

CHRIST IS THE MINISTER OF THE GREATER AND MORE PERFECT TABERNACLE OR SANCTUARY HEBREWS 09:01–14

Introduction

How can a person become acceptable to God? How can a person gain access to God, fellowship and commune with Him? How can a person come to know God in a real and personal way - so personal that the person can know that God is looking after and caring for him? How can a person gain and maintain a relationship with God? This is the concern of the writer of Hebrews. He has already shown how men try to approach God...

- through prophets (Heb. 1:1-3).
- through angels (Heb. 1:4-14).
- through great leaders who are great men of God (Heb. 3:1-6).
- through priests (Heb. 4:14-8:5).
- through covenants and law or by trying to be as good as they can (Heb. 8:1-13).

But as has been seen, every one of these approaches to God are inadequate. They are imperfect and incomplete. They may tell us some things about God; they may help us to understand God to some degree, but they do not give us the full story nor reveal the whole nature of God. They are only shadows and faint copies of the truth. They show us only a part of the truth about God. They do not reveal God to us, nor do they make us acceptable to God or give us fellowship with God.

The present passage deals with the same subject: How do men try to approach and worship God? Another way is through earthly sanctuaries or houses of worship. In the Old Testament — under the first covenant with God — the Jews or children of Israel built a tabernacle, that is, a tent. The tent or tabernacle was the place where they sought to worship and become acceptable to God. But as shall be seen, this approach to God was as inadequate as all the other approaches. Earthly sanctuaries and earthly worship cannot bring us near God — earthly sanctuaries and earthly worship cannot make us acceptable to God. Only Jesus Christ can bring us near and make us acceptable to God. This is the point of this passage: to show that Jesus Christ is the greater and more perfect Minister of the tabernacle. He is the only Minister who brings us to God. (See *Tabernacle*, Heb. 9:11-14. It is placed as the last note because of its length.)

- I. The earthly sanctuary or tabernacle: was for divine worship, but it was only an earthly sanctuary (v. 1-10).
 - II. The heavenly sanctuary or tabernacle (v. 11-14).
-

I. *Hebrews 09:01-10 Tabernacle, Sanctuaries and Worship*

The earthly sanctuary or tabernacle (see *Tabernacle*, Heb. 9:11-14 for a picture and discussion of the tabernacle). The earthly sanctuary was for the worship of God, but it was only an earthly sanctuary. It was totally inadequate in reaching God and in making a person acceptable to God. This is clear when we look at the layout and worship of the earthly tabernacle. (See drawing of the tabernacle, for a better grasp of its layout and furnishings.)

1. First, there was the first or outer sanctuary which was the Holy Place (v. 2). It was 30 feet long, 15 feet wide, and 15 feet high. Three pieces of furnishings were in the Holy Place; two are mentioned here.
 - a. There was the lamp stand which had seven lamps or flames. The lamp stand gave light to the room, for there were no windows in this outer sanctuary.
 - b. There was the table of the showbread or of consecrated bread. It was a small table, only 3 feet long, 1½ feet wide, and 2 feet 3 inches high. Twelve loaves of consecrated bread lay upon the table. They were neatly arranged in two rows of six.
2. Second, there was the second or inner sanctuary which was the holiest of all sanctuaries, the Holy of Holies or what is sometimes called the Most Holy Place (v. 3-5). Note that a veil or large curtain separated it from the sanctuary of the Holy Place. This was the sanctuary that could be entered only by the High Priest, and he could enter only once a year. Note: there was not a lamp stand in the Holy of Holies and there were no windows. The glory of God was to have given the room its light. Two furnishings are mentioned.
 - a. There was the golden altar of incense which was a permanent piece of furniture in the Holy Place, but it was carried into the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement (v. 4). It was a small table-like container 1½ feet square and 3 feet high. Incense was burned upon it every morning and evening symbolizing the prayers of the people reaching up to God.
 - b. There was the ark of the covenant which was a box or chest covered with gold on every side (v. 4-5). It contained three things.
 - => The golden jar that had some manna in it. The manna symbolized the manna used to feed the children of Israel in their wilderness wanderings (Exo. 16:32-34).
 - => The staff of Aaron (Num. 17:1-11).
 - => The two slabs of the covenant or law upon which Moses had written the ten commandments (Exo. 25:16f; Deu. 9:9; 10:5).

Arising from both ends of the ark were two angelic creatures called cherubim who reached over and shadowed the mercy seat. The very presence of God was to sit upon the lid or top of the ark between the glory of the two cherubim (Exo. 25:22).

Thought 1. The point to see is that the sanctuary was furnished with earthly furniture — furniture that has religious meaning, but the furniture is still earthly, still only a shadow and faint copy of real worship. The same is true with our sanctuaries today. We have our earthly sanctuaries and earthly furniture — furniture that has religious meaning for us. There is the pulpit, the table for the Lord's Supper and the baptismal pool or the basin for sprinkling. But these are still earthly, only shadows and faint images of the real sanctuary and worship.

3. Third, the priests entered the outer sanctuary or Holy Place every day and earned out their ministry and acts of worship for the people (v. 6). They did all they could to make the people acceptable to God and to provide fellowship and communion with God. But again their service and ministry was *short of perfection*. No matter how much ministry they performed for the people, they could not make the people perfect. They could not make the people acceptable to God.
4. Fourth, the High Priest alone went into the inner sanctuary or the Holy of Holies (v. 7). He went in to offer the blood of the sacrificed God for the sins of the people. Man is sinful and he is guilty of sin and rebellion against God. Therefore, he must pay the penalty and judgment of his sins or else a substitute has to bear the judgment for him. This was the idea behind the animal sacrifice. The life of the animal was sacrificed for the sins of the people. Therefore, people were released from the guilt of their sins and made acceptable to God.

But note: the High Priest could go into the Holy of Holies to make sacrifice for sins only once a year. This is what was known as the Day of Atonement. Does this mean that a person could be forgiven his sins only once a year? No. There were daily sacrifices and offerings for sin that a person could make. The Day of Atonement was a comprehensive sacrifice — a nation-wide confession of sin. Israel was the chosen people of God with whom God had established His first covenant. Therefore, Israel or a body of people were to seek and worship God, and atonement or sacrifice was to be made for everything that concerned the nation:

Lev 16:33 *And make atonement for the Most Holy Place, for the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and for the priests and all the people of the community.*

The point to note is this: sacrifice for sins had to be repeated year by year. There was no permanent sacrifice, no eternal Saviour from sin.

5. Fifth, there were the inadequacies or lessons of the earthly tabernacle and worship (v. 8). Note that the Holy Spirit of God is the One who points out these inadequacies or lessons. He is the One who points out the following shortcomings of the tabernacle and of earthly worship.

- a. First, the way into God's presence was not opened up by the earthly sanctuary and worship. Remember: the very presence of God dwelt in the Holy of Holies. And no one — not even a priest — could enter the Holy of Holies. Only the High Priest himself ever went into God's presence and that was only once a year. And when he entered, he went in with fear and trembling lest he displease God and be stricken dead. No one had access to God — not day by day — not in an unbroken communion and fellowship with God's Spirit.

Thought 1. No earthly sanctuary and worship can make a person acceptable to God. Everything on earth, including all worship centres and worship, are physical, material, short and imperfect. Nothing on this earth is perfect; therefore, nothing can bring perfection to man, not even sanctuaries and worship. Nothing that is earthly can make God accept man. Nothing on earth can give man access, fellowship, and communion with God.

Mat 5:20 *“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

1 Cor 15:50 *I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*

Rev 21:27 *Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

- b. The approach to God through gifts and sacrifices could not perfect the worshippers. And note: the honest worshipper knew it; his conscience told him. Every thinking and honest person knows that he cannot be made into a perfect person and cleanse his conscience...
- by offering gifts to God, even if those gifts are made sacrificially.
 - offering animal sacrifices to God as a substitute for his sins.

Such acts are earthly acts and deal with physical and material things (substances). They help us to see and understand God to some degree. They are shadows and faint copies of perfect worship, but they cannot remove guilt or sins nor can they make a man perfect.

Gal 5:21 *And envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Eph 5:5 *For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

Rev 21:27 *Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

- c. The great day of reformation — the day when the imperfect and material worship would be transformed into the perfect and eternal worship — could not be brought about by earthly worship. This is clearly seen: all the rituals and ceremonies of earthly sanctuaries and worship are only external and physical acts. This is true of all rituals and ceremonies, whether they involve...
- food • drink
 - water and worship
 - external rule and regulations

No matter what the ritual of worship is, it is external and physical — a mere act of man using some physical substance to help him worship God. And nothing that is earthly and external — physical and imperfect — can make us acceptable to God. Nothing on this earth can give us access, fellowship, and communion with God.

Earthly sanctuaries and worship are helpful as mere shadows, images and faint copies of real worship — but they are all ever so inadequate. They leave the soul empty and unassured.

Mark 7:6 He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”

Col 2:10 And you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

2 Tim 3:5 Having a form of godliness [ritual and worship] but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

Titus 1:16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

Heb 7:19 (For the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

Heb 10:1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming — not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.

Isa 29:13 The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.”

II. *Hebrews 09:11-14 Jesus Christ, the High Priest and the Heavenly Sanctuary, Tabernacle*

The heavenly sanctuary is for the worship of God just as the earthly sanctuary is, but it is different from the earthly sanctuary and worship of men. How does it differ? There are at least four differences.

1. The heavenly sanctuary and worship has a *perfect priest*. The High Priest of heaven is not a man; He does not come from among mere men — men who are imperfect, frail, sinful, and ever so short just like all other men. The High Priest of heaven is the Son of God Himself, and as the Son of God, He is perfect and eternal. Therefore, He is able to bring better things to us. He is able to intercede for us forever — He is able to save us completely when we come to God *through Him*. (See notes, Heb. 7:25; 8:4-5.)
2. The heavenly sanctuary and worship is *spiritual and perfect*. It is not man-made; it is not a part of this earthly, physical, and material world. It is not a part of this corruptible, decaying, aging, and dying world. It is not a part of this world that is only a shadow, picture, and faint copy of the real world. The spiritual and perfect sanctuary is the spiritual and perfect world — heaven itself — where the very presence of God is glorified and manifested for all to see and worship.

Heb 9:24 *For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.*

Mat 6:24 *"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."*

John 14:2-3 *"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."*

2 Cor 5:1 *Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.*

Heb 11:10 *For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

Rev 7:9 *After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.*

3. The heavenly sanctuary and worship has a *perfect sacrifice* (v. 12). Man is imperfect and sinful; he is guilty of disobeying, rejecting and rebelling against God. Therefore, he must pay the penalty and judgment of his sins or else a substitute has to bear the judgment

for him. This was the idea behind animal sacrifices. The animal's life was sacrificed for the sins of man. Note that three significant things are said in this verse.

- a. Jesus Christ, the perfect High Priest, did not sacrifice the blood of animals for the sins of man; He sacrificed His own blood. He offered up His life as a sacrifice to God — as the sacrifice for the life of the people. Jesus Christ bore the guilt and judgment for the sins of man. Why would He do this? Because He is the Son of God and He loves man. He is the Son of God who came to earth as the God-Man; He is the Ideal and Perfect Man. As the Ideal Man, whatever He does stands for and covers all men. Therefore, His blood covers the sins of all men who believe and trust Him. His sacrifice is the perfect and ideal sacrifice — the sacrifice that stands for and covers all men.
- b. Jesus Christ, the perfect High Priest, entered into the Holy of Holies of heaven itself. But note: He had to enter only once. The earthly High Priest had to make continued sacrifices, but Jesus Christ had to make only one sacrifice. Why? Because His sacrifice was the perfect and ideal sacrifice. Being perfect and ideal, it could stand forever for every man of every generation.
- c. Jesus Christ, the perfect High Priest, obtained eternal redemption for us. Sin, death, and condemnation have captured and kidnapped man. No man can escape from either one, no matter what he does. But Jesus Christ made it possible for man to be freed and delivered from all enemies. How? He paid the ransom price. He substituted Himself for man. He gave His life — sacrificed His life for man. He could do this because He is the perfect and ideal Man. Since He chose to sacrifice His life for man, He has become the perfect and ideal sacrifice. This is exactly what He has done. He has redeemed and ransomed man from sin, death, and condemnation.

Mat 26:28 “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Rom 3:24 And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Rom 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

1 Cor 1:30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Gal 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

Col 1:14 *In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Titus 2:14 *Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

Heb 9:12 *He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.*

Heb 9:14 *How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!*

1 Pet 1:18-19 *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

Rev 1:5 *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.*

Rev 5:9 *And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."*

4. The heavenly sanctuary and worship saves a person perfectly (v. 13-14).
Note three points.
 - a. The earthly sanctuary and worship sanctifies and cleanses only outwardly. It takes an honest person to admit this. But as shown in previous points, the rituals and ceremonies of earthly and physical worship are external. They cannot cleanse man inwardly nor can they make him perfect and eternal.
 - b. The heavenly sanctuary and worship purifies and cleanses a person even down to his conscience — no matter how hardened and nonexistent the conscience may be. When a person comes to God through Christ, God gives him a perfect assurance that he is accepted by God, that he has eternal life. How is this possible? When Jesus Christ was on earth, He lived a sinless life, obeying God perfectly in every act and thought. He therefore became the Ideal (and perfect) Righteousness, the Ideal Man who pleased God perfectly. This is especially true in the sacrifice of Christ. God loves man and wants to save man. Therefore, God willed and wanted His Son to show His perfect love to man, to show His love by sacrificing His life for the sins of man. No greater love could ever have been expressed, and it was God's love for us that led Him to

sacrifice His Son for us. When Christ sacrificed Himself for our sins, the ultimate in obedience was reached. Jesus Christ obeyed God supremely; He died for our sins. Therefore God will forgive any man's sins, and nothing will ever stop Him from forgiving them. Very simply stated, God will forgive and cleanse any man's sins because of His Son. Forgiveness and cleansing are guaranteed once-for-all to everyone who believes — all because of God's supreme love for His Son.

Mat 26:28 *“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”*

Rom 5:9 *Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!*

Eph 1:7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.*

Eph 5:25-26 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.*

Titus 3:4-5 *But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

Heb 9:14 *How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!*

Heb 10:14 *Because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

Heb 10:21-22 *And since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*

1 Pet 1:18-19 *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

Rev 1:5 *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.*

- c. The heavenly sanctuary and worship leads a person away from the dead works of this earth to serve the living God (v. 14). Earthly religion in all its ritual and ceremony is *dead* to God. No matter how religious and good a person tries to be — no matter how many good works he does — it is not such earthly behaviour that makes him acceptable

to God. Jesus Christ alone makes a man acceptable to God. He and He alone gives man access to God and puts man into fellowship and communion with God. Jesus Christ has to live in the heart and life of a person — actually live in the body of a person through the Holy Spirit of God — for a person to be given the glorious privilege of walking in fellowship and communion with God.

John 14:17 *“The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

Rom 5:1-2 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.*

Rom 8:09 *You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

Rom 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

1 Cor 6:19-20 *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.*

Phil 2:13 *For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*

Heb 12:28 *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.*

1 John 2:27 *As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit — just as it has taught you, remain in him. ■*

HEBREWS 09:11-14 TABERNACLE

*When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! **Hebrews 09:11-14***

The tabernacle was of God, not of man. God is the One who instructed Moses to build the tabernacle:

***Exo 25:1-8** The LORD said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give. These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows; acacia wood; olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breast piece. “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.”*

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

***Heb 8:2** And who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.*

***Heb 8:05** They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”*

Several facts should be noted about the tabernacle.

I. The Tabernacle Complex

A. The Walls of the Tabernacle

1. The facts:

=> They were 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 7½ feet high.

=> They were made out of fine twined linen woven by needlework. The colour was white.

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

2. *What the walls taught:*

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

=> When a person looks at God, he must see that He dwells in righteousness and holiness. (When a person looked at white walls they were to be reminded that God was holy.)

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

3. *How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the walls:*

2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Eph 4:24 And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

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

1. *The facts:*

=> It was on the east side.

=> It was 30 feet wide and 7½ feet high.

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

2. *What the door or gate taught:*

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

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

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

John 10:9 "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture."

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

C. The Altar of Burnt Offering in the Courtyard

1. The facts:

=> It was 7½ feet square and 4½ feet high.

=> It was made of acacia wood covered with brass.

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

2. What the altar taught:

=> Substitutionary sacrifice is necessary for the forgiveness of sins.

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

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

3. How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the altar of Burnt Offering:

Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

1 Pet 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

1 Cor 5:7 Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast — as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

D. The Bronze Washbasin in the Courtyard

1. The facts:

=> Its size is not given.

=> It was made of bronze.

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

2. ***What the bronze washbasin taught:***

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

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

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

3. ***How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the bronze washbasin:***

John 13:8 “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

Eph 5:25-26 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.*

Heb 9:14 *How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!*

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

1 John 3:2-3 *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.*

Rev 1:5 *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.*

II. The Sanctuary of the Tabernacle

1. ***The facts:***

=> The walls and roof separated some rituals of worshipping God apart from other rituals.

=> The walls were made out of fine woven linen: the colours were blue, purple and scarlet.

=> The walls were supported by 54 wood beams 2 feet high and 2 feet 3 inches wide. The beams were overlaid with pure gold. They rested in sockets of silver. There was a wood centre beam which ran through the outside connecting rods.

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

2. *What the walls and roof taught:*

=> There are different rituals of worship, certain steps to take in approaching God.

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

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

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

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

Rom 5:2 Through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Eph 2:18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Eph 3:12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Heb 10:22 Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Heb 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

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

A. *The Outer Veil or Curtain Door*

1. *The facts:*

=> It was made out of fine twined linen. The colours were blue, purple and scarlet.

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

=> It was the only opening into the Holy Place.

2. *What the outer veil or door taught:*

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

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

3. ***How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the veil:***

The way to a deeper knowledge of God, to the deeper things of God, is through the Lord Jesus Christ and through Him alone.

John 17:3 "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

1 Cor 1:30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Eph 4:15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Phil 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

1 Pet 2:2-3 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

2 Pet 1:4-7 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

2 Pet 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

B. *The Golden Lamp stand*

1. ***The facts:***

- => It was made out of *pure gold* and weighed over 100 pounds.
- => It was a central shaft with three branches on each side to provide seven lamps. The branches were formed into the beautiful shape of a flowering almond branch.

=> It burned pure olive oil.

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

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

2. *What the lamp stand taught:*

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

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

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

3. *How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the lamp stand:*

Christ and Christ alone provides the light and illumination to know and serve God.

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 1:4 "In him was life, and that life was the light of men."

2 Cor 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Eph 5:14 For it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

C. *The Table of the Showbread or Consecrated Bread.*

1. *The facts:*

=> It was a small table, only 3 feet long, 1½ feet wide, and 2 feet 3 inches high.

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

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

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

2. *What the table of showbread taught:*

=> God and the worship of Him is the bread of life.

- => God and the worship of Him is the nourishment that man really needs.
- => Man must have the bread of God's presence and worship.
- => The frankincense symbolized that God was pleased with man worshipping Him.

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

He is the Bread of Life, the nourishment upon which man must feed in order to know and worship God.

John 6:48 "I am the bread of life."

John 6:33 "For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

John 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 6:50-51 "But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

John 6:58 "This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."

D. *The Altar of Incense*

1. ***The facts:***

- => It was a small altar, 1½ feet square and 3 feet high.
- => It was made out of acacia wood and was overlaid with gold. It also had rings for poles so that it could be carried about from place to place.
- => It was for the purpose of burning incense to God.
- => The incense was a perpetual offering sent up to God. It was never allowed to stop burning.
- => Once a year the blood of the atonement sacrifice was sprinkled upon it.

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

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

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

=> Christ prayed always, living and walking in an unbroken communion with God the Father.

=> Christ interceded for God's people.

John 17:9 "I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours."

Rom 8:34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Heb 7:25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

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

A. *The Inner Veil or Curtain Door*

1. *The facts:*

=> It was made out of fine twined linen. The colours were blue, purple and scarlet with figures of cherubim embroidered into the linen.

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

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

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

2. *What the inner veil taught:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heb 2:17 *For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.*

Heb 4:14-15 *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin.*

Heb 6:19-20 *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.*

Heb 9:24 *For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.*

Heb 10:19-20 *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body.*

B. The Ark of the Covenant

1. The facts:

=> It was made of acacia wood.

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

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

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

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

Exo 25:22 *There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the Testimony, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites.*

=> The ark contained three items: the stone tablets of the law or ten commandments (Exo. 25:16f; Deu. 9:9; 10:5), the golden jar of manna (Exo. 16:32-34), and Aaron's staff (Num. 17:1-11).

Exo 16:32-34 *Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the desert when I brought you out of Egypt.'" So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD to be kept for the generations to come." As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna in front of the Testimony, that it might be kept.*

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

2. What the ark of the covenant taught:

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

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

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

3. How Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat:

He became the pure, sinless Lamb of God who sacrificed His life for man.

1 John 2:2 *He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Gal 1:4 *Who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.*

Eph 5:2 *And live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Titus 2:14 *Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

1 Pet 2:24 *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

1 Pet 3:18 *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.*

Rev 1:5 *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood. □*