

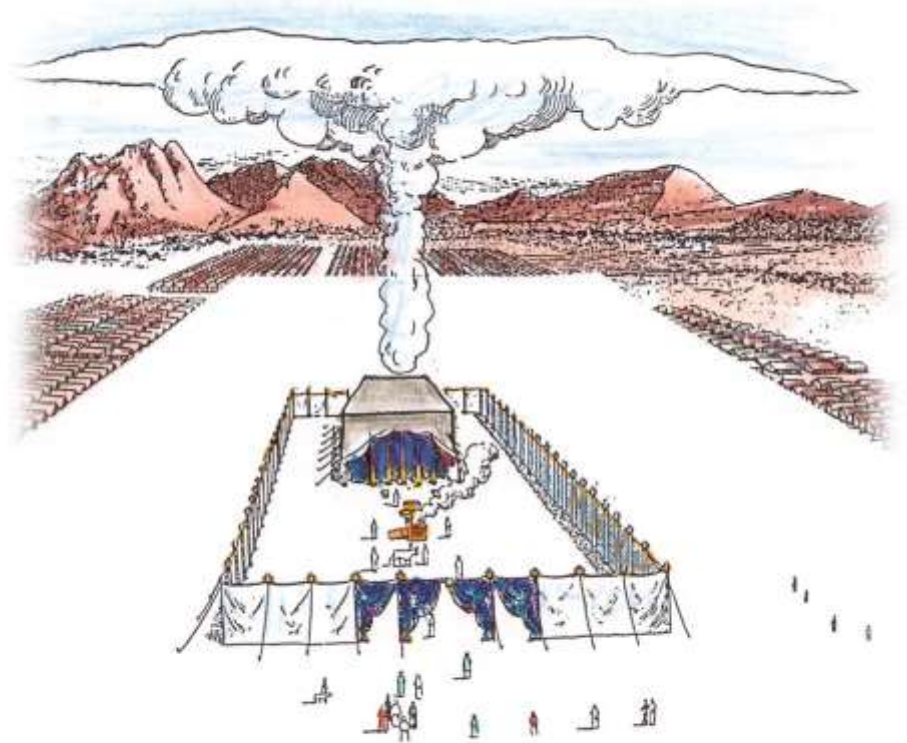
BEHOLD THE LAMB



2. A Journey Through the Sanctuary

The Sanctuary

Let us now see what lessons were taught by what was in the sanctuary

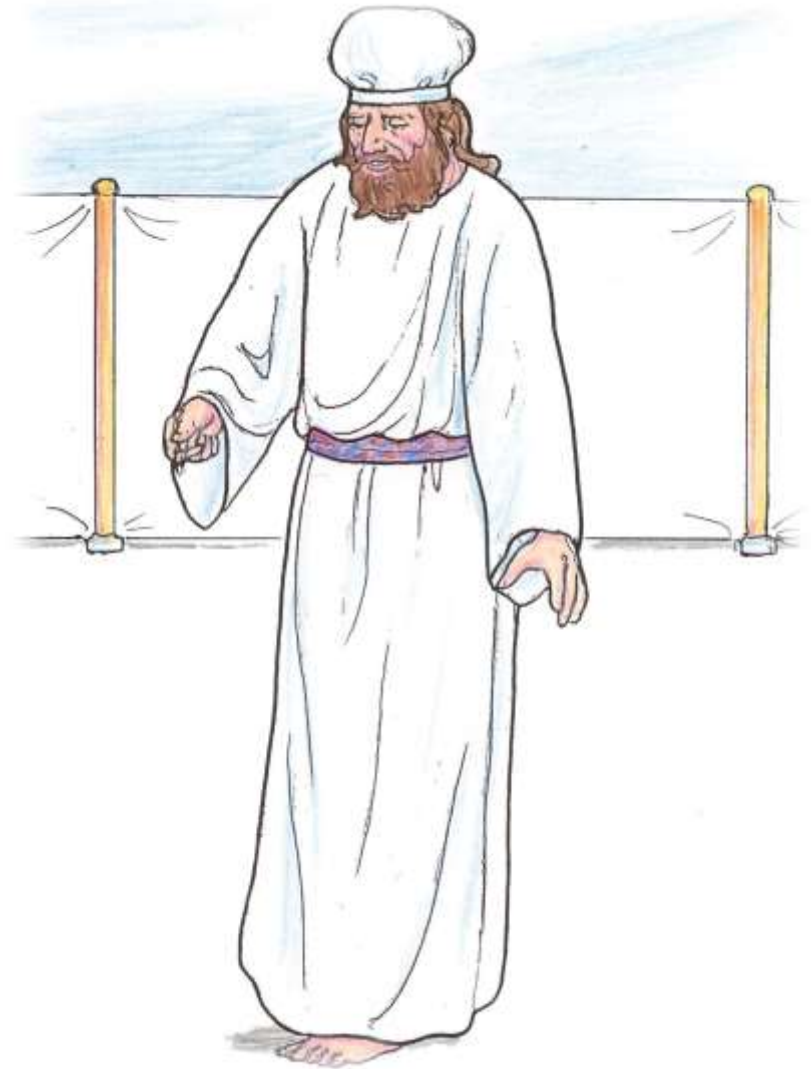


THE COMMON PRIEST ROBE

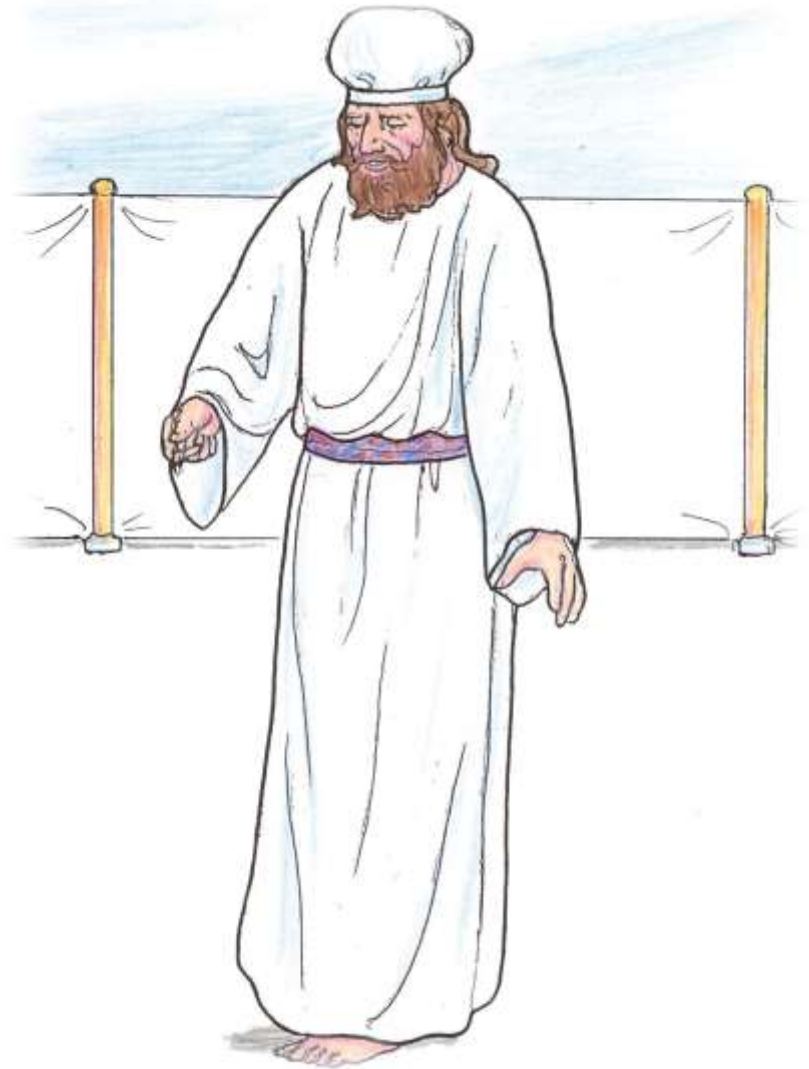
In accordance with their office, a special dress was appointed for the priests.

“Thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, for glory and for beauty.” Exodus 28:2

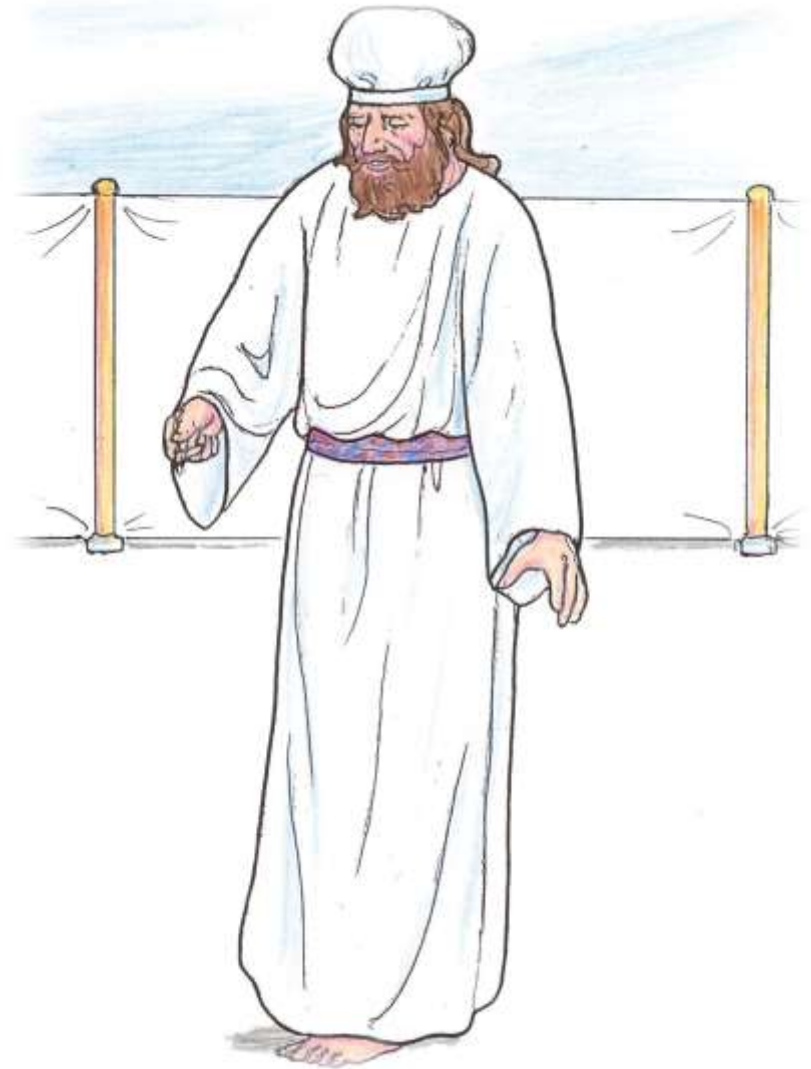
This was the divine direction given to Moses. The robe of the common priest was of white linen and woven in one piece. It extended nearly to the feet, and was confined about the waist by a white linen girdle embroidered in blue, purple, and red.



A linen turban, or miter, completed his outer costume. Moses at the burning bush was directed to put off his sandals, for the ground whereon he stood was holy. So the priests were not to enter the sanctuary with shoes upon their feet. Particles of dust cleaving to them would desecrate the holy place.



They were to leave their shoes in the court before entering the sanctuary, and also to wash both their hands and their feet before ministering in the tabernacle or at the altar of burnt offering. Thus was constantly taught the lesson that all defilement must be put away from those who would approach into the presence of God.



THE HIGH PRIEST ROBE

The garments of the high priest were of costly material and beautiful workmanship. In addition to the linen dress of the common priest, he wore a robe of blue, also woven in one piece. Around the skirt it was ornamented with golden bells, and pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet. Outside of this was the ephod, a shorter garment of gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and white.



It was confined by a girdle of the same colors beautifully wrought. The ephod was sleeveless, and on its gold-embroidered shoulder pieces were set two onyx stones, bearing the name of the twelve tribes of Israel.



All the colors on the high priest's garments had a meaning. Blue represented the perfection of the law. Purple signifies royalty. Scarlet is a symbol of sin or sacrifice. White points to the righteousness of Christ and purity. Gold is a symbol of faith that works by love. The golden bells on the skirt signifies witnessing and the pomegranates represents bearing much fruit.



THE BREASTPLATE

The most sacred of the priests clothes. It was in the form of a square and suspended from the shoulders by a cord of blue from golden rings. The border was formed of different stones set in gold, the same that form the 12 foundations of the city of God. Within the border were 12 stones set in gold arranged in rows of four, and like those in the shoulder pieces, engraved with the names of the tribes



The LORD said, “So Christ, the great high priest, pleading his blood before the Father in the sinners behalf, bears upon his heart the name of every repenting, believing soul.”



On the right and left of the breastplate were two large stones of great brilliancy. These were known as the Urim and Thummim. Through the high priest the will of God was made known. When questions were brought for decision before the LORD, a halo of light encircling the precious stone at the right was a token of divine consent or approval.



When a cloud shadowing the stone at the left was a sign of denial. The Miter, or hat, of the high priest was a white linen turban. A gold plate with the inscription, “Holiness to the LORD” was attached by a lace of blue on the front of the miter. Exodus 28:36-38 When the high priest came before the LORD in the sanctuary, he was to be pure and holy and the worship was to be sacred.



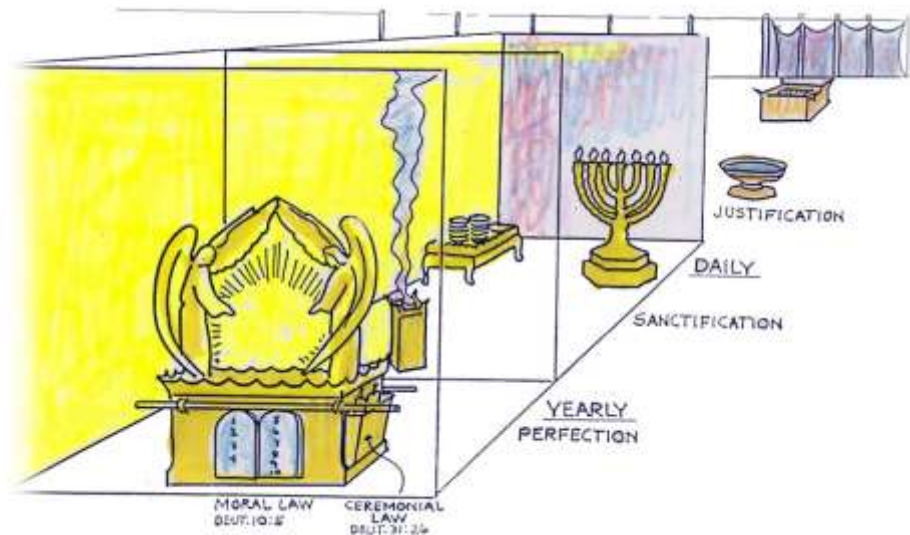
Every morning and evening a lamb of a year old was to be sacrificed. God expressly directed that every offering presented for the service of the sanctuary should be “without blemish.” Only an offering “without blemish” could be a symbol of Christ, the true Lamb of God, Who was to offer himself as “a lamb without blemish and without spot.” 1 Peter 1:19 This was called the daily. Every day a lamb was sacrificed in the morning a 9 am and in the evening at 3 pm.



Paul points to the daily sacrifices as an example of what the followers of Christ are to become. He says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1

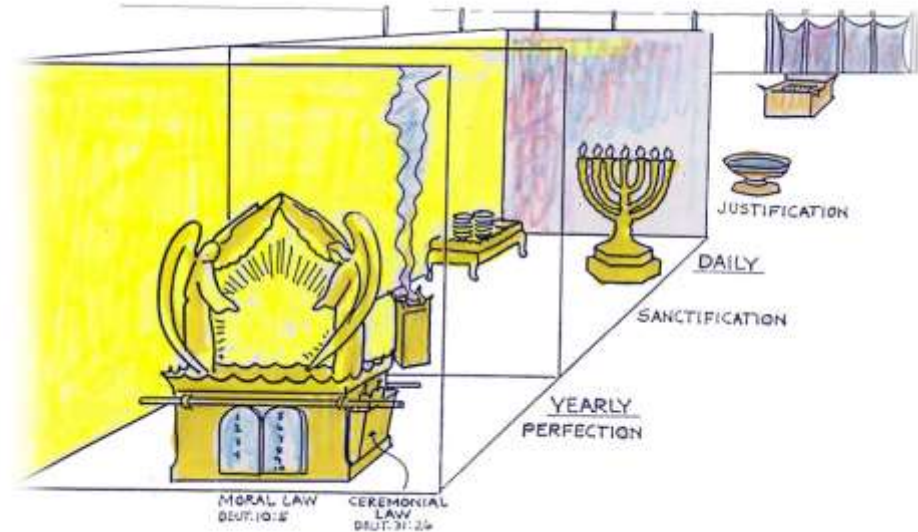


Throughout the year the blood of the victims was brought into the sanctuary and sprinkled “seven times before the LORD, before the veil of the sanctuary.” Leviticus 4:6,17 Immediately behind the veil was the ark containing the tables of the law.



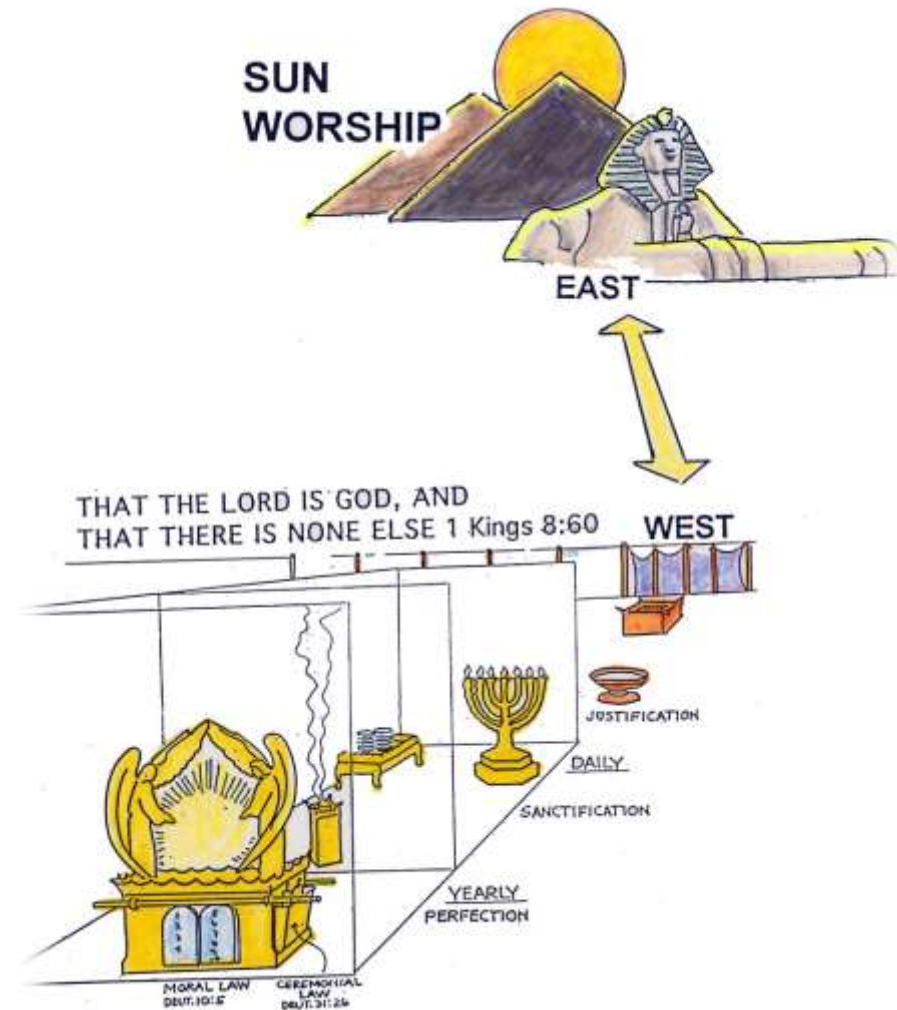
In sinning, men had broken the law, and their transgression demanded atonement. Throughout the year, the sprinkled blood never reached the law. The ark of the covenant containing the 10 commandment law was behind the veil. On the day of atonement, the veil was drawn aside and the blood was sprinkled upon the mercy seat in the most holy place. The blood did not reach the law. The mercy seat covered the law and there the blood rested.

The mercy seat was a type of Christ. As our great High priest Christ stands between us and the law, he is our propitiation, literally a (mercy seat.) Romans 3:25 The law is justice, it condemns the sinner.

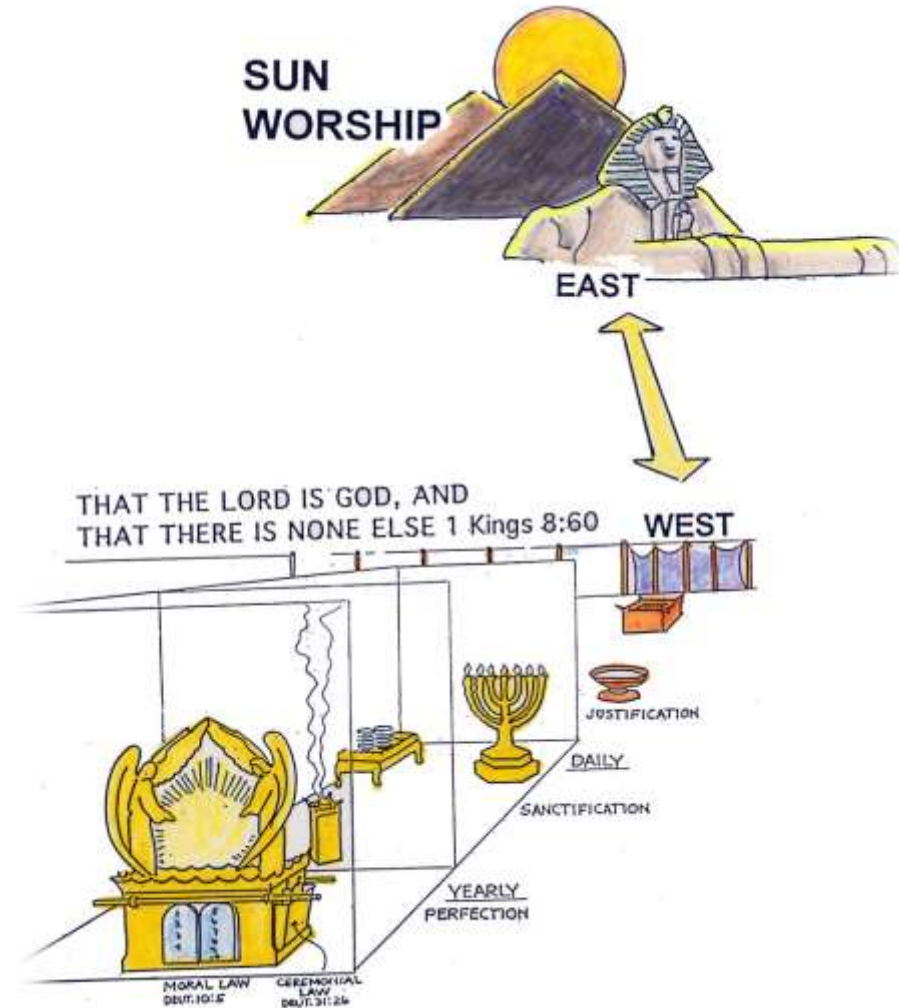


“The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our LORD.” Romans 6:23 “Thy way, O God is in the sanctuary.” Psalm 77:13
“Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:14

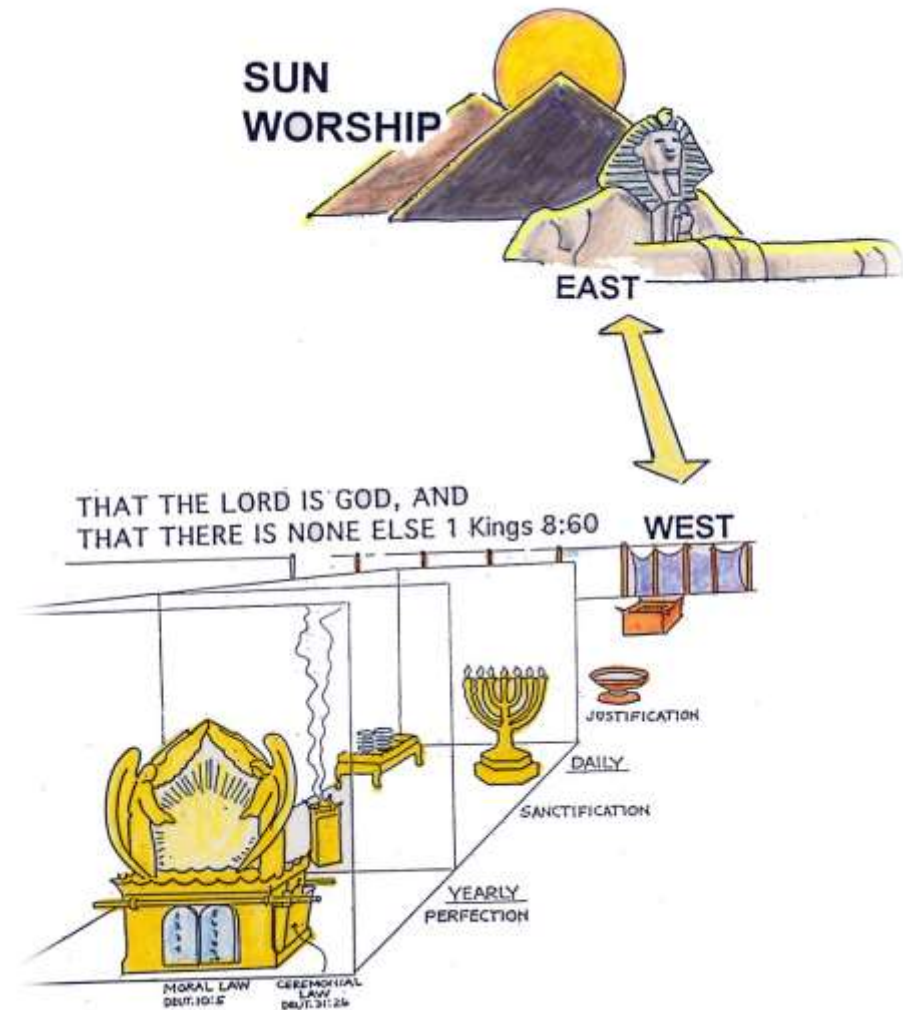
The ark of the testimony, the mercy seat, and the cherubim were placed in the rear part of the tabernacle. Its position was toward the west, so that when the people worshiped toward the holiest place, their backs were always toward the east. While the children of Israel were in Egypt they were continuously exposed to images and temples dedicated to the sun god and sun worship.



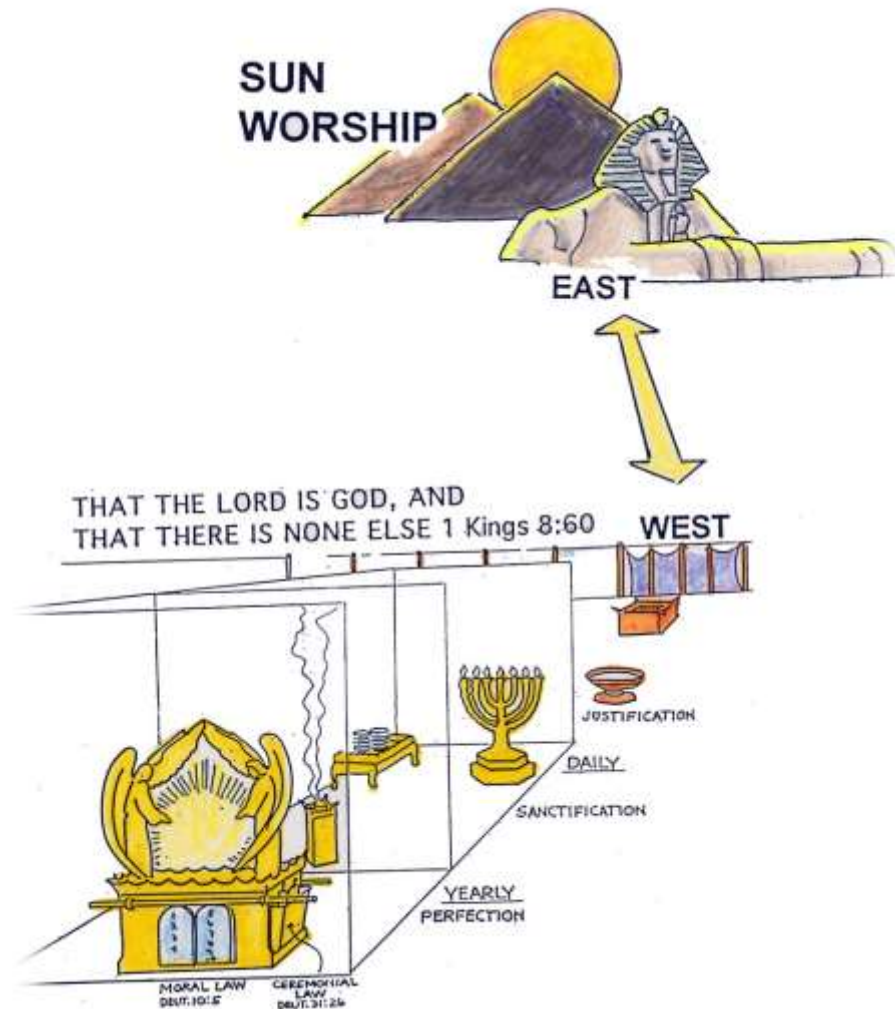
The Egyptians worshiped the created rather than the Creator. And God showed His abhorrence to this idolatrous worship. When the Egyptians worshiped the sun they always faced the east toward the rising sun. In order that they might show their contempt for sun worship, the Hebrews were commanded to turn their backs toward the sun and face west to worship the true creator God.



Whenever the people turned their backs upon the true God and His worship, they always fell into the trap of sun worship. A prime example of this is found in the eighth chapter of Ezekiel.



“Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this o son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD’s house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east, and they worshiped the sun toward the east. Ezekiel 8:15,16



THE BRAZEN ALTAR

In the court nearest the entrance, stood the brazen altar of burnt offering. Upon this altar were consumed all the sacrifices made by fire unto the LORD. On each corner of the altar was a horn which was sprinkled with the blood of the animal sacrifice.



Coming through the door of the outer court the sinner came to the altar of sacrifice to offer a lamb. The altar of burnt offering, as it was also called, was a type of the cross. The Lamb or other animals sacrificed pointed to the “The Lamb of god which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29.



The work of the priest in the outer court represented Christ's ministry on the earth. The lamb, a symbol of the Lamb of God, was tied to a horn of the altar, waiting to be washed ready for the sacrifice. Every part of this altar was brass, a symbol of victory through suffering.



THE LAVER

The Laver was located between the Brazen Altar and the door of the sanctuary. Like the altar it was made of brass, but unlike the altar, it was made by the brass looking glasses of the women.



“And he made the Laver of brass, and the foot of it brass, of the looking glasses of the women assembling, which assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation,” Exodus 38:8

The Laver was filled with water so the priests could wash their hands and feet. They were to be clean when they entered the tabernacle of the congregation.



Within the first apartment of the tabernacle, which was called the holy place, were three articles of furniture. They were the table of showbread, the altar of incense, and the seven branched candlestick. All were made of gold, and represented sanctification in Christian growth.



“ And he put the table in the tent of the congregation, upon the side of the tabernacle northward, without the veil.” And he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses. And he put the candlestick in the tent of the congregation, over against the table, on the side of the tabernacle southward.



And he lighted the lamps before the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses. And he put the golden altar in the tent of the congregation before the veil. And he burnt sweet incense thereon; as the LORD commanded Moses.” Exodus 40:22-27



The show bread was kept ever before the LORD as a perpetual offering. Thus it was a part of the daily sacrifice. It was called show-bread, or “bread of the presence,” because it was ever before the face of the LORD. “And thou shalt set upon the table show-bread before me always.” Exodus 25:30



It was an acknowledgement of man's dependence upon God for both temporal and spiritual food, and that is received only through the mediation of Christ. God had fed Israel in the wilderness with bread from heaven, and they were still dependent upon his bounty both for temporal food and spiritual blessings. Both the manna and the show-bread pointed to Christ, the living bread, who is ever in the presence of God for us.



He himself said, “ I am the living bread which came down from heaven” John 6:51

Frankincense was placed upon the loaves. When the bread was removed every Sabbath, to be replaced by fresh loaves, the frankincense was burned upon the altar as a memorial before God.



THE GOLDEN CANDLESTICK

The pattern of the candlestick was shown to Moses when he was with the LORD on Mt. Sinai for forty days. It was to be one whole piece made from pure gold. The gold was to be beaten which symbolizes the persecution and suffering of Christ and His followers.

The Candlestick, made of a talent of pure gold, weighed about 120 pounds.



The central shaft to which all the branches are joined, represents Christ, and the candlestick as a whole represents God's true church. The design of a bud, blossom, and ripened fruit reveals Christian growth. The oil within the lamp represents the witnessing of God's devoted followers and Christ, the light of the world. The golden Candlestick was placed in the southern portion of the holy place and revealed one of the steps of sanctification.



THE ALTAR OF INCENSE

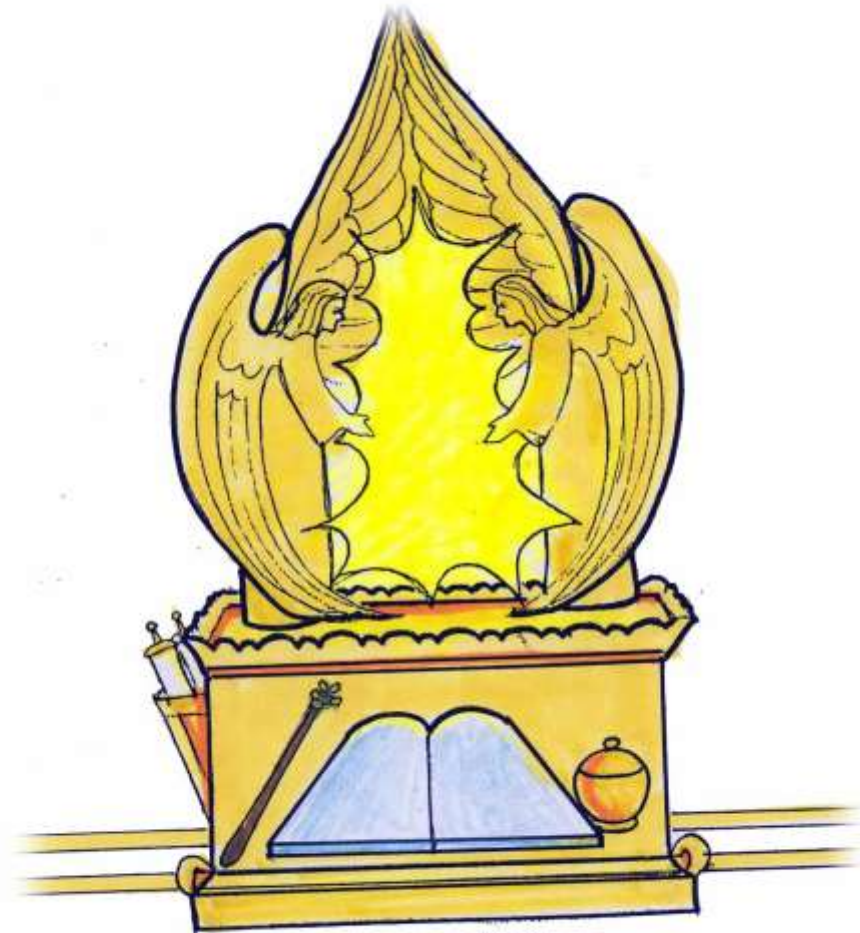
The altar of incense was before the inner veil of the sanctuary. In the offering of incense the priest was brought more directly into the presence of God than any other act of the daily ministration. The priest looked by faith to the mercy seat which he could not see, so the people of God are to direct their prayers to Christ, their great high priest who unseen by human vision is pleading in their behalf in the sanctuary above.



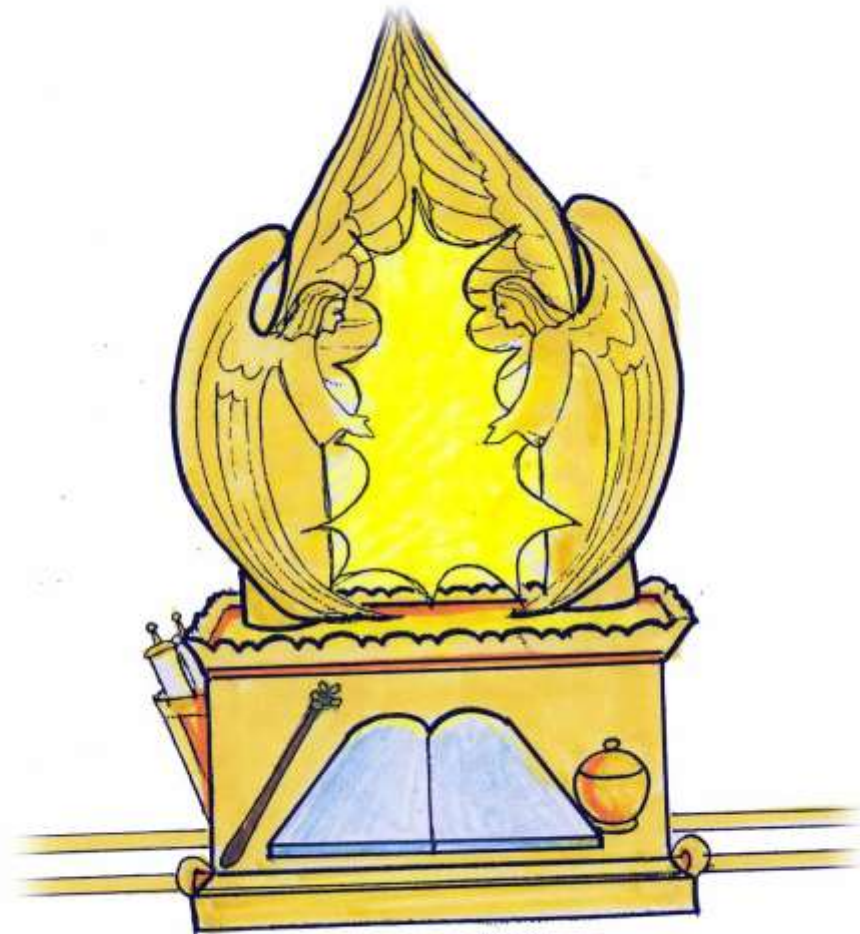
The altar of incense was the prayer altar. It represents our prayers ascending with the incense, toward the heavenly throne. The incense, ascending with the prayers of Israel, represents the merits and intercession of Christ, his perfect righteousness, which through faith is imputed to this people, and which can alone make the worship of sinful beings acceptable to God. The horns on the altar represents the power of prayer and the golden crown at the boarder of the altar represents victory through prayer.



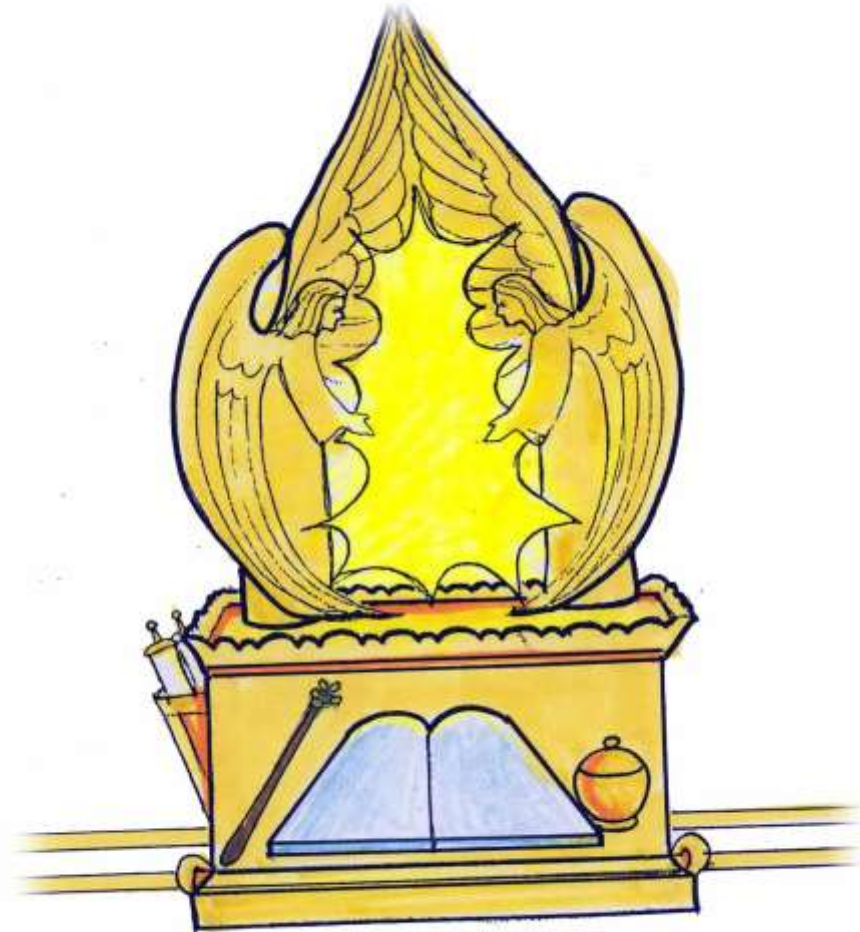
The most holy place in the tabernacle contained the ark of the covenant. Within the ark was the 10 commandments law written with the finger of God. The ark was made of acacia wood, overlaid within and without with gold, and having a crown of gold about the top. It was called the ark of God's testament, or the ark of the covenant, since the 10 commandments were the basis of the covenant made between God and Israel.



The cover of the sacred chest was called the mercy-seat. This was wrought of one solid piece of gold, and was surrounded by golden cherubim, one standing on each end. One wing of each angel was stretched forth on high, while the other was folded over the body in token of reverence and humility. Above the mercy-seat was the shekinah, the manifestation of the divine presence; and from between the cherubim God made known His will by a voice from the cloud.



In Hebrews 9:3-4 we read:
“And after the second veil,
the tabernacle which is
called Holiest of all; which
had the golden censer, and
the ark of the covenant
overlaid round about with
gold, wherein was the
golden pot that had manna,
and Aaron's rod that
budded, and the table of the
covenant.”



The law of God that was within the ark, was the great rule of righteousness and judgment. That law pronounced death upon the transgressor; but above the law was the mercy-seat, upon which the presence of God was revealed, and from which, by virtue of the atonement, pardon was granted to the repentant sinner. Thus in the work of Christ for our redemption, symbolized by the sanctuary service, “mercy and truth are met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.” Psalm 85:10

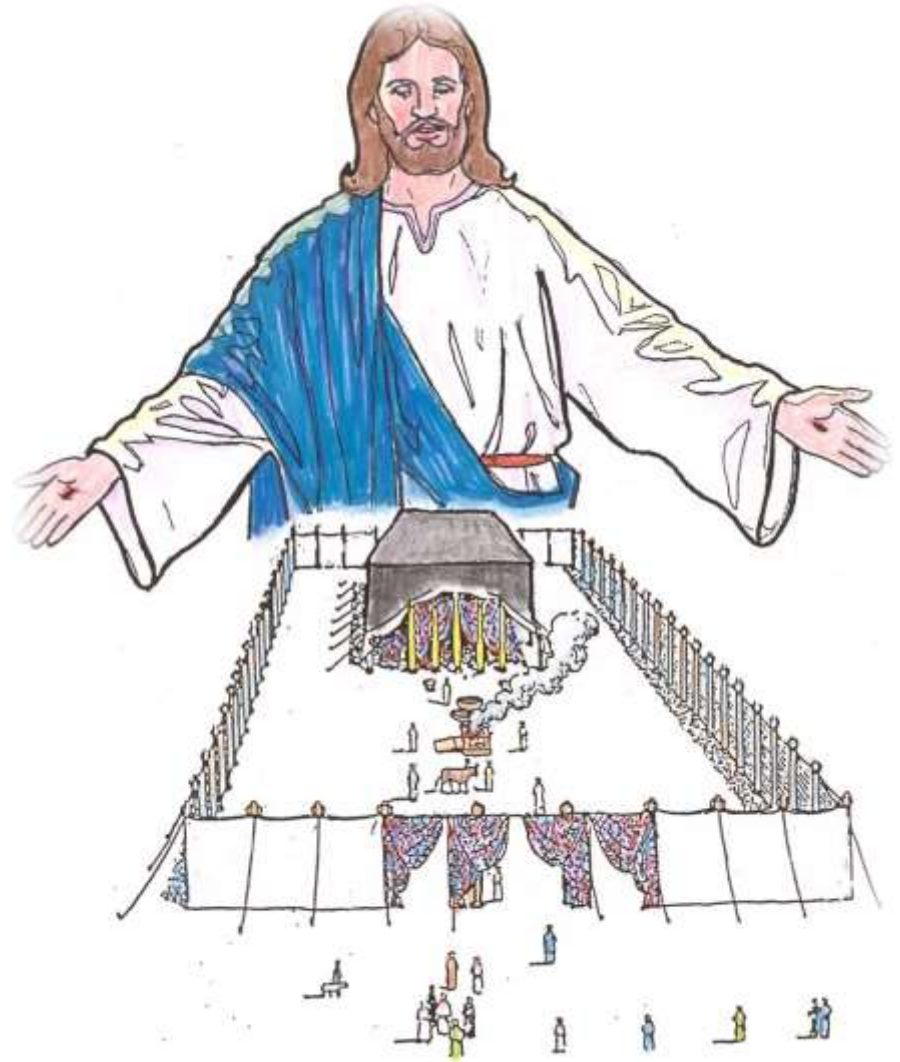


“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our LORD.” Romans 6:23

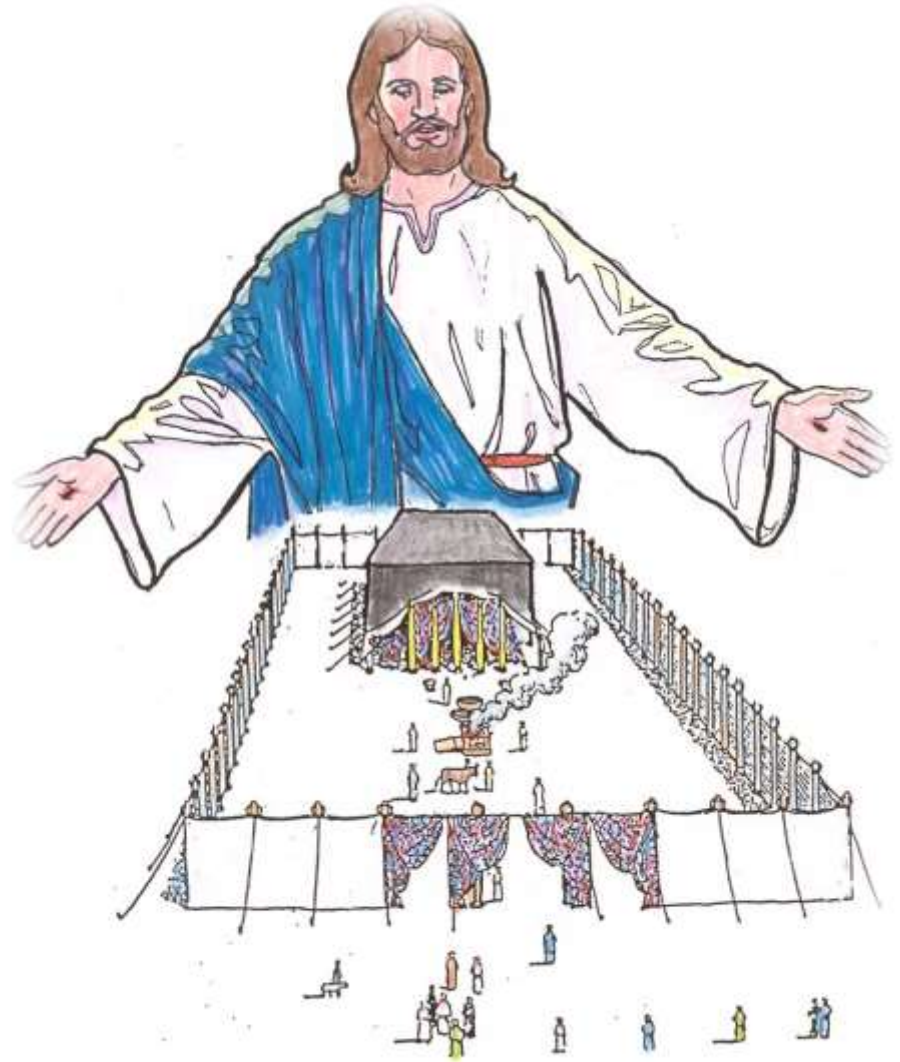
Only the high priest was allowed to enter the most holy place once a year on the solemn day of atonement. When the high priest first entered the most holy place he came in with much incense followed by the sprinkling blood upon the mercy seat above the table of the law. Thus the claims of the law, which demanded the life of the sinner, were satisfied.



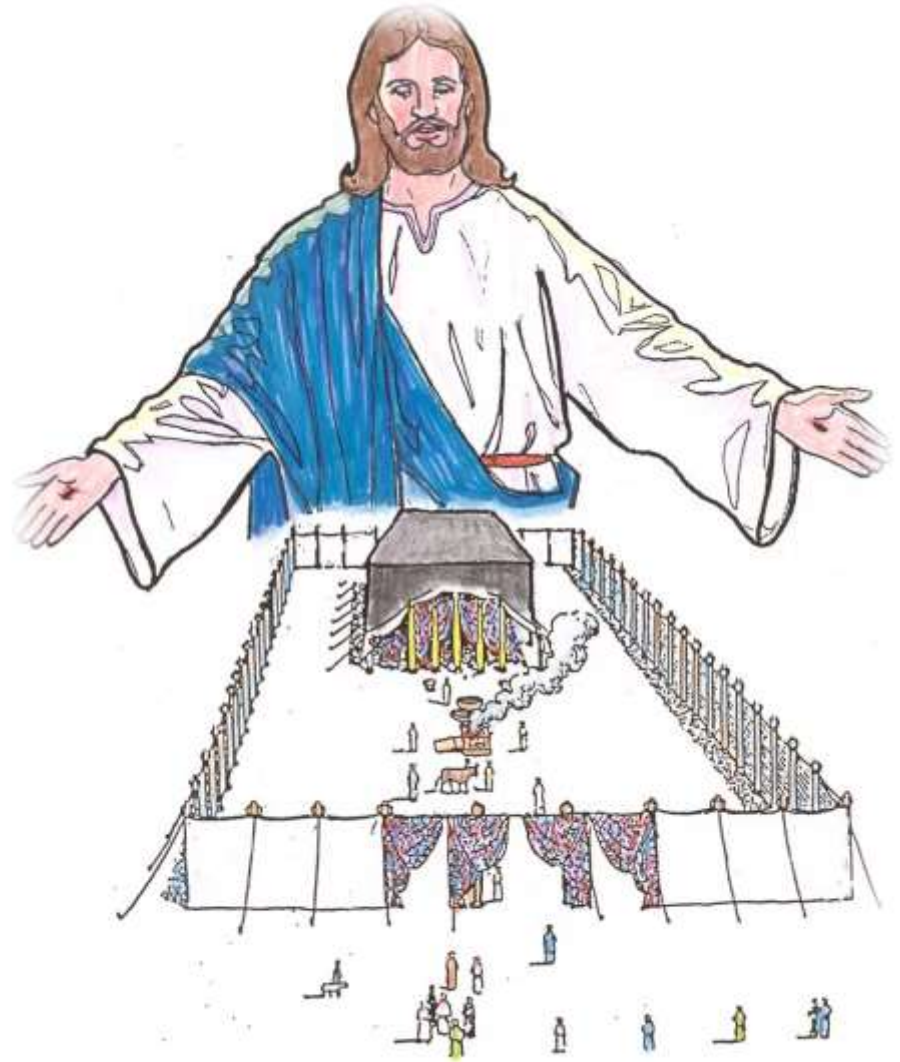
As we come to the sanctuary we see hangings “of fine twine linen.” Exodus 27:9 This represents the righteousness of Christ that is offered to those who seek to do His will. Christ’s righteousness will be seen in His people. Revelation 19:7



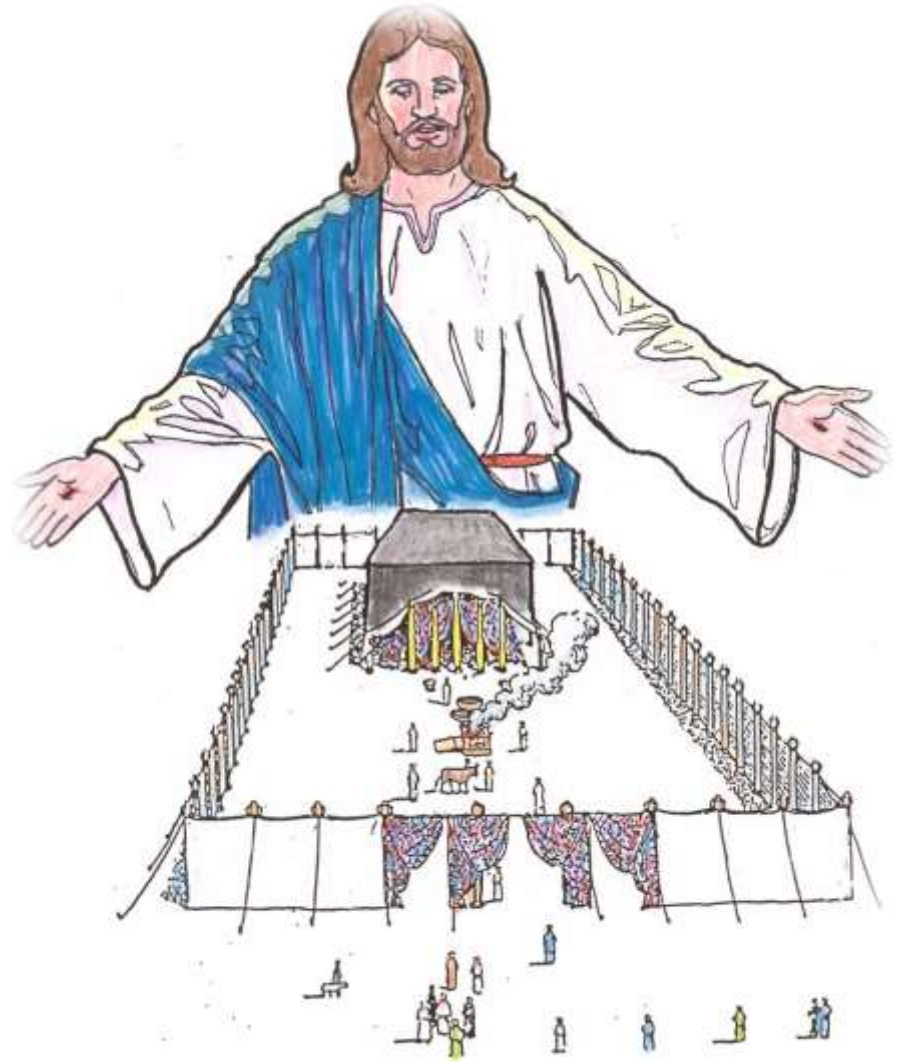
Next we see the gate or door leading into the outer court. “And for the gate of the court shall be an hanging of twenty cubits of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework and their pillars shall be four, and their sockets four.” Exodus 27:16



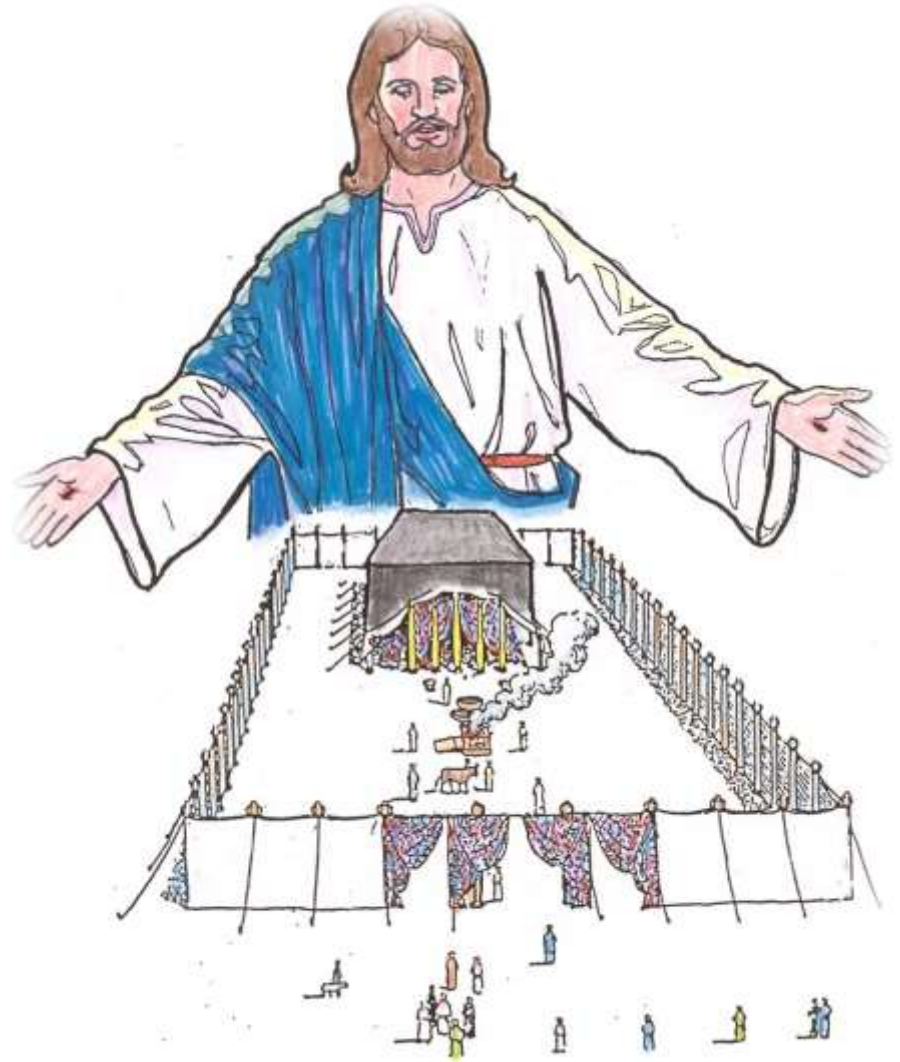
Jesus is symbolized by the gate. John 10:1,7,9. The gate is wide open to all the repentant sinners. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6



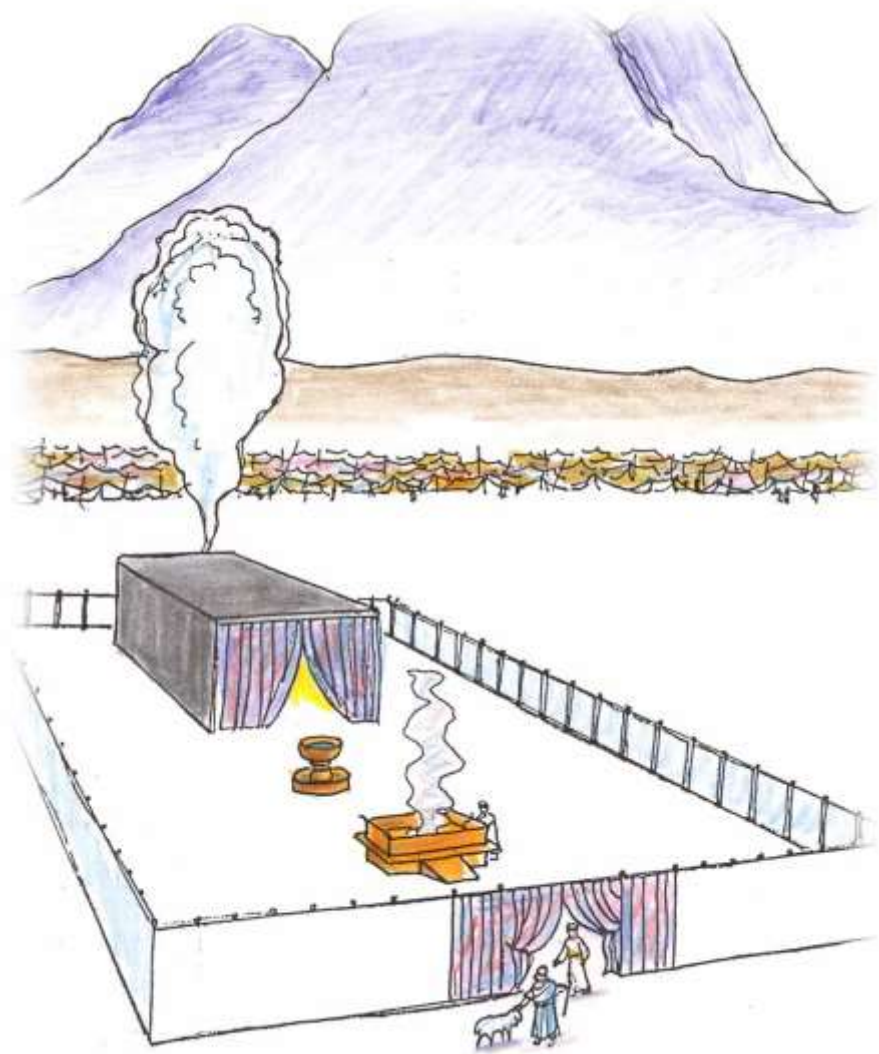
Four pillars held up the curtains of the gate. The colors on the curtains represented the character of Christ. Blue signifies the perfection of the law. Numbers 15:37. Purple represents royalty, Jesus kingship. John 19:2,3 Scarlet refers to service and sacrifice Hebrews 9:22. Gold and silver needle work represents faith and love, divinity and obedience. Silver also refers to the Holy Spirit woven into the life. Exodus 30:12, Revelation 3:18.



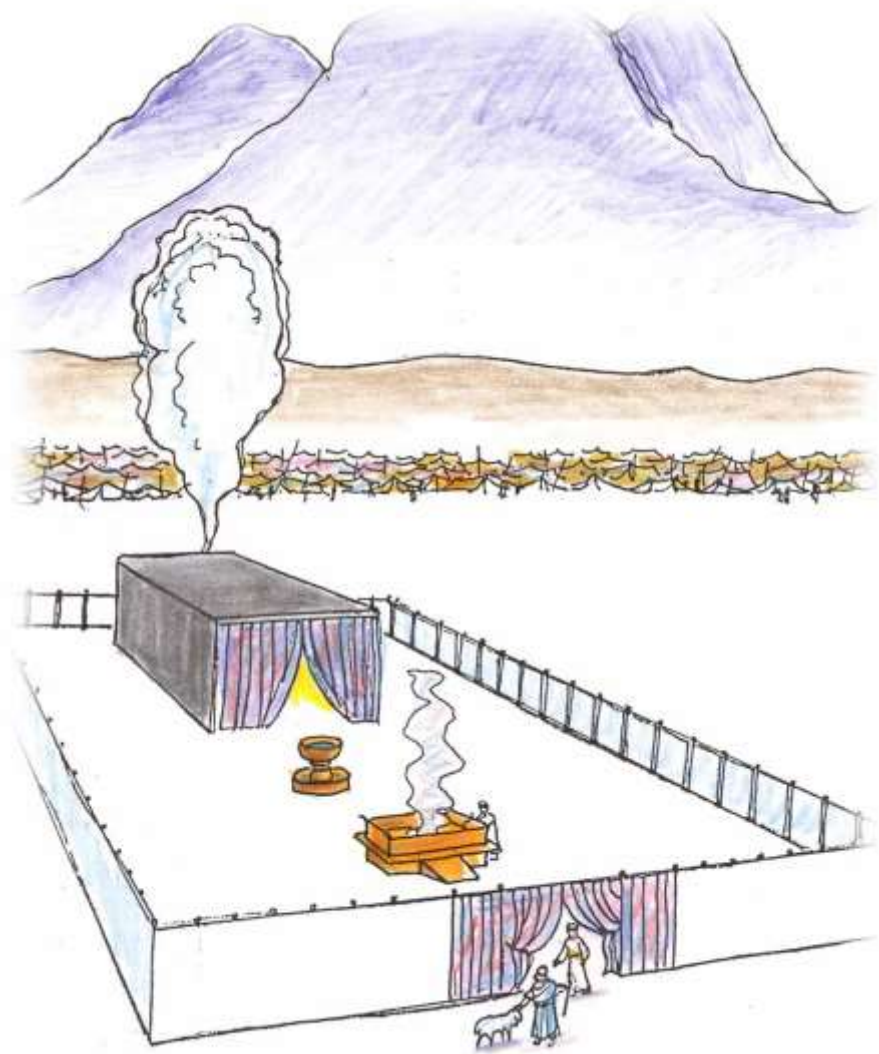
Jesus was hung on the cross with 4 nails driven through His hands and feet.



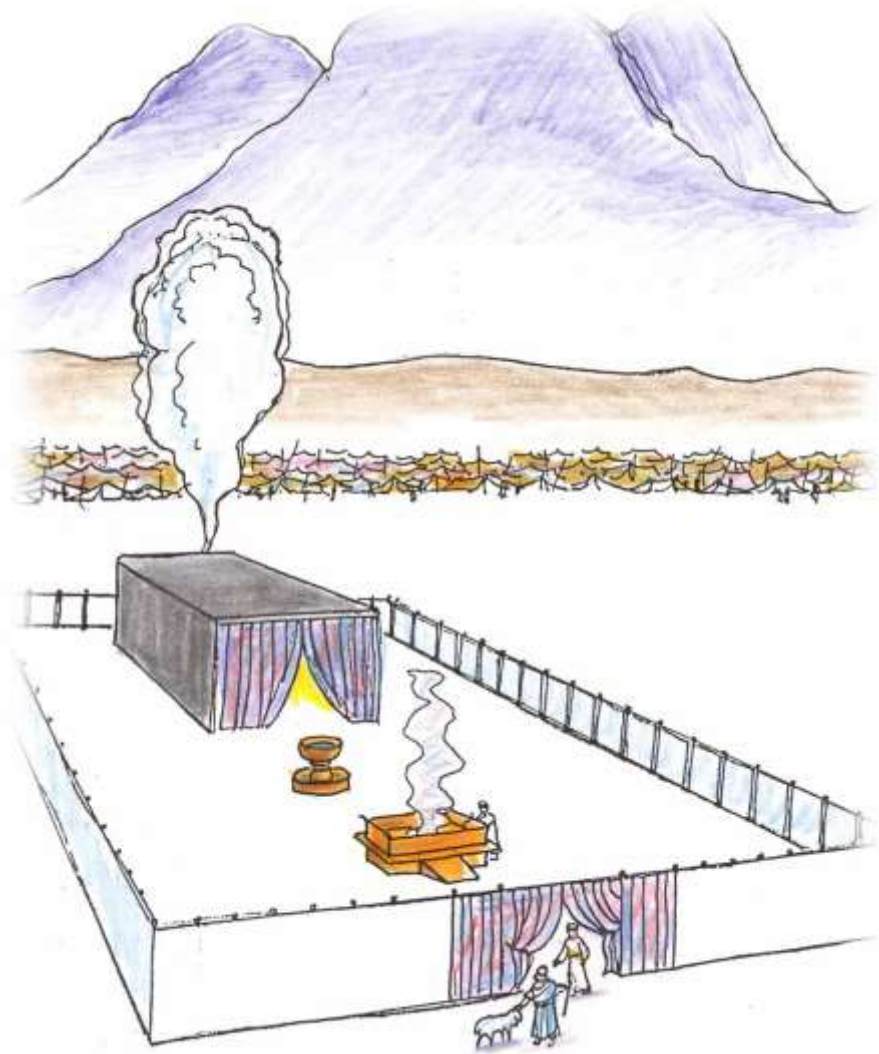
The purpose of God for the Israelites was to make known to the world, as well as to them, His plans and wishes, concerning His great salvation from sin through Jesus Christ. God made it so plain, and simple, and clear, that everyone could understand His will in the object lessons revealed in the sanctuary.



The tabernacle in the wilderness was the means that God used not only to reveal Himself in Christ's ministry on earth, but also His ministry in heaven. The outer court represented Christ's work on earth while the holy and most holy places revealed Christ's work in heaven. Christ the lamb was the object lesson in the outer court. The altar of sacrifice represented the cross upon which the Lamb of God was to be crucified. His baptism was revealed in the Laver.



In the holy and most holy place we see Christ as the Great High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary. One cannot understand Christ's mediatorial work in the heavenly sanctuary without understanding the object lessons revealed in the earthly sanctuary. This was the purpose of the earthly tabernacle given to the Israelites as they traveled in the wilderness for forty years.



BEHOLD THE LAMB



To learn about the Sanctuary Services: See part 3