

THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

Part IV (4)

by: Dr. Tracy Strawberry

The Same God Yesterday, Today, and Forever More!

(Malachi 3:6, Revelation 1:8)

God's greatest desire is to "dwell" with us!

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT and THE HIGH PRIEST

INTRODUCTION|REVIEW

We are not "earning" our way to God, we are experiencing the God we already have through Salvation in Jesus Christ! -Tracy Strawberry

THE NUMBER 3: Divinity and Completeness (The Fullness of God). 7 means completion: the WORK of God is completed! It is finished!

1. **REVELATION:** God uses three rooms in the Tabernacle: The Outer Court, The Holy Place, The Holy of Holies to reveal:
 - a. Reveals Himself (God), Reveals Christ, Reveals the Church to Come.
 - b. Reveals the Fullness of God (Himself): The Trinity
 - i. The Father (Holy of Holies), the Son (Outer Court), The Holy Spirit (Holy Place).
 - c. Reveals our entire being: God wants to invade our entire being!
 - i. Spirit (Holy of Holies), Soul (Holy Place), Body (Outer Court).
 - d. **Jesus held all 3 offices:** This was not possible in the human system; prophets, priests, and kings could never perform the duties of the other in any way, shape, or form.
 - i. **Prophet:** A prophet works divinely from God to man! In the Old Testament he also spoke the Word of God and foretold of future events. A prophet also works divinely from God to man, represents God with man. Jesus is the Living Word of God, spoke always of the Word in teaching and speaking. He spoke forth the will of God and confirmed His divinity through signs, wonders, and miracles. Jesus was God in human form with man; Emmanuel, God with us. [John 17:4, John 14:24, Acts 2:22, Mark 6:4, Acts 2:22, Luke 4:43].
 - ii. **Priest:** the priest works divinely from man to God. He mediates the sin that separates man's fellowship with God. He presents the people to God through sacrifices, offerings, prayer, and praise, on the people's behalf to be fully acceptable unto God. Jesus is our High Priest, no other priest needed! He is the fulfillment of the priestly system, the High Priest's appointment of duties through offerings and the sacrificial system. The atoning death of Christ is the ultimate sacrifice and sin offering made once and for all, for all! Jesus mediates and represents us to God the Father, clothed in His righteousness making us

perfectly pleasing in God's sight and presence! We stand before God just as if we had never sinned! Our record of sin is gone in the manner as if it NEVER EXISTED! [Psalm 110:4, Hebrews 4:14, Hebrews 5:6, Hebrews 6:20, Hebrews 7:15, Hebrews 7:11].

- iii. **King:** When God raised Christ from the dead with all power, He put all things under the feet of Christ! Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father, not only as intercessor for us but as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! He is King who rules and reigns over the Church and the world! He is above any ruler, authority, power, principality, and dominion! Jesus is the name above all names in this day and the age to come! [Revelation 19:13,16, John 18:36, Isaiah 9:6,7, Ephesians 1:20-21, Daniel 7:13-14, Acts 2:30-32].

1. **Grace:** We now experience the fullness of God by Grace through faith in Christ, not the sacrificial system, by priests, because of the law which could not be kept by man. Before Christ and His finished work, a mediator (Priest/High Priest), a sacrifice, and a system, were needed for the people to be presented to God. Christ now represents God's people as righteous, having direct access to Almighty God through the covering of Christ!

- e. **Three Curtains:** Jesus is The Way (curtain 1) entrance into the Tabernacle, The Truth (curtain 2) entrance into the Holy Place (where the fundamentals of the Christian Life, and The Life (Curtain 3).

Conclusion: A Minor Correlation and Revelation: the number 3 is used 467 times in the bible (Biblestudy.org with permission). Please visit the sight for more information on biblical numerics.

- There are 27 books in the New Testament, which is $3 \times 3 \times 3$, or completeness to the third power.
- Jesus prayed three times in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest.
- He was placed on the cross at the 3rd hour of the day (9 a.m.) and died at the 9th hour (3 p.m.).
- There were 3 hours of darkness that covered the land while Jesus was suffering on the cross from the 6th hour to the 9th hour.
- Three is the number of resurrection. Christ was dead for three full days and three full nights, a total of 72 hours, before being resurrected just before sunset.

3 is the Number of Divinity-God's Fullness-Completeness! Continuing on with this concept....

The Ark of the Covenant is placed in the third room of the Tabernacle

A. The Holy of Holies: The third room in the Tabernacle, the place of communing with God:

- a. Only the High Priest could enter here and only once a year on Yom Kippur, the day of atonement (William Tyndale made up this word-at one moment!); Jesus is the High Priest who died once for all for all! It is finished!
 - i. **Romans 6:8-10 (NIV):** ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.
- b. The High Priest was appointed by God: Aaron in the Old Testament and only the descendants of Aaron who were chosen by God could hold the office of High Priest. Jesus was chosen by God and holds the office of High Priest, the one who presents us to God the Father on our behalf covered in His righteousness. From the moment of Christ's death and ascension into heaven, there was no longer need for the High Priest or the sacrificial system as Jesus completely fulfilled the entirety of the law and this system that was needed because the law could never be kept perfectly by man. Only the high priest was permitted to pass beyond this veil once each year (Exodus 30:10; Hebrews 9:7) to enter into God's presence for all of Israel and make atonement for their sins (Leviticus 16).
- c. The High Priest would bring the blood from the Brazen Altar in which a bull was sacrificed for his own sins. The High Priest sprinkled it on the veil 7 times in front of the Holy of Holies before he entered into the "presence" of the Ark of the Covenant (the presence of God). Seven represent completion, the finished work of Jesus Christ is complete and IS the ultimate and acceptable sacrifice that enables us to be in the presence of God. The High Priest wouldn't dare stand in the presence of God without entering in or standing on the "merits" of another, the shed blood of the sacrifice, that would present him righteous before God.
- d. The High Priest also splattered the blood on the Mercy Seat, the blood of the sacrificial bull as an *atonement* (at one moment) for the sins of the people of Israel.
 - i. **The Bull:** High Priest: king's courageous heart, spiritual vitality, was the strongest of the animals and was male: signifies Christ!
 - ii. **The Goats:** One was sacrificed and was let go outside of the camp (the scapegoat). The scapegoat (signifies us) was led away from the camp into the wilderness-westward-until it could no longer be seen signifying that God forgives our sins as far as the east is from the west and to never be seen or held against us again!
 - iii. **The blood splattered was that of the bull and the goat: Christ and us! Atonement! He took our place!**

B. The Veil was Rent: The veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies was torn from TOP to bottom! The veil was about 60 feet high and around 4 inches thick. (Not the work of man but GOD alone!).

- i. Matthew 27:50-51a: "And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.
- ii. *This was the start of the Church Age and the end of the sacrificial, religious system and priesthood! The dispensation of Grace had begun, and the dispensation of the law had been fulfilled!*

When Jesus died, the veil was torn, and God moved out of that place never again to dwell in a temple made with human hands (Acts 17:24). God was through with that temple and its religious system, and the temple and Jerusalem were left "desolate" (destroyed by the Romans) in A.D. 70, just as Jesus prophesied in Luke 13:35. As long as the temple stood, it signified the continuation of the Old Covenant. Hebrews 9:8-9 refers to the age that was passing away as the new covenant was being established (Hebrews 8:13).

In a sense, the veil was symbolic of Christ Himself as the only way to the Father (John 14:6). This is indicated by the fact that the high priest had to enter the Holy of Holies through the veil. Now Christ is our superior High Priest, and as believers in His finished work, we partake of His better priesthood. We can now enter the Holy of Holies through Him. Hebrews 10:19-20 says, "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." Here we see the image of Jesus' flesh being torn for us just as He was tearing the veil for us.

This is when God became about His church! The Holy Priesthood order was no longer needed! The temple was no longer where the place where God would meet man! He would now meet man through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ! It was no longer at the Brazen altar on behalf of the high priest that He would meet man but at the foot of the cross in faith in our High Priest Jesus! Christians, God's people are now the priesthood declaring the Word of God through the fullness of God living in us!

The tearing of the veil at the moment of Jesus' death dramatically symbolized that His sacrifice, the shedding of His own blood, was a sufficient atonement for sins. It signified that now the way into the Holy of Holies-the Presence and the fullness of God-was open for all people, for all time, both Jew and Gentile. All our sins, the sins of yesterday, today, and forever more were now "atoned" for, for all eternity! No more annual visits. No more crucifixions for Christ! It is finished! Over! Done! Fulfilled! The Completed Work of Christ! Sufficient for all and for all of the sins yesterday, today and forever more!

- C. **Why is it called an Ark?** An “ark” signifies rescue, salvation, through the covering! It is a special container with the purpose of leading to rescue-salvation through the covered container. Today, we are the God containers, the Ark, the tabernacle, the dwelling place of God, carrying the fullness of God because of our rescue/salvation through Jesus Christ!
- a. **Ark of Moses: Covered** in Pitch: Protective covering so it would not sink and would allow the contents from within to be saved and led to safety. Jesus saves us and because of His finished work we will be led safely to our eternal home!
 - b. **Noah’s Ark:** Had 3 levels by the way and was covered in pitch!
 - c. **Ark of the Covenant:** Contains the fullness of God inside and is covered in pure Gold, inside and out! Signifies divinity and purity! No flesh or human element to it! It’s all God! We are covered from head to toe inside and out with the righteousness of Christ who saves and leads us safely home through the “seal” of the Holy Spirit! We belong to God! Saved to the uttermost!
 - d. **The ark itself was made of acacia wood, overlaid completely, inside and out, with pure gold!**
 - i. The wood represents the humanity of Christ and our adamic, sinful nature.
 - ii. The Gold signifies the deity of Christ and that we are completely covered in Him!
 - e. **The ark** is placed in the third room (completeness-fullness, and divinity), the Holy of Holies! Here is where the presence of God resides! The Holy Of Holies, the third room represent us and the contents of the Ark are within us-the fullness of God! God containers! This is where God wants us, in the box, in the Ark! Signifies us “abiding” in Christ and Christ in us! **LIVING IN HIS FULLNESS!**
- D. **The Three Items:** 3 again meaning deity, completeness, fullness of God: His covenant with the people is symbolized through these three items:
- a. **Aaron’s rod that budded:** appointed High Priest. The leaders were complaining about God’s order in allowing only Aaron to perform the duties of High Priest. Why can’t we do it? They would complain! God gave them a test and told Moses to have the leaders place their staffs on the ground overnight. The next morning only Aaron’s had budded-meaning it was alive, chosen, appointed, and anointed to the office of High Priest!
 - i. **Isaiah 53:2:** He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
 - ii. We were once dead in sin but now alive in Christ!
 - iii. Jesus is anointed and appointed the High Priest!
 - b. **The two tablets of the Law, Unbroken:** this shows that the demands of the law have been totally met in Christ!
 - i. **Philippians 3:8-9:** What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not

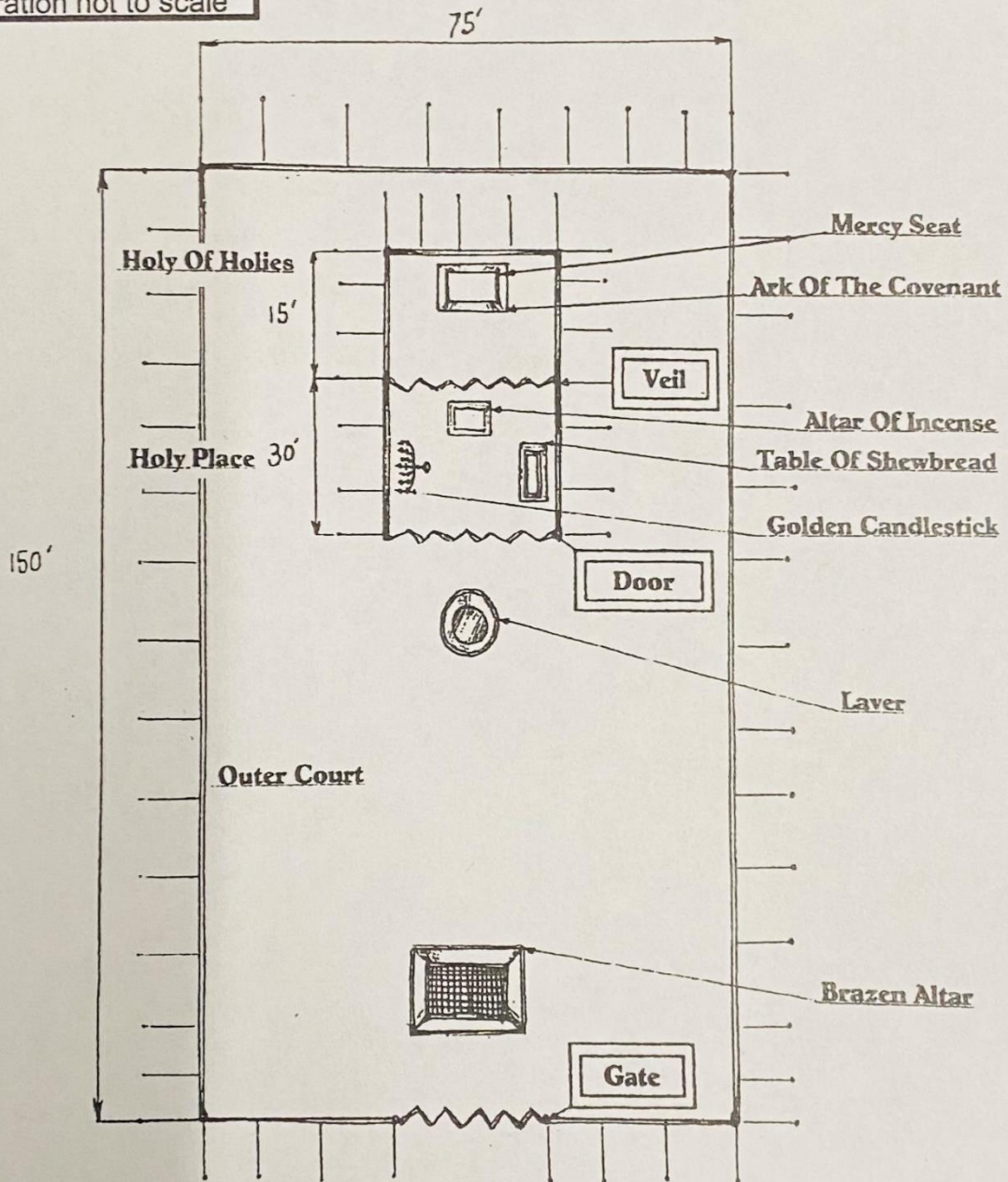
having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

- c. **Pot of Manna:** God is our provider! We must learn to trust Him for provision in every area of our lives: He supplies all our needs according to His riches in glory! (Philippians 4:19).
 - i. The word manna means, “What is it?” It was supernatural provision from God that could not be explained in words!
 - ii. **7 Descriptions/Attributes of the manna:**
 - 1. **Small:** Humility, and Jesus came as a baby! Exodus 16:14, Matthew 1:21, Isaiah 53:7, Matthew 12:17-19, Philippians 2:6-8.
 - 2. **Round:** Perfection, No beginning and no end, full of grace and truth! John 1:14, Exodus 16:14.
 - 3. **White:** Otherness: the people used to say that God was “other”, something and someone other than them! Supernatural, extraordinary! Hebrews 7:26 (NIV): Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.
 - 4. **Newness|Freshness:** Exodus 16:14: “As white frozen dew on the ground.” Lamentations 3:22-23: It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassion fails not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness!
 - 5. **Like Coriander Seed: Speaks of His loveliness:** Jesus is altogether lovely! Altogether worthy! Exodus 16:31, Song of Solomon 5:16: His mouth is most sweet; yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem!
 - 6. **As the taste of fresh oil: Speaks of His POWER:** Numbers 11:8, Acts 10:38.
 - 7. **Like Wafers Made with Honey:** Satisfaction! We are satisfied in Christ! He supplies all our needs! Song of Solomon 2:3-4: “As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.”

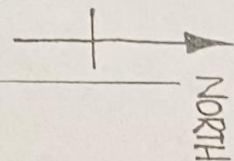
FAMILY, THERE IS NO ONE LIKE OUR GOD! TRUST HIM AND LIVE FOR HIM!



Illustration not to scale



THE TABERNACLE-IN-THE-WILDERNESS



ADDITIONAL NOTES

THE HOLY OF HOLIES

Holy of Holies: It is a perfect cube: The perfection and complete fullness of God: All that He is and that we are in Him through Christ: 20cubits x20x20= 3 20's, 5 (number of Grace) x 4(number for the nations-salvation is for all).

THE VEIL

Reminder: The veil reminds us, represents our separation from God because of our sin. What one man lost (Adam), one man Jesus reconciled! It is a physical representation of a spiritual reality!

The Colors:

- Blue: God's Holiness
- Purple: Royalty, Kingship, There's no one like Him!
- Scarlet: Sin of humanity and the Blood of Christ that washes away our sin. Atones!
- Cherubim woven into the veil: Angelic beings who protect the Majesty of God and work on God's behalf!
 - Adam and Even are kicked out of the garden on the EAST side-furthest direction away from God; and the cherubim guarded the gate-the entrance with the flaming swords!
- **Exodus 26:31-34 (NIV):** ³¹ "Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim woven into it by a skilled worker. ³² **Hang (Jesus on cross)** it with **gold hooks** (Held in His Divinity) on **four (sins of the world-number of nations)** posts of **acacia wood (Jesus humanity yet fully divine, our adamic nature)** overlaid with **gold** and standing on **four (for all) silver (redemption) bases (redemption rests on the finished work of the cross)**. ³³ Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the covenant law **behind** the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. ³⁴ Put the **atonement cover on the ark of the covenant law** in the Most Holy Place.
- **The veil was torn:** Jesus body was the veil that was torn for us!
- **GOD tore the veil:** NOTHING TO DO WITH MAN! Desiring for us to come in! Enter boldly into the throne room of God! I desperately desire to forgive you, cleanse you, heal you, make you whole! I want you ONE with ME! Through my mercy you can be!

MERCY SEAT

- **Placed over the law!** The law exposes our sin, but God's mercy, in His great love, COVERS us! We are covered in God's mercy!
- **Made out of 100% pure Gold-God's Divinity and Purity:** It was ONE solid piece: the cherubim were beaten into shape from the sides of the golden piece! No separation, not added later from another piece! One solid piece! ONE is the number God!
 - **One Savior**
 - **One Savior**
 - **One finished work**
 - **One true Living God**
 - **Oneness with us**
- **Sprinkled the Blood:** The High Priest sprinkled the blood on the veil and the mercy seat 7 times! 7 is the number of completion and perfection! The finished work! Completion! The High Priest wouldn't dare stand step into the presence of God without standing on the merits of the sacrifice, the blood, someone else's work!
- **Why blood on the mercy seat: for propitiation:** Payment in Full! What was accomplished For All!
 - **Leviticus 16:41(NIV):** ¹⁴ He is to take some of the bull's blood and with his finger sprinkle it on the front of the atonement cover; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the atonement cover.
 - **1 John 2:2:** He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.
 - **JESUS IS THE PROPITIATORY: Is the place and point of God the Father accepting what Jesus accomplished! This happened at the mercy seat in the tabernacle and at the mercy seat/ the heavenly holy of holies in heaven!**
 - **John 20-Remember when he rose from the dead and Mary Magdelene saw Him? Jesus told her not to touch him and the others he encountered as well! He is the ATONEMENT!**
 - **John 20:17(NKJV):** ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"
 - **Jesus ascends, presents himself to the Father at the mercy seat in heaven, joins the disciples once again before His final ascension into heaven. Then he tells Thomas to touch Him-touch my hands! Because the payment has been satisfied and accepted by God on earth as it is in heaven!**

GOD TORE THE VEIL FAMILY! Because of His Great Love for us and His deepest desire to commune with us-one with Him!!!!