/2" high so could not look in, to experience tabernacle you had to enter the gate.

Just one gate (30' wide) to enter, John 10 :9 4 pillars, 3 curtains between them of blue, purple, scarlet

### **Other Tabernacle notes**

The Tabernacle was at the centre of the camp, with each tribe in it's set place around it, in a cross shape.

The Tabernacle was to be on a west east axis, as the sun rose in the morning the sun shone on the gate.

At the fall, man was expelled eastward Genesis 3 :24, to enter God's presence you had to go westward.

Above the Tabernacle there was a cloud by day and fire by night. The cloud would have provided shade.

Only priests could enter the Tent of Meeting, to be a priest, you had to be born into it, Aaron's family

We have been born into the priesthood today 1 Peter 2 :5, Revelation 5 :9-10,

### **The Temple**

David had a burden to build permanent Temple, Solomon completed it (950BC), God then filled it

1 Chronicles 22 :1, 5-6, 2 Chronicles 3 :1, 7 :1-3

This original temple was destroyed by Babylonians, then rebuilt on return. Modestly - Haggai 1 :2, 2 :3

Redeveloped by Herod the Great 20 BC Jesus called himself the Temple John 2 :19-20

End of Holy of Holies. Matthew 27 :51 The presence of God was in Jesus Colossians 1 :19

End of geographical presence John 4 :20-26, Acts 17 :24-25, Matthew 18 :20

### **We are both a temple individually, and part of a collective temple (The Church)**

Holy Spirit descended on individuals praying together. Acts 2 :3, c.f. Exodus 40 :34, 2 Chronicles 7 :1-3

We individually are temples 1 Corinthians 3 :16-17, 2 Corinthians 6 :14-18

Also as a church Ephesians 2 :19-22, 1 Peter 2 :5

Today no building is 'God's house', as we the believers are God's house on Earth. Hebrews 3 :6

The people had to move when God moved on Exodus 40 :36 Challenge to us!

### **Questions for discussion**

1. The Temple had to be kept pure, what message does that have for us as individuals and the Church?

2. How is our Church a temple? 3. What does this teach us, that we do things for God, on his terms?

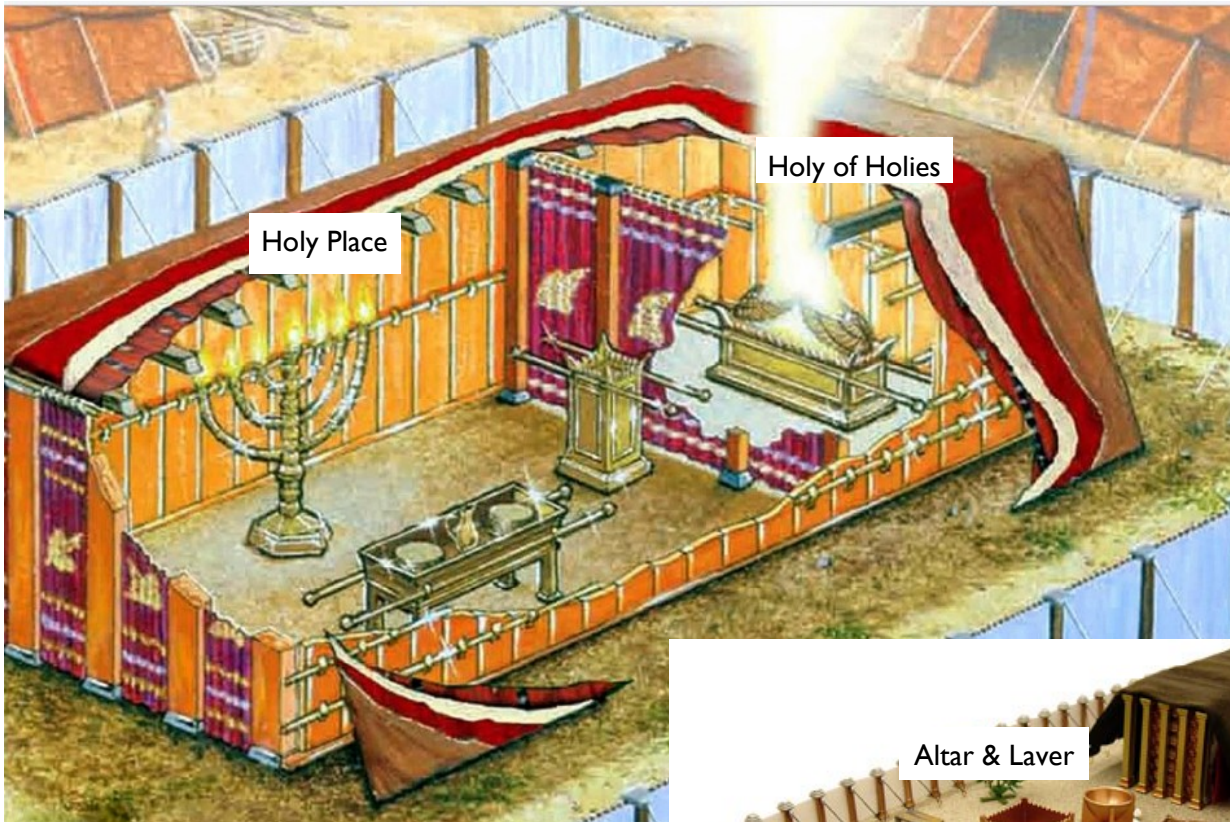
4. What are our priestly duties?

5. What has stuck you the most in this study?



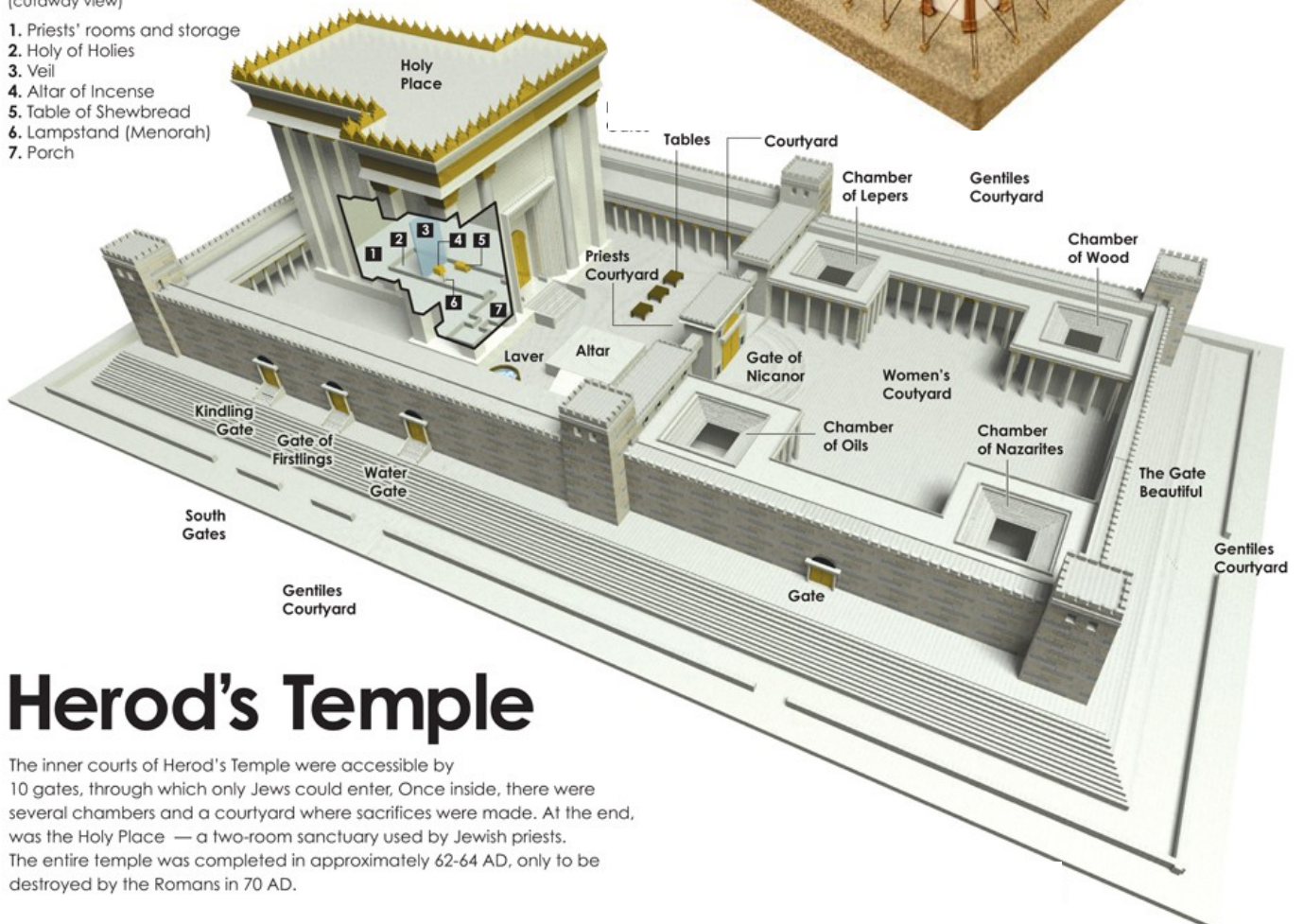


## Diagrams of Tabernacle and Temple



### INSIDE THE HOLY PLACE (cutaway view)

1. Priests' rooms and storage
2. Holy of Holies
3. Veil
4. Altar of Incense
5. Table of Shewbread
6. Lampstand (Menorah)
7. Porch



# Herod's Temple

The inner courts of Herod's Temple were accessible by 10 gates, through which only Jews could enter. Once inside, there were several chambers and a courtyard where sacrifices were made. At the end, was the Holy Place — a two-room sanctuary used by Jewish priests. The entire temple was completed in approximately 62-64 AD, only to be destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.