The Golden Altar of Incense

PRAYER, PRAISE AND WORSHIP

1. Jesus Christ our Great High Priest making intercession **for**—every believer.

Romans 8:27—*And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

34*—Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

Ps 7:9*—Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins.*

Ps 26:2*—Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.*

Prov. 17:3*—The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.*

Jer 17:10*—I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

Eph. 2:18*—For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.*

1Tim. 2:5*—For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

Heb. 5:7—*Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;*

6:20—*Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec*.

7:25*—Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

8:6*—But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.*

9:15*—And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

24*—For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*

12:24*—And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.*

1Jn 2:1*—My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

Have you experienced a river of Praise and Worship in the Presence of The Lord?

1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Ps 46:4—*There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.*

Jer 17:7—*Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.*

8—*For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.*

Isaiah 48:18—*O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:*

Ps 16:11—*Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

Ps 36:8*—They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.*

9*—For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.*

*Isa 12:1 And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. 2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. 3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. 4 And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. 5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. 6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.*

I. With Christ our intercessor we that desire to understand Him as He is, has a foundation for a bright future, happy future.

Jn. 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. (gracious)

Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Eph 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing **he ever liveth** to make intercession for them.

Eze 47:5*—Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.*

Re 22:1*—And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

2*—In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

John 10:10*—The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

Re 4:8*—And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come*.

9*—And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,*

10*—The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,*

11*—Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

2Cor. 8:9—*For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*

**Isaiah 6:3**—*And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

Rev. 4:8*—And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.*

Hebrews 13:15*—By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*

John 17:4—*I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*

5*—And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*

*7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water*

4:24*—God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

1. The Holy Ghost is in us, enabling us with Power in Prayer, Praise and Worship to God.

Romans 8:26—*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

15:13*—Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.*

1Thess. 1:5*—For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.*

Ex. 30:1—*And thou shalt make* ***an altar to burn incense*** *upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it.*

1. Ascending of man’s soul to God in Prayer, Praise and True Worship.
2. The Prayer, Praise and Worship that ascends must come from the fire.
   1. The kindled incense gave forth fragrant odours.

Ex. 30:2*—A cubit shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof; foursquare shall it be: and two cubits shall be the height thereof: the horns thereof shall be of the same.*

3—*And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, the top thereof, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof; and thou shalt make unto it a crown of gold round about.*

4—And two golden rings shalt thou make to it under the crown of it, by the two corners thereof, upon the two sides of it shalt thou make it; and they shall be for places for the staves to bear it withal.

5—And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold.

6—And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee.

7—And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it.

8—And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.

9—Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon.

10—And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD.

1. The Burning of the Incense and the lighting of the lamps
   1. The Wonderful Work of Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost in our lives.
   2. The importance of Worship with Working and Walking in Revelation.

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

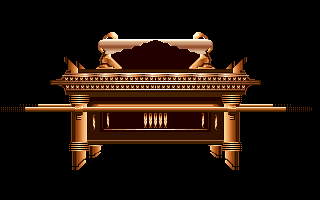
Ps 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with **my song** will I praise him.

Ps 77:6 I call to remembrance **my song** in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.

Isa 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and **my song**; he also is become my salvation.

1. True Prayer and True Worship and True Knowledge must never be separated.
   1. The Golden Altar with the Pure Gold lampstand and the Golden Table of Shewbread
   2. Burn the incense, Light the Lamp and make the Bread.
2. Special thoughts connecting the Incense and the Lamp.
   1. Smallest Altar
   2. Square
   3. Acacia Wood, Gold
   4. Horns
   5. Crown

**THE ARK OF THE COVENANT, AND THE MERCY SEAT**(Exodus 25:10-22; 37:1-9)



The Outer Court...The Holy Place...**THE HOLY OF HOLIES**!!! We should **STOP** and **REMEMBER** as we **STEP** **BEHIND THE VEIL** to look upon the **ARK** that this one thing the Old Testament saints were **NEVER PERMITTED** to do. Only on **ONE DAY** in the year, **THE DAY OF ATONEMENT** (Lev. 16: 11,34) did the High Priest enter into the Holy of Ho lies, and then, **ONLY** with the **BLOOD** of propitiation, and a cloud of incense to dim the vision of sinful man in the presence of God.

**I. THE ARK OF THE COVENANT** -

The most important piece of furniture in the Tabernacle, for it is the most complete type and figure of Christ found in the Old Testament. The Tabernacle was built around the Ark; the Tabernacle without the Ark is like a body without a soul, or a Church without Christ; (Herod's Temple in Jesus' day had no true Ark, thus they crucified Christ).

**A.** THE ARK OF THE COVENANT - "Chest, coffer, for keeping safe" **SAFETY IN CHRIST**.

Several Arks mentioned in Scripture:

[1]. Noah's (Gen. 6:13,14).  
[2]. Moses' (Ex. 2,3).  
[3]. Ark of the Covenant (Ex. 25:10).

**B.** SIZE AND DESCRIPTION -

[1]. **WOOD** and **GOLD**, the blending of two natures, human and divine.  
[2]. **OBLONG-SHAPED CHEST**, 2 1/2 cubits long 1 1/2 cubits high and wide.  
[3]. **CROWN OF GOLD** - Crowns are for kings to wear, thus the crown is a symbol of His sovereignty and power (Lord and Master).  
[4]. **4 RINGS OF GOLD**, **2 STAVES** - For the **ARK** when carried by priests (only). (4)= Justice and Holiness, Grace and Truth, Propitiation (in middle, between).

**II. THE MERCY SEAT -**

"Covering (propitiation)" **CHRIST'S BLOOD COVERING OUR SINS**.

Here is **CHRIST** in His mediatorial redemptive work (in Heaven before God).

**A.** IT WAS SOLID GOLD - 2 1/2 cubits long, 1 1/2 cubits wide.

[1]. There was **NO SEAT** in the Holy of Holies, no need for one; the priestly work was never finished, constantly and daily they brought sacrifices in the Outer Court: **NO END OF SERVICE**.  
[2]. Only **ONCE** (Heb. 10: 11,12) is it mentioned that Christ could **SIT** **DOWN**, and only after His work is finished, and nothing to add to His work.

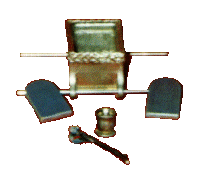
**B.** TWO CHERUBIMS - "Guardians"

[1]. A sinner (or a believer) is never called on to **GUARD THE BLOOD**, for he ever stands in need of the blood to protect and guard him.  
[2]. **CHERUBIMS** last seen in Eden (Gen. 3:24) to guard the way to the Tree of Life; at **EDEN** it was **JUDGMENT**; at the **ARK** it is **MERCY**, blood makes the difference.  
[3]. **NOTE**: The two are facing but not looking at each other, but toward the Mercy Seat and the Blood; men deny the power of the blood, but the **WORD OF GOD COVERS IT**, guards it, protects it.

**C.** BLOOD - "Blood of bulls and goats"

[1]. Were only types and figures, for these could not pay the price of sin: this was only done by the **LAMB OF GOD** (Heb. 10:1-4:12). In (Heb. 9:12) Christ sprinkled His blood upon the mercy seat before the throne of God, and forever settled the sin question.  
[2]. The difference in "**Touch Me Not**" (Jn. 20:17) and "Handle Me and See" (Lk. 24:39) is sometime during the Resurrection Day He went to Heaven, fulfilled the **TYPE** of presenting His blood, and thus could say that night, before His apostles, "Handle Me and See".

**III. INSIDE THE ARK** - "Thou shalt put into the ark" (Ex. 25:16).



Three things listed: (Heb. 9:4)

[1]. **TWO TABLES OF STONE** (The Law) (Ex. 20).  
[2]. **GOLDEN POT OF MANNA** (Ex. 16:11-33; Num. 11:19).  
[3]. **AARON'S ROD THAT BUDDED** (Num. 16: 17: 1-13).

**A.** THE LAW -

[1]. The **LAW** which man could not keep, was deposited within the Ark, beneath the Mercy Seat, the type of the **ONLY ONE WHO** did keep the Law perfectly.

**B.** THE GOLDEN POT OF MANNA - "Manna" has three meanings:

[1]. Hebrew - "What is it" (Ex. 16:15)  
[2]. Chaldean - "A portion"  
[3]. English - "Bread" (Ex. 16:4)

(a). Food for the Israelites, and Christ is the food for saints (Bread of Life). The world looks and asks: "What is it?" and we can say: "A portion" sent from God.  
(b). The **MANNA** came: every morning, daily; around the camp, within reach of all: with the dew, keeping it fresh and clean (Holy Spirit).  
(c). Instructions (Ex. 16) - One day's portion at a time: none were to have surplus: none are to lack anything: the sun cleansed the earth after gathering.

[1]. All used it (Ex. 16:2,3; Num. 11:8).

**C.** AARON'S ROD - (Num. 16, 17)

The story of these two chapters tells of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram who gathered 250 men of Israel in rebellion against Moses and Aaron: the false accusation was that Moses had overstepped his mark, usurped authority, and was full of pride in making his brother High Priest - **GOD VINDICATED** - **AARON'S ROD BUDDED**.

[1]. **THE ROD TEACHES** Compare (Heb. 9:4 to Num. 17:8):

(a). **BUD** - symbol of life - The resurrection of Christ.  
(b). **BLOSSOMS** - Token of beauty - The Resurrection of Saints (in His image).  
(c). **FRUIT** - Usefulness - Raising of Israel to fill the earth with fruit.

**IV. ALONE WITH GOD -**

[1]. Three rooms in the Tabernacle; **OUTER COURT** (place of sacrifice); **HOLY PLACE** (place of worship); **HOLY OF HOLIES** (place of communion adoration).  
[2]. When God made **ADAM**, He made him as a three room dwelling - **BODY**, **SOUL**, **SPIRIT** (I Thess. 5:23) - This was the **IMAGE OF GOD** in man.  
[3]. **THE SECOND ADAM**, Christ, was three rooms - **BODY**, **SOUL**, **SPIRIT**.  
[4]. **THE SAVED TODAY ARE THE TABERNACLE OF GOD** - (2 Cor. 5:1).

**THREE ROOMS**:

(a). **BODY**- Court (Kitchen)  
(b).**SOUL** - Holy Place (living room, fellowship)  
(c). **SPIRIT** - Holy of Holies (secret place)

[5]. **ONLY ONE PERSON** was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies,the High Priest - **ALONE - ALONE WITH GOD**!!!

**HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU SPEND ALONE WITH GOD**?

(a).To much time spent in the kitchen ministering to the body?  
(b). So busy in the living room, fellowshipping with each other?  
(c). So busy teaching, serving, preaching, we neglect the secret place - **ALONE WITH GOD**?  
(d). Spirituality is not measured in how long you have been saved, member of the church, or even how busy you are in church work.  
(e). Service and worship will be acceptable only as we spend time **ALONE WITH GOD**!

**BEHIND THE VEIL - ALONE WITH GOD!!**

(Heb. 4:16)

**THE FURNITURE WITHIN THE HOLY PLACE**(Exodus 25,27,30,37)

We should never cease to **MARVEL** at the **WONDERS OF OUR SALVATION**.

[1]. At the Brazen Altar - **FORGIVEN**; At the Laver - **CLEANSED**.  
[2]. All this was accomplished on the **CROSS**.

There are **OTHER PRECIOUS PRIVILEGES** available to us through the **PRESENT MINISTRY OF CHRIST**.

[1]. To know these, the believer must enter the **DOOR** that leads from the **OUTER COURT** into the **HOLY PLACE**.  
[2]. This **REQUIRES** a definite act of **FAITH** as was required to enter the **GATE**, and many Christians have not taken this **SECOND STEP**.

(a). A saved person in the **COURT** sometimes thinks that it is so wonderful what more should he want (it is glorious Just to be saved, but what more glorious to enter into sweet fellowship with Christ).  
(b). The Tabernacle is not seen **UNTIL INSIDE**.

[3]. To grow a Christian must enter, we cannot hold fellowship with the world and enter at the same time; we cannot take the world with us, we cannot know the joys of the yielded life until fully consecrated. **WITH REVERENT HEARTS** we enter the **SACRED PLACES** reserved for **PRIESTS UNTO GOD** (Heb. 9:23-28; I Pet. 9) (the believers) as seen in the **THREE PIECES OF FURNITURE** (Rev. 1:5,6).

**I. THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD -** (North) (Ex. 25:23-30; 31: 18; 37:10-16).

**FELLOWSHIP** - in **CHRIST** is seen here. The Lord desires to have fellowship with us, and more - that we know Him better, so He has provided a table for us to come around - this is His invitation to the believer to commune with Him by feasting upon the Bread of Life (John 6:35).

We can do this by feasting on the **WRITTEN WORD**, both in private and public Bible study we find the answer to our every need (in Christ).

**A.** THE SIZE - 2 by 1 by 1 1/2 Cubits

[1]. The Table was large enough to receive all who are worthy to come (all who will enter and desire this inner fellowship); but small enough to exclude all who are not worthy (l Cor. 11:28,29).

**B.** MATERIALS - Shittim Wood, overlaid with gold (humanity and divinity).

**C.** CHARACTERISTICS - Not an ordinary table, there were some peculiarities:

[1]. **THE BORDER**: Perhaps a ledge around the table to hold the utensils.  
[2].**TWO CROWNS**: Of gold - one, kept bread on the Table; second, kept things from falling off the border.

(a). The twice-crowned Lord: once with thorns, and the crown He will wear as King of Kings, Lord of Lords.

[4]. **RINGS AND STAVES**: Used to carry the Table when traveling, it went with them; we have the WORD, which can be taken anywhere we go (Israelites had no abiding place in the wilderness, ever on the march; the Tabernacle was a picture of God's complete provision: Table, food; Candlestick, guidance; Altar of Incense, intercession).  
[5]. **VESSELS**: Dishes, spoons for putting incense on the bread; and covers and bowls for the drink offering.

**D.** THE SHEWBREAD - Was that which the priest fed upon, the priests would then be representatives of the people.

[1]. 12 loaves of bread on the Table at all times, two rows of six each.  
[2]. (Lev. 24:5-9) The priests would eat the bread once a week (flavored with frankincense), and it was replaced as it was eaten (never a time of no food).  
[3]. The basis of our fellowship is Christ, He is sufficient, all we need.  
[4]. Feeding and feasting on Christ is not a **SHALLOW ENTERTAINMENT**, but a time of nourishing and strengthening.  
[5]. Unleavened - Leaven is a type of sin ("no fault in Him "Pilate).  
[6]. Fine Flour - Of the earth, crushed, not palatable until baked; here is the testing, suffering Christ.  
[7]. "Standing Up" - There were no chairs for them to sit down, for the House of God is not a **PIECE OF EASE AND ENTERTAINMENT** but the place of **WORK AND SERVICE** (no laziness, no excuses).

**II. THE GOLDEN CANDLESTICK** - 

**LAMPSTAND** (South) (Exodus 25:31-40; 37:17-24; 39:37)

Here is **TESTIMONY**, giving forth **LIGHT**, a symbol of **CHRIST THE HOLY SPIRIT**, and **THE BELIEVER** Joined together.

**A.** SIZE AND SHAPE - No size given, but shape and design given in detail (the most beautiful and ornamental piece of furniture).

[1]. A center shaft with three branches on each side, making seven lamps (Christ is the center Jn.15:5); we are the branches (Matt. 5:14).  
[2]. Estimated weight would be around 100 pounds of gold.  
[3]. Six branches differed from the center shaft;

(a). 3 bowls, 1 knop, 1 flower on each branch - the center shaft had 4 of each - also a knop under each set of branches.

[4]. Lamps for oil - usefulness as well as beauty, to give LIGHT.

(a). Tongs, snuffers and snuffdishes for trimming, morning and evening.

**B.** BEFORE THE LORD - (Exodus 40:25)

[1]. The lampstand is not light before the world, but the world knew that it was alight, when we seek to live for his glory only, the world will say: These men have been with Jesus."

**C.** THE PERSONAL PRONOUN "HIS" USED OF LAMPSTAND - (refers to Christ).

[1]. "Beaten of gold" (Is. 53:5,10) - suffering, bruising of Christ.  
[2]. "Beaten olive oil" - The sufferings of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30).

**III. THE ALTAR OF INCENSE** - (Center, West) (Ex. 30:1-10,34-38; 37:25-29).

"Before the veil" - **PRAYER AND WORSHIP AND PRAISE.**

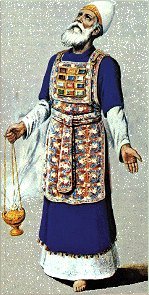
Here is **CHRIST** in whose name our prayers must ascend [Matt. 17:5; Eph. 1:6).

How eager we should be to learn how to **PRAY** and to **PRAISE HIM**.

[1]. **SIZE** - 2 by 1 by 1 cubits - just large enough to serve its purpose.  
[2]. **MATERIALS** - Shittim Wood, overlaid with gold (Christ makes intercession in Heaven for the believers on **EARTH**.  
[3]. **A CROWN** - To keep fire from falling to the ground (fire with incense).  
[4]. **HORNS** - As on the Brazen Altar, speak of power and strength - **POWER OF PRAYER**.  
[5]. **RINGS AND STAVES** - For travel, prayer is not limited to time and place.  
[6]. **PURPOSE** - Shows forth the greater work of the Cross, and **NOW** becomes our **MEDIATOR**.  
[7]. **POSITION** - In the Holy Place **BEFORE THE THRONE**, the Mercy Seat; as Christ is now not sitting on a throne, but at the right hand of God.  
[8]. **THE INCENSE** - Equal portions of:

(a). **STACTE** - The natural gum of the myrrh tree; myrrh being artificially produced by incisions.  
(b). **ONYCHA** - A perfume that was rendered from shellfish types.  
(c). **GALBANUM** - Resinous, yellow-brown incense, but it is not known from what plant or tree it was derived.  
(d). **FRANKINCENSE** - Resin of the Boswellia tree, which grows 40 feet high in India and Arabia. it has a balsamic smell and bums with a white name and fragrant odor.

**THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE PRIESTHOOD**(Exodus 28,29)



In the days of the Tabernacle, **ISRAEL** was divided Into three classes: **THE HIGH PRIEST**, **PRIESTHOOD**, and the **CONGREGATION** (of people).

**I. THE PRIESTHOOD -**

The necessity for the appointment of priests lay in the fact that the people were sinners, and as such, could not come before God.

[1]. The object of the priestly office was to minister unto God (Ex. 28:1) on behalf of the people (Heb. 5:1,2).  
[2]. All believers are now priests - (I Pet. 2:5,9; Heb. 10), for Aaron was a type of Christ - when seen alone; and a type of the believer when seen with his sons).

**A.** THE CHOICE OF AARON and HIS SONS was PURE GRACE -

[1]. Aaron was not chosen on the ground of any merit in himself; he certainly had no claim on God for such an honor, but God gave it to him.

(a). Note: (Ex. 28:1) - "Take...Him", we also see command;  
(b). Not a question asked, but rather a command.  
(c). Not "Ask Aaron if he would mind filling the High Priest's once".  
(d). God has the right to speak like this, He is the Creator, Redeemer.  
(e). God has paid for us, and He can dispose of His property in any way His will so pleases...we are **SERVANTS**!

[2]. Paul and James both describe themselves as "**BONDSLAVES OF JESUS CHRIST**".

(a). It is not a question of whether it is convenient to do God's service, or whether the particular service He gives us is according to our taste.  
(b). We are to accept it in **SUBJECTION** and **OBEDIENCE**.

[3]. Would we have chosen **LEVI'S FAMILY** to occupy this place of honor.

(a). Jacob said of Levi (Gen. 34:30) - "troubled me ...stink...".  
(b). If the tribe of Levi had to be perfect they would have never been chosen (nor any of the tribes).  
(c). If God demanded some standard of fitness on our part to be eligible for salvation, none of us could have been saved.

**B.** THE LEVITES -

While the priesthood was formed out of men of the family of Aaron only (his sons were: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar; they succeeded Aaron as High Priest); the other families of the tribe of Levi were called to take their place alongside the priestly family:

[1]. **MERARI** (Num. 3:36) - Had charge of the heavy boards, sockets, basic structure of the Tabernacle - representing the foundation workman of the church today, in the Evangelist (Eph. 4:1).  
[2]. **GERSHOM** (Num. 3:25) - Had charge of the hanging which separated the various parts of the Tabernacle - the counterpart of work of Pastors (shepherds) to mark the lines between believers and the world.  
[3]. **BOHATHITES** (Num. 3:31) - Had responsibility of carrying the holy vessels or furniture - the Teacher would answer to his work.  
[4]. **NO WOMEN** were given service in the Tabernacle (no women were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the scriptures, or any interpretation of them; or head any church). Christianity has given women an honored place as the mother, wives, and sisters of men of God; but God only calls men to this service.

**C.** THE PRIESTS -

[1]. **CLEANSED** (Ex. 29:4) - This ceremonial bath never had to be repeated (Titus 3:5) - this is a picture of the new birth, (Jn. 13:10).  
[2]. **CLOTHED** (Ex. 29:5-9) - Distinguished from the rest (I Pet. 2:9).  
[3]. **CONSECRATED** (Ex. 29:10-25) - Set apart to service to God "bloodmark", (Ex. 29:20).  
[4]. **CARED FOR** (Ex. 29:26-37) - Physical needs to be provided.

**II. THE HIGH PRIEST'S GARMENTS -**

These seven holy garments are a type of the **NATURE** and **CHARACTER** of Christ, reflecting his glory and beauty.

**A.** THE "COAT" (Ex. 28:39) - A long garment worn next to the person, made of fine linen.

**B.** THE LINEN BREECHES (Ex. 28:42) - "From the loins to the thighs".

**C.** THE "ROBE OF THE EPHOD" (Ex. 28:31 -35) - A long seamless garment made of blue linen.

[1]. Blue - The divinity of Christ.  
[2]. Linen - Spotless righteousness of Christ.  
[3]. Pomegranates - symbol of fruitfulness.  
[4]. Pomegranates of blue, purple, scarlet, alternating with golden bells along the hem.  
[5]. Bells - symbol of testimony.

**D.** THE EPHOD (Ex. 28:5-12) - The most important part of his dress, distinctively the symbol of the high priest's once.

[1]. Fine Twined Linen (Christ's purity) with gold (deity): blue (heavenly, divine): purple (royalty); scarlet (sacriflcial work).  
[2]. Means: Son of God/Son of Man, our risen and glorified High Priest.  
[3]. Consisted of two pieces (front and back) united at the shoulders with onyx stones in gold, twelve tribes engraved on the stones.

(a). Shoulders are a place of strength, of power.  
(b). Stones represent the burden carried on shoulders of the High Priest.  
(c). Christ so bears us up to God (Lk.15:5).

**E.** THE GIRDLE (Ex. 28:8) - Speaks of service (Mk. 10:45; Heb. 8: 1,2).

**F.** THE BREASTPLATE (Ex. 28: 15-29) - And inseparably connected with His power and His love.

**G.** THE MITRE (Ex. 28:36,37) - Or "turban" of fine linen to cover the head bearing upon the front a gold plate engraved "**HOLINESS TO THE LORD**".

[1]. This symbolizes obedience to a higher order.

**III. THE PRIEST'S GARMENTS -**

[1]. Wore only the linen coats, girdles, bonnets, and breeches.  
[2]. When Aaron went within the Holy of Holies on the yearly Day of Atonement for the sins of the people, he wore only the linen priestly garments; when he returned he put on the Ephod, etc., before appearing before the people.

**IV. THE BREASTPLATE OF JUDGMENT -** (Ex. 28:10-13)

[See Graphic for Tribe name and description](http://www.thebiblestudypage.com/breast.shtml)

**V. BELIEVER-PRIEST TODAY -**

[1]. Each believer is a priest today (I Pet. 2:5,9) and as such has access by Jesus Christ to the very throne of grace. There is no distinction as to the position and privilege of believers. The weakest child of faith is as fully in Christ as the oldest veteran, and just as much a priest.

**THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PEOPLE**(Exodus 25:1-9,31: 35:21-29; 36:1-7)

**THE TABERNACLE** is a type of the **CHURCH** - the place where **CHRIST DWELLS** (dwelling in the believer -

(I Cor. 3:16). Therefore, certain details describe the Church and its work.

**A.** ACCORDING TO PLAN

The Tabernacle was built according to the plan given by God, His pattern.

[1]. It was planned, not by the mind of man, but by wisdom and foreknowledge of God.  
[2]. Nothing was overlooked, everything was included in the planning.  
[3]. There was to be **NO DEPARTURE** from this plan, even in the smallest detail (pin, cord, socket, badger skins, etc.)  
[4]. If any church today is not according to the pattern - **IS IT A TRUE CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**?

**B.** NO NON ESSENTIALS IN THE TABERNACLE

There was nothing superfluous, nothing extra, nothing non-essential.

[1]. It would be an insult to God to consider **ANY PART** as not necessary.  
[2]. We are to follow God's pattern, not follow after traditions or man made ideas, nor let sentiment or feelings move us.  
[3]. To change God's plans to suit our fancy, or to fit our advanced (liberal) thinking is to deny God's will and purpose for His Church.

**C.** ALL THE WAY - TO THE END OF THE JOURNEY

It was the same kind of Tabernacle at the **END** as it was at the **BEGINNING**.

[1]. Nothing needed to be changed or revised or improved.  
[2]. The Church was planned for **ALL THE WAY**, for the **LAST CENTURY** as well as the **FIRST CENTURY**.  
[3]. New methods are not needed, we need only to adhere to God's pattern all the way (from the time established by Christ until the Rapture).

**I. THE PRIVILEGES AND OBLIGATIONS OF CONTRIBUTING** - (Exodus 25)

God told Moses (Ex. 25:3-7) what materials to use in the Tabernacle.

God told Moses (Ex. 25:2) who should give those materials. The details are:

**A.** THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL ONLY, WERE TO GIVE

[1]. (Ex. 12:38; Num. 11:4) tells us that there was a mixed multitude who left Egypt with the Israelites; but ONLY the Israelites were to bring these offerings.  
[2]. **The CHURCH** is to be financed by its **MEMBERS ONLY**.

**B.** ONLY THOSE WHO WOULD GIVE WILLINGLY

[1]. (Ex. 36:2) God wants the gift to be from the heart.  
[2]. (2 Cor. 9:7) Would you like to accept a gift from a person when you knew it was not given willingly?  
[3]. "Cheerful", the Spirit of the Lord wants joyfulness, gladness and delight.

**C.** GOD MADE THE GIVING POSSIBLE

[1]. (Ex. 12:36) Israel received the wealth of Egypt on the night of the Passover.  
[2]. God saw to it that they received their wages for all the years past of unpaid labor as slaves in Egypt.  
[3]. Whatever we have as Christians comes to us from the Lord.  
[4]. We are not giving "ours", for we are not our own (I Cor. 6: 19,20).  
[5]. We are stewards (Mal. 3:10, robbing God; I Cor. 4:2, faithful).

**B. THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE** - (Ex. 30,31,36)

It is estimated that the cost of the Tabernacle was in the millions (materials only).

God's plan of financing will always **WORK**, if God's people will **RESPOND** and follow God's instructions.

**A.** EQUAL AMOUNTS OF SILVER - (Ex. 30:11-16)

[1]. All materials were given by **FREE-WILL OFFERINGS** except **SILVER**.  
[2]. Same amount of silver required of each Israelite.  
[3]. Our redemption cost something (Christ), and the price is the same amount for every person (all must come by way of the cross).  
[4]. Israelite slaves were bought with silver. We are purchased out of the slave market of sin with the blood of Christ.

**B.** GOD GIVEN ABILITIES FOR SPECIAL SERVICE - (Ex. 31:1-6)

[1].**BEZALEEL** - "In the shadow (protection) of God" (Psalm 57:1).

(a). Son of Uri - "Light" (I John 1:5).  
(b). Grandson of Hur - "Free, Liberty" (Heb. 10:9).  
(c). Tribe of Judah - "Praise" (Ps. 40) headed the march.  
(d). Filled with the Spirit of God in wisdom, and understanding, and knowledge, and all manner of workmanship (Is. 1 1: 1-4; Eph. 2: 10).  
(e). Work in gold - "Divine Glory" (type used throughout the Tabernacle.  
(f). And in silver - "Redemption"  
(g). And in brass - "Judgment"  
(h). In cutting of stones - (breastplate, people of Israel).

[2]. **AHOLIAB** - "Tent of the Father" (I John 1).

(a). Son of Ahisamach - "Brother of Support" (Heb. 2:9- 1 1).  
(b). Tribe of Dan - "Judge", brought up rear of the march.

**C.** OVERABUNDANT RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE - (Ex. 36:4)

[1]. God's plan of financing works well, it worked so well that the people were "restrained" from giving.  
[2]. When the Tabernacle was finished there were no mortgages, no notes, no payments.  
[3]. We must give Israel the credit that is due - they were rebellious at times, murmured and complained, but they **GAVE**.  
[4]. They were homeless, without incomes, with no outlook (humanly speaking), had come hundreds of miles and didn't know how much farther they had to go; nor what their future needs would be (answers about every excuse we can have - eh?).  
[5]. **THEY GAVE THEIR SHOES** (Ez. 16:10).

(a). Badger skins were used for shoes, so God literally asked them for their shoes, off their feet.  
(b). And they **GAVE THEM WILLINGLY, HEARTILY**.  
(c). Because of their willingness, God made their shoes to last for the 40 years (Deut. 8:4; 29:5).

[6]. **THEY EVEN GAVE THEIR LOOKING- GLASSES** (Ex. 38:8)

(a). The Laver was made of the brass given (polished brass used by the women as "mirrors).  
(b). Offering or Sacrifice?  
(c). We, too, must sacrifice that which would minister to our pride if we are to obtain the cleansing (Laver) which fits us for fellowship (Tabernacle) with God.

**WHAT A TESTIMONY!!!**

(d). Not a struggle and push to barely get enough, but there was **TOO MUCH**.  
(e). Their secret - from overflowing hearts, **FAITHFUL AND OBEDIENT**!!!

**THE GLORY OF THE CLOUD**(Exodus 13:21,22; 40:33-38)



God's purpose in giving the instructions for building the **TABERNACLE** is stated plainly in (Ex. 25:8) - "**THAT I MAY DWELL AMONG THEM**."

[1]. This has been God's desire since the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:8).  
[2]. It is seen in God's relationship with Enoch (Gen. 5:21-24); with Abraham (Gen. 12: 1-4); with Moses (Ex. 33:11); and with the Twelve (Mark 3: 14). God made man in His image that He might have fellowship with man, and His great heart of love is not satisfied apart from this fellowship.  
[3]. **THEREFORE**: when the Tabernacle was finished and the furniture was all put in place according to the pattern and plan given by God - **A CLOUD OF GLORY SETTLED DOWN** that they would know that this was **GOD'S DWELLING PLACE ON EARTH**.

**A.** THIS CLOUD FIRST APPEARED when the Lord led the Children of Israel out of Egypt (Ex. 13:21,22).

[1]. When Pharaoh pursued them the **CLOUD** went behind them and stood between them and the Egyptians (Ex. 14:19,20).  
[2]. The Egyptians perished in the Red Sea, and the **CLOUD** led the Children of Israel to Sinai, and abode there during the time Moses was on the Mount receiving the Law (Ex. 14:24; 40:38).  
[3]. Then when the Tabernacle was finished and all things in order the **CLOUD** covered it (Ex. 40).  
[4]. The **TEST** of all service is **OBEDIENCE**.  
[5]. The Lord has given certain directions to Moses, therefore, when finished only one question did it correspond with the instructions?  
[6]. Chapter - 39:1, 5, 7, 21, 26, 29, 31, 42, 43 **- TEN TIMES**.  
[7]. Chapter - 40:16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32 - **EIGHT MORE TIMES**.

**B.** TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE (l Sam. 15:22).

**I. THE GLORY CLOUD, AND THE TABERNACLE, AND THE ISRAELITES** -

Unique and distinct features about the **CLOUD**:

**A.** A PILLAR - (Ex. 13:21,22)

[1]. Pillar of **CLOUD** - to lead by **DAY**.  
[2]. Pillar of **FIRE** - to give light by **NIGHT**.  
[3]. When night began to fall in the late afternoon the Pillar of CLOUD would gradually transform into a Pillar of **FIRE** - what an awesome sight it must have been, and yet a glorious sight!

**B.** SIGNIFIED HIS PEOPLE - (Ex. 40:34,35)

[1]. "The glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle".  
[2]. The repetition here is interesting, it calls to our attention that the Lord was there **FILLING** the Tabernacle, thus these were **HIS PEOPLE** (2 Cor. 6:16).

**C.** THE CLOUD WAS A GUIDE AND PROTECTOR -

[1]. The Israelites were going into an unknown land - how would they be guided and protected?  
[2]. The **CLOUD** went **BEFORE THEM**, and stood **BEHIND THEM** - to lead and protect: The Israelites were led to safety and blessing, and the Egyptians to destruction.

**D.** THEY MOVED OR STAYED WITH THE CLOUD -

[1]. The **CLOUD** regulated all the movements of the Children of Israel.  
[2]. At the command of the Lord, the Children of Israel journeyed, and at the command of the Lord they pitched the Tabernacle (Num. 9:17-23).  
[3]. "Whether two days, month, or a year..." what **SUPREME AUTHORITY AND POWER** on God's part; and **OBEDIENCE AND DISCIPLINE** on the part of the Israelites.  
[4]. There was no opportunity for an individual Israelite to move in independent action apart from God's command.  
[5]. The **PEOPLE DID NOT CHOOSE** the journey, when to march, or when to halt, or to march at sunrise or at midnight; nor choose the place to camp - by water in the desert - **NO CHOICE AT ALL - THE CHOICE WAS GOD'S**.

**E.** THE CLOUD SEPARATED THEM -

[1]. The **CLOUD** was the evidence and seal of the Lord's presence with the Children of Israel and separated them from all other peoples (Ex. 33:1416).  
[2]. Even Egypt could not come near them (Ex. 14:19, 20).

**F.** THE CLOUD NEVER LEFT THEM (Ex. 13:22) -

[1]. The **CLOUD** never left the Children of Israel in their wilderness.  
[2]. Before Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon men, but never took permanent abode; but now, we have the Spirit of God never to be without Him (Eph. 4:30).

**II. THE GLORY CLOUD AND TODAY** - (I Cor. 10:11 and Rom. 15:4)

[1]. The **TABERNACLE** and the **GLORY CLOUD** were not merely historical facts alone; but examples and foreshadows of greater truths.  
[2]. **GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE CHRISTIAN TODAY** - (1 Cor. 6: 19; 3: 16,17) 1).

**A.** THE CLOUD WAS A SYMBOL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT -

(And the written Word) by and through whom the Lord would manifest Himself to, in. on, and with the believer in this present age (John 14:16-18; Matt. 28:20; Acts 2:3; John 16:13-15; Rom. 13: 12; 1 Cor. 2:4; Rom. 8:11).

**B.** THE BELIEVER MUST GIVE ACCOUNT -

[1]. For the way in which we have submitted to the Holy Spirit and His rule over our lives.  
[2]. We are responsible for this - permitting the Holy Spirit to rule.  
[3]. We make excuse too often and too easy for ourselves, and are quick to accuse others.  
[4]. We are not our own, but God's. To pursue our own way, making money, raising families, indulging in things pleasing to the flesh, and to ignore the Lord's authority is to put ourselves in danger (I Cor. 9:27; Heb. 12:6).

**C.** GOD DESIRES A GLORY CLOUD TODAY -

Which will make men take notice that He dwells in the world that is, in us (I Pet. 2:9)

[1]. God's supreme objective in the believer's life is to be **FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT**, the **LORD'S GLORY** (Eph. 5:18).  
[2]. The **SPIRIT** - **FILLED** (possessed) **LIFE** is the **NORMAL LIFE FOR THE BELIEVER**.  
[3]. Will bear **FRUIT** (Gal. 5:22,23) - what a cluster!  
[4]. In relation to God - love, joy, peace.  
[5]. In relation to our fellow man - longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness.  
[6]. For our individual Christian life - faith, meekness, temperance (control).  
[7]. We can block the purpose of the Spirit in our lives

(a). Grieve the Spirit (Eph. 4:30) by refusing His leading.  
(b). Lie to the Spirit (Acts 5:3-4) in matters of consecration and service.  
(c). Quenching the Spirit (I Thess. 5:19) - lost power by unfaithfulness, disobedience, critical spirit, resisting His fire in us.

**OTHERS MAY....BUT I CANNOT!!!**