

Seeing Only Jesus

15) How To Enjoy the Presence of God

'Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the **true** tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man...there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; who serve the **copy** and **shadow** of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the **pattern** shown you on the mountain." But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises'

(Heb.8:1-6)

*'Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with **the greater and more perfect tabernacle** not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption'
(**Heb.9:11-12**)*

**The tabernacle is more detailed than any other
object in the Bible**

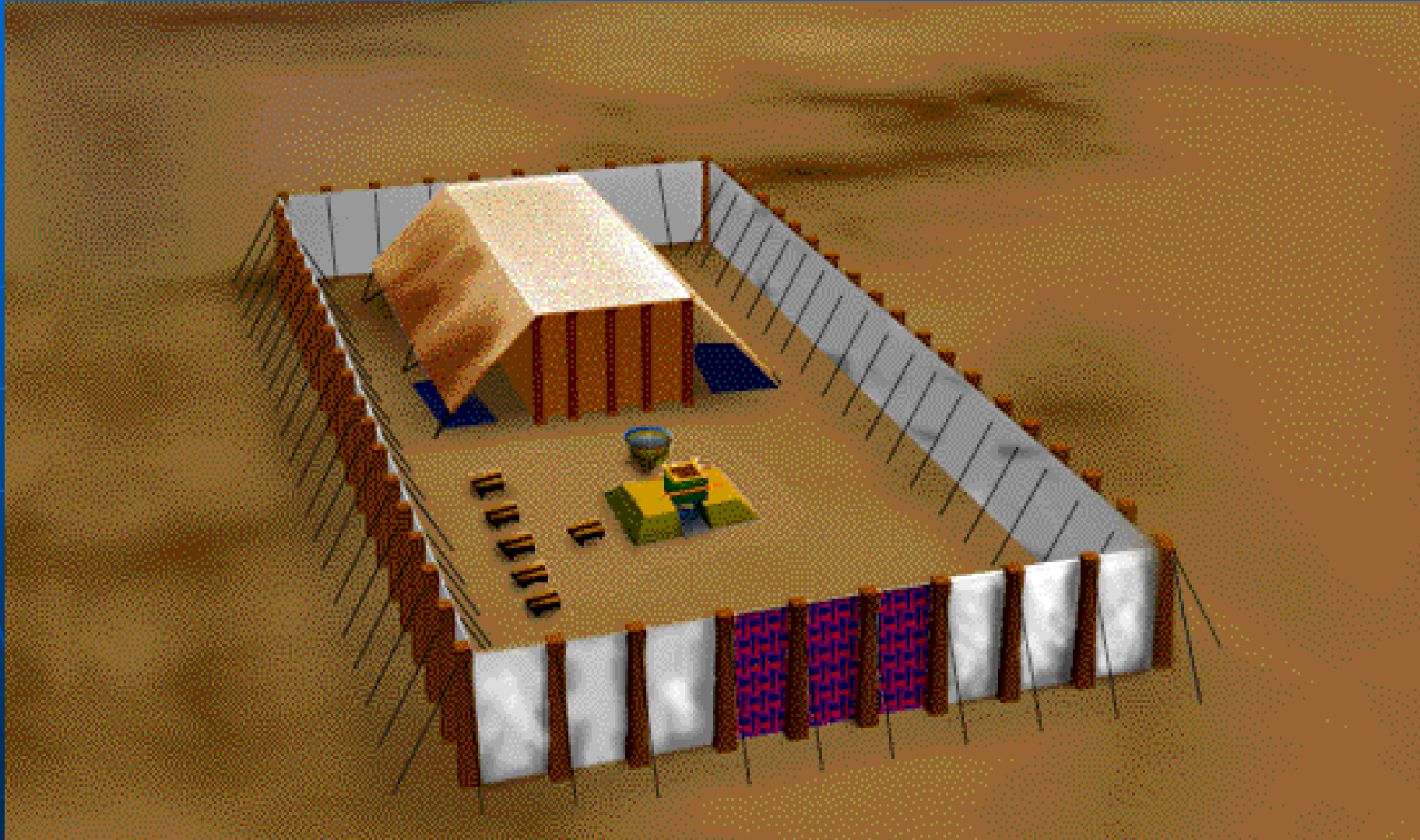
Key: *'And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I
may dwell among them'* **(Ex.25:8)**

It is a picture of how God now dwells with us

*'Do you not know that you are the temple of God
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you'*
(1 Cor.3:16)

*'...in whom the whole building, being fitted
together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in
whom you also are being built together for a
dwelling place of God in the Spirit'*
(Eph.2:21-22)

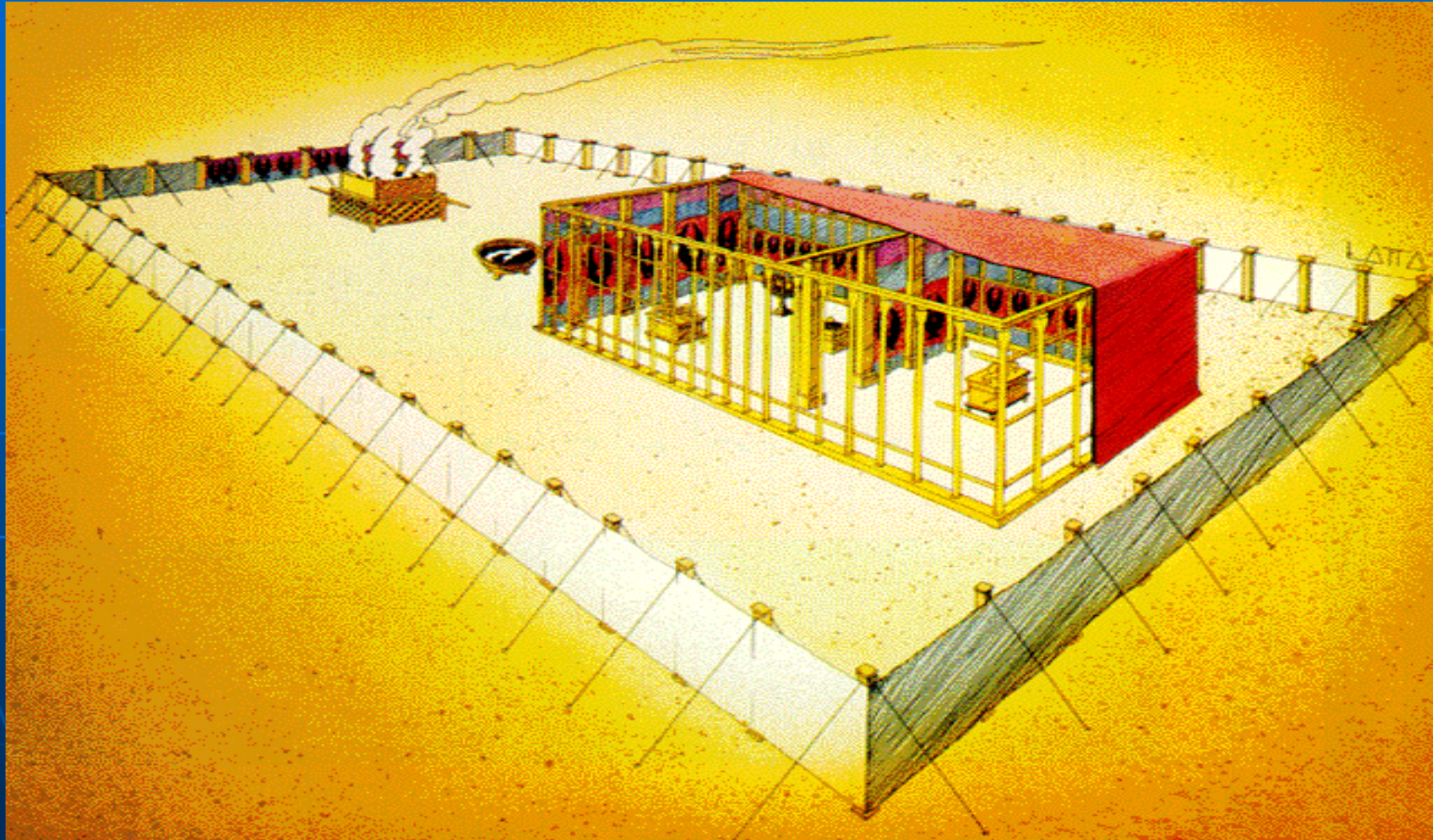
1) The Outer Court – A Place of Cleansing



- ✓ **The first thing an Israelite encountered as he entered the outer court was the brazen altar**
- ✓ **At 5cu x 5cu x 3cu, the altar was the largest piece of tabernacle furniture**
- ✓ **It was here that sin was dealt with**
- ✓ **God lit the fire on the altar and the daily sacrifice was renewed each morning. Then fire was taken from it by the priests for their censers to go into the Holy Place to worship**
- ✓ **Nadab and Abihu burned incense with strange fire and were struck down**

- ✓ **Next was the brazen laver, where the priests washed their hands and feet prior to going into the tabernacle**
- ✓ **The laver was made from the looking-glasses, freely given by the women of Israel. A mirror is a picture of the Word of God (Jas.1:23-25)**
- ✓ **It depicts spiritual footwashing by the washing of the water of the Word, as taught and shown by Jesus (Jn.17:17; Eph.5:25-26). The Word explains the finished work of Christ**
- ✓ **This cleanses, not from sin, but from an evil conscience, *'...having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water'* (Heb.10:19-22)**

2) The Holy Place - Jesus' Ministry to Us



The Golden Lampstand



- ✓ **The lampstand gave light in the holy place. It represents the ministry of the God's Word in the Church**
- ✓ **God has deposited truth in the Church, *'I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth'* (1 Tim.3:15)**
- ✓ **The light came from the oil, not the lampstand**
- ✓ **The light was never to be extinguished. The priests were to ensure this**
- ✓ **When a church ceases to preach the truth, it ceases to be the Church of Christ, (Rev.2:5)**

The Table of Showbread



- ✓ **The table was made of acacia wood, overlaid with gold. It bore 12 loaves of bread**
- ✓ **There was a border, with a crown, which kept the loaves from falling over the side**
- ✓ **1 Cor.10:21 speaks of the 'Lord's Table', and 1 Cor.11:20 of the 'Lord's Supper', and the two are different. The bread points to Christ as the substance of our fellowship and the table represents Christ as the sustainer of our fellowship**
- ✓ **Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. The early church was devoted to fellowship**

The Altar of Incense



- ✓ **On the Day of Atonement the high priest took incense from this altar into the most holy place**
- ✓ **Also, the priests burned incense twice daily with fire taken from the brazen altar**
- ✓ **This is a picture of Christ sanctifying our prayers and worship, making them a sweet-smelling aroma to God. The altar sanctifies the gift**
- ✓ ***'Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand' (Rev.8:3-4)***

The Holy of Holies



The Ark of the Covenant



- ✓ **The Ark was a chest of wood overlaid with gold, measuring 2½ cu. x 1½ cu. x 1½ cu.**
- ✓ **The ark had a cover called the mercy seat**
- ✓ **It was the first thing that God instructed Moses to make in connection with the tabernacle, and was made by Moses himself**
- ✓ **The contents of the ark were the two tablets stone on which the law was engraved, the pot of manna and Aaron's rod**
- ✓ **The other tabernacle furniture pointed to the *work* of Christ but the ark speaks of His *Person***
- ✓ **The tabernacle without the ark is like a body without a soul or the Church without Christ**