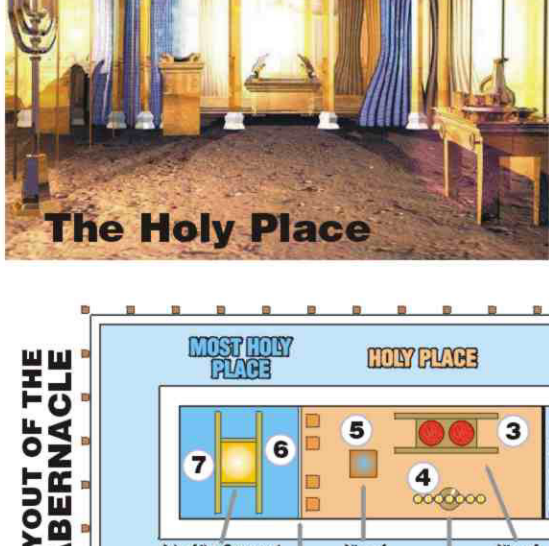


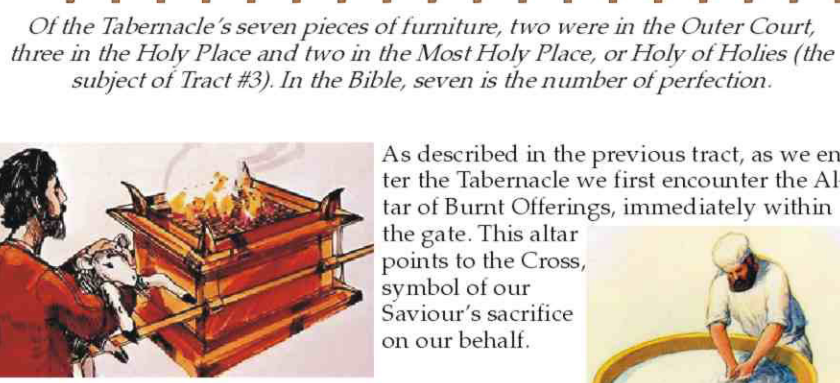
THE TABERNACLE #2:

The Holy Place

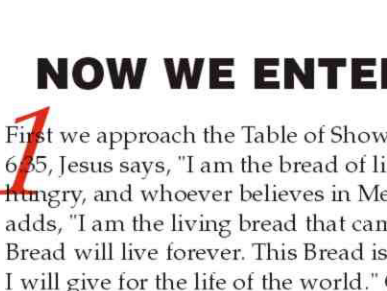


The **Holy Place**, the middle part of the Tabernacle tent, was a room where priests conducted rituals to honour God.

The Holy Place measured 9 m long, 4.5 m wide and 4.5 m high. It was separated from the Most Holy Place by a beautiful veil made of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, hanging from five golden pillars.



Of the Tabernacle's seven pieces of furniture, two were in the Outer Court, three in the Holy Place and two in the Most Holy Place, or Holy of Holies (the subject of Tract #3). In the Bible, seven is the number of perfection.



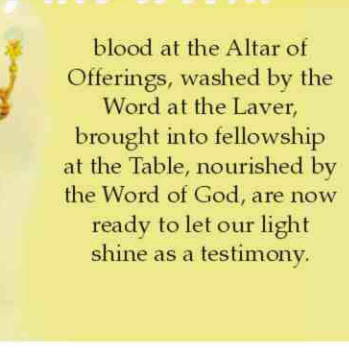
As described in the previous tract, as we enter the Tabernacle we first encounter the Altar of Burnt Offerings, immediately within the gate. This altar points to the Cross, symbol of our Saviour's sacrifice on our behalf.



Then we come to the brass Laver or wash basin. The Laver symbolises separation from the world and from the flesh, and from the things that defile us, by cleansing through the water of the Word. (Baptism in the New Covenant.)

NOW WE ENTER THE HOLY PLACE

1 First we approach the Table of Showbread, the place of *fellowship*. In John 6:5, Jesus says, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty." Later, in verse 51, He adds, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this Bread will live forever. This Bread is My Flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." On the table of showbread (on pure gold plates), Aaron and his sons placed twelve loaves of bread made from fine flour. Also called *bread of the presence*, the loaves were arranged in two stacks of six, with frankincense sprinkled on each stack.



"Ye are the light of the world"

2 Jesus said: "Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

After the Showbread, we arrive at the candlestick, the Candelabra, fed by the oil of the Holy Spirit and representing *testimony*. We who have been saved by the



blood at the Altar of Offerings, washed by the Word at the Laver, brought into fellowship at the Table, nourished by the Word of God, are now ready to let our light shine as a testimony.

3 Next we come to the golden Incense Altar, standing directly in front of the veil closing off the Most Holy Place. This altar is the symbol of *prayer and intercession*. Sweet-smelling smoke from the incense represented the people's prayers ascending to God. Burning this incense was a *continuous* act, just as we are to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Fundamentally, this altar speaks of our Saviour constantly interceding with God on our behalf as our High Priest in heaven.



Pastor, I'm amazed! I'm not even halfway through these tracts, but I'm already beginning to see God must have made His plan for our salvation even before the Old Testament was written!

Yes. The earthly Tabernacle was made more than a thousand years before Christ was born on earth. The Hebrew people were in the desert after Moses had led them out of Egypt. Now Moses went up Mount Sinai. There God spoke to him. He told Moses to build a Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was simply a tent, but the Presence of God came down to the Tabernacle.

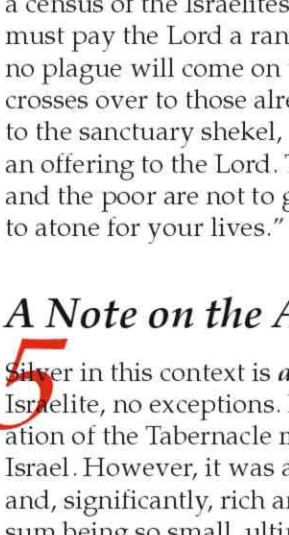
OK, Pastor, but what does Paul mean when he says of the Tabernacle in Hebrews 8:5: "... who serve under the example and shadow of heavenly things"?

Sister, let me enlighten you with an analogy to show that, beside the spiritual original, a physical copy pales in comparison.

The greatest artist who ever lived could create a wonderful painting of Mount Everest that beautifully captures the grandeur and towering majesty of this tremendous mountain. Even so, despite the artist's best efforts, the painting would never be as overwhelming as the original.

However, this doesn't mean we should ignore the painting - it can still teach and inspire us. So, too, the Tabernacle: it is a copy and shadow of the heavenly original, but still gives us a complete picture of God's plan of salvation. (Yet some good preachers ignore the teaching of the Tabernacle!) While still living on this physical plane, there is nothing more important and nothing that will more provide a life of abundance and fulfilment than obeying God's laws, His Teachings as He has given them to us in His Word. Teaching that is laid out in seven steps in the Tabernacle!

Let me be emphatic!



The very fact that the teachings of the Tabernacle are a reflection of God's Mind and the truth as it exists in the heavens should be more than enough motivational fuel to spur us on to obedience.

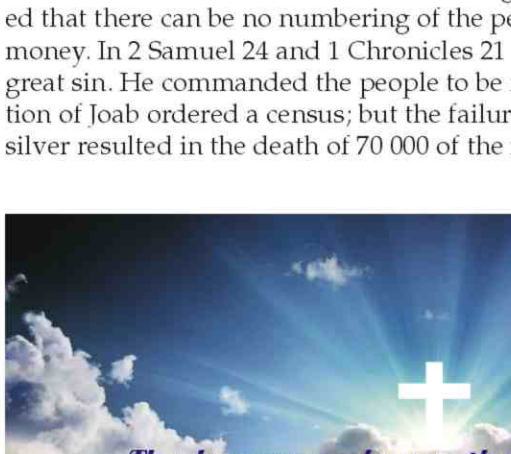
Another reason the physical world is inferior to the spiritual world is that the physical world is forced to operate under the constraints of space, time and the laws of physics.

God's heaven knows no such limitations!

So please let's be clear and avoid any misunderstanding!

THE TABERNACLE TEACHING CONNECTS TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

"But what they are serving is only a copy and a shadow of the heavenly original; for when Moses was about to erect the Tabernacle, God warned him: 'See to it that you make everything according to the pattern you were shown on the mountain'." (Hebrews 8:5)

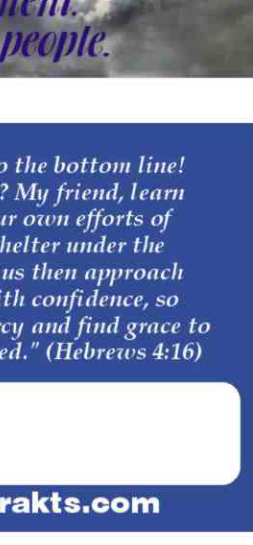


Thanks, Pastor, for the background information and your analogy! This is amazing! It's connected a lot of dots for me. I've been listening to preachers all my life giving words on salvation, yet conveniently ignoring truth that has been patterned after the heavenly sanctuary. Now I'm really beginning to understand more!

Now Back to the Tabernacle

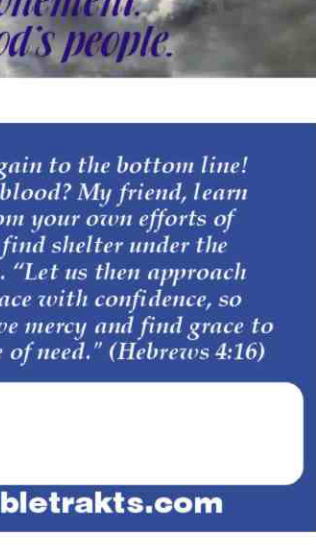
The Foundation of Blood

The sections comprising the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place had a foundation of 100 blocks of silver, each block weighing about 45 kg, a total foundation of silver weighing about 4.5 tons! These 100 blocks of silver were arranged in a rectangle. In each silver block was a socket into which was fitted an upright acacia board, to form the walls of the Tabernacle. **Everything depends upon this foundation - all of it rests on this one base.** The silver for this foundation was furnished by the children of Israel, who carried it out of the land of Egypt.



The Most Costly Building ever!

Exodus 30 explains how this vast amount of silver was to be procured. Verse 11-13 and 15: "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the Lord a ransom for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them. Each one who crosses over to those already counted, is to give a half shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty *gerahs*. This half shekel is an offering to the Lord. The rich are not to give more than a half shekel and the poor are not to give less when you make the offering to the Lord to atone for your lives.'"



A Note on the Atonement Money

5 Silver in this context is *atonement money*, which was required of every Israelite, no exceptions. Failure to pay the silver required for the foundation of the Tabernacle meant death and cutting off from the assembly of Israel. However, it was a purely nominal amount, within the reach of all, and, significantly, rich and poor paid exactly the same price! Despite the sum being so small, ultimately it amounted to nearly five tons of silver.

Silver in the Bible speaks of atonement, and this atonement is always to be by blood. And so we find that the silver foundation upon which the Tabernacle rested, meant that it was built upon the atoning blood of a Substitute, the blood of the Lamb.

The coins collected by Moses from all the adult males in Israel was used to make 100 sockets of silver. This is recorded in Exodus 38:25 and 27: "The silver obtained from those of the community who were counted in the census was 100 talents and 1 775 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel - one *beka* per person, that is, half a shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, from everyone who had crossed over to those counted, twenty years old or more, a total of 603 550 men. [...] The 100 talents of silver were used to cast the bases for the sanctuary and for the curtain - 100 bases from the 100 talents, one talent for each base."

So the Tabernacle rested entirely upon a foundation of silver collected from the children of Israel. Silver, therefore, becomes in the Bible a symbol and a figure of the price of atonement. As there is no atonement without blood, this silver points to the blood, the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Silver as atonement money is a recurring theme in the Bible. Many years after the Tabernacle in the wilderness, King David was painfully reminded that there can be no numbering of the people without the atonement money. In 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21 we have the record of David's great sin. He commanded the people to be numbered and over the objection of Joab ordered a census; but the failure to collect the half shekel of silver resulted in the death of 70 000 of the men of Israel.

And so we come again to the bottom line! Are you under the blood? My friend, learn the lesson, turn from your own efforts of righteousness and find shelter under the blood of the Lamb. "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

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