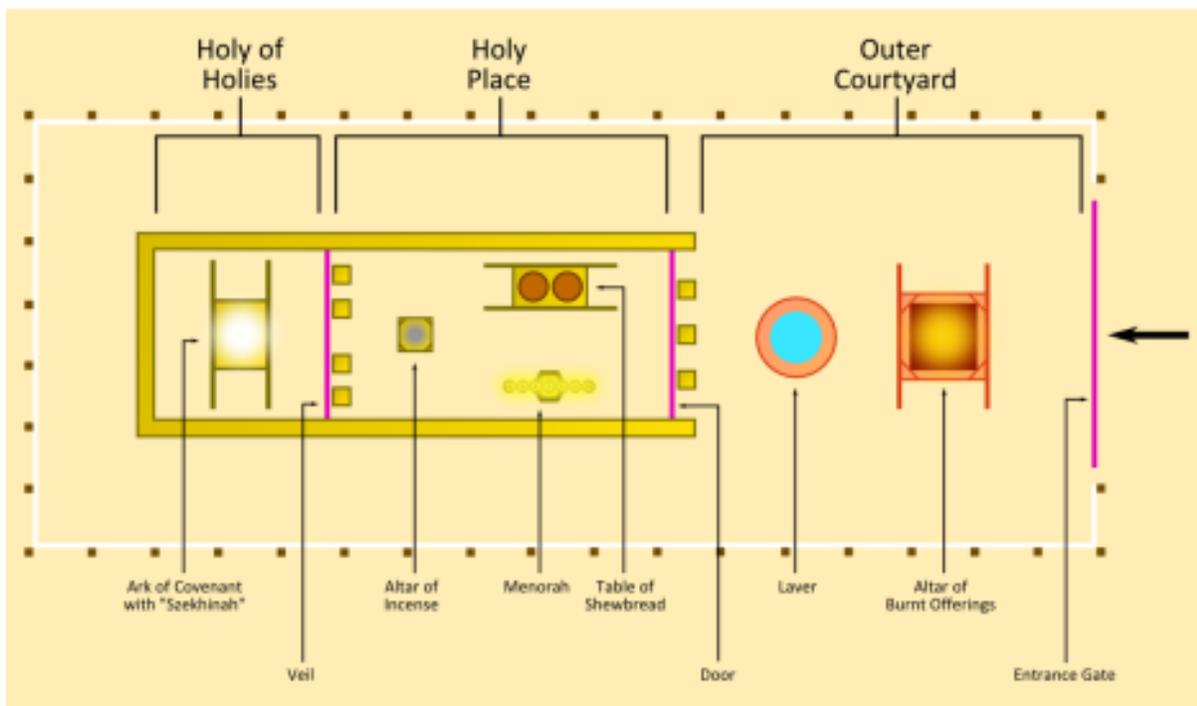


## The Tabernacle of the Lord

**Exodus 25:1-9** <sup>1</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, that **they bring me an offering**: of every man **that giveth it willingly with his heart** ye shall take my offering. <sup>3</sup> And this *is* the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass, <sup>4</sup> And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' *hair*, <sup>5</sup> And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, <sup>6</sup> Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense, <sup>7</sup> Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate. <sup>8</sup> And **let them make me a sanctuary**; that **I may dwell among them**. <sup>9</sup> **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*.



**HOW CHRIST FULFILLED THE SYMBOLISM OF THE TABERNACLE**  
(See Deeper Study—Hebrews 9:11-14 for more discussion)

- I. THE SYMBOLIC LESSONS CONCERNING THE **ARK OR CHEST**  
[Exodus 25:10-22](#); [35:12](#); [37:1-5](#); [39:35](#); [40:3](#), [20-21](#)
- II. THE SYMBOLIC LESSONS CONCERNING THE **MERCY SEAT**  
[Exodus 25:17-21](#); [35:12](#); [37:6-9](#); [39:35](#); [40:3](#), [20](#)
- III. THE SYMBOLIC LESSONS CONCERNING THE **TABLE OF SHOWBREAD**  
[Exodus 25:23-30](#); [35:13](#); [37:10-16](#); [39:36](#); [40:4](#), [22-23](#)
- IV. THE SYMBOLIC LESSONS CONCERNING THE **LAMPSTAND**  
[Exodus 25:31-40](#); [27:20-21](#); [35:14](#); [37:17-24](#); [39:37](#); [40:4](#), [24-25](#)
- V. THE SYMBOLIC LESSONS CONCERNING THE **SANCTUARY**  
[Exodus 26:1-30](#); [35:17-18](#), [23](#), [25-26](#); [36:8-34](#); [39:33-34](#); [40:17-19](#)
- VI. THE SYMBOLIC LESSONS CONCERNING THE **INNER VEIL**  
[Exodus 26:31-35](#); [35:12](#); [36:35-36](#); [39:34](#); [40:3](#), [21](#)
- VII. THE SYMBOLIC LESSONS CONCERNING THE **OUTER VEIL**  
[Exodus 26:36-37](#); [35:15](#); [36:37-38](#); [39:38](#); [40:5](#), [22](#)
- VIII. THE SYMBOLIC LESSONS CONCERNING THE **BRAZEN ALTAR**  
[Exodus 27:1-8](#); [35:16](#); [38:1-7](#); [39:39](#); [40:6](#), [29](#)
- IX. THE SYMBOLIC LESSONS CONCERNING THE **WALLS OF THE TABERNACLE**  
[Exodus 27:9-19](#); [35:17](#); [36:20-34](#); [38:9-20](#); [39:33](#), [40](#); [40:8](#), [33](#)
- X. THE SYMBOLIC LESSONS CONCERNING THE **DOOR OR GATE**  
[Exodus 27:16](#); [35:17](#); [38:18-19](#); [39:40](#); [40:8](#), [33](#)
- XI. THE SYMBOLIC LESSONS CONCERNING THE **ALTAR OF INCENSE**  
[Exodus 30:1-10](#); [35:15](#); [37:25-29](#); [39:38](#); [40:5](#), [26-27](#)
- XII. THE SYMBOLIC LESSONS CONCERNING THE **BRONZE WASH BASIN**  
[Exodus 30:17-21](#); [35:16](#); [38:8](#); [39:39](#); [40:7](#), [30-32](#)

The **Tabernacle was the worship center of the Israelites during their wilderness wanderings**. The Tabernacle was actually a large, beautiful, **portable tent**, built so it could be easily pitched and taken down. The Tabernacle was the **worship center of the Israelites for a long, long time**: almost **five hundred years from Moses to David**—until **Solomon's temple was built**. . A large portion of God's Holy Word is dedicated to the Tabernacle: *fifty entire chapters*. In the New Testament, the Tabernacle is discussed in four of the thirteen chapters in the book of Hebrews, over 30% of the entire book.

The **Tabernacle symbolizes or pictures the ministry of Jesus Christ**. 1)The materials used to construct the Tabernacle are pictures of God's redemption in Jesus Christ. 2)The various furnishings show God's great plan of salvation for the repentant sinner. 3)The Tabernacle of Moses reveals every aspect of Jesus Christ and His work as the Word who became flesh and dwelt ("tabernacled") among us ([John 1:14](#)).

### 3 Tabernacle Sections

The Courtyard – This is the first section that you would be at upon reaching the gate of the tabernacle. Just being at the tabernacle itself meant that you were at the place to meet God Himself. But first you needed to enter into the Courtyard through the gate/door.

01. The Gate or Door - There is only one way to enter God's presence; there are not many ways as most men think and practice. God has to be approached. No person shall ever live with God unless he approaches God.

#### How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the Door or Gate:

a. Jesus Christ is the door, the only door, that a man can enter to be saved.

"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (John 10:9).

b. Jesus Christ is the way, the only way by which a man can come to the Father.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

In the courtyard there were two objects that required actions by the priests before the priest could enter the holy place. These objects were:

02. The Bronze Lavar - This is where the priests were required to wash their hands and feet, before moving closer to God. This act of cleansing is necessary to get closer to the Holy and Righteous God. A person cannot enter God's presence before he is cleansed and made pure. A person cannot serve God until he is cleansed and made pure. A person must be continually cleansed and made pure in order to continually serve God.

#### How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the Bronze Wash Basin:

The Wash Basin was a symbol of Christ. God cleanses us and forgives our sins through the blood of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, through His death and His death alone.

**John 13:5-9** <sup>5</sup> After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded. <sup>6</sup> Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. <sup>8</sup> Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also *my hands and my head*.

**Ephesians 5:25-26** <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; <sup>26</sup> That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

**Isaiah 1:16-18** <sup>16</sup> Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; <sup>17</sup> Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. <sup>18</sup> Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

03. **The Bronze Altar** - The altar is where sacrifices were made. The priests sacrificed animals without defect to the one true God. Substitutionary sacrifice is necessary for the forgiveness of sins. There is no forgiveness without the shed blood of a sacrifice. There is no way to approach God—to be saved—other than through the death of a substitute.

**Hebrews 9:22**<sup>22</sup> And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

**How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the Brazen Altar:**

a. Christ is the Lamb of God.

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God**, which taketh away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

b. Christ is the Lamb brought to the slaughter.

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought **as a lamb to the slaughter**, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7).

c. Christ is our Passover sacrificed for us.

"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. **For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us**" (1 Cor. 5:7).

**The Holy Place** – This is the section of the tabernacle that could be entered from the courtyard upon proper washing and sacrificing. The **Holy Place is a location of deeper communion with God.** One is closer to His presence in the Holy Place than in the courtyard. Once again, those **people communing with God in the Holy Place have already achieved salvation.** They are **learning to love God in fullness.** They have separated the tradition out from the truth and have discarded any tradition that is not in-line with the Bible. This is done by sacrificing our traditions on the alter and cleansing ourselves with God's truth in the lavar. They seek righteousness and don't care if they stand-out in the crowd for it. They desire to carry-out His Word and don't get caught-up in false doctrine, but test everything. They know and are obedient to His Word. They are also not greedy after the things of this world, but rely on Him for sustenance. They also offer up prayers regarding the things of God and are continually washing and repenting. The objects in the Holy Place are:

**01. The candlestick (menorah)** - The Lampstand taught that a **person needs light and illumination in order to know God** and serve God. The Lampstand pictures **God's people (Israel) as the light of the world**, as God's witness to the world. The Lampstand points to **Jesus Christ as the Light of the world.** The Lampstand points to **God as the Light of the world**, the Light that shows man how to approach and worship Him. It was God who planned and designed the Lampstand, who showed the Israelites exactly how to approach and worship Him. He does the same for us.

**Exodus 25:31-40** <sup>31</sup> And thou shalt **make a candlestick of pure gold**: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the same. <sup>32</sup> And **six branches shall come out of the sides of it**; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side:

#### **How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the Lampstand:**

**Jesus Christ is the true Lampstand.** Christ came into the world to give light and illumination so that we might know and serve God. As the Light of the world, Christ fulfills the symbolism of the Lampstand. Christ and Christ alone is able to bring people out of the darkness of sin and death and give them the light of salvation and eternal life.

*"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the **light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not** [can never extinguish it]" (John 1:4-5).*

*"The same [John the Baptist] came for a witness, **to bear witness of the Light**, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was **sent to bear witness of that Light.** **That [Jesus Christ] was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world**" (John 1:7-9).*

*"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life**" (John 8:12).*

*"For God, **who commanded the light to shine out of darkness**, hath shined in our hearts, **to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ**" (2 Cor. 4:6).*

**02. Table of shewbread** - The twelve loaves of showbread represented an offering from each tribe of Israel, an offering of thanksgiving to God. The twelve loaves also represented the people's dependence upon God. The people were to acknowledge their dependence upon God, acknowledge that they needed His provision. The twelve loaves also acknowledged their trust in God to meet their physical needs. The showbread also pointed to Jesus Christ as the Bread of Life as the Living Bread that came out of heaven to satisfy the hunger of a person's soul. The showbread pointed to the spiritual needs of man. This is seen in that the showbread sat in the Tabernacle itself, the very place where spiritual needs were met. This truth was dictated by both God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Exodus 25:23, 30** <sup>23</sup> Thou shalt also **make a table of shittim wood**: two cubits *shall be* the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. <sup>30</sup> **And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me alway.**

**How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the table of showbread:**

⇒ Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life, the nourishment upon which man must feed in order to know and worship God. (John Chapter 6)

"I am that bread of life" (John 6:48).

"For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world" (John 6:33).

"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).

"This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (John 6:50-51).

"This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth me, even he shall live by me" (John 6:58).

**03. The Altar of Incense** - The altar was the place where sweet incense was offered up to the LORD every morning and evening. The High Priest burned incense every morning when he tended the lamps and every evening when he lit them (Exodus 30:7). This symbolized the critical importance of praying every morning and evening. The Altar of Incense had a permanent incense ascending up to the LORD (Exodus 30:8). This symbolized two things. 1) There is the symbol of the permanent intercession of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is living forever—in the very presence of God—to make intercession for us. He died and arose from the dead for this very purpose: to stand before God as the great Intercessor for us. 2) There is the symbol that believers are to pray morning and evening, to pray always, to develop an unbroken communion with God, never to cease being in a spirit of prayer.

**How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the Altar:**

Christ is always praying, living and walking in an unbroken communion with God the Father. Christ intercedes for God's people.

"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine" ([John 17:9](#)).

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" ([Romans 8:34](#)).

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest [Intercessor], that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" ([Hebrews 4:14-15](#)).

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" ([Hebrews 7:25](#)).

**3. The Holy of Holies**—The innermost part of the tabernacle is called the Holy of Holies. This is where God Himself dwells. The high priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies once a year to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant, which was inside. Others who tried to enter were burned because God is an all-consuming fire. However, it is important to note that those who dwell with Him at a deep level are protected by God's fire (high priest, also see Daniel 3).

**01 The Ark of the Covenant** -The Ark was the place—the very special place—where God met with His people ([Exodus 25:22](#)). **God's presence was manifested in a very special way above the Ark of the Covenant.** The people knew this. Therefore, when they needed a special sense of God's presence—when they needed to feel a special closeness to God—they knew where to go. They went to the Tabernacle, the ground surrounding the Tabernacle, worshipping and seeking forgiveness by offering sacrifice to the Lord. The Ark was the place of mercy, the place where God's mercy was clearly pictured ([Exodus 25:22](#)). God's mercy was pictured in the Mercy Seat that sat upon the Ark. (See [The Mercy Seat Chart](#).) The people were to learn all about the Mercy Seat and the blood sprinkled upon it. They were to learn that the blood made atonement for their sins, reconciled them to God. They were to learn that the mercy of God was to be showered upon them because of the blood, because they believed and trusted the blood of the sacrifice to cover their sins. The Ark was the place where God instructed and guided His people ([Exodus 25:22](#)). The Ark was to be the symbol of the throne of God. His divine presence was apparently manifested in a very special way right above the empty space of the Mercy Seat, right between the cherubim. From that position, God promised to speak to His people, to give them His commandments, instructions, and guidance; therefore, when God's people needed help or guidance, they were to come to the Tabernacle. The Ark of God held God's testimony, the two tablets of the covenant, that is, the Ten Commandments ([Exodus 25:21](#)). Therefore, man is to keep the Ten Commandments

### **Facts of the Ark**

It was **built like a chest or trunk**, 3 feet 9 inches long, 2 feet 3 inches wide, and 2 feet 3 inches high. It was **completely covered with gold, inside as well as outside**. It had **two gold rings on two sides** so that a pole could be run through them for carrying the ark from place to place. The **lid or top of the ark was called the mercy seat**. It was a slab of pure gold. Arising from both ends of the ark were **two angelic creatures called cherubim** who reached over and shadowed the mercy seat. The **very presence of God was supposed to rest upon the mercy seat between the two cherubim**.

The ark contained three items: the 1) tables of the law or ten commandments, 2) the golden pot of manna, and 3) Aaron's rod. **The Ark of the Covenant contained three objects which were also indicative of the sections of the tabernacle.**

**A. Stone Tablets**— signify the Torah or God's instructions. These correlate to the outer courtyard. They are a physical sign for those who are entering God's territory or courtyard.

**B. Manna**— signifies the sustenance that God provided His children during the exodus (Exodus 16). This relates to the daily nourishment of the Holy Place.

**C. Budded Rod**— The staff of Aaron was a sign of God's power to vindicate His name and His servant ([Numbers 17:10](#)). Remember that the priest was a symbol of Christ or of the minister. The grumblers, unbelievers, and rebellious of the world—both within and without the church—must heed the warning: God has the power to vindicate His own name and the name of His servant. The staff of Aaron was a sign of God's power to judge all who grumble against Him and His dear servant. God has the power to stop and wipe out all rebellion and grumbling. The budding staff of Aaron stands **as a warning to all who grumble and rebel**: they need not die. They can live if they will only stop their grumbling and rebellion against Him and His servant. This was the very reason the budding staff was being placed as a memorial in the Ark of the Covenant.

**How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the Ark of the Covenant:**

**a. Jesus Christ promised to be with His people always.**

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:20).

**b. Jesus Christ shed His own blood and sprinkled it on the Mercy Seat, washing us from our sins.**

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (1 Peter 3:18).

"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev. 1:5).

**c. Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd, the One who leads, protects, and guides His people, the precious sheep of His pasture.**

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (John 10:11).

**d. Jesus Christ kept the Law of the covenant that was kept in the Ark, kept the Law perfectly, without sin.**

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

**02 The Mercy Seat** - There was the picture that points toward the finished work of Christ. The **High Priest was never allowed to sit on the Mercy Seat, no matter how tired or weary he became**. In fact, the priests were always working when in the Tabernacle. Their priestly work was never finished: they were continually offering sacrifice and ministering. There was the picture that pointed toward God covering the law with His mercy. No person can keep the law, not perfectly. And perfection is required in order to live in God's holy presence. How then can we ever become acceptable to God, be allowed to live in heaven with Him? **By His mercy**. God's mercy has been given us through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God gave His Son to be the *Perfect Sacrifice* for our sins. The mercy of God shown us in **Jesus Christ covers the law, covers our sin**, our failure to keep the law. When we trust Jesus Christ as our Savior, the mercy of God covers all the law—all the accusations of the law against us, all our failure to keep the law, all the guilt that gnaws at our hearts and convicts us

**Romans 8:3** <sup>3</sup> For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

### How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the Mercy Seat:

a. When **Jesus Christ offered Himself as the Perfect Sacrifice to God**, His work was finished. His sacrifice for the sins of people was perfect: no other sacrifice was ever needed. Therefore, Christ was able to sit down on the right hand of God's throne.

b. **God's mercy has been given us through His Son**, the Lord Jesus Christ. God gave His Son to be the *Perfect Sacrifice for our sins*. The mercy of God shown us in Jesus Christ covers the law, covers our sin, our failure to keep the law. When we trust Jesus Christ as our Savior, the mercy of God covers all the law—all the accusations of the law against us, all our failure to keep the law, all the guilt that gnaws at our hearts and convicts us

c. Jesus Christ **shed His blood and sprinkled it on the Mercy Seat**, washing us from our sins. *"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev. 1:5).*

*"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God" ([Romans 3:23-25](#)).*

*"And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God" ([Hebrews 10:11-12](#)).*

**Revelation 21:1-3** <sup>1</sup> And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. <sup>2</sup> And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.



## The Tabernacle of the Lord (Key Verses)

**Exodus 25:1-2** <sup>1</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, that **they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart** ye shall take my offering.

### The Tabernacle

**Exodus 25:8-9** <sup>8</sup> And **let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.**

<sup>9</sup> 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*.

### The Ark of the Covenant

**Exodus 25:10** <sup>10</sup> And they shall make an ark *of* shittim wood: two cubits and a half *shall be* the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof.

### The Mercy Seat

**Exodus 25:17-22** <sup>17</sup> And thou shalt make a mercy seat *of* pure gold: two cubits and a half *shall be* the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. <sup>18</sup> And thou shalt make two cherubims *of* gold, *of* beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat.

<sup>19</sup> And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: *even* of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. <sup>20</sup> And the cherubims shall stretch forth *their* wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces *shall look* one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. <sup>21</sup> And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. <sup>22</sup> 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.

### The Veils

**Exodus 26:1** <sup>1</sup> Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle *with* ten curtains *of* fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: *with* cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them.

The veil for the ark (Holy of Holies)

**Exodus 26:31** <sup>31</sup> And thou shalt make a veil *of* blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made:

**Exodus 26:33-35** <sup>33</sup> And thou shalt hang up the veil under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall divide unto you between the holy *place* and the most holy. <sup>34</sup> And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy *place*. <sup>35</sup> And thou shalt set the table without the veil, and the candlestick over against the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south: and thou shalt put the table on the north side. \

### Altar of burnt Offering

**Exodus 27:1**<sup>1</sup> And thou shalt make an altar *of* shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof *shall be* three cubits.

### The Court of the Tabernacle

**Exodus 27:9**<sup>9</sup> And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle: for the south side southward *there shall be* hangings for the court *of* fine twined linen of an hundred cubits long for one side:

### The Oil for the lamp

**Exodus 27:20**<sup>20</sup> And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.

### The High Priest

**Exodus 28:1**<sup>1</sup> And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, *even* Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

### Altar of Incense

**Exodus 30:1**<sup>1</sup> And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: *of* shittim wood shalt thou make it.

### The Ransom of Souls

**Exodus 30:11-16**<sup>11</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,<sup>12</sup> When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when *thou* numberest them.<sup>13</sup> This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel *is* twenty gerahs:) an half shekel *shall be* the offering of the LORD.<sup>14</sup> Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the LORD.<sup>15</sup> **The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.**<sup>16</sup> And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.

### The brazen Laver

**Exodus 30:17-19**<sup>17</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,<sup>18</sup> Thou shalt also make a laver *of* brass, and his foot *also of* brass, to wash *withal*: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein.<sup>19</sup> For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat:

### Holy Anointing Oil

**Exodus 30:22-25** <sup>22</sup> Moreover the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>23</sup> Take thou also unto thee principal spices, of pure myrrh five hundred *shekels*, and of sweet cinnamon half so much, *even* two hundred and fifty *shekels*, and of sweet calamus two hundred and fifty *shekels*, <sup>24</sup> And of cassia five hundred *shekels*, after the shekel of the sanctuary, and of oil olive an hin: <sup>25</sup> And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil.

### The Sabbath

**Exodus 31:12-13** <sup>12</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>13</sup> Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it *is* a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that *ye* may know that I *am* the LORD that doth sanctify you.

### The Law

**Exodus 31:18** <sup>18</sup> And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

## DEEPER STUDY #1

**Hebrews 9:11-14** <sup>11</sup> But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; <sup>12</sup> Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*. <sup>13</sup> For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: <sup>14</sup> How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

**Tabernacle:** the tabernacle was of God, not of man. God is the One who instructed Moses to build the tabernacle (see [picture](#)):

**"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense. Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate. And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them" ([Exodus 25:1-8](#)).**

The writer to the Hebrews confirms that God was the Architect of the tabernacle:

**"The true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" ([Hebrews 8:2](#)).**

**"Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount" ([Hebrews 8:5](#)).**

Several facts should be noted about the tabernacle.

### HEBREWES: I. The Tabernacle Complex.

#### A. The Walls of the Tabernacle.

1. The facts:

⇒ They were 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 7 1/2 feet high.

⇒ They were made out of fine twined linen woven by needlework. The color was white.

⇒ They were supported by 60 pillars, 20 down each side, and 10 on each end. The pillars were set in sockets of brass and had tops of silver.

2. What the walls taught:

⇒ The wall of white linen symbolized the righteousness and holiness of God. He is so righteous and holy, so white and pure, that He is set apart from the world.

⇒ When a person looks at God, he must see that He dwells in righteousness and holiness.

(When a person looked at white walls they were to be reminded that God was holy.)

⇒ When a person approaches God, he must approach Him in reverence and awe, adoration and worship. He must praise and thank God that God allows him to enter His presence.

3. How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the walls:

"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](#)).

"And that ye put on the new man [Christ], which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" ([Ephes. 4:24](#)).

"And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" ([Col. 3:10](#)).

## **B. The Only Door or Gate into the Tabernacle.**

1. The facts:

⇒ It was on the east side.

⇒ It was 30 feet wide and 7 1/2 feet high.

⇒ It was made out of fine twined linen woven together by needlework. The color of the linen was blue, purple, and scarlet.

2. What the door or gate taught:

⇒ There is only one way to enter God's presence; there are not many ways as most men think and practice.

⇒ God has to be approached. No person shall ever live with God unless he approaches God.

3. How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the door of the tabernacle:

"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" ([John 10:9](#)).

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" ([John 14:6](#)).

## **C. The Brazen Altar in the Courtyard.**

1. The facts:

⇒ It was 7-1/2 feet square and 4-1/2 feet high.

⇒ It was made of acacia wood covered with brass.

⇒ It was a hollow box-like structure with a brass grate across its top. There were four horns, one arising from each corner, for tying the sacrificial animals down.

2. What the altar taught:

⇒ Substitutionary sacrifice is necessary for the forgiveness of sins.

⇒ There is no forgiveness without the shedding of the blood of a sacrifice.

⇒ There is no way to approach God—to be saved—other than through the death of a substitute.

3. How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the brazen altar:

"[I] give my life a ransom for many" ([Mark 10:45](#)).

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" ([Isaiah 53:7](#)).

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" ([John 1:29](#)).

"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us" ([1 Cor. 5:7](#)).

"But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" ([1 Peter 1:19](#)).

**"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" ([1 John 3:16](#)).**

#### **D. The Laver in the Courtyard.**

1. The facts:

⇒ Its size is not given.

⇒ It was made of brass.

⇒ It contained the water which the priests used to wash and cleanse themselves before they served God and carried out their ministry for the Lord.

2. What the laver taught:

⇒ A person *cannot enter God's presence* before he is cleansed and made pure.

⇒ A person *cannot serve God* until he is cleansed and made pure.

⇒ A person must be continually cleansed and made pure in order to *continually serve God*.

3. How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the laver:

**"If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me" ([John 13:8](#)).**

**"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" ([Ephes. 5:25-26](#)).**

**"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" ([Hebrews 9:14](#)).**

**"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" ([1 John 1:7](#)).**

**"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" ([1 John 3:2-3](#)).**

**"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" ([Rev. 1:5](#)).**

## **II. The Sanctuary of the Tabernacle.**

1. The facts:

⇒ The walls and roof separated some forms of worshipping God apart from other forms.

⇒ The walls were made out of fine woven linen: the colors were blue, purple, and scarlet.

⇒ The walls were supported by 48 wood beams 15 feet high and 2 feet 3 inches wide. The beams were over-laid with pure gold. They rested in sockets of silver. There was a wood center beam which ran through the outside connecting rods.

⇒ The sanctuary was divided into two rooms; the first or outer room was the Holy Place and the second or inner room was the Holy of Holies or the Most Holy Place. (These are discussed as Roman Numeral II and III.)

2. What the walls and roof taught:

⇒ There are different forms of worship, certain steps to take in approaching God.

⇒ There are some initial steps to take in approaching God before one approaches Him in the most intimate worship.

⇒ God is righteous and holy and completely separate from man, even from the religious who move about and minister in walls of religion.

⇒ God must be approached in reverence and awe and ever so carefully by men, even by the religious who are involved in His service.

3. How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the walls and roof:

**"By whom [Christ] also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" ([Romans 5:2](#)).**

**"For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father" ([Ephes. 2:18](#)).**

**"In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him" ([Ephes. 3:12](#)).**

**"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" ([Hebrews 10:22](#)).**

**"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace [of our Lord Jesus Christ], whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" ([Hebrews 12:28](#)).**

### **III. The Holy Place (The First Room or Outer Sanctuary).**

#### **A. The Outer Veil or Curtain Door.**

1. The facts:

⇒ It was made out of fine twined linen. The colors were blue, purple, and scarlet.

⇒ It was supported on five pillars made out of acacia wood. The pillars were overlaid by gold and set in sockets of brass.

⇒ It was the only opening into the Holy Place.

2. What the outer veil or door taught:

⇒ A person cannot just rush into the presence of a holy God; he cannot show disrespect to a holy God.

⇒ There is only one way into the deeper things of God.

⇒ There is a deeper knowledge of God, much more to knowing and experiencing God's presence than just making sacrifice and receiving forgiveness of sins. (Remember: offerings for sin were made at the brazen altar in the courtyard. But there was more than this, more than forgiveness of sins, in knowing and worshipping God. There was worship in the Holy Place and even in the inner sanctuary of God's presence, in the Most Holy Place or the Holy of Holies.)

3. How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the veil: the way to a deeper knowledge of God, to the deeper things of God, is through the Lord Jesus Christ and through Him alone.

**"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" ([John 17:3](#)).**

**"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" ([1 Cor. 1:30](#)).**

**"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ" ([Ephes. 4:15](#)).**

**"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death" ([Phil. 3:10](#)).**

**"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God" ([Hebrews 6:1](#)).**

**"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious" ([1 Peter 2:2-3](#)).**

**"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature [of Jesus Christ], having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity" ([2 Peter 1:4-7](#)).**

**"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever" ([2 Peter 3:18](#)).**

## **B. The Golden Lampstand or Candlestick.**

1. The facts:

⇒ It was made out of *pure gold* and weighed over 100 pounds.

⇒ It was a central shaft with three branches on each side to provide seven lamps. The branches were formed into the beautiful shape of a flowering almond branch.

⇒ It burned pure olive oil.

⇒ It was a perpetual light, always burning. It was never allowed to burn out.

⇒ It provided the only light in the room. There were no windows in the Holy Place.

2. What the lampstand or candlestick taught:

⇒ A person needs light and illumination in order to know God and to serve God.

⇒ A person could never know God or serve God without light and illumination.

⇒ Without light and illumination a person would be in pitch darkness, totally unable to know and serve God.

3. How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the lampstand or candlestick: Christ and Christ alone provides the light and illumination to know and serve God.

**"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" ([John 8:12](#)).**

**"In him was life; and the life was the light of men" ([John 1:4](#)).**

**"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" ([2 Cor. 4:6](#)).**

**"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light" ([Ephes. 5:14](#)).**

## **C. The Table of the Showbread.**

1. The facts:

⇒ It was a small table, only 3 feet long, 1-1/2 feet wide, and 2 feet 3 inches high.

⇒ It was made out of acacia wood and covered with gold. It had a ring at each corner so that a pole could be inserted down both sides and the table transported from place to place.

⇒ It was for the purpose of displaying 12 loaves of bread neatly arranged in 2 rows of 6 loaves each. The loaves were liberally sprinkled with frankincense. Fresh loaves of bread were placed on the table every Sabbath and the frankincense was removed from the old loaves and burned as a special offering to God.

⇒ The priests were allowed to eat the old loaves if they wished.

2. What the table of showbread taught:

⇒ God and the worship of Him is the bread of life.

⇒ God and the worship of Him is the nourishment that man really needs.

- ⇒ Man must have the bread of God's presence and worship.
- ⇒ The frankincense symbolized that God was pleased with man worshipping Him.
- 3. How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the table of showbread: He is the Bread of Life, the nourishment upon which man must feed in order to know and worship God.

**"I am that bread of life" ([John 6:48](#)).**

**"For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world" ([John 6:33](#)).**

**"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](#)).**

**"This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" ([John 6:50-51](#)).**

**"This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth me, even he shall live by me" ([John 6:58](#)).**

#### **D. The Altar of Incense.**

##### 1. The facts:

- ⇒ It was a small altar, 1-1/2 feet square and 3 feet high.
- ⇒ It was made out of acacia wood and was overlaid with gold. It also had rings for poles so that it could be carried about from place to place.
- ⇒ It was for the purpose of burning incense to God.
- ⇒ The incense was a perpetual offering sent up to God. It was never allowed to stop burning.
- ⇒ Once a year the blood of the atonement sacrifice was sprinkled upon it.

##### 2. What the altar of incense taught:

- ⇒ The incense symbolized the prayers of the people being offered up to God.
- ⇒ Prayer and intercession are essential for worshipping God.
- ⇒ Prayer and intercession should be continually offered up to God. A person should be praying always. There should be unbroken prayer and communion with God.
- ⇒ The priest and minister must constantly intercede for God's people.

##### 3. How Christ fulfilled the altar of incense:

- ⇒ Christ prayed always, living and walking in an unbroken communion with God the Father.
- ⇒ Christ interceded for God's people.

**"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine" ([John 17:9](#)).**

**"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" ([Romans 8:34](#)).**

**"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" ([Hebrews 7:25](#)).**

### **IV. The Holy of Holies or the Most Holy Place (The Inner Room or Inner Sanctuary)**

#### **A. The Inner Veil or Curtain Door.**

##### 1. The facts:

⇒ It was made out of fine twined linen. The colors were blue, purple, and scarlet with figures of cherubims embroidered into the linen.

⇒ It was supported on four pillars made out of acacia wood. The pillars were covered by gold and set in sockets of brass. The curtain was held up by golden hooks.

⇒ It separated the Most Holy Place, the symbol of God's presence, from all other acts of worship.

⇒ No one was allowed into the Holy of Holies except the High Priest, and he could enter only once a year, on the Day of Atonement.

2. What the inner veil taught:

⇒ Fellowship and communion with God Himself is the supreme act of worship.

⇒ God is holy and righteous, far, far removed from man and his world—totally set apart and separated from the pollution and uncleanness of man.

⇒ God must be approached ever so carefully—in reverence, awe, and fear.

⇒ There is only one way to God, only one door into His presence.

3. How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the inner veil or inner door:

⇒ Christ and Christ alone is the way to God, to knowing God and to experiencing the presence, fellowship and communion of God.

**"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" ([Hebrews 2:17](#)).**

**"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. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" ([Hebrews 4:14-15](#)).**

**"[Christ] entereth into that within the veil; wither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus" ([Hebrews 6:19-20](#)).**

**"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 9:24](#)).**

**"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh" ([Hebrews 10:19-20](#)).**

## **B. The Ark of the Covenant.**

1. The facts:

⇒ It was made of acacia wood.

⇒ It was built like a chest or trunk, 3 feet 9 inches long, 2 feet 3 inches wide, and 2 feet 3 inches high.

⇒ It was completely covered with gold, inside as well as outside.

⇒ It had two gold rings on two sides so that a pole could be run through them for carrying the ark from place to place.

⇒ The lid or top of the ark was called the *mercy seat*. It was a slab of pure gold. Arising from both ends of the ark were two angelic creatures called cherubim who reached over and shadowed the mercy seat. The very presence of God was supposed to rest upon the mercy seat between the two cherubim.

**"And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim 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](#)).**

⇒ The ark contained three items: the tables of the law or ten commandments ([Exodus 25:16f](#); [Deut. 9:9](#); [Deut. 10:5](#)), the golden pot of manna ([Exodus 16:32-34](#)), and Aaron's rod ([Numbers 17:1-11](#)).

**"And Moses said, This is the thing which the LORD commandeth, Fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt. And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, 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" ([Exodus 16:32-34](#)).**

⇒ It was upon the mercy seat that the blood of the atonement sacrifice was sprinkled symbolizing that God could be approached only through the sacrifice of a life for sins.

2. What the ark of the covenant taught:

⇒ God can be approached only through the substitutionary sacrifice of a pure life.

⇒ A person is acceptable to God only through the substitutionary sacrifice of a pure life.

⇒ Sins can be forgiven only through the substitutionary blood of a pure sacrifice.

3. How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat: He became the pure, sinless Lamb of God who sacrificed His life for man.

**"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" ([1 John 2:2](#)).**

**"Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father" ([Galatians 1:4](#)).**

**"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour" ([Ephes. 5:2](#)).**

**"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" ([Titus 2:14](#)).**

**"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" ([1 Peter 2:24](#)).**

**"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" ([1 Peter 3:18](#)).**

**"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" ([Rev. 1:5](#)).**

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