

## Thy Way Oh God is in the Sanctuary Bible Study Notes

***"Thy way, Oh God, is in the Sanctuary..."***

**Psalm 77:13 KJV**

What is the sanctuary you may be asking yourself?

Well to understand what the Sanctuary is we must first go back to the Book of Exodus, as that is where we first see mention of the Sanctuary. **Exo. 25:8-9**

Here we see God instructing Moses to construct a tabernacle (sanctuary) where the Israelites were residing in the wilderness after they exited Egypt.

**Notice also, that God instructs Moses to build the tabernacle and all of its furnishings according to the pattern which God showed him.**

This first tabernacle was more of a portable structure as the Israelites were constantly on the move in the wilderness before they entered the land of Canaan. However, after they settled in the land of Canaan, which then became the land of Israel, they constructed a more permanent structure under King Solomon. See: **2<sup>nd</sup> Chronic. 7:1-2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronic. chapters 3,4,5,6, 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 6:1**

This temple was later destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar and his army, **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 25:8-10**, however, it was again rebuilt under Ezra after the Babylonian exile. See: **Ezra 3:7-13, Ezra 6:13-15**

This final temple was again destroyed in AD 70 by the Roman Empire under General Titus approximately 39-40 years after the crucifixion of Jesus (AD 31) and was never rebuilt.

All three of these temples all followed the same structure and style. There were all made according to the pattern which God had to given to Moses and after, King David. See: **Exo. 25:8-9, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam. 7:5-6, 1<sup>st</sup> Chron. 28:2, 11-12**

Why was it so important to God that the earthly Sanctuary be built according to the plans which He had given His servants?

The Book of Hebrews tells us that the earthly Sanctuary was a copy and a shadow of the one which was in Heaven. **Heb. 8:1-5, Heb. 9:11**

God himself in His glory would descend from Heaven and dwell within the temple so it was of major importance that what was constructed on earth represented that which was in Heaven. **Exo. 40:34-35, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chron. 5:13-14**

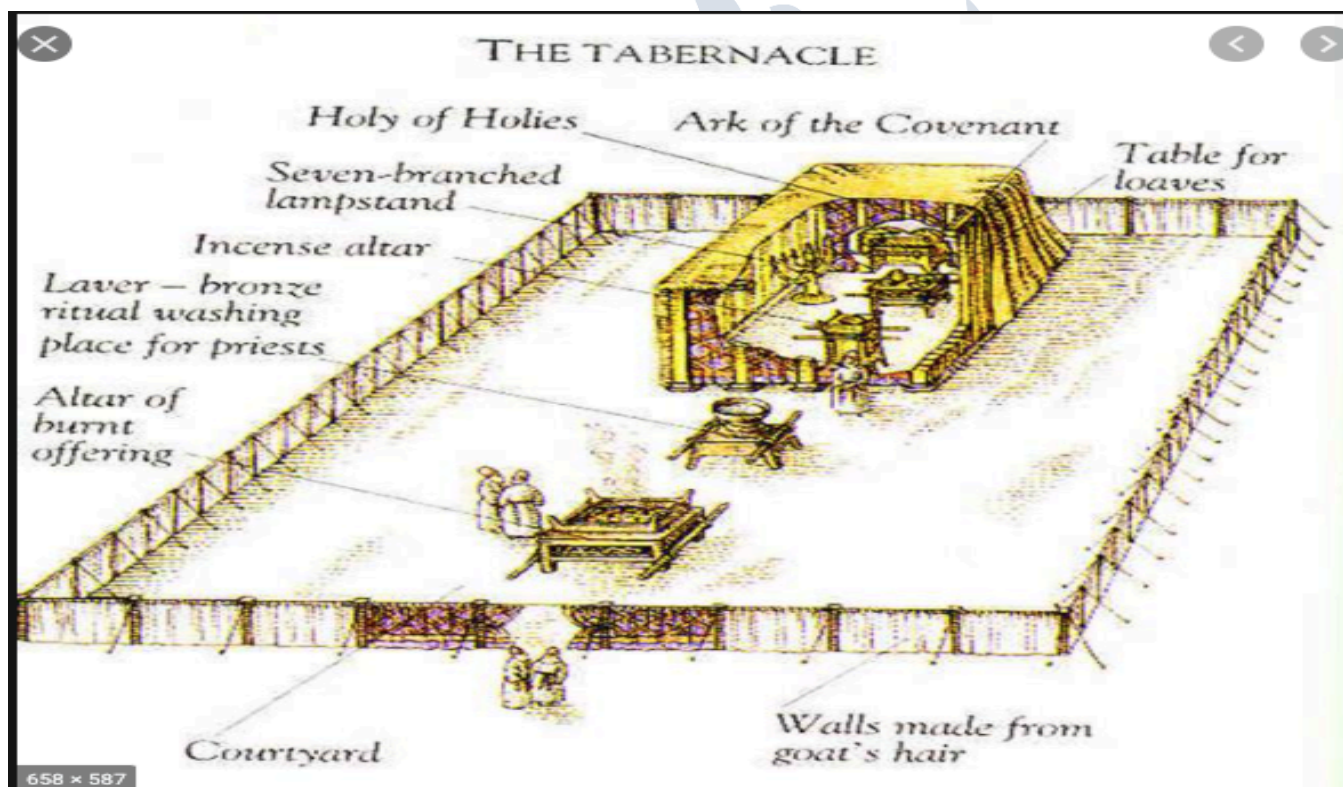
Notice the following other verses which shows us that God resides in His Heavenly Sanctuary:  
**Psalm 77:13, Isa. 6:1-4, Heb. 8:1-5, Psalms 63:2, Psalms 73:16-17, Eze. 10:1-4, Rev. 15:5-8, Rev.11:19**

### Jesus and the Sanctuary

Now that this backdrop of the Sanctuary has been covered, we can now further study the scriptures to see how the Sanctuary of the Old Testament has a direct relationship with Jesus at every single stage of His ministry for us.

Many people think that Jesus dying on the cross was the end of salvation for all mankind, however this is not entirely true. As we will notice later, the Cross was just the first step in the plan of Salvation for mankind.

By studying and having an understanding of the Sanctuary we will notice that Christ, our great High Priest, **Heb.4:14, Heb.7:17, 24-26**, is still continuing His work for us in the Heavenly Sanctuary.



Description of the Tabernacle in the days of Moses

**Description of the Sanctuary (refer to image above)**

**The Camp:**

This referred to the area surrounding the Sanctuary, where the Israelites lived, as the Sanctuary was in the middle of the Israelite settlement.

It is also interesting to note that Jesus, when He walked the earth, lived in the 'camp'. He lived amongst the people in the land of Israel.

**The Courtyard: Exo. 27: 9-19**

This referred to that area that you initially met when you went through the entrance. It is important to note that there was only 'one' door or entrance in which one may enter through to the courtyard **Exo. 27:16**. In the same way, there is only one door in which we may enter through to the Father and that is through Jesus Christ.

He is the way, **John 14:6**.

Within the Courtyard were two pieces of furniture, firstly there was the *altar of sacrifice* and secondly there was the *bronze laver*.

**The Alter of Sacrifice: Exo.27:1-8, Exo.38:1-7**

Here, the Israelite people were to enter into the courtyard with a clean animal (lamb, goat, cow, dove, pigeon) for the sacrifice/atonement of their sins and present it to the priest. They would present this animal to the priest and after he inspected the animal to ensure that there were no blemishes upon the animal and that it was acceptable before the Lord, the Israelite person would then have to sacrifice the animal themselves for the atonement of their sins. **Lev. 1:1-17**

In the same way, Jesus, 'the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world' **John 1:29**, offered up Himself willingly as a sacrifice for our sins. **Heb. 7:27** He died at the altar, here represented by the cross for the atonement of our sins, the iniquity of us all was laid upon Him **Isa. 53:4-6**. He was also without blemish as was required by the Law, blemish here representing sin. **Heb. 4:15**

Notice how the Israelites were the ones to present the animal and also to sacrifice it themselves, in the same way, we must come to Jesus on our own and accept Him. Salvation is on an individual basis; we cannot save others, or our faith cannot save others. We must "work out our own salvation with fear and trembling." **Philip 2:12**.

We must come to the altar and make our own sacrifice.

**The Bronze Laver: Exo.38:8, Exo. 30:17-21**

This was the second piece of furniture in the courtyard. It was a bronze basin filled with water in which the high priest would wash himself after the sacrifice and the sprinkling of the blood. The high priest would be cleansed after the sacrifice and would now be able to enter into the sanctuary in the presence of God. The wages of sin is death, **Rom 6:23**, and therefore the high priest would not be able to enter into the temple after having just handled a dead animal and prepared it for burning upon the altar; he needed to be cleansed and be acceptable to enter into the sanctuary.

In the Jewish custom a dead person was considered unclean. Therefore, at Jesus' death (his sacrifice), his body would have been unclean in the eyes of the Jewish people. After His resurrection on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, He received His new, glorified body and thus was 'cleansed' at the laver. Jesus our Great High Priest was now acceptable, without sin and death, to enter into the temple of Heaven.

### **The Holy Place:**

After cleansing himself, the priest was now able to enter into the sanctuary. The first compartment within the earthly sanctuary was called the Holy Place. Here we find three pieces of furniture of which we will now seek to study. Notice that the three pieces of furniture in the Holy Place are all integral parts to our Christian walk.

#### **i) The Table of Showbread:**

Upon this gold-plated table was placed 12 loaves of bread, divided into two stacks of 6. **Lev. 24:5-8** These twelve loaves of bread were to be replaced with 12 fresh loaves every Sabbath. There were to be made without yeast and seasoned with salt. **Lev. 2:11,13** This bread was always to be present before the Lord.

Notice that 12 is the number of God's Church. We see this in the 12 tribes of Israel and in the 12 Apostles. God's people are generally represented by 12.

Jesus is representative of this showbread for He said that He is the bread of life, **John 6:35**, and all who come unto Him shall never hunger. The bread also represents God's Word, for man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God, **Luke 4:4**.

We are to eat of this bread daily by reading and studying the scriptures, asking God for wisdom so that we may understand them.

The Bread was seasoned with salt **Lev.2:13**, and Jesus has called His people the salt of the earth, **Matt 5:13**. Salt is to used preserve, and to season. Salt adds flavour and if we lose our saltiness (holiness) then what are we good for but to be discarded in the streets to be trampled under-foot.

Notice that the bread was to be replaced every Sabbath. Are we not to meet and fellowship every Sabbath and eat of that Holy Bread with our fellow brethren by studying and reading the Word together?

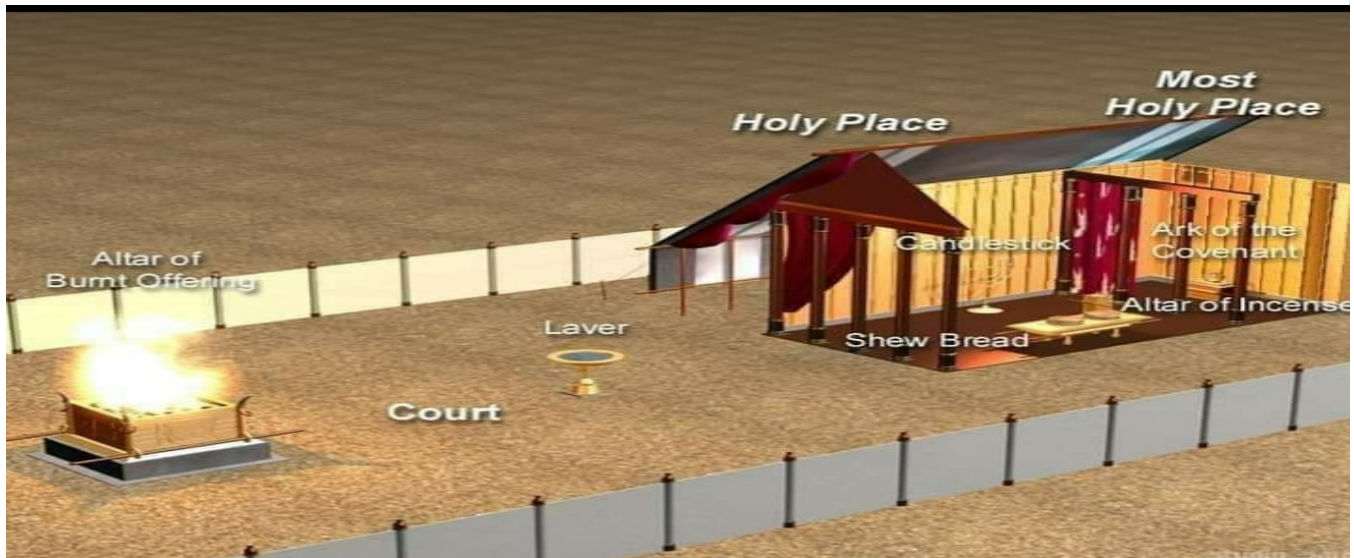
#### **ii) The Seven Golden Lampstand:**

This golden lampstand was made of pure gold. **Exo. 37:17** and was filled with the finest olive oil, **Lev. 24:1-2**. It was to be kept burning continually before the presence of the Lord.

The oil here represents the anointing of the Holy Spirit **Zech. 4:2-6, Rev. 4:5** and the lampstand represents God's true Church, **Rev. 1:20**. Notice that in **Rev. 1:12-13**, John sees The Son of Man, Jesus, standing in the presence of the lampstand, signifying Jesus being in the presence of His Church, both the Old & New Testament Church. This lamp stand must be always burning; we as God's faithful followers must always have our eyes fixed upon Jesus doing His will and obeying His commands, lest our lampstand be put out. **Rev. 2:4-5**

Observe that John sees the seven golden lamp-stand in **Rev. 1:12-13** in his vision of the Heavenly temple, this shows us that there is also a Holy Place in the Heavenly Sanctuary and confirms what the scriptures say that the earthly sanctuary is a copy and shadow of the Heavenly, **Heb.8:1-5**.

We must always let the Scriptures explain themselves.



Description of the Tabernacle in the days of Moses

### iii) The Alter of Incense:

Made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold, this alter was used for burning the special incense before the presence of the Lord, **Exo. 30:34-38, Exo. 30:1-10**

It was the final piece of furniture in the compartment of the *Holy Place* separated by a curtain leading into the *Most Holy Place* of the sanctuary. **Exo.30:6**

Notice that incense was to be burnt in the morning and in the late evening by the High Priest before the presence of the Lord.

See also: **1<sup>st</sup> Sam. 2:28, 1<sup>st</sup> Chron. 23:13, Luke 1:9**

The incense here in the sanctuary represents the prayers of God's people which ascend unto God.

**Psalms 141:2**

Notice what John sees in his vision in the Book of Revelation. **Rev. 5:8, Rev. 8:3-4**

Our prayers go up to Heaven and are mixed with the sweet-smelling incense in the Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary so that they may be pleasing to God the Father. Just like the earthly high priest



would burn the incense before God, the Great High Priest in Heaven, Jesus, mingles our prayers with the incense, so that they become pleasant before God. We are sinners by very nature and there is nothing that we can do that will be pleasing before the Father unless it goes through the Son, **John 14:6**, for Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through Him, even in prayer.

Our prayers would never reach the Father unless we had a mediator or an advocate, for we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, **Rom 3:23**. None of us are righteous, no not even one, **Psalms 13:2-3**. Jesus Christ is our mediator, our advocate. **1<sup>st</sup> John 2:1, 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:5-6** Understand now how Jesus has been doing so much more for us since He died on the cross, resurrected and then ascended into Heaven. The cross represented by the alter of sacrifice where, Jesus, our Passover Lamb, **1<sup>st</sup> Corinth 5:7**, was sacrificed for us was just the first stage in the plan of redemption for mankind.

### **The Most Holy Place:**

The Holy of Holies or the Most Holy Place was as its name states, the Most Holy Place within the earthly sanctuary.

Within it was contained only one piece of furniture, more Holy than all the others mentioned, The Ark of the Covenant.

The Ark was a gold-plated wooden chest which contained the unchanging Law of God, the 10 Commandments. **Exo. 25:10-15,21** The Law of God which was written by the finger of God and set in stone, signifying its permanence. **Exo.24:12, Deut.4:13, Exo. 34:1**

The cover of the Ark was called the *mercy seat* or *atonement cover*, to each end of the cover were two angels made out of pure gold, called Cherubim. **Exo. 25:17-18**. They were made facing each other, with their faces looking down upon the atonement cover. **Exo. 25:20**

So just imagine a golden chest, inside of that chest were placed the 10 commandments of God and upon the cover of that chest, two angels made of pure gold, facing each other and looking down upon the cover of the ark. There upon that cover, in between the two golden Cherubim, the Glory of God would descend and dwell, and God would speak to Moses all of the commands for the people of Israel. **Exo. 25:22**

**This is all quite significant, because we will notice that God's throne in Heaven of which He has two guardian Cherubim on either side is built upon the foundation of His Law.**

Knowing that **Hebrews 8:1-5** tells us that the earthly sanctuary was a copy and shadow of the Heavenly one, then we would expect to find these same items in the Heavenly sanctuary.

For e.g., **Psalms 99:1** clearly tells us that God dwells between two Cherubim.

In the Book of Revelation, John sees in vision in the Heavenly Sanctuary, the Ark of the Covenant. **Rev. 11:19, Rev.15:5** We see clear evidence of a temple in Heaven. John says it himself.

Notice that Isaiah in vision, sees God sitting on His throne in Heaven with Angels around Him. **Isa.6:1-4**

Observe that **Exo. 25:20** tells us that the angels were called 'covering Cherubim' and from the description given, they were to overshadow or cover the Law of God, basically guarding it.

Compare this with what is said about Lucifer before his fall in **Eze. 28:15-16**, we see that he was also called a covering Cherub.

So, by this we can see that Lucifer before the fall, was one of the angels which guarded God's Law in Heaven and was nearest to His throne. This would therefore explain why he has caused many in the Church today to believe that God's Law was abolished and 'nailed to the cross' because he hates the Law of God.

But as we have noticed, God's Law was written by His own finger **Exo.24:12, Deut.4:13, Exo. 34:1**; the entire Bible was written by man under the influence of the Holy Spirit, **2<sup>nd</sup> Pet. 1:20-21**, but God's Holy Law was written by His own hand. This shows the importance and significance of God's Law.

Jesus said Himself in **Matt. 5:17** that He has not come to destroy the Law but rather to fulfil it. Jesus Himself is the fulfilment of the Law. The Law is Holy, the Commandment Holy, Righteous and Good **Rom. 7:12**

**If we love Jesus, we will keep His Commandments, not out of fear, not out of any legalistic belief as some people believe, but out of love for God. John 14:15 Because he who says that he knows Christ and does not keep His commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him. 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:4**

### **Conclusion:**

Many Christians today believe that the Old Testament is no longer relevant, that it was for the 'Jews' and not the Church and therefore never see it for nothing else than a bunch of stories. I myself was also guilty of this in the past. But when we truly learn to see God's entire Word as inspired by the Holy Spirit and profitable for reproof and learning and teaching and training in righteousness, then we will be fully equipped to preach the gospel in these last days.

The sanctuary in the days of the Old Testament is full of practical learning and all of what has been explained has been explained by the Scriptures. If we would just allow the Bible to explain itself and we believe it by faith, then there would not be so much confusion in the Christian Church today.

The Cross was just the first step in the plan of salvation, Jesus Christ our Passover Lamb, now ministers for us as the Great High Priest, interceding with the Father on our behalf and very soon He will remove His Priestly garments and put on His Kingly attire to return for His faithful remnant of believers as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

***"...Fear God and keep His Commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil."***

***Eccl. 12:13-14***