

SESSION 2: THE TABERNACLE'S STRUCTURE

Introduction

If God is omnipresent why we do still talk about entering into His presence? Is the Tabernacle, and this idea of progressing into His presence even relevant?

Heb 10:19-22:

Therefore, brothers and sisters, 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, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

God is as _____ as He will ever be, but you have to _____ to get close to Him.

James 4:8:

Come near to God and he will come near to you.

Jeremiah 29:13:

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Psalms 100:4:

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

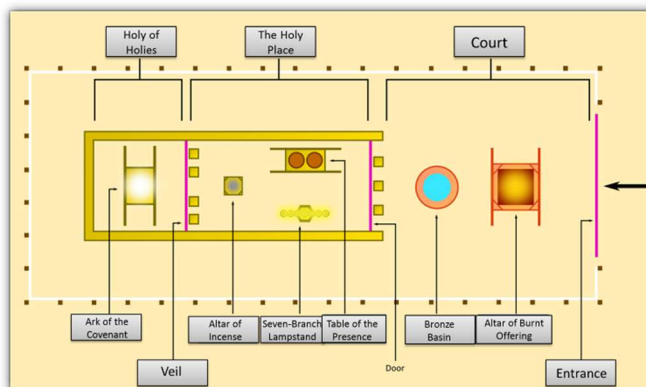
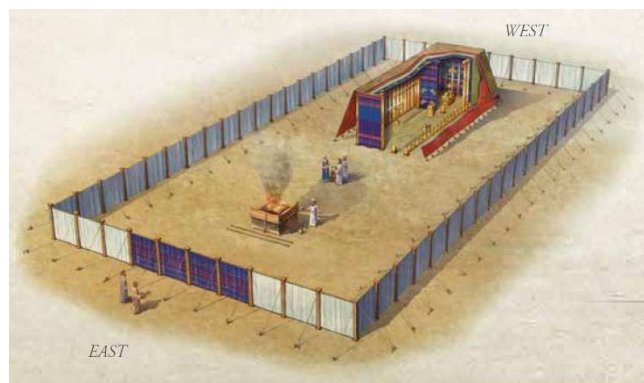
Brene Brown, *Atlas of the Heart*:

It's not joy that makes us grateful, it's gratitude that makes us joyful.

Gratitude changes your _____ and _____.

If we want to experience the closeness of God, we begin with thanksgiving and praise – and by this, we draw near!

The Tabernacle Layout



3 parts

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| 1. Outer Courts | The _____ | B _____ | The outer world |
| 2. Holy Place | The _____ | S _____ | The Garden of Eden |
| 3. Holy of Holies | The _____ | S _____ | The Tree of Life |

7 items of furniture

1. Brazen _____
2. Brazen _____
3. _____ of Shewbread
4. Golden _____
5. _____ of Incense
6. Mercy _____
7. _____ of the Covenant

The Positioning in the Wilderness

The Tabernacle was a place of meeting with God in the _____.

1 Peter 2:11:

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers [sojourners] in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your souls.

Hebrews 11:13-16

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 4:6-11

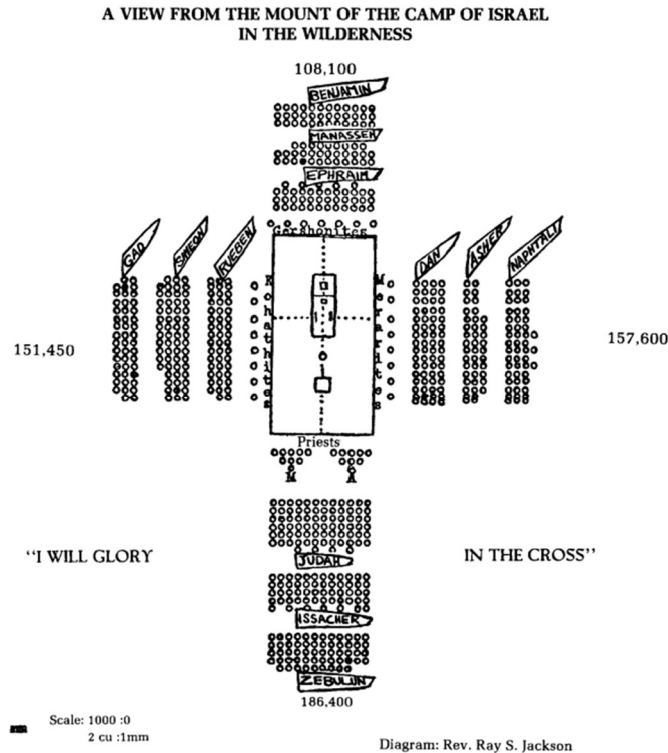
Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience, God again set a certain day, calling it “Today.” This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted:

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.”

For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

Numbers 2:2-34

Direction	Tribes	Total number	Standard
	Judah, Issachar, Zebulun	186,400	
	Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin	108,100	
	Dan, Asher, Naphtali	157,600	
	Reuben, Simeon, Gad	151,450	



The Standards

CF Keil and F Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament* (Hendrickson, 2002) 1:660.

Jewish tradition says the “four standards” under which Israel encamped in the wilderness, to the east, Judah, to the north, Dan, to the west, Ephraim, to the south, Reuben, were respectively a lion, an eagle, an ox, and a man, while in the midst was the tabernacle containing the Shekinah symbol of the Divine Presence.

Ez 1:10:

Their faces looked like this: Each of the four had the face of a human being, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle.

Rev. 4:6-7:

Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the centre, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.

A picture of Jesus in the four Gospels:

Matthew	_____	_____
Mark	_____	_____
Luke	_____	_____
John	_____	_____

The Foundation

Ex 26:18-25:

Make twenty frames for the south side of the tabernacle and make forty silver bases to go under them—two bases for each frame, one under each projection. For the other side, the north side of the tabernacle, make twenty frames and forty silver bases—two under each frame. Make six frames for the far end, that is, the west end of the tabernacle, and make two frames for the corners at the far end. At these two corners they must be double from the bottom all the way to the top and fitted into a single ring; both shall be like that. So there will be eight frames and sixteen silver bases—two under each frame.

Ex 30:11-16:

Then the Lord said to Moses, “When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must **pay the Lord a ransom for his life** at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them. Each one who crosses over to those already counted is to give a half shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs. This half shekel is an offering to the Lord. All who cross over, those twenty years old or more, are to give an offering to the Lord. The rich are not to give more than a half shekel and the poor are not to give less when you make the offering to the Lord to atone for your lives. Receive the atonement money from the Israelites and use it for the service of the tent of meeting. It will be a memorial for the Israelites before the Lord, making atonement for your lives.”

Census = O _____

Silver = R _____

Matthew Henry:

The rich were not to give more, nor the poor less; the souls of the rich and poor are alike precious, and God is no respecter of persons.... In other offerings men were to give according to their worldly ability; but this, which was the ransom of the soul, must be alike for all. The souls of all are of equal value, equally in danger, and all equally need a ransom.

Just as the Tabernacle stood on silver bases purchased by ransom money, believers stand before God on the basis of _____ through _____.

The Gate

There is only one entrance.

There is only one way into the Kingdom of God – through _____ and Him _____.

Acts 4:12:

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

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."

Exodus 27:16:

For the entrance to the courtyard, provide a curtain twenty cubits long, of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen—the work of an embroiderer—with four posts and four bases.

The colours correspond to the four Gospels.

Purple	_____	Matthew	Son of David	The _____ Man
Scarlet	_____	Mark	Son of Man	The _____ Man
White	_____	Luke	Son of Adam	The _____ Man
Blue	_____	John	Son of God	The _____ Man

The Outer Courts

Here, priests mingled with common people.

But even _____ **were able to enter.**

Isaiah 56:4-7

Let no foreigner who is bound to the Lord say,
"The Lord will surely exclude me from his people."

And let no eunuch complain,
"I am only a dry tree."

For this is what the Lord says:

"To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose what pleases me
and hold fast to my covenant—
to them I will give within my temple and its walls
a memorial and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that will endure forever.
And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord
to minister to him,
to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it
and who hold fast to my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer.
Their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house will be called
a house of prayer for all nations."

**God's house is not a place only where the _____ are upheld by
_____, but a place where the _____ can gather to _____!**

In the context of contemporary worship, the seeker-friendly model has failed.

Bill Hybels:

We made a mistake. What we should have done... we should have started telling people and teaching people that they have to take responsibility to become 'self-feeders.' We should have gotten people, taught people, how to read their Bible between services, how to do the spiritual practices much more aggressively on their own.

Robert Webber, *Worship Old and New*:

The current change in worship tastes is a reflection of our shift into postmodernity, a culture tired of noise, turned off by phoniness, sick of glitz, and wary of the superficial. It is a culture searching for an authentic encounter with God, longing for depth and substance, craving quiet contemplation and moved by visual, tactile (tangible) forms of communication.

The Brazen Altar



Ex 27:1-8:

Build an altar of acacia wood, three cubits high; it is to be square, five cubits long and five cubits wide. Make a horn at each of the four corners, so that the horns and the altar are of one piece, and overlay the altar with bronze. Make all its utensils of bronze—its pots to remove the ashes, and its shovels, sprinkling bowls, meat forks and firepans. Make a grating for it, a bronze network, and make a bronze ring at each of the four corners of the network. Put it under the ledge of the altar so that it is halfway up the altar. Make poles of acacia wood for the altar and overlay them with bronze. The poles are to be inserted into the rings so they will be on two sides of the altar when it is carried. Make the altar hollow, out of boards. It is to be made just as you were shown on the mountain.

The brazen altar was constructed of acacia wood overlaid with bronze.

Wood	=	_____	
Acacia wood	=	_____	
Bronze	=	_____	(Nu 21; Jn 3:14,15)
Horns	=	_____	(1 Ki 1:49,53; 2:28)

The altar symbolises two things: **sacrifice and submission**.

SACRIFICE

Sacrifice or **offering** = *corban* = _____

Romans 6:23:

For the wages of sin is death.

Genesis 3:21:

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

The slaughtering of the animal symbolises two things:

1. _____
2. _____

Hebrews 7:26-28:

Such a high priest [Jesus] truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Hebrews 10:1-10, 14:

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. Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. ⁴ It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.
Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, my God.’”

First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.... For by one sacrifice, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The author of Hebrews is expositing the Old Testament.

Ex 29:38-39

This is what you are to offer on the altar regularly each day: two lambs a year old. Offer one in the morning and the other at twilight.

Mark 15:25:

It was the third hour when they crucified him.

Mark 15:33-34, 37

At the sixth hour [noon] darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. At the ninth hour [3pm] Jesus cried out in a loud voice “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*” – which means “*my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*” ... With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

On the cross:

- Jesus was offered up as the _____ sacrifice
- Jesus died a sinner’s death as the _____ sacrifice.

Bringing a **sacrifice of praise**.

Hebrews 13:15

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit [calves] of lips that confess His name [giving thanks to His name].

We enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise!

SUBMISSION

Psalms 118:27:

Bind the festal sacrifices with ropes and take it to the horns of the altar.

Or “*bind the sacrifices with cords to the horns of the altar*”.

Tim Keller:

Think of a fish. Because a fish absorbs oxygen from water, not air, it is free only if it is restricted to water. If a fish is ‘freed’ from the river and put on the grass to explore, the freedom to move and soon even to live is destroyed. The fish is not more free, but less free, if it cannot honour the reality of its nature. The same is true of airplanes and birds. If they violate the laws of aerodynamics, they will crash into the ground. But if they follow them, they will ascend and soar. The same is true in many areas of life: freedom is not so much the absence of restrictions as finding the right ones, those that fit with the realities of our own nature and those of the world.

Two types of yoke:

1. The yoke of S _____.
2. The yoke of the S _____.

Galatians 5:1:

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Gal 5:24,25:

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Here, the Gospel writer shows us that true freedom comes from being bound to Christ and constrained by His Spirit.