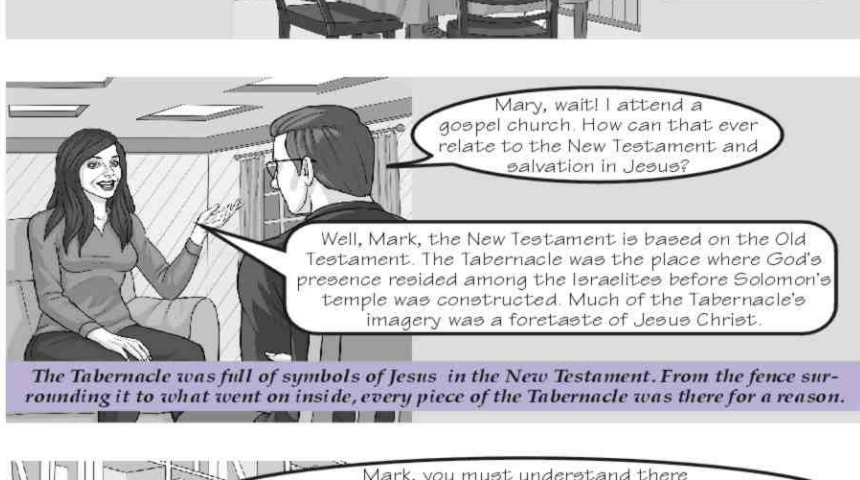


A Reconstruction of the Tabernacle



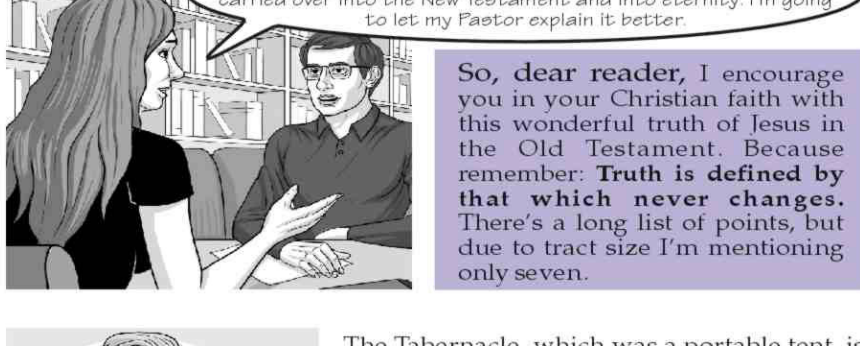
The Tabernacle was the one and only place where God witnessed and testified to Israel their duty and responsibility to Him. It was a place set up by Moses under God's direction to house the system of law and sacrifice that was in place at the time of the Old Testament. This is where God promised to live among his people.

*** We trust this tract will motivate you to study this beautiful subject further!**



Mary, I see your church teaches that the **Tabernacle** forms part of Christian beliefs. Please explain!

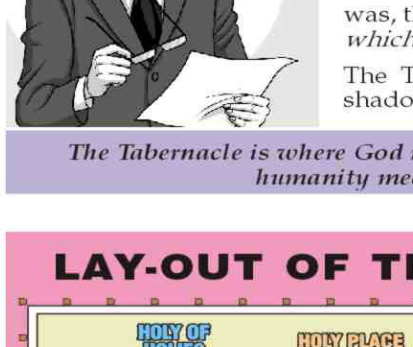
Yes, Mark, that's true. The Tabernacle is a fundamental tenet of the Christian faith. All mainline churches believe it (though they may not teach it). The Bible says the Tabernacle is connected all the way to the most Holy place in Heaven!



Mary, wait! I attend a gospel church. How can that ever relate to the New Testament and salvation in Jesus?

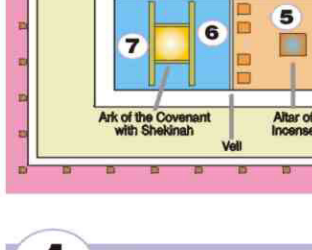
Well, Mark, the New Testament is based on the Old Testament. The Tabernacle was the place where God's presence resided among the Israelites before Solomon's Temple was constructed. Much of the Tabernacle's imagery was a foretaste of Jesus Christ.

The Tabernacle is full of symbols of Jesus in the New Testament. From the fence surrounding it to what went on inside, every piece of the Tabernacle was there for a reason.



Mark, you must understand there are basic fundamentals laid out in the Old Testament that are carried over into the New Testament and into eternity. I'm going to let my Pastor explain it better.

So, dear reader, I encourage you in your Christian faith with this wonderful truth of Jesus in the Old Testament. Because remember: Truth is defined by that which never changes. There's a long list of points, but due to tract size I'm mentioning only seven.

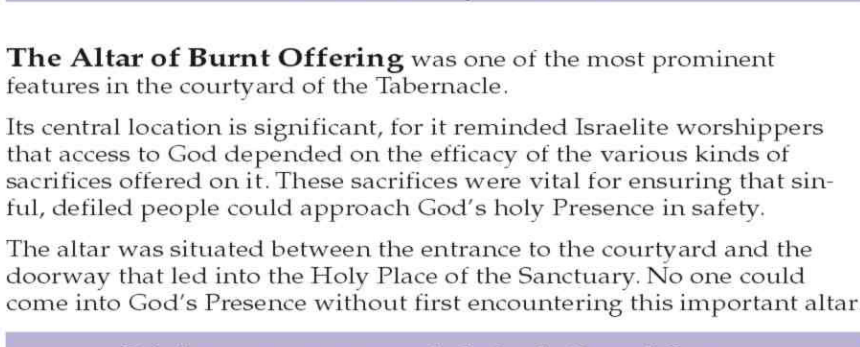


The Tabernacle, which was a portable tent, is a complete picture of God's Plan of Salvation, consisting of seven steps. But to go back a bit first: The reality of the Tabernacle is that it tells the story of God. And the story of God is that He has always desired to be with us. It was, therefore, a *perfect replica of something which already existed before in Heaven.*

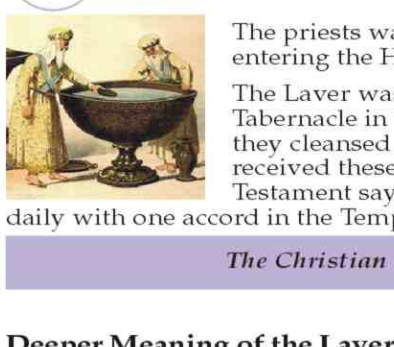
The Tabernacle is a picture, a type and a shadow of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Tabernacle is where God meets man, and where Deity and humanity meet in one Person.

LAY-OUT OF THE TABERNACLE



1 First we see the Altar of Burnt Offering.



As Sinners outside, we begin by entering through the door. We stop at the altar. The altar is the Cross, the starting point of our experience of Salvation. As we enter, bear in mind the Tabernacle was a *temporary means* to establish God as the true God, while the *eternal purpose* was to establish Jesus as the *ultimate sacrifice.*

Every detail of the Tabernacle, therefore, points to some aspect of the Person and work of our Saviour.

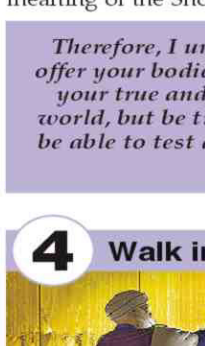
The Altar of Burnt Offering was one of the most prominent features in the courtyard of the Tabernacle.

Its central location is significant, for it reminded Israelite worshippers that access to God depended on the efficacy of the various kinds of sacrifices offered on it. These sacrifices were vital for ensuring that sinful, defiled people could approach God's holy Presence in safety.

The altar was situated between the entrance to the courtyard and the doorway that led into the Holy Place of the Sanctuary. No one could come into God's Presence without first encountering this important altar.

It follows we can approach God only through Jesus.

2 Next: Separation and daily cleansing at the laver.



The priests washed in the **Laver of Bronze** before entering the Holy Place.

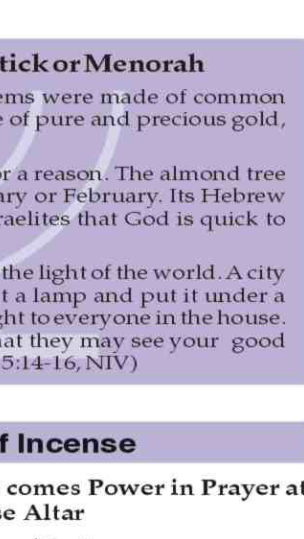
The Laver was a wash basin used by priests in the Tabernacle in the wilderness, as a place where they cleansed their hands and feet. Moses had received these instructions from God. The New Testament says in Acts 2:46: "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the Temple..."

The Christian life is a daily matter.

Deeper Meaning of the Laver of Bronze

Throughout the Bible, water represents cleansing. Believers today continue to enter the Waters of Baptism to identify with Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection, and as a symbol of the inner cleansing and newness of life wrought by the Blood of Jesus at Calvary.

The washing at the Laver of Bronze foreshadowed the New Testament act of baptism and speaks of new birth and new life.



John the Baptist baptised in the Baptism of Repentance.

3 Entering into the Fellowship of the Word at the Table



The **Altar of Showbread** is the outer, the visible part of our personality. The body corresponds to the court of the Tabernacle. (Romans 12:1-2) It is the place of sacrifice.

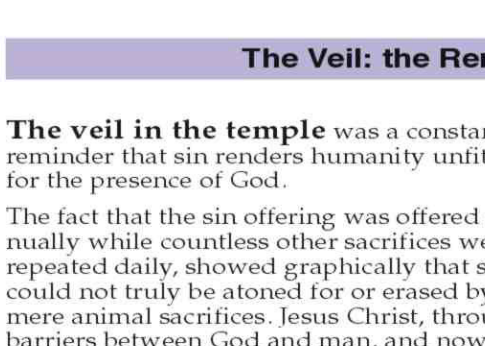
"Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)

The soul answers to the Holy Place, the place of worship, and enjoys fellowship with other believers, feeding about the table, walking in the light, interceding for others.

The Holy Place is the place of **worship** and **fellowship** with other believers. Today Christians observe communion, partaking of consecrated bread to remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross. The Table of Showbread in Israel's worship pointed forward to the future Messiah and his fulfillment of the Covenant. The practice of communion in fellowship / worship today points back in remembrance of Christ's victory over death on the cross. This is the symbolic meaning of the Showbread when Jesus said in John 6:35: "I am the bread of life."

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's Will is - his good, pleasing and perfect Will. (Romans 12:1&2)

4 Walk in the Light of the Golden Candlestick



The **Golden Candlestick (Menorah)**: Our next stop is where we learn to walk in the light.

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

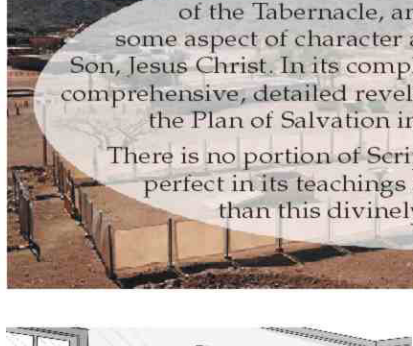
Symbolism of the Golden Candlestick or Menorah

In the courtyard outside the tabernacle tent, all items were made of common bronze, but inside the tent, close to God, they were of pure and precious gold, symbolising deity and holiness.

God let the Menorah resemble almond branches for a reason. The almond tree blooms very early in the Middle East, in late January or February. Its Hebrew root word, *shaked*, means to *hasten*, telling the Israelites that God is quick to fulfil his promises.

Jesus also compared his followers to light: "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16, NIV)

5 Power in Prayer at the Altar of Incense



Only now comes Power in Prayer at the Incense Altar

The burning of the incense was symbolic of the prayer of the Holy Spirit rising up to God (Psalm 141:2; Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4). The offering of incense had to take place after the sacrifice, because only after the atonement could communion with God take place.

The same applies in the life of a Christian.



For we may draw near in the name of Christ, our Great High Priest. He is not merely our advocate, however; He Himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 2:2). Although incense was an essential part of the worship at the Tabernacle and Temple, it is no longer required for new covenant worship. In the new Temple, the church, the old priestly ritual has been replaced by what it symbolised, the prayers of the saints (Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4).

May our thankful prayers rise daily before God, like incense.

6 Now we are ready to enter the Holy of Holies



At last we are ready to enter the **Holy of Holies** - the highest service of the Tabernacle - personal power and communion in our innermost life.

The Holy of Holies was the innermost chamber in the wilderness Tabernacle, a room so sacred only one person could enter it, and then only one day out of the entire year.

Jesus atoned, once and for all, for humanity's sins, and at the same time became our high priest, acting on our behalf before his Father: "Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess." (Hebrews 3:1, NIV)

No longer does God confine Himself to the Holy of Holies, separated from his people. When Christ ascended into Heaven, every Christian became a temple of the Holy Spirit, a living dwelling place of God. Jesus said: "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever, the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:16-18, NIV)

The Veil: the Rent Curtain

The **veil in the temple** was a constant reminder that sin renders humanity unfit for the presence of God.

The fact that the sin offering was offered annually while countless other sacrifices were repeated daily, showed graphically that sin could not truly be atoned for or erased by mere animal sacrifices. Jesus Christ, through his death, has removed the barriers between God and man, and now we may approach Him with confidence and boldness. (Hebrews 4, 14-16)

7 We reach perfect Rest and Peace

Thus we reach **perfect rest and peace** at the blood-sprinkled mercy seat in the shadow of the Cherubim.

Perfect Rest means freedom from whatever worries you may have, or whatever disturbs you.

Perfect Rest does not mean freedom from all nuisances and hassles; it means freedom from being so easily bothered by them.

To enter God's Perfect Rest means to be at peace with God, to possess the perfect peace He gives us.

It means to be free from guilt and even unnecessary feelings of guilt.

It means freedom from worry about sin, because your sin is forgiven.

God's rest is the end of legalistic works and the experience of peace in the total forgiveness of God.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

God Himself was the architect of the Tabernacle, and every detail points to some aspect of character and work of the person of his Son, Jesus Christ. In its complete form, it is probably the most comprehensive, detailed revelation of Jesus the Son of God, and the Plan of Salvation in the entire Old Testament.

There is no portion of Scripture richer in meaning, more perfect in the teachings of the Plan of Redemption, than this divinely designed building.

You see, Mark, God loves you so much that He sent his Son Jesus to suffer and die for your sins. The Son then rose from the grave - defeating Death. The Law is fulfilled, making it properly valid for the first time.

So, Mark, the message of the Tabernacle is the good news of Christ crucified, buried and risen again for our redemption. Put more clearly: The Tabernacle is actually a picture of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament.

Everything we have been saying is in God's Word - the Bible. If you have further questions, please contact me. I will be glad to help!

Contact:

www.bibletrakts.com

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