

# **THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS**

## **Part II**

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### **REVIEW:**

**The Same God Yesterday, Today, and Forever More!**

(Malachi 3:6, Revelation 1:8)

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

**God is revealing Himself through illustration and manifestation throughout the entirety of the bible so that we may become right, and one, with Him once again for all eternity! This is the main idea and truth of the bible in its entirety, the great story of salvation that results in freedom and eternal life with God forever.**

**The end goal for every Christian believer is the Promised Land which symbolizes Eternity in Heaven with God where the fulfillment of our salvation is experienced! While we are waiting on eternity, God gave us the most beautiful plan of how we are to live life, here on earth, in the fullness of His presence and power, through the Tabernacle in the Wilderness!**

**The most profound description of Who God is, how He works in our lives, and in His church is found in the Tabernacle of the Wilderness.**

**(Over 50 chapters in the bible to describe)**

### **OVERVIEW**

The Tabernacle, with 3 rooms, 7 pieces of furniture, and 3 Curtains for this lesson as there are more curtains in which we will learn about in future study: Curtains signifying separation as well as well as the fullness of our reconciliation to God through Christ.

The Curtains: Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

The 3 Rooms: We are a three-part being: Spirit, Soul and Body

The Trinity: The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit

Faith, Hope, and Love

The 7 Pieces of Furniture: Our Christian walk in every detail to experience the fullness of God in our lives!

### **7 STEPS OF OUR CHRISTIAN JOURNEY**

#### **OPEN**

The entire Book of Hebrews can be summed up like this: we go in, and we go on! It is known as the Book of Faith, The Faith Heroes and The Faith Walk to the very end! Through the tabernacle in the wilderness we go in, then we go on!

**A. First Curtain: The Gate-Jesus is the Way, First Room: The Outer Court (Courtyard) Jesus, the Son-the Sacrifice, First Two Pieces of Furniture: Brazen Altar (Calvary-The Blood-The Sacrifice) and the Laver (The Word of God):**

1. Through the Gate (first curtain-The Way) to the Brazen Altar.
  - a. John 14:6 (NIV): Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
  - b. Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV): <sup>13</sup>“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup>But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.
  - c. Made of Bronze: signifying Judgment.
  - d. This first room is the outer court, representing our bodies, and Jesus in the Trinity (The Son). Father God is represented in the third room of the house, in The Holy of Holies and the Holy Spirit in the second room, The Holy Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> room.
  - e. 4 Horns: the horn of salvation. The number four in biblical numerics signifies all nations, the entire world. The gospel is for everyone, not only the Jews. Horns also signify power-there is power in the blood!
  - f. Tied the animal down in the grate: we were bound to sin but because of Christ we are free from the power of sin as well as the penalty of sin!
  - g. The animal was the very best, pure-without blemish.
  - h. Represents calvary: the place of sacrifice where the blood was shed. Covered and washed in the blood.
    - i. The animals were the living sacrifice, representing Christ, then we come to the altar as the living sacrifice to identify with the crucifixion, the death of Jesus. We come to God, through Jesus offering up our old selves as the living sacrifice, our sinful natures, to be crucified with Christ, born again as the first step of our new life in Christ!
  - i. The Measurements: 3x4x5:
    - i. 3 is always the number of the manifestation of God (Faith, Hope and Love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
    - ii. 4 is the international number-the 12 tribes, the gospel is for everyone (North, South, East and West).
    - iii. 5 is the number of God’s grace.
  - j. The priest accepted the sacrifice from the people (checked the animal), took the animal, parted it, tied it, then burnt it. Before placing it in the fire, he put his hands on the animal signifying the

transfer of sins, counting on the sacrifice to remove the sins, not himself. The black smoke went up to heaven where God would receive the sacrifice as acceptable for the removal of sins.

- k. The Brazen altar is at the East side, and God in the Holy of Holies is at the west end.
    - i. Psalm 103:12 (NLT): He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.
    - ii. The east and the west never touch! The north ends before you have to go south. Same with the south, it ends, and you are forced to enter the north. Our sin will never touch again.
  - l. Galatians 2:20 (NIV): I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
  - m. Romans 12:1-2(NIV): Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform 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.
  - n. This signifies our standing in Christ: we are now in right standing with Christ because of the blood of Jesus and His righteousness!
  - o. We must continue on! We are not to stay here!
2. To the Laver (The Word of God): Bronze on the outside: no measurements here. The word of God cannot be contained, measured, bound! It was bronze on the outside: judgment-humanness on the outside, and filled with water on the inside. We are washed in the Word of God!
- a. Round: No beginning and no end!

**B. Second Curtain (Jesus is the Truth), Second Room: Called The Holy Place. Represents our Souls, The Holy Spirit second person of the Trinity, Hope (Faith Hope and Love).**

3. **Golden Candlestick:** The Holy Spirit (Being Led by the Spirit and so much more): It was very costly. It was made of beaten gold. It was composed of the shaft and the branches. On the ends of the branches there were lamps. Then finally there was the oil for the lamps. It was in the light from the candlestick that the priest performed his duties before God. There was no natural light in the tabernacle.

**Bullet Points:**

- Made of Gold: The gold represents the deity of the Lord. No wood here at all which signifies our humanity. The purity of God!

- The Gold was beaten: Isaiah 53:5 (NLT): But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.
- The Buds and the Flower symbolize the resurrection!
- The candlestick was heavy and costly: Jesus bore the weight of our sin and it cost Him everything! It costs us everything to die to ourselves, to pick up our cross and follow Him! The weight of the candlestick was 94 pounds. At present day prices, it would cost approximately \$30,000. All we know of the candlestick is its weight and general appearance. We know nothing of its dimensional characteristics. As a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, this is unique. No limitations can be put on our Lord, who is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. He, not only, is unlimited and unrestricted, but His value is fathomless. He is the fullness of the Godhead bodily and full of grace and truth. We are not redeemed with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Jesus.

**The Shaft** - The Shaft reminds us of John 15:5, “I am the vine, you are the branches.” The branches, three on either side, and one on top, were all part of, and attached to the shaft or stem. This signifies our union and relationship with Christ. When a marriage takes place, God sees two people becoming one flesh. Spiritually we become one with Christ at Salvation.

**The Branches** - Matthew 5:14 says, “You are the light of the world.” As long as Christ was in the world, He was the light of the world. He still is, but not in a fleshly body. We are now the light of the world in our flesh and blood bodies! We are to “let our light shine before men! Let Christ be known and shine! We are salt and light! (Matthew 5:13-16)

In Revelation 1:20. The churches are described as lamp stands. From them was shown the gospel light. We are now carriers of the grace message which the Israelites did not have during this time. It is a fore telling, a type and shadow of Christ, an illustration of what was to come!

**The Seven Lamps** - In the book of Revelation, John speaks of the “seven lamps of fire,” which are the seven Spirits of God as well as the 7 Churches that the Lord, through this letter, brought correction, admonishment, and encouragement to the Churches. This symbolizes the Church as a whole. There is no light in the world today except the Holy Spirit that can set on fire the children of God! All effort is futile, unless energized and motivated by the Holy Spirit. The number seven in the Word speaks of divine perfection. This is seen in the seven lamps placed on the candlestick, representing the Holy Spirit indwelling the Church of Jesus Christ.

**The Oil for the Lamps** - This speaks to us of the Holy Spirit. The anointing oil that is needed for the light to burn! Let’s not let our light burn out! We cannot have power without the Holy Spirit, His leading, His revelation of God’s Word to us! No one can be saved without the drawing the Holy Spirit through us who lives in us!

There are numerous instances where oil is used as a type of the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 1:9, for instance, says, “God has anointed you with the oil (spirit) of gladness.” Think also of the parable of the 10 virgins - see Matthew 25:1-13.

Salvation cannot come to anyone without the supernatural working of the Holy Spirit upon the heart of that individual. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts (see John 14). It was the Holy Spirit hovering over the face of the waters and the spoken Word of God that brought light to this world. It was the same Holy Spirit Who hovered over Mary and caused her to conceive and bring forth a Son, Jesus - the Light of the World.

**The Only Light** - From the candlestick came the only light in the tabernacle. There were no windows, no natural light. Even the priest did not carry a light as he performed his sacred duties in the Holy Place. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” We cannot approach God in worship except through Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. For worship or salvation, we need Christ.

#### 4.

#### **The Table of Showbread: Tithes and Offerings:**

##### **Bullet Points:**

- 12 loaves: 12 tribes signifies the entire world to be saved!
- The priests would eat the loaves at the end of the week so they would not spoil. This signifies the bread going into the pries, Christ's Church, as we become kings and priests after salvation, to do the work of the ministry! The sustenance of the ministry! They ate the bread. When do we collect the tithes and offerings in Church? Once a week. Why? For the work of the ministry! God's work! No tricks friends! No swaying the people are making up stories to get us to move by emotion but out of DEVOTION to the One who saved and set us free and for Him to be known and shown to all the world!
- The showbread was made of fine flour. This spoke of the Lord: no roughness – no irregularities. The showbread truly spoke of the sinless character of Christ ("Truly this was the Son of God," and "I find no fault in this man."). Remember, we do not want any Leven(evil) in the bread! It spoils the whole loaf- (Galatians 5:9).

##### **Notes about the Table:**

**1. Material: Wood and Gold.** This was representative of the humanity and the deity of Christ. He was born of a woman – born in the flesh – yet the incarnate Son of God. The wood also signifies us as imperfect humans covered by the righteousness of Christ-the gold! His deity, His divinity!

**2. The Priest could not sit at the table.** The priests always stood in the presence of God. Their work was never done (see Hebrews 10:11-12). "Every priest stands...But this man after He had offered, sat down." Who sat down and where is He now? Jesus is seated at the right hand of God our Father!

**3. Significance: Fellowship.** Revelation 3:20 says, "open the door – come in – sup with him." The Lord yearns for our fellowship. The table of showbread speaks of communion and fellowship with the Bread of Life.

**The crowns on the table speak of exaltation.** There were two: a crown of thorns and a crown of glory. The unleavened bread speaks of the sinless-ness and perfection of Christ. Leaven speaks of evil. There is no evil in the Lord. While speaking of the Living Word, we may also speak of the written Word.

#### **5.The Altar of Incense: Prayer, Praise and Worship**

**Worship:** we get the word from two English words combined together: worth ship. Back in time people would describe the worth ship as a container, a ship, carrying good of great value and worth!

We are God containers! The vessels, the temples, that carry the absolute immeasurable value of God who dwells within us through the Holy Spirit!

Here's how it works: We are the worth ship-worship and the songs we sing are a praise offering from our condition, our tabernacle, our container, unto God! God inhabits the praises of His people!

Worship is a constant condition in which we live, our total commitment unto the Lord!

- Offering ourselves as a living sacrifice
- Being washed in the blood
- Being washed in the word: clean works, clean hands
- Being led by the Holy Spirit, being the Light of the World
- Giving of our tithes and offerings and being about our Father's business

- Then stepping up to the altar of incense: we are the God containers! Carrying the most precious of cargo and we approach Him as so!

**The Altar Typifies Prayer** - It was small, but large enough to serve its purpose. Note that it is not the long prayer that avails much, but the prayer of faith. We are not heard for our vain repetitions, but “the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

**The Altar is a Type of Christ** - Christ is the one through whom our prayers and praises ascend to God. Note His high priestly office (see **Hebrews 8:1** and **Hebrews 7:25**). We have a high priest seated at the right hand of God. He is able to save to the uttermost –saying He ever lives to make intercession for them.

## **The Components of the Altar**

The altar was made of wood overlaid with gold. As previously stated the material speaks of the Lord’s humanity and deity.

There were horns situated at each of the four corners – similar to the brazen altar. The horns on the brazen altar spoke of the “power in the blood,” while these horns speak of the “power of prayer” and Christ Himself. They were sprinkled with blood from the brazen altar once a year on the Day of Atonement. God never forgets the suffering His Son endured for us. “One thousand years as one day [...]” We must never forget the efficacy of the blood of Christ. To verify that the horns speak of Christ, see **Luke 1:69**. Zechariah, John the Baptist’s father, said, “God hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David.”

The crown speaks of exaltation. A golden crown was placed around the top of the altar. This gives us a picture of Christ exalted. It is only because Christ was resurrected and exalted to the right hand of God that we can expect to realize the power of answered prayer. See **Hebrews 9:24**.

## **The Location of the Altar (Exodus 40:5)**

The golden altar was placed before the throne - before the ark of testimony (see **Revelation 8:3**). In other words, it was placed in God’s presence. This typifies our Great High Priest in the presence of God making intercession on our behalf (see **Hebrews 7:25**).

The golden altar was placed according to a divine plan. So also our Lord Jesus resides in the presence of God according to this divine plan. There is one notable difference between what we have in the tabernacle and what is in heaven today. In the tabernacle, we have the veil. This separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. At the crucifixion this veil was rent. We now have access into God’s presence. Under the Law, the high priest could only enter the Holy of Holies once a year and only on the merits of shed blood. How we should praise God for His unspeakable gift - for Him who opened up the way to the throne of grace.

## **The Incense of the Altar**

The altar fire was taken from off of the brazen altar and the incense was sprinkled on it morning and evening. Incense is a symbol of prayer. **Psalm 141:2** says, “Let my prayer be set before Thee as incense.” In **Revelation 5:8**, odors are equivalent to incense, which are “the prayers of the saints.” Aaron, the high priest, offered the incense. Aaron is a figure of the Lord Jesus Christ in heaven, offering up prayer on behalf of those who are His. There is a danger in thinking that Christ only came to die for our sins. In one sense His work is done, but in another His work still continues today. As our Great High Priest, He intercedes for us before God. “To all our prayers and praises, Christ adds His sweet perfume; and love the censer raises, their odors to consume.”

5. Ark of the Covenant (In Christ).
6. Mercy Seat (Blood Sprinkled).