

# Seeing Jesus In The Tabernacle

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### Introduction

The Old Testament Tabernacle was the most meaningful structure ever fabricated by man. There have been larger, taller, more ornate buildings, castles, and other edifices, but none come even close to match the simplistic beauty and the deep spiritual meaning bestowed on the Tabernacle by its architect, The Lord God Almighty. The Tabernacle was a skillfully crafted, portable tent fabricated by the Hebrews on their journey to the Promise Land. It was built according to the plan God showed Moses on the mount. It was given to the Hebrews as a place where God could manifest himself, and as a teaching tool. It was through the Tabernacle and its services that man was to learn how to approach God, to learn about His character, to learn how to please Him, and to learn what He will do for them. It was provided to help the Hebrews become noble examples of a sanctified people, and then to beckon all nations to worship the One Living True God.

The Tabernacle was constructed of the finest, most appropriate material for each purpose. The gold, silver, bronze, precious stones and fine cloth were given the Hebrews as spoil when they left Egypt. (Exodus 12:35-36). Skilled and dedicated workmen fabricated each part under the direction of a craftsman, filled with the spirit of God. (Exodus 35:30-35). Only materials that the Hebrews willingly gave were used in its construction. (Exodus 35:29)

This pamphlet first describes the physical description of the Tabernacle and its furnishing, and then presents the spiritual meanings of each. To aid your study, pictures of the courtyard, the Tabernacle and its furnishings are included. It is the author's desire that you will see not only its visual splendor, but also discern its more important spiritual lessons. This pamphlet also shows how a correct understanding of the sanctuary will reveal and refute two erroneous man-made doctrines widely believed in the Christian world. 1. That the Jewish religion and the Christian religion are two different religions; they are not. 2. That, mankind, in Old Testament times (or dispensation), was saved by works, but now in the post New Testament times (or dispensation) is saved by grace. This is not true; man has always been saved by God's grace and by no other way. May God soften your heart and anoint your eyes so that you will see His Wonderful Plan of Salvation in the Tabernacle.

### Spiritual Understanding

While the Tabernacle and its furnishing were skillfully crafted and beautiful to the eye, it is the spiritual significance of each part that is most important. The Tabernacle was not just a tent to honor and to glorify God. It was much more. It was a dwelling place for God among His people, and an instrument of instruction. Since most of the Hebrews who departed Egypt were illiterate, God provided a visual parable. The Tabernacle and its services were given to the Hebrews, who were to invite all nations to learn of The One True Living God. (Exodus 19:5-6).

Unfortunately, the Hebrews kept God as 'their possession', never making a concerted effort to enlighten the world. Later, during the dark ages, the 'Christian' Church became strongly anti-Semitic and discarded everything they considered Jewish. The Tabernacle was considered very Jewish. The Roman Catholic Church and most Protestant Churches continue with this mind-set. Thus, the Tabernacle and its spiritual lessons are seldom discussed, and less often, deeply studied. However, by examining the Tabernacle with a willing heart, you will see, not only the love and character of God, but see our Lord Jesus throughout. We should not be overwhelmed by deep spiritual things. The apostle Paul told us that God has promised to help us understand them through His Holy Spirit.

These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of

God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (1Corinthians 2:10-16)

This pamphlet has been prepared to help you, together with His Holy Spirit, to uncover the deep things of the Tabernacle. May you be thrilled to discover how God used the Tabernacle to prepare the world for its greatest blessing.

### **Comprehending the Spiritual Message of the Tabernacle**

As the first step in comprehending the spiritual purpose of the Tabernacle, it is helpful to understand why God chose the materials to be used in its construction. We shall examine gold, silver, bronze, wood, linen and olive oil. The most significant of these is gold.

### **Gold**

In the Tabernacle, gold was used only in places ritually purified and kept pure (that is, kept free of articles that symbolically represent sin). These places were the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. The inner-walls of the Tabernacle, the clasps and the rods holding the walls together, the Ark of The Covenant, its covering, the posts supporting the veil, the hooks joining the linen ceiling, the Altar of Incense, the Lamp-stand, and the Table of Showbread, were either solid gold or covered with gold. Gold was every where.

From the earliest of times gold has been recognized for its beauty, desirability, purity, value, durability, and influence. This in itself would be more than sufficient to show that gold was the best substance to represent God's presence, but there is more. The explanation concerning gold is long, and involved, but is well worth the effort required to comprehend it.

In the book of Revelation, gold is used to describe the appearance of New Jerusalem, and to describe its streets. Here is John's description.

**. . . and the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. . . . and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. (Revelation. 21: 18 & 21)**

Most modern Bible scholars site these verses when explaining how beautiful to the eyes New Jerusalem will be, but such an explanation is missing the more important spiritual point entirely. Jesus never encouraged born-again believers to strive for monetary wealth, and since He never changes (Hebrews 13:8) metallic gold will not be considered precious in New Jerusalem. The gold of New Jerusalem obviously represents something more.

We get a glimpse of this deeper meaning when we realize that New Jerusalem is described as a 'city'. In the Bible, a city is sometimes used to represent one's spirit. That is, how one thinks or his mind-set.

**He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls. (Proverbs 25:28).**

Now let's look at the importance of our present day 'city', that is our mind.

During the last few hours before His Crucifixion, Jesus repeatedly counseled His apostles to abide in Him as He abided in His father. Further, in the book of John, He promised that the Father would come and abide in Him and in them.

**Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (John 14:23)**

By abiding in each other, all would become of one mind, all loving righteousness and all hating inequity. Now if all are of the same mind, then all are of the same 'city'. The Bible tells us that the bride of Christ is New Jerusalem.

**Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. (Revelation 21:9-10)**

Now if we combine these concepts, we understand that New Jerusalem is the perfected mind of Jesus Christ. A mind that is just like His Father's, but now having experienced suffering as a result of sin. Those who abide in Jesus will have a mind like His. They will love righteousness and hate evil.

**But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:17)**

The Bible also tells us who will not be residents of New Jerusalem.

**And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie; but, they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Revelation 21:27)**

**For without, are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. (Revelation 22:15)**

Throughout the Bible all of life's activities, our thoughts, our speech, and the works of our hands are spoken of as our 'walk'.

**Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you. (Deuteronomy 5:33) and Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess. (1Kings 3:14)**

**This is the way, walk ye in it. (Isaiah 30:21)**

Now the activities of our 'walk' actually manifest what is in our mind. In New Jerusalem, the believers will 'walk' upon streets of pure gold. This is saying that the inhabitants of New Jerusalem with live righteously, and that this righteousness will be deemed as precious as the world deems pure metallic gold. Now you can see why gold represents God's presence and His righteousness.

As we will discuss later, God did not manifest His presence in the Tabernacle until it had been purged of sin and purified by the shedding of blood. (Hebrews 9:22). In the same manner today, Jesus will beckon and call, but He will not come and abide in us until we purify our hearts by repenting and acknowledging Him as our sacrificial lamb. (Revelation 3:20, John 10:3-4)

## **Silver**

Silver was another precious metal found in the Tabernacle. Silver is used to represent God's Word or His law, precious and beautiful.

**My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. (Proverbs. 2:1-6)**

The words of the LORD are pure words, as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. (Psalm 12:6)

## **Bronze**

Another metal in the Tabernacle having a spiritual meaning is bronze. Bronze is an alloy of copper and tin. Both of these metals are found in nature only as complex ores requiring purification in a furnace to become useful. By comparison, gold is found naturally in the pure metallic state ready to be beaten or molded. Bronze in the Tabernacle represents man, taken from the earth, impure by his sins, but when tried in the fire of adversity and purified can become beautiful and useful to God. (Jeremiah 6:28) The Son of Man described in Revelation did not have golden feet from heaven, but had feet of bronze.

**... his feet like burnished bronze, when it has been refined in a furnace. (Revelation 1:15. Jerusalem Bible)**

Jesus lived a sinless life, but at Gethsemane, He accepted the world's sin and became the sin-bearer. His feet trod this sinful earth, but by His obedience to His Father and the suffering it produced, He was perfected.

**And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected. (Luke 13:32)**

**For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in Him we might become the goodness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21, Jerusalem Bible)**

Perhaps now, you can see why bronze represents the suffering that Jesus, endured enabling repentant man to become beautiful and useful to God. All the components of the Tabernacle that came into contact with symbols of sin, the Bronze Laver, the Altar of Sacrifice, the bases for the courtyard post were either made of solid bronze or covered with bronze.

## **Wood**

In the Bible, wood is used to designate mankind, both sinful and righteous. The following verses show wood representing sinful man.

**Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out; so, where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife. The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. (Proverbs. 26:20-21)**

**Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them. (Jeremiah 5:14)**

One of Jesus' first sermons to the public was a reading from Isaiah in which righteous man is referred to as a tree.

**The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. (Isaiah 61:1-3)**

The walls of the Tabernacle, and several articles in the Tabernacle were made of wood. But wood, representing sinful man, would be inappropriate for God's dwelling place. Therefore He instructed all of these articles to be covered with gold. This gold covering represents the righteousness of Jesus that covers the sin of repentant man before The Father. The articles within the Tabernacle, which were covered with gold, included the Table of Showbread, the Altar of Incense, and the Ark of the Covenant. These articles symbolize how depraved sinful man, if covered with God's righteousness can be used for His glory. The Altar of Sacrifice was also made of wood, but it was covered with bronze as it received offerings which had contacted the sinful earth.

Bronze was used, not because there was no gold available. There was. Remember Moses had to instruct the people to cease bringing offerings as more than enough had been given. (Exodus 36:6). The Altar of Sacrifice was not covered with gold, but with bronze because the bronze came into contact with the fat of the sacrificial offerings that were a symbol of sin. In contrast, the articles inside the Tabernacle, showing the righteousness from God the Father and His Son were made of gold. These articles will be discussed in detail in later paragraphs.

### **White Linen**

In Old Testament times most common people wore clothes of course cloth, woven from the wool of sheep or goats. Linen was an extremely expensive fabric and only royalty or the very wealthy could afford it. The Bible often uses white linen to represent spiritual purity or righteousness.

**And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. (Revelation 19:8)**

**Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. (Revelation 3:4)**

**And the armies, which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. (Revelation 19:14)**

**And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. (Revelation 4:4)**

Jesus counseled the Church at Laodicea to buy special commodities.

**I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire; that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear. (Revelation 3:18)**

In this verse, Jesus was not referring to the need of a special cloth to cover exposed flesh, for any fabric would do that. He was encouraging us to cover our sin, and the way to cover sin is with the garment of His righteousness, clean, white, and pure. Now we can see that the white linen, used in the Tabernacle represents the righteousness from God.

It seems strange that Jesus encourages His church to 'buy' from him the two materials that represent His righteousness, gold and white raiment. It seems strange, until you understand the price.

**Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. (Isaiah 55:1)**

**Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)**

In this verse in Matthew, Jesus invites those who labor, that is all who are trying to obtain salvation by their own works, those who are working and working, as under a heavy burden, to rest from their futile efforts, and to come to him, and receive salvation by faith. While the activity in the courtyard may look like salvation by works, it really is a learning tool that forgiveness is necessary, but it comes through the shed blood of a lamb, not the activity of the sinner.

### **Olive Oil**

Throughout the Bible, Oil has been used to show the presence of God's Holy Spirit. Moses was instructed to take olive oil and anoint the Tabernacle and every thing in it, also the altar and all of its tools, to make them holy. He anointed Aaron and his sons with oil and made them holy. (Leviticus 8:10-12) Samuel took olive oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers, and 'the Lord's Spirit came mightily on him'. (1 Samuel 16:12-13)

Nothing of the earth itself, including man, is righteous. It becomes righteous only by the presence of God's Holy Spirit.

Jesus referred to oil in the parable of the Ten Virgins, five of which were foolish and not prepared. (Matthew 25:1-5). This parable describes how in the last days some denominations (five virgins) awaiting His return, would be excluded from the wedding feast for they left to 'buy' oil for their lamps which had run dry. The spiritual meaning of this parable is that some denominations will not enter the kingdom of God, because even though they had known Jesus, they had carelessly ceased to abide in Him and lost the presence of the Holy Spirit (oil for lamps).

Before coming to earth, the Son of God was anointed with the oil of gladness (Hebrews 1:9). God also anointed Jesus on earth with His Spirit and with power. (Acts 10:38)

**The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly. (Proverbs 20:27)**

**Jehovah possessed me--the beginning of His way, Before His works since then. From the age I was anointed, from the first, from former states of the earth. (Proverbs. 8:22-23)**

### **Special Colors:**

There are three colors that have significance in the Tabernacle. The three colors are red, blue, and purple. These colors were embroidered on the three Tabernacle screens: (a). the screen in front of the entrance to the courtyard, (b). on the screen in front of the Tabernacle itself, and (c). the screen between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (often called the veil).

**Red** : Red is used as a symbol of sin.

**Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:18).**

**Blue**: Blue symbolized God's word or His law.

**Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribbon of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; (Numbers 15:38-39)**

**Purple**: Purple represents royalty or the color of kings (Judges 8:26). Roman soldiers clothed Jesus with purple robes and a crown of thorns as they mocked Him as king of the Jews. (Mark 15:17)

In summary, we have learned that gold represents God's purity, righteousness, and presence; silver represents His Word and Law; bronze represents the suffering of His son; **wood** represents sinful or righteous man; white linen represents righteousness; olive oil represents the source of light in this world, that is the Spirit of God; the color red; represents sin, the color blue; represents God's law, and purple; represents royalty.

Now that we have an understanding of the spiritual significance of these materials, let's examine the physical Tabernacle, and its courtyard to see how God used them to teach the Hebrews (and us) about Himself, His son, and His plan of salvation.

### **The Encampment**

The Tabernacle was at the center of the Hebrew encampment. Three tribes were instructed to camp on each of its four sides. (Numbers 2) In God's economy, the government is Theocratic. That is, the religious leaders not only directed the nation's spiritual activities, but directed its everyday secular affairs as well. Instructions were given to the people through tribal leaders who were summoned by the blowing of silver trumpets to the entrance of the courtyard. (Numbers 10:1-10) The priest could have used a shofar or rams horn trumpet, but God chose to call

His people with a sound from silver trumpet symbolic of a call from His law and His word. The people of the encampment were called to God by a sound to their ears. In a like manner Jesus said:

**The first of all the commandments is, “Hear, O’Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord” (Mark 12:29).**

Therefore in the days of the Tabernacle and in Jesus’ day, men were called to come unto God.

### **The Courtyard (Exodus 27)**

The Tabernacle was surrounded by a courtyard, which in turn was enclosed by a curtain. The courtyard was 75 feet wide by 150 feet long. The curtain surrounding the courtyard was made of fine white linen and attached by silver clasps and hooks to bronze posts with silver fillets. These posts were set in bronze bases set on the earth. The curtain was seven and one half feet tall, with the entrance on the eastside. A linen screen embroidered with red, blue and purple yarn was placed over the entrance.

While all the tribes of Israel lived in close proximity to the Tabernacle no one outside the courtyard could actually see the activity inside. They were separated by the linen curtain and by the screen across its entrance. The curtain and the screen blocked their view. The blocked view is very significant. It is significant because: (1) even though the Israelites were direct descendants of Abraham, and (2) they had orally proclaimed they would do as God instructed, and (3) they were members of the ‘congregation’, they still could not come nigh unto God’s presence ( the Tabernacle itself ) unless they actually entered the court yard.

The requirements for entering the courtyard will be discussed later. For now, it is sufficient to understand that one lesson of the Tabernacle was that being born of a specific nationality, making a public confession, and being a member of the congregation is insufficient to belong to God or even to see Him. This is exactly what Jesus was teaching Nicodemus when He told him:

**Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3)**

The Tabernacle and Jesus taught the same doctrine. The lesson of the Old Testament is the same as the lesson of the New Testament. And, as you will see, the requirement for salvation in Old Testament times was the same as New Testament times. But first, let’s look into the requirements for entering the courtyard.

The law of God was read to the congregation at the entrance to the courtyard. The reading and hearing taught the congregation about sin and gave instructions for the proper response to it. The proper response was to bring a sacrifice as an act of repentance and to receive forgiveness. When a Hebrew, convicted of sin, selected his offering (a young unblemished lamb) and returned to the courtyard entrance, he was completing the same act we do today, when we comprehend sin, repent, and come to the Lord Jesus for forgiveness. The Hebrew in Old Testament times did not know the earthly name to be given to his Savior, but he did know he needed forgiveness, and that he would find it in shed blood at the Tabernacle.

Remember the courtyard was completely surrounded by a linen curtain. When the sinner came to the entrance, he saw a white linen screen, representing righteousness, embroidered with threads of red, representing sin, blue representing the law, and purple representing riches and honor to the forgiven. (Isaiah 1:18, Numbers 15:38-39, Jeremiah 10:9) The only way into the courtyard was through the one entrance. In a like fashion, Jesus tells us He is the only way (entrance) to come to the Father.

**I am the door, by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. (John 10:9)**

**Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)**

Again, Jesus and the Tabernacle taught the same doctrine.

To make an offering, the repentant sinner would enter the courtyard, go to the north side of the altar, in front of the entrance to the Tabernacle, place his hands on the animal's head, confess his sin, and slay his offering. The priest did not kill the animal, the sinner did. The same is true today. It is for your sin, my sin, and the sin of the whole world that Jesus died. The Jews alone did not kill Jesus. The Romans alone did not kill Jesus. Jesus willingly laid down his life as a ransom for all.

**No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have authority to lay it down and I have authority to take it again. I have received this commandment of my Father. (John 10:18, Darby)**

We understand now, that while the slaying of the sacrifice in the courtyard was only a shadow of the real and final sacrifice of our Lord Jesus, it did teach the Hebrews, the basis of God's Plan of Salvation. That is, only by the shedding of blood will we receive remission for our sins. Unfortunately, most descendants of Abraham have failed to comprehend the spiritual significance of the Tabernacle and continue to seek God's approval through the ceremonies prescribed in Exodus and Leviticus. Even today, the nation of Israel is making plans to re-institute the blood sacrifices of the Old Testament. But the Bible instructs us otherwise.

**And every priest indeed standeth day by day ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, the which can never take away sins: but he, when he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God (Hebrews 10:11-12) (Mica 6:6-8)**

The Tabernacle and Jesus taught the same doctrine. It is only the blind Temple Leaders of today that do not see spirit. They see only the letter of the law. This is the same accusation Jesus made to the religious leaders of His day. (Matthew. 23:25) (John 9:39-41)

In the courtyard, the priest dressed in white linen and ceremonially purified by washing, would place some of the sacrifice's blood on the horns of the altar and pour the remainder at its base. The priest would then remove the fat, representing sin (Leviticus. 9:10) from the animal's organs and burn it upon the altar, as a sacrifice for sin. The remainder of the animal would be carried outside the courtyard and burned completely, symbolically destroying sinful flesh. (Leviticus 4:11-12). The slaying of the lamb and the sacrifice of its flesh on the Bronze Altar was a shadow of the sacrifice to be made by our Lord Jesus Christ at Gethsemane and the destruction of His body at Calvary. It is also the same pattern preceding the Hebrew exit from Egypt when the Passover Lamb was slain, his blood used to mark the doors, the flesh eaten, and any remaining flesh destroyed (Exodus 12:9-10)

Please note that the sinner does not offer his sacrifice on the altar. He only slays it. The priest completes the remaining ceremony inside the courtyard for him. It is the same today. We need a priest as our intermediary before God, and that priest is the Lord Jesus himself who now is our high priest in the Tabernacle not built with hands.

**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: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the High Priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; for then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (Hebrews 9:24-26)**

Although many of today's preachers continue to teach (as did the Pharisees) that sinners, in Old-Testament-times, were saved 'by works', it was a repentant heart not spilled blood and burned fat that God desired. The prophets of old recognized this principal (Isaiah 1:1-20), and the New Testament makes it clear as well (Hebrews 10:4-10). Blood sacrifices were to teach the Hebrews, how sinners were to be saved, not to save them. The Bible tells us that Noah was saved by God's grace, not his works (Genesis 6:8), that Abraham was saved by faith (Romans 4:9), that Abel and Enoch were saved by faith (Hebrews 11:4,5), and not to mention the faith of Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses (Hebrews 11). Sinners in the Old Testament were saved by God's grace just like sinners are today. The blood sacrifices of the Tabernacle did not save those sinners nor will any rituals save us today. To be saved we must abide in Jesus.

**If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. (John 15:6)**



The Tabernacle and Jesus teach the same doctrine.

### **The Bronze Basin**

The Bronze Basin (or Laver) and its base was constructed of solid bronze and placed between the Altar of Sacrifice and the Tabernacle. It was filled with water. Before a priest could offer a burnt offering, or before the High Priest went into the Most Holy Place, he first ceremonially cleaned his body. He did this by washing his hands and feet with water from the Bronze Laver and putting on white linen garments. He did not put on his white garments until he had washed. (Exodus 30:18)

This act is symbolic of the cleansing achieved by the washing of the mind and heart with the word of God. The word of God is often referred to as water.

**Even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. (Ephesians 5:25-26)**

**Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior. (Titus 3:5)**

The cleansing of the priest with water from the Bronze Laver was God's way of showing His people, that man must be cleansed before coming into His presence or offering a burnt offering. Today we ceremonially clean our body by the washing of baptism. Jesus instructed His disciples to go and baptize those who believe. But remember, all these washings are only symbolic. The real cleansing takes place in the heart, as believers are regenerated (born again) by the faith **of** Jesus, and clothed with His garment of righteousness. The cleansing of the priest by washing was just a shadow of the cleansing that occurs in our heart when we abide in Jesus.

You will remember from previous paragraphs, that the congregation could enter the courtyard, but not enter the Tabernacle. Only priests could enter the Tabernacle. If this condition continued to exist, even a repentant sinner would never be able to come into the presence of God; he would always have to go through a priest. However, it is comforting to know that the born again believers will be able to come into God's presence. He will be able to enter the Tabernacle, not because the rules have changed, God does not change, but because the born again believer will become a priest. We know this from the book of Revelation.

**And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. (Revelation 1:6)**

By becoming priests, we will be able to enter the Holy Place, to receive 'light' from the Lampstand, and to eat the bread of life. (See The Lampstand and the Table of Showbread).

Again we see that the Tabernacle teaches the same doctrine Jesus taught; only those who are washed cleaned will be able to come into the presence of the living God. It is even more comforting to realize that we will be more than priests able to enter the Holy Place, we will become sons of God by adoption and receive a son's inheritance as well. (Galatians 4:5) (John 1:12)

### **The Altar Of Sacrifice**

The Altar of Sacrifice (or Altar of Burnt Offering) was located near the center of the courtyard. It was seven and one-half feet square and four and one half feet high. It was made of acacia wood and covered with bronze. There was a bronze horn on each corner. This was the altar upon which priests burned slain sacrifices. (Leviticus 1:1-17) The altar was made of bronze rather than gold for the offerings represented sin and God (gold) will not abide in the presence of sin.

The priest took a portion of the sacrifices' blood and anointed the altar. The remainder was poured on the altar's base and allowed to run onto the ground. The priests removed the fat (symbolic of sin), the kidneys and the

covering of the liver from the slain animal and burned it on this altar. It is important also to note that the priests took the hide, flesh, head lower legs, remaining organs, and dung away and burned them outside the camp. (Leviticus 4) Thus the 'sin' is separated from the animal and burned up, but the flesh, which was slain for the sin is destroyed. It was the same with the Son of God. Jesus Died Spiritually in Gethsemane after receiving the sin of the world, but his body was destroyed on the cross outside of Jerusalem, symbolizing the destruction of sinful flesh. For a more through explanation of these events please see the author's pamphlet titled "Gethsemane".

## The Tabernacle

The Tabernacle was a tent-like structure, placed at the west-end of the courtyard. It was thirteen and one-half feet wide, forty-five feet long and divided into two parts. Its entrance was covered with a white linen curtain embroidered with red, blue and purple yarns. It was divided into two parts. The first part was called the Holy Place and contained the Table of Showbread, the Lampstand, and the Altar of Incense.

The second part separated from the Holy Place by a veil was called the Most Holy Place and contained the Ark of the Covenant, with its golden covering. The veil of white linen with red, blue, and purple yarn embroidered into it was like the screen covering the entrance to the courtyard and the entrance to the Tabernacle, but this veil was held in place by four acacia- wood posts **covered with gold and resting on silver bases**. The righteousness of God (gold) rests on His character given to men by His law (silver). The Most Holy Place was entered only one time each year by the High Priest on the Day of Atonement.

The walls of the Tabernacle were made of acacia wood planks, twenty-seven inches wide by fifteen feet tall. They were set in silver bases and joined by rods of acacia wood covered in gold. The inner ceiling, composed of white linen curtains, was joined with gold clasps.

A three-layer tent covered the Tabernacle. The inner layer was made of goat's hair, the middle layer of tanned ram's skins and the outer of fine leather. Everything was made so that it could be disassembled, packed, transported, and re-assembled by the Levites. (Exodus 26)

## The Lampstand



The Lampstand, beautifully crafted of pure gold, supported seven oil lamps and was placed on the south side of the Holy Place. It had a central shaft with three branches on each side each covered with almond blossoms and petals. It was constructed so that its light would shine forward toward the Table of Showbread. All of the tools necessary for its function, including the trays and snuffers were also made of pure gold. The Lampstand was not a candlestick holder. It did not hold candles; it held lamps. Candles contain fat from animals (a symbol of sin) so were never used in the Tabernacle. The Lamps in the Holy Place were fueled by olive oil. (Exodus 25:31-40) We already understand that olive oil was the anointing substance used when God placed His spirit into someone. Therefore oil represents God's spirit, the source of light. The Holy Place was never dark. One of the important duties of the priests was to service the lamps so they would burn from dusk until dawn each night. (Exodus 27:20-21)

The Lampstand was adjusted so that its light shown forward toward the Table of Showbread, illuminating the unleavened bread. This light was not just a stream of photons as we now describe the radiation of physical light, for it had a spiritual significance as well. The Bible is full of illustrations that things of God and His instructions are 'light'.

**The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalms 27:1)**

**This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5)**

**For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: (Proverbs 6:23)**

Thus the light from the Lampstand exemplify the instructions, examples, and love from God illuminating The Holy Place especially the showbread. For Jesus says,

**I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life the light of the world. (John 8:12)**

Now we see that the physical light from the seven lamps in the Tabernacle fueled by olive oil (God's spirit) represents the knowledge, wisdom, righteousness and understanding which God the Father, gave to His Son, Jesus, as the light of the world and as the bread of life. In fact, the light illuminating the showbread foretold that Jesus would be the bread of life. The spiritual understanding of The Table of Showbread illustrates this.

### **The Table Of Showbread**



The Table of Showbread was a small low table placed on the north side of the Holy Place used to display unleavened bread. It was eighteen inches wide, thirty-six inches long and twenty-seven inches high. It was made of acacia wood covered with gold, and had a solid gold rim around its top. Gold rings were attached to each corner to receive gold covered acacia wood poles when it was necessary to move it. Priests always kept twelve loaves of eatable unleavened bread on the table. They were placed 'before the Lord' in two columns of six loaves each and anointed with frankincense. Dishes, bowls, and spoons of pure gold were also placed on the table. (Exodus 25:23-30)

Each Sabbath, fresh unleavened loaves were added, and the older loaves removed and eaten by the priests. No one else was allowed to eat this bread. (Leviticus 24:5-9) Unleavened bread contains no yeast (symbolic of sin). Many people believe that the twelve loaves represented the twelve tribes of Israel. While the Bible describes other things relating to the twelve tribes (such as the twelve stones on the High Priest's Ephod), it does not say the twelve loaves represent the twelve tribes. It does not say this, because the unleavened bread was not symbolic of the sinful seed of Jacob, but symbolic of the righteous bread that gives Life.

The unleavened bread on the Table of Showbread represented the same Life-sustaining nourishment (unleavened bread and the sacrificial lamb) eaten by the Hebrews as they left Egypt (sin and bondage) on their journey to the Promised Land (salvation, freedom, and Life). In contrast, the manna which the Hebrews collected each day while sustaining physical life, did not give eternal Life. Jesus reminded the Jews of this when he said:

**"Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead." (John 6:49)**

In contrast Jesus told His disciples

**I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eats of this bread, he shall live for ever (John 6:51)**

The manna in the wilderness represents the physical life that is sustained by man's effort. Man's effort is 'to follow the letter of the law'. Following the letter of the law will never save. The Bread of Life is obtained by Abiding

in Christ Jesus. Thus, the two stacks of unleavened bread on the Table of Showbread represent The Bread of Life or The Son of God. But why two stacks? The two stacks represent the two forms of God's only begotten Son; first as the spiritual son and then as the son of flesh and blood. This doctrine may seem strange to you since most denominations do not understand nor teach very much about the spiritual son. God's son existed first as a spiritual being, then after laying down his heavenly glory and honor took the form of flesh and blood to become the ransom for man's sin. However strange it may sound, a careful examination of Holy Scripture will show that this is true. Here are some verses that will help make this clear.

Before the creation of the physical world, the first act of God was to beget a Son. (Proverbs 8:22-30, Revelation 3:14, Colossians 1:14-15). God's Son was a spiritual being as the physical world had not as yet been created. It was through His Son that God created the physical world.

**All things were made through him: and without him was not anything made that hath been made. (John 1:3 ASV)**

God's Son was the image of God himself (2 Corinthians 4:4, Colossians 1:15, Hebrews 1:3), and had the brightness of His glory. (Hebrews 1:3 John 17:5) The Father instructed the angels to worship His son.

**And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, and let all the angels of God worship him. (Hebrews 1:6)**

From the preceding passages we can conclude two things: (1) that the Son was not the Father, but was the express image of the Father, and (2) that He was divine (worthy to receive worship).

When Moses was instructed to take off his shoes for the ground he stood on was holy ground (Exodus 3:5), and when Joshua met the prince of the Lord's host before the battle of Jericho (Joshua 5:14) they were giving worship to God through His Son. Remember, Jesus said:

**No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. (John 1:18)**

We are all familiar with the name used to identify the Son of flesh and blood. In the English language He is most often referred to as Jesus. However, this is not the Hebrew name the angel Gabriel gave to Mary. Mary was instructed to name him Ye'shuah.

In the Hebrew language Ye'shuah means Ye'hovah Saves. Ye'hovah comes from the name God gave to Moses in the desert. (Exodus 3:14) At this time, the written Hebrew language had only constants. The vowel sounds were supplied by the reader. The four constants of God's name in English, (the so-called tetragrammaton), were **YHWH** which carries the meaning of existing in the past, present and future. If we understand this, then Gabriel's instructions make complete sense.

**And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Ye'shuah (Ye'hovah saves): for he shall save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)**

{ The authors preferred to use the Son of God's Hebrew name, Ye'shuah, throughout this pamphlet, but chose to use his more familiar English name, **Jesus**, as they believed that many readers might reject the entire pamphlet had they done so. It is hoped that as more Christians become familiar with His Hebrew name, its use will become universal. See the booklet, Ten Yea, Eleven Things Every Christian Should Know. }

Likewise the Spiritual Son (before He laid down the glory He had with the Father to become the ransom for sinful man), had a name; although few have discovered it. His name was Michael. Michael in Hebrew means "one like God" which certainly describes the Son.

The following Bible references tell us about Michael. Michael was the Archangel. This does not mean He was just

an angel for He was not: it means that He was the chief leader of God's angels or God's messengers. (Jude 1:9). In the book of Daniel, Michael is described as the Prince of God's people.

**However, I will declare unto thee that which is set down in the scripture of truth; and there is not one that sheweth himself strong with me against these, but Michael your Prince. (Daniel 10:21, Darby)**

It was the anointed Son of God as Michael, who led the Hebrews on their journey to the Promised Land.

**And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. That is, 'the anointed one'. (1 Corinthians 10:14)**

It had to be the spiritual son, Michael, who led the Hebrews since Jesus, the son of flesh and blood, had not been born when the Hebrews were in the wilderness. Incidentally, the Hebrew word 'Messiah' and the English word 'Christ' both mean 'the anointed one'. The anointing of the spiritual son, Michael, is given in the following verse.

**Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. (Hebrews 1:1-9)**

The anointment of the physical Son of God was confirmed by the Holy Spirit at Jesus' baptism.

**And the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form, as a dove, upon him, and a voice came out of heaven, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. (Luke 3:22)**

Just as Michael was anointed with oil in heaven, the Tabernacle was anointed with oil before it was placed into service.

**And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that is therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the vessels thereof: and it shall be holy. (Exodus 39:9)**

In the fullness of time, Michael laid down the glory he had with His Father and willingly took the form of man.

**And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. (John 17:5)**

As the Son of God in flesh and blood, Jesus was born to be the ransom for sinful man.

**Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. (John 18:37)**

Please note that Jesus said that He was born and that he came. He was born (begotten) spiritually as Michael and came, physically as Jesus. As the physical Son, he laid down His Life in Gethsemane, and at Calvary, permitted the destruction of his earthly body as a symbol of the destruction of sinful flesh. The Son of God will return to earth at the time of the end with the **voice of the Archangel** to call 'born again believers' to an everlasting Life. (1Thesalonians. 4:16) Then the Son of God, as flesh and blood, will inherit all things and reign as King in New Jerusalem (Revelation 11:15)

The top of The Table of Showbread had a crown of pure gold, foretelling the crown Jesus will wear when He returns as our King. Note that only priests are permitted to enter the Tabernacle (God's presence) and to eat the bread from the Table of Showbread. If this is true and God says that He never changes, how will non-priests, the vast majority of the earth's inhabitants, come into God's presence and eat of the bread of Life? They will not. But, the born again believers, those who abide in Christ Jesus, will be able to enter the Holy Place and eat of the bread of life as they will become priests.

**Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: over these the second death hath no power; but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. (Revelation 20:6)**

This is another proof that the rituals of the Tabernacle give the exact same lesson that Jesus and His disciples taught while they were on earth.

### The Altar Of Incense (Exodus 30)



The Altar of Incense was a small low altar, placed in the western end of the Holy place, near the veil of the Most Holy Place. It was eighteen inches long, twelve inches wide, twenty-four inches high and was constructed of acacia wood over-laid with gold. It had horns on each corner, and a molding of gold around its top. Four gold rings, together with two gold covered acacia wood poles were made to carry it. This altar was used to burn special incense each morning and evening and on the Day of Atonement. (Exodus 30:1-7) Only priests were allowed to perform this duty.

In a spiritual sense, this altar represents man's heart or his mind (Jeremiah 17:1), and the fire in it represents God's spirit or His word. (Jeremiah 5:14, Acts 2:3-4) Just how important and how sacred this service was is made clear when two of Aaron's sons offered 'strange fire' on this altar. This strange fire (representing an unholy spirit of their own, or their own way of conducting this service) was so offensive to God that He struck Nadab and Abihu dead. (Leviticus 10:1-2)

The fragrance of the incense rising from the altar, representing the prayers of repentant sinners, filled the Holy Place and flowed into the presence of God in The Most Holy Place. (Revelation 5:8 and Revelation 8:4) When a man has given his heart to Jesus, he is covered with the righteousness of Christ, and he can stand in the Holy Place and offer his prayers to God. (John 14:6)

### The Most Holy Place

The western end of the Tabernacle was curtained off with a veil. The veil was of white linen embroidered with cherubim of red, blue, and purple yarns like the screen covering the entrance to the courtyard and the entrance to the Tabernacle. The veil was held in place by four acacia- wood posts covered with gold (God's righteousness) and resting on silver bases (God's law). Behind this veil was the most sacred vessel in the world, The Ark of the Covenant.

### The Ark Of The Covenant



The Ark was forty-five inches long, eighteen inches high, and twenty-seven inches wide. It was constructed of acacia wood, covered with gold inside and outside and capped with a golden molding all around. Like the Altar of Incense, four gold rings were attached so that it could be transported with acacia wood poles covered with gold.

On top of the Ark was placed a covering, or in Hebrew '**an Atonement**'. The covering was forty-five inches long by twenty-seven inches wide, and was constructed of pure gold. At each end was a golden-cherub with

out-stretched and touching wings. Each cherub faced inward and downward toward the ark. The Ark contained the stones upon which God had written the Ten commandments.

While many priests performed daily services in the Holy Place, only the High Priest went into the Most Holy Place, and then only one time each year – on the Day of Atonement. (Exodus 25:10-22)

The interior of the Most Holy Place was bathed in radiant light emitted from the Ark. This light has been called the Shekinah glory as it demonstrated God's presence. The Ten Commandments inscribed on the two stones in the Ark not only gives us instructions for behavior, but reveals God's very character, that is, the nature of His mind. This nature has been described by the Apostle Paul as: loving, joyous, peaceful, patient, gentle, goodly, meek, true to his word, and temperate.

You may recognize that these characteristics are those exhibited by all that have permitted God's spirit to reign in their body-and to control their mind. (Galatians 5:22) If you think about it, these were the characteristics of Jesus. But this should not surprise us as we are told that God has put His spirit into Jesus.

On the Day of Atonement, and after elaborate purification ceremonies, the High Priest went into the Most Holy Place of the earthly Tabernacle and offered sacrifices for himself and all the people. Today, we have a High Priest, completely pure with a perfected mind (Hebrews 6:20) who has entered into the Tabernacle made without hands (the Heavenly Tabernacle) and has made a sacrificial atonement for all born again believers. This High Priest is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (Hebrews 5:5) And since this sacrifice was not made with the blood of animals, but made with his own blood, it need not be repeated year after year. A full, complete, and everlasting atonement was made once and for all times.

Halleluiah, praise God, that He never changes. In Old Testament times, in New Testament times and even today, He provides a way for all repentant sinners to come and receive forgiveness. And, not only receive forgiveness, but become adopted sons and daughters –brothers and sisters of our lord Jesus Christ sharing in the love, joy and peace that will abound in The New Jerusalem. Praise God!

### **The Tabernacle Today**

The Tabernacle constructed by the Hebrews in the wilderness no longer exists, nor does the Temple in Jerusalem that replaced it. Both have either decayed or been destroyed by man. However, the memory of the Tabernacle and its services is still alive in the hearts of many Jews. They are anxious to rebuild the Temple and re-establish the ceremonies so that they can resume eating the manna from the wilderness. But, fortunately, it is also alive in the hearts of many Christians who recognize it as one of God's ways to teach man about His plan of salvation.

In addition to the comparisons already made in this pamphlet, the Bible offers other examples that show the spiritual lessons of the Tabernacle were valid in the days of Jesus and remain so even today. The Tabernacle repeatedly taught that in order to come into God's presence, you must be covered with the garments of Jesus' righteousness. No other clothes no matter how expensive, how well made or how lavishly bejeweled will do. This is the same doctrine Jesus taught in the parable of the wedding guest who came to a wedding without a wedding garment. He was cast out! (Matthew 22:12)

The Tabernacle also teaches that in order to come into the presence of God, more is required than to just enter the courtyard with an outward show of repentance. An acknowledgement of sin is the necessary first step, but each sinner needs to believe that Jesus of Nazareth is The Son of God, and that He is the true sacrificial lamb, the ransom for all sin. The sinner must also abide in Christ. If we join a denomination and pledge to abide by its rules, but never become circumsised in heart, never abide in Christ and In the Father, we remain in the courtyard.

Here is the warning given in Revelation for those remaining in the courtyard.

**And, there was given me a reed, like unto a rod. And the angel stood saying, Rise and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein, but the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. (Revelations 11:1)**

## **The New Priesthood,**

In the preceding paragraphs we frequently mentioned the duties and services provided by the Sons of Aaron, as priests of the Tabernacle. However, now that the Tabernacle no longer exists and the perfect sacrifice of Jesus removes the necessity for daily sacrifices as prescribed by The Law, do we have or is there a need for priesthood? Surprisingly, the answer is yes. If there is such priesthood, who are they and where do they come from and what do they do? We shall attempt to answer these questions and more in the following paragraphs.

There is proof in both the Old and New Testaments that there is such a priesthood. First let's look at two verses in Exodus.

**Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. (Exodus 19:5-6)**

These verses tell us that by listening to God's voice, the whole nation of Israel, not just the sons of Aaron, would become priests. Regrettably, Israel never achieved this goal, but it is clear that it was God's desire that all men should achieve priesthood. The same promise is recorded in the New Testament.

**And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:4-6)**

We will not receive our crowns and become kings until Jesus receives his crown in the time of the end, but we can become a priest this very day. Who are the ones who will become priests? Look at Revelation 1:3

**Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. (Revelation 1:3)**

Well, what do you know! It is the same ones described in Exodus 19. It is those that hear God's voice and obey His word. Jesus confirmed this very rule of heaven when he said,

**Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Matthew 7:21**

From New Testament doctrine, we know that once the sinner truly recognizes his depraved condition, acknowledges Jesus as God's Son, the atonement for his sin, and begs forgiveness by placing his broken heart on the altar, he becomes a new man.

This new man comes forth by a second birth. **He is born again**, but this time, not of blood and water (a physical birth), but a spiritual birth by the spirit of God. This new man becomes an adopted son of God and brother to Jesus Christ. (Galatians 4:7) and, as brother of Christ, a priest in the temple of God. (Revelation 1:6) The one who relies solely on Jesus Christ for his salvation – not the ceremonies in the courtyard becomes a priest. And as a priest he can enter the Holy Place. We will discuss those who will remain in the courtyard later.

What do these new priests do in the sanctuary? Just like in the Old Testament, they serve! Just as the priests of old instructed the people about sin, repentance and sacrifice, so do the present-day priests instruct others of sin, repentance and the heavenly sacrifice made for their sin. Just as the priests of old kept the lamps of the Lampstand continually burning representing the knowledge and understanding of spiritual things, so do the present day priests spread knowledge and understanding to those who are in darkness. Just as the priest of old who ate the showbread in the sanctuary, so do the present day priest eat the body of Christ.



**and as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. (Mark 14:22)**

But how does the new priest do these things without a Tabernacle? Easy! As a new priest permits the spirit of God to reign in his heart, his body becomes the Tabernacle, the Temple of God. (1 Corinthians. 6:19) and he becomes a priest in it. Always ready to serve God.

One service the present day priest does not do, which the priests of old performed, is to offer an animal sacrifice, morning and evening each day. The present day priest recognizes that this ritual does not remove sin but was only a shadow of the sacrifice Jesus made. He understands that the blood of our savior presented in the Heavenly Tabernacle atoned for the sin of all repentant sinners once and for all times. He understands that the former practice of sin/sacrifice, sin/sacrifice, sin/sacrifice, need not continue, because now, by the power given to us by Jesus, we have the power overcome Satan and to cease sinning. However, should he sin, he understands that he has a High Priest who is ever ready to help the fallen. And, of course the High Priest is the Lord, Jesus.

But what of the people who reject God's offer of a ransom; the ones who still try to achieve righteousness by their own efforts, the ones who continually offer their own sacrifices day after day, the ones who continually perform ceremonies, and recite phrases time and time again.

Unfortunately, these people remain in the courtyard. They **never** become priests. They never are permitted to come into the beautiful Tabernacle, to eat from the Table of Showbread, to offer sweet smelling prayers to God and to stand in His presence. These people may be members of a denomination. They may do all the things that church members do. They may even pray to God. But they have never been circumcised in heart nor fell broken at the feet of Jesus. They are like the five virgins who had no oil for their lamps and who were not admitted to the wedding feast. (Matthew 22:12) They will be the ones who will hear those terrible words, **"I never knew you, depart from me ye that work iniquity."** (Matthew 7:23)

Many present-day priests have incomplete spiritual knowledge. But, as they listen to the voice of God, and study the scriptures with an open heart, their wisdom, knowledge and understanding of spiritual things, especially of God's Son, increases. This is illustrated by the light from the seven lamp stands illuminating the Table of Showbread and the Altar of Incense as they serve in the Tabernacle. As their stony hearts are replaced with ones of love, and they abide with the Father and His Son, they stand before the Veil and are bathed in the Shikinah Glory from God's presence. May God move you, to leave the courtyard and to enter His Sanctuary. Praise God for His love!

### **Conclusion:**

It is our prayer that this pamphlet has revealed to you that the basic truths of The Old Testament Tabernacle were the same as the truths taught by Our Lord Jesus Christ. We also hope that this pamphlet has moved you to make sure that you are a priest serving in God's temple awaiting the return of our High Priest, The Son of God, Jesus (Ye'shuah). Amen.