# A Discussion and Introduction on the Tabernacle

**Why Study This**

Christianity its roots in Judaism. This makes it all the more important that we should understand the relationship between Judaism, which is the Tabernacle sacrifices, and Christianity, which is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

So the great importance of the Tabernacle is that God through the Tabernacle demonstrated in shadow how He would extend mercy without abolishing His commandments. Through the Tabernacle, the Israelites had the gospel preached to them. Hebrews 4:2 says, For unto us was the gospel preached as well as unto them.

The New Testament is in the Old Testament, but it is concealed the Old Testament. Is in the New Testament, but it is revealed. The book of Hebrews testifies to the fact that the wilderness Tabernacle is a pattern of the Tabernacle which is in heaven itself.

God meets with us and shows us the way. We need merely follow Him.

**The Tabernacle Pattern**

God gives Moses the pattern (Exodus 40); this includes the main furniture pieces.

Why? Because God wants a place to dwell with His people Israel during their journey from Egypt to the Promise Land.

God’s presence and glory appears and rests on and in the Tabernacle.

The tabernacle consisted of three divisions through which one must pass to reach the presence of God: the outer courtyard, the holy place, and the Holy of Holies (see Exodus 25–30)

God dwelt in the Holy of Holies.

**Isaiah 57:15 -- For thus says the High and Lofty One  
Who inhabits eternity, whose name *is* Holy:  
“I dwell in the high and holy *place,*  
With him *who* has a contrite and humble spirit,  
To revive the spirit of the humble,  
And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.**

Why should we care? Because Paul refers to our own bodies as the temple of God.

**1 Cor 3:16-17 -- 16Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.**

Because we are designed and made in the same manner, man also has the same three major sections as the Temple.

**1 Thess 5:23 -- 23Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Body = Outer Court

Soul = Holy Place

Spirit = Holy of Holies

So, now we see the connection between God’s dwelling place in the Temple and where He resides in us.

There are seven major pieces of furniture in the Temple.

* Outer Court
  + Brazen Altar – where sacrifices were slain.
  + Laver – where the priest would wash before entering into the Holy Place. Ministry of separation and sanctification.
* Holy Place
  + Table of Shewbread – where the manna was presented.
  + Menorah – golden lamp stand.
  + Golden Altar – where incense was burned.
* Holy of Holies
  + The Ark of the Covenant (Testimony) – contained the following items (see Hebrews 9:4):
    - Manna – God’s sustaining power, the word
    - Ten Commandments – the Law and contract they broke
    - Aaron’s rod that budded – reminder of the rebellion against God’s leader
  + The Mercy Seat
    - On top of the ark was a lid called the mercy seat on which rested the cloud or visible symbol of the divine presence. Here God was supposed to be seated, and from this place He was supposed to dispense mercy to man when the blood of the atonement was sprinkled there.

These seven pieces of furniture represent the seven-step approach for experiencing the presence of God in your life and how to get closer. This same process should be our daily process.

**Luke 9:23 -- 23Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. 25For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?**

**The Role of the High Priest**

Leviticus 16 outlines how the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies only once a year on the Day of Atonement. This was the only time he could be “face-to-face” with God.

It is the most solemn day of the Jewish calendar. It was a day of fasting and self denial. The High Priest was entirely responsible for carrying out the activities for this day.

Israel would be very concerned because if the High Priest failed or was unclean, the sins of the sacrifices would not be accepted and the sins of the people would remain uncovered for another year. They even had a backup priest just in case God took out the first priest. It was serious business if your sins were not atoned for.

Steps:

As the priest made his way to the altar tradition says he would say “touch me not”.

Priest made an offering for himself.

Then he would wash and change his clothes and put on white linen.

Next, he would make an offering for the people and the temple.

Two goats would be sacrificed. One of the goats is immediately killed for the people as a sin offering.

The blood is sprinkled all over the temple to make atonement. The blood is sprinkled from the east seven times on the Mercy Seat. See 1 Peter 1:2.

Priest takes the scape goat. Priest places both hands on the head of the goat and transfers the sins of the people to the scape goat. The goat is sent away by a strong man into the wilderness.

The priest takes off the linen garments he was wearing after making atonement since they are stained with blood.

Lev 16:30 -- **30**For on that day *the priest* shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, *that* you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord.

This was symbolic, but God is showing us through this practice what was going to happen for real.

Just like Israel had a High Priest who made atonement for the sins of the people with God, we have an even greater High Priest who handles our sins.

**Christ as Our Great High Priest**

Hebrews explains in greater detail the application.

Hebrews 2:17 -- **17**Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 3 -- Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, **2**who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house. **3**For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. **4**For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God. **5**And Moses indeed *was* faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward,* **6**but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

Hebrews 4 -- **12**For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Our Compassionate High Priest**

**14**Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. **15**For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are,* *yet* without sin. **16**Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 9 -- **6**Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. **7**But into the second part the high priest *went* alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and *for* the people’s sins *committed* in ignorance; **8**the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. **9**It *was* symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience— **10***concerned* only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.

**The Heavenly Sanctuary**

**11**But Christ came *as* High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. **12**Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. **13**For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, **14**how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? **15**And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

**23**Therefore *it was* necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. **24**For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, *which are* copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

**Note:** This is way Jesus after his resurrection in John 20 tells Mary, don’t touch me because I have not yet ascended yet to the Father. This is the same sentence the High Priest reportedly used says.

Hebrews 10 -- **19**Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, **20**by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, **21**and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, **22**let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled 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 one another in order to stir up love and good works, **25**not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another,* and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Christ is a better deal. He sits, doesn’t stand.

Discuss delivering from an evil conscience. The condemnation is over.

I’ve been sprinkled. 1 Peter 1:2

Mercy trumps my sins. Brothers, be free.

See 1 John 2:1-2 -- My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. **2**And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

**Application for Today. You Are a Priest. Come Correct.**

Follow the steps.

John 14: 6 -- **3**And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. **4**And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

**5**Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

**6**Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

The Way – Outer Court – Relationship

The Truth – Holy Place – Discipleship

The Life – Holy of Holies - Fellowship

We can remain children or we can grow up. There is a difference between conversion and discipleship.

**1 Peter 2 -- 5you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

**9But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.**

Question: Is your church a beautiful place to worship.

* Our body is designed to be a place of worship.
  + It is a privilege to be selected as a priest.
  + The priest role is one of service.
* What was once only the privilege of the Old Testament priest, is now open to all. There is no longer a separation. We don’t rely on man, we have Jesus and He has given us access that didn’t exist before for all people.
* We can truly now work out our own salvation.
* How to enter your temple….if you enter with pride….that’s a problem.
  + See Leviticus 10 and the example of strange fire. What does strange fire look like today?

Each step by each piece of furniture takes you closer in relationship with God. Follow them daily.

You can experience level 7 peace right now. You can be free right now. It starts on the inside. You will start to be blessed on purpose. Process brings peace. Abraham for example enjoyed the promise Land before it was actually his. So, your physical limitations can’t keep you from what God has for you.

**End Time Prophesy**

**Rev 19**

**11**Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. **12**His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. **13**He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. **14**And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. **15**Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. **16**And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND  
LORD OF LORDS.

**The Beast and His Armies Defeated**

**17**Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, **18**that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people,* free and slave, both small and great.”

**19**And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. **20**Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. **21**And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Galatians 5 -- **16**I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. **17**For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. **18**But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

**19**Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, **20**idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, **21**envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**22**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. **24**And those *who are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25**If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Summary: Review Philippians Chapter 2.

See Podcasts on the Tabernacle lessons.