THE OLD TESTAMENT TABERNACLE

A PICTURE AND PATTERN
FOR
THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH TO FOLLOW

The New is in the Old concealed
The Old is in the New revealed

The New is in the Old contained
The Old is in the New explained

The New is in the Old foreshown
The New is in the New full known

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PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION
BEFORE STUDYING THIS BOOK ON THE TABERNACLE AND CHURCH
Hebrews 7:23 – 8:5

Many people become confused when they study the "Four Gospels"; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, because they do not understand that much of what the Lord Jesus was using to teach the Jews in these four books, was based on the Old Testament Tabernacle. Please bear with me as I endeavor to explain the meaning of that statement without going into an in-depth study of theology!

The "Four Gospels" are part of the New Testament Cannon of Scripture. However, almost the entire "content of the Four Gospels" is not part of "New Testament theology." At the time that Christ was on earth there was no "New Testament" church. Hebrews 9:15-17 makes it clear, beyond any debate, that the "New Testament church" did not begin until after the death of Christ.

"And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."

If you will understand and keep in mind as you read and study the Four Gospels as we study the Tabernacle, that the Lord Jesus was: (1) Dealing primarily with the Jews, not the Gentiles (John 1:12). The Gospel was shared with the Gentiles in Acts Chapter 10. (2) Jesus was using "the things the Jews knew," to teach them. The only thing that the Jews knew was the Old Testament Tabernacle. He was endeavoring to "open their eyes" to the truth that He, Jesus, was their Messiah. What did the Jews know about a coming Messiah? Since the day they were born, the only thing the Jews were taught was the Tabernacle. Later, the furniture of the Tabernacle was moved to Solomon's Temple, but the "teaching" remained the same. The Tabernacle, and later Solomon's Temple, WAS THE CENTER of the religion and worship of the Israelites throughout the entire Old Testament.

The Jews had never heard of "a church" of any kind! The word "church" is not found anywhere in the Old Testament. There had never been a church until after the four Gospels were complete. The first New Testament church was founded in Act 2:42-47. All that the Jews knew, was the Tabernacle. Therefore, everything Christ talked about with the Jews was, in some way, related to the Tabernacle. If you will remember this simple Bible truth, you will begin to see the "Tabernacle" in almost every part of the Four Gospels. Also, if you will remember this simple Bible truth it will help you to "rightly understand" the Scriptures.

Many people have a difficult time understanding the Book of Hebrews. That may be because much of the book of Hebrews is directed to the Jews. The Jews fully understood the illustrations used in the book of Hebrews. They understood because the illustrations and teachings of the book of Hebrews are about the Tabernacle.

This is especially true of Chapters 7 through 10. In these four chapters the writer referred to and used "The Tabernacle," which the Jews were familiar with, to show them the work of the LORD Jesus Christ.

Now, let me share a principles which will help you as we study the Tabernacle. In Ezekiel 3:15, Ezekiel said, *"I sat where they sat and remained there astonished among them seven days."* To understand and get the most out of a study of the Tabernacle, in our minds we need to try to "sit where they sat." Try to "sit" where the Jews sat, and "think" like the Jews thought! Try to imagine what you would be thinking if you were back in that time, and you were "sitting and listening" as they did in those days. Today, when we sit and listen, we are thinking about the New Testament church. However, the thinking of every Jew was centered around the Tabernacle. They NEVER heard of a "church" as there was no church in those days! Please try to "sit where they sat."

The same teaching which the Jews received concerning the Tabernacle in the Old Testament is available to us today. The innumerable truths about many things about Christ, about the church, about believers, about the cross, about salvation, about meeting with God, and about our daily life, is pictured in the Tabernacle. Also, to understand "The Tabernacle" will help us understand the Book of Hebrews, and to understand the Book of Hebrews enables us to better understand to a greater degree, the Tabernacle, and its many applications to the local church. Hebrews 8:1-5 is an example of that.

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount."

CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION OF THE TABERNACLE
Exodus 25:1-9

Exodus 24:9-18 tells us that "God called Moses to the top of Mt. Sinai" and Moses met with God personally for forty days and forty nights. This is VERY IMPORTANT to remember that "God Himself" met with Moses and gave him the instructions for building the Tabernacle.

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass, And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate. And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to ***all that I shew thee****, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it."*

These nine verses are the beginning of the instructions to build the Tabernacle which God gave Moses. God not only gave Moses instructions for building the Old Testament Tabernacle, but literally, God "shewed" Moses the Tabernacle in Heaven, as declared in Hebrews 8:5, which says, *"Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount."* In Exodus 25:9, and in several other places, God gave Moses three clear and distinct things that he could not do when building the Tabernacle.

God said, *"…make it after the pattern."* In language we understand, God made Moses the "General Contractor" overseeing the building of the Tabernacle. These three things are clearly declared in several verses. God told Moses, (1) I am not leaving anything to your discretion. You do not have my permission to change "one dotting of the 'I' or one crossing of the 'T'! (2) God basically said, "I am giving you the most skillful builders in all of Israel. (Exodus 31:1-11), However, I do not allow you to give them permission to make any changes in the building of the Tabernacle." (3) Also, you are not allowed to make any changes in the pattern, "to please the people!" (This restriction which God gave Moses has been grossly violated by the church today! We will cover that later in the book). To make any small change in anything God instructed Moses to do, would change and cause confusion in the New Testament church today. Nothing God instructs us to do can be changed, added to, or taken away from, like the truth of salvation, sanctification, the function of the church, Jesus Christ, and many other things!

It is for this reason that the Holy Spirit, on at least five occasions in Scripture, Exodus 25:9, 25:40, 26:30, Acts 7:44 and Hebrews 8:5, clearly stated to Moses that he was to build the Tabernacle **"according to the pattern God showed him!" The church needs to learn from that statement!**

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

The commandment given by God to Moses concerning not allowing man to make changes to God's instructions can be traced back to Exodus 20:25 and Joshua 8:30-31. This is a clear Bible principle which can be found throughout the Bible. Despite that principle being repeated again and again, churches today are making "changes, adding to, and taking away" from God's plan, and using "worldly methods" thinking they are "helping God with His work!" GOD DOES NOT NEED OUR HELP! Churches today do not believe that "the power of the Holy Spirit" is all that the church needs. (Zechariah 6:4).

AN OVERVIEW OF THE TABERNACLE

It is very important for you to have a picture of the entire Tabernacle in your mind before we begin our study of the details and make the applications to the New Testament church's principles and practices. I will try to divide this into sections to give you a picture of exactly what the Tabernacle looks like. REMEMBER, THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN OVERVIEW! Everything in the "overview" will be explained in great detail, and then explain what it pictures for us in the New Testament later in the book. Please refer to the diagram as we give this overview so you will have a "picture in your mind" of the entire Tabernacle in the wilderness.

THE OUTER COURT

The Tabernacle had what is called an "Outer Court" which was a curtain, that totally surrounded the Outer Court. It was like a "fence" around the entire Tabernacle. That "fence" is called a "curtain" and is explained in Exodus 27:9-15, which we will not look at now, but will cover in detail later. It is vitally important!

THE FURNITURE IN THE OUTER COURT

There were "two pieces of furniture" in the outer court. First, there was the "Brazen Altar," which was immediately inside the "gate" (Exodus 27:1). Second, there was the Brazen Laver, which was directly in front of the Holy Place.

THE TABERNACLE BUILDING

The Tabernacle, which was inside the Outer Court" was 15' X 45' long, and the walls were 15' high (Exodus 26:16). It was divided into two rooms. The first room is where priests entered the Tabernacle daily to serve. It was called the Holy Place. The Holy Place was 30 feet long and 15 feet wide. There was a "veil" which covered the entrance of the Holy Place. The second room in the Tabernacle was directly behind the Holy Place and was called the Most Holy Place. The Most Holy Place was 15 feet wide, 15 feet long, and the walls were 15 feet high. There was also a "Veil" which separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

THE FURNITURE IN THE HOLY PLACE

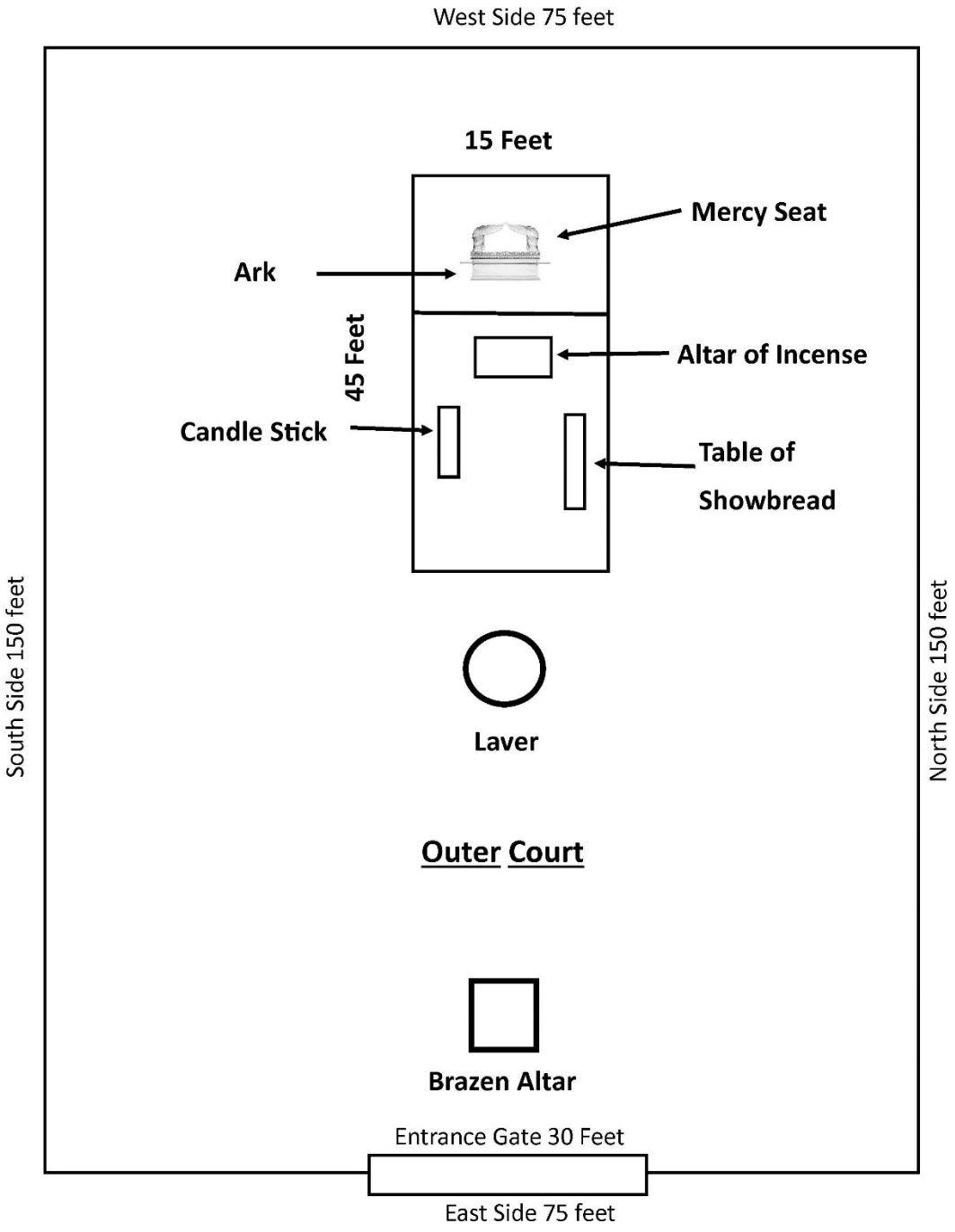
There were three pieces of furniture in the first room, which is called the Holy Place. First, there was the "Golden Candle Stick" which was on the south side of the Holy Place. Second,

there was the "Table of Shewbread," which was on the north side of the Holy Place as you entered the room. It was directly across from the Candlestick. Third, there was the Altar of Incense, which was located in the center, and at the very back of the Holy Place. It was directly in front of the veil which separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

THE FURNITURE IN THE MOST HOLY PLACE

There were two pieces of furniture in the second room, called the Holy of Holies. First, there was an Ark made from Shittim wood and overlayed with gold. Second, there was the Mercy Seat, which was located on top of the Golden Ark.

The Tabernacle — Not drawn to Scale



CHAPTER TWO
THE OUTER COURT, WHAT IT PICTURES, AND HOW IT APPLIES TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

When God gave Moses the instructions for building the Tabernacle, He began where everything should begin. God began with "the Ark and the Mercy Seat" in Exodus 25:10-22. God Himself is the "center" of the Tabernacle and should be the "center" of everything in our church and in our life. After beginning with the "Ark and the Mercy Seat" God gave Moses the various sections and various parts of the Tabernacle and explained how they fit together. Everything in the Tabernacle was "built around The Ark" which is where God said He would meet with His people. That is stated in Exodus 25:22. *"And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel."*

THE CURTAIN AROUND THE OUTER COURT

I am going to try to paint a clear picture that we understand today, and a simple picture of the entire Tabernacle. We will begin from the outside and work in. The first visual item is the "curtain around the outer court." That is explained in Exodus 27:9-15.

"And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle: for the south side southward there shall be hangings for the court of fine twined linen of an hundred cubits long for one side: And the twenty pillars thereof and their twenty sockets shall be of brass; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets shall be of silver. And likewise for the north side in length there shall be hangings of an hundred cubits long, and his twenty pillars and their twenty sockets of brass; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets of silver. And for the breadth of the court on the west side shall be hangings of fifty cubits: their pillars ten, and their sockets ten. And the breadth of the court on the east side eastward shall be fifty cubits. The hangings of one side of the gate shall be fifteen cubits: their pillars three, and their sockets three. And on the other side shall be hangings fifteen cubits: their pillars three, and their sockets three."

As shared above the "outer court" had a 7' to 8' white curtain which surrounded the entire outside of the court, and the Tabernacle. The curtain served as a fence around the entire outer court and the Tabernacle. Everything from that "curtain" to the Most Holy Place was totally enclosed by the "curtain," or fence, around the Outer Court. The Bible always uses "cubits" in giving measurements. I am using the round figures of a cubit, equal to 1 1/2 feet. The length of the "Outer Court Curtain" was one hundred cubits long, which would be 150 feet, and the width was fifty cubits, which would be 75 feet wide (Exodus 27:18). The "west end" of the Outer Court was made of the same fine twined linen. However, the east end of the “outer court” had a “gate.” The gate was in the center of the east end and was twenty cubits wide, which would be a 30-foot gate. The "gate" was made of out of "Blue, Purple, Scarlet, and White." (Exodus 27:16). We will study that later.

The curtain surrounding the Outer Court stood for two basic things. **First**, the curtain was made of "fine twined white linen. In those days, that white curtain pictured the "purity, righteousness and sinlessness." **Second**, the curtain which surrounded the entire outer court and Tabernacle building, pictures "total separation of Israel from the world!"

A Picture of the Purity and Righteousness of Christ

The curtain which was around the Outer Court in the Old Testament, is a picture of the "purity and righteousness," of our Lord Jesus Christ. *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"* (II Corinthians 5:21).

A Picture of The Church Being Separated from the World.

The curtain which surrounded the Outer Court in the Old Testament, pictures the New Testament church being totally separated from ANYTHING pertaining to the outside world or world system. In II Corinthians 6:17-18, God said, *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and* ***touch not*** *the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."*

"Touch not the unclean thing!" The word "touch" comes from the Greek word, "haptomai," which, according to Strong's Greek Concordances, means "do not attach to, in any way, or even touch the unclean thing." Without further explanation, we all know that everything in the world system is unclean. We are not so much as to touch it! The church is NOT TO BRING ANYTHING PERTAINING TO THE WORLD SYSTEM INSIDE THE CHURCH.

Here is one last picture of the church and separation. The Curtain around the outer court was 75 feet wide. The Tabernacle was 15 feet wide. There is a difference of 60 feet. The Tabernacle was located halfway between the north and the south side of the outer court. That gave a space between the Tabernacle of 30 feet on each side. That is twice the measurement of the Tabernacle! The Tabernacle was estimated to be 15 feet from the back of the curtain behind it, which would leave 90 feet from the gate to the entrance of the Holy Place. (1) The church should have "its back turned on the world." I John 2:16 tells us that the only things in the world are *"the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life."* Verse 16 commands us to *"love not the world, neither the things that are in the world! If any man loves the world, the love of the world IS NOT IN HIM."* All this together teaches us that the church should not make ANY effort, in any direction, for any reason, to get as close to the world as possible! This teaches us that the church should have a plan to stay as far away from the world as possible. Many churches today want to get as close to the world as possible, without really touching it!!!

THE PILLARS WHICH HOLD THE CURTAIN
Exodus 27:9-15

The pillars which held the curtain up around the outer court were to show four basic things. **First**, the pillars were to "hold up the curtain" to show the world "the righteousness" of the coming of Jesus Christ, who did no sin - knew no sin - and in Him there was no sin. **Second**, the pillars were made of brass. The brass speaks of judgment. It is a picture of Jesus Christ and the judgement He made on the sins of the world. **Third**, the pillars were sitting on sockets of brass. The brass sockets picture that "judgment is past." It is finished and nothing further can be done. **Fourth**, each of the pillars had a "silver fillet," which was a cap on the top of the pillars. The silver pictures "redemption." Redemption is the result of the fact that our sins were judged, Jesus paid the penalty of sin, and every person who has received Jesus Christ by faith is covered by redemption.

These four elements together picture Jesus Christ and believers who have been "justified by faith!" Romans 5:1 states, *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"*

There is one last picture concerning the pillars. The pillars picture how believers, justified by faith, should be "holding up" the righteousness and purity of Christ before the entire world and let them see the righteousness of Christ! Philippians 2:15-16 tells us how we should live our life. *"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."* The people of the world should see the righteousness of Christ in your life and my life!

THE GATE OF THE OUTER COURT
Exodus 27:16

"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." The "gate" was at the east end of the Outer Court. It was the <u>only way</u> for anyone to enter the "Outer Court." As Jesus stated, anyone who tried to enter by any other means was a thief and a robber!

As I said earlier, many times we read the New Testament, but do not realize that Jesus was talking to the Jews about something they were familiar with in the Old Testament Tabernacle. This is one of those places. In John 10:1 and 10, the Lord Jesus was referring to the "curtain" which surrounds the Tabernacle, when He said, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not <u>by the door</u> into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."* Jesus was talking about someone from the world trying to enter the outer court and Tabernacle, in some way other than entering in by the gate and the Brazen Altar. The Brazen Altar pictures Jesus Christ and the sacrifice He made on the Cross. To enter the Tabernacle, a person had to come in by the door, which is a picture of the gate. In Verse 10 Jesus continued by saying, *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* In verse 7, Jesus made it clear what the door was a picture of the gate. *Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep."*

The "gate" was 30 feet in length and the height was the same as the white linen curtain that surrounded the Outer Court, which was 7 to 8 feet. As for the colors of the "curtain at the gate," they are as follows. (1) The "blue" pictures the Heavenly Christ who came down from Heaven to earth. (2) The "purple" pictures the royalty of Jesus Christ. (3) The "scarlet" pictures the blood which Jesus shed on the cross to pay for our sins. (4) The "white" pictures the effect of the blood, which is purity and righteousness. This applies to all who "enter in at the gate" and make a sacrifice on the Brazen Altar.

These four colors and their pictures are a pattern which God used in inspiring four men to write the Four Gospels in the New Testament. (1) The book of John teaches us about Jesus Christ, the "heaven-sent Son of God." That matches the color of "blue" in the gate. If you read through the entire book of John, you will find again and again that Jesus talks about "His Father sent him down to earth - His Father sent Him - His Father sent Him!" (2) The book of Matthew teaches us

about Jesus Christ as the King of Israel. That matches the color of "purple" in the gate. (3) The book of Mark teaches us about the blood of Christ as the suffering Servant. That matches the color of "scarlet" in the gate. (4) The book of Luke teaches us about the "pure and sinless humanity" of Jesus Christ. That matches the color of "white" in the gate.

According to Leviticus 1:1-3 any Israelite could enter the Outer Court, but there was a requirement. Leviticus 1:10-12 states that they were required to enter the gate and then had to stop and "make an offering," at the Altar. The blood from their offering was then sprinkled on the Altar by the priest. We are not told how often they had to make those offerings. However, the priests were required to make an offering on the Brazen Altar twice daily, once in the morning and once in the evening. That is taught in Exodus 29:38-39. The Israelites in the Old Testament, known as "The People of God," are a picture of born-again believers in the New Testament. These were the ONLY people who were allowed to enter the outer court of the Tabernacle. No lost people of any other nation were allowed to enter even the Outer Court of the Tabernacle, and certainly could not enter the Holy Place, which is a picture of the "local church." (You may be shocked, but we will deal with that later in the book).

It is clear that the "Gate" is a picture of Jesus Christ as being the ONLY way to enter into the outer court. It pictures the "first step" to salvation. In John 10:9 Jesus, talking about entering the Tabernacle, said, *"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."* Again, in John 14:6 Jesus said, *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

I said above that the "gate" is the first step to salvation. The "gate" and the "Brazen Altar" go together and cannot be separated. This is a little difficult to explain. However, for technical purposes, let me share that "the gate" does not picture salvation! It pictures "the door" to salvation. Matthew 7:14 states, *"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."* If anyone came "to the gate" but did not go directly to the Brazen Altar and make a sacrifice, they could not enter. The "gate" seems to picture "repentance," which is the first and necessary step toward salvation. Acts 3:19 says, *"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;* It is clear from Hebrews 9:22, that the gate alone cannot picture salvation. That verse states this truth. *"Without the shedding of blood there is no remission."* (Hebrews 9:22). We will now study the "Brazen Altar."

THE BRAZEN ALTAR
Exodus 27:1-8

The Brazen Altar was the first piece of furniture in the outer court. We will study the Brazen Altar in four different sections to make it clear, simple, and as understandable as possible.

*"And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof shall be three cubits. And thou shalt make the horns of it upon the four corners thereof: **his** horns shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with brass. And thou shalt make **his** pans to receive **his** ashes, and **his** shovels, and **his** basons, and **his** fleshhooks, and **his** firepans: all the vessels thereof thou shalt make of brass. And thou shalt make for it a grate of network of brass; and upon the net shalt thou make four brasen rings*

in the four corners thereof. And thou shalt put it under the compass of the altar beneath, that the net may be even to the midst of the altar. And thou shalt make staves for the altar, staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with brass. And the staves shall be put into the rings, and the staves shall be upon the two sides of the altar, to bear it. Hollow with boards shalt thou make it: as it was shewed thee in the mount, so shall they make it."

Please note that every part of the Altar states, the parts are "his (parts)" and not "it's (parts)! The pronoun "his" is used seven times, which is the Bible number of "perfection and completion." The pronoun "his" always refers to a person!

The Person of the Altar
Hebrews 10:1-12

The Altar is a picture of the cross on which Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself and shows the shedding of blood. We are going to study "the Person of the Altar" first. After understanding "the Person" of the Altar, all the following applications will fit into " Christ and the cross," and will be easily understood. The Altar is where the blood was shed to make an atonement for the sins of the people. As shared above, in the section of "the gate" in Leviticus 1:1-3 and 10-12, the Israelites had to make a "blood sacrifice" and the priest had to sprinkle the blood around about upon the altar. If they did not, they COULD NOT ENTER! In Exodus 29:38-39, the priest had to make a blood offering twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening. This offering was to "make" an atonement for the sins of the people. Leviticus 4:20 states, *"And he shall do with the bullock as he did with the bullock for a sin offering, so shall he do with this: and the priest shall make an atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them."*

All this pictures Jesus Christ offering himself as an atonement on the Cross of Calvary for the sins of the world once and for all. This is explained in very clear details in Hebrews 10:1-12.

"For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;"

The Pattern of the Altar
Exodus 27:1-8

The measurements of the Altar are very important! The Altar measured 5 cubits wide and 5 cubits long. The number "5" in the Bible is "the number of Grace." The Altar was 5 cubits square" which is 5 X 5 = 25! The number "25" is the Bible number meaning "Grace upon Grace." The Altar was 3 cubits high. The number "3" in Bible is the number for "Deity," which speaks of "The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit." All this together means "Divine Grace upon Grace."
Also, the Altar was the tallest piece of furniture of the seven pieces of furniture in the Tabernacle. Three cubits in feet is equal to 4 1/2 feet. This means the sacrifices had to be "lifted up" and placed on the Altar. It was foretold in the Old Testament that Jesus would be lifted up. That is confirmed in John 12:32. *"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."*

The materials of that Altar are also very important (Exodus 27:1)! The wood in the Altar is a picture of the "pure humanity" of Jesus Christ. Isaiah 53:2 says that Jesus would be *"a root out of dry ground."* This pictures the "sinless human nature" of Jesus Christ, as testified to in II Corinthains 5:21. *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, <u>who knew no sin</u>; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* It is verified in Hebrews 4:15, I Peter 1:18-19 and in many other verses.

Also, the wood was "acacia wood" which was considered indestructible. This also pictures Jesus Christ. John 10:18 teaches us that Jesus was indestructible by the fires of crucifixion. When Jesus spoke the words in this verse, he was talking about his life. *"No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."* Acts 2:31 tells us that Jesus was indestructible by the decaying effect of the grave. The grave could not hold Jesus! *"He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption."* The angel of the Lord declared this truth in Matthew 28:5-6. *"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."*

The "brass" which covered the wood is also a picture of Jesus (Exodus 27:3-6). First, let me remind you that "brass is fireproof." It cannot be burnt! The "brass" pictures the judgement of God is fireproof! It pictures Jesus when he took the divine judgement of God on himself and sacrificed Himself on the cross in our place. As stated in II Corinthians 5:21, Jesus was *"made to be sin for us."* The wood, covered with brass, pictures the Mercy of God over-riding the sin of man who has received Jesus as Savior, and are "in Him" (part of His body). The mercy of God ALWAYS overrides judgment! As Jesus dismissed his life, he said, "IT IS FINISHED!

The mounted horns on the Altar picture three very important things. (Exodus 27:2). **<u>First</u>,** the horns always speak of and picture power! II Samuel 22:3 states, *" And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence."* In Romans 1:6 in the New Testament, Paul declared the gospel message, which is pictured in the Altar, to be power. *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

<u>Second</u>, the mounted horns on the Altar, being on the four corners of the Brazen Altar, pictures the "saving power of Jesus Christ" is available to the four corners of the earth! Acts 1:8, which you are all familiar with, says, *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is*

come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Please note that the verse says, *"….to the uttermost PART* (not parts*) of the earth."* The word "part" is singular - not plural! The verse means that the Gospel is for the VERY LAST SPOT ON THE EARTH! Revelation 22:17 states, *"whosoever will, let him take of the water of life."*

Third, the mounted horns on each corner of the Altar were made "together" with the entire altar. That is stated in Exodus 38:2. *"And he made the horns thereof on the four corners of it; the horns thereof were of the same: and he overlaid it with brass."* This is vitally important. In Scripture, horns picture strength and salvation. When Hannah rejoiced over the victory of God in her life, she exclaimed, *'The Lord … shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.*" (I Samuel 2:1). In Revelation 5:6, it is said of Jesus, *"…a Lamb as it has been slain, having seven horns."* That speaks of Jesus dying on the cross and pictures "the 7 horns as having 'perfect and complete' saving power." Paul, in Romans 1:16 said, *"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."*

The Position of the Altar
Exodus 29:11-12

"And thou shalt kill the bullock before the LORD, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And thou shalt take of the blood of the bullock, and put it upon the horns of the altar with thy finger, and pour all the blood beside the bottom of the altar."

The Altar was positioned directly inside "the gate" of the curtain which surrounded the Tabernacle. There was no other way for anyone to enter into the outer court of the Tabernacle, but by the gate. That was already stated above in John 10:1,7 and 9. When a person entered through the gate, they were immediately facing the Brazen Altar, which was just inside the gate! When a person entered, they were required to stop at the Altar and make a "blood sacrifice" before proceeding into the outer court around the Tabernacle! When they made their sacrifice, the priest took the blood of their sacrifice and sprinkled it around the altar. That is explained in Leviticus 1:1-12. **THEN**, and only then, could that person enter into the outer court. There were no what we call lost people allowed to enter ANY part of the Tabernacle, which is a picture of the local church!

Today, many religions are trying to create other ways for a person to "be saved" and enter into the true and living church, but those are all false teachings. A person can give, they can pray, they can serve, and do many other things, but all those things are worthless if they do not (1) "enter in by the door, and (2) if they do not make a blood sacrifice at the Altar," which pictures Jesus Christ. Sad to say, man has gone so far as to take the word "blood" out of many of the song books used today in churches and out of many of the "false versions of the Bible, like the ASV and NASV, which greatly limit he word "blood."" However, the truth remains, *"without the shedding of blood there is no remission!"*

One last closing picture. Naturally, there was fire in the Brazen Altar where the sacrifices were placed and burned. That fire was "sent by God - from heaven!" That is clearly declared in Leviticus 9:24. *"And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces."* Also, there is one other important matter concerning the fire on the Altar. The fire was never

allowed to go out! Leviticus 6:12-13 declares this glorious truth! *"And the fire upon the altar shall be burning in it; it shall not be put out: and the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order upon it; and he shall burn thereon the fat of the peace offerings. The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out."*

This teaches us that the sacrifice Jesus made of Himself on the cross of Calvary is available day and night - forever and forever! A person can come to Christ at any time - at any place around the globe!

The Personal Sacrifice Which God Requires of Believers
Romans 12:1-2

"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. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

These two New Testament verses, tell us <u>what God expects</u> of all those who accept the Sacrifice which Jesus made for us on the cross of Calvary. It is interesting that God added the words, *"Which is your reasonable service!"* A believer should be more than willing to make "a living sacrifice of themself" considering the "dying sacrifice" which Jesus made for us. The Apostle Paul, in I Corinthians 15:31, said, "I die daily!" A believer should "die to self" every morning before they get out of bed and start their day! I challenge everyone reading this book to claim Galatians 2:20 as their main life verse. *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* **QUESTION**: Have you been obedient, and have you made the sacrifice which God requires? If not, you are in rebellion against God!

THE BRAZEN LAVER
Exodus 30:17-21

*"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and **his** foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD: So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations."*

The Material of which the Laver Was Made

The laver was made of solid brass. It had no wood in any part of it. The word "brass" comes from the Hebrews word, "n@chosheth" and speaks of a "very special type of brass"

The Means of Obtaining the Special Type of Brass.

The brass used to build the Laver came from the many things the Egyptians gave the Israelites when they departed and left Egypt. (See Exodus 12:35-36). Exodus 38:8 tells us the brass

the laver was made from was referred to as "looking glass" in those days. *"And he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the lookingglasses of the women assembling, which assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation."* In those days there was no such thing as what we call a "mirror." The women of Egypt used this highly polished brass as a mirror to look at themselves when they were arranging their face, hair, and apparel. We also see in Exodus 38:3 that it says, *"…he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass.*" That tells us that the laver was in "two sections." An upper level to wash hands and a lower level to wash feet. Then, in Exodus 30:17-21 it tells us that both of the two bowls were filled with water.

The Meaningful Purpose of the Laver.

The laver was a place for the priests to wash their hands and their feet before entering the Holy Place, the first room in the Tabernacle, which is a picture of the local church. The Laver is called a "looking glass" and pictures the priests "looking at themselves in the looking glass," and seeing things in their life that needed changing. The "water" in which they were to wash, pictures "The Word of God" which changes those things which need changing. Ephesians 5:25-26 gives us that truth. *"Husbands, love your wives, 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,"* The Holy Place, in which they were preparing to enter, is a picture of the local church in the New Testament.

The New Testament tells us that the "looking glass," or mirror, is the Word of God, and it was to be used by Christians to "look at ourselves" to see what needs to be changed before entering the church! James 1:22-25 explains the "looking glass" in the New Testament and gives the purpose of looking in it. *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."* It is vitally important that the New Testament Christian look into the "looking glass" daily, confess their sins, ask God to forgive their sins, or in practical words, "wash their sins away." **This is ESPECIALLY true when they are preparing to enter the local church to worship.** This in NO WAY is referring to regeneration! This is referring to the New Testament verse I John 1:9, where Christians daily confess ther sin and stay in continually fellowship with Christ.

The Main Location of the Laver.

The Laver was located directly in front of the entrance of the Holy Place, which is the first room in the Tabernacle. Exodus 31:1 tells us that the Holy Place was a place of service; *"And of the blue, and purple, and scarlet, they made cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, and made the holy garments for Aaron; as the LORD commanded Moses."* The priest HAD to go by the laver and wash before he could enter the Holy Place to serve. They had to "wash their hands and their feet" BEFORE entering the Holy Place and serving. If they DID NOT wash their hands and feet before entering the Holy Place, **THEY DIED**! Exodus 30:21 states: *"So they shall wash their hands and their feet, <u>that they die not</u>: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations.*

There were two steps which the priest had to follow before he could serve and before he could enter the Holy Place. **First**, a priest had to be "washed all over." Exodus 29:1 and 4 states,

"And this is the thing that thou shalt do unto them to hallow them, to minister unto me in the priest's office: …And Aaron and his sons thou shalt bring unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water." The washing of the priest, all over, was done by another person, and only had to be done once. However, the priests had to stop at the laver and wash their hands and their feet, **EVERY time they planned to enter the Holy Place and serve**!

This "initial cleaning" pictures regeneration by the Spirit through the Word. Paul referred to this in Titus 3:5, where he said, *"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 Spirit."* Our Lord also spoke of this type of washing in John 13:10. He said, *"Jesus saith to him, He that is washed* (completely washed) *needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all."*

In the Scriptures in Exodus 30:17-21, it is stated that if a priest entered the Holy Place, but did not stop at the laver and wash his hands and his feet, he would die! I am sure that everyone understands that this makes "washing at the laver VERY important" for us today. It is not something the priests would take lightly, nor forget to do. Why did the priests have to stop at the laver and wash their hands and their feet each time they entered the Holy Place? Why was it so vitally important? It was important because the priests, even though he had been "washed all over" had been daily doing two things. **First,** they had been "walking in dirt" and had gotten their feet dirty. In spite of the Tabernacle being the most beautiful and expensive building ever built, it had no floor in the outer court, nor in the Holy Place! The priests "walk in dirt" daily, from the time they got up in the morning, until the time they went to bed at night. **Second,** they had been outside the Tabernacle, mixing with the world and had been "handling the things of the world" and possibly gotten their hands dirty. Therefore, BEFORE the priest could enter the Holy Place and serve, he HAD to "wash his hands as well as his feet!"

Jesus pictured this same thing in the New Testament when he washed the disciple's feet in John 13:10. In John 13:15 Jesus told us to follow his example. *"For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.* The disciples, nor the priests, needed to be "washed all over" again, but they did need to be washed daily of any and all sins they may have committed that day! This means that you and I should forgive each other daily, just as Jesus forgives you and me!

In the New Testament, the Brazen Altar pictures salvation. You and I, as believers, are "washed all over," once and for all at the Brazen Altar, which is a picture of Jesus, our Savior. We never need to be "washed all over again." However, as you know, we do need daily cleansing. We walk in the world, and we handle the things of the world. We daily need to confess our sins, and daily receive forgiveness. The laver pictures us being daily sanctified by the confession of our sins and being forgiven according to I John 1:9. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* To be cleansed from all unrighteousness, we are "being sanctified by the Word of God!" This prepares us for our daily walk with God. It prepares us for service in our church.

Questions: Have you been washed all over, by Jesus Christ? Do you daily "wash your hands and your feet?"

There is a serious application for the New Testament believer to consider. If the priest entered the Holy Place without washing, he died! If a believer enters his church with known sin in

his life and does not stop and confess his sin and receive forgiveness for his sin before he enters, his sin can "grieve and quench the Holy Spirit of God." That kills the blessings of God on the message. According to principles in the Bible, it only takes "one believer" to enter the church with known sin in his life to ruin the entire church service. One of those principles is found in Exodus 7:1. Achan disobeyed the word of God. *"But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled* ***against the children of Israel.***" Here, one man named Achan, partook of the accursed thing - and it affected the entire nation of Israel. Every believer should be sure that they have "stopped at the laver" and washed their hands and their feet - before they enter into the church to meet with God! Please ask yourself this question. Have I entered into the House of God to meet with God and to worship Him, with known sin in my heart? If so, I hope God will convict you, that you may be quenching the Holy Spirit, and greatly displeasing God!

The Measurements of the Laver.

The Scriptures give no measurements of any type concerning the laver. There is no height given, no depth given, no diameter given, and no circumference given! That is a great blessing! This teaches us that there are no boundaries of any nature or limits of God's forgiveness of our sins when we confess them! They are forgiven! They are gone! There are no other conditions.

Question: Do you stop daily at the laver, look in the mirror, which is the Word of God, and ask God to search your heart, as David did in Psalms 139:23-24, and see if you have any sin in you life? If you will do that and be honest with your self, the Holy Spirit will ALWAYS convict you of any sin in your life or anything that is displeasing to God. When God convicts you of ANY sin in you life, IF you will confess your sin from your heart, God will forgive your sin, regardless of how little of how big it is. He will cast it behind His back, as far as the east is from the west. (Psalms 103:10)

CHAPTER THREE
THE FOUNDATION, THE BOARDS, AND THE BARS

THE FOUNDATION
Exodus 26:19-25

"And thou shalt make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards; two sockets under one board for his two tenons, and two sockets under another board for his two tenons. And for the second side of the tabernacle on the north side there shall be twenty boards: And their forty sockets of silver; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board. And for the sides of the tabernacle westward thou shalt make six boards. And two boards shalt thou make for the corners of the tabernacle in the two sides. And they shall be coupled together beneath, and they shall be coupled together above the head of it unto one ring: thus shall it be for them both; they shall be for the two corners. And they shall be eight boards, and their sockets of silver, sixteen sockets; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board."

The Silver Sockets

The entire Tabernacle was built with boards, which we will study next. However, you cannot build any type of building with wooden boards before laying the foundation. Therefore, we will begin our study by looking at the foundation, which was made with "sockets of silver." The foundation was built with 96 blocks of "silver sockets." These sockets weighed about 200 pounds each. ? Each sockets was worth an estimated $2000.00 in today's money. There was an estimated five tons of silver, which made the foundation alone worth about two million dollars! That made it a VERY expensive building, but - it had a dirt floor! That is very important, and we will study why later in the book.

The Source of the Silver!

The entire Tabernacle was built with "free-will" offerings given by the people of Israel, EXCEPT for the silver sockets! The Silver sockets were built from a tax which God required from the people of Israel. This was explained to Moses, by God, in Exodus 30:11-16.

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them. This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD. Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the LORD. The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls. And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls."

The "ransom for his soul" traces back to Exodus 19:8 where the people of Israel promised to obey all the laws of God. That is where the Dispensation of Law began. Later, the entire nation rebelled against God and broke their promise. After they failed, God made a new covenant with the people of Israel and had Moses "sprinkle blood" on all the people. (Exodus 2:7-8). This "ransom" was the source of the silver which Moses used to build the foundation of silver. That is clearly declared in Exodus 30:11-16, which is quoted above.

The Symbolism of the Silver

The silver was a symbol of two things to the Israelites. **First**, it was a symbol of "a ransom for their soul" (Exodus 30:11-15). **Second**, the silver was a symbol of them making "an atonement for their soul." These are ONLY symbols used in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, I Peter 1:18 clearly declares that truth. *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"* In the New Testament we are saved by "faith" in the blood of Jesus Christ. All other religions leave out the blood of Christ in what they call "their" plan of salvation!

In conclusion, the silver, as the foundation of the Tabernacle, is a symbol of the "atonement for our soul," which Jesus made for us. The New Testament church is built on the blood of Jesus Christ. This is verified in I Corinthians 3:11. *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

The Significance of the Silver

We just talked about this in I Peter 1:18. This truth is further explained in Hebrews 9:11-15 and 22.

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance ….. and almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

Whose blood was it that was shed for the atonement of sin and to lay the foundation of the church? The Bible refers to the blood of Christ several times, which is true. However, the "blood line" comes from the Father! The entire Tabernacle "rested on the blood." The silver pictures the VERY BLOOD OF GOD. Acts 20:28 says, *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."*

THE BOARDS
The Characteristics of the Local Church
EXODUS 26:15-26

"And thou shalt make boards for the tabernacle of shittim wood standing up. Ten cubits shall be the length of a board, and a cubit and a half shall be the breadth of one board. Two tenons shall there be in one board, set in order one against another: thus shalt thou make for all the boards of the tabernacle. And thou shalt make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards on the south side southward. And thou shalt make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards; two sockets under one board for his two tenons, and two sockets under another board for his two tenons. And for the second side of the tabernacle on the north side there shall be twenty boards: And their forty sockets of silver; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board. And for the sides of the tabernacle westward thou shalt make six boards. And two boards shalt thou make for the corners of the tabernacle in the two sides. And they shall be coupled together beneath, and they shall be coupled together above the head of it unto one ring: thus shall it be for them both; they shall be for the two corners. And they shall be eight boards, and their sockets of silver, sixteen sockets; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board. And thou shalt make bars of shittim wood; five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle,"

The Cutting of the Boards

Boards are made from trees. The wood in trees pictures the humanity in two manners. **First**, the wood pictures the "pure, sinless humanity" of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 53:2). *"For he shall*

grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him." **Second**, the wood pictures the humanity of man. Psalms 1:3 states: *"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."*

The "cutting down" of a tree pictures a fallen man. The "remaking" of a cut down tree into a board, pictures a "renewed man" or better said, it pictures a saved man.

The Covering of the Boards
Exodus 26:29

All the boards on the sides of the tabernacle were covered with Gold. The wood speaks of humanity. The Gold covering the boards pictures "Glory and Deity." You and I received a "covering of Gold" when we trusted Jesus by faith, as our Savior. You became a Trophy to show the glory of God. Ephesians 1:9-2 tells us that truth. *"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ."* God has a "Trophy Case" in heaven. You and I are as a "Trophy in God's Trophy Case" in heaven. The world should marvel as to what God does for a person when they trust Jesus as their Savior!

The Configuring of the Boards
Exodus 26:19

Each board had two "tenons." The Hebrew word "tenons" basically means each board had "two feet," which the boards would use to stand on. The "two feet" each board stood on, fit securely into “two sockets of silver," beneath the board. The silver had "two sockets," where the "feet" fit into and made it 100% stable. (Exodus 26:19). No board could stand with one foot on the silver and the other foot on the dirt of the floor. No Christian can have "one foot in heaven and one foot in the world." Matthew 6:24 states, *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."*

Those boards picture "the members" of the local church. The church is the body of Christ. All Christians are members of the body of Christ (I Corinthains 11:12). Therefore, the boards, standing on the silver sockets around the Tabernacle, picture "the members" of the local church attending services. You will also notice that there are no "spaces" between the boards. That teaches us that unless a member is "providentially hindered" from attending a service, that every member should be in their place for the service on the Lord's Day! There is no excuse for any member not "assembling together" on the Lord's Day, such as, "I just wanted to sleep in!"

Also, please notice that all the boards are "the same height, the same width, and the same thickness." (Exodus 26:16). That tells us that "all the members of the church are equally important." I Corinthians 12:1-11 teaches us that "every member" of the church was given a "spiritual gift" at the time they trusted Christ and were placed into "their place" in the body of

Christ, according to the will of God. (I Corinthians 12:18). Also, in the book of I Corinthians 12:12-27, it continues teaching that truth by comparing one part of the body to another part of the body. Verses 22-24 say:

"Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:"

Please do not take this wrong and think I am in any way "belittling" a pastor. A pastor is very important. However, the Bible tells us that every member of the church is very important. A pastor without church members is not a church. The pastor is in the position of "pastor" <u>because God set him in the body in that position</u>. However, God set EVERY member of His body in the position they are in. Not one member of the body ever had the choice of where they want to be in the Body of Christ.

Please note that God uses the "human body" to illustrate this truth. It you will consider this truth while you study the matter of all members being equally important, you will easily understand this truth. Your feet are as important to your body as your head! Without your feet your head could go nowhere! Without the fingers on your hand, your hand and your entire body would be greatly hindered! Please remember this truth as you serve in your church. <u>You are important.</u> Please realize how important you are to the church, and use the spiritual gift God has given you and you will greatly profit the church and the cause of Christ!

THE BARS
The Connection of the Boards
Exodus 26:26-29

"And thou shalt make bars of shittim wood; five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle, And five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle, for the two sides westward. And the middle bar in the midst of the boards shall reach from end to end. And thou shalt overlay the boards with gold, and make their rings of gold for places for the bars: and thou shalt overlay the bars with gold."

These five bars are very important and have a number of meanings to us today. There is no scripture that tells us exactly what the five bars picture. However, they are pictures of how the local church that fit into the construction and function of a New Testament church. Everyone has their opinion concerning what the bars picture, but no one can be absolutely sure what the bars represented. After reading and studying these bars in the Tabernacle at length, plus reading commentaries of a good number of well-known writers on the subject of the Tabernacle, whom I have great confidence, I am going to share my opinion with you concerning the five bars.

For the New Testament church application, I believe four of the five bars are found in Ephesians 4:11-14. *"And he gave some, <u>apostles</u>; and some, <u>prophets</u>; and some, <u>evangelists</u>; and some, <u>pastors and teachers</u>; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That*

we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

I believe the bars on the Tabernacle might have been in this order. Practically and scripturally, these would fit and be a picture of the New Testament local church. I believe there were two bars toward the bottom of the boards around the Tabernacle. They may represent and be a picture of the "apostles and the prophets." There are no apostles or prophets today. The office of the apostles ceased when the men who were apostles died, as there were certain qualifications which a man had to meet in order to hold that office. As for the office of the prophets, that office ceased when the Scriptures were completed about 96 AD. It seems to be that the bottom two bars, were the "human bars," the apostles and the prophets, whom God used to develop the first church in the New Testament.

The two bars toward the top of the boards around the Tabernacle, may be a picture of the "evangelist and the pastor/teachers." The office of the "evangelist" is no doubt what we call a "missionary" in the church today. The last office mentioned in that verse is "pastor/teachers." There is good reason to believe those are two offices, pastors and teachers, which are both plural, "are actually several men working together" to take the church to maturity. The pastor/teacher is a man with both the gifts of preaching and the gifts of teaching. I do not find any scripture which declares there is an "office of teacher." The pastor is a teacher, and the pastor, along with the teachers appointed by the pastor, lead, develop, built, and stabilized the early church. The same is true today.

The center bar is completely different from the other four bars. The other four bars were on the "outside" of the boards around the Tabernacle and it is clear that they were strongly attached to each board. However, of the fifth bar, it is said, "*And the middle bar in the midst of the boards shall reach from end to end."* The verse states that this bar is to go "in the middle" between the bars at the top and the bars at the bottom. Then it says, "…. *in the midst of the boards shall reach from end to end."* The phrase "end to end" seems to apply to "from one side of a board to the other side of the board, and to continue through all of the twenty boards from end to end."

After much study, the phrase, *"in the midst"* seems to mean that the fifth bar was pushed through a hole that had been bored in the center of each of the twenty boards around the Tabernacle, and the fifth bar went through all twenty boards, from one end to the other, and on both sides and the back. This would have drawn the twenty boards on all three sides of the Tabernacle as closely together as possible, which is the way the local church should be. This seems to be what Jesus was teaching when, in John 17:23, Jesus said, *" I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me*. That pictures a very close relationship.

As I said above, there are other opinions by men whom I highly regard and respect, and whom I am not criticizing in any way. After studying this in depth, this seems to be upheld by scriptures. If you agree or disagree, I am fine with your opinion as long as it does tie the Old Testament Tabernacle together with the New Testament church.

Regardless, we know that the bars joined and fitted every believer in the church together, one with the other, making the church one structure. This fits with the Bible picture in I Corinthians Chapter Twelve. That not only joins the members together, but it is a "living" link between

members. It pictures them being very close. It also fits with Ephesians 2:21 which says, *"In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:"*

The members being joined one to the other by a strong bars strengthens the church. If each board "stood alone" and a storm came through the area there would be nothing to protect each individual board from being blown away. Every church I have ever been in, or known of, has gone through storms from time to time. I know of several churches which went through a storm and many members of the church were "blown away" by the storm. Each of the five bars were connected to each of the boards around the Tabernacle. That pictures every member in the church supporting every other member in the church. Amen and AMEN!

THE COVERING OF THE TABERNACLE
Exodus 26:1-14

"**(The first covering)** *Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them. The length of one curtain shall be eight and twenty cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: and every one of the curtains shall have one measure. The five curtains shall be coupled together one to another; and other five curtains shall be coupled one to another. And thou shalt make loops of blue upon the edge of the one curtain from the selvedge in the coupling; and likewise shalt thou make in the uttermost edge of another curtain, in the coupling of the second. Fifty loops shalt thou make in the one curtain, and fifty loops shalt thou make in the edge of the curtain that is in the coupling of the second; that the loops may take hold one of another. And thou shalt make fifty taches of gold, and couple the curtains together with the taches: and it shall be one tabernacle.* **(The second covering)** *And thou shalt make curtains of goats' hair to be a covering upon the tabernacle: eleven curtains shalt thou make. The length of one curtain shall be thirty cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: and the eleven curtains shall be all of one measure. And thou shalt couple five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves, and shalt double the sixth curtain in the forefront of the tabernacle. And thou shalt make fifty loops on the edge of the one curtain that is outmost in the coupling, and fifty loops in the edge of the curtain which coupleth the second. And thou shalt make fifty taches of brass, and put the taches into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one. And the remnant that remaineth of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remaineth, shall hang over the backside of the tabernacle. And a cubit on the one side, and a cubit on the other side of that which remaineth in the length of the curtains of the tent, it shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle on this side and on that side, to cover it* **(The third and fourth coverings)** *And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers' skins."*

There are four different coverings which together form what we would call "the roof" of the Tabernacle. Each of the four coverings have meanings and give us pictures of the New Testament church. I will try to explain each of the coverings, and what each one of them picture. The four coverings we will study in this section are the Fine-twined Linen covering. This covering also contained blue, purple, and scarlet, woven into the cover, plus it has cherubins covering the entire cover. This is an absolutely beautiful covering. This, being the first covering, can be seen only from the inside of the Tabernacle. It cannot be seen by ANYONE outside of the Tabernacle.

The Coverings and Their Measurements

This "first covering" is called the Tabernacle because it was literally the ceiling of the Tabernacle. The complete covering was 45 feet wide and 60 feet long. The 45 feet covered the top and both sides of the Tabernacle, which was 15 feet high and 15 feet wide and covered the Tabernacle from the front to the back, which was 45 feet long, plus it covered the back of the Tabernacle which was 15 feet high. The measurement covered the entire Tabernacle building with two exceptions. First, it did not cover the front entrance of the building. That was covered by a veil, which we will study later.

Second, it covered the "boards" on each side and the back, but it did not cover the "silver sockets" on the sides or the back. That is important for this reason, that the "silver sockets," which were the foundation of the Tabernacle, are a symbol of atonement. They picture the "shed blood of Jesus Christ." The redemption which Jesus made for the sins of the world when he died on the cross, should NEVER be covered! The New Testament church is built on the blood of Jesus Christ. This is verified in I Corinthians 3:11. *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

The Coverings and Their Colors
Exodus 26:1-6

The **White** speaks of Purity. This pictures the "purity of the humanity of Jesus Christ" when he came to earth and took on the form of a man (John 1:12). Every stage of His life was a picture of "perfect purity." This goes back to before His birth. In Luke 1:35, the angel of God said, *" … The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

Concerning his life while He was living on earth in the form of a man for 33 +/- years, in Romans 1:3-4, Paul testified to his holiness, *"Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:"*

The righteousness of Christ was passed on to the saints. Revelation 19:8 states, *" 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.* This pictures Jesus as, **"Christ our Sanctifier!"**

The **Blue** speaks of Heaven. Jesus Himself spoke of being sent down from Heaven. In John 3:13, the Bible testifies to that truth. *"And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven."* Again, in John 6:33, Jesus said, *"For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world."* In I Corinthians 15:45-47, The apostle Paul referred to Jesus as being sent down from Heaven. *"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven."* This pictures Jesus as *"***Christ and His Sonship.***"*

The **Purple** speaks of Royalty. This pictures Jesus Christ as the King of Kings. This was foretold in Isaiah 9:6-7. *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there*

*shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." This pictures Jesus as "***Christ our Sovereign***."*

The **Scarlet** speaks of the Blood of Christ. I Peter 1:18-19 declares this truth. *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:´* This speaks of **"Christ our Sacrifice."**

These four truths are found and explained in the four Gospels. Matthew explains the color of purple and speaks of Jesus as the King of the Jews! Mark explains of Scarlet and pictures the blood of Jesus Christ, as the "Suffering Servant." Luke explains the color White and speaks of the Virgin Born Son of God. John explains the color Blue and speaks of Jesus as the Lord who came down from heaven. The Cherubins which are engraved on the first curtain speak of "**Christ and The Holiness of God!**"

All of this is hidden from eyes of the natural man. The lost world does not ever see, or imagine the beauty of the "inside" of the Tabernacle, which is a picture of the local church. What the world sees is described in Isaiah 53:1-5. *"Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."* It is only when a [person is saved and the come "inside the church as a member" do they see the beauty of "God's House!"

The Covering of Goat's Hair
Exodus 26:7-13

The second covering was of goat's hair and was black. The black pictures our sins! There are two VERY important truths in the covering of goat's hair! There are "two goats" that make up what is pictured in the goat hair covering. Leviticus 16:8 briefly tells us about the two goats. *"And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat."*

The first goat, is the *"one lot for the Lord."* That goat was killed as an atonement for the sins of the people of Israel. Leviticus 16:15-19 briefly explain the first goat. *"Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness. And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel. And he shall go out unto the altar that is*

before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel."

This pictures Jesus Christ dying on the cross of Calvary, where he shed His blood to pay for the sins of the world. He made atonement for my sins, your sins, and for the sins of the world. The blood being sprinkled on the mercy seat, is a picture of God the Father, seeing the blood. This goes back to the Old Testament where God said, *"When I see the blood, I will pass over you."* (Exodus 12:13). This is basically repeated in Romans 5:9, *"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."*

The second goat is called a "scapegoat!" That goat is explained in Leviticus 16:20-22. *"And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness."*

II Corinthians 5:21 is a fulfillment of this same truth in the New Testament and concerning the sins of people who have repented, confessed their sins, asked forgiveness, and receive Christ as Savior. *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Our sins were placed on Jesus Christ, and were sent away!* The question has been asked, where are our sins? Psalms 103:12 gives us the answer to that question. *"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."* Praise the Lord - OUR SINS ARE GONE! This covering speaks of **"Christ our Sin-bearer.**"

Before we move to the last two coverings, let me point this out. We should rejoice that the verse above does not say "as far as the north is from the south." You can find the north and the south. If you leave Memphis, Tennessee, where I am writing this book, and start north. you would go to Chicago, and from Chicago, you would cross the border and go into Canada. From Canada, you continue north and reach the Artic Circle. You will continue north for a short distance, and you will arrive at the "North Pole!" You have found "the north," because if you continue past the North Pole, you are then headed south! If you continue long enough, you can find the South Pole.

However, if you start in Memphis, and go west, where is the west? It is in California. When you reach California, where is the west? It is in Japan. When you reach Japan, where is the west? It is in Europe. When you pass Europe where is the west? It is in the United States. When you reach the United States and continue west, where is the west? It is in Memphis, Tennessee! When you reach Memphis, Tennessee, have you found the west? NO!!! The west is still in California! When you trust Christ as Savior, and your sins are placed on Him, as they were placed on the “scapegoat," your sins ae gone! They will never be found again! The west and the east never meet!

The Covering of Ram’s Skins
Exodus 26:14

The third covering was of rams-skins and was dyed red. That is the only comment or description given concerning this third covering. This covering, a "ram's skin" died red, covered the second covering, which was made of goat's hair and was black. The black pictures our sins. The third covering, the ram's skin dyed red, pictures "the blood of Christ and how it has covered our sins". That has already been explained above, so I will not repeat it again.

The Covering of Badger Skins
Exodus 26:14

The fourth covering was of "badger skins," of which the scripture simply says *"… a covering above the badger's skin."* The last two coverings are mentioned again in Exodus 36:14-19, but those verses are basically the same as those in Exodus 26. There is no further information or explanation given.

There is one important truth you need to see before we move to the "furniture in the Holy Place." The "badger skin" was brown, dry, and had no eye appeal at all. That is what the world sees from the outside of the church. As explained in Isaiah 53:1-5, the people of the world see nothing to be desired about the church. All they see is the "covering of badger skin." That is a STRONG REBUKE to churches today who are building multi-million-dollar buildings for the purpose of attracting the people of the world to "come in and visit." (We will deal with that later!!) Dr. Vance Havner well said, "Churches today are building million dollar launching pads and lighting firecrackers. They are dressed up like deep sea divers and pulling stoppers out of bathtubs!"

It is sad indeed when we look back at the first New Testament church in Acts chapter two, which was started shortly after the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. That church had NO BUILDING of any type in which to meet. They met in homes and in the outdoors. It is estimated to be about 340 AD before the church had its first building and those were, by the laws of that day, in small and inconspicuous places and had no identification that they were churches. In spite of the first church having not building for 300-400 years after the beginning of the church, Acts 17:6 tells us that the rulers of the city, referring to the church, said, *"And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;"* **It is time for the church today to go back to the first century church, and FOLLOW their pattern!**

CHAPTER FOUR
THE HOLY PLACE AND IT'S FURNITURE
Exodus 25:23-40

The Holy Place is the first room of the Tabernacle. Directly behind the Holy Place there was a second room called the Most Holy Place. Those two rooms were divided by a veil, which we will study later. That was the arrangement of the Tabernacle throughout the entire Old Testament. The priests went into the Holy Place every day of the week. However, only the high priest could enter in the Most Holy Place, and that was done only once a year. We will study this in great detail as we continue through the book. However, for now let me briefly explain the three pieces of furniture in the Holy Place, the purpose they served in the Old Testament, and what they are pictures of in the New Testament.

The three pieces of furniture in the Holy Place were (1) The Golden Candlestick, (2) The Table of Shewbread, and (3) The Altar of Incense. After we study the three pieces of furniture, I will "tie them together" and explain how they apply in the New Testament church. After that section, we will study the Most Holy Place, the two pieces of furniture, the veil, and we will put the entire Tabernacle together and how it gives a pattern of how the local church should function today!!!

There is no given order of the three pieces of furniture in the Holy Place. However, it seems to be that the "candlestick" would have been the first piece of furniture that anyone would notice when they entered the Holy Place. When you walked in, the candlestick was on your left, the south side of the Holy Place. It got your attention because it made itself known, by giving light to the entire Holy Place. That should be true in the local church today. Every time we walk into the local church today, we should "feel" the presence of the light of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. If we "wash at the Barzan Laver" immediately before we enter the church, we will immediately "sense the presence of the Holy Spirit" around us.

THE GOLDEN CANDLESTICK
Exodus 25:31-40

The word "candlestick" had a different understanding in the days of the Old Testament than it does today. It is not a "bad translation" of a Hebrew word, but it is a "different understanding" of the word which we have today. The only source of light that Eastern people had in those days were "candlesticks." They would start with a small clay pot in which they put oil. They would light the oil, and then sit the small clay pot on the top of a small 3-legged tripod, which in that day, was called a "candlestick." You will see that in Luke 8:16. *"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light."* A word that would give us a better understanding today might be to call it "a Lampstand." However, we will use the word candlestick as that is what the scripture uses. I just wanted everyone to have a picture in their mind of what is being talked about when it says "candlestick."

*"And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: **his** shaft, and **his** branches, **his** bowls, **his** knops, and **his** flowers, shall be of the same. And six branches shall come out of the sides of it; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side: Three bowls made like unto almonds, with a knop and a flower in one branch; and three bowls made like almonds in the other branch, with a knop and a flower: so in the six branches that come out of the candlestick. And in the candlestick shall be four bowls made like unto almonds, with their knops and their flowers. And there shall be a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, according to the six branches that proceed out of the candlestick. Their knops and their branches shall be of the same: all it shall be one beaten work of pure gold. And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it. And the tongs thereof, and the snuffdishes thereof, shall be of pure gold. Of a talent of pure gold shall he make it, with all these vessels. And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount."*

The Spiritual Significance of the Candlestick

It is obvious from these verses that the Candlestick is the symbol of a person. The pronoun 'his" is used five times as it explains the various parts of this piece of furniture. The candlestick is a picture of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. The candlestick was made of pure gold. There was no wood of any type in the candlestick!

The candlestick had "a shaft." The shaft was in the exact center of the entire design of the candlestick. The "shaft" pictures Jesus Christ. Jesus should be the exact center of EVERYTHING we do in the church, and what we do in our life. Nothing should be added to the "shaft" or of the light the candlestick gives. Also, the candlestick had "six branches" coming out of the sides of the "center shaft." There were three branches on one side of the center shaft and three other branches on the other side of the shaft. IMPORTANT:

The six branches teach us two very important truths:

- **First**, you and I as believers are to be "side by side" with Jesus in everything we do. We are "heirs with God, and joint heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:16-17).

- **Second**, every branch was "side by side" with the center shaft and none of the branches were ever "out in front" of Jesus Christ. No Christian should ever, in any way, seek to take any credit for anything they do. No Christian should ever try to be "in the limelight" while serving God. We should never try to "draw attention to our self!" If a Christian does those things, there are consequences! Luke 14:11 says, *"For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."* Colossians 1:18 states, *"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."*

- **Third**, the candlestick had bowls shaped like almonds, flowers, and knobs on it. The almonds, as they blossom, speak of the resurrection of Christ. That is pictured in Aaron's rod, in Numbers 17:8: *"And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds."* You and I should have the same desire as the Apostle Paul had. He had a driving desire to know the power of the resurrection of Christ. Paul declared that driving desire in Philippians 3:10. *"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"*

- **Fourth,** the lilies picture Christ and his holiness. In the Song of Solomon, 2:1, Jesus is referred to as "the lily of the valley," which were pure white!

- **Fifth**, the pomegranates picture Christ producing fruit. As shared above, you and I as branches, should be seeking to bring forth fruit. John 15:5 tells us we should be producing fruit. "… *He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*

The main purpose of the candlestick was to "give light in the Holy Place. The light of the candlestick was very necessary, as there was NO OTHER TYPE OF LIGHT in the Holy Place. The Holy Place had no windows in it. Moses built the Tabernacle without windows in accordance with the pattern which God showed him while he was with God on the mountain top. The natural man would say, "God made a mistake." A room like that has to have windows! The natural man would have "changed God's pattern" and put in some windows. Today, we see that happening in local churches. Churches today are using "artificial light" to draw people's attention away from the "light of the candlestick!" Churches which are doing that, are saying, "the light of the candlestick" is not sufficient! We need to add MORE light in the church! We need to "help God out!" We will address this in GREAT DETAIL in a section toward the end of this book. God DOES NOT NEED OUR HELP!

John 1:3-5 and Verse 9, speaking of Jesus say, *"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.…..That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."* In John 9:5, Jesus referred to himself in this manner. *"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*

The Security for All Eternity in the Candlestick.

"The shaft and the branches were *"one beaten work of pure gold."* This pictures you and me, along with every born-again believer, being a part of the body of Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 12:12 states, *"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."*

If you will stop and think about that truth, it should be a great blessing and motivation to you. We are not grafted in! There were "no seams in the candlestick!" None of the branches could "fall off" and get lost! This pictures eternal security for the believer! Knowing this truth, every Christian should seek to be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ. That is God's plan. There are two key scriptures that declare this to be true and to be the will of God! Romans 8:29 tells us this truth. *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."*

That truth is described in detail, and more fully explained in John 15:1-5 *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*

The Specifications of the Candlestick

The Golden Candlestick is one of two pieces of furniture in the entire Tabernacle, of which the Bible gives no measurements. The first piece which had no measurement was the Brazen Laver, which was located directly in front of the entrance to the Holy Place, where the priests came to wash their hands and their feet before entering the Holy Place. That pictured "no limits on forgiveness" when we confess our sin.

The fact that there are no measurements on the Golden Candlestick is the same. It pictures there being "no limits" to the light that is available to us from Jesus Christ, and "no limits" to the power, which is available to us from the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8 - Acts 2:1-5)

The Golden Candlestick, which gives light and power, was on the south side of the Holy Place, directly across from the Table of Shewbread on the north side. The table of shewbread, as we shall see, is a picture of the Word of God. God placed the Golden Candlestick in the perfect position to "shine light and power" on the Word of God!

THE BOWLS AND THE OIL
Exodus 27:20-21

All of the following is a part of the Candlestick, but they have a different application in the Holy Place and a special application to the local church in the New Testament

"And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always. In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the LORD: it shall be a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel."

As pointed out, there were no real candles on the candlestick! The light from the candlestick was produced from "oil" which was placed in small bowls, like almonds (Exodus 25:43). Then the seven bowls would be placed on the tops of "the center shaft" and on "the tops of the six branches" on each side of the center shaft. The "oil" is a picture of the Holy Spirit. Also, the oil was used to anoint the priests. This is declared in Leviticus 8:12. *"And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head, and anointed him, to sanctify him."* This is a picture of the priests "being anointed with the power of the Holy Spirit" in order to have both "light and power" to serve God in a supernatural manner. All of this, the candlestick and the oil, are a picture of Jesus Christ being anointed with the Holy Spirit in order for Him to have "light and power" to do the supernatural things that God, His Father, wanted Him to do, while he was living here on earth "in the form of a man. Acts 10:38 states, *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."*

I will try to keep this brief but let us look at a list of some of the things Jesus did through the power of the Holy Spirit while he was here on earth in the form of a man. If you would like to do an "in depth" study, you will find that practically everything Jesus did while here on earth in the form of a man, He did in the power of the Holy Spirit. Here are a few of those things:

1. Jesus was prophesied of in the Old Testament by the Spirit (Isaiah 11:2).
2. Jesus was bequeathed by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35).
3. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit with power by God (Acts 10:38).
4. Jesus had the Holy Spirit descended on Him (Luke 3:21-22).
5. Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and led by the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1).
6. Jesus defeated Satan in the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1 - 4:13).
7. Jesus preached in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:18).

8. Jesus cast out devils by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:22-28).
9. Jesus offered Himself, through His blood, by the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 9:14).
10. Jesus was raised up from the dead by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11)!
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For the most part, if you do an in-depth study of the things that Jesus did in His earthly ministry they were done by the power of the Holy Spirit. He was truly "the God man" but the things he did while in the "form of a man" were not done by Him as "Very God of very God!" They were done by the Holy Spirit working in Him as being "Very man of very man." If you think about it, the Scripture is clear on that point, we are told to have the mind of Christ. We are told to be like Christ. We are told to follow Christ. There is nowhere in Scripture that we are told to be like God, or to have the mind of God, or to follow God. You and I, as living in a body of flesh, cannot possibly be like God or have the mind of God, or follow God. As a matter of fact, the Bible says in Isaiah 55:8-9, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."* Jesus, in the form of a man, gave us an example to understand that we, as men, can do "all things through Christ which strengthens us" (Philippians 4:13). All of that can be done by the power of the Holy Spirit!

This is a pattern which Jesus commanded us to follow. In Matthew 16:24, Jesus said, *"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me*." The Apostle Paul continued that commandment in I Corinthians 11:1. *"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ*." In John 9:5, Jesus said, *"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."* As you know, Jesus is no longer in the world. He ascended back to Heaven.

Before ascending back to Heaven, Jesus commanded us to be the light of the world. That commandment is found in Matthew 5:14-16. *"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* In Ephesians 5:18, we are commanded to be filled, meaning controlled, by the Holy Spirit. What was the primary purpose God had for commanding us to be filled with the Spirit? The answer to that question is found in Acts 1:8. *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

John 14:12 is an amazing verse and one difficult for us, at times" to believe, because we live in a body of flesh. However, Jesus said it, and that settle's it! *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."* I will continue by sharing verses 13 - 17, which follow verse 12, as they complete the context and explain how the statement Jesus made is possible.

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." We are supposed to do ALL THAT WE DO by the power of the Holy Spirit!

Question: Have you obeyed the commandments of God concerning "being the light of the world and being controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit?"

THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD
Exodus 25:23-30

"Thou shalt also make a table of shittim wood: two cubits shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about. And thou shalt make unto it a border of an hand breadth round about, and thou shalt make a golden crown to the border thereof round about. And thou shalt make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings in the four corners that are on the four feet thereof. Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table. And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them. And thou shalt make the dishes thereof, and spoons thereof, and covers thereof, and bowls thereof, to cover withal: of pure gold shalt thou make them. And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me alway."

The Specifications of the Table

The Table of Shewbread was immediately inside the Holy Place and was on the north side of the room. The table was three feet long, one and one-half feet wide, and two and one-fourth feet in height. It was made of "shittim wood" and was completely overlaid with "pure gold." These items are vitally important. The entire table pictures Jesus Christ in the New Testament. The wood pictures the pure and perfect humanity of our Lord Jesus. The "pure gold" pictures the Divine Deity of Jesus Christ. The table, resting on four legs, which were higher than the length or the breadth of the table, pictures Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead, now alive and well, and holding up the Bread.

The table had what seems to be a double Crown of Gold around the edges. One of the crowns seems to have been "on the top of the table," going completely around the four sides of the table. The second crown was like a border and was made "a hands-breadth wide," which is about 4 1/2 inches. That crown went completely around the outside edge of the top of the table and was outside of the first crown on the top of the table. The second crown was also a "crown of pure gold," and made in the very same manner. The two Crowns of Pure Gold together are a picture of Jesus Christ and are described in I Timothy 6:15. *"Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;"*

The Significance of the Rings and Staves
Exodus 25:26-27

There were "four golden rings" which were on the "four corners" of the table. There were "two staves" made of shittim wood and overlayed with gold. The staves were fitted inside of the golden rings, one on the one side, and the other on the other side. The verse above states, *"…that the table may be borne with them.*" This teaches us that God intended for the Israelites to put the Table of Shewbread, which as we know was a picture of Jesus Christ and His Word, "on their shoulders" to be taken with them, everywhere they went as they traveled through the wilderness for 40 years.

This is a picture of God's will for the church and for us today as Christians. We NEED to take the table, which is Jesus, and the "bread of life" that was on the table, which was His Word, with us everywhere we go in this world. In John 17:14-17, Jesus said these words concerning us as Christians " *I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."* You and I, as God's children, are to take the Word of God with us everywhere we go as we travel through the "world of wilderness.". Psalms 119:11 says, *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."*

In Hebrews 13:5, God promised us that He would never leave us nor forsake us. To turn that promise around, you and I should promise Jesus not to ever leave Him or forsake Him!

THE BREAD ON THE TABLE
Leviticus 24:5

"And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD."

The first mention of "bread" in the Bible is found in found in Exodus 16:14-15. *"And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat."* Manna in the Old Testament was the word used for bread.

There are several important principles found in "the Manna," which was food which God gave His people as they traveled through the wilderness for 40 years. As you know, the "manna," meaning "bread," is a picture of Jesus Christ as the "Living Word."

- **First**, the manna came down from Heaven!
- **Second**, the manna was "round," which pictures it being perfect!
- **Third**, the manna was "white" which pictures it as being pure!
- **Fourth**, it was given to the Israelites in the wilderness by the "Giver of Life" in heaven as a substance to sustain them as they went through the wilderness.

Now, let's go to the New Testament and read John 6:35, 48, and 51. Jesus declared that "He was the Bread of Life." John Chapter Six was the FIRST time bread is mentioned in the New Testament. Therefore, we shared this in the introduction but ask that you PLEASE remember this. When Jesus declared this New Testament truth in John 6:35, 48 and 51, He was NOT talking to Christians like you and me. He was TALKING TO THE ISRAELITES! He was referring back to the "bread" on the Table of Shewbread" in the Holy Place in the Tabernacle, which EVERY Israelite knew about. When he shared these words, immediately, the mind of every Israelite went immediately to the "bread" on the table in the Tabernacle! These are those verses. *"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth*

on me shall never thirst. He again called himself that in Verse 48, *"I am that bread of life.* Jesus summed this truth up in Verse 51, where he said, "*I am the living bread* ***which came down from heaven****:* (referring to the manna) *if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."* It is clear that the "bread" on the table in the Holy Place is a picture of Jesus Christ, the "Bread of Life."

I will point out one other very important matter, which we will also deal with in depth in the closing section of the book. There was NOTHING on the table but the Bread! There were no appetizers, no salads, no flavorings to pour over the bread, certainly no chocolate pie and ice cream! Like I said, we will deal with this later in the book as it is a serious matter today.

The Bread and it's Preparation
Leviticus 24:5-7

"And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD. And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto the LORD."

The "Preparation of the Bread" pictures Jesus Christ! There were three steps used to prepare the ingredients of the bread which the Israelites made and placed on the table of shewbread.

- **First**, it was CRUSHED! Flour is made from wheat. The wheat had to be "crushed" before it could be turned into flour and be mixed with the other ingredients in the bread. Being "crushed" is the picture of what happened to Jesus in Isaiah 53:5. *"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."*

- **Second**, it was SIFTED! After the wheat was crushed, it was sifted through a fine-mesh sieve in order to remove all the impurities, the bran, the germs, and the debris in order to turn it into pure flour. Jesus was "sifted" and had no impurities, bran, germs or debris in Him! John 8:46 tells us He was sifted. "*Which of you convinceth me of sin?*" Luke 23:4 says, *"Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man."* Hebrews 7:26 clearly declares to us that Jesus was sifted of all impurities, bran, germs, and debris. *"For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;"*

- **Third**, it was BAKED! Isaish 53:10-11 tells us Jesus suffered the "fire of God's wrath."

"Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."

When this was written in the days of Isaiah, no one had ever heard of "the cross!" All the Israelites knew about "an offering for sin" was on the Brazen Altar at the entrance of the Outer

Court of the Tabernacle, where it was offered to God. God had put "fire" in the altar, which burned and baked the offering!

- **Fourth,** it had FRANKINCENSE added to it! This was added AFTER the flour has been crushed and sifted and before it was baked. Let's go to Leviticus 2:1-2. *"And when any will offer a **meat** offering unto the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put frankincense thereon: And he shall bring it to Aaron's sons the priests: and he shall take thereout his handful of the flour thereof, and of the oil thereof, with all the frankincense thereof; and the priest shall burn the memorial of it upon the altar, to be an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD:"* The Hebrew word for meat, "manchah," which is underlined and in bold print in the verse above, means "meal."

Frankincense was one of the most expensive gifts which the wise men brought as a gift to Jesus when he was just a "baby lying in the manger" in Matthew 2:11. *"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."* Frankincense had one of the sweetest smells of all other flavorings in those days.

The Bread and it's Portions
Leviticus 24:5

"And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD."

There were two rows of bread placed on the table. Each row had 6 loaves of bread in it, for a total of 12 loaves. Twelve loaves of bread pictures them as being sufficient for the 12 tribes of Israel. That pictures the Word of God today as being sufficient for God's people and is very important to our lives.

The Bread and it's Partakers
Leviticus 24:8-9

"Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the LORD made by fire by a perpetual statute."

According to these verses, the bread was to be prepared fresh and new, and set in order on the table every sabbath day! The priests were required to enter the Holy Place and eat the bread from the table EVERY Sabbath Day. That is a picture of Christians being in church every "Lord's Day! Every New Testament Christian, according to I Peter 2:5, is a royal priest. The verse states, *"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."* That is MORE than enough reason for every member of the church to be obedient to Hebrews 10:25. *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*

The purpose of the 12 loaves of bread pictures, God's provision of "spiritual food" as being sufficient to sustain the high priests on the Sabbath day! In those days, the priests pictured the entire nation of Israel, therefore, it pictures the 12 loaves being sufficient to sustain the entire nation of Israel. This is a picture of "the Word of God" being totally sufficient for the world today.

THE GOLDEN ALTAR OF INCENSE
Exodus 30:1-10

"And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it. A cubit shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof; foursquare shall it be: and two cubits shall be the height thereof: the horns thereof shall be of the same. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, the top thereof, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof; and thou shalt make unto it a crown of gold round about. And two golden rings shalt thou make to it under the crown of it, by the two corners thereof, upon the two sides of it shalt thou make it; and they shall be for places for the staves to bear it withal. And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee. And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations. Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon. And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD."

The Purpose of the Golden Altar
Psalms 141:2

The Golden Altar was a place of prayer! The word "incense" is used five times in these verses. What is incense? The Hebrew word for incense is "ketoreth" and Strong's Hebrew Concordance says it means "(sweet) incense, perfume." The word "incense" is used to describe our prayers to God in several places. Psalms 141:2 uses it in that manner. *"Let my prayer be set forth before thee **as incense**;* (a sweet smell) *and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."*

It is also used in Revelation 8:3-5. *"And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake."*

The commandment of God is clear that Aaron was to burn sweet incense on the Altar every morning and every evening. Again, that teaches us that you and I, as royal priests as declared in I Peter 2:9, should "start our day in prayer" to the Lord and end our day in prayer. This is what I would encourage everyone to do. When you wake up in the morning, before you get out of bed, spend at least a few minutes in prayer. During that time, I would challenge you to do at least this

one thing every morning. Obey Romans 12:1 and die to self. The apostle Paul, who was the best Christian, or at least one of the best Christians we have on record, in I Corinthians 15:31 said, *"I die daily."* If Paul needed to do that, we need to do that. We need to "die daily." I would also encourage you to memorize Galatians 2:20 and claim it as one of your life verses, *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."*

In the same verses, God commanded Aaron to again "burn sweet incense" on the altar every evening. I would encourage you to do the same. Close your day by thanking God for his blessings and guidance of your life throughout the day. As you close your day and go to bed, you might also ask the Lord to bring to your attention ANYTHING you did that day which was not in His will and was not pleasing to Him. Should He bring anything to mind, and He will if you have sinned against Him, confess it before you close your eyes and go to sleep!

Again, in Exodus 30:8 God said *"…he should burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generation."* When you apply these three commandments to the New Testament believer, it would mean that we should perpetually be in fellowship with God the Father and God the Son, throughout the entire day. (I John 1:3). Everyone reading the book knows that we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. He lives in our heart. That means He goes with you everywhere you go! Sad to say, many, maybe most Christians, may have a time of devotion and prayer in the morning, and may do the same in the evening. However, many Christians ignore the Lord Jesus throughout the day.

Think of it this way, what if you and a very close friend of yours planned to go fishing together. Your friend came to your house and picked you up early in the morning. He talked with you for a few minutes, and then you went fishing. You spent the entire day together fishing. You took a break for lunch but had no conversation and then went back to fishing. At the close of the day, your friend drove you back home, and he drove in the driveway to let you out of the car. He told you what a nice time he had with you, thanked you, and drove off. However, between him talking to you in the morning and telling you what a good time he had that evening, he did not say one word of any kind throughout the day! He ignored you. What would you think about him? How would you feel toward him? I often wonder how the Lord Jesus, who goes everywhere we go with us, feels about us when we go the entire day and do not have any fellowship at all with Him; other than saying "good morning" and "good evening." Just something to think about.

We need "perpetual contact" with our Lord Jesus. Just as the priests who walked on a dirt floor and their hands touched things which were unclean, they needed to stop at the Brazen Laver to wash their hands and feet, every Christian "walks in and touches the things of the world." We sin every day. We need to stop and confess our sins, no matter how small they may seem, ask forgiveness, and keep ourselves in "perpetual fellowship" with our Lord Jesus Christ! I Thessalonians 5:17 states this truth, *"Pray without ceasing."*

The Position of the Golden Altar
Exodus 30:6

The Golden Altar of Incense was located in the exact center of the Holy Place. It was between the Candlestick and the Table of Shewbread and set "before the vail." Directly behind the

vail was the "ark and the mercy seat" where God said, *"I will meet with thee."* That teaches us that our "fellowship" with God, and his Son Jesus Christ, should be the center of our life.

The Person of the Golden Altar
Hebrews 9:24

The Golden Altar is a picture of Jesus Christ. That is confirmed by the verse above. *"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:"*

The "finished work" of Jesus was accomplished at the Brazen Altar. There He is "Christ our Sacrifice." The "unfinished work" of Jesus is done daily at the Golden Altar. There He is "Christ our Supplication." Hebrews 7:25 tells us of His unfinished work. *"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, **seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**"* This "unfinished work" is done in "the tabernacle of heaven, explained in Hebrews 9:24. That verse is quoted above. It is even more clear in Hebrews 8:1-5.

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount."

The Power of the Golden Altar
Exodus 30:10

The Golden Altar had four horns. There was one on each of the four corners. Once each year, Aaron, the high priest, made an atonement on the horns by sprinkling the blood from a sin offering on them. Horns in the Bible always speak of power. The four horns on the Brazen Altar at the entrance by the gate, spoke of "the power of the blood." The horns of the Golden Altar of Incense speak of "the power of prayer."

The four horns not only speak of power, but they also teach us that we can pray for all the people of the world, north to south, and east to west. There are NO LIMITS placed on our prayer life. Also, please keep this in mind, when you kneel to pray you are never alone. While you pray, the Bible tells us in Hebrews 7:25 that Jesus Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father making intercession for you. *"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."* Also, while you pray and Jesus is making intercession for you, the Holy Spirit is also making intercessions for you. Romans 8:27 says, *"And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."*

I write this, hoping it will encourage you, as you remember that when you kneel to pray, there are actually "three of you praying to the Father." Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, *"And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."*

The Pattern of the Golden Altar
Exodus 30 and 1-3

We have covered this several times before but will briefly mention it again. The Golden Altar was made of "acacia wood," overlayed with gold. The wood speaks of the "purity of Christ humanity" and "the Gold speaks of His Deity!" Jesus was “all God and all man.” He was “the God Man!” I Timothy 2:15 also tells us that He was the mediator between God and man!

As for the dimensions, the altar was a cubit in length and a cubit in breadth, and two cubits high. That would be about a foot and a half in length and a foot and a half in breadth, and three feet high. The height was twice the length or breadth of the Altar. There are no Bible texts to prove this, but it being twice the height, plus it was the tallest piece of furniture in the Holy Place, it may indicate that God is not interested in hearing our long, drawn-out prayers. In Matthews 6:7, Jesus said, *"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking."* I have heard several people, when ask to lead in prayer, possibly at the close of a church service, begin their prayer, and then repeat and repeat and repeat their request, just in different words. Many times, I have heard people pray aa prayer, and after making their request, they spend a good deal of time telling God how to answer their prayers. I always think of John 2:1-12, where Jesus did his first miracle. They were at the marriage at Cana, and the ran out of wine. Mary, the mother of Jesus, went to Him and make a "four word prayer request." She simply said, "*They have no wine.*" If you read these 12 verses, you find that Jesus knew exactly how to answer her prayer and did answer it. God does not need us to try and "tell Him how to answer prayer!"

The Participants of the Golden Altar
I Corinthians 12:12-14

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many."

Every believer is a "participant with the body of Christ" and is pictured with Christ in the Golden Altar. Therefore, as members of His body, plus according to I Peter 2:9, each of us being a royal priest, each of us should be praying for one another. Each of us should be interceding for other members of the body. God has told us several times to "pray one for another." We should stop and think about what a privilege it is to be an intercessor. We join men like Abraham, who interceded for Lot; Moses, who interceded for the nation of Israel; and the Apostle Paul, who interceded for every church God had used him to plant. The opportunity to "intercede of others" is one of the greatest privileges a Christian can have. We are invited, by God, to *"come boldly to the throne of grace…"* (Hebrews 4:16). That means, we can go to God's throne any time we want, we can stay as long as we want, and we can return as often as we please! That is unbelievable - that a Holy God would open the door of His Throne room to sinners like you and me and <u>offer us such a privilege of coming in and talking with Him</u>!

Hebrews 7:25 says, *"…he ever liveth to make intercession for them."* The verse says, *"for them."* Keep in mind who He is talking about, when He said, "them," He was referring to those

who had first come through the gate and brought a blood sacrifice, which was placed on the Brazen Altar. When he said, "for them," he did not include people from the outside world, lost people. He was talking about saved people, and saved people only! In John 17:9, Jesus Christ, praying to His Father, said, *"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine."*

On the cross, Jesus did everything he could do for sinners, to the point that he said, "It is finished!" However, he did not apply that to His work of intercession, and He is, right now, at the right hand of God making intercession for every believer in the world! Until a sinner receives Christ by faith as his Savior, he cannot be saved, and he does not have access to God in prayer, other than to seek salvation. The sinner has "no intercessor" for anything he does!

Question: Are you taking advantage of the tremendous privilege of participating in the ministry of Jesus Christ by praying and interceding for other members of the body of Christ? If not, will you begin today?

It is sad today, not only that many believers have failed in spending time in prayer, but most churches have failed. Churches have an "opening prayer" and a "closing prayer" but they fail miserably in following the pattern of the first church. Acts 12:5 tells us how the "first New Testament church prayed. "Peter therefore was kept in prison: *but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him."* As I am sure you know, as a result of the church praying without ceasing, Peter was released by an angel! Following is a clear "five-point pattern" for the church to follow in praying:

1. Prayer was made
2. Without ceasing
3. By the Church
4. Unto God
5. For Peter - (Be specific!)

Many churches today, even when they meet together on Wednesday, which began as a "prayer meeting night," the church will sing, make a few announcements, share a few prayer requests, the pastor will preach a message, and they will close the service with, maybe "five minutes of prayer." It seems that the church today has forgotten the "power of prayer!"

I am sure there are churches today, which have a "real prayer meeting." I was a member of a church in the 1960s which had one. Thrifhaven Baptist Church, where I was a member, I taught a Sunday School class, plus attended night classes at Memphis Baptist College, and we had a "prayer meeting every Saturday night." About 30 to 40 men, sometimes more, would meet in the church auditorium about 7:30 PM every Saturday night. The lights were "dim." At 7:30, the pastor would sometimes share a couple of special prayer requests, then would say, "Okay brethren, let's gather around the altar and pray." The men would spread out across the altar and the front row of seats, and we would kneel and pray. Anyone who wanted could pray aloud, but no one was "called" on aby any one else to pray. Others would kneel and pray silently. The meeting lasted about an hour. That continued for several years. Over that period of years, the prayers of those men were answered, and the church grew from about 400 to about 900. Also, we saw the blessings of God on the church, the Sunday School, our visitation program, and our Bible college! The

church needs to go back to those days, and "meet around the Altar of Incense" and have prayer, without ceasing!

One last point concerning how important it is for a church to have a "prayer meeting." I am not talking about "have a message" and then "adding on five-minutes of prayer for special requests. I am talking about the church gathering around the altar and having a real prayer meeting. Think about this. Our Lord Jesus Christ, when he was here on earth, was " very God of very God!" He was the GOD MAN! The New Testament records 25 times of Jesus praying. Included in these verses, we find the Lord Jesus rebuking the disciples for not praying!

Matthew 26:39-45 records the Lord Jesus praying three different times; *"And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and **prayed,** saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away again the second time, and **prayed**, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came and found them asleep **again**: for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and **prayed the third time**, saying the same words Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."*

We are commanded to *"pray without ceasing"* (I Thessalonians 5:17). The church at Rome, *"prayed without ceasing"* (Acts 12:5). Those churches "turned the world upside down." Throughout the New Testament it is recorded 25 times that Jesus was praying. Now, let's go back to the local church. Let's think about this. Is it any wonder that churches are closing, and others are declining when we knowingly, as a church, disregard God's word? Churches today spend more time "singing" than they spend in prayer! They sometimes spend more time "making announcements" than they spend in prayer. They spend more time going over "prayer requests" than they spend praying for those requests! What does that tell us? It tells us that prayer is not important to the church!

I think God put the "Altar of Incense" in the center of the Tabernacle, which is a picture of the local church, and sat it directly in front of the veil, just maybe a foot away "from the presences of God," to make us understand how important it is to Him that the "church spend time in prayer." The church today needs to go back to the "Tabernacle, and the first century church" and spend time in prayer!

I find two other verses that should convict us and cause us to have "church prayer meetings!" In the Old Testament, Isaiah 56: 7 states, *"… for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."* That is repeated in the New Testament in Matthew 21:13, *"And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer;…"*

Question: Do you know of any church where the people of that city or area call it "a house of prayer?" It is sad to say, but I have never hear anyone refer to any church as "a house of prayer!"

The Picture of Jesus Christ Our Mediator
I Timothy 2:5

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

Before leaving the subject of the "Golden Altar," which is a picture of Jesus sitting at the right hand of God the Father, making intercession for us as we pray, I want to share some thoughts with you with the hope that it will be a blessing, and an encouragement to you when you pray, especially when you go to God with a need or a problem.

When Jesus came to this earth, Philippians 2:7 tells us what Jesus was like when he came. The verse says, *"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:"* In other words, when Jesus came, He took on the form of a man. Now, let's read Acts 1:9-11; *"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."*

These verses tell us three things.

- **First**, when the disciples watched Jesus ascend to heaven, he was in the form of a man. "*While they beheld, he was taken up and a cloud received him out of their sight."*
- **Second,** it tells us that he will come again.
- **Third**, it tells us that when he comes again, he *"shall come in like manner as ye have seen him go!"* How did he go? He went in the form of a man. According to Scripture, how will he come back again? He will come back "in the form of a man." Revelation 19:11-16 verifies that Jesus will come again in the form of a man.

Now, why did I make a point of that truth? Because, Jesus, at this very minute, is sitting on the right hand of His Father and is making intercessions for us! Considering all these truths, I personally believe that as Jesus is at the right hand of God, making intercession for you and me, that He is still in the form of man. This does not mean He is not God. He is "VERY GOD of VERY GOD!" However, just as He was VERY GOD of VERY GOD while on earth in the form of a man, I believe He is still in the form of a man as he sits at the right hand of his Father. No, you and I cannot understand that, but there are many, many other things about God the Son and God the Father we do not understand.

Now, why do I believe he is in the form of a man, and why is this vitally important? Let's turn to Hebrews 4:14-16 and we will find the answer to both questions. *"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

Verse 15 tells us that Jesus, our high priest, can be touched by the feeling of our infirmities; and was tempted like as we are, yet without sin." In other words, as Jesus sits at the right hand of God, and we go to the Father in prayer sharing a problem, a burden, and serious needs, maybe a failure, Jesus is "touched by our infirmities." He can feel what we feel. How can

He do that? I believe it is because He is still in the "form of a man!" When you pray, and Jesus feels what you feel and understands what you are going through and, as God, He knows what you need to have victory, and He can make intercession for you. Knowing how we feel and what we need, He can lean over toward His Father, and say (keep in mind I am paraphrasing, not quoting scripture), "Father, I know exactly what this person is going through." He continues by saying, "This person has come boldly to the throne of Grace to obtain mercy and help in a time of need; and, Father, this is exactly what this person needs to give them victory and peace over their problem. I know what they need, because I have been there and have gone through what they are going through!" How can Jesus do that, as He is God? He can do that, I believe, because he is still in the form of a man, meaning "He is the GOD MAN!" Amen! That should greatly encourage us as we pray.

AN ILLUSTRATION OF A MEDIATOR

Job 9:32-33 gives us a tremendous illustration of Jesus as our Mediator. *"For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both."*

The Hebrew word for "daysman" in the above verse, is "Yakach". The word "Yakach" has a "three-fold" meaning. It means, "one who argues a case. one who settles a dispute, and one who pleads a case." That is the picture of a Mediator. Let me share the following story with you based on Job 9:32-33, that I think will be a blessing to you. Keep in mind, a "mediator" is on who can lay his hand on us both!

There was a disagreement between a King and a Beggar. They could not settle the disagreement, so they sought for a "mediator." The King said to the beggar, "I know a person who can mediate this for us." The King then chose another King to be mediator. The beggar said, "Oh no! You two kings will always stick together and rule against me as a beggar. I can't do that!" Then, the beggar said, "I have a mediator." The beggar then chose another beggar to be mediator! The King said, "Oh no! You two beggars will always stick together and rule against me as a King." They decided, "We need a "Daysman," one to argue and plead the case, one who can "Lay His hand on us both!" Jesus is our "daysman!" Jesus is THE GOD MAN! Jesus understands God's Holiness and Jesus understands our flesh. No one can be a mediator if they do not understand "both sides" of a problem. I would encourage you to remember this when you go to God in prayer. You have a "daysman" who understands God and His Holiness and understands you, your flesh, and can "lay his hand on both!" Amen!

THE INNER VAIL
Exodus 26:31-34

"And thou shalt make a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made: And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold: their hooks shall be of gold, upon the four sockets of silver. And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy. And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place."

This was a "veil" which separated the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. The High Priest could enter into the Most Holy Place one time each year, but that required a blood sacrifice. Hebrews 9:7. *"But into the second* (the Most Holy Place) *went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:"*

The Pattern and Picture of the Veil
Exodus 26:31

The veil is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ! The veil had four colors, starting at the top and going to the bottom. It is very important that the colors be kept in the proper order. We have covered this before but will briefly cover it again. The color at the top of the veil was **(1) Blue.** The Blue pictures Jesus, the Son of God, who came down from Heaven. John 3:31 says, *"He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all."* The color just below the blue was **(2) Purple.** The Purple pictures Jesus, as the King of Kings. Matthew 27:37 declares this truth; *"And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS."* The color just below the purple was **(3) Scarlet.** The scarlet pictures the blood of Jesus Christ which was shed for the sins of the world. Romans 5:8-9 declares this truth; *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."* The last color, just below the scarlet, was **(4) White.** The white pictures Jesus as the righteous and sinless Son of God. Revelation 19:11 says; *"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war."*

To conclude the veil being a picture of our Lord Jesus Christ, Hebrews 10:19-20 makes it plain beyond doubt. *"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, **his flesh**;"*

The "white" is also a picture of all believers who have received Jesus Christ as the Savior and have become a part of the "body of Christ." Revelation 19:8 tells us that truth. *"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."*

The Purpose of The Vail
Exodus 26:33

" And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy."

The purpose of the vail was to separate sinful man from a Holy God. In our language, the vail said, "STAY OUT. - As a sinful man, you are not worthy to meet with a Holy God!" In the Old Testament, no Israelite, other than the high priest, could enter the Holy of Holies for any reason. The Israelites did not have the privilege of going into the presences of God as you and I have today. Thank God today, in the New Testament church age, that is no longer true. That veil was removed when Jesus was crucified and died on the cross.

Matthew 27:50-51 explains why and how the veil was removed. *"Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;"* Please note that the veil was "rent" from the top to the bottom. That pictures God "renting" the veil open. If man had rent the veil, man would have rent it from bottom to top. The veil was 15 feet high!

Because of the veil being rent by God, you and I, as explained earlier, can go directly into the "Holy of Holies" and meet with God any time we desire to do so. Today, in the New Testament, and the veil being rent from top to bottom between, the "Holy Place and the Most Holy Place" have been combined and together, they picture the New Testament local church!

The Plan and Privilege for Believers
Hebrews 10:19-25

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; 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. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Because God rent the veil and opened the way for us to enter into the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus, we should **(1)** *"…draw near with a true heart."* (Vs. 22). **(2)** We should *"hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering."* (Vs. 23). We should **(3)** *"provoke others unto love and to good works."* (Vs. 24). **(4)** We should *"not forsake the assembling of ourselves together."* (Vs. 25)

CHAPTER FIVE
THE FURNITURE IN THE MOST HOLY PLACE

God began to give Moses instructions to build the entire Tabernacle in Exodus 25:1-9. God, in verse 8 of that section, told Moses the reason for having him build the ark. He said, *"And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them."* After telling Moses the reason for having him build the Tabernacle, in Verse 9, God said, *"According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it."* Immediately following that, in verses 10-16, God gave Moses the instructions and a pattern to build the Ark.

THE ARK
Exodus 25:10-16

"And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the

four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them. The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it. And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee."

Before we begin our study of "the ark" let me give you a brief understanding of the word, "ark." Based on Bible principles and in language we understand, an "ark" is a place of "safe abode." There are two other "arks" found in the Bible, beside THE ARK in the Tabernacle. The first one is found in Genesis 6:14, God instructed Noah to *"Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch."* This is called "Noah's Ark." God had Noah build this ark before the judgement of God came in the form of rain for 40 days and 40 nights that destroyed everyone on the earth except Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives. In Genesis 7:1 God said to Noah, "*Come thou and all thy house into the ark: for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation."* God was apparently inside the ark, and called Noah to "come in to the ark with him." In Genesis 7:16, the Bible says *"and the LORD shut him in."* Noah and his family were "kept safe" till the storm was over.

The second ark was the "Ark of Moses" which is found in Exodus 2:1-3. Moses was born under the degree of death, but Moses' mother was a woman of faith and built him an ark and lined it with pitch, which pictures atonement. She put Moses and the ark in the river. The daughter of Pharaoh took Moses out of the ark, saved his life, and returned him to his mother to be raised. Later, he was taken back to Pharaoh's daughter, where he was kept safe and later became known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Later, he was used of God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to the promised land, and is the "builder of the Tabernacle," which we are studying now. The third ark is the "Ark on the Covenant." As we shall see, it also became a place of safe keeping for the testimony of God.

The Commencement of Building the Tabernacle
Exodus 25:10-16

Today when men build a house for them to live in, they begin with the foundation. Then they build the walls, finish the interior, and then complete the house by putting the roof on. After the house is finished, then they begin to look for furniture to put in the house!

God does things different! In Exodus 25:8, God said, *"let them build ME a sanctuary…"* The very next thing God told Moses to build was in Verse 10. God said, *"And they shall make an ark…"* God started with "the heart" of the Tabernacle. Man always starts with the "outside" of whatever he does. Lost people think they need to start toward salvation by "turning over a new leaf." God always starts with the "heart." God's ways are ALWAYS right and always best. That tells us that in everything we do as "sons of God," it should begin in our heart. Matthew 15:18 tells us why we should start with the heart. *"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man."* Luke 6:45 adds to that truth. It says, *"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."*

In the Bible, all things begin with God. God always reaches out to man, not man to God. John 6:44 confirms that truth. *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."* John 12:32 continues with that thought. *" And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."* Also, we should all keep in mind that according to Romans 5:8, *"… while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* Why? We were *"in his heart!"*

The Construction of the Ark
Exodus 25:10-11

"And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. "

The materials used to construct the Ark were "acacia wood and gold." Being made of two materials, picture the "two-fold" nature of Christ. The wood pictures his "pure and perfect humanity." II Corinthians 5:21 tells us, that even though Jesus took on the form of a man, he had no sin at all. *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* In spite of that, Jesus came in the form of a man in order that He would know all the temptations, trials, testing, tiredness, weakness, hunger, thirst, and many other things, which we go through in our life. Hebrews 4:15 assures us that He knows what we go through, but that he never committed a sin. *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."*

The gold pictures the "Deity" of Christ. Deity means Jesus was "very God of very God." Please note that the ark was overlaid with gold, both on the inside and the outside. The wood and the gold together teach us that Jesus was "so much man, that He was not God at all" and He was "so much God that He was not man a all." He was known as "the God Man!" You and I have a very difficult time understanding that, as Jesus is the ONLY man ever on earth that had a “two-fold” nature.

Let me share a couple of passages which picture His “two-fold nature.” In John 4:7, the Bible says, *"There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink"* (That pictures the human part of Jesus.) Then in Verse 10, Jesus said, "… *If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water"* (That pictures the God part of Jesus). In Mark 4:38, it says, *"…Jesus was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow…"* (That pictures the human part of Jesus.) Then in Verse 39, it says, *"…he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great storm"* (That pictures the God part of Jesus.)

Jesus Himself, in John 14:10-11, stated He was the God Man! Keep in mind, that Jesus came in the form of a man. *"Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake."*

The Crown of Gold
Exodus 25:11b

"…and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about."

The Crown of pure gold, which was around the top of the ark, pictures Jesus as being a King, the King of Kings! Only Kings wore crowns in those days. In the New Testament, men crowned Jesus with a "crown of thorns." However, Matthew 2:2 tells us that Jesus was "Born to be a King. *"Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."* While on earth, in Matthew 27:37, Pilate declared Him to be King of the Jews. *And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.* When He returns to earth, Revelation 19:16 tells us what He will be when he returns to earth and sets up the Kingdom of God on earth. *"And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."* The verse before that, Revelation 19:15 says he will rule as a King, *"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

The Rings and The Staves
Exodus 25:12-15

"*And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it."*

This pictures the ark as being moveable. The rings were to be made of pure gold and were mounted on the corners of the ark, two on the one side and two on the other. Also, they made two staves. The staves were made of "wood and overlaid with gold." God's instructions concerning the rings and the staves pictured how God wanted the ark to be moved. This is vitally important. The Gold rings were "cast" as a part of the ark." This pictures the rings made of pure gold as being part of the ark, which is a picture of Jesus. The staves being made of "wood and overlaid with gold," pictures "how" God instructed the ark to be moved.

When the Tabernacle was completed and the time came for the Israelites to move the Ark as they traveled through the wilderness, God gave Moses instructions for moving it. Those instructions are found in Numbers 7:5-9. *"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying Take it of them, that they may be to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; and thou shalt give them unto the Levites, to every man according to his service. And Moses took the wagons and the oxen, and gave them unto the Levites. Two wagons and four oxen he gave unto the sons of Gershon, according to their service: And four wagons and eight oxen he gave unto the sons of Merari, according unto their service, under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. But unto the sons of Kohath he gave none: because the service of the sanctuary belonging unto them was that they should bear upon their shoulders."* Much of the Tabernacle was moved on wagons. However, all of the furniture which had "rings and staves" were to be moved on the shoulders of

men! This included the Brazen Altar, the Table of Shewbread, The Altar of Incense, and the Golden Ark!

Sad to say, in spite of God's clear command man came along and decided they thought they were smarter than God, and that they knew a better way to move the ark! That is found in I Samuel 6:7-8. *"Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him for a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go."*

Today, churches are continually coming up with "new carts" to do God's work. God has a plan for His work, but churches think they know better than God about how to do God's work of the church and bring in "new carts!"

THE CONTENTS OF THE ARK
Hebrews 9:3-4

"And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the 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 tables of the covenant;"

The above verse tells us there were three things which were placed in the "Ark." (1) The pot of manna, (2) Aaron's rod that budded, and (3) The tablets of the covenant, which refers to the two tablets which contained the law God wrote with His finger, and gave to Moses.

The Golden Pot of Manna
Exodus 16

The golden pot of manna is a picture of Jesus Christ. **First**, Exodus 16:14 states that the manna came down from heaven. **Second**, Exodus 16:14 states that it was "small." That pictures the humility of Christ. **Third,** Exodus 16:14 states it was "round." That pictures "the perfection of Jesus." **Fourth,** Exodus 16:31 states it was "white." That pictures the "purity of Jesus." **Fifth,** Exodus 16:31 states that it was "sweet tasting like honey." That is a picture of the “love of Jesus" that he has for his children. **Sixth,** Exodus 16:4 and 22 states the manna was "bread." Jesus said that several times in the New Testament. John 6:48-51 says it clearly and simple, *"I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."*

Israel's resource for food was "manna" sent down from heaven. The manna which God sent down from heaven, was sufficient to meet Israel's need for forty years as they traveled through the wilderness.

In the New Testament, this is a picture of God being our resource and promising to meet all our needs. Matthew 6:32-33 tells us that God knows the things we need, even before we ask for them. He promises that all the things we need will be added to us, if we seek the Kingdom of God!*"….for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first*

the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and <u>*all these things shall be added unto you*</u>*."* In Philippians 4:19, God made us this promise. *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* **<u>Christ Our Resource</u>!**

Aaron's Rod that Budded
Numbers Chapter 17

<u>Aaron's Rod that budded is a picture of Jesus Christ</u>. In Numbers 16, the people of Israel rebelled, murmured against Moses and Aaron, and rejected Aaron's leadership. God gave Moses instructions in Chapter 17, to reveal the man God had chosen to be leader. This is a bit lengthy, but worth reading.

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod. And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be for the head of the house of their fathers. And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you. And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you. And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods. And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness. And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, <u>*the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi*</u> ***<u>was budded</u>***<u>, *and*</u> ***<u>brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds</u>***<u>*. And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod. And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony,* to be kept for a token against the rebels*; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not. And Moses did so: as the LORD commanded him, so did he. And the children of Israel spake unto Moses, saying, Behold, we die, we perish, we all perish. Whosoever cometh any thing near unto the tabernacle of the LORD shall die: shall we be consumed with dying?"*

In the New Testament, the rod "budding," pictures the resurrection of Christ! The rod "blossoming" pictures the exaltation of Christ, which is fulfilled in Revelation 5:14 when He was *"received up to glory."* **<u>Christ our Redeemer!</u>**

The Tablets of Stone
Exodus 25:16 - Hebrews 9:4

"And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony(the two tablets of the broken law) which I shall give thee." (Exodus 25:17)

"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 <u>*the tables of the covenant*</u>*;" (Hebrews 9:4)*

The "tables of the covenant" is referring to the two tablets on which God, with His finger, wrote the law found in Exodus Chapter 20, which consists of The Ten Commandments! These are

laws which God gave, but no man or woman has ever kept. Every man and woman have broken the law. Therefore, ALL PEOPLE were placed under the death penalty. Romans 3:23 says, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"*

Those laws were "placed inside the ark," which was covered by the Mercy Seat. **The Mercy Seat was sprinkled with blood and is a picture of Jesus Christ putting our sins away forever**!!! There are five things we need to understand about Jesus and his relationship to the law.

- **First,** Jesus was made under the law! Galatians 4:4 tells us this truth. *"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law."*
- **Second,** Jesus came to fulfill the law. Matthew 5:17-18 tells us that this is true, *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."*
- **Third,** Jesus took the curse of the law, which is death, on Himself. Galatians 3:13 tells us He did that FOR US! *"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*
- **Fourth**, Jesus was made to be sin for us! II Corinthians 5:21 states that truth. *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
- **Fifth**, we need to understand that when Jesus was made to be sin for us and he died on the cross, he was paying the "sin debt," which is death and separation from God for all eternity, and that we were being made righteous. Romans 10:4 briefly gives us that truth. *"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."*

Leviticus 16:14 gives us the setting in the Old Testament which is a picture of Christ in the New Testament. *"And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times."* The blood the high priest sprinkles is a picture of the blood which Jesus shed on the cross in the New Testament. Hebrews 9:11-12 testifies that the blood of Jesus was shed for our redemption, *"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."* When Jesus was made sin for us and died in our place on the cross for us, we were made righteous. God said, *"When I see the Blood I will pass over you."* Christ is our Righteousness!

Before leaving "Christ making us righteous," let me answer a question some may be asking. What happened to our sins. There are many verses in the Old and New Testament which answer that question. I will give you two of those verses. Psalms 103:12. *"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."* Next, in Hebrews 8:12, it says, *"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."* When Jesus put the "tablets of the broken law" in the "ark of the Covenant" and covered them with the "Mercy Seat" and sprinkled with blood, they were hidden. NO ONE was allowed to remove the Mercy Seat, look into the ark, and see our sins! AMEN! I Samuel 6:19, tells us clearly that God forbids to do so! *"And he smote the men of Bethshemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore*

and ten men: and the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter." **Christ Our Righteousness!**

Today, Jesus Christ is still (1) Our Resource, (2) Our Redeemer, and (3) Our Righteousness!

THE MERCY SEAT
Exodus 25:17-22

"And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel."

The Measurements of the Mercy Seat
Exodus 25:17

The Mercy Seat was the exact same size as the Ark. The Mercy Seat fit perfectly inside of the crown, which went around the ark on the outer edge. The crown prevented the Mercy Seat from "moving its position" in any direction, or from falling off due to neglect! In other words, the King of Kings holds the Mercy Seat in place! This pictures the Mercy Seat as "perfectly" covering all the sins, of all the people, in all the world, regardless of if they came from the North, South, East or West. Amen! I Samuel 6:19 tell us that men are even forbidden to look inside the Ark.

The Materials of the Mercy Seat
Exodus 25:17

The Mercy Seat was made of PURE gold! This tells us that there is no form of "humanity" involved in the forgiveness of sins. There were "no confession booths" with people standing in line waiting to confess their sins and receiving forgiveness! This is practiced by some false religions, but sad to say, man cannot forgive sins.

The Mercy Seat and what it Pictures

The words "Mercy Seat," in the Hebrew language is translated from the word "Kepporath" which is the word found in Exodus 25:17. The Greek word for Mercy Seat is "Hilasterion or Hilasmos." In Romans 3:25 it is translated "Propitiation." In I John 2:2, it is translated "Propitiation." In I John 4:1, it is translated "Propitiation." In Hebrew 9:5, it is translated "Mercy Seat."

The Mercy Seat pictures five different things.

- **First**, it pictures Judgment. It is "the sentence of the law," which is death, carried out (Leviticus 16:14).
- **Second**, it pictures "a place of Mercy. It is where our eternal redemption" is carried out (Hebrews 9:11-15).
- **Third**, it pictures "a place of Fellowship." It is where God said, *"and there will I meet with thee"* (Exodus 25:22).
- **Fourth**, it is a place to go and "find help" (Hebrews 4:14-16).
- **Fifth**, it pictures a place where "we are justified" (Romans 3:26). *"To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."*

The Cherubims and what they Picture
Exodus 25:18

The Cherubims, which are on top of the Mercy Seat, guard the Holiness of God and they protect the Lid and its contents (Genesis 3:24). This concludes our study of the furniture from the Brazen Altar to the Mercy Seat. From the Brazen Altar to the Mercy Seat, they are a picture of Jesus Christ:

The Brazen Alar	Christ our Sacrifice
The Laver	Christ our Sanctification
The Table of Shewbread	Christ our Sustainer
The Golden Candlestick	Christ our Sight and Might
The Altar of Incense	Christ our Supplication
The Ark of the Covenant	Christ our Sovereign
The Mercy Seat	Christ our Sin-bearer

CHAPTER SIX
THE ROYAL PRIESTS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
Exodus Chapter 28

An Old Testament Priest had to be called of God.
Hebrews 5:1-4

"For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. <u>And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron."</u>

In the Old Testament, there were many, many men who wanted to be priests. Several men even tried to enter the Priesthood, but only wanted to exalt themselves. Numbers Chapter 16 records a man named Korah, and several men with him who desired to be priests, and basically wanted to replace Aaron and his sons. The same chapter tells how God opened the earth up and swallowed them alive! It was a "great privilege to be a priest" in the Old Testament. The priests were the only men who could enter the Holy Place, and the High Priest was the only man who could enter the Holy of Holies and go into the presences of God, and he could only do that once a year. That helps us see how important the "office of a priest" was in that day.

Today, every believer in the New Testament is a priest. I realize that many, many Christians do not think of themselves as "priests" but nevertheless, they are. I Peter 2:9 clearly states that truth. *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"*

As it was required of a man in the Old Testament to be called, the same is required of you and I in the New Testament. However, the scriptures clearly teach that when a person trusts Jesus Christ as their Savior, and they become a child of God, they are also "called of God." Let's look at Romans 1:1 and Verse 6. Paul wrote this concerning himself and then concerning every believer:

Verse 1 says, *"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God."* Verse 6 says, *"Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:"*

What was under the law in the Old Testament was "conditional." Now everything is under grace and is unconditional! Just as Aaron's sons were priests by birthright, so are you and I as "sons" of the High Priest, and members of the royal priesthood! Considering what an honor it is to be a "priest" alongside our Lord Jesus, we should dedicate ourselves to doing two things.

- **First**, we should "Walk worthy." Ephesians 4:1-2 *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye **walk worthy** of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;"*
- **Second**, we should "Stand Fast…" II Thessalonians 2:13-15, *"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, **stand fast**, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."*

The Majestic Glory of the Priest's Garments
Exodus 28:2

"And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty."

There are several reasons that the garments of a priest are important! The word "holy" in the verse above, is translated from the Hebrew word, "Qodesh." The word "Qodesh" is translated four different ways in the Bible. It is translated, Holy, Consecrated, Set aside, and Sanctified!

Those garments were a picture of Jesus Christ, the High Priest of the New Testament. Hebrews 9:11 declares Jesus to be our 'High Priest." *"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;"* Please note, the verse says the garments God commanded Moses to make for Aaron and his son, as priests, were to be "*for glory and for beauty*." Let's go to John 1:14. It says, "*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."* Nothing is more glorious than the glory of the Father! A second verse that testifies that the garments were to be made "for glory and for beauty" is found in Hebrews 1:3. *"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"* Amen!

That tells us that the garments worn by the priests were not "common, ordinary everyday garments!" Exodus 28:3, tells us that the Holy garments were made by the very best, "skilled, intelligent, wise-heart workmen" in all of Israel. Also, the priests were not allowed to enter the Holy of Holies without meeting all of God's requirements. If they entered the Holy of Holies, not wearing "holy garments," and not dressed properly, they died (Exodus 28:35)! *"And it shall be upon Aaron to minister: and his sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy place before the LORD, and when he cometh out, that he die not."*

The Modesty of the Priest's Garments
Exodus 28:32

"And there shall be an hole in the top of it, in the midst thereof: it shall have a binding of woven work round about the hole of it, as it were the hole of an habergeon, that it be not rent."

In those days, as you know, they wore robes, both men and women. The above verse tells us that the "robe" was to have a "hole in the top of it." The hole around the top had woven work completely around it. That was to "give it strength." The "habergeon" indicated something "fit closely" and could not be opened. This was to be sure the robe "covered the upper portion of the person wearing the robe. It was considered "immodest" for any of the private parts of the body of the priests to show.

Exodus 28:42

"And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach:" This was also necessary for the priests to be modest. The bottom of the robe reached to the ankles of the priests. God instructed Moses to "*make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness, from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach."*

No doubt this was done for a reason. No one could normally see under the robe of the priest. It came to his ankles. However, daily the priest would climb up a ladder on the Brazen Altar to place or remove sacrifices. The Altar was 7 to 7 1/2 feet high. He had to climb to the very top of the ladder to reach the sacrifice. Because of that, there was a danger of someone seeing the "nakedness" of the priest while he was on the ladder. God, in this verse, declares that if the part of the body "from the thighs and upward to the loins" which is to the hips, is uncovered and can be seen, then the person is consider by God, "to be naked!"

It is SAD today the way people dress, especially in the world. They show the nakedness of their thighs, AND some, especially women, show even more. Even in some churches today, women come to church in short skirts or dresses, show what God calls "nakedness!" Without going into detail, churches today need to do more teaching on "dress standards." Enough said!

Conclusion

All the above teaches us that being a part of the "royal priesthood" of the New Testament, when we enter the "House of God" to meet with our Father, it is important how we dress! We should dress properly and respectfully, because we are going to meet with and worship the King of Kings! We should not enter God's house dressed in "common, ordinary, everyday garments." BE CAREFUL HOW YOU DRESS TO MEET WITH GOD!

SECTION TWO

THE FIRST

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

FOLLOWED THE PATTERN OF THE

OLD TESTAMENT TABERNACLE

CHAPTER SEVEN
INTRODUCTION
RETURN TO THE 1st CENTURY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

We have finished our study of the Old Testament Tabernacle, from which we have a pattern for the local New Testament church to follow. Now, I want us to study the first New Testament church and see if they did or did not follow the pattern which God gave Moses in the Tabernacle.

Before you begin reading this section, I want to point out that I am referring to "the **local New Testament church**" which was planted during the first century after Christ ascended back to Heaven. That took place in Acts Chapter Two.

There are three other "Bible Principles" that I want to emphasize concerning this study, which I hope you will keep in mind as you read through the entire book.

- **First,** When I use the word "church" we are talking about "an assembly of believers." Nowhere in the Scriptures do we find the word "church" referring to a building. Please do not be thinking of "a building" when we talk about the "church."
- **Second**, "God does everything He does in and through the local church." God does not do MOST THINGS in and through the local church, but God does everything He does in and through the local church. There are NO FREE STANDING ministries, of any type, found in the New Testament, which were not under the authority of the local church. God not only established the local church, but He also gave us "patterns" in the Old Testament, and they followed that pattern, with the practice of the first local New Testament church, to teach us "His plan" for how the church should function.
- **Third,** Jesus Christ is the "head" of the church, which is his body. Colossians 1:18 gives us that truth. *"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."* The "church," being members of His body, makes it easily understood that He has ever right to expect us to follow His plan and pattern.

THE FOUNDING OF THE 1st CENTURY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

The question is, when was the First New Testament Church started? There are two different opinions concerning when the first New Testament church began.

- **First,** there is the opinion that it began during the time Jesus was alive on earth and recorded in the four Gospels.
- **Second**, there is an opinion that it began in Acts chapter two, after God sent the Holy Spirit to fill, empower the apostles, and guide them to start the church.

Despite there being argument on both sides, the Bible is clear beyond doubt, that the New Testament church did not start during the time Jesus was alive on the earth. The following episode is a bit humorous, and I am in no way criticizing the young missionary I am referencing. I served in Mexico from 1970 to 1975. After returning to the States and going on staff at Maranatha Baptist Mission in Natchez, Mississippi, I made a good number of trips back to Mexico to take church groups from different churches across the United States. The purpose of those trips was for churches to see the mission field, have their hearts touched, and to better understand the life of a missionary. The following story I am about to share happened on one of those trips:

We had been in Mexico visiting the missionary, one who had surrendered under my preaching, so be sure you understand I AM NOT being critical of him. He meant well! We had been there several days and when this happened, we had the entire group of about 40 people in an "open-air marketplace" eating lunch. This young missionary, who was a very good missionary, began telling me that he was writing a book about how the first New Testament Church began in the four Gospels, while Jesus Christ was here on earth. He asked my opinion, and he asked me if I would be willing to read the book for him and tell him what I thought. I agreed to read it but told him that it was not necessary for me to read the book. He asked "Why?" I politely said, "Because the New Testament church did not begin during the time of the four Gospels nor during the life of Christ on earth."

He quickly responded and shared how many months he had put into studying the subject, and that he could prove that the church was started by Christ while he was on earth. He was "dogmatic!" I again politely said, "No you can't prove that." He replied respectfully and said, "Well then, Brother Gambrell, you prove to me that the church was not started by Jesus during his life here on earth and during the four Gospels!" I said, "Do you have a New Testament Bible with you?" He responded and said, "Sure I do." He took it out of his shirt pocket, handed it to me, and said, "Prove I am wrong!"

This young man had surrendered to be a missionary while I was preaching at his church during a Mission Conference and was affiliated with Fundamental Baptist World Wide Mission. You would need to know this young man to fully understand. He and I were very good friends and were co-laborers. We were both being polite and going back and forth with each other, on good terms! By the way, the young man did a great work in Mexico, planted three churches that continue until today, and is now at home with the Lord. I said, "I don't need to show you. Just open your New Testament to **Hebrews 9:11** and read through **Verse 17!**" He boldly opened the New Testament and started reading **out loud**! When he got to Verse 16 and 17, he continued loudly…

"For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."

He suddenly stopped - paused, looked up, looked shocked, and said loudly and unashamedly, "Brother Gambrell, I've spent almost eight months writing my book and you have ruined it in 5 minutes!" Everyone laughed, including him, and there were no hard feelings.

Hebrews 9:11-28 explains beyond doubt that there was no New Testament Church until Christ died. The church is first spoken of in **Matthew 16:13-18**, where Jesus had a conversation with Peter. In Verse 18 Jesus said, *"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

If you study and research this verse, you will find that the entire grammatical structure is in the "future tense." Jesus said, *"I will build my church…"* Jesus was referring to what today is called, "the church in prospect." At that time, it was yet future.

Following the statement Jesus made about *"on this rock I will build my church,"* Jesus follows that by saying to Peter, "*And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."* That prophecy was fulfilled, but not until **Acts 2:14-41**.

"But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne. He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were

pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

As near as anyone can determine, Acts Chapter two is where the first New Testament church started. Immediately after Peter finished his preaching, **Verses 42-47** gives us a strong indication of when and where the first local New Testament church started. Please continue to read. Verse 47 contains the **"first mention of the church" in the New Testament age,** which was after the death of Jesus Christ, the testator of the New Testament. At that time, the apostles begin to "follow the pattern" which we just covered in the Tabernacle.

"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

CHAPTER EIGHT
THE FIRST NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH FOLLOWED THE PATTERN OF THE TABERNACLE.

Dr. Teddy Steele was the pastor whom God chose to found East Side Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee in 1972. He was called home to be with the Lord in 2011. Brother Steele and I date back to about 1963 when we were both members of Thrifthaven Baptist Church, and both attended Memphis Baptist College together. We would often get together for lunch after he founded East Side, and I became a member there. I well remember a statement he made several times. He said, “Brother Ernest, the church today, does not remotely resemble the church in the days of the New Testament.” After much study, thought, research, and prayer, I think that was not only true in the 1970’s, but is even more true today. The church continues to “change, and to change, and to change!”

Let’s start by going back to the first New Testament church, an assembly of born-again people, and study how the apostles followed God's Old Testament pattern of the Tabernacle when they began the first New Testament church. As shared at the beginning of this book, the first New Testament church was started in Acts Chapter 2. Let's begin our study there and continue through the entire book of Acts and look at "how" the apostles followed the pattern. To avoid confusion, I will use the words "church or local church" in this section. I realize that in those days there were no local church buildings, as we have today. So PLEASE REMEMBER, when I say, "church or local church" I am always referring to an "assembly of born-again believers." The church is not an organization and is not a building. The church is an “organism.” There is what is called today , the universal church. In that since, the church is "the body of Jesus Christ" and is

made up of every person who has trusted Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12). However, that is not the church which God works in and through. The church which God works through is "the local church." The "universal church" as it is called has never met together, never had a service, never taken an offering, and never sent a missionary to the field. God works in and through the local church!

In this section, we will be watching and referring to two situations. **First,** we will study (1) What the apostles and disciples **did when they were meeting together** as an "assembly of believers," which is what the word "church" means. I will not include each of the passages referred to in this study, as they are long. However, I would encourage you to lay your Bible out and read them as we study. (Acts 2:1-41) We will begin by briefly looking at the founding of the First New Testament Church. **Second,** we will study what the apostles and disciples did when they were outside of the church, meaning not assembled together as a group of believers, but in public places such as a Jewish synagogue, temple, marketplace or ANY other place "outside of the church, as an assembly of believers!"

Many who had "believed on Jesus Christ" while He was on earth, were gathered together in one place waiting, according to the commandment of Jesus in **Acts 1:4,** where He said, *"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of men."* In **Acts 2:1-4**, the Holy Spirit came, and they all received the Holy Spirit. There were also many unbelievers who were not together with the believers, but "in Jerusalem at that same time." They were Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven, but not believers. The scripture states there were people there at that time who spoke possibly 17-18 different languages. These people were all unbelievers **(Acts 2:5-13).**

This is the first recorded ministry by any of the apostles after Jesus ascended back to Heaven. They were men who were used by God to start the first New Testament church in Scripture. After the Holy Spirit came in **Acts 2:1-4**, V**erses 5-13** says:

"And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine."

When this crowd gathered, Peter, one of the apostles, stood up in the middle of the crowd and preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ **(Acts 2:14-41).** He preached a salvation message! After he finished preaching, **Verse 41** says, *"Then they that gladly received his word and were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."* This group was "outside the local church" when they heard the Gospel and got saved. There was no church at that time."

I am repeating, but I want to remind you that the "first New Testament church" started in **Acts 2:42-47**. After that first message was preached by Peter, there were about 3000 people added to the group of people who had received the Holy Spirit in **Acts 2:1-4.** If you continue reading from **Verse 42-47**, Peter, the apostles, the disciples, and about 3000 who received Christ that day continued meeting together, "*in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."*

These were all "believers", meeting together, as a church, an "assembly of believers." The first mention of the church is found in **Verse 47**! This is the first time we see a meeting of the first New Testament church. That group were all believers, and they were with the apostles. The apostles were very clearly establishing themselves in "doctrine, having fellowship, breaking bread, and having prayer.

Following the founding of the first century New Testament church, we will begin to see how the apostles in the first New Testament church followed the pattern set forth in the Tabernacle. We will do that by studying two words throughout the book of Acts. **First**, we will look at "what the apostles were doing, when they were meeting together "as a church, a body of believers." We will see that they were "**teaching the word of God and feeding believers**." They were not preaching "salvation messages!" The word "**teach**," is used in three different tenses; teach, teaching and taught. We will look at the places the work "teach" is used in the Book of Acts. Following the study on the word **"teach**" we will study the second word which is "**preach**," and used in three different tenses; preach, preaching and preached.

Teach - Teaching - Taught

The English words, teach, teaching, and taught are used a number of times in the book of Acts. They are all translated from the Greek word, "didasko**,**" which has a dual meaning. It means "to teach, to learn, to grow." Teaching is the word, which is used **EVERY** time the disciples were meeting together as a church, "an assembly of believers." They were "teaching doctrine and fellowshipping." They were not "preaching the Gospel!" There are occasions where the word "didasko" is used when the apostles and disciples were not gathered together as a church, but in a different context. The following is an example:

"And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved." These were false teachers who came down from Jerusalem to where Paul and Barnabus were in Antioch and were teaching the law to the church in Antioch. As you see, verses like these have nothing to do with what the apostles and disciples were doing in the ministry of the local church in Antioch. We are studying verses about "What the apostles and the disciples were doing when they met together "as a church." In the two verses below, the apostles or disciples are together as an "assembly of believers." They were "teaching," not preaching! Those verses are found below:

Acts 11:26: *"And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught (didasko) much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."*

Acts 18:11: *"And he continued there a year and six months, teaching (didasko) the word of God among them."*

These are the only two situations in the book of Acts that clearly express what the apostles were doing when the assembly of believes were together as a church. Now, let's consider the what the apostles were doing when they were "outside the church" in public places.

Preach – Preaching - Preached

The English words, preach, preaching, and preached, are translated from the following Greek words. (1) Euaggelizo, which means evangelizing, (2) Kerueso, which means telling the divine truth of the Gospel, and (3) Kataggello, which means "declaring the truth of the Gospel in Synagogues, and (4) Laleo, which means "speaking, talking, witnessing." In the context where one of these four words, Euaggelizo, Kerueso, Kataggello, or Laleo, are found, the apostles and/or disciples were "in the public and they were preaching evangelistic messages to the lost and on EVERY occasion, they were "outside the church." None of these three words are used even ONE TIME when the "church, as a group of believers," were meeting together. The word "preach" is used 13 times in the Book of Acts. Those verses are as follows:

Acts 5:42: " *And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach* **(euaggelizo)** *Jesus Christ."*

Acts 8:4: "*Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching* **(euaggelizo)** *the word."*

Acts 8:5: *"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached* **(kerusso)** *Christ unto them."*
Acts 8:12 *"But when they believed Philip preaching* **(euaggelizo)** *the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."*

Acts 8:25: *"And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached* **(euaggelizo***) the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans."*

Acts 8:35: *"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached* **(euaggelizo***) unto him Jesus."*

Acts 8:40: *"But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached* **(euaggelizo)** *in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea."*

Acts 9:20: *"And straightway he preached* ***(kerusso)*** *Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God."*

Acts 11:19: *" Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching* ***(laleo****) the word to none but unto the Jews only."*

Acts 11:20: *"And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching* ***(euaggelizo****) the Lord Jesus."*

Acts 13:5: *"And when they were at Salamis, they preached* **(euaggelizo***) the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister."*

Acts 14:7: *"And there they preached* **(euaggelizo)** *the gospel."*

Acts 14:21: *"And when they had preached* **(euaggelizo)** *the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,"*

In the above verses, in the Book of Acts where the words, preach, preaching, and preached are recorded, we find that the apostles or disciples who were members of the first New Testament church, were "**outside the local church.**" They were not **"assembled together as a church, as an assembly of believers," and preaching the Gospel to believers!** They were preaching the Gospel to lost people in public places. There is not one verse in the book of Acts where you will find the Gospel of salvation being preached when "believers were assembled together" as a church. These verses are used in other places, but not where the disciples were preaching. Those are used in places such as where the Sanhedrin commanded Peter and John not to "preach" in the name of Jesus in **Acts 4:13-22.**

CHAPTER #8
SUMMARIZING GOD'S PURPOSE AND PLAN FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

In the above verses, we saw in the book of Acts that each time the apostles were "preaching evangelistic" or what we call today a "salvation message," they were "outside the church," in public places. Each time that we found "believers assembled together as a church" they were "teaching" the Word of God, which means, "they were training disciples in doctrine and in preparation for the ministry."

I am not trying to be controversial in any way. My only desire is to point out some things concerning the "first New Testament church, from the Old Testament Tabermacle." There were "three things" in Holy Place. (1) There was the Table of Showbread. That pictures believers being Fed the Word of God. (2) There was the Candlestick. That pictures believers receiving "light and power" from the Holy Spirit. (3) There was The Altar on Incense. That pictures believers coming together to spend time in Prayer.

Today, Pastors are commanded to **(1)** Feed the flock of God. (I Peter 5:2-4). **(2)** To be enlightened and empowered by the Holy Spirit for service **(Acts 1:8),** which is the light and power that God gives us to serve. The Holy Spirit also, "teaches us all things" **(John 14:26),** and **(3)** To spend time in prayer with God. Those are the "three principles found in the pattern in the Tabernacle." It is also, the pattern the apostles in the first New Testament church." After believers have been "fed the Word of God, enlightened and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and after spending time in prayer with God," they are to go out into public places to witness to friends and neighbors, give out Gospel pamphlets, share the Gospel in any possible manner with the lost world, and to lead people to Christ, **and then** bring them into the "assembly of believers."

Before moving to the next chapter, please allow me to point out one other truth in the New Testament which goes along with and strengthens the purpose of the local church.

PAUL'S 13 BOOKS CONFIRM GOD'S PATTERN FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH.

The apostle Paul wrote nine of his New Testament books to "local churches." He wrote four other books. He wrote to Timothy twice, Titus, and Philemon, for a total of 13 books. Each of his nine books to the churches stated to whom he was writing:

Romans 1:7: *"To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

I Corinthians 1:2: *"Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:"*

II Corinthians 1:1*: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:"*

Galatians 1:2: *" And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:"*

Ephesians 1:1: *"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:*

Philippians 1:1: *"Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:"*

Colossians 1:2: *"To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

I Thessalonians 1:1: *"Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonian…"*

II Thessalonians 1:1: *"Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:"*

In one of his letters to Timothy, he stated his purpose for writing the letters. That is found in **I Timothy 3:15**. *"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."*

There is nowhere in any of Paul's letters that he "preached the Gospel" to any of those nine churches. In the church of Galatia, Paul dealt with "teaching the true gospel" not "preaching the gospel to them." That was because they had "changed" the true Gospel and added works to the Gospel. Other than situations like that, Paul was "teaching the Word of God to believers." If the church today would go back and "follow the pattern" from the Tabernacle and the pattern of the Apostles in the first New Testament church, to teach, train, make disciples, and prepare men for the ministry, the church would be seeing many more people out witnessing, passing out Gospel pamphlets, and leading people to Christ. The result would then be that many more people would be saved and added to the church! This happened in the "first New Testament church" which means it can happen in churches today, if we would "follow the pattern."

This is recorded in **Acts 17:5-7**. *"But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, **These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;**"*

You will find the words preach, preaching and preached 54 times in the 13 books written by Paul under the inspiration of God. There is not ONE TIME in those 54 places where Paul was "preaching the Gospel" to believers in those churches. On the other side of this study, the words teach, teaching, and taught are found 29 times. On EVERY occasion Paul was instructing the church by feeding the flock of God, teaching them, training them, and making disciples. Anyone reading this book who has any type of "Bible Study program" like "Power Bible" can search these words and you will find the above statements to be true!

If we add in the other 8 books of the New Testament, Hebrews, James, I and II Peter, I, II, and III John, and Jude, and study them, we find that every book in the New Testament beginning with the Book of Acts where the first church started, was written to believers and deals with either making disciples, training them, helping them grow in the knowledge of God, correcting things in the church, or challenging them to "go everywhere preaching the Gospel." Pastors and teachers in the church today, should be following the patterns which God has given us, and should be "feeding the flock of God!"

One other New Testament scripture that clearly explains the ministries of pastors and teachers, is found in **Ephesians 4:11-16.**

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

To sum up this section of the book, there is no place in the New Testament church where we find any of the apostles or disciples inviting lost people to come to their church, which is "an assembly of believers" and is "the body of Christ." Lost people cannot fit in with the body of Christ. It is not stated in the New Testament, but this could be because all the apostles, who were all Jews, were very, very familiar with the "Tabernacle" and they were following that pattern set in the Old Testament.

Today, many churches are practicing the opposite. Pastors are preaching salvation messages in the church on the Lord's Day. They are "evangelizing saved people" instead of "feeding the flock of God," grounding them in Bible truths, and preparing them for the ministry." They are preaching to no more than about 1 to 2% of the congregation, and sometimes not that many!!! The believers just "sit there and listen," but leave the church and go home "empty!" What

have been the results? Churches are growing spiritually weaker over the past few years in America. Since 2019, an average of 700 Baptist Churches a year have been closing their doors! We need to remember this truth: Quality always produces quantity, but quantity never produces quality!

Very sad! No doubt, many of those churches closed because the members were not "fed the Word of God week after week." They ended up "weak Christians" and just got tired of the warfare. There is another issue that tells us that churches are not doing their job as God commanded them to do: feed and build up their congregations. You may be asking, "What is that?" It is the fact that churches passed their responsibility of "teaching, training, making disciples, and preparing men for the ministry to various Bible Colleges". This is the BIGGEST failure of the church today, in the 21st century! If the church had followed God's pattern, there would never have been a "free-standing Bible college," separate from a local church. The result of the church failing has greatly weakened the ministry of churches. There is NO MENTION of any type of "Bible College" in the New Testament. I said in the second paragraph of this book, that God does all that He does, in and through the local church. God never intended for there to be a free-standing Bible College, separate from the local church. One major problem is that most "free-standing Bible colleges" teach very little about the local church. Many students graduate and have very little understanding of "the local church, and how it should function."

The Sunday School ministry of a local church is one of the most important ministries of the church. The Sunday School ministry of a local church should be designed to be a complete "Bible College." A church should plan, set up, an institute of a "four to six year" curriculum, and be 100% organized in every detail, as "free-standing Bible colleges" are today. That curriculum should be a "well planned" curriculum that will assure the pastor and leaders of the church that after the completion of the four to six years, every member of the Sunday School, if they have faithfully attended and studied, will be prepared for the ministry of the church. This plan should be done by the pastor and leaders in the church. In **Matthew 28:20**, God gave a commandment **to the church.** *"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:" If* there is "no set curriculum" in place, there is no way of knowing if the church has obeyed God's commandment or not! To disobey God's commandment is "rebellion" and rebellion will cause a New Testament church to lose God's blessing, just as it did when Israel lost God's blessing in the Old Testament! Therefore, "plan a work and work a plan!"

TWO THINGS WHICH WERE NOT FOUND IN THE TABERNACLE.

First, there were no chairs in the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was not a place where the priests entered and sat down! A modern-day application would be that there was no place at all in the Tabernacle for them to sit down, drink a cup of coffee, and just chit-chat, laugh, tell funny stories, etc.! They were "inside the Holy Place" serving God! It was a place were they were 100% serious and they were "about their Father's business." Through the years, when I was preaching meetings, the last thought I always try to have before leaving my seat and going to the pulpit was; "What is God's primary purpose for me tonight when I go to the pulpit?" My feeling was that my primary purpose in the pulpit that night was, "To be used by God to change the lives of the people sitting in front of me!" Therefore, I tried to keep the message serious and tried to apply it and "make it personal" to the people attending. I still believe that is the purpose of God each time a preacher preaches.

Second, there were no windows in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle, nor in the Holy of Holies! That means there was "no artificial light" inside the Tabernacle. The ONLY light in the Tabernacle was the light given by the Candlestick, which is a picture of Jesus Christ in the New Testament church. Many churches today are bringing "artificial light" into the churches. By saying "artificial light" I am saying, that today, churches bring all types of social activities and entertainment in, in order to try to "attract people to their church." Churches today create all sorts of "artificial light," and use things of the world to attract people to their church. No where in the New Testament do you find Jesus or the apostles offering anyone a "free ride on a camel" to come hear them preach!

AN ILLUSTRATION OF HOW THE CHURCH SHOULD FUNCTION
I Samuel 17

There is an unbelievable, and amazing picture of the local church and how it should function, found in the life of David when he was about 17- 19 years old. All of us are familiar with the Bible account of David and Goliath, which is found in I Samuel 17.

The nation of Isarel was facing war with the Philistines. The Philistines were camped on a mountain side on one side of a valley, and the Israelites on the mountain side on the other side of the same valley. Goliath came from the mountain where the Philistines were camped and came down into the valley. Goliath was "six cubits and a span" tall. That is a little over 9 feet tall. He wore a helmet of brass, which was designed for soldiers going to war. He was armed with a coat of mail and had coverings of brass on his legs and between his shoulders, plus he had a spear with a head which weighed six hundred shekels of iron, which is about 17-18 pounds, plus he had a man of war going in front of him with a shield.

When he came down to the valley, he challenged all of Israel. His challenge is recorded in I Samuel 17:8-10

" And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." I Samuel 17:16 tells us, *"And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself* ***forty days!***" He got no response!

In verse 11, we read the effect Goliath had on King Saul and the nation of Israel. *"When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid."* They were fearful and not one man in Israel, including King Saul, volunteered to go down in the valley and fight the giant!

David was still back home with his father, Jesse in Beth-lehem, keeping sheep. I Samuel 17:17 tells us that Jesse, David's father, called David to him and sent him to go to where his brothers were fight a war, and bring him word again how the war was going. However, Jesse did not know this, but we know it. There was no war going on.

When David arrived were his brothers and all of Israel were, we see how his brothers received him and what they thought of him. That is found I Samuel 17:26-28:

"And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him. And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?" David's oldest brother, Eliab, made fun of David and belittled him! However, David was not affected. There is no doubt that David had built a long and strong relationship with God. David volunteered to go to the valley and fight the giant!

To move along with the account of David slaying Goliath, the men which heard David talk, told King Saul of a young man who had volunteered to "go down to the valley and fight with the Philistine" (I Samuel 17:32 - 37). Saul told the men to bring David before him. King Saul finally agreed to send David to fight the giant. After Saul approved for David to be the one who would go down and fight Goliath, Saul "armed" David for the fight. This is important, so let's look at those verses which explain the armor Saul put on David, and also see David's response. I Samuel 17:38-39 *"And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him."*

To round out the picture and illustration, let's look at the manner in which King Saul armed David. He put armor on David that as much as possible, "matched the armor of Goliath" which was commonly used my men of war in that day. It appears that David was the only one in the entire nation of Israel, who understood the New Testament verse found in II Corinthians 10:4.

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;"

Therefore, David rejected the armor which Saul put on him, saying, *"I have not proved them."* In place of the "worldly armor, David chose "two weapons" that he had proven, to use to fight the giant. We also see that David was very confident in those two weapons, and that he "did not need the weapons of the world" to be used to fight a spiritual warfare, and to win the battle for God.

First, David had, and had used, the "power of the Holy Spirit." I understand that normally, men in the Old Testament did not generally have the Holy Spirit working in them. However, on several occasions God did give different men the Spirit and use them in that manner. Moses was one of those men (Numbers 11:17-25). Joshua was also given the Holy Spirit and was greatly used of God (Deut. 34:9). David also is one of those cases. I Samuel 16:1-13 tells us that when God led Samuel to select David as the next future "King of Israel" that the he anointed him with oil and the scriptures testify, that the *"Spirit of the Lord came upon David, **from that day forward**."* David, no

doubt, while keeping sheep spent much time with God alone and he had developed a strong faith in the promises of God. At that time, there was no verse as Zechariah 4:6, which tells us about the power of the Holy Spirit. *"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."* I believe the context leaves us no doubt that David understood the power of the Holy Spirit. God had already used David to "kill the lion and kill the bear." I Samuel 17:34-37 shows this to be true.

*"And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, **The LORD that delivered me** out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, **he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.** And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee."*

Second, David believed the **Word of God,** and he claimed God's promise. David, no doubt, had heard and remembered how God fought for His people when He delivered them out of the hand of Pharoah and led them through the Red Sea. Exodus 14:13-14 tells of God **fighting for His people**. *"And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."* David also, no doubt, remembers how God had said to Joshua in Joshua 1:5, *"There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

It seems clear from I Samuel 17:45-47 that young David believed the same promise was made to him and he went forward "trusting God" to be true to his Word. *"Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands."*

David used those "two Biblical weapons," weapons which were spiritual and not carnal, to defeat the giant Philistine." He used the "Spirit of God and the Word of God!" These are still the two things which the local church needs today in order to win the battle when Satan attacks and tries to destroy the church. Remember, we are still in a spiritual warfare. "The power of the Holy Spirit and the Promise of God has given to the church, promises like Isaiah 55:11, *"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."*

The result of the "David - vs - Goliath is recorded in I Samuel 17:40-51.

"And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine. And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. . . . . Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands. And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled."

God does not need our help. The only thing we have that God needs, is "our availability and our dependability." God will take care of the rest! The church today needs to go back and follow that pattern that He has given us, both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament.

I read a book which Dr. M. R. DeHann wrote. He said, "We have not preached the Word unless it has **disturbed the sinner** and **awakened the saint**. May God deliver me forever yielding to the temptation of pleasing the crowd, who say to me, *'Speak unto us smooth things.'* I would rather heed Paul's admonition and *preach the Word.*"

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe."
(Proverbs 29:2

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