

**THE TABERNACLE-TENT:
"GOD'S PORTABLE THRONE"- PART 2
Scripture Text: Exodus 25**

**Book of Exodus, Part III
Rev. Charles R. Biggs**

SCRIPTURE TEXT

^{ESV} **Exodus 25:1** The LORD said to Moses, ² "Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. ³ And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, ⁴ blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, ⁵ tanned rams' skins, goatskins, acacia wood, ⁶ oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, ⁷ onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. ⁸ And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. ⁹ Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

^{ESV} **Exodus 25:40** And see that you make them after the pattern for them, which is being shown you on the mountain.

^{ESV} **Exodus 26:30** Then you shall erect the tabernacle according to the plan for it that you were shown on the mountain.

^{ESV} **Exodus 35:4-9:** Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "This is the thing that the LORD has commanded. ⁵ Take from among you a contribution to the LORD. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the LORD's contribution: gold, silver, and bronze; ⁶ blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen; goats' hair, ⁷ tanned rams' skins, and goatskins; acacia wood, ⁸ oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, ⁹ and onyx stones and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

^{ESV} **Exodus 39:32-42:** Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished, and the people of Israel did according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses; so they did. ³³ Then they brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its utensils, its hooks, its frames, its bars, its pillars, and its bases; ³⁴ the covering of tanned rams' skins and goatskins, and the veil of the screen; ³⁵ the ark of the testimony with its poles and the mercy seat; ³⁶ the table with all its utensils, and the bread of the Presence; ³⁷ the lampstand of pure

gold and its lamps with the lamps set and all its utensils, and the oil for the light; ³⁸ the golden altar, the anointing oil and the fragrant incense, and the screen for the entrance of the tent; ³⁹ the bronze altar, and its grating of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils; the basin and its stand; ⁴⁰ the hangings of the court, its pillars, and its bases, and the screen for the gate of the court, its cords, and its pegs; and all the utensils for the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of meeting; ⁴¹ the finely worked garments for ministering in the Holy Place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons for their service as priests. ⁴² According to all that the LORD had commanded Moses, so the people of Israel had done all the work. ⁴³ And Moses saw all the work, and behold, they had done it; as the LORD had commanded, so had they done it. Then Moses blessed them.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

^{ESV} **Exodus 26:1** "Moreover, you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen and blue and purple and scarlet yarns; you shall make them with cherubim skillfully worked into them. ² The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the breadth of each curtain four cubits; all the curtains shall be the same size. ³ Five curtains shall be coupled to one another, and the other five curtains shall be coupled to one another. ⁴ And you shall make loops of blue on the edge of the outermost curtain in the first set. Likewise you shall make loops on the edge of the outermost curtain in the second set. ⁵ Fifty loops you shall make on the one curtain, and fifty loops you shall make on the edge of the curtain that is in the second set; the loops shall be opposite one another. ⁶ And you shall make fifty clasps of gold, and couple the curtains one to the other with the clasps, so that the tabernacle may be a single whole. ⁷ "You shall also make curtains of goats' hair for a tent over the tabernacle; eleven curtains shall you make. ⁸ The length of each curtain shall be thirty cubits, and the breadth of each curtain four cubits. The eleven curtains shall be the same size. ⁹ You shall couple five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves, and the sixth curtain you shall double over at the front of the tent. ¹⁰ You shall make fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in one set, and fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in the second set. ¹¹ "You shall make fifty clasps of bronze, and put the clasps into the loops, and couple the tent together that it may be a single whole. ¹² And the part that remains of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remains, shall hang over the back of the tabernacle. ¹³ And the extra that remains in the length of the curtains, the cubit on the one side, and the cubit on the other side, shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle, on this side and that

side, to cover it. ¹⁴ And you shall make for the tent a covering of tanned rams' skins and a covering of goatskins on top. ¹⁵ "You shall make upright frames for the tabernacle of acacia wood. ¹⁶ Ten cubits shall be the length of a frame, and a cubit and a half the breadth of each frame. ¹⁷ There shall be two tenons in each frame, for fitting together. So shall you do for all the frames of the tabernacle. ¹⁸ You shall make the frames for the tabernacle: twenty frames for the south side; ¹⁹ and forty bases of silver you shall make under the twenty frames, two bases under one frame for its two tenons, and two bases under the next frame for its two tenons; ²⁰ and for the second side of the tabernacle, on the north side twenty frames, ²¹ and their forty bases of silver, two bases under one frame, and two bases under the next frame. ²² And for the rear of the tabernacle westward you shall make six frames. ²³ And you shall make two frames for corners of the tabernacle in the rear; ²⁴ they shall be separate beneath, but joined at the top, at the first ring. Thus shall it be with both of them; they shall form the two corners. ²⁵ And there shall be eight frames, with their bases of silver, sixteen bases; two bases under one frame, and two bases under another frame. ²⁶ "You shall make bars of acacia wood, five for the frames of the one side of the tabernacle, ²⁷ and five bars for the frames of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the frames of the side of the tabernacle at the rear westward. ²⁸ The middle bar, halfway up the frames, shall run from end to end. ²⁹ You shall overlay the frames with gold and shall make their rings of gold for holders for the bars, and you shall overlay the bars with gold. ³⁰ Then you shall erect the tabernacle according to the plan for it that you were shown on the mountain. ³¹ "And you shall make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. It shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it. ³² And you shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, with hooks of gold, on four bases of silver. ³³ And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in there within the veil. And the veil shall separate for you the Holy Place from the Most Holy. ³⁴ You shall put the mercy seat on the ark of the testimony in the Most Holy Place. ³⁵ And you shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand on the south side of the tabernacle opposite the table, and you shall put the table on the north side. ³⁶ "You shall make a screen for the entrance of the tent, of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, embroidered with needlework. ³⁷ And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia, and overlay them with gold. Their hooks shall be of gold, and you shall cast five bases of bronze for them.

^{ESV} **Hebrews 9:1** Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. ² For a tent was prepared,

the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place.³ Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place,⁴ having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant.⁵ Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.⁶ These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties,⁷ but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.⁸ By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing⁹ (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper,¹⁰ but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.¹³ For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh,¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.¹⁶ For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established.¹⁷ For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive.¹⁸ Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood.¹⁹ For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,²⁰ saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you."²¹ And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship.²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.²³ Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly

things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

**THE TABERNACLE-TENT:
"GOD'S PORTABLE HOUSE IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE"
PART 2**

Scripture Text: Exodus 25

Book of Exodus, Part III

Rev. Charles R. Biggs

REVIEW OF LAST SERMON:

THREE REASON WHY GOD WANTED A TABERNACLE-TENT BUILT

- (1) **Tent of Meeting:** To make himself specially and covenantally known to his people by living/dwelling among them.
- (2) **Sanctuary:** To be worshipped in spirit and truth.
- (3) **Portable Throne of God:** To rule over and defend his people.

What love for God to dwell with his people where they live- -to accommodate himself because of grace! This reveals God's transcendence (holiness) and immanence (nearness).

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be you name, your kingdom come..."

Outline

- (1) **God's Picture-Story of His Dwelling Place**
- (2) **God's Picture-Story of Israel's Redemption (and the whole world!)**
- (3) **God's Picture-Story of Jesus Christ**
- (4) **God's Picture-Story of His Church**

**I. God's Picture-Story of His Dwelling Place:
"What did the Tabernacle "DO" for
Israel?"** (Enns)

- **Interpretation Guidelines:** Remember when interpreting the significance of the Tabernacle to be careful of fanciful interpretations where everything means one specific thing, or finding meaning in something that may not have meaning.

Examples:

- The wood in the Tabernacle points to the cross.
- The four colors used in the curtains correspond with the four gospels.
- Wide entrance to the courtyard symbolize the inviting open armed invitation of the Lord Jesus to come to him.

- **Ask first:**

(1) "***What did the Tabernacle-Temple teach about God?***" (to the 1st Readers in Israel) and second:

(2) "***What does the Tabernacle-Temple teach about Christ and His Work*** (to the 1st Readers in Israel and the 2nd Readers in the Church today).

Symbolism of God's Picture-Story

1. **Mount Sinai "Flattened" and became "Portable" as the Dwelling Place of God.**

2. **A New Eden:** Eden restored in the Tabernacle-Tent.

- **Entrance faced Eastward:** reminding the people that to return to paradise restored, or Eden regained, the way is west into the most holy place by blood and death.

- **Language of Garden of Eden in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 23:**

Genesis 3:8-10: And they heard the sound of the LORD God ***walking in the garden in the cool of the day***, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

Leviticus 26:11-13: I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. ¹² ***And I will walk***

among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people. ¹³ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves. And I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

^{ESV} **Deuteronomy 23:14** *Because the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you,* therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you.

God dwells with man in a special way that was broken because of the fall and is being reopened through sacrifice and blood to once again have God walk among his people.

Eden was called a “sanctuary” (miqdash) as the Tabernacle-Temple (Exodus 25:8-9):

^{ESV} **Ezekiel 28:13, 15-18:**

You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared....

You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. ¹⁶ In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you. ¹⁸ ***By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries;*** so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you.

3. **The Tabernacle was a Microcosm of the Universe (Heaven and Earth)**: (Ryken, pg. 850): Inside was heaven, and outside was earth, with God at the center of it all. God reigned in glory over the heavens and the earth.

- ^{ESV} **Psalm 78:69** He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever.
- ^{ESV} **Jeremiah 17:12** A glorious throne set on high from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary.
- **G. K. Beale writes** concerning this: "...the three parts of Israel's Tabernacle-Temple represented the three parts of the cosmos: the outer court symbolized the visible earth (both land and sea, the place where humans lived); the holy place primarily represented the visible heavens (though there was also garden symbolism); the holy of holies stood for the invisible heavenly dimension of the cosmos where God dwelt...this understanding of the Tabernacle-Temple as a small model of the entire cosmos is part of a larger perspective in which the Tabernacle-Temple pointed forward to a huge worldwide sanctuary in which God's presence would dwell in every part of the cosmos." ('The Temple and the Church's Mission', pg. 48).

God rules over both Heaven and the earth. Inside the Tabernacle-Tent is the very Creator of Heaven and Earth!

4. **Levels/Degrees of Access into God's Special-Covenantal Presence**

- **Five Levels of Access**, or Degrees of Access-Locations in the Tabernacle-Tent ("Lesser to greater degrees of holiness"- Enns):
 - a) **"Outside the camp"**-Gentiles and all the unclean, unholy sinners in the world.
 - b) **"In the camp"**-Israel's camp set up around the Tabernacle-Tent with God in the middle (like other ANE kings of that time).

- c) **"In the courtyard"**- The people could bring to the Levites and Priests their offerings (this was as near to God's presence-throne that the people could come).
- d) **"In the Holy Place"**-Priests and Levites
- e) **"In the Most Holy Place (or "Holy of Holies")"**-One High Priest and only once a year on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16).

[Above is adapted from Longman, pgs. 34-35].

- **NB:** Most Israelites could not go into the Tabernacle-Tent itself all of their lives- -they had representative Priests who would go in to meet God on their behalf.

Teaching them that they were sinners who could draw near only through a Mediator.

It was like knowing the most important Being in the universe actually dwelled in your midst, but you were denied full access to seeing and knowing him. You could only approach him on HIS terms!

II. God's Picture-Story of Israel's Redemption (and the whole world!)

- **Note:** Overlapping images and meanings that are revealed throughout redemptive-history.
 - A. **Bronze Altar:** the Passover Event that became a memorial to the people because life-blood saved them from death (cf. Exodus 12:11-14).
 - B. **Laver:** the Red Sea when Israel passed through the waters of judgment and were saved, while their enemies were defeated.

Listen to the sacramental language used by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:1-13:

ESV **1 Corinthians 10:1** I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the

cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ...¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

C. **Lampstand:**

- i. **The Tree of Life** and Israel in the "New Eden" as the people of God.
- ii. **Burning Bush:** This "Tree of Life" was also burning without being consumed (Exodus 3).
- iii. **Israel a Light:** Israel was to be a light to the nations, showing forth God's righteousness and law.
- iv. **Theophanic Glory-Cloud:** God protected Israel with fire by night and cloud by day (probably a reference with fire and light to the Theophanic-Glory-Cloud).

D. **Bread of Presence:**

- i. Israel ate **manna** provided by God in the wilderness.
- ii. The Bread of Presence symbolized how God was present with his people as God, **Redeemer, and Provider of all things!**
- iii. Remember the covenantal meal in Exodus 24 where the covenant was ratified by eating a meal in God's presence. A type or foretaste of Christ's eating with his people, and the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.

E. **Incense:** Israel was to offer sweet smelling sacrifices for their sins (Leviticus), and were to be a prayerful people utterly depending upon God for their redemption and sanctification.

- F. **Curtain and Entrance into the Holy of Holies**: Israel needed One Mediator one High Priest to go into the presence of God on their behalf (Exodus 24:1-4: *Moses alone shall ascend to the top*). One High Priest who would go once a year on the Day of Atonement, pointing to a final offering and sacrifice by a Greater and Permanent High Priest (Heb. 5-8).
- G. **Holy of Holies**: God would bring Israel into the land, the type of the New Heavens and the New Earth where God would dwell with his people!

III. God's Picture-Story of Jesus Christ

- **Christ says that his body is the True Tabernacle-Temple (John 2:19ff).**
- Tabernacle-Temple 1.0 (Moses' Tent of Meeting)
 - Tabernacle-Temple 1.5 (Solomon's Temple)
 - Tabernacle-Temple 2.0 (Post-exilic Temple: "Second Temple Period")
 - Tabernacle-Temple XP or 3.0?? (Jesus Christ)
- Christ as the True Tabernacle-Temple as fully replaced the typological Tabernacle-Temple as God's dwelling place. Matthew writes:

^{ESV} **Matthew 23:37** "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! ³⁸ ***See, your house is left to you desolate.***

***ICHABOD-NO GLORY!
THE GLORY HAS DEPARTED AND IS ONLY FOUND IN CHRIST
(John 1:14-18; Col. 2:9; Matt. 17- Mount of Transfiguration).***

- 1) **Bronze Altar and Laver (Basin of Water)**: On the cross, the Apostle John swears under oath and testifies that he sees the

blood and the water, referring I believe to the bronze altar and the laver (John 19:31ff)

^{ESV} **John 19:31** Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ **But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.** ³⁵ **He who saw it has borne witness- his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth- that you also may believe.** ³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

John 13:5-10: Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you."

2) **Lampstand in Tabernacle-Tent:** John records that Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8:12).

^{ESV} **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ **In him was life, and the life was the light of men.** ⁵ **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.** ⁶ **There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.** ⁷ **He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.** ⁸ **He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.** ⁹ **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

^{ESV} **John 8:12** Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

^{ESV} **John 9:5** As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

^{ESV} **John 12:36** While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

^{ESV} **John 12:46** I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

^{ESV} **Revelation 21:23** And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,

^{ESV} **Revelation 22:5** And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

3) **Bread of the Presence:** John records that Jesus is the Bread of Life, the True Manna from Heaven (John 6:31-51).

^{ESV} **John 6:33** For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

^{ESV} **John 6:35** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

^{ESV} **John 6:48** I am the bread of life.

^{ESV} **John 6:51** I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

4) **Incense:** John records that Jesus prayed to the Father as the Great High Priest before he goes to the cross on behalf of his people (John 17:1-5; cf. Incense and prayers in Rev. 5:8, 8:3).

^{ESV} **John 17:1** When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all

whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

^{ESV} **Revelation 5:8** And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

^{ESV} **Revelation 8:3** And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

- 5) **Incense:** Hebrews teaches us that Christ ever intercedes for his people (Heb. 7:24-28).

^{ESV} **Hebrews 7:22** This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. ²³ The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, ²⁴ but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵ Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. ²⁶ For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

- 6) **Curtain Entrance into the Most Holy Place:** Hebrews teaches us that we come boldly to God and draw near to him in worship through Christ's flesh, which is the curtain of the Tabernacle-Tent, or way into the Most Holy Place or Holy of Holies (Heb. 10:19ff).

^{ESV} **Hebrews 10:19** Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great

priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- The Apostle John also wants us to think of the cherubim of glory on top of the Ark of the Covenant in Jesus' tomb and to see the way into the Most Holy Place through the broken body of Christ. In John 20:11-12, John remarks:

^{ESV} **John 20:11** But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² ***And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.***

- 7) **Curtain Entrance into the Most Holy Place:** The Gospels teach us that when Jesus cried out "It is finished" in the cross, the veil of the curtain to the Holy of Holies was ripped in two, symbolizing the way was now opened through Christ into the presence of God (Matt. 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45; cf. Hebrews 6:19).

The synoptic gospels all record this important detail on the cross:

^{ESV} **Matthew 27:50** And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. ⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

^{ESV} **Mark 15:38** And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

^{ESV} **Luke 23:45** while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

^{ESV} **Hebrews 6:19** We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain...

- We have “beheld the glory” in the Person of Jesus Christ (the same glory that was above the Ark in the Most Holy Place, and the glory that was only seen by the High Priest once a year on the Day of Atonement).

IV. God’s Picture-Story of His Church- The Church as Christ’s True Tabernacle-Temple/TEMPLE 3.0 and the 3rd Temple Period

- (1) **We are God’s Tabernacle-Temple in Christ** and we are called to worship, serve, fellowship together, participating as often as possible in the means of grace that God has given to us so that we might continue to grow up and mature in HIM.
- **God dwells in those who are “in Christ”, united to him by faith, these people become a holy dwelling place, tabernacle-temple (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; Ephesians 2:19-21; Hebrews 3:1-6).**
 - ^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 3:16-17:** Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. **For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.**
 - ^{ESV} **2 Corinthians 6:16:** ¹⁶ **What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**
 - ^{ESV} **Ephesians 2:19-22:** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ **in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.** ²² **In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.**

- (2) **Christ will build his Tabernacle-Temple** "not by might, nor by power, but by His Spirit" (cf. Zechariah 4:6; Matt. 16:18).
- ^{ESV} **Zechariah 6:12** And say to him, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "***Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD.*** ¹³ ***It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne.*** And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.'"
- (3) In John's revelation of Christ, he does not see a tabernacle-temple because God dwelled in the midst of his people without separation or distance (Revelation 21:22).
- **Hebrews 9:11-12: But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.**
 - ^{ESV} **Hebrews 10:19-25** Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.