

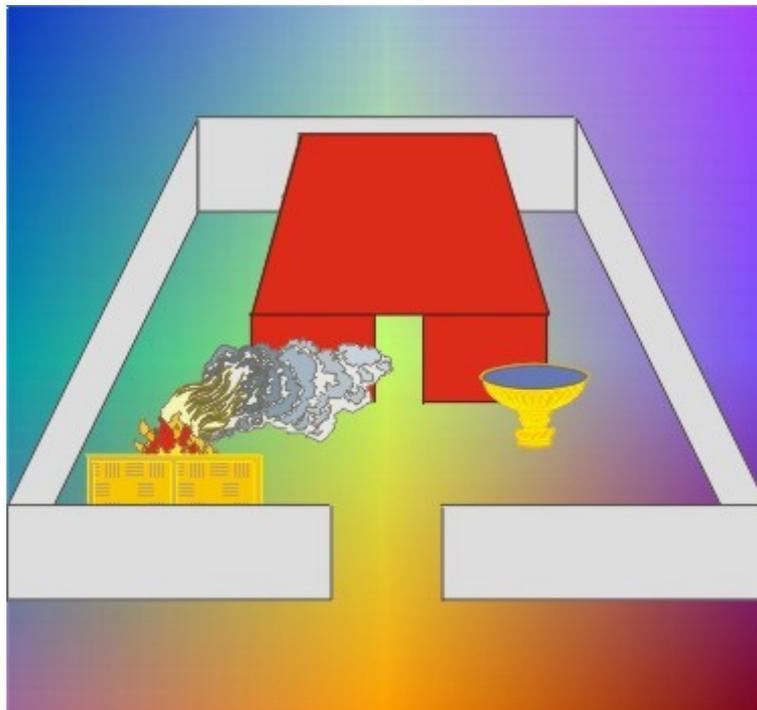
# The Tabernacle of Moses

Tabernacle means 'tent'.

The plans for the tabernacle were given to Moses.  
He had to follow those plans exactly.

"Our ancestors had the Tent of God's presence with them in the desert. It had been made as God had told Moses to make it, according to the pattern that Moses had been shown." [Act 7:44]

When he was about to build the Sacred Tent, God told him,  
"Be sure to make everything according to the pattern you were shown on the mountain."  
[Heb 8:5]



This desert tabernacle was only a shadow of real things.

Firstly, of the heavenly tabernacle.

"Christ did not go into a Holy Place made by human hands, which was a copy of the real one. He went into heaven itself, where he now appears on our behalf in the presence of God." [Heb 9:24]

"He serves as high priest in the Most Holy Place, that is, in the real tent which was put up by the Lord, not by human hands." [Heb 8:2]

Secondly, of the believer.

"Surely you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you!"  
[1Co 3:16]

"Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and who was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourselves but to God." [1Co 6:19]

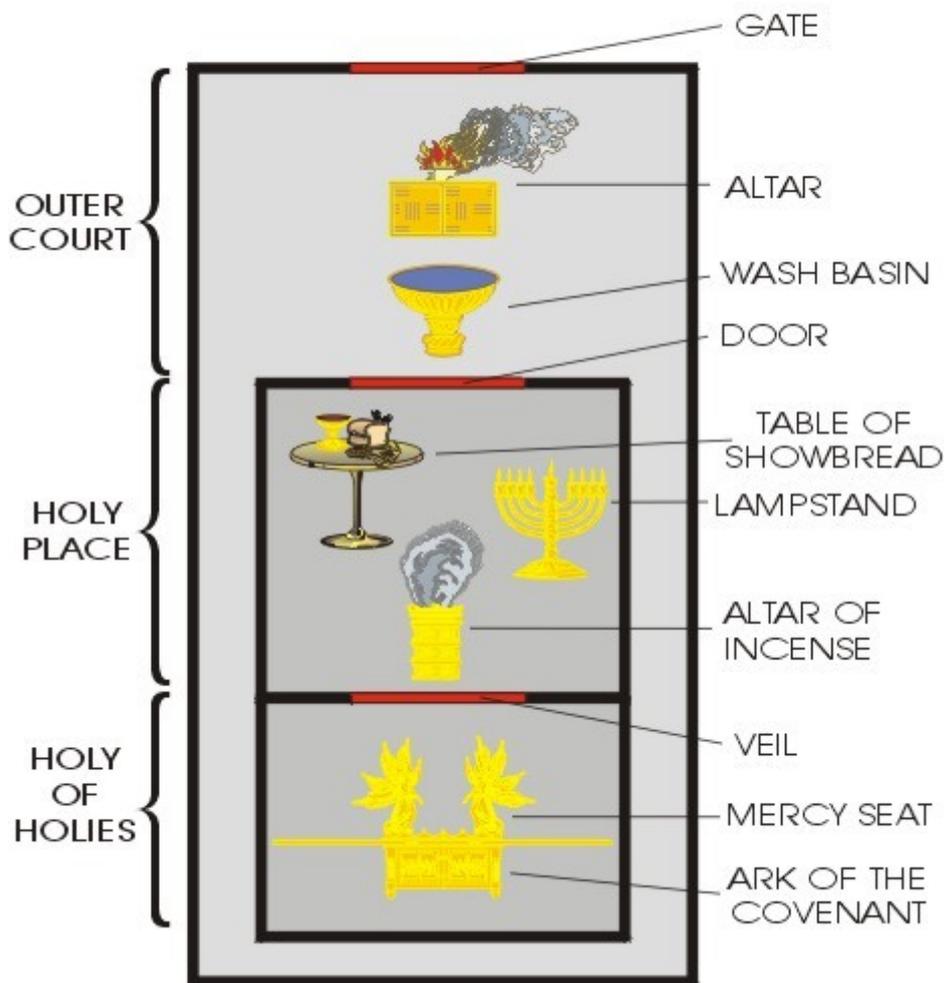
### Thirdly, of Christ Himself

Jesus answered, "Tear down this Temple, and in three days I will build it again." "Are you going to build it again in three days?" they asked him. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple!" But the temple Jesus was speaking about was his body. [Joh 2:19-21]

It is a divine structure

The tabernacle is not only a picture of the believer and of the Lord Jesus Christ, but is also a parallel of the believer' spiritual armor and contains all the information required to enter into the promises of God.

### THE TABERNACLE



# The Gate

The Outer Court contained the Brazen Altar and the Wash Basin.

The only way into it was through the Gate.

As we enter through the gate, we enter into Jesus.

"Jesus said: "I am the gate. Those who come in by me will be saved; they will come in and go out and find pasture." [ John 10:9]

It is the only way to salvation.

"And the witness is this, that God gave unto us eternal life, and this life is **in his Son.**"  
[1 John 5:11]

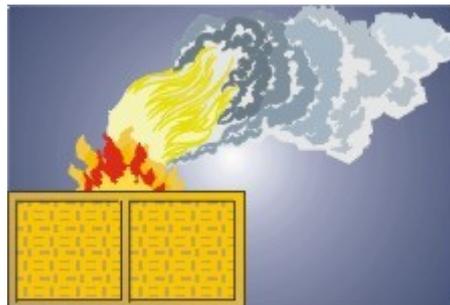
"Go in through the narrow gate, because the gate to hell is wide and the road that leads to it is easy, and there are many who travel it. But the gate to life is narrow and the way that leads to it is hard, and there are few people who find it. [Mat 7:13-14]

Jesus is our promised land, when we enter into Him, we confirm our election.

"Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his through our union with Christ." [Eph 1:4]

# The Brazen Altar

Once you were inside the Outer Court, the first thing to confront you would have been the Brazen Altar. The Hebrew word for the altar is *mizbeah* or "*slaughter place.*"



Sacrifices were required by the law, because  
... "sins are forgiven only if blood is poured out." [Heb 9:22]

Jesus is the Lamb that was slain on the altar  
of the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

"Worthy is the **Lamb** that was **slain.**" [Rev 5:12]

"For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven.  
How great is the grace of God," [Eph 1:7]

## The Wash Basin

After the altar came the laver of water. The priests had to wash their **hands** and their **feet** before they could enter the holy place of the tabernacle itself.



This speaks symbolically of hearts that has been purified through the Word of God.

"So let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith, with hearts that have been purified from a guilty conscience and with bodies washed with clean water."

[Heb 10:22]

"Wash yourselves clean. Stop all this evil that I see you doing. Yes, stop doing evil." [Isa 1:16]

"Turn away from your sins and be baptized." [Luk 3:3]

The water also speaks of separation from the world.

"It was also by water, the water of the flood, that the old world was destroyed." [2Pe 3:6]

## The Door

The Holy Place contained three pieces of furniture; the Table of Showbread, the Lamp Stand and the Altar of Incense.

Only priests were allowed to enter through the door into the Holy Place.

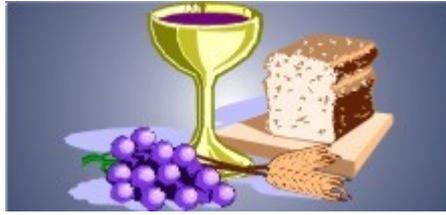
"Do your best to go in through the narrow door; because many people will surely try to go in but will not be able." [Luk 13:24]

Only those who have left the worries and temptations of the world behind will qualify.

"Everything that belongs to the world"-what the sinful self desires, what people see and want, and everything in this world that people are so proud of"-none of this comes from the Father; it all comes from the world." [1Jo 2:16]

## The Table of Showbread

The first object inside the holy place was the table of showbread.  
Also on the table were chalices for wine.



Jesus is our bread and our wine.

"The cup we use in the Lord's Supper and for which we give thanks to God: when we drink from it, we are sharing in the blood of Christ. And the bread we break: when we eat it, we are sharing in the body of Christ." [1Co 10:16]

"I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "Those who come to me will never be hungry; those who believe in me will never be thirsty." [Joh 6:35]

## The Lampstand

Next to the table of showbread was the golden lampstand that illuminated the holy place.



Jesus is our light.

"The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son." [Joh 1:14]

"The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out."

[Joh 1:4-5]

## The Altar of Incense

The altar of incense stood before the entrance to the Most Holy.  
The incense filled the holy place with its sweet smell.



This speaks of Jesus.

"Christ loved us and gave his life for us as a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice that pleases God." [Eph 5:2]

The smoke of the incense also speaks of prayer.

"The smoke of the burning incense went up with the prayers of God's people from the hands of the angel standing before God." [Rev 8:4]

Jesus is always praying for us.

"But Jesus lives on forever, and his work as priest does not pass on to someone else. And so he is able, now and always, to save those who come to God through him, because he lives forever to plead with God for them." [Heb 7:24-25]

## The veil

The veil or curtain separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies.

Only High Priests could go beyond the veil.

"But only the high priest goes into the inner tent, and he does so only **once a year**. He takes with him blood which he offers to God on behalf of himself and for the sins which the people have committed without knowing they were sinning." [Heb 9:7]

Jesus opened the veil for us all.

"Jesus again gave a loud cry and breathed his last, then the curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom." [Mat 27:50-51]

For us, this curtain is now always open!

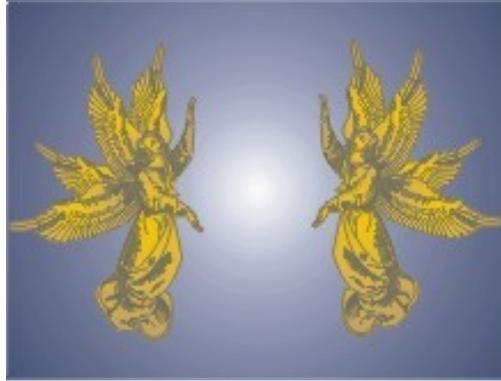
"We have, then, my friends, complete freedom to go into the Most Holy Place by means of the death of Jesus. He opened for us a new way, a living way, through the curtain -that is, through his own body." [Heb 10:9-20]

## The Mercy Seat

Once the high priest was in the Most Holy, he could reach the mercy seat that covered the ark of the covenant. This is where God manifested His Glory.

"There in the LORD's presence he shall put the incense on the fire, and the smoke of the incense will hide the lid of the Covenant Box so that he will not see it and die." [Lev 16:13]

Two golden cherubim on the mercy seat of the ark guarded God's Glory.



Cherubim are a class of angels. They are our servants.

"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" [Heb 1:14]

Jesus came to us as a servant.

"Of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death." [Phi 2:6-8]

## The Ark of the Covenant

The covenant box was covered by blood from the sacrifices.

"He shall take some of the bull's blood and with his finger sprinkle it on the front of the lid and then sprinkle some of it seven times in front of the Covenant Box. " [Lev 16:14]

Inside or with the ark were three objects:

- The testimony (tablets of the law),
- a bowl of manna
- the rod of Aaron that budded.

## The testimony (tablets of the law),

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up the mountain to me, and while you are here, I will give you two stone tablets which contain all the laws that I have written for the instruction of the people." (Exo 24:12 GNB)

"Put the two stone tablets inside the Box and put the lid on top of it."  
(Exo 25:21)

## A bowl of manna

Moses said, "The LORD has commanded us to save some manna, to be kept for our descendants, so that they can see the food which he gave us to eat in the desert when he brought us out of Egypt." Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar, put two quarts of manna in it, and place it in the LORD's presence to be kept for our descendants." As the LORD had commanded Moses, Aaron put it in front of the Covenant Box, so that it could be kept. (Exo 16:32-34)

## The rod of Aaron that budded.

The LORD said to Moses, "Put the rod of Aaron back in front of the Covenant Box. It is to be kept as a warning to the rebel Israelites that they will die unless their complaining stops." (Num 17:10)



For a more detailed study of the tabernacle, click [here](#).