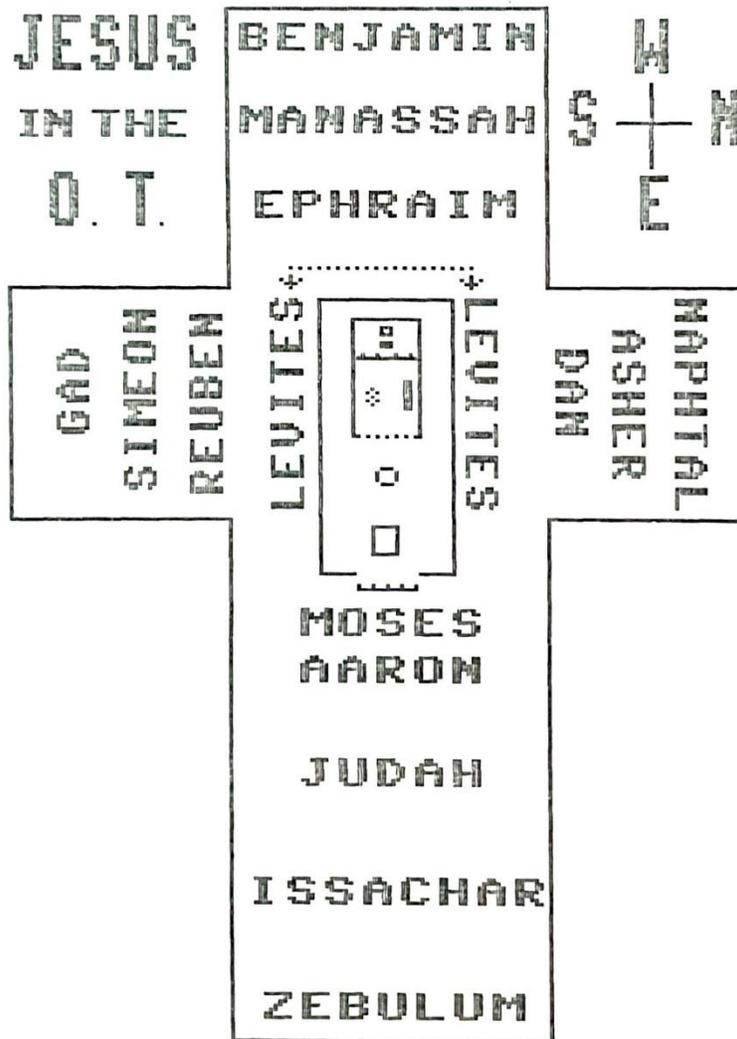


THE TABERNACLE OF LIFE



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Introduction

The *Tabernacle of Life* is a comprehensive picture of Christ in the Old Testament. It is the account of how Christ led the children of Israel through their struggles, to reach the promised land. Personally, it has taught my wife Linda and I, the way to righteousness and healing, both spiritual and physical.

Even though we use the King James Version of the Bible, this book was not written using the ecclesiastical vernacular. The goal is to reach a larger segment of the population by using everyday English. We are entrepreneurs, not out to prove anything except that walking with God, Jesus, and his Holy Spirit has been the greatest adventure of our lives.

We were introduced to the Tabernacle of Moses in the wilderness in 1978, while Linda and I, were missionaries. We met Benjamin Ojeda and his wife Ramona, visionaries who pioneered and developed, Entrenamiento De Fe, a Bible college in San Fernando, Mexico. He introduced us to the beauty of the Tabernacle. Over the years, we have read several books, by many authors, on this topic and have taught it several times over the years.

While attending Church, I met Dr. Pablo and his wife, Dr. Miriam Centeno, founders, and directors of the Revelation School of Ministry. I was asked to teach the Tabernacle in their school for the 2019-2020 school year. The Centeno's have been an inspiration, to further my studies, and to reach for the gold. Even though there are other books written on this theme, the Centeno's, and my wife Linda, encouraged me turn my notes and outlines into a book.

My wife, Linda, has contributed tremendously to this book, in patience, in editing, and in revelations. Petra Maria Ramos also helped with editing; her Bible knowledge was valuable during this process.

The title, front cover, and some charts are from the original work first taught in 1984.

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Chapter 1: Overview of the Tabernacle

The account of the tabernacle of Moses has been accurately preserved in Scriptures for men to have a clear understanding of man's relationship with God, and the way to salvation. We would be incorrect to think of the tabernacle as the dwelling place of God because his true abode is in the hearts of men. Although the Tabernacle was the one place on earth where he was truly present with men, he was not seen but spoke out of the darkness from the holy of holies. The Tabernacle was built to serve as a sacred repository of the Law. Jesus taught that the worship of God was no longer to be confined to a specific place, but he would be present wherever there is a gathering of two or more and his Word is spoken and received. God will reveal himself to men, only if, we are willing to seek him and allow his Word to be written in our hearts. The Tabernacle is a complete picture of Christ in the Old Testament.

There were two ways to the promised land; the shortcut was through the land of the Philistines, or a forty year walk through the desert. Let us prepare ourselves to possess the land and become giant slayer (Numbers 13:30-33). Many of us, when saved, think that we are God's greatest gift; we are, but we need to learn how to walk in our gifting. We are called (privileged) but are we chosen? This will depend on how we follow the instruction manual that was written for us.

And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt. (Exodus 13:17)

And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. (Isaiah 42:16)

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. (Isaiah 43:2)

Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. (Isaiah 66:1-2)

Moses was born into the priestly lineage and was predestined to be the deliverer of God's chosen people. Today we would say that he was privileged, but before God could use him, like today, he needed to be proven. At the time of his birth, the newborn males of the anointed children of Israel were ordered to be killed, not much has changed today. Jochebed, Moses's mother, by faith built an Ark of reeds for him as she had expectation that he would walk in the anointing of the Holy Spirit and be used of God, and she guided his path to that expected end. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Even though Moses was raised up privileged, he had to suffer loss of all favor and privilege before he could be of any use to the Lord. It took eighty years for him to learn how to walk holy before the Lord with faith, strength, and wisdom. Most neophytes today, make the same mistakes as Moses did in his early years, like killing a man for the sake of doing the right thing. Trust Jesus, the Lord of glory, for instructions. Learn to walk by faith, and the vision that God has placed in our hearts will be accomplished through the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We will keep our eyes on the reward!

And there went a man of the house of Levi and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. (Exodus 2:1-2)

And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren. And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand. And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? (Exodus 2:11, 14a)

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. (Hebrews 11:23-26)

We will walk with the Lord of glory, in the land of the living, knowing that Jesus is alive and that he is the great I Am. He has given us his Holy Spirit to direct our paths and to supply all our needs; we will finish our course. There are many in the church today, who are, in bondage to the world system (John 8:36). It is not easy to break free, but it can be done. Being in the presence of the Lord once a week is not sufficient for victory. It will take a daily commitment of fellowship, prayer, and study of the Word of God.

And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM that I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. (Exodus 3:13-14)

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19)

But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. (Matthew 22:31-32)

Even though we have a calling on our lives, we will need to learn from our elders, those who have gone before us. Moses's father-in-law, Jethro, gave him great advice. He not only received it, but established it and became successful.

Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you. Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. (Exodus 18:19, 21)

First things first, becoming an offering is a new way of living. This is what Jesus did for us. When this is realized: the giving of our time, talents, and treasure; our walk with the Lord will become complete and exciting. This concept once established will bring victory, peace, love, and joy into our hearts.

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. (Exodus 25:1-2)

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk-in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1-2)

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 forever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. (Hebrews 10:11-14)

Where did the gold, silver and materials come from? The Lord told the children of Israel to borrow from the Egyptians knowing they would never pay them back. The Lord provides! He will always provide for those who love and walk with him. The wealth of the world is ours for use in the kingdom. We can enjoy the overflow of it, but the bulk belongs to the kingdom. It requires an understanding of the Word, a clean heart, favor, and an excellent walk to receive it.

And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians. (Exodus 12:36)

But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day. (Deuteronomy 8:18)

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. (Luke 2:52)

When we truly trust the Lord Jesus Christ and give our life's over to him; there will always be seed for us to plant into the kingdom. A good farmer will use his seed wisely by planting first in his best soil. To expect a great harvest, we should complete our due diligence before giving to any church, missionary project, or ministry to maximize our return. The hardest lesson in life is becoming a steward of our possession, and not letting them have control over us.

And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning... The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the Lord commanded to make. (Exodus 36:3b, 5b)

For thus saith the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns. (Jeremiah 4:3)

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (2 Corinthians 9:7-8):

What is the importance of the Tabernacle that we should become familiar with the details of it? The request to construct and erect the Tabernacle came from the Lord himself. He is the architect, every detail points to the work and character of Jesus Christ. It is also a picture of the Lord's dwelling place in our hearts. The Tabernacle is a major theme of the Bible with portions of fifty chapters devoted to it (thirteen in Exodus, thirteen in Numbers, eighteen in Leviticus, two in Deuteronomy, and four in Hebrews).

And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. (Exodus 25:8)

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. (Isaiah 57:15)

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. (Revelation 21:3)

The Tabernacle, a shadow and pattern of things to come, was the only perfect building ever built on earth, the blueprint for it was drafted in heaven and given by the Lord himself. We are to build our temples using the same blueprints, paying close attention to the details as it is a picture of the glory that awaits us.

According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the Tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it. (Exodus 25:9)

And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. (Hebrews 3:5-6)

They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain." But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. (Hebrews 8:5-6)

The Tabernacle is a picture of the true temple in heaven. It is spoken of in the New Testament as the house of God, the Spirit, and the believer.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord. (2 Corinthians 6:16-17a)

For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. (Hebrews 9:23):

The only dwelling place for the Lord is in the hearts of men as there is not any building large enough to contain Him. When Solomon built the second temple, he made sure that all who were in authority and all the heathens knew that the God of heaven did not reside there; it is intended only for the priests of the living God to have a place to worship him. How much of our hearts have we opened to him?

But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who am I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him? (2 Chronicles 2:6)

Our fathers had the Tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen. Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands. (Acts 7:44, 48a)

God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things. (Acts 17:24-25);

The Tabernacle is a true picture of our Lord Jesus Christ and like the church the outside of the Tabernacle gives little hint of the inner glory. No one can see what is in our hearts until we speak, or

act, and this study will give us a better understanding of who we really are and how to live in true righteousness.

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. (Isaiah 53:2)

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. (John 1:10-12)

Chapter 2: Articles and Names of the Tabernacle

The Tabernacle shows the plan of salvation. God looks from the Holy of Holies and sees Christ in us, the hope of Glory. When we look at it, or when we first come to Christ, we start at the Brazen Altar and finish at the Mercy Seat. Our Heavenly Father already knows the ending, the church in all its glory. We are like the children of Israel, who spent forty years in the wilderness because of their lack of faith and giants in the land of promise. Many today fail to complete their vision and purpose because of perceived insurmountable mountains facing them. Until we learn to stand on our own two feet with faith, power, and patience, we will be held up by angel's wings as they were (Numbers 13:32-33) (Mathew 17:20).

The inside of the Tabernacle was laid out to form a cross, with Christ's head at the Ark and mercy seat, his heart at the altar of incense, His outstretched arms pointing to the candlestick (light) and table of shewbread (bread) for he is the bread of life and the light of the world. Moreover, his washed legs carrying the gospel and his bronze feet bringing forth judgement to the earth. No cross, no redemption!

The Lord uses symbolisms and parables to teach humanity. One of these symbols is using numbers. In the Bible and throughout the Tabernacle, the number seven is prevalent, as we see in the articles and the names of the Tabernacle.

The Seven Articles of the Tabernacle

The plan of salvation for humanity is represented by the seven articles or items of furniture as follows. Later, in the study we will look at each article in depth. The spiritual understanding of each piece of furniture will benefit us on our pursuit of righteousness. There is no shortcut to glory. Without a firm foundation in the Word of God, like many great men of the past we will fail. The study of the Tabernacle will help us build a solid foundation.

The brazen altar represents the cross of Calvary and redemption from past sins.

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

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

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):

The Laver represents baptism, death to self, and entering a covenant relationship with Christ by setting aside that which was washed for His purpose.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:2, 7)

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)

The candlestick or lampstand represents the union of the Holy Spirit and man with the evidence of the Spirit, working miracles and bringing light and direction into our lives.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Psalm 119:105)

While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. (John 12:36a)

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)

The Table of Shewbread represents setting at the King's Table feasting on the Word of God. Jesus is the Bread of Life and when we sit at His table, He will restore everything that has been taken from us, or we willingly gave up, including our health.

And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. (Joel 2:25)

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. (Matthew 9:35)

The altar of incense represents the offering of our lives to him through our prayers. He is our intercessor; he knows our needs and cares for us. Spend time with him every morning, evening, and in-between!

Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way. (1 Samuel 12:23):

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)

Pray without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

The mercy seat represents the overshadowing of the body of Christ, by the Holy Spirit, with mercy, grace, redemption, righteousness, and rest. (Psalm 136).

For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. (Romans 9:15)

But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Matthew 9:13)

The Ark of the Covenant represents the "man-child." The seven stages of progression of man and of the church, which will eventually produce a perfect man.

Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. (Isaiah 66:1, 7)

And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. (Revelation 12:5)

The Seven Names of the Tabernacle

In scriptures, seven is the number of completeness and perfection, both physical and spiritual. It derives much of its meaning from being tied directly to God's creation of all things. The apostle Paul, in the book of Hebrews, uses seven titles to refer to Christ. The titles are: "heir of all things" (1:2), "captain of our salvation" (2:10), "apostle" (3:1), "author of salvation" (5:9), "forerunner" (6:20), "high priest" (10:21), and the "author and finisher of our faith" (12:2).

The Tabernacle of the Congregation

We must get our anointing oil direct from the source. Spend time praying in the Holy Spirit every morning! (Psalm 5:3, Job 38:12) We need to renew ourselves with fresh beaten oil to enjoy the light of his presence throughout the day. (Zechariah 4:2-3).

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. In the Tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which is before the testimony. (Exodus 27:20-21a)

And they ministered before the dwelling place of the Tabernacle of the congregation with singing. (1 Chronicle 6:32a),

The Sanctuary

As we become his sanctuary, we will need to become more attentive to the Lord as we are joining a royal family, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation.

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

A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary. (Jeremiah 17:12)

The Tent of the Congregation

We need to build our spiritual life according to the pattern given; it will be inspected when we reach the mercy seat.

Thus was all the work of the Tabernacle of the tent of the congregation finished: and the children of Israel did according to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so did they. And they brought the Tabernacle unto Moses. "To be inspected." (Exodus 39:32-33a)

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at naught thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. (Romans 14:10)

The Tabernacle of the Lord

A suitable offering is one that comes from the purity of the heart, bring it to the Tabernacle of the Lord for acceptance.

What man soever there be of the house of Israel, that killeth an ox, or lamb, or goat, in the camp, or that killeth it out of the camp, And bringeth it not unto the door of the Tabernacle of the congregation, to offer an offering unto the Lord before

the Tabernacle of the Lord; blood shall be imputed unto that man; he hath shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people. (Leviticus 17:3-4):

The Tabernacle of Testimony

Communicate your testimony, our testimonies are especially important when witnessing to those outside the church. Once verbalized, our testimony will become incredibly significant in the sharing of our lives to others.

But thou shalt appoint the Levites over the Tabernacle of testimony. (Numbers 1:50),

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

The Tabernacle of Witness:

We need to be a witness for the Lord everyday of our life. Let the world see the hope of glory that was invested in us, be not embarrassed, become a warrior for the Lord.

And Moses laid up the rods before the Lord in the Tabernacle of witness. (Numbers 17:7)

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. (Acts 4:33)

The Tent of the Testimony:

Again, our testimony is of particularly importance. We will use it as our special weapon of warfare. Bear in mind, as always, that we are shielded by the Holy Spirit.

And on the day that the Tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the Tabernacle, namely, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the Tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning. ((Numbers 9:15)

And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. (Matthew 10:18)

And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city. (Mark 6:11)

Chapter 3: Materials of the Tabernacle

There are twelve specific materials that were employed in the construction of the Tabernacle. The materials were brought by the children of Israel at the request of the Lord, and each of these represents a spiritual foundation of the Tabernacle. The materials and colors used typified the Lord Jesus Christ and his bride. The number twelve is considered a perfect number, in that it symbolizes God's power and authority. This number is also the symbol of faith, the church with divine rule, and is featured prominently throughout the Bible. The book of Genesis states that Jacob had twelve sons who formed the twelve tribes of Israel. Our Lord Jesus Christ had twelve apostles who facilitated in the founding of the Church. The tree of life has twelve types of fruit, producing and yielding its fruit every month, and its leaves for the healing of the nations (Revelation 22:2).

The symbolism of the materials and colors of the Tabernacle are as follows. Nothing may be strictly stated to be a type (symbolic) without explicit New Testament authority.

The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins, acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the Tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it. (Exodus 25:1-9)

Gold	Deity – The Delight of love to the Lord
Silver	Truth - Price of Redemption
Brass - Copper	Judgment – Moral Virtues
Blue, Purple and Scarlet Yarns (Wool)	Heavenly Colors
Fine Twined Linen (White) (Flax plant)	Purity
Goat Hair (Thread) (Black)	Innocence of Man (Binding Together) (Sin Offering)
Tanned Rams Skins Dyed Red	Power of Blood - Atonement
Badger Skin – Dugong – Seal - Manatee	Outward Appearance
Acacia, Shittim, Cedar Wood	Humanity of Christ
Oil for the Lamp and Incense	Holy Spirit
Spices for the oil and Incense	Consecration (Prayers of the Saints)
Onyx and Breastplate Stones	Internal Memory – Book of Life

The first three colors are of the utmost importance. The gold offering represents the love of our Lord, the silver offering represents a conscience of right and wrong, and the brass offering represents judgement.

The gold and silver, represent the most precious and divine gifts from our Lord. If our goal is to be with him in heaven, we will need to survive his furnace. Do not fear, he will be with us every step of the way and bring us into his righteousness.

The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts. (Proverbs 17:3)

They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity. (Ezekiel 7:19)

Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses. (Matthew 10:9)

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. (Act 3:6)

The brass signifies judgment; the world will be judged but it is not our calling. Please let the Lord do all the judging. As I was growing up my mother used an old English saying, "Don't be so brass," meaning, stop judging people.

And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived. (Accepted judgment) (Numbers 21:9)

But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house. (Judges 16:21)

I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron. (Isaiah 45:2):

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. (1 Corinthians 13:1)

And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. (Revelation 1:15)

In creation, there are three primary colors: red, yellow, and blue. These colors come from the earth itself and cannot be formed by mixing any other colors. Mixing these three colors with white we can make any color of the rainbow. White light is the reason that we see the rainbow in the first place. Black is the absence of light.

Red is the color of sin; sin is rampant and has overtaken our nation. There is no such thing as a personal sin, our sin affects everyone. Crimson and scarlet are the most lasting of all colors, it is steadfast and the most difficult color, like sin, to remove. The total removal of sin demonstrates the completeness of God's pardoning love to us. At salvation, his grace covered all our sins, even though we will still need to conquer some of them. With his help, the Word of God, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, it can be accomplished.

Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD. (Isaiah 1:4),

How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: Thy princes are rebellious. (Isaiah 1:21-23a)

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. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. (Isaiah 1:18-20)

Yellow, the color of gold, represents our righteousness by faith. Faith by itself is not sufficient for salvation; it must be applied to our daily lives, which is the solution to practical problems. If it is to have saving power, faith must find expression in the performance of useful services to the world. These services must be achieved according to the true principles of the Word of God. Our faith will be tried by the fire of daily living. We have not been promised an easy life but a fulfilled one.

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? (James 2:20)

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:7):

Blue is the color of the heavenlies. It adorned the hem of the high priest's outer garment as a constant reminder that we are a special, privileged, and peculiar people. It is, therefore, a mark of separation and commitment. We are to walk in submission to the Lord of glory, and to bear the fragrance of his heavenly character before the world. As members of the body of Christ, we are urged to "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called" (Ephesians 4:1).

Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring. (Numbers 15:38-39):

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-3)

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

Red	Mankind – Earth, Immorality, Sin, Blood,
Yellow	Gold - Fire - Purification
Blue	Heaven - Healing Power of God
White	Bride of Christ – Surrender, Righteousness,
Black	Humiliation – Affliction, Calamity,

Chapter 4: The Wise of Heart

As in the Old Testament, the Lord is looking for wise hearted men and women for the work of the ministry. He has given great grace and gifts to each to fulfil the work. Each believer, being God's beneficiary, has the same amount of grace deposited to their account, (the parable of the pounds), but there are great diversities in the gifts with which we are gifted, (the parable of the talents). Most of us have been given more than one gift and will, over time, work in different areas of ministry. Remember, we are duty bound to give at least one tenth of our time, talent, and treasure to the Lord, which is our reasonable service.

It will take ministers from a variety of disciplines, with different skill levels, to build a church. When we are called into the ministry, the Lord will fill us with wisdom, knowledge, and the understanding needed to complete the task that he has for us. We are to be like the wise men who were called forth to build the Tabernacle in the wilderness.

See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. (Exodus 31:2-5)

All wisdom comes from the Lord. He is the one who places wisdom into our hearts. The gifts of wisdom and knowledge that he gives are not for boasting but for the building up of the church. Those who bring people into the kingdom are the wise.

Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the Lord put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the Lord had commanded. And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, even everyone whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it. (Exodus 36:1-2)

Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart? (Job 38:36)

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. (Proverbs 11:30)

A loving home or church will have one thing in common, wise women who can weave all the fragments together into a valuable component. A church is blessed abundantly when anointed women of God dedicate their lives to the ministry.

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. (Exodus 35:25-26)

She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. (Proverbs 31:19-20)

When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me... Verily I say unto you, wheresoever this Gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her. (Matthew 26:10, 13)

I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cencrea. (Romans 16:1):

Five is the number of redemptions, which is a complete study in and of itself. Below is a comparison of the workers of the Old Covenant and the anointed workers of the New Covenant. Whose object is to turn the Tabernacle, “man”, into a masterpiece. It will take every gift given to man and all whom the Lord has given wisdom to bring the church into full redemption and fellowship one with another.

Workers in Gold: Holiness, Apostles -- Missionaries

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. (Acts 2:42-43)

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. (Acts 4:33)

Workers in Silver: Atonement, Prophets

And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them. (Acts 15:32)

And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. (Acts 21:9-10)

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (2 Peter 2:1)

Workers in Brass: Call to Action, Evangelists

And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. (Acts 21:8)

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. (Acts 8:5)

Cutting of Stones: Glory, Pastors--Elder--Bishops

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13a):

And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. (Acts 14:23)

This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. (1 Timothy 3: 1)

Carving of Timber: Perfectionists, Masters – Teachers

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12:28)

Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. (2 Timothy 1:11)

The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things. (Titus 2:3-5)

We must give an account of our stewardship. We are servants who have been entrusted with at least one talent, the number will vary, as with the abilities that the Lord has given. Seize every opportunity to witness; our sphere of influence must be expanded daily, so that, at the end of our ministry we will be able to do much more than at the beginning.

The parable of the talents speaks of our diversities of gifts and privileges and the opportunities for service. Do not be jealous of others and the gifts that they were given. Develop the gifts that the Lord has given you.

For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. (Matthew 25:14-15)

And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 25:30)

The parable of pounds is different than that of the talents in that the servants are entrusted with the same amounts. This parable speaks of the gifts, which are common to all, especially the gift of salvation. We need to make the greatest possible use of our common salvation by prayer, the exercise of faith, and doing remarkable things in the kingdom. Many in the church will pass through life just sitting in church doing little of nothing, never realizing or enjoying Christ's gift of eternal life, while hoping that they are saved. Take what was given to you and improve upon it. We can all add something to ourselves and the kingdom.

And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. (Luke 19:13)

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. (Jude 1:3)

The Lord has turned his back to his chosen people for a season because of their sin, to bring opportunity to the Gentiles. We have been grafted into his kingdom. Let us look for every opportunity to use our gifts and calling wisely and sin not.

For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance. (Romans 11:29)

According to the grace of God, which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16)

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

Chapter 5: The Encampment

The Lord set a circle of protection around the Tabernacle, with the camp of Moses and Aaron before the eastern gate, and the tribe of Levi camping around the other sides. In every church, where the gospel of Christ and his kingdom is preached, the pastor needs to have a circle of protection around him, both spiritual and physical. In today's churches, pastors are under the constant onslaught of the wicked one, and there are too many in the ministry who try to stand alone. There is wisdom and strength and in numbers (Proverbs 27:17).

But those that encamp before the Tabernacle toward the east, even before the Tabernacle of the congregation eastward, shall be Moses, and Aaron and his sons, keeping the charge of the sanctuary for the charge of the children of Israel; and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death. Numbers 3:38

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)

Aaron and his sons were chosen to be the priests before the Lord. The Levites were chosen, instead of the firstborn sons of Israel, to perform the service of the Tabernacle. There were as many Levites as first-born, and the difference was made good by the payment of redemption money. We also have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and belong to the Lord of glory, to minister unto him! Make sure to give him all the glory.

These also are the generations of Aaron and Moses in the day that the LORD spake with Moses in mount Sinai. And these are the names of the sons of Aaron; Nadab the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the priests which were anointed, whom he consecrated to minister in the priest's office. And Nadab and Abihu died before the LORD, when they offered strange fire before the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children: and Eleazar and Ithamar ministered in the priest's office in the sight of Aaron their father. (Numbers 3:1-4)

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of their cattle; and the Levites shall be mine: I am the Lord. And for those that are to be redeemed of the two hundred and threescore and thirteen of the firstborn of the children of Israel, which are more than the Levites; Thou shalt even take five shekels apiece by the poll, after the shekel of the sanctuary shalt thou take them: (the shekel is twenty gerahs:) And thou shalt give the money, wherewith the odd number of them is to be redeemed, unto Aaron and to his sons. (Numbers 3:44-48)

The Levites completed the first circle of protection of the Tabernacle. Aaron and his family provided the priesthood, and the remainder of the Levites performed the more mundane duties of ministry; each given a specific duty. This is the pattern for a successful church.

And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest shall be chief over the chief of the Levites and have the oversight of them that keep the charge of the sanctuary. (Num 3:32)

The Gershonites, as eldest, pitched westward of the Tabernacle and oversaw the covering of the Tent.

The families of the Gershonites shall pitch behind the Tabernacle westward. (Numbers 3:23)

And the charge of the sons of Gershon in the Tabernacle of the congregation shall be the Tabernacle, and the tent, the covering thereof, and the hanging for the door of the Tabernacle of the congregation, And the hangings of the court, and the curtain for the door of the court, which is by the Tabernacle, and by the altar round about, and the cords of it for all the service thereof. (Num 3:25-26)

The Kohathites, because related to Aaron, pitched southward and oversaw the sacred fixtures.

The families of the sons of Kohath shall pitch on the side of the Tabernacle southward. (Numbers 3:29)

And their charge shall be the ark, and the table, and the candlestick, and the altars, and the vessels of the sanctuary wherewith they minister, and the hanging, and all the service thereof. (Numbers 3:31)

The Merarites pitched northward and had charge of the boards and pillars of the tent and outer court.

And the chief of the house of the father of the families of Merari was Zuriel the son of Abihail: these shall pitch on the side of the Tabernacle northward. (Numbers 3:35)

And under the custody and charge of the sons of Merari shall be the boards of the Tabernacle, and the bars thereof, and the pillars thereof, and the sockets thereof, and all the vessels thereof, and all that serveth thereto, And the pillars of the court round about, and their sockets, and their pins, and their cords. (Num 3:36-37)

The tribes made up the final circles of protection with their pennants (banners) as seen in the book of Ezekiel. The four faces, to the east (lion), south (man), west (cherub or ox), and to the north (eagle).

Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house: far off about the Tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch. And on the east side toward the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the camp of Judah [lion] pitch throughout their armies. And those that do pitch next unto him shall be the tribe of Issachar. Then the tribe of Zebulun. (Numbers 2:2, 7):

On the south side shall be the standard of the camp of Reuben [man] according to their armies. And those which pitch by him shall be the tribe of Simeon. Then the tribe of Gad. (Numbers 2:10, 14):

On the west side shall be the standard of the camp of Ephraim [ox or cherub] according to their armies. And by him shall be the tribe of Manasseh. Then the tribe of Benjamin. (Numbers 2:18, 22):

The standard of the camp of Dan [eagle] shall be on the north side by their armies... And those that encamp by him shall be the tribe of Asher. Then the tribe of Naphtali. (Numbers 2:25, 29):

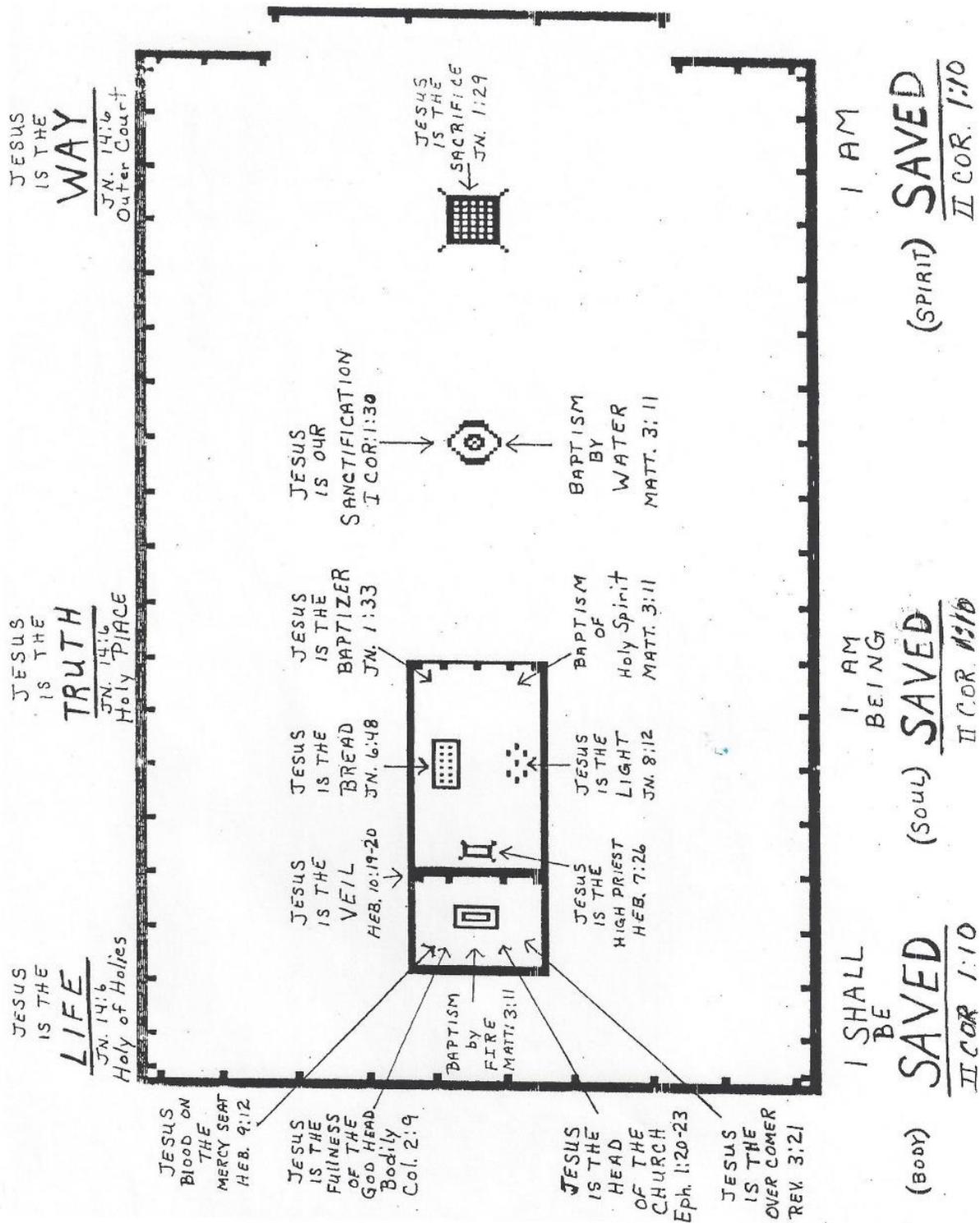
We find the description of the faces on the standards in the heavenly realm; the depictions are found in the books of Ezekiel and Revelation.

And everyone had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. (Ezekiel 10:14)

Revelation 4:7 he first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.

Balaam was taken to a high place to curse the Israelites. Seeing the plan of salvation, the Cross on the desert floor, he could not. Once our eyes have been opened and we see God's plan of salvation, we will not turn back nor curse what the Lord has done for us. No cross, no redemption! (Front cover.)

And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him. having his eyes open: How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy Tabernacles, O Israel! his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted. he shall eat up the nations his enemies. Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee. (Numbers 24:2, 4b-5, 7b, 8b, 9b)



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Chapter 6: Outer Court of the Tabernacle

Before we start our journey through the Tabernacle, looking with unbelief, all that we can see is the white linen fence, representing the purity of God. Because of sin in our lives, we believe that we will never be forgiven or measure up. We will only see what was waiting for us when we walk through the gate and meet with the Lord for the first time.

You shall make the court of the Tabernacle. On the south side the court shall have hangings of fine twined linen a hundred cubits long for one side. Its twenty pillars and their twenty bases shall be of bronze, but the hooks of the pillars and their fillets shall be of silver. And likewise for its length on the north side there shall be hangings a hundred cubits long, its pillars twenty and their bases twenty, of bronze, but the hooks of the pillars and their fillets shall be of silver. And for the breadth of the court on the west side there shall be hangings for fifty cubits, with ten pillars and ten bases. The breadth of the court on the front to the east shall be fifty cubits. The hangings for the one side of the gate shall be fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and three bases. On the other side the hangings shall be fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and three bases. For the gate of the court there shall be a screen twenty cubits long, of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, embroidered with needlework. It shall have four pillars and with them four bases. (Exodus 27:9-16)

Both, the civil and the moral law, are of divine origin; without them society could not exist. They are provided by the Lord as a necessary protection to the church. Without freedom of action and thought, there would not be a way to truly worship the Lord of glory. The law was given to show man that he has need for a redeemer. The size of the outer court represents the 1,500 years of the law as seen by its size (200 cubits + 100 cubits x 5 cubits = 1,500 cubits total).

The length of the court shall be a hundred cubits, the breadth fifty, and the height five cubits, with hangings of fine twined linen and bases of bronze. (Exodus 27:18)

The color of the outer court, the white fine linen walls, symbolized God's purity, and righteousness; it separates us from him. Once we have received salvation and enter the gate, his righteousness becomes our personal righteousness.

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. (Psalm 29:2)

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. (Revelation 19:7-9)

Numbers and colors are deeply rooted throughout the Scripture. God designed and created the universe based on his physics and mathematical laws. Today, computer systems run on two numbers, zero and one: nothing + Christ. All things are possible! This is how he formed our universe and continues to govern it (Job 11:7-9). It is vital to see, search, understand, and comprehend the Bible through this revelation, this knowledge will increase our love for the Lord and his handiwork.

One	Christ.
Three	Represents divine wholeness, completeness, and perfection.
Four	Points to creation, recreation, or any creative work of our Lord.
Ten	Authority of God and his government and responsibility to the law.
Fifteen	Represents a period of rest, which comes after deliverance.
Twenty	A cycle of completeness, waiting as compared to trial and rewarded.
Fifty	Jubilee

The outer court separates those who choose the Lord of glory, from the world. He does not divide or separate us except unto him. Our only separation or discrimination should be with the unsaved. Our business with the worldly is only to be a witness to them for salvation.

Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the Lord which sanctify you. (Leviticus 20:7-8)

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. (2 Corinthians 6:17).

For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens. (Hebrews 7:26);

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)

There are sixty pillars holding up the white fine linen fence and they are separated by silver fillets connecting one to another. The number sixty is *same* in Hebrew, which means to uphold, help, or support.

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. (Isaiah 42:1)

And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. (Isaiah 63:5)

Behold, God is mine helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul. (Psalm 54:4)

Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant? Behold his bed, which is Solomon's; threescore valiant men are about it, of the valiant of Israel. They all hold swords, being expert in war: every man hath his sword upon his thigh because of fear in the night. (Song of Solomon 3:6-8)

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. (Revelation 3:12)

The linen fence is held up by 120 silver couplings and hooks separated by silver fillets. The linen fence hanging, by silver hooks, is a picture of our Lord, hanging between heaven and earth as our mediator.

All the pillars round about the court shall be filleted with silver; their hooks shall be of silver, and their sockets of brass. (Exodus 27:17)

For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both. (Job 9:32-33)

Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1:78-79)

The brass base and pins were made of brass because they were either in or on the ground. This represents the future judgment of the earth and those who make their home here. Let us set our heart and eyes on heaven because that is our destination.

All the pillars round about the court shall be filleted with silver; their hooks shall be of silver, and their sockets of brass. All the vessels of the Tabernacle in all the service thereof, and all the pins thereof, and all the pins of the court, shall be of brass. (Exodus 27:17, 19)

So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live. (Numbers 21:9)

And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. (Revelation 1:15)

The cords and stakes kept the walls of the Tabernacle solidly hooked to the earth and upright. We are of earth and anchored, but not of this world. Our conversation is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). Our Lord would like us to strengthen our bond with him, and with one another.

The hangings of the court, his pillars, and his sockets, and the hanging for the court gate, his cords, and his pins, and all the vessels of the service of the Tabernacle, for the tent of the congregation. (Exodus 39:40),

Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a Tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken. (Isaiah 33:20)

Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes. (Isaiah 54:2)

My Tabernacle is spoiled, and all my cords are broken: my children are gone forth of me, and they are not: there is none to stretch forth my tent any more, and to set up my curtains. For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the Lord: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered. (Jeremiah 10:20-21)

The number 120 symbolizes a divinely appointed time of waiting. There will be time no longer. The mystery of God will be finished. (Revelations 10:6-7).

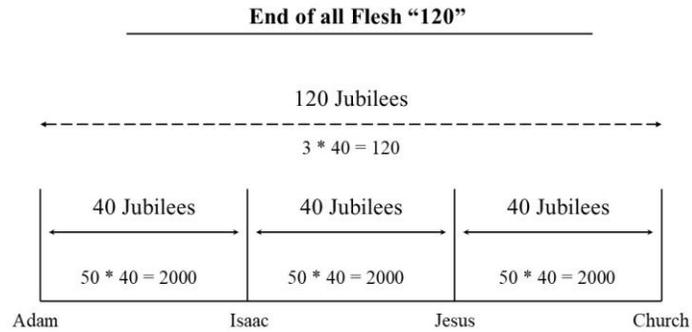
And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. (Genesis 6:3)

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. (Genesis 6:13)

And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated. (Deuteronomy 34:7)

Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets. (2 Chronicles 5:12):

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. (Acts 1:15-16)



Chapter 7: The Gate of Entrance

The eastern gate is the only way into the Tabernacle. Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven. There are many voices in the world today, and many who claim to be the way, but Christ is the only way to heaven. An understanding of the post, sockets, materials, and colors of the gate will help reveal this truth.

The hangings of one side of the gate shall be fifteen cubits: their pillars three, and their sockets three. And on the other side shall be hangings fifteen cubits: their pillars three, and their sockets three. And for the gate of the court shall be an hanging of twenty cubits, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework: and their pillars shall be four, and their sockets four. (Exodus 27:14-16)

And the hanging for the gate of the court was needlework, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen: and twenty cubits was the length, and the height in the breadth was five cubits, answerable to the hangings of the court. And their pillars were four, and their sockets of brass four; their hooks of silver, and the overlaying of their chapters and their fillets of silver. (Exodus 38:18-19)

The colors embroidered into the fine linen gate, at the entrance of the court of the Tabernacle, are of great spiritual significance, pointing the way to Christ.

Blue	Christ's Heavenly Nature (Origin of Christ) (Gospel of John)
Purple	Christ as King (Royalty) (A mixture of Blue & Red) (Gospel of Matthew)
Scarlet	Blood of Jesus (Suffering Servant) (Sacrifice) (Gospel of Mark)
White	Perfection (Perfect Man) (righteousness) (Gospel of Luke)

The Eastern gate, the Lord's gate, like other parts of the Tabernacle, is rich with meaning. The gate was positioned to the east, the rising of the sun, the coming of light. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). As we belong to Christ, we are also a light to this dying world. (Matthew 5:14).

And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also were beside them, and every one stood at the door of the east gate of the Lord's house; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above. (Ezekiel 10:19)

Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that loseth toward the east: And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory. (Ezekiel 43:1-2)

Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (The second coming of the Lord of Glory) (Matthew 24:25-27)

The gate, a type of Christ, is the only way to heaven and the way through the gate is by the blood of the Lamb. To live a life with only the hope that someday we will be in heaven is a life wasted. With a pure heart for God, we can enjoy a fulfilled life now.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. (John 10:1-2)

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 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 10:7-9)

The gate, a place of inspection was narrow and well-guarded. It was only twenty cubits wide and five cubits high. The pathway to a new life is through this gate. The word strait means “pent up, narrow, difficult to be entered.” The way to heaven is pent up, narrow, and intimate, not visibly found, only by revelation and faith. The way to death is open, broad, jammed and many are on that path. The Lord will inspect us as we come into his presence, like the shepherds when they inspected their sheep every evening as the entered the sheepfold.

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord. And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord. (Leviticus 27:30-32)

Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord God. And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the Lord. (Ezekiel 20:36-38)

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereby: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (Matthew 7:13-14)

Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. (Luke 13:23-24)

Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. (Hebrews 13:12-13)

In the days of Moses, the gate of a city or village was a place of authority. Judges sat at the gate where they made their rulings. Still today, judges have authority over our communities, and a true minister of God, walking in full anointing, has the spiritual authority to keep satanic presence at bay.

And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate, of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. (Genesis 19:1)

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice. (Genesis 22:17-18)

And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go. And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men. And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them. (Genesis 24:58-60)

Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate. (2 Samuel 19:8)

Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. (Hebrews 13:12-14)

Today, we have a more refined judicial system, but back then everyday problems were overseen at the gate of the city. Heaven's gates are well guarded; we should also guard our hearts because it is the only way for us to enter the heavenly realm.

And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. (Genesis 28:17)

And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him. And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron. (He removed their authority.) (Judges 16:2-3)

Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph. (Amos 5:14-15)

But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. (Acts 9:24)

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. (Revelations 22:14)

The gates of heaven are a place of glory. We will never know until we get there, the glory that is waiting for us, but we can know the peace, love, and joy of walking with the Lord of glory today.

Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people. (Isaiah 62:10)

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. (Psalm 24:

Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord: This gate of the Lord, into which the righteous shall enter. I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. (Psalm 118:19-21)

The ways of Zion do mourn, because none come to the solemn feasts: all her gates are desolate: her priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she is in bitterness. (Lamentations 1:4)

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)

Who and where are the gatekeepers and watchmen of the church today? The Catholic cardinals called themselves the door keepers. The Latin word *cardinalis*, from the word *cardo* (*pivot or hinge*), was first used to designate a bishop or priest. The apostles, prophets, and teachers are God's designated watchmen, but today, we have been rendered powerless in the modern church. Is there any chance of an awakening or are we going to remain powerless? It is time for the church to arise and declare victory. The end-time harvest is waiting for us.

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. (Psalm 84:10-11)

Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? (Isaiah 21:11b)

But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. (Ezekiel 33:6)

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers. (1 Corinthians 12:28a)

Chapter 8: The Brazen Altar

The brazen altar, also known as brass or bronze alter, is where we first meet with Christ, usually with an attitude, where sin is taken care of, and where judgment begins. This is the beginning of our new life in Christ, and where we find out that we have come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). It is no longer I but Christ in me, the pope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

The brazen altar was where God's judgement dealt with sin and righteousness. Only after dealing with sin can a person enter the pure and holy presence of God. Even though Christ finished his work at the cross of Calvary, when he said, "It is finished," this altar does not represent the full redemptive work of man. We are not finish. We still have work to do!

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 basons, 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 shewed thee in the mount, so shall they make it. (Exodus 27:1-8)

It is impossible to replicate exactly the plan of the Altar of Burnt Offering or Brazen Altar, but a general idea can be seen from the accounts of the text.

- It was foursquare -- unlimited -- the number of the world -- four points of the compass: east, west, north, south.
- It was five cubits square -- complete work -- man's inability -- The number of redemption -- The five holes in the body of Jesus Christ.
- It was three cubits high: God's provision, fully and completely -- The number of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The brass overlaid wood signifies the changes that take place in us, as we begin a full and productive life with the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Salvation -- transformation by death to self and awakened to a new life of peace, love, and joy, all paid for in full.
- Justification -- cleansed by the fire of the Holy Spirit as he removes our old way of living, and we begin a new life.
- Adoption and Assimilation -- transformation as we are accepted into a new family, the family of God.

The law of a higher life decrees that "to gain a new way of living we must give up the lower life." Therefore, the caterpillar spins itself a silky cocoon and dies, but from its tomb a beautiful butterfly arises with a new body and nature. This is a spiritual law, an absolute truth.

"Except a corn of wheat falls into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. (John 12:24)"

The shittim wood is said to signify the merit of the Lord's righteousness. However, the Hebrew root meaning of the word has never been determined, and scholars differ widely in their views as to what kind of tree is meant. Another passage in which the term occurs is where we read, "I will plant in the wilderness the cedar of shittah, the myrtle, and the oil tree" (Isaiah 41:19). The brazen altar, and some other articles of the Tabernacle were made from this wood. Some Bible versions call it acacia wood and it seems to have been held in high honor. These trees grew in the desert, under adverse conditions. They had thorns and did not deteriorate and crumble under constant heat. There are many references in the Word of God, comparing Christ, the holy men, and men as trees of the field.

But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever. (Psalm 52:8)

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. (Isaiah 53:1-2)

And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! (Mark 15:17-18)

Unfortunately, in today's church, many are operating in the world system just like the Israelites did when they came out of Egypt. God sent Jesus to deal with the world. Likewise, in the wilderness, the Lord used Moses to deal with the Israelites and sin. When they were bitten by snakes and scorpions, God instructed Moses to erect a brass snake. When the Israelites would look upon it, they would be healed. The brass snake in the wilderness reveals God's willingness to take our sin and graciously deal with it.

Another definition for *brass* is "a serpent's hiss" that shares the same root word *nachash*, meaning 'enchanter'. This root word is associated with the Hebrew word for *familiar spirits (obe or owb)*. That is, a mumble, (i.e., a water *skin* (from its hollow sound), hence a necromancer (ventriloquist)). This is another way in which the world system and witchcraft are present in some churches today.

And Moses made a serpent of brass, and set it upon the standard: and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked unto the serpent of brass, he lived. (Numbers 21:9)

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. (Deuteronomy 18:10-11)

And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance. (Deuteronomy 21:22-23)

The four horns at the corners of the altar represents power, rulership, authority, judgment, and salvation. The horns of an animal represent their power and standing. In turn, the horns on the Altar represent that all power is from the Lord and is given to man according to the degree that he is willing to receive it. He gives wisdom to discern good and evil, and the power to overcome! When we come to salvation, the horns become our protection from the evil one, as we are now under the Lord's authority and power.

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. (Exodus 27:2)

And thou shalt take of the blood of the bullock, and put it upon the horns of the altar with thy finger, and pour all the blood beside the bottom of the altar. (Exodus 29:12)

And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar. And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah feareth king Solomon; for, lo, he hath laid hold on the horns of the altar, saying, Let king Solomon swear unto me first that he will not slay his servant with the sword. (1 Kings 1:50-51)

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. (Psalm 18:2-3)

In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. For thou art the glory of their strength: and in thy favour our horn shall be exalted. For the LORD is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our king. (Psalm 89:16-18)

And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power. Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet. (Habakkuk 3:4-5)

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David. (Luke 1:68-69);

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. (Revelation 5:6)

As our faith increases and we learn to walk humbly before the Lord, our relationship will become stronger. The Father loves us too much to allow even the smallest inconsistencies in our lives. We must agree with Him as to the sinfulness of sin, the need of cleansing, and a closer walk with him. Let us keep our eyes open and stay alert to His direction. He has an assignment for us to fulfill. We will need to prove ourselves worthy of our vocation.

And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldst keep his commandments, or no. (Deuteronomy 8:2)

That in the day that I shall visit the transgressions of Israel upon him I will also visit the altars of Bethel: and the horns of the altar shall be cut off, and fall to the ground. (Amos 3:14)

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Romans 12:2)

But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. (Galatians 6:4)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

The two staves are for completeness. The brass-covered wood, as in the brazen altar, is a picture of judgement upon humanity. However, in the other pieces of furniture, the staves are covered with gold, representing atonement. As believers in the world, our presence foretells of the judgement to come; we should be walking with the knowledge of forgiveness, repentance, and remission of sin. The unbeliever, because of their sin, does not want us around them because of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, who convicts them of their sin.

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. (Exodus 27:6)

And I will feed the flock of slaughter, even you, O poor of the flock. And I took unto me two staves; the one I called Beauty [Grace], and the other I called Bands [Union]; and I fed the flock. (Zechariah 11:7)

And I took my staff, even Beauty, and cut it asunder, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the people. And it was broken in that day: and so the poor of the flock that waited upon me knew that it was the word of the Lord. And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was priced by them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord. Then I cut asunder mine other staff, even Bands, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel. (Zechariah 11:10-14)

After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. (Luke 10: 1)

The lamb (a sacrificial offering) was killed, put on the altar, and consumed by fire. This is where the demand of the law was fulfilled. Likewise, all the punishment came upon Jesus, the Lamb of God, who was slain for the sins of the world. The Lord asks of us an enthusiastic sacrifice. He will not accept a lukewarm or a half-hearted one.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 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 53:5-7)

Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. (Isaiah 53:10)

The fire on the altar was of divine origin, from the Lord of Glory Himself. The same fire will come upon us when we are fully committed to Him.

And Moses and Aaron went into the Tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people. And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces. (Leviticus 9:23-24)

The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out. (Leviticus 6:13)

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. (Matthew 3:11-12)

For our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:29)

As we grow in grace and desire for a closer walk with the Lord, we will ask for the fire of God to come upon us and burn any residue of sin from our lives. There is no sin in heaven! We should examine ourselves daily, to keep our walk pure and holy before him.

Behold, the name of the Lord cometh from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire. (Isaiah 30:27):

And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God. (Zechariah 13:9)

Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. (Romans 6:18)

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (2 Peter 3:7)

Whenever a sacrifice was burned, the residue of ashes fell through the grate and the ashes were ceremoniously removed by the priests who would deposit them outside the camp in a clean place. We may have ashes left-over that have not been appropriately taken care of, like unforgiveness or anger. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to reveal them for proper disposal, and for the cleansing of our live, mind, and spirit.

And thou shalt make his pans to receive his ashes, and his shovels, and his basons, and his fleshhooks, and his firepans: all the vessels thereof thou shalt make of brass. (Exodus 27:3)

And the skin of the bullock, and all his flesh, with his head, and with his legs, and his inwards, and his dung, Even the whole bullock shall he carry forth without the camp unto a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and burn him on the wood with fire: where the ashes are poured out shall he be burnt. (Leviticus 4:11-12)

There are five Levitical offerings to our Lord. Without a gift on the altar our sins cannot be atoned for. The Lord God permitted a Lamb as a substitute for the sinner's debt. Nothing unholy or blemished was to be offered. The Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who had no sin, became our sacrifice, and paid the price of sin for us.

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. (Leviticus 17:11)

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)

None of the burnt offering sacrifice was to be eaten. It was dedicated to the Lord and was completely consumed by the fire. There were three categories of burnt offerings required: for the wealthy (a bullock or sheep), the middle (sheep or goat), and the poor (turtledoves or young pigeons).

Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock. If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the Tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD. And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him. (Leviticus 1:2-4)

And if his offering be of the flocks, namely, of the sheep, or of the goats, for a burnt sacrifice; he shall bring it a male without blemish. (Leviticus 1:10)

And if the burnt sacrifice for his offering to the LORD be of fowls, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves, or of young pigeons. (Leviticus 1:14)

The peace offering was a shared meal between the Lord and the priests. Sometimes, the participant was included.

And if his oblation be a sacrifice of peace offering, if he offer it of the herd; whether it be a male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the LORD. (Leviticus 3:1-8)

The meal offering was an offering of gifts. This speaks of a life that is dedicated to generosity and giving.

And when any will offer a meat offering unto the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put frankincense thereon: And he shall bring it to Aaron's sons the priests: and he shall take thereof his handful of the flour thereof, and of the oil thereof, with all the frankincense thereof; and the priest shall burn the memorial of it upon the altar, to be an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD. (Leviticus 2:1-2):

The sin offering paid the debt in full for the worshipper's unintentional weaknesses or failures before the Lord.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and shall do against any of them (Leviticus 4:1-2):

The trespass offering was an atonement for sin connected with fraud that included a repayment with an interest penalty.

Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, and give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering. And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the Lord, a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest. (Leviticus 6:5-6)

Chapter 9: The Laver

There are not any measurements given for the laver, as we cannot measure the work of the Holy Spirit, in our lives or the lives of others. Moses was instructed to create a laver for the cleansing of the priests before they would enter the tent of meeting. We have the everlasting fountain of living water opened to us, Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. The blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin, but we are to cleanse ourselves daily by the washing of the water of the Word.

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. For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat. (Exodus 30:17-19)

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:26-27)

In our homes today, we wash our hands and feet, and think ourselves as clean, but to enter the tent of meetings and into the presence of the Lord of glory, we must have our hearts purified by the Word. Any infraction of the law, for the service of the sanctuary, was not merely an act of disobedience; it was a direct offence against the Lord and punishable by death.

When they go into the Tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the Lord: So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations. (Exodus 30:20-21)

And he set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and put water there, to wash withal. And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat: When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the Lord commanded Moses. (Exodus 40:30-32)

In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. (Zechariah 13:1)

Aaron and his sons were anointed with the same oil as the Tabernacle and everything within. It took seven days for the consecration of the Tabernacle and the priests. As the priests were set aside for consecration, we are also to be set aside and consecrated for the ministry, including our homes.

And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water. And he put upon him the coat, and girded him with the girdle, and clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod upon him, and he girded him with the curious girdle of the ephod, and bound it unto him therewith. And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim. And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, even upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate, the holy crown; as the Lord commanded Moses. And Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the Tabernacle and all that was therein, and sanctified them. And he sprinkled thereof upon the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all his vessels, both the laver and his foot, to sanctify them. And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head, and anointed him, to sanctify him. (Leviticus 8:6-12)

And ye shall not go out of the door of the Tabernacle of the congregation in seven days, until the days of your consecration be at an end: for seven days shall he consecrate you. (Leviticus 8:33)

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word... Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. (Psa 119:9, 11 BETH)

There are two sections of the Laver: the upper for the washing of hands and the lower for the cleansing of feet. Our hands must be washed clean to go before the Lord in prayer, praise, and adoration. Our walk needs a continual cleansing by the Word and sanctification by the Holy Spirit.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. (Psalms 24:3-4)

I have hated the congregation of evildoers; and will not sit with the wicked. I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O Lord. (Psalms 26:5-6)

Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. (John 13:10)

John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. (Ephesians 5 :26),

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost. (Titus 3:5)

I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. (1 Timothy 2:8)

Jesus, at the beginning of his ministry, was baptized with water as a sign of obedience to the will of the Father and dying to self. The laver speaks of baptism by water as well. Baptism comes after salvation. Although it does not save, it is a picture of our obedience to walk righteous and being Christ-like.

And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him. (Matthew 3:15-16):

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Galatians 3:27)

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

The women who assembled at the entrance of the tent of meeting were devout women who loved the Lord. The giving up of their polished mirrors for the creation of the laver was as forsaking the world. The mirrors were made chiefly of an alloy of copper, tin, and lead. It was fashioned with such skill that it could reflect the greatest amount of light.

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. (Exodus 38:8)

The polished brass represents self-judgment. When we self-reflect, we will not see a need to make any changes in our lives; we will establish our own ideals and principles of honesty and arrogance. But when we look in the mirror of the Word of God, we will see who we really are and the great need for change.

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. (Luke 18:10-11, 13)

For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. (1 Corinthians 11:31-32)

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (2 Corinthians 13:5)

We will only fool ourselves if we build ourselves up to be someone other than who we really are. The Word will reveal to us that we are to become a servant to the body of Christ, and to the Lord of glory. Nothing more, nothing less.

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. (Romans 6:8)

I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing. (2 Corinthians 12:11)

Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances. (Colossians 2:20),

For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. (Philippians 3:3)

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21)

In the next chapter, we will be entering the tent of meetings and the promises of God. Before entering the promise land, the Israelites had to present themselves clean before the Lord. However, many had not been consecrated by the act of circumcision, as the Lord commanded.

And Joshua rose early in the morning; and they removed from Shittim, (a place of scourging thorns) and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. (Joshua 3:1)

And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan. (Joshua 3:17)

At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time. (Joshua 5:2)

And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day. (Joshua 5:9a)

From this point forward, we will live in righteousness and walk in His promises. There is no turning back! We will move onward to glory.

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. (2 Corinthians 1:20)

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Corinthians 7:1)

That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (Hebrews 6:12)

And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest. And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the Tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. (Revelation 15:2-5):

Chapter 10: Tent of Meetings

As we go deeper, in the study of the Tabernacle, it shows our desire to draw closer to the Lord. We have chosen to give up the natural life for a more meaningful one, to live in the presence of the Holy Spirit. In drawing closer, we will enter the promise, The tent of meetings that has two areas separated by the veil: “the holy place” and “the holy of holies.” The layout and description were revealed to Moses and to the apostle Paul.

In the day of the first month, the first of the month shalt thou set up the Tabernacle, the Tabernacle of the testimony. And thou shalt put therein the ark of the testimony and cover the ark with the veil. And thou shalt bring in the table and set in order the things that are to be set in order upon it, and thou shalt bring in the lampstand and light its lamps. And thou shalt set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the testimony and put the hanging of the door to the Tabernacle. Then thou shalt set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the Tabernacle, of the Tabernacle of the testimony. And thou shalt set the laver between the Tabernacle of the congregation and the altar and shalt put water therein. Last, thou shalt set up the court round about and hang up the hanging at the court gate. (Exodus 40:2-8)

Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. For there was a Tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. And after the second veil, the Tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly. (Hebrews 9:1-5)

The *holy place* represents the feast of Pentecost: (Feast of Harvest) (the church)

- Holy Place: $20 \times 10 \times 10 = 2000$ cubits (2000 years)

The *holy of holies* represents the Feast of Tabernacle: (millennial reign of Christ)

- Holy of Holies: $10 \times 10 \times 10 = 1000$ cubits (1000 years)

The second of three entrances, the Tabernacle door gives access to the holy place. This is where we will find the table of shewbread, the golden candlestick, and the golden altar of Incense. Outside this door, living in the outer court, one is saved yet as by fire, living a self-centered life that still needs to be dealt with. Once our sins are atoned for and washed by the water of the Word, we will be allowed to approach this door. We gain access by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Once this has been experienced, we will find a new way of living with the Lord of glory. As priests of the new covenant and walking in the Spirit, this door will always be open to us.

And he made an hanging for the Tabernacle door of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, of needlework; And the five pillars of it with their hooks: and he overlaid their chapiters and their fillets with gold: but their five sockets were of brass. (Exodus 36:37-38)

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 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 10:7-9)

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. (Revelation 3:8)

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3:20)

The five posts (pillars) of the door represent being founded in redemption and grace. They were used to support the fine linen door of the holy place. These posts were made of acacia wood covered with gold, with gold caps, and gold curtain rods but with bronze bases. The bronze bases represent judgement, as mentioned before. As we progress through the Tabernacle, we see Christ's finished work. But our work is not yet finished, we are now at a major turning point in our relationship with our heavenly Father.

In today's church, some come to this crossroad and instead of drawing near to God by allowing the Holy Spirit to consecrate them, they choose to turn away; bringing shame to Christ and themselves, trampling over Christ, his grace, and his blood (Hebrews 6:4-6).

The walls of the Tabernacle were of wood formed of upright boards overlaid with gold, which represents the divinity of Christ in an earthly body. The Tabernacle was then covered with four different coverings. The innermost set, the ceiling, was that of white finely woven linen embroidered with cherubims in assorted colors (blue, scarlet, and purple of cunning work). The next layer was of goats' hair, longer and broader, to protect the first layer. The third and fourth layers were of rams' and seals' skins, respectively, to protect from the weather.

And thou shalt make boards for the Tabernacle of shittim wood standing up. (Exodus 26:15)

And thou shalt overlay the boards with gold, and make their rings of gold for places for the bars: and thou shalt overlay the bars with gold. (Exodus 26:29)

"The great mystery," God and man in the person of Jesus Christ wood and gold. A mystery concerning the incarnation and the work of the Messiah, which had been so long "kept hidden" from the world, is a topic of genuine importance for today.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables. (Mark 4:11):

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory. (1 Corinthians 2:7):

Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:26-27):

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. (1 Timothy 3:16)

Each person who receives Jesus Christ as "Lord" stands complete in him and has the power to be overcome and filled with the fullness of God.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name [right or privilege?]. (John 1:12)

Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. (Acts 11:16)

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. [This is up to you, your decision.] (Ephesians 3:19)

The numbers twenty and forty symbolize a cycle of completeness that is connected to a perfect period of waiting. The north and south walls each had twenty boards with forty silver sockets.

And thou shalt make boards for the Tabernacle of shittim wood standing up. Ten cubits shall be the length of a board, and a cubit and a half shall be the breadth of one board. And thou shalt make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards; two sockets under one board for his two tenons and two sockets under another board for his two tenons. And for the second side of the Tabernacle on the north side there shall be twenty boards. (Exodus 26:15-16, 19-20):

In the west wall we find more specific numbers: the number two which indicates union, and the number six, representing man. The addition of these numbers gives eight, which symbolizes the absolute infinity of God, or new beginnings. The back wall of the holy of holies had eight boards, which is a picture of eternal life.

The number eight also represents a new order or creation; man's true born-again nature as he is resurrected from death to life. The eighth day is the first day of the new week, precisely as the octave is the eighth note that begins the musical cycle anew onto a higher level. Moreover, number eight is similar in shape to an infinity sign, a wave of the octave, or a standing electronic wave.

And for the sides of the Tabernacle westward thou shalt make six boards. And two boards shalt thou make for the corners of the Tabernacle in the two sides. And they shall be coupled together beneath, and they shall be coupled together above the head of it unto one ring; thus shall it be for them both; they shall be for the two corners. And they shall be eight boards, and their sockets of silver, sixteen sockets; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board. (Exodus 26:22-25)

Except for the door, which had brass bases, all other foundation bases of the Tabernacle were made of pure silver. This is a picture of the transformation of a believer passing from judgment to a life of victory. From this point on, our lives will become one with the Holy Spirit.

And of the hundred talents of silver were cast the sockets of the sanctuary, and the sockets of the vail; a hundred sockets of the hundred talents, a talent for a socket. (Exodus 38:27)

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. (Romans 15:13)

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (1 Corinthians 6:19)

A payment of silver for every male above the age of twenty was required as a ransom (offering), that there might be no plague among them. Jesus also paid this tribute (Matthew 17:27). Silver is not the atonement but is paid in honor of Christ, who became our substitute, and for the operation of his gospel. Freedom from plagues was included when Christ paid the ransom for us by his blood.

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. (Exodus 30:12)

Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. (Psalm 91:9-10)

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. (Matthew 10:1)

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (1 Peter 1:18-19):

The boards of the walls were bound together by five bars. The middle bar reached from end to end, which is a picture of the Holy Spirit working with the five-fold ministry in redemption, holding the church together as one in Christ. The Lord of glory should also be the center of our lives in all that we say and do.

And thou shalt make bars of shittim wood; five for the boards of the one side of the Tabernacle, And five bars for the boards of the other side of the Tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the Tabernacle, for the two sides westward. And the middle bar in the midst of the boards shall reach from end to end. (Exodus 26:26-28)

The four diverse layers of material over the structure, represent the complete and perfect covering of a believer as it relates to his re-creation. The ten curtains symbolize his perfect obedience to, and in harmony, with the law.

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. (Exodus 26:1)

(Exodus 26:7) And thou shalt make curtains of goats' hair to be a covering upon the Tabernacle: eleven curtains shalt thou make.

And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers' skins. (Exodus 26:14)

The badger skins, the overall covering of the tent provided protection from the outside elements. There was nothing special to its appearance. It was either blueish gray or blackish. It was taken from the skins of sea cows, seals, or porpoises that were abundant in the Red Sea. Like Christ, there was no beauty, form, or comeliness that we should desire him (Isaiah 53: 1-2). The badger skins were also used for their shoes because of its durability that was necessary for their long walks on their wilderness journey.

And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years. (Deuteronomy 8:2, 4)

And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot. (Deuteronomy 29:5)

I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk. (Ezekiel 16:10)

Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. (Galatians 4:3, 5)

The ram skins, tanned with all the wool on, represent substitution. It was desirable as a common winter jacket for the shepherds or peasants, hence, the suitability of these skins for the outer covering of the Tabernacle.

Genesis 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

Hebrews 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

The curtains of the Tabernacle were made of goats' hair, representing sacrifice. There are different densities of goat's hair, ranging from the fine "skins of the kids of the goats", used by Rebecca, and the coarser material used for "sackcloth". Goat's hair was also used for pillows and weaving.

And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son: And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck. (Genesis 27:15-16):

So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped. And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth. (1 Samuel 19:12-13)

The white finely woven linen covering, representing holiness, was embroidered with cherubims. This is a picture of the angels of heaven always watching over the redeemed.

And every wise hearted man among them that wrought the work of the Tabernacle made ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work made he them. (Exodus 36:8)

Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee. (Psalm 33:18-22)

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. (Psalm 34:7-9)

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. (Psalm 91 :11)

At times, life is a battlefield. For many of us it is an uphill battle to reach the holy place. As the priests were required to be cleansed before and after offering sacrifices, warriors were required to go through a post-battle cleansing process. All their attire was to be cleansed! As warriors, we should go to the Lord for daily cleansing because we are in a constant battle against the forces of darkness. Yesterday's manna will not sustain us.

And do ye abide without the camp seven days: whosoever hath killed any person, and whosoever hath touched any slain, purify both yourselves and your captives on the third day, and on the seventh day. And purify all your raiment, and all that is made of skins, and all work of goats' hair, and all things made of wood. (Numbers 31:19-20)

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. (John 15:3)

Chapter 11: The Candlestick

The Tabernacle did not have windows, and like the world, it would have been in darkness without the light of the Spirit of God. The candlestick, made of pure beaten gold symbolizing: the suffering that Christ received for our sin, the heavenly riches of the Godhead, and the Spirit of Christ (Holy Spirit). The candlestick was hammered from one talent of pure gold. A talent is over thirty-four kilograms or ninety plus pounds.

The church, baptized by the Holy Spirit, becomes the Light. The church must shine its light to the world which is in darkness. We must spread the heavenly riches throughout the world, which are given to us in the Word of God if only, we are willing to dig in and find the gold.

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. 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: Three bowls made like unto almonds, with a knop and a flower in one branch; and three bowls made like almonds in the other branch, with a knop and a flower: so in the six branches that come out of the candlestick. And in the candlestick shall be four bowls made like unto almonds, with their knops and their flowers. And there shall be a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, according to the six branches that proceed out of the candlestick. Their knops and their branches shall be of the same: all it shall be one beaten work of pure gold. And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it. And the tongs thereof, and the snuffdishes thereof, shall be of pure gold. Of a talent of pure gold shall he make it, with all these vessels. And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount. (Exodus 25 :31-40)

The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, is seen in the description of the candlestick using personal pronouns his shaft, his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers. It is also the manifestation of the person of the Holy Spirit, bringing light and revelation to us.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:12)

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)

And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. (Revelation 4:5)

The distinct parts of the candlestick all point to Christ and his relationship with the church. The branches are the church, and the center shaft is Christ. If the center shaft was to be removed, we would have the abomination of desolation. The expression "People who sit in darkness" denotes willing ignorance and lack of vision, as, in darkness one cannot see far. Like individuals lacking a plan for their lives; they love darkness and choose it rather than light. These are the ones who have given up on life and have set down.

The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. (Matthew 4:16, Isaiah 9:2)

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (John 1:4-5)

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (John 15:1-5)

For over three thousand years, the seven branched menorah, has been a symbol of the Jewish people and now, is the state emblem for Israel, a “light unto the nations.”



“The seven spirits of our Lord”

Nowadays, it is getting darker, and how great is that darkness! How much darker and more dreadful will our nation and the world become? Darkness, ignorance, and sin can be overcome by the revelation of the gospel of Christ, the light of the world, and his Word. Our entire body can be enlightened when our eyes are opened to his light; no other light or lights are needed.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1)

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. (Isaiah 60:1)

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! (Matthew 6:22-23)

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 3:8-10)

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

Furthermore, the beaten gold represents Christ’s suffering. The block of gold was not melted and poured into a mold. It was beaten with the pounding of a hammer until it reached perfection. The church is like refined or beaten gold, which speaks of the suffering that awaits us. The more we want to shine for Christ in this shadowy world, the more we will have to suffer for him. The righteous will be tried. God will put us into his furnace. It is a fiery trial to evaluate our integrity, character, and faith. His fire will assess our values and principles, whether they are gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or

stubble (1 Corinthians 3:12-16). A true believer should expect, not dread, the testing, as it will show us our true value. Like the gold under the hammer, there is no danger of destroying our true value; we will survive the hammer, flames, and the intense heat that is consuming the world.

But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food. (Job 23:10-12)

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature [all creation] waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. [revealing] (Romans 8:18-19)

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren. (Hebrews 2:9-11)

God's purpose is now made manifest! The lamp is to burn always. We no longer live in the era of shadows; we are living in the light of the Holy Spirit, whose purpose is to enlighten and bring us to glory. The new covenant is a covenant of light.

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. (Exodus 27:20)

The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. (Isaiah 60:19-21)

No wonder today's church lacks power. Many church groups teach that we should not expect any extraordinary gifts that the early church received because we now have a completed New Testament for reference. The baptism of the Holy Spirit's is our pathway to walk righteously before the Lord with power. The power for salvation, healing, and deliverance would be missing from the church today without the Holy Spirit's work in partnership with us. His power and authority are our only defense against the enemy. We need to pray in the Holy Spirit and speak his Word with authority, as the apostles taught (Jude 1:20-21).

He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. (Acts 19:2-6)

Without the light from the golden candlestick, the holy place would have been dark, like those operating without the anointing of the Holy Spirit. In today's church, we find men and women still walking in unbelief, hoping that someday they will be zapped up to heaven. Others who have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, study and pray for a fresh anointing, the daily outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let us keep our fire burning and our wicks trimmed in preparation for the day of the Lord.

But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. (Matthew 13:25, 30)

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. (Matthew 25:1-4, 13)

Zerubbabel was awakened and received a heavenly vision of the church. He saw a candlestick and two olive trees. John received a similar vision found in the book of Revelation. In these visions, the candlestick represented the Lord manifested in a seven-fold way (seven Spirits of the Lord) in all power, the seven churches and seven angels. Moreover, it symbolizes Christ, the light of the world, who enlightens this gloomy world and brings divine revelation through us. The two olive trees on each side of the lampstand have several symbolisms. They can represent the two witnesses, the Jewish nation (Judah and Israel), Zerubbabel and Joshua, or the anointed church and the anointed people of Israel.

Despite the symbolisms, for Zerubbabel to receive the vision, he had to be awakened. We need to wake up from our slumber, get a new vision, and seek those things that are above. The call is: "Come up hither [here, higher, in the spirit]" (Revelation 4:1). We need to go higher in the Lord! We need to live in the spirit to see the things of the spirit. This is the vision we so desperately need in our churches today.

And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep. And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. Then I said to him, "What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?" Then he said, "These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth." (Zechariah 4:1-3, 9, 11, 14)

And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches. (Revelation 1:12-15, 20)

Almonds were a symbol of hope and fruitfulness. In Hebrew, it means, "the awakening one" because the almond tree was the first tree to awake from the sleep of winter with a bud, flower, and fruit. The almond blossom-shaped cups of the candlestick would be filled with olive oil, and wicks were inserted into the oil and lit to provide light. This points to the fruit-bearing qualities of the church not only to shine but also to bear fruit. In other words, the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit must be evident in the church. There was, on each side of the shaft, three branches with nine sets of bowls, (made like the almond), knobs (buds), and flowers. These are sublime references to the nine gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit working in our lives.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of

healing by the same Spirit; another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

The center shaft has four sets of bowls, knobs, and flowers, one more than the branches. This points to our Lord Jesus Christ, the center of life, filled with the Holy Spirit without measure. The Word is a magnificent shining lamp, providing light to a dark and dying world. The light will open to us the paths of righteousness and keep us from any danger that might befall us.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Psalm 119:105)

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)

But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. (1 Corinthians 8:6)

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. (Colossians 1:15-18)

A flax or linen wick would be placed in the lamp, and the fire was never to go out. Twice every day, morning and evening, a priest tended to the wick and replenished the pure, beaten olive oil for the lamps. Every morning, we need to remove any residual debris from yesterday, repent for any failures and start anew by asking the Holy Spirit for a fresh anointing. In the evening before retiring repeat the process and ask the Lord for a pleasant rest.

And he made his seven lamps, and his snuffers, and his snuffdishes, of pure gold. (Exodus 37:23)

And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. (Exodus 30:7)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually. Without the vail of the testimony, in the Tabernacle of the congregation, shall Aaron order it from the evening unto the morning before the LORD continually: it shall be a statute for ever in your generations. He shall order the lamps upon the pure candlestick before the LORD continually. (Leviticus 24:1-4)

Chapter 12: Table of Shewbread

The table of shewbread was placed in the holy place. It was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold. The dishes, spoons, and bowls were all made of gold. Upon the table, there were twelve loaves of fine unleavened bread, also known as showbread, holy bread, bread of the presence, and sacred bread. The twelve loaves of unleavened bread are symbolic of the twelve tribes of Israel. Moreover, they represented Jesus as the bread of life. This bread is also symbolic of the Word of faith and has dynamic power when received into our hearts. It will renew our lives!

Exodus 25:23-30 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. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about. And thou shalt make unto it a border of an hand breadth round about, and thou shalt make a golden crown to the border thereof round about. And thou shalt make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings in the four corners that are on the four feet thereof. Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table. And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them. And thou shalt make the dishes thereof, and spoons thereof, and covers thereof, and bowls thereof, to cover withal: of pure gold shalt thou make them. And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me always.

Exodus 40:22-23 And he put the table in the tent of the congregation, upon the side of the Tabernacle northward, without the vail. And he set the bread in order upon it before the Lord; as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Now, we see the wood covered by gold, which represents humanity and deity unified in Christ. Purity is achieved by believing and walking out the Word of God. As we allow more of the Word of life to take control of us, the purer our hearts will become. The table is a picture of the heart of man. The purer the heart, the more the bread of life can be expressed in us.

With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. (Psalm 119:10-11)

My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart. (Proverbs 3:1-3):

For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (Hebrews 10:14-17)

Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. (2 Corinthians 3:3)

The table had two crowns of gold around it. The upper gold crown represented Christ's royalty. A crown worn on the head makes the wearer supreme and indicates his authority and power. The lower crown represents the redeemed of the Lord and the authority that we walk with.

For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head. (Psalm 21:3)

For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy. There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed. His enemies will I clothe with shame: but upon himself shall his crown flourish. (Psalm 132:13-18)

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. To him that overcometh shall receive the crown of life. (James 1:12)

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. (Revelations 2:10)

The staves of the table were made from wood, but covered with gold, a golden shield of protection as we advance the Word of life. When the Father looks upon us, he only sees the shield, the righteousness and protection that he has provided.

And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them. (Exodus 25:28)

By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left. (2 Corinthians 6:7),

The four golden rings refer to God's infinite love for humanity and his covenant with man, which cannot be broken. This is exemplified with the exchange of rings and vows during a wedding ceremony. The bride and groom make a public covenant. The following is an exchange of rings and vows I officiated.

Though small, these rings are of exceptionally large in significance. Made of precious metal, they remind us that love is not cheap nor common; indeed, love may cost us dearly. Made in a circle, their design tells us that love must never end; we must keep it continuous. As you wear these rings, whether together or apart for a moment, may they be constant reminders of these glad promises you are making today.

Vows: "With this ring, I seal my promise, to be your faithful and loving husband/wife, as God is my witness."

Jesus made a public covenant with his future bride at the cross on Calvary to be consummated at the wedding supper. This covenant was to be remembered with the Lord's Supper. It is a covenant of redemption as we remember his death, resurrection, and the riches it has brought to our lives.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. John 3:16-17

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. (1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

Furthermore, the Lord gave Moses detailed instructions for the placement of the shewbread. They were to be placed in two rows of six and replaced with fresh bread every Sabbath. The twelve loaves on the table signified that Israel was always in the presence of God, at His table. He called them the corn of his floor, as in the grain that was placed on the threshing floor to remove the husk and impurities (Isaiah 21:10). We will come into His presence cleansed from all sin (purity). We are instructed to eat together with Christ, as a pledge of friendship and fellowship with one another. The bread of life (the Word of God) is to be in our hearts and minds forever.

And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the Lord. And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto the Lord. Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the Lord continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the Lord made by fire by a perpetual statute. (Leviticus 24:5-9)

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (Psalm 23:5)

They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. (Psalm 36:8)

I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 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 6:48-51)

Also, the bread on the table represented all things pertaining to life every spiritual blessing, pardon, peace, redemption, adoption, and the unction of his Holy Spirit.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3):

And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. (Revelations 19:9)

The sacred scripture speaks of holy bread or shewbread, but there is no recipe given, it only mentions the main ingredient, fine flour (matzah). However, based on scriptural references, we can understand that it was unleavened bread, for leaven is a representation of sin. Such is the case during Passover where it is required to eat unleavened bread. We have been given a recipe for living our lives without sin, just follow Jesus Christ, the true unleavened bread of life (1 Peter 2:22).

How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Matthew 16:11

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye maybe a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

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 Corinthians 5:21

God has given us unconditional and conditional promises. The unconditional promises are God's covenant set in stone, like the rainbow promises to Noah, the promises made to Abraham, and the promise of eternal life (Titus 1:2). However, the conditional promises have requirements we must satisfy. We cannot expect to receive the conditional promises found in the Word of God, which are yes and amen, while living in the ways of the world. Let us purge the world's polluted bread from our lives by instituting a diet of heavenly bread, drinking from the Lord's cup, and living a faith-filled life.

A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised

thy name? Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible. (Malachi 1:6-7)

Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. (1 Corinthians 11:27-31)

As mentioned before, God's promises to men are true and fulfilled to completion. One of these promises is that of provision (Jehovah Jireh the Lord who provides). In the Tabernacle, God made provision of all the materials needed for the building and all its furnishings. Besides that, he made provision for the priests in the form of the tithe. The ministers of the Tabernacle, and their families, were supported by the tithe, but the sustaining and building of the Tabernacle and its furnishing was accomplished through offerings. Sadly, churches today use the tithe for everything but the support of their ministers. Every functioning minister, including teachers, musicians, and helpers should partake of the tithe, with the elders receiving double portion.

But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the Lord, I have given to the Levites to inherit. And ye shall eat it in every place, ye and your households: for it is your reward for your service in the Tabernacle of the congregation. (Numbers 18:24a, 31)

Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the Lord of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. (Haggai 1:9)

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house. (Malachi 3:8, 10a),

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. (1 Timothy 5:17-18)

The holy bread gave nourishment and healing to the priests. This was the case of David and his men, needing to eat. Because they were consecrated (condition), the priest gave them shewbread and they were nourished (blessing). They lived (promise). If we are to live a successful life and become what God has ordained us to be, we must also live a consecrated life and continually eat of the bread of life (1 Samuel 21:1-6).

And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful? And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him? How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him? And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath. (Mark 2:24-28)

Chapter 13: Altar of Incense

The altar of incense was made of wood and plated with gold, about eighteen inches square and three feet high. It had a gold crown, adorned with horns and there were golden rings on the corners for the gold-covered staves. It was placed in the holy place before the vail and the mercy-seat. We cannot see the throne, or God, with our physical eyes, but we know that we are in his presence. This is a picture of us before the Lord, in prayer, acknowledging the need of grace and thankfulness for his mercy.

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. 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. And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee. (Exodus 30:1-6)

When our Lord finished his sacrificial death, He sprinkled His blood on the altar of Incense, making intercession for us. As part of God's design for the Tabernacle, this altar was the closest to the Ark of the Covenant (where his presence dwelled). It holds a prominent place in the life of an intercessor in that when we pray, we are close to the Father, and we are being Christ-like.

And he put the golden altar in the tent of the congregation before the vail: And he burnt sweet incense thereon; as the Lord commanded Moses. (Exodus 40:26-27)

And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, 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. 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. (Luke 1:8-12)

And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. (Revelations 5:8)

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, And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. (Revelations 8:3-4)

The Lord has given instructions for prayer, including when and how to pray. Also, his Holy Spirit will give guidance in showing us what is needed and how to pray for it. Therefore, be specific in asking, then stand in faith until receiving.

And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations. Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon. And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD. (Exodus 30-7-10)

Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. (Matthew 21:21a, 22)

Jesus, in his farewell or high priestly prayer, prayed for us that we would be glorified in him. Let us pray for one another with the same passion and power. Through Jesus, we have been granted access to prayer and faith. It is up to us to make the necessary changes in our lifestyle and put prayer first in everything that we do. The flesh will not dominate us any longer. We will allow the Holy Spirit to control us completely! A new way of living. A way of holiness.

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (John 17:9-17)

Jesus showed us, by His life and ministry, that we must deal with the heart first. If our hearts are not right, our prayers will go nowhere! The sacrificial blood for atonement was sprinkled first on the mercy seat (the heart of man), followed by the horns of the altar (power and authority). Once our heart issues have been dealt with, we will have access to God in prayer with all power and authority.

And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times. Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat. And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. (Leviticus 16:14, 18)

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me. (Psalm 66:18)

Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the Tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. (Hebrews 9:20-24)

We know that God doesn't listen to sinners; but if anyone fears God and does his will, God does listen to him. (John 9:31)

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me. (Psa 66:18):

As the altar of incense is before the Ark of the Covenant, Christ presented himself as the sacrifice before the Father. This was his intercession for us, like the incense in the altar, a sweet-smelling aroma to the Father. Christ's intercession for us was not a mere prayer, but very passionate and with complete authority. As the altar had a crown upon it, painting the picture of his intercession for us as King, we have received authority by the power of the Holy Spirit that, added to our prayers, produces a sweet aroma onto God and brings us victory. This is key for us to achieve our assignment to reign as kings and priests before the Lord and receive the crown of glory.

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

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. (1 Peter 5:2-4)

It is the comfort and triumph of the church that when the enemy shall come in like a flood (with mighty force and fury), then “the Spirit of the Lord shall lift a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19b). The world system is working overtime to divide and conquer the church, like the children of Israel. Hold on to the horns of this altar and withstand the onslaught of Satan by the power of the Word of truth. The modern church is complacent some are not running the race to win. We need to take back our children, our family, our community, and our nation! The Lord of glory is still looking for men and women after his own heart, like David, warriors who will take the fight to the enemy.

But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore. (Isaiah 42:22)

Then lifted I up mine eyes, and saw, and behold four horns. And I said unto the angel that talked with me, What be these? And he answered me, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem. (Zechariah 1:18-19)

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. (Hebrew 12:1),

We must take possession of the things God has given us. It is then that our hearts are vested and truly given to the Lord. Only then will we have a change of lifestyle. Where there is no sincerity of heart there is no change of lifestyle, and our prayers are a mere moaning of the soul. Most of our prayers show that our heart is completely set on earthly needs, without giving thanks for the good things God has given and done for us. These prayers or selfish requests become childish pouts and temper tantrums when he denies our wants. Let us grow up! Let us learn to use the Word of God with power to become triumphant (2 Corinthians 2:14).

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. (Hosea 4:6)

And they have not cried unto me with their heart, when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, and they rebel against me. (Hosea 7:14)

Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. (Matthew 22:29, 32)

David requested that his prayer would not be like those which are pathetic, easily dismissed, but firm and secure. “Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense” (Psalm 141:2).

The Hebrew word “*set forth*” in David’s prayer means “to make fit [to be establish or to make firm].” Our prayers, like David’s, need to be spoken with firmness and strength! This will only come from knowing the Lord and speaking his Word into every situation that we encounter.

A Psalm of David. LORD, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee. Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. (Psalm 141:1-2)

In contrast to David's prayers, we find in the Bible those that offered God strange fire which brought fatal consequences. Such was the case of Aaron's sons. Be precise, to whom are we praying? For what are we praying? How are we praying? Prayers without the anointing of the Spirit of God will destroy a family, church, and a nation.

And Nadab and Abihu died, when they offered strange fire before the LORD. (Numbers 26:61)

Beware of the scribes. Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation. (Luke 20:46a, 47)

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. (James 4:3)

The Lord's goal is to bring us into his presence by removing all sin and unbelief, to be cleansed by the baptism of his fire. Aaron and his sons had to purify themselves to come before the Lord. At times, we go to church any way we feel like and pray that the Lord will accept our efforts. The phrase "come as you are" is only acceptable for the unbelievers as a path to salvation. John warns us of the dangerous times that we live in, by encouraging us to stay in Christ and his Word. We have been cleansed with the Holy Ghost's fire, and, now, ready to walk in the office of kings and priests.

And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. (Exodus 19:6)

I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished! (Luke 12:49-50)

Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. (1 John 2:18)

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. (1 John 2:27)

Chapter 14: The Holy Oil and Incense

The Lord himself gave instruction for the makeup of the holy oil and incense. The fragrances were to remain holy and only to be used in the service of the Tabernacle. The holy anointing oil ingredients consisted of four principal spices, pure myrrh, sweet cinnamon, sweet calamus, and cassia mixed into pure olive oil. The oil was used to anoint the tent and all its furniture. It was also used for the consecration of the priests (Exodus 30:22:25).

As listed in Exodus, the main ingredients for the incense were sweet spices, stacte, onycha, galbanum, and pure frankincense in equal parts; blended with salt to make it pure and holy. The ingredients of the sweet spices were secret and there is much controversy as to their makeup. Jewish tradition says that the sweet spices consisted of seven, while some Bible commentaries say that there were five. The focus is not to be on the number of spices, but the consecration of the incense and what it represented.

Exodus 30:34-36 And the Lord said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; these sweet spices with pure frankincense: of each shall there be a like weight: And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure and holy: And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the Tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy.

The four main ingredients listed below were tempered together, “seasoned with salt” for purification and to preserve the spices mixture given that it was used once a year (Leviticus 16:12:13).

- Stacte: “is the sap of the balsam tree”
- Onycha: “is from a snail like mollusk found in the Red Sea”
- Galbanum: “consists of gum resin from the roots of ferula (family of herbaceous)”
- Frankincense: “is made from the white resin of the Boswellia tree”

The incense, with its secret ingredients, was to be used by the high priest only, any other person who attempted to make it or burn it before the Lord was to be cut off. The ingredients are missing in our churches today. Nothing is secret there should not be any strange fires. We have been given instructions of how to worship God with holy reverence, a sincere heart, clean and upraised hands, and with praise and thanksgiving upon our lips.

And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. (Leviticus 10:1-2)

And Moses said unto Korah, Be thou and all thy company before the LORD, thou, and they, and Aaron, tomorrow: And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the LORD every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each of you his censer. And they took every man his censer, and put fire in them, and laid incense thereon, and stood in the door of the Tabernacle of the congregation with Moses and Aaron. And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. (Numbers 16:16-18, 32)

But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense. Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar. (2 Chronicles 26:16, 19)

Salt is a remedy for unsavory meat, but there is no remedy for unsavory salt. Salt renders food pleasant, palatable, and preserves it from decomposition. Also, it is used to purify, heal, and to make the incense burn longer. Today human life could not be sustained without salt or light. As it is in the natural, so it is in the spiritual. For a believer to walk in righteousness and stand against corruption, both salt and light are necessary. We are the preserving and purifying ingredients to this world. We are the “salt of the earth” and the “light to the world.” God has not destroyed the world because of us. The day that we are removed from this world, all chaos will begin.

And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt. (Leviticus 2:13)

All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer unto the Lord, have I given thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by a statute forever: it is a covenant of salt for ever before the Lord unto thee and to thy seed with thee. (Numbers 18:19)

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. (Matthew 5:13-14a)

There are differing opinions about the aroma of galbanum gum. The aroma ranges from not-so-pleasant to strongly pungent, but when blended with other spices, plus salt, and burned, the result is a sweet-smelling fragrance. When Judas presented himself with the other disciples, he had a sweet fragrance, but when left alone for Satan to sift him, a different aroma manifested. This is also true when unbelievers come and worship with believers. The mixing of the saved and unsaved in a church setting is a sweet-smelling fragrance to our Lord Jesus Christ. There are churches today with a not so pleasant aroma ascending to heaven, and God is not pleased. The Holy Spirit must be present, to mix His Spirit with ours to produce a pleasant fragrance. With a pure heart and our hands and voices raised to the Lord, there will be an expectation of the indwelling of his presence.

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord. (Psalm 134:2)

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23-24)

Worshippers are the fragrance of life, but to those who reject Christ and his Word, they are a stench of death. When we walk into a room of unbelievers, it usually gets incredibly quiet; the spirit of life that is upon us is not wanted there.

For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? (2 Corinthians 2:15-16)

Today, many go to the mountains where the air is pure, or a remote place, away from the world, to worship a place in nature where they can have freedom with simple devotions. But the same natural freedom misdirected can make it a place of idolatry and sins. Because of the connection with idolatry and sin, God forbade worship on the high places.

And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the Lord their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city. And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree: And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the Lord carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger: For they served idols, whereof the Lord had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing. (2 Kings 17:9-12)

And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the Lord. (Hosea 2:13)

They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof is good: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery. (Hosea 4:13)

Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate. (Titus 1:15-16)

According to instructions, the incense was to be burned every morning and evening in the holy place before the veil. The day is divided into twelve equal parts; morning prayer is offered at the third hour, and evening prayer at the ninth hour.

As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice. He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me: for there were many with me. (Psalm 55:16-18)

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them. For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel, (Joel 2:28-32, Acts 2:14a, 15-16).

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. (The lame was healed.) (Acts 3:1)

Revelations 8:3-4 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. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

Chapter 15

The Priest of the Most High

Jesus appointed prophets, wise men, and scribes to lead us (Matthew 23:34), which we now know as the five-fold ministry. James, the brother of Christ, included himself in this group of appointed ones. He was a master teacher of the Word and gave warning on how to represent Christ in ministry. As for me, a master teacher, I will speak and teach with humility and not set myself as one who is greater than my Lord (James 3:1). Paul said that he was an appointed preacher, apostle, and a teacher (2 Timothy 1:11).

We have been called and appointed, given an office and assignment, and dressed in holy garments for the work of the ministry. We need to know and be sure of our calling. For there are many in our nation and churches calling themselves Christians, but that does not mean that everyone is. Many have missed their calling!

And I, behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites among the children of Israel: to you they are given as a gift for the LORD, to do the service of the Tabernacle of the congregation. (Numbers 18:6)

Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. (Isaiah 45:22)

For many are called, but few are chosen. (Matthew 22:14)

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure. (2 Peter 1:10a):

We have been chosen and received gifts for a specific function (office) from the Lord. It is up to us, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to protect and maximize the gifts in the appointed office. We will utilize our office wisely, to the best of our abilities. When chaos abounds all around us, let us stand strong in the Lord, allowing no one to assault our office!

Therefore thou and sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for everything of the altar, and within the Vail; and ye shall serve: I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death. (Numbers 18:7)

For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office. (Romans 12:4):

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8):

The high priest was to be properly clothed with specific garments when officiating in the Tabernacle. These specific garments were as follows.

OLD TESTAMANT PRIESTLY GARMENTS	
Turban - Mitre	Atoned for Arrogance & Pride
Gold Plate	Atoned for Pride of Countenance
The Breastplate	Atoned Errors in Judgment
The Girdle - Belt	Atoned for Sin of the Heart
The Ephod	Atoned for Idolatry
The Robe of Ephod	Atoned for Evil Speech
Golden Bells & Pomegranates	Bells Ring - Sound He is Alive
The Tunic	Atoned for Killing
The Undergarment	Atoned for Sexual Sin
Bare Feet	Standing on Holy Ground

The high priest was required to wear these garments when entering the tent of meeting. In the Old Testament time, before approaching royalty, a person received a new wardrobe that he was required to wear in the presence of the king. Although we dress outwardly with modesty, when entering God's presence, we are to be clothed with heavenly garments and walk humbly as Christ did (1 Peter 3:3:4).

To all of them he gave each man changes of raiment; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver, and five changes of raiment. (Genesis 45:22)

And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty. And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office. (Exodus 28:2-3)

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. (Isaiah 61:3)

And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment. (Matthew 22:11):

The Lord required that the priests had purity of mind, heart, and soul when serving in the Tabernacle. Also, dressed in clean garments with a pleasant odor; for garments with a sweaty smell were not allowed. Sweat represents sin and impurity and is part of the curse that Adam received at the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:19). The garments were to be dedicated to the service of the Lord; everyday clothing was not to be worn when serving in the Tabernacle. Therefore, we cannot wear our spiritual garments as a status symbol expecting people to look up to us as their source. Instead, we must point them to the cross. Also, after ministering, let us remove ourselves from the limelight and allow the Holy Spirit to do his work. We do not need a pat on the back!

And thou shalt bring Aaron and his sons unto the door of the Tabernacle of the congregation, and wash them with water. And thou shalt put upon Aaron the holy garments, and anoint him, and sanctify him; that he may minister unto me in the priest's office. (Exodus 40:12-13)

(Ezekiel 44:16-19) They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge. And it shall come to pass, that when they enter in at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and no wool shall come upon them, whiles they minister in the gates of the inner court, and within. They shall have linen bonnets upon their heads, and shall have linen breeches upon their loins; they shall not gird themselves with any thing that causeth sweat. And when they go forth into the utter court, even into the utter court to the

people, they shall put off their garments wherein they ministered, and lay them in the holy chambers, and they shall put on other garments; and they shall not sanctify the people with their garments.

(Matthew 9:20-21) And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.

As a believer priest, we should not limit our worship to the church services. Our worship should begin when we wake up and continue until we lay our heads to sleep. Before and after every engagement, we must enter his secret place, pray, meditate, and bless the Lord. Worship is a lifestyle and a weapon against our enemies. We need to be fully equipped, dressed in the appropriate garments, with all weapons available, then stand strong. We will win our battles!

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:10, 13b

NEW TESTAMENT PRIESTLY GARMENTS	
Helmet	Protect our Salvation
Breastplate	Protect our Righteousness
Prayer	Anointing - Intercessor
Belt	Wrapped in Truth
Shield	Protect from Evil
Sword	The Word of God
Boots	Carry the Gospel of Peace

If our goal is to minister to the church, we must understand that there are many who are weak among us, and we need to fight for their souls (Galatians 6:1). Our responsibility will be to embrace new visitors and members to bring them into the faith; this means babysitting, if needed! It is critical that we do not let anyone fail. We are our brother's keeper (Genesis 4:9). The milk of the Word will only last so long. It needs to be fortified with an in-depth study of the Word and learning how to use it in our lives.

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 1 Corinthians 3:1-2

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. (Hebrews 5:12)

There are many who think they are ready for the priesthood, but they end up leading people astray. Also, there are those who oppose the gospel occupying our churches: the philosophers, the false teachers, and the false prophets, those who trade in drugs, sex, and like evils. The common goal of all who are against our Lord is *indentured slavery*. This includes many TV preachers. In our nation

today, there are those who think themselves to be the ruling class, wanting us to be enslaved. We should not be enslaved by this world or the rulers therein.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32)

And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage. (Galatians 2:4):

For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 1:4)

We must be holy and pure, cleansed by the fire of the Holy Spirit. There will be a final inspection before we enter the holy of holies to offer a sacrifice to the Lord for ourselves and others. One day soon, what we have done in the dark (secret) will be open to all. Everything we have done will be exposed; our true self, motives, and messes will be opened for all to see. The time is now, to ask the Lord to burn out the left over rubbish from our hearts and, ask for the fire (Matthew 3.11). We have not arrived! We need to persistently work out our salvation and build upon Christ, the solid foundation.

But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. (Malachi 3:2-3)

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. (1 Corinthians 3:13-15)

Sadly, today, there are too many ministers preaching without the power of the anointed one. They have not put off the old man and put on Christ (Galatians 3:27). The Holy Spirit was given for the Word to become *epignosis* (divine knowledge), to bring an increase in faith and a deeper relationship with our heavenly Father. We will walk with the power of the Holy Spirit and the revelation of his Word!

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power. (Ephesians 1:17-19),

But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him. (Colossians 3:8-10):

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. (Hebrews 6:4-6)

The Lord has made us kings unto him and has given us a kingdom. It is up to us to maintain it. Every wise king knows the extent and condition of his domain. We are to always operate in the wisdom

from above. There will be times when we will need to reevaluate our sphere of influence, our intentions, and our calling.

Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there. And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. (1 Samuel 11:14-15a)

And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee. (1 Samuel 13:13-14)

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. (Revelations 2:5)

We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy kingdom (1 Peter 2:9). When we rule in the spirit, we can control the outcome of a situation in the physical world through faith.

Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. (Exodus 19:4-6)

“But ye shall be named priests of the Lord; men shall call ye ministers of our God. (Isaiah 61:6)”

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

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. (Revelations 5:10)

All things belong to those who serve Christ with a clean heart. As Jesus was a servant to the Father, we are to serve him, then everything will be ours to use for his purpose.

Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's. (1 Corinthians 3:21-23)

Chapter 16

The Veil

Now is the time to enter the holy of holies by the blood of the Lamb. The high priest must pass through the veil, the third entrance, which represents our final approach to God with holiness and godly reverence. The holy of holies was watched over by two cherubims with flaming swords, embroidered in the veil, like those guarding the tree of life in Genesis. The cherubim are real beings, not symbols, they are described as “living creatures” in Ezekiel’s vision (Ezekiel 10:20).

Four pillars held the veil. These were made of acacia wood covered with gold, hooks of gold, and gold curtain rods with silver bases.

And thou shalt make a Vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made: And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold: their hooks shall be of gold, upon the four sockets of silver. And thou shalt hang up the Vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the Vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy. (Exodus 26:31-33)

And he made thereunto four pillars of shittim wood and overlaid them with gold: their hooks were of gold; and he cast for them four sockets of silver. (Exodus 36:36)

The colors and materials in the veil point to Christ and his redemptive work on earth, as seen in the chart below.

Exodus 36:35 And he made a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen: with cherubims made he it of cunning work.

Colors of the Veil	
Gold	Represents His Divine Righteousness.
Silver	Represents His Atonement.
White	Represents His Purity. (White Linen)
Blue	Represents His Heavenly Origin.
Purple	Represents His Royalty.
Scarlet	Represents His Blood.
Wood	Represents Man. (Earthen Vessel)

There is power and strength when two or more are joined together as one! Just as Jesus prayed desiring that we would be one as he and the Father are one (John 17:22). The two cherubims signify oneness and unity and serve as the final guards of God’s holiness. We cannot force our way into the most holy place.

So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. (Genesis 3:24)

Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. And everyone had four faces, and everyone had four wings. (Ezekiel 1:5-6)

Even though the veil has been rent, giving access to the holy of holies, only the chosen of the many, whom our Lord has called, will enter.

Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple. (Psalms 65:4)

For many are called, but few are chosen. (Mathew 22:14)

And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. (Acts 22:14)

The way to the tree of life is through the fire of the Holy Spirit. We need to ask for the baptism of his fire, which will thoroughly remove any residue of unrighteousness, preparing our hearts, mind, and bodies for an engagement with our heavenly Father.

For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. (Deuteronomy 4:24)

Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts will send wasting sickness among his stout warriors, and under his glory a burning will be kindled, like the burning of fire. The light of Israel will become a fire, and his Holy One a flame, and it will burn and devour his thorns and briers in one day. (Isaiah 10:16-17)

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. (Isaiah 43:2)

He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. (Daniel 3:25)

But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap. (Malachi 3:2):

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. (Act 2:2-3)

All, who are devoted to the Lord's service will be made perfect. The Holy Spirit will continuously cleanse us as we walk out our salvation with fear and trembling.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him and shew him my salvation. (Psalm 91:14-16)

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:3-4)

No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. (1 John 4:12-13, 17)

For those who have not believed, the veil denotes blindness of the eyes and heart. The Father will remove the veil from those who genuinely believe. Furthermore, as we study the Word of God, our eyes will be fully opened, to see the plan and purpose that was assigned for each.

The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous. (Psalm 146:8):

And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness. (Isaiah 29:18)

And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. (Isaiah 42:16)

And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. (John 9:39)

When Jesus died at the cross, the veil was rent granting full access to the mercy seat and the Ark of the Covenant. The veil, by being torn, opens to us the privilege of access to enter God's throne room with boldness by the blood of the lamb.

Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the Vail of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent. (Matthew 27:50-51);

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the Vail; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. (Hebrews 6:19-20)

By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith. (Hebrews 10:20-22a),

As the veil is now opened to us, the kingdom of heaven is at hand! Blessed are the ones who will eat with Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles. Moreover, it is time for us to enter the harvest of souls and bring many to the feast. A true wise man will become a tree of life, leading many into the kingdom.

Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. (Luke 14:12-13):

The church dispensation is ending. The final veil, concerning the house of Israel, will be rent. Their eyes will be opened. They will return and be converted by the Spirit of the Lord the final blessing, when the two families (Jeremiah 33:24), Israel and the church, become one in Christ (Revelation 21).

Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. (Ezekiel 37:16-17)

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved. (Romans 11:25-26a):

But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. (2 Corinthians 3:14-16)

Chapter 17

The Mercy Seat

The mercy seat represents God's throne on earth, where he meets with and judges' man. His judgments always contain a perfect balance of justice and mercy. The covering of the ark, with the mercy seat, is the image of God's awe-inspiring grace and mercy for our lives. This is a type of Christ, our propitiation, who fulfilled the demands of the law, removing our transgressions and standing between us and the curse that we deserve! Therefore, he (Christ) is the end of the law for righteousness.

Exodus 25:17-22 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. And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. 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. 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. 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. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

Exodus 37:6-9 And he made the mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half was the length thereof, and one cubit and a half the breadth thereof. And he made two cherubims of gold, beaten out of one piece made he them, on the two ends of the mercy seat; One cherub on the end on this side, and another cherub on the other end on that side: out of the mercy seat made he the cherubims on the two ends thereof. And the cherubims spread out their wings on high, and covered with their wings over the mercy seat, with their faces one to another; even to the mercy seatward were the faces of the cherubims.

The two cherubim, overshadowing the mercy seat, are a picture of God's angels, protecting his holiness, presence, and the anointed place where he meets with man. It is a clear, visible symbol of God's dwelling, the Shechinah glory on the mercy seat, between the cherubim.

And when Moses was gone into the Tabernacle of the congregation to speak with him, then he heard the voice of one speaking unto him from off the mercy seat that was upon the ark of testimony, from between the two cherubims: and he spake unto him. (Numbers 7:89)

And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: "O LORD, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. (2 Kings 19:15)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth. (Psalms 80:1)

And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly. (Hebrews 9:5)

If Jesus had not become the sacrificial lamb and sprinkled his blood on the mercy seat, we would be without the choice of redemption and salvation, living a life of sin. The sprinkling of blood required for the cleansing of sins, in the Old Testament, was fulfilled in Christ (1 Peter 1:2). This act was a blood covenant between God and man through Christ's blood. We see these blood sacrifice and covenant as early as the Garden of Eden and, later, in Egypt. God dressed Adam and Eve with coats made from animal skins to cover their nakedness (Genesis 3:21). Then we find the Israelites placing blood on their doorposts as an offering of life for the death angel to pass over, preserving the firstborn

of that household (Exodus 12:22). The blood of Christ has atoned for the sins of all who believed in him, from the beginning of time until the end of the earth.

And thou shalt take of the blood of the bullock, and put it upon the horns of the altar with thy finger, and pour all the blood beside the bottom of the altar. (Exodus 29:12)

And he brought the ram for the burnt offering: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram. And he killed it; and Moses sprinkled the blood upon the altar round about. (Leviticus 8:18-19)

For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the Tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. (Hebrews 9:19-22)

To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. (Hebrews 12:23-25a)

Our sinful nature is the barrier to receiving the full revelation of God's glory. With help, from the holy spirit, we will remove all barriers. Spirit-led men and women can experience the complete revelation of his glory by living a lifestyle of worship, and a true intimate relationship. When we reach heaven, we will experience his fullness, no secrets, all will be revealed. We will be, as he said in creation, to the fullness of his image and likeness. We will receive a crown of glory but at diverse levels or rewards. For what are we aiming? Do we want all he has to offer us, or are we going to accept the smallest prize? Let us go for the gold!

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. (Isaiah 6:5, 7b)

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. (2 Timothy 2:20-21)

Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. (Philippians 3:21)

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. (Revelation 22:12)

Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to overshadow, protect, and lead us; for us to effectively do the work of the ministry. It is his ministry, his church, and his foundation. Let him build it by his Spirit!

Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings. (Psalm 17:8),

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. (Psalm 91:4)

While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud. And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. (Luke 9:34-35)

Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them, and they were healed everyone. (Acts 5:15, 16b)

As we prepare our lives for his service, we must be willing vessels, like Mary, the mother of Christ. When she was visited by the angel Gabriel, the Holy Spirit overshadowed and impregnated her as she received the Word.

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore, also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. (Luke 1:35, 38)

The Mercy Seat was made of gold, which represents God's righteousness. It totally covered the ark, symbolizing God's righteousness, covering us. In our own strength we will accomplish nothing. God is imputing his righteousness upon us through the Holy Spirit by faith; it is up to us to have a willing heart and receive it (Philippians 3:9-10).

But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. (Malachi 3:2-3)

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. (2 Timothy 2:19)

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. (Revelation 3:18)

The Word says that two witnesses are necessary for the testimony to be true (John 5:31-32). The two cherubim on the mercy seat were eyewitnesses to our confessions and atonement (forgiveness of sin). If we could only forgive ourselves! We are witness of God's redemptive power operating in our lives, then it is imperative that we share his forgiveness with others.

One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established. (Deuteronomy 19:15)

But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. (John 5:36)

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. (Romans 8:16):

Where would we be without his mercy and grace? Mercy is the riches or the wealth of God. People often pride themselves in their possessions, but God is "rich in mercy" (Ephesians 2:4-6). He so overflows with mercy and grace that He offers it freely to those who will receive it (Romans 3:22-24). If we walk in his mercy and grace, we will reign with him through eternity.

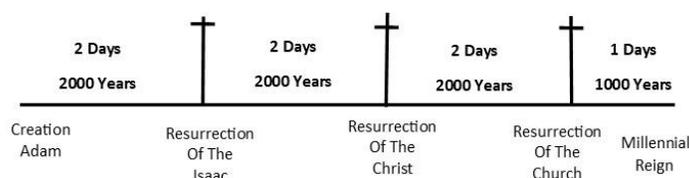
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. (Psalms 23:6)

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-6):

God has a timetable, and we are coming to the end of the two days that he has appointed for the church. His mercy is available now; do not wait until it is too late (Genesis 6:3). The time is now! Jesus, when speaking with a Pharisee, told him that he was not worried as the time was already set. We need to be setting aside time for the Lord in our lives now! Our two days started when the day of Pentecost was fully come (Acts 2:1)

Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth, For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. (Hosea 6:1-3, 6)

And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected. (Luke 13:32)



Jesus Christ is our high priest! Our goal is to emulate him. He has called us to be kings and priest unto him. Good advice was given to Timothy to follow righteousness (1 Timothy 2:22). As we reign in this life, let us honor Jesus, walk in righteousness and bring many into the heavenly kingdom.

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. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Since the people of Israel journeyed through the desert with the Tabernacle, they have celebrated the Day of Atonement, which is the holiest day in their calendar. This day is when the high priest entered the holy of holies to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice on the mercy seat. This is also known as *Yom Kippur* or Sabbath of Sabbaths. When Jesus died at the cross at Calvary a new Day of Atonement was established for humanity. No more bloody sacrifices; the blood of Jesus satisfied the law. He is Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath. He went to the Father and sprinkled his blood on the mercy seat to intercede and make atonement for all.

And the Lord said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat. (Leviticus 16:2)

And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the Lord and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail: And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times. (Leviticus 16:12-14)

Chapter 18

The Ark of the Covenant

God's plan has always been to have a close relationship with his creation. Man's sin broke this relationship, and our heavenly Father devised a plan for our redemption. First, he laid down the Law, then he said that if we would obey, it would be counted as our righteousness (Deuteronomy 6:25, 1 John 3:7). The Ark of the Covenant is the last article we encounter in the tent of meetings. It was made of acacia wood overlaid with pure gold. God commanded Moses to place specific items inside the ark, which would bear witness of his righteousness, provision, power, and his Word. The items in the ark were the Tablets of the Law, manna, and Aaron's rod that budded.

The Ten Commandments was inscribed by God in what is called the Tablets of the Law, Tablets of Stone, Stone Tablets, Tablets of the Covenant or Table of Testimony. Our heavenly Father and his Tablets of Testimony are One. Our testimony of him and what he has done for us is something that we will acknowledge and make known continuously.

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. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them. The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it. And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee. (Exodus 25:10-16)

Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant. (Hebrews 9:1, 4)

The Bible lists eight names for the ark. These are listed below, as they are first mentioned in the Bible. The number eight signifies absolute infinity of God and/or new beginning.

The Ark	Exodus 25:14
The Ark of the Testimony	Exodus 31:7
The Testimony	Exodus 16:34
The Ark of the Covenant	Numbers 10:33
The Ark of the Lord	Joshua 3:13
The Ark of God	1 st Samuel 3:3
The Ark of Thy Strength	2 nd Chronicles 6:41
The Holy Ark	2 nd Chronicles 35:3

Besides the different names for the Ark of the Covenant, the Old Testament speaks to two other arks: Noah's and Moses's. Each relates to salvation, and each in its own way, portrays Christ. Jesus became the ark of refuge for us when he fulfilled the law at the cross. He will allow the gold of his righteousness to completely overlay and cover our lives until there is no wood exposed. He shall be called, "*The Lord our righteousness*" (Jeremiah 23:6).

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. (Matthew 5:18)

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. (Luke 24:44)

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (Romans 8:4)

The ark of God was to be carried upon the shoulders of the appointed priests, not on an ox cart. David, like most of us had to learn of law and grace the hard way. Today we have too many charlatans trying to carry the Word of God, using it for their own benefit or profit. This is bringing judgment upon our nation. It is time for the anointed men of God to wake up and take their rightful place, proclaiming the Word of truth with power, to restore our land.

But unto the sons of Kohath he gave none: because the service of the sanctuary belonging unto them was that they should bear upon their shoulders. (Numbers 7:9)

And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God. And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me? (1 Chronicles 13:9, 12)

And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the Lord. (1 Chronicles 15:15)

The rings of gold surrounding the staves in the Ark of the Covenant, are a picture of the Holy Spirit encompassing us. The staves are for carrying the gospel of Christ around the world and are not to be removed from the rings of the ark. The removing of the staves is symbolic of a person breaking a vow, like removing the wedding ring or leaving the church for good. There is safety for those who truly belong to Christ. We have multiple layers of protection the Father, Jesus, and his Holy Spirit are one with us, and we have his Angels guarding our every move.

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. (Matthew 24:12-14)

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one. (John 10:27-30)

That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise. (Ephesians 1:12-13),

The crown of thorns place on the head of Jesus symbolized the curse. Jesus wore that crown of thorns to his death representing that the curse has been fully broken. As we are now redeemed from the curse and there is no condemnation found in us (Romans 8:1), we can walk in abundance. He can

plant his seed in our good ground, and we will have an abundance of supernatural fruits and herbs in our fields to share with the nations.

And to Adam He said, Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree, of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it! The ground is cursed for your sake. In pain shall you eat of it all the days of your life. It shall also bring forth thorns and thistles to you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. (Genesis 3:17-18)

I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. (Proverbs 24:30-31)

For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns (Jeremiah 4:3)

And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! (Matthew 27:29)

The Lord has placed great investments in us, his Word and authority. We are the living ark, the holy ones. Capitalize on this investment and walk with the rod of his strength. We have the greater power and the consent to use it. Why not? Why are we following the magicians operating in the evil spiritual realm, and believe their lies rather than the truth of the Word of God?

For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. (Exodus 7:12)

And the cloud of the Lord was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp. And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee. (Numbers 10:34-35)

And the Lord said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not. (Numbers 17:10)

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. (Mark 16:17-18)

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air. (1 Corinthians 9:24-26):

The manna from heaven was a pleasant wholesome food, easy to digest, and essential to renew the body from any illnesses caused by the Egyptian diet (the world's diet). We should collect enough for our daily use (Matthew 6:11). Today, Christians are undernourished, feeding on old corn, instead of fresh manna from the bread of life.

And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year. (Joshua 5:12)

As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. (John 6:57)

As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness. (2 Corinthians 9:9-10)

There is no need to live in despair and unending self-condemnation. The Lord has given us victory over the perpetual downward drag of guilt and sin. We must allow Jesus to write directly into the tables of our hearts. Doing so will open a new way for us to live a successful and stress-free life.

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. (Romans 6:14-15)

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2)

Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known, and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (Galatians 2:16)

Jesus Christ entered the heavenly tabernacle and secured redemption for us. He was not of the tribe of Levi, nor was he a priest after the order of Aaron. He is the son of the living God and sat down at his right hand, perfecting forever them that are sanctified.

For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. (Hebrews 7:14)

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. (Hebrews 9:11)

For we know that if our earthly house of this Tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2 Corinthians 5:1)

We are to be a witness of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ in the midst of this dying world. This is our calling! We have been born for this purpose!

Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. (Isaiah 66:7-8)

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. (Psalms 2:7-8)

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Our goal is to reach for the gold and build a greater house upon the foundation that He has established.

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts. (Haggai 2:8-9)

16 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (1 Corinthians 3:11-12a)

Conclusion

We have examined every element of the Tabernacle, even down to the smallest part. We now see that it completely points to Christ in every aspect. Each piece of Furniture, color, fabric, and material is a picture of Christ and his redemptive work for us.

As we have now learned, the study of the Tabernacle reveals the pathway to restoration. The seven pieces of furniture are the seven steps necessary for us to walk into righteousness. Each of us is progressing on this path. We will reach our goal and come into the fullness of Christ. We will not stop until we reach the gold.

The Tabernacle is all about our heavenly Father showing us the way back to him, to the original relationship he desired with man. He has an abundance of love and is seeking those who will return and walk with him. He wants us to walk in righteousness, in love with Christ and with one another. Our nation is at a turning point! The apostles, prophets, and teachers need to be restored to the church! As priests of the new covenant, let us return to the glory of the early church with the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit.

Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. (Jeremiah 6:16-17)

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