"THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES"

Exodus 25:2-8

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 35:4,5

And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, *This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying,*Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass,

Exodus 35:21-29

And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments.  And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered offered an offering of gold unto the LORD.  And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins, brought them.  Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the Lord's offering: and every man, with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought it.  And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen.  And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair.  And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate; And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense.  The children of Israel *brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work*, which the LORD had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses.

TYPES OF MATERIALS

There are seven different types of materials used in the tabernacle.

*1) FABRIC*

Two kinds of fabric were used:

*Fine lined*: This was linen from Egypt, from the tombs of the Pharaoh’s. The number of threads per square inch is 152 to the warp & 71 to the woof. The finest linen available today is about 86 threads per square inch. The linen used in the tabernacle is of unequaled fineness.

Linen was used in the outer gate, the doorway into the holy place, the veil, the linen covering over both the holy & most holy places, & also for the garments of the priests. The entire wall surrounding the perimeter of the tabernacle court was made of linen.

*Goat’s Hair*: This fabric was laid on top of the fine linen & was not visible from the inside the structure. It consisted of woven goats’ hair fabric. Eastern goats are black, so this covering was probably black. This was a common tent material. When goat hair is exposed to water, its’ fibers swell becoming virtually waterproof. So, the goat hair was used to protection of the Holy structure & its contents from rain.

*2) ANIMAL SKINS*

Two kinds of Skins were used.

*Rams’ Skins*: This animal was used in sacrifice. The skins were taken from the male sheep. Here, they were dyed red. They are the symbols of blood & death.

*Badgers’ skins:* Various translations say seal skins, Sea cows, goat skins & other hides. We are not sure what animal was used here.

The purpose of the animal skins covering was to protect the structure.

*3) WOOD*

The only wood used was from the shitta tree. This tree has a pleasant scent. Some of its species have flowers from which nectar is drawn for perfume.

It is a fine grain wood that darkens with age, & it is harder than Oak. The Egyptians used this wood in the construction of the coffins for the Pharaohs. There are 450 species of plants in this family ragging in size from shrubs to trees 25 – 35 feet high.

From this wood, 60 posts were constructed to support the linen fence surrounding the court of the tabernacle. The brazen altar was made from the wood & overlaid with brass.

The table, the golden altar & the ark was all made from this wood & overlaid with gold as were the boards which comprised the walls of the holy & most holy place.

The five pillars for the door to the holy place & the four pillars for the veil to the most holy place were also made of this wood.

The staves used for lifting & carrying all the pieces of furniture were made of this wood. Staves used to carry the brass altar & laver were overlaid with brass. All other staves were overlaid with gold.

*4-6) THREE AUXILIARY MATERIALS*

Three materials were used in the tabernacle, though they were not a part of the structure.

*Oil:*This oil was made of the purest olive extract. It was utilized as fuel for the lamp stand.

*Spices*: These were utilized as fuel for the golden altar. Only pure myrrh which flowed spontaneously from the bark was used.

*Stones:* 12 different stones were utilized in the priestly garments!

Why 12 stones. It represented the 12 tribes of Israel.

The estimated value of the stones used is $175,000.00

*7) METAL*

Three metals were used in the construction of the tabernacle.

*Gold:* 1.65 Tons. (Ex. 38,24) The value today would be about $13,000.00.

*Silver*: 100 talents, 1760 shekels of silver. (Ex. 38:25-28) Approximately 5 tons of silver was used.

*Brass:* (Our Copper) 70 talents, 2400 shekels – 3.3 tons. (Ex. 38,29) at 63 cents an ounce, the value today would be $66,528. Modern brass is any alloy & was unknown in ancient times. Most archaeologist & historians agree that the brass referred to here is our copper.

*VALUES*

The total value of these metals today would be about $16,000,000.00 (16 million) To replace the tabernacle today, in materials cost alone, you would need $16,500,000.00 (16 million & 500 thousand)

"THE DIVISIONS OF THE TABERNACLE"

The tabernacle was divided int three sections:

The outer court, The holy places, & the most holy place.

The light in each part

The Outer Court used only NATURAL light

The Holy Place had the Light of the CANDLESTICKS.

The Most Holy Place had the LIGHT OF THE GLORY OF GOD by the presence of God who is light.

Some people dwells in the court & know only natural light. They do not understand the things of the spirit. They are often bored with the spiritual. They read the Bible, but it does not make sense to them. They are good moral people, even religious. They consider themselves Christians. Yet they try to understand spiritual things with natural reason & in the light of general revelation.

Some people have pressed into God & have gone beyond the natural light of the court. They are understanding at a deeper level of the light of the holy place. They have experienced the light of the Spirit from the lamp stand. They have learned to listen to the Holy Spirit & experience the illumination of the Word by the Spirit.

Some have pressed further, from the holy place into the most holy place, where they have had a life changing encounter with God & the light of His glory. God has spoken with them, as He promised He would speak to Moses from off the Mercy Seat. For these believers, there can never be any doubt that God is real.

DIMENSIONS:

The measurements are given in cubits. The Outer Court measured 50 cubits by 100 cubits. This would be about 75X150 feet.

The main structure included in holy of most holy places. It was 10 cubits wide & high & 30 cubits long. This would be about 15 foot wide & high & 45 feet long.

*THE FURNITURE:*

There were seven pieces of furniture used in the tabernacle of Moses. Two were in the court. Three were in the holy place & two in the most holy place.

*The Outer Court contained the ALTAR & the LAVER.*

*The Holy Place contained the CANDLESTICK, to the south.*

*TABLE OF shew bread, to the north.*

*GOLDEN ALTERS OF INCENSE, in front of the veil to the west*

*The most Holy place, we find the ARK OF THE COVENANT.*

*MERCY SEAT (the cover for the ark)*

*THE COLORS:* (Ex. 26,1)

Four colors are used in the tabernacle. BLUE, PURPLE, SCARLET & WHITE, all made of fine lined. This order occurs in Exodus more than 20 times & never varies. The colors have a theological meaning.

BLUE – is the color of Heaven.

PURPLE – is the color of Royalty.

SCARLET – is the color of Redemption.

WHITE – is a reminder of Righteousness.

The colors also tell the story of Redemption:

BLUE – the Creator God of Heaven, who became flesh.

PURPLE – revealed in time as the King of the Jews.

SCARLET – rejected of men, his blood was shed in Crucifixion.

WHITE – that we might be clothed in His righteousness.

*"APPLICATION OF TRUTH"*

The tabernacle is a reflection in the NATURAL of SPIRITUAL principles. The tabernacle is God’s accommodation to help us understand His revelation. It is a road map into His Presence.

In the tabernacle there is a picture of Jesus

*Jesus, the SACRIFICE – The Brazen Altar.*

*Jesus, the SANCTIFIER – The Bronze Laver.*

*Jesus, the LIGHT OF THE WORLD – The Golden Candlesticks.*

*Jesus, the BREAD OF LIFE – The Table of Shewbread.*

*Jesus, OUR INTERCESSOR – The Golden Altar.*

*Jesus, the COVENANT MAKER – The ark of the covenant.*

*Jesus, the COVERING OF OUR SINS – The Mercy Seat.*

We can also see the ministries of the Church.

*THE ALTAR – The ministry of blood sacrifice & the place of the forgiveness of sin & the consecration of self.*

*THE LAVER – Water & cleansing by the Word.*

*THE LAMPSTAND – Fruit, Oil & Fire – The Ministry of the Spirit.*

*THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD – Bread & Nourishment, Fellowship & Feeding. This is the ministry of the Word at the Father’s Table.*

*THE GOLDEN ALTAR – Incense & Fire; Prayer & Pure Worship.*

*THE ARK – Rod, Manna, Tablets – Security in Relationship.*

*THE MERCY SEAT – made of Solid Gold – The Place of the Glory of God.*

Here is a God who takes the initiative in pursuing man. He is not hiding, He wants you & I to know Him. It is as if He has left a trail into His presence in the furnishings of the tabernacle.

By following the clues’ God has left – THE GATE, THE ALTAR, THE LAVER, THE LAMPSTAND & THE TABLE, THE GOLDEN ALTAR, THE VEIL, THE ARK & THE MERCY SEAT – we end up in His presence.

In each article of furniture are principles for finding & facilitation the presence of God in our lives & our world. The revelation of the tabernacle is a road map to God. He had pursued us, desiring fellowship with us. In Christ, & the torn veil He has left an open door. He calls to us, just as He did to Adam in Genesis. There, God comes walking in the cool of the evening, calling:

Can you image ADAM...ADAM...WHERE ARE YOU?

DOUG...DOUG...WHERE ARE YOU?

God knows where we are! But he wants us to drop everything we are doing & move into His presence.

THE BRAZEN ALTAR

The Principle Of Sacrifice

Ex. 27:1-8

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.  And thou shalt make the horns of it upon the four corners thereof: his horns shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with brass.  And thou shalt make his pans to receive his ashes, and his shovels, and his basins, and his fleshhooks, and his firepans: all the vessels thereof thou shalt make of brass.  And thou shalt make for it a grate of network of brass; and upon the net shalt thou make four brazen rings in the four corners thereof.  And thou shalt put it under the compass of the altar beneath, that the net may be even to the midst of the altar.  And thou shalt make staves for the altar, staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with brass.  And the staves shall be put into the rings, and the staves shall be upon the two sides of the altar, to bear it.  Hollow with boards shalt thou make it: as it was showed thee in the mount, so shall they make it.

We have often made the altar the climax event of worship, the last stop in our worship agenda. But, scriptural worship gives priority to the altar. Here is the only place I can be prepared to worship. Here I am made ready for His presence. So much worship is shallow today because people did not take time to prepare an altar, to pause there & prepare themselves for worship.

*The altar symbolizes Calvary*. There is no way into God’s presence apart from the cross. No one should ever enter into the holy place without pausing at the altar to consider the blood of the lamb on the altar.

*THE ALTAR:*

As we come face to face with the altar, we realize, it is too big to go around without noticing it. The altar is 7.5' by 7.5' wide by 4.5'tall.

The altar has 4 horns, one on each corner pointing in 4 directions. Thought the sacrifice was dead when it was placed on the altar, the sacrifice was tied to the horns. Horns are typically symbols of power.

If the animal is dead what is the meaning of the horns? If a criminal ran to the tabernacle & laid hold of the horns of the altar, he was symbolizing repentance & the redirection of his life. He was committing himself to a lifestyle change reflecting righteousness. By laying hold of the horns of the altar, he was signaling a commitment to no longer live in sin or for himself, but live according to the law. His action was the binding of his life to the altar, as the lamb was bound to the altar. He would count himself as dead, & live by higher principles from that time forth. Wrath was restrained & mercy was given. Genuine repentance & sacrificial commitment always restrains the wrath of God.

*SACRED AREAS*

Around the altar, two areas were set apart & declared in that sense holy. The first was the area around the gate, east of the altar, where hands were laid on the sacrifice & where the peace offering was slaughtered.

The second special place was on the north side of the altar area, near the linen curtain, where skinning tables were set up to facilitate the actual sacrifice. Animals were skinned & prepared for the altar here.

*WHY SACRIFICE?*

1) God wanted us to learn that every sin destroys. Though we cannot see the consequences of sin, due to his mercy, God did not want us to forget the destructive nature of sin. To forget, is to become comfortable with sin.

2) He wanted us to see those spilled blood equals the wasting of life! We often waste our own life by irresponsible, sinful & selfish behavior. SIN IS A LIFE WASTER!

3) He wanted us to see the SIN COSTS. Every time an individual sinned, they were to bring a lamb for sacrifice. LAMBS DIDN’T GROW ON TREES! Sin does cost. It cost God his Son! It still cost. For some, the price is their character, their marriage or their career. For others the price is their soul.

4) He wanted us to see that sin destroys INNOCENT victims. The sinner would:

– bring his lamb.

– meet the priest.

– confess his sin.

– look at that lamb.

– raise the knife.

– hear the ... baa!

– see the unsuspecting eyes!

– sink the knife into the body of the lamb.

The priest would assist in the catching of the blood, but that taking of the life would have been the action of the offered.

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER – The altar cannot be the place where the mercy of God is abused time after time without lifestyle change. The altar is the place of life transformation rooted in deep remorse & genuine repentance.

THE LAVER

The Principle of Sanctification

Now, having passed the Altar, I am again encountered by furniture. This time it is a huge basin made of copper, bronze or brass mirrors & filled with water.

Ex. 30:17,18

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 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.

*THE LAVER DESIGN*

The laver is two parts. It has a bowl & a base. The upper bowl would have been used to draw water to wash hands, the lower to wash feet. Eastern custom prefers running water for cleansing, not still water.

Something interesting –

Ex. 38,8

And he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the lookingglasses of the women assembling, which assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

LOOKING GLASSES – mirrors

The mirrors represent the need for self-examination as a qualification for his presence. The water represents the need for self-purification as a qualification for his presence.

*THE LAVER IN USAGE*

Ex. 30:19,20

For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat:  When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not;

The priest was never to come into the holy place without having stopped at the laver & completed the ceremonial & practical action of looking & washing. No priest was to attend the altar without checking the purity of his hands & his feet.

*The contrast of the altar & the laver.*

The two represent the multidimensional grace of God.

THE ALTAR comes first. The LAVER comes second.

THE ALTAR – we see what God has done for us in cleansing by the gift of his son Jesus.

THE LAVER – we see our appropriate response, to clean our self.

THE ALTAR – I am sanctified legally.

THE LAVER – I am sanctified practically.

Ex. 30:19-21

For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat:  When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not;: So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not:

The washing of HANDS symbolizes the cleansing of my WORKS, what I DO, my ACTIONS.

The washing of FEET symbolizes the cleansing of my WAY, how I BEHAVE, my lifestyle patterns.

*THE REASON FOR THE LAVER IN OUR LIVES*:

How do you get your hands dirty cleaning up a polluted world & yet keep your heart pure?

How do you get deeply involved with sinners who need saltation without assimilating their sin?

You must keep stopping AT THE LAVER!

The priests were to attend the laver when:

They entered or exited the holy place.

They approached God or went to minister to a sinner.

They ministered to the Lord or at the altar to others.

The laver reminds us that we must keep washing with the Word. Purity at the Laver must be a CONSTANT! We must wash our minds, our wills, our emotions, our habits & our attitudes.

THE CANDLESTICK & THE TABLE

The Principle of Balance

Now we are coming to the place of the Holiness. The golden candlestick sits in the holy place to the south.

Ex. 25,31

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.

It is of *"beaten work."* So, it was hammered into shape! Its structure is designed like an almond tree trunk with six branches coming out of each side. The Scripture does not give the height of the candlestick. Tradition says it was about five feet tall.

In Ex. 25:32,33 – describes what the Candlestick looks like.

Each of the branches had "his knobs, & his flowers of the same." That is, all were made of gold. A talent of gold is used here according to Exodus 38,24 to make the candlestick making it about 94 pounds of Gold. It is designed like an almond tree in various stags of development, from bud to flower to fruit stages. The almond was one of the first trees to put forth in the spring.

*The Picture of the Church*:

Here is a picture of the church. The central shaft is Christ, the vine. We are the branches. The Hebrew term used here for shaft is*yarek*. It means a thigh or loins, side or body. *So the church comes from the loins of Christ*.

The bowls were designed to look like almond fruit. Inside the bowls, was deposited of pure olive oil, for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.

Two symbols emerge here: FRUIT & FIRE! Both are symbols of the Holy Spirit’s ministry.

Fruit represents the character of Christ reproduced by the Spirit.

The fire represents the supernatural "gifts" of the spirit manifest through the church.

The oil symbolized the Spirit & the lamps are the receivers of the Spirit. Notice again, the lampstand is in the shape of Fruit, filled with oil & set aflame. Thus we have FRUIT & FIRE. Or FIRE out of FRUIT! This sounds like what the church should do.

*GOD’S HAMMER:*

It is of *"beaten work."* So, it was hammered into shape! How does the candlestick end up in the shape of fruit? This candlestick is hammered into shape. Do you ever feel like you are under God’s hammer? What is God doing? Like a master craftsman, God takes a piece of gold from the raw earth. He will try it by fire. He will purify it. He will make of it an object of beauty. One body, with one hope & one Lord, one faith & one baptism. & THAT’S US!

THE TABLE

The table of shewbread is the second article of furniture in the holy place. It is on the north side of the holy place, opposite the candlestick.

*There are seven features to this table*.

1) IT IS AN ACCESSIBLE TABLE

The dimensions of the table were 18 inches wide, and 27 inches’ high & 3 feet long. That makes it the lowest piece of furniture in the house. This table that has bread which is not out of reach, or over the head of anyone. Here is truth that is not out of reach to anyone.

2) IT IS AN ROYAL TABLE

It had a crown raised around the borders of the table. The crown emphasized the royal quality of the table. This is the King’s table. It is the table of the royal family. To sit here is a reminder that we were once slaves in Egypt, but we were redeemed to be the children of God. We are royalty in the ultimate sense.

3) A TABLE ALWAYS SET

There were to be 12 cakes of bread, like our hot cakes, one for each of the tribes arranged in two stacks of six each on the table. There is bread on the table for everyone.

Here is the picture of a table in the wilderness – a table that never lacked bread. In the worst of times, God’s people have bread on their table. God provides! Thus the bread is a memorial, a covenant that emphasizes his provision, his care & his feeding.

***Pagan gods needed to be fed.***

***OUR GOD FEEDS US!***

THIS IS GOD’S TABLE OF HOSPITALITY

Nourishment

Satisfaction for the hungry

Provision

The bounty of the Lord

Fellowship

The place of the family around the Father’s table.

THERE IS ALWAYS TO BE FRESH BREAD UPON THE TABLE IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD!

4) A COSTLY TABLE – WITH PRICELESS BREAD

This bread was made from fine flour or crushed grain. This is the bread of the crushed one, the crucified one. Here is a reminder that it is brokenness that feeds. Christ brokenness at the Cross feeds us spiritually.

Christ-logically – the bread is a picture of Jesus our Lord.

*The LAVER was the WORD IN CLEANSING – Rededication.*

*Now the TABLE is the WORD IN FEEDING – Edification.*

5) AN OPEN TABLE

This is God’s table! He can invite anyone home for dinner that he desires to include.

In the Old Testament, this table was accessible only to the priest. The principle is still true. Those who sit at the table of the Lord have some priestly responsibilities, priestly duties, a priestly calling is act upon them.

6) A PLACE OF REVELATION

The table represents the place of revelation. Here is HOLY HEARTBURN! As we break the bread in the light of the candlesticks, the Holy Spirit, Jesus is revealed.

It should happen in the believers meeting. As we break the bread, there is a revelation of Jesus – he becomes real to us.

WE SEE HIM.

WE SENSE HIS NEARNESS.

HIS PRESENCE BURNS WITHIN US.

That experience should happen to us in our private times with God. As we sit quietly with the Word communing with the Holy Spirit, Jesus rises out of the pages of the book becoming real to us, fellow shipping with us.

This bread was also sprinkled with incense, a symbol of prayer. We should approach the Word of God Prayerfully. We pray & read. We read & pray. & Jesus lives to speak to us.

A new model of worship must emerge at the table different from the old model which has been in place for the last few centuries.

In the old model – Preachers preach.

In the new model – People feed & learns.

In the old model – People are calm listeners.

In the new model – people must be active listeners, learners’ & bread breakers.

In the old model – People eat the bread they want, choosing what the preacher preaches that is relevant to them & they leave the rest of the bread.

In the new model – People eat the bread they need, feeding themselves, then they box up the rest & take it to the streets for distribution.

7) A PLACE OF FELLOWSHIP

*This is the Father’s table*. *The most important feature of the table is not what is on it, but who is at it.* We have come to the table, not merely to eat, but to spend time with the Father in his house, at his table.

This picture of fellowship, of lingering at the table of the Lord is rich image. There is nothing like family fellowship at the table. & That includes the table of the Lord. Today, we have a generation of fast food Christians. We do not take the time to linger. As a result, we are spiritually undernourished.

*The Balance:*

The only two pieces of furniture that were not in a straight east to west alignment, were the table & the lampstand. They were set off, the lampstand to the south, the table to the north, & each opposite to the other.

The Table represents the Word & the Lampstand the Spirit, I think we have here a picture of the balance in worship – between spirit & truth! Some churches center on the Word & miss God by emphasis, just as other churches who center on the Spirit also miss God by Word. The pathway into the most holy place is found as we balance Word & Spirit as we live in context of both.

Go to the table. Open the book. Read the book. The discipline of the Word is the key to spiritual renewal. At the table you will find fresh oil to relight your fire. At the table, we find the incense to refuel passionate prayer & worship.

THE ALTAR OF INCENSE

The Principle of Communion with God

Ex. 30:1,2

And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it.  A cubit shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof; foursquare shall it be: and two cubits shall be the height thereof: the horns thereof shall be of the same.

The Altar is 36 inches high & 18 inches square.

Ex. 30:3-5

And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, the top thereof, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof; and thou shalt make unto it a crown of gold round about.  And two golden rings shalt thou make to it under the crown of it, by the two corners thereof, upon the two sides of it shalt thou make it; and they shall be for places for the staves to bear it withal.  And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold.

The golden altar was made of wood, over laid with pure gold, & it had two rings. Into these rings, staves were placed for transport. In transport, the altar was wrapped in blue, the color of heaven & covered with goats’ skin. (Numbers 4,12)

The altar was located at the crown of the holy place, westward & immediately in front of the ark of the covenant, separated from the Ark by a veil. It is in the holy place, but the description of its location ties it more closely to the most holy place & the Ark, than to the furniture in the holy place.

*"NOTICE"*

Ex. 30:6 -- "And you shall put it before the veil that is before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the Testimony, where I will meet with you.

Notice the phrases: *"BEFORE THE VAIL," "BY THE ARK," "BEFORE THE MERCY SEAT," "OVER THE TESTIMONY."*

This is the place of prayer & intercession, of communion with the ministry to God. The veil is not a what, but it is a who. The veil represents Jesus. As the flesh of Jesus was torn, so the veil was torn. Hebrew tells us that we come into the presence of God through the veil, which is His flesh. (Heb. 10,19)

We pray through the veil that is through the agency of Christ. By His death, we are enabled to come directly to God. In prayer, we stand before the mercy seat. That is, our God & is seated on a throne name MERCY. Stained with the blood of His Son.

It is here, before the veil & at the mercy seat that God declares that He will meet us. It is here, by the Ark He pledges to hear our prayer.

*OUR WORSHIP*:

The golden altar sat in front of the veil. It is the climax of worship. The high points of communion & intimacy with God. This is as close as one could get to God, with the exception of the high priest on the day of atonement.

*AT THE GOLDEN ALTAR IS THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP, PRAISE & PRAYER!*

If we are not careful in worship, we come to the place of worship as receiving instead of what worship is all about. It is what we get out of our faith, instead of giving out of our faith.

It sees God acting for us, going for us, doing for us.

Fix this God.

A new car, please God, make it blue, four doors, hatch back, leather interior.

Heal him God.

What’s wrong with you God? Didn’t I ask you to do that yesterday?

Touch us God, Left us up, I feel bad, can’t you do something.

It is time for us to rethink our theology, to align ourselves with His Word, to find a more theologically sound centers.

He is the Sovereign God, and we are His servants.

He speaks, and we act.

We wait on Him.

We serve at His command.

He is not bound to answer us, obey us or respond to us.

Yet, He does respond. His response is not rooted primarily in our faith or fervency, our goodness or depravity, but in his love & grace.

"3 - things were stored in the Ark of the Covenant"

1) the tablets,

2) the rod of Aaron.

3) a pot of manna.

The ministry of prayer must be consistent with the dimensions of the covenant that the ark protects. To pray without sensitivity to God’s righteous demands *(tablets)* or without faith & dependence *(the pot of manna)* or without submissive & obedient heart *(the rod)* committed to live according to his Godly standards *(tablets)* in faithful & dependent devotion *(manna)* is to access the full blessings of God & to come under the mercy of God facilitating a release of His glory.

To bypass these three items which were in the ark of the covenant & not be in a right relationship with the principles that they represent is to have a frustrating prayer & worship experience.

Without a personal commitment to righteousness *(tablets)*,

Submission to His will*(rod)*

Faith & dependence upon Him *(manna),*

YOUR TIME AT THE GOLDEN ALTAR IS LESS THAN WORSHIP. IT IS LESS THAN COMMUNION.

"TO SUMMARIZE"

"Discipline of Praise"

You come through the Gate.

Stop at the Brazen Altar with your sin & shame.

You go to the Laver & wash your hands & feet to have a pure heart.

You pick up the fruit & fire at the Candlestick.

Then you hunger for the Word of God & you go to the Shewbread Table.

All combine at the altar to make prayer a powerful experience of communion with God.

*PRAYER & WORSHIP IS THIS:*

Sacrifice & Cleansing. These principles are found in the BRAZEN ALTAR.

Communion in & with the Spirit. These principles are found in the LAVER.

Renewing FRUIT & FIRE in our lives. These principles are found in the CANDLESTICK.

Breaking Bread, & pouring over His Word. These principles are found in the TABLE.

All of this will bring you to a TRUE WORSHIP, TRUE PRAISE, TRUE PRAYER AT THE GOLDEN ALTAR!

The Power of Incense in the New Testament:

As we enter to the Altars with the purpose of True Worship, True Praise, & True Prayer, we begin to release the Incense of the Altar.

Luke 1:9,10

According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.  And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

Notice the concepts of prayer & incense flow together here.

Luke 1:11-17

And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.  And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.  But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.  And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.  For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.  And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.  And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Notice what happens when "Incense" is burned – "when true worship, praises & sincere prayers are offered"

God breaks His silence.

Angels are release.

Elizabeth is move from barrenness to fruitfulness.

God’s purposes are put into process.

A prophetic voice for the earth patterned after the ministry of Elijah is prepared.

Changes come that are the introducements to a Messianic manifestation.

The hearts of the people are going to be changed.

This is the pattern we see over & over in Scripture. As the church prays & worships, God works.

When Peter had been jailed, & was facing the prospect of death, the church prayed, & God acted. Angels were released. Peter was spared, set free. & God’s purposes & powers were manifest.

When Paul & Silas was in jail, the same things happen.

The Power of Prayer Released

Rev. 8:2,3

And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.  And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Here is the Golden Altar in heaven, of which the golden altar in the tabernacle is only a symbol. At the time of John’s revelation, the tabernacle of Moses had been folded for more than 1000 years. The second temple had been destroyed. But God’s true altar is still open & functioning. As the writer of Hebrews said, – the earthly tabernacle was a shadow of the heavenly.

Prayers then, prayed by saints, are like the release of incense upon God’s altar in heaven. My feet are upon the ground, but my spirit is in heavenly places in God’s tabernacle. In this scene, the prayers that are being offered are those that were out of seasons, but still according to God’s will. He has not forgotten those prayers. Now, He is getting ready to release the power of those prayers into the earth.

Rev. 8,4

And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

God remembers the prayers of the saints! Not one does He forget! He is getting ready to answer them in a powerful way.

Rev. 8,5

And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Here is an important principle: God has restrained Himself from answering some of our prayers because a greater measure of judgment was required in responding than God was prepared to give at that moment. Now He restrains His judgment no more. He released the fire of His judgment & answers the prayers of the saints for the Kingdom to come in its fullness.

CON:

All of this teaching tonight is to show you something. How many of you men will say that God doesn’t answer but a few of your prayers. So what are you doing wrong? You have not done it God’s way yet.

You come through the Gate.

Stop at the Brazen Altar with your sin & shame. YOU REPENT OF ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE THERE.

You go to the Laver & wash your hands & feet to have a pure heart. YOU MAKE SURE THAT YOUR HEART IS PURE. THIS IS STILL PRAYING IN REPENTANCE & OBEYING GOD.

You pick up the fruit & fire at the Candlestick. THIS IS PRAISING GOD, LIFTING HIM UP, & FEELING THE PRAISING.

Then you hunger for the Word of God & you go to the Shewbread Table. THIS IS YOUR READING THE WORD.

All combine at the altar to make prayer a powerful experience of communion with God.

So I’ve come to God.

I’m giving Him all my sins, because I am not worthy to stand before him.

I begin to wash myself with the prayers of repentance.

I begin to worship Him with my voice & read his word.

Then I can begin to Worship Him, & ask of Him.

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

The Principles of His Covenant

THE PRESENCE OF HIS GLORY!

The most holy place is the sanctuary for the presence of God. Here, God’s exiled glory dwells. His intent had been to dwell in the heart of man, but sin alienated man from God. Now, He dwells among men but not in men. He chooses for His dwelling place an article called the ARK OF THE COVENANT. This becomes His throne on the earth. Above the Ark, between the *cherubin* – the golden figures of angels - was the GLORY OF GOD!

The Concept of Glory

Ex. 40,34

Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

When the tabernacle was set up in the wilderness, the glory of the Lord appeared. A visible manifestation of the invisible God. The glory was a cloud by day & a pillar of fire by night. In the most holy place God dwelt in darkness until He chose to manifest himself as light. The temple too had been full of His glory.

2 Chronicles 7:1,2

Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.  And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house.

In both the tabernacle & the temple, there are manifestations of the glory attached to the structures. But, when there was sin & the righteous demands of God were not being honored.

*God’s glory is facilitated by the heart attitude of the people in whose midst He dwells. Rebellion & sin drives away God’s presence. Righteousness & servant heartedness facilitates His presence*.

At the BRAZEN ALTAR, we learned the value of JUSTIFICATION!

At the LAVER, we learned the importance of SANCTIFICATION!

In the Holy Place, we learned the meaning of EDIFICATION!

In the HOLY OF HOLIES, we learned GLORIFICATION!

This is not the GLORIFICATION of our bodies, but the GLORIFICATION of a transformed life that reflects His presence, & His character.

THE ARK

God’s presence in the tabernacle is tied to the Ark. The ark is tied to the concept of the covenant. This becomes the "PLACE" of His presence. What is it about this piece of furniture that causes God to attach His presence to it?

If we discover the answer, we will find the principles that point the way to our facilitation His presence.

In Exodus 25 we read the description of the Ark. It was 3 feet long, 27 inches high & deep. On each corner a ring was fastened into which staves were placed for transport. These staves were never meant to be taken out of the Ark (Ex. 25,15). Their continual presence in the ark demonstrates the mobility, even the unpredictability of God. When God moves, He wants His throne to be moved. If we are going to be burden bearers of His glory, we have to travel with our staff in our hand, ready to move with Him at any moment.

Rivers dry up before this ark.

Walls of cities cannot stand before its power.

The immobile gods of the heathens bow before it.

A whole nation is distress by an affliction traceable to the presence of the ark.

Men who touch it die.

Why is it so powerful?

The ark is in two pieces. The chest itself is one piece, where three items where store. **10 commandments, Aaron staff, Manna.**Also the Mercy seat as a seal, a covering, for completion. This is where God sets. No wonder it is so powerful, so forceful. When His Word goes forth, walls are moved & rivers alter their course, & the gods of this world are toppled. This ark is no idol. It represents the Word upon which the presence of God rides & to which angels of the highest order are attached.

The ark represents the Word of God. &*"The Word became flesh & dwelt among us, & we beheld of the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace & truth."*

WHEREVER THE ARK WENT, THERE WAS VICTORY!

WHEREVER JESUS WENT, HE HAD VICTORY!

The three items in the Ark of the Covenant

1) THE TABLETS – The tablets also represent God’s demand for RIGHTEOUSNESS. Revealed in the law & lived out in the life of Jesus.

2) THE ROD – The Rod also represents God’s anointed LEADERSHIP, His representative authority demonstrated most perfectly in the life of Christ.

3) THE MANNA – The manna also is a reminder of the PROVISION of God during the wilderness sojourn. It speaks of the hand of God.

God’s Righteous Demands – My lifestyle must change – ***This is the Heart of God.***

God’s Provisional Promises – He meets my needs – ***This is the Hand of God.***

God’s Anointed Leadership – He requires my obedient cooperation in His purposes & with His leaders – ***This is the Head of God.***

As the people *"followed the ark,"* thus honoring the covenant, the POWER OF GOD was manifest. There is safety & security in meeting the righteous demands of God, trusting Him for Provision, & Submitting to His life-giving authority.