



REVISITED

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

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Spring 2019

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Lesson 7

VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- ✘ **Romans 1:21-25** For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and **exchanged** the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they **exchanged** the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
- ✘ Exchanged: *allasso*: to alter, to substitute one thing for another

IS EVERYONE "SAVED?"

- × "There's going to be no difference between the way God's going to interact with you when you die and the way God's going to interact with a Muslim when a Muslim dies" Doug Pagitt
- × "Salvation is the entire universe being brought back into harmony with its maker." Rob Bell
- × "I happen to know people who are followers of Christ in other religions." Rick Warren
- × **Pluralism:** all religions lead to God and salvation
- × **Inclusivity:** There is salvation in no one but Christ and those finally saved are only saved through Him, but they don't have to have known/accepted Him while living on earth

EXCLUSIVE (AND INTOLERANT?)

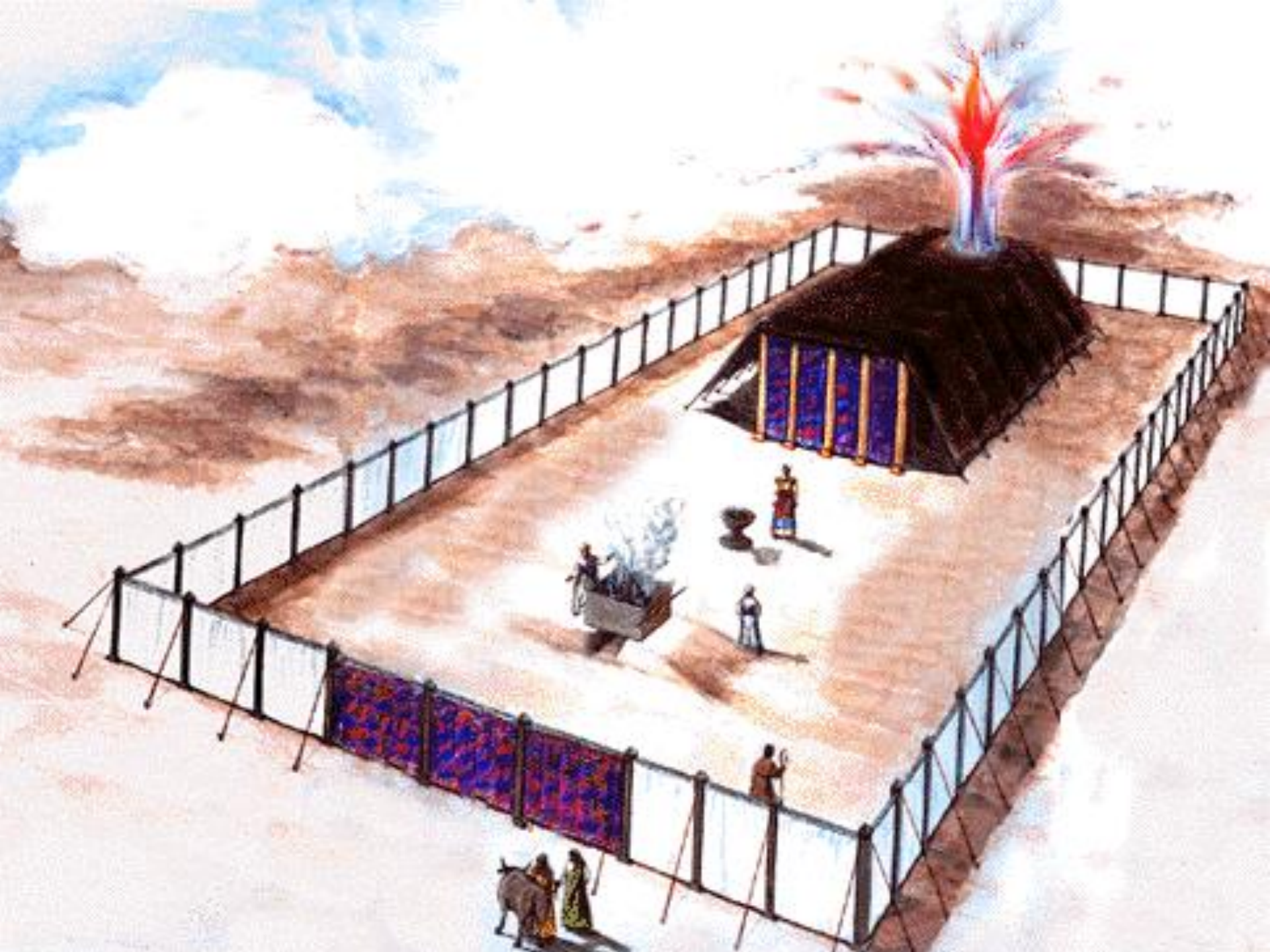
- ✘ **Christian Universalism:** combines the two positions just discussed: pluralism and inclusivism
- ✘ In reality, Christianity is a very “exclusive” religion
- ✘ **Exclusivism:** only those who came to God during the OT era and Christians since the time of Christ can be saved; there is salvation in no other name but Jesus. Those who live and die without accepting Christ will go to hell/lake of fire whether or not they ever had the opportunity to hear about Him
- ✘ **Matthew 22:37-39** And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’”

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT GOD

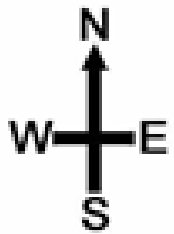
- × God is very consistent and very purposeful
- × **Malachi 3:6** "For I, the LORD, do not change..."
- × God established Law, methodology, and festivals in the Old Testament times that all point to Christ
- × **Ephesians 1:9-10** He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.
- × Purposed: *protithemi*: setting forth before
- × **Ephesians 1:11** ... we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

WHAT DOES GOD SAY?

- × **Acts 4:12** "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."
- × No other name: *oude heteron onoma*
- × **John 14:3-6** "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. And you know the way where I am going." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."
- × Reference to the bride of Christ/rapture of the church
- × Reference to the Tabernacle

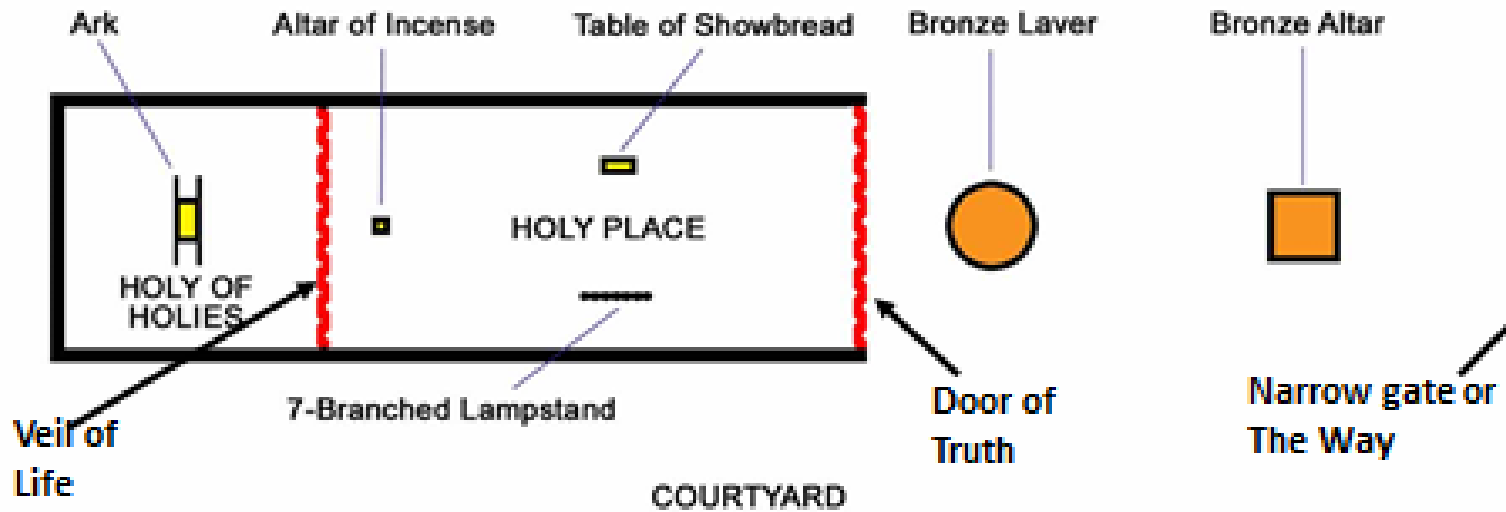


THE TABERNACLE/TEMPLE



Tabernacle Complex

150'



OUTER COURT: SALVATION=CONVERT

- ✘ **Matthew 7:13-14** "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."
- ✘ **Acts 9:1-2** Now Saul, breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.
- ✘ Enter by the Way (Narrow Gate) which is Jesus
- ✘ Having accepted His sacrifice (altar)
- ✘ Having been ceremonially cleansed (laver-baptism)

HOLY PLACE: DISCIPLESHIP

- ✘ Only the priests could enter the Holy Place
- ✘ **1 Peter 2:9** But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION...
- ✘ The priests presented the sacrifices to God. What is our sacrifice?
- ✘ **Romans 12:1** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present **your bodies** a living and holy **sacrifice**, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.
- ✘ Entrance to the Holy Place was through the Door (of Truth); it was the fourth wall of the Holy Place
- ✘ Inside the Holy Place, all three items point to discipleship

THE HOLY PLACE: SHOWBREAD

- × North side: table of showbread
- × **Ephesians 1:11**... we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will...
- × **Ephesians 3:11** ... in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
- × **2 Timothy 1:9** ... who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity...
- × **Romans 8:28** ...we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His purpose*
- × Purpose: *prothesis*: showbread; setting forth of God's plan; seeing "face to face"

THE HOLY PLACE: LAMPSTAND

- × On the south side of the Holy Place was the lampstand
- × Solid gold, beaten; seven individual lamps
- × **John 5:35** "He was the lamp that was burning and was shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light." (speaking of John the Baptist)
- × **Psalms 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- × **Proverbs 6:23** For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light
- × **Matthew 5:16** "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- × The Holy Place was dark without the lampstand; the world is dark without the gospel message

HOLY PLACE: INCENSE ALTAR

- ✘ On the west side, in front of the veil, was the golden incense altar
- ✘ **Revelation 5:8** When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
- ✘ **Revelation 8:3-4** Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.
- ✘ Always fired with coals from the sacrificial altar

INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

- ✘ Shekinah glory of God manifested in the Holy of Holies
- ✘ It was entered through the veil (of Life)
- ✘ Inside was the Ark of the Covenant (a box) covered by the Mercy Seat with covering cherubim
- ✘ The Ark contained the 10 commandments, Aaron's rod that budded, and a golden jar of manna
- ✘ The Ark's location has been unknown since 586 BC
- ✘ **Matthew 27:51** And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom
- ✘ **Hebrews 10:19-20** Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh...
- ✘ The Mercy Seat covered the Law: mercy triumphs over judgment

THE ENTRANCES

- × The Narrow Gate/the **Way** (the outer court: salvation)
- × The Door of **Truth** (discipleship)
- × The Veil of **Life** (fellowship with God)
- × **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "**I am the way**, and the **truth**, and the **life**; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
- × Can you remain outside the Narrow Gate and still be in fellowship with God?
- × Can you enter the outer court without accepting the sacrifice of Jesus?
- × Can you be Jesus' disciple and be in another religion?
- × Without a relationship with Jesus, it is impossible to be saved; all religions do not lead to God

SUMMARY

- ✘ An appropriate view of salvation first must acknowledge the Kinsman Redeemer Model (p 9 in your workbook)
- ✘ An appropriate view of salvation must then acknowledge God's methodology:
 1. A worship system (Tabernacle Model)
 2. A sacrificial system (Propitiation Model)
- ✘ The image I have sketched views Jesus differently: rather than being the exclusive revelation of God, he is one of many mediators of the sacred. Marcus Borg
- ✘ Marcus Borg, and others in the postmodern/progressive or emergent church may be sincere, but they are sincerely wrong