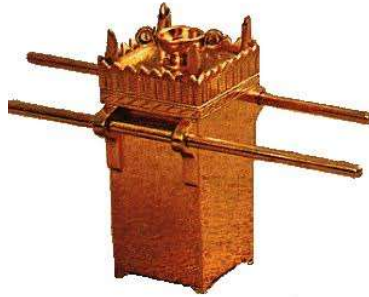


SESSION 4: THE ALTAR OF INCENSE, THE ARK OF THE COVENANT AND THE MERCY SEAT

The Altar of Incense



Exodus 30:1-10:

Make an altar of acacia wood for burning incense. It is to be square, a cubit long and a cubit wide, and two cubits high—its horns of one piece with it. Overlay the top and all the sides and the horns with pure gold, and make a gold molding [crown] around it. Make two gold rings for the altar below the molding—two on each of the opposite sides—to hold the poles used to carry it. Make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. Put the altar in front of the curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law—before the atonement cover that is over the tablets of the covenant law—where I will meet with you.

Aaron must burn fragrant incense on the altar every morning when he tends the lamps. He must burn incense again when he lights the lamps at twilight so incense will burn regularly before the Lord for the generations to come. Do not offer on this altar any other incense or any burnt offering or grain offering, and do not pour a drink offering on it. Once a year Aaron shall make atonement on its horns. This annual atonement must be made with the blood of the atoning sin offering for the generations to come. It is most holy to the Lord.

Prayer as Incense

The Altar of Incense is a picture of Christ and His _____ for us.

Psalm 141:2:

May my prayer be set before you like incense;
may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

Prayer = *tefillah* = _____

It is the _____ who blesses the _____.

Hebrews 7:1,7:

This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him.... And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the greater.

The gospel movement in God's blessing

Bless = *barak* = to _____

Genesis 1:28:

God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.'

When we bless God, we are returning to God what is His. When God blesses us, He gives us what we cannot _____.

God blessing us is an act of _____, of _____ to our level.

Worship and Intercession Together

_____ and _____ go together as we approach the throne of God.

Revelations 5:8:

And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a **harp** and they were holding **golden bowls full of incense**, which are the prayers of God's people.

Hallowed be Thy name = _____

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done = _____

The Incense

Ex 30:34-38:

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Take fragrant spices—**gum resin [stacte]**, **onycha** and **galbanum**—and pure **frankincense**, all in equal amounts, and make a fragrant blend of incense, the work of a perfumer. It is to be salted and pure and sacred. Grind some of it to powder and place it in front of the ark of the covenant law in the tent of meeting, where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you. Do not make any incense with this formula for yourselves; consider it holy to the Lord. Whoever makes incense like it to enjoy its fragrance must be cut off from their people."

This is a holy formula which _____ for the Lord.

We must balance the _____ and the _____.

Leviticus 10:1-3:

Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they **offered unauthorised fire** before the Lord, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. Moses then said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke of when he said:

"Among those who approach me
I will be proved holy;
in the sight of all the people
I will be honoured."

Aaron remained silent.

Stacte

- "*Drops*" or "*dripping*". The dropping of _____ by inspiration.
- Rooted in _____.
- Cut away the bark = cutting away of the _____.
- Philippians 3:3

Onycha

- Prayer and worship that comes from the _____ or our being.
- Root word for _____.

Galbanum

- Split in the tree = _____
- Odourous and unpleasant
- Prayer and worship from a place of _____

Frankincense

- Means _____, a picture of _____
- Gathered in the early hours of the morning.
- The personal _____ of worship

Jesus our intercessor

1 Thessalonians 5:17:

Pray continually....

Jesus is forever interceding for us, and unlike the High Priest, He never dies. He is eternal. He always lives to make intercession for us.

Hebrews 7:23-25

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Romans 8:34

Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

1 John 2:1

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

Jesus' _____ intercession is the basis of our _____ of salvation.

Hebrews 6:19-20:

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain [like the incense], where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

The intercession of Jesus is an _____ for our soul – firm and secure – and is the basis for our future hope!

Entering the Holy of Holies

The Outer Courts	Holy Place	Holy of Holies
Ministry to the _____	Ministry to _____	God _____ with High Priest
Our outside _____	The _____ life (soul)	The s _____
_____ access	Access to the _____	_____ access

The Veil

Exodus 26:31-33:

Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim woven into it by a skilled worker. Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases. 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.

Jesus is the means of our access.

Matthew 27:50-52:

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. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open.

The veil is the _____ of Jesus

Hebrews 10:19-20:

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**...

The Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat



Exodus 25:10-22:

“Have them make an ark of acacia wood—two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold molding [crown] around it. Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry it. The poles are to remain in the rings of this ark; they are not to be removed. Then put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you.

“Make an atonement cover of pure gold—two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. Make one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; make the cherubim of one piece with the cover, at the two ends. The cherubim are to have their

wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the cover. Place the cover on top of the ark and put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law that I will give you. There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites.”

The Shekinah Glory

Exodus 40:34-56:

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

God _____ above the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat.

Shekinah (root word is *shakan*) = to _____, _____ or _____

2 Chronicles 5:13-14:

The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang:

“He is good;
his love endures forever.”

Then the temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.

The Uncompromising Holiness of God’s Presence

Numbers 4:5-6:

This is the work of the Kohathites at the tent of meeting: the care of the most holy things. When the camp is to move, Aaron and his sons are to go in and take down the shielding curtain and put it over the ark of the covenant law. Then they are to cover the curtain with a durable leather, spread a cloth of solid blue over that and put the poles in place.

Exodus 33:18-22:

Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

Then the Lord said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my

hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”

Numbers 4:15, 20:

After Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy furnishings and all the holy articles, and when the camp is ready to move, only then are the Kohathites to come and do the carrying. **But they must not touch the holy things or they will die.** The Kohathites are to carry those things that are in the tent of meeting....

But the Kohathites must not go in to look at the holy things, even for a moment, or they will die.

1 Sam 5:10-12:

So they sent the ark of God to Ekron.

As the ark of God was entering Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, “They have brought the ark of the god of Israel around to us to kill us and our people.” So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and said, “Send the ark of the god of Israel away; let it go back to its own place, or it will kill us and our people.” For death had filled the city with panic; God’s hand was very heavy on it. Those who did not die were afflicted with tumours, and the outcry of the city went up to heaven.

1 Samuel 6:19-20:

But God struck down some of the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they looked into the ark of the Lord. The people mourned because of the heavy blow the Lord had dealt them. And the people of Beth Shemesh asked, “Who can stand in the presence of the Lord, this holy God? To whom will the ark go up from here?”

In 1 Chron 15:13-15:

It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the Lord our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way.” So the priests and Levites consecrated themselves in order to bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel. And the Levites carried the ark of God with the poles on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the word of the Lord.

God’s holiness is _____.

2 Corinthians 3:6-9:

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; **for the letter kills**, but the Spirit gives life.

Now if the **ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory**, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even

more glorious? If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!

Romans 7:9-12:

Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

The effects of the law was covered by the atoning mercy of God. _____ has triumphed over _____.

The High Priest was always standing. But Jesus sat down.

Hebrews 1:3:

After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Hebrews 8:1:

Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven....

Hebrews 10:11-12:

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God....

Hebrews 12:2

For the joy set before him [Jesus] endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Plot Twist

THE TABERNACLE _____ !

Exodus 19:5-6:

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

The Tabernacle and the sacrificial system was just a _____.

Hebrews 8:5:

They [the priests] serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven.

Hebrews 10:1-3:

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 worshippers 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.

A shadow is only an image or copy. It is not reality!

We studied the Tabernacle because it points to _____ and His _____ that has now allowed us to draw near to God!

Hebrews 9:23-24:

It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; **he entered heaven itself**, now to appear for us in God's presence.

Jesus was Better in Every Way

Jesus belonged to a better priesthood

- Jesus was _____ but _____

Heb 4:14-15:

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

- The order of Levi was the second priesthood. Jesus was of the _____ priesthood.

Heb 7:9-10

One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.

- The second priesthood was a Jewish priesthood. The original priesthood was a _____ priesthood.

Heb 7:13:

And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.

- The Levitical priests died. Jesus was _____.

Heb 7:3:

Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

Jesus brought a better sacrifice

- The sacrifices had to be repeated day after day. Jesus' sacrifice was _____ to be repeated.

Heb 7:27:

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.

- Only Jesus embodied both _____ and _____.

Heb 9:13-14:

The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Jesus mediated a better covenant

- The Old Covenant under the law was based on God's promises conditioned by _____. The New Covenant in Jesus is based on God's promises by _____

Heb 6:13-15:

When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

Heb 8:6:

But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs [the High Priests'] as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established **on better promises**.

Gal 3:10-14:

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith." The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, "The person who does these things will live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

- The Old Covenant was written on tablets of _____; the New Covenant was written on _____.

Heb 8:10:

This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel
after that time, declares the Lord.
I will put my laws in their minds
and write them on their hearts.

- The Old Covenant was about becoming God's people in name. The New Covenant was about a people who had a _____ with God.

Heb 8:10-11

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.
No longer will they teach their neighbour,
or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.

- Under the Old Covenant, the blood of the sacrifice covered sin. Under the New Covenant, the blood of Jesus' sacrifice _____ sin!

Heb 10:11-18:

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

“This is the covenant I will make with them
after that time, says the Lord.
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds.”

Then he adds:

“Their sins and lawless acts
I will remember no more.”

And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

Jesus ministered at a better tabernacle

- In the earthly Tabernacle, the priests work was _____. In the heavenly Tabernacle, Jesus obtained _____ redemption.

Heb 9:12:

He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

- In the earthly Tabernacle, the High Priest never finished his work. In the heavenly Tabernacle, Jesus finished the work and He _____.

Heb 10:11-12:

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God...

- In the earthly Tabernacle, the High Priest had _____ access to God's presence once a year. In the heavenly Tabernacle, we have _____ access to draw near to God.

Hebrews 10:19-25:

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. Let us hold unswervingly to the **hope** we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward **love** and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

1 Cor 13:13: Three things remain: faith, hope and love.

- We draw near with full assurance of _____.

- We hold fast to our _____.
- We provoke one another to _____.

Prophetic Fulfilment

ARTICLE	ERA	DATE	DOCTRINE
The Brazen Altar		1500	
The Brazen Laver		1750	
The Golden Lampstand		1901	
The Table of Shewbread		1955	
The Altar of Incense		1980	
The Ark of the Covenant		?	

The Spirit and the Bride say, 'come, Lord Jesus, come.'