

the
crimson
thread

OF REDEMPTION

Seeing the Cross in the Old Testament



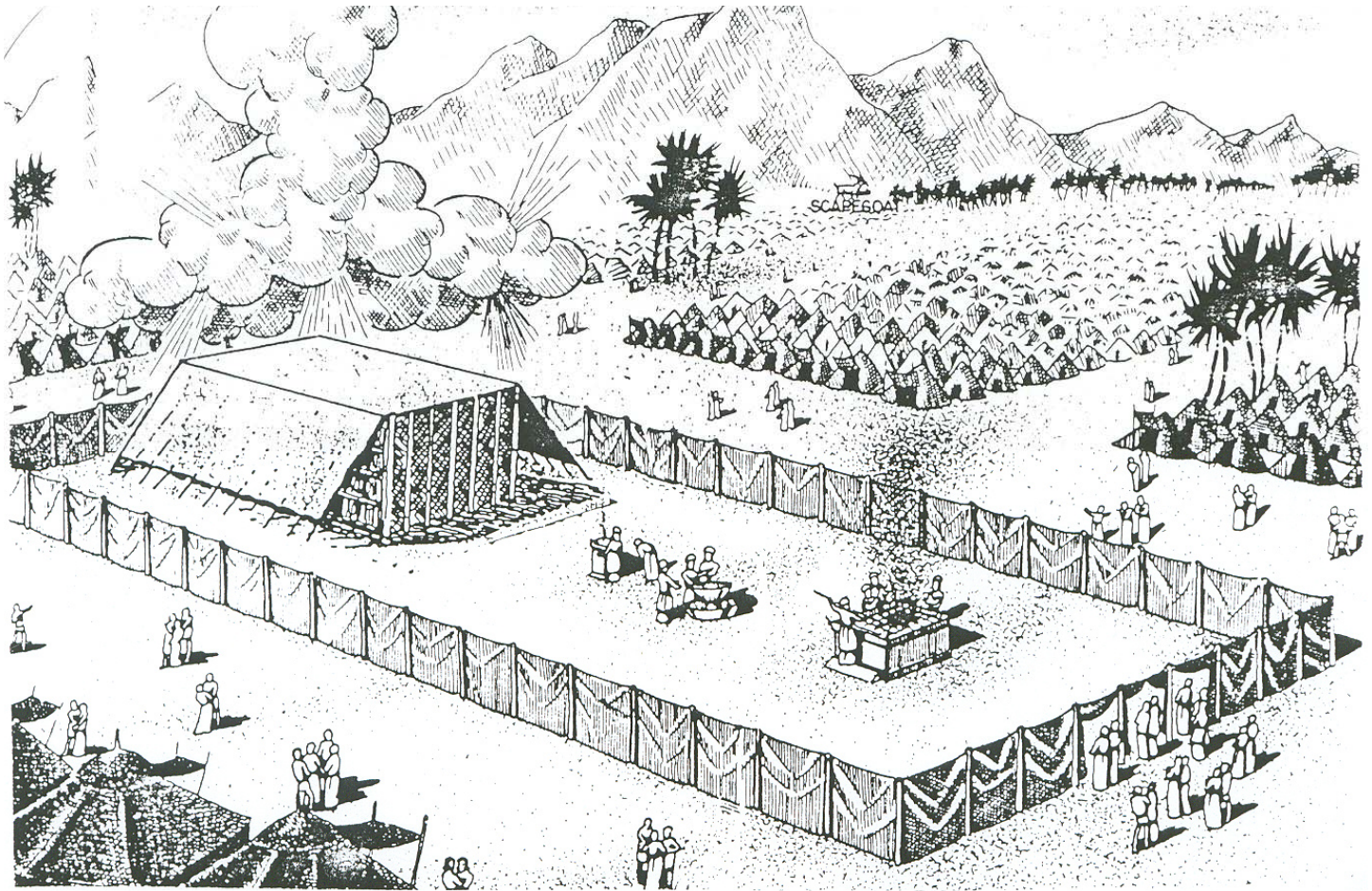
Hardy Street Baptist Church

The Tabernacle:
God's Portrait of Christ
February 13, 2019

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*“Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live (**tabernacle**) among them. You must build this Tabernacle and its furnishings exactly according to the pattern I will show you. Exodus 25:8-9*

*They serve in a system of worship that is only a **copy**, a **shadow** of the real one in heaven. For when Moses was getting ready to build the Tabernacle, God gave him this warning: “Be sure that you make everything according to the pattern I have shown you here on the mountain.” Hebrews 8:5 (emphasis mine)*



Every part, and detail, of the wilderness Tabernacle is designed and patterned to present Jesus Christ!

Its structure, materials, furniture, as well, as the ministry in the Tabernacle, reveals some particular aspect of the infinite graces, virtues, attributes, personality and work of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The design and positioning of the items are modeled after God’s instructions... This earthly tabernacle was temporary, the heavenly tabernacle is eternal. While the high priest had to offer the blood every year, Jesus offered His eternal blood only once which is for eternity.

This is a big deal!

- Exodus has 13 chapters devoted to the Tabernacle.
- Leviticus has 18 chapters devoted to the Tabernacle.
- Numbers has 13 chapters devoted to the Tabernacle.
- Deuteronomy has 2 chapters devoted to the Tabernacle.
- Hebrews has 4 chapters devoted to the Tabernacle.
- 50 Bible chapters devoted to the Tabernacle.

Why So Many Details?

From the time of Creation, we have seen that God yearns to dwell with His people. But from the time of Eden, sin has made it impossible for a holy God to dwell with a sinful (unholy) people. The ultimate solution to this whole sin problem will come in Jesus Christ, the sacrificial Lamb of God and redeemer of the world. But this ultimate solution is prefigured in all of the attention that is paid to the construction of the Tabernacle.

1) **FORESHADOWING**- Everything about the tabernacle is a beautiful Old Testament portrait of Jesus Christ and of God's salvation.

- The Tabernacle's appearance --- the tent was covered with plain, brown animal (badger) skins. Underneath were beautiful, royal curtains. Christ was both the son of man and the son of God.
- The Tabernacle's access --- there was but one door into the tent.
- The Tabernacle's arrangement --- it was always centered in the middle of the camp. Where two or three are gathered in Christ's name He is always there, the center and focus of His people.
- The Tabernacle's articles --- the brazen altar, the candlestick, the showbread, etc. ...
- The Tabernacle's administration --- the Levites; a chosen tribe
The lived off of the bread with the tabernacle just as the people of Christ live by Him.

God has always had a dwelling place in the midst of His people. First it was the tabernacle; ultimately God "tabernacled" among His people in the person of Jesus Christ. All of these details about the construction of the Tabernacle are prefiguring the permanent solution to that sin problem that separates a holy God from a sinful people: Jesus Christ. Christ is our intercessor, the sacrificial Lamb of God and the locus of the presence of God among us.

*So the Word became human (flesh) and made his home (**Dwelted / tabernacled**) among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. John 1:14*

2) IMPORTANCE OF WORSHIP-

He that gave us no account of the lines and circles of the globe, the diameter of the earth, or the height and magnitude of the stars, has told us particularly the measure of every board and curtain of the tabernacle; for God's church and instituted religion are more precious to him and more considerable than all the rest of the world. M. Henry

We worship our work, work at our play, and play in our worship. Leland Ryken

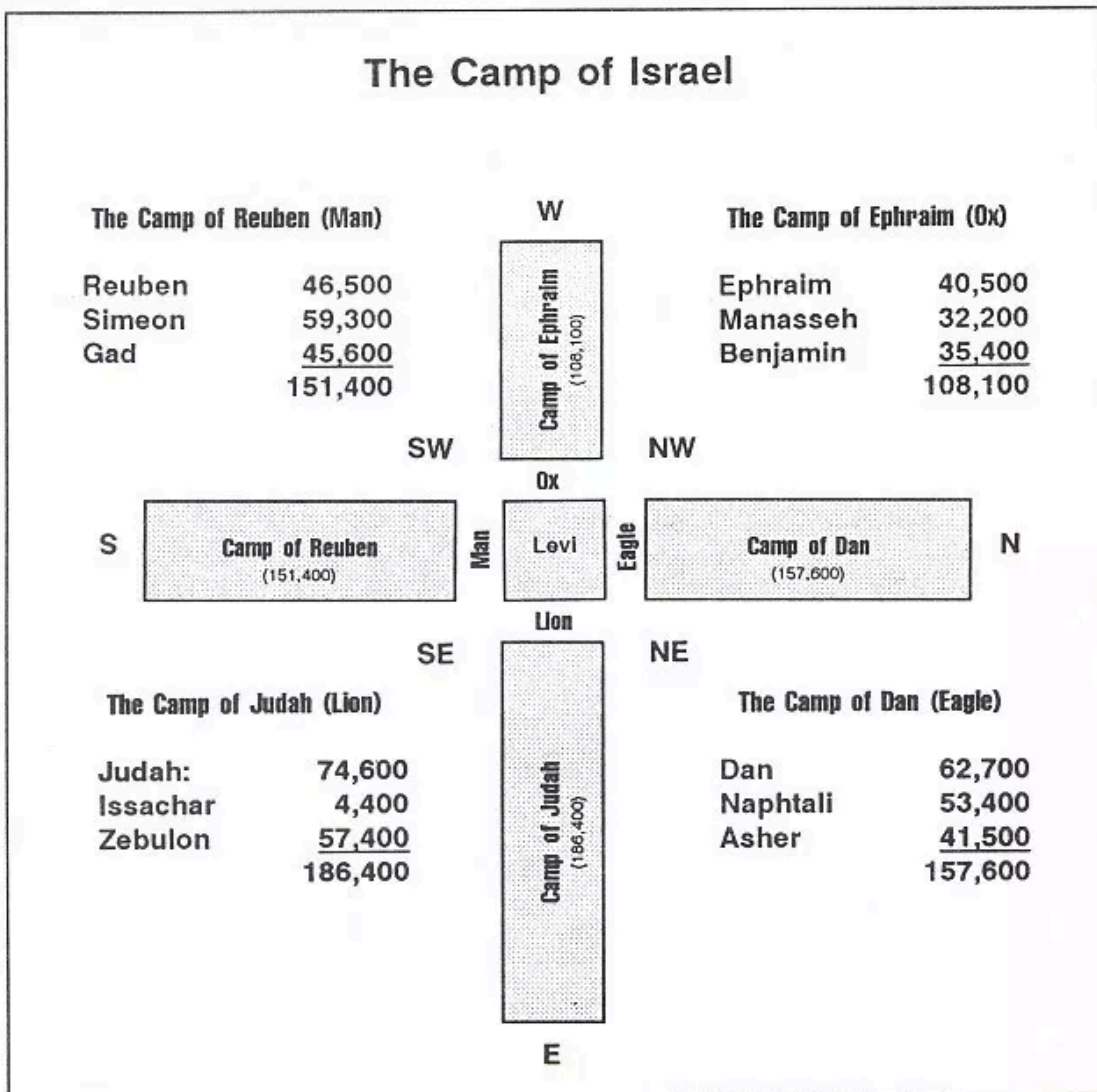
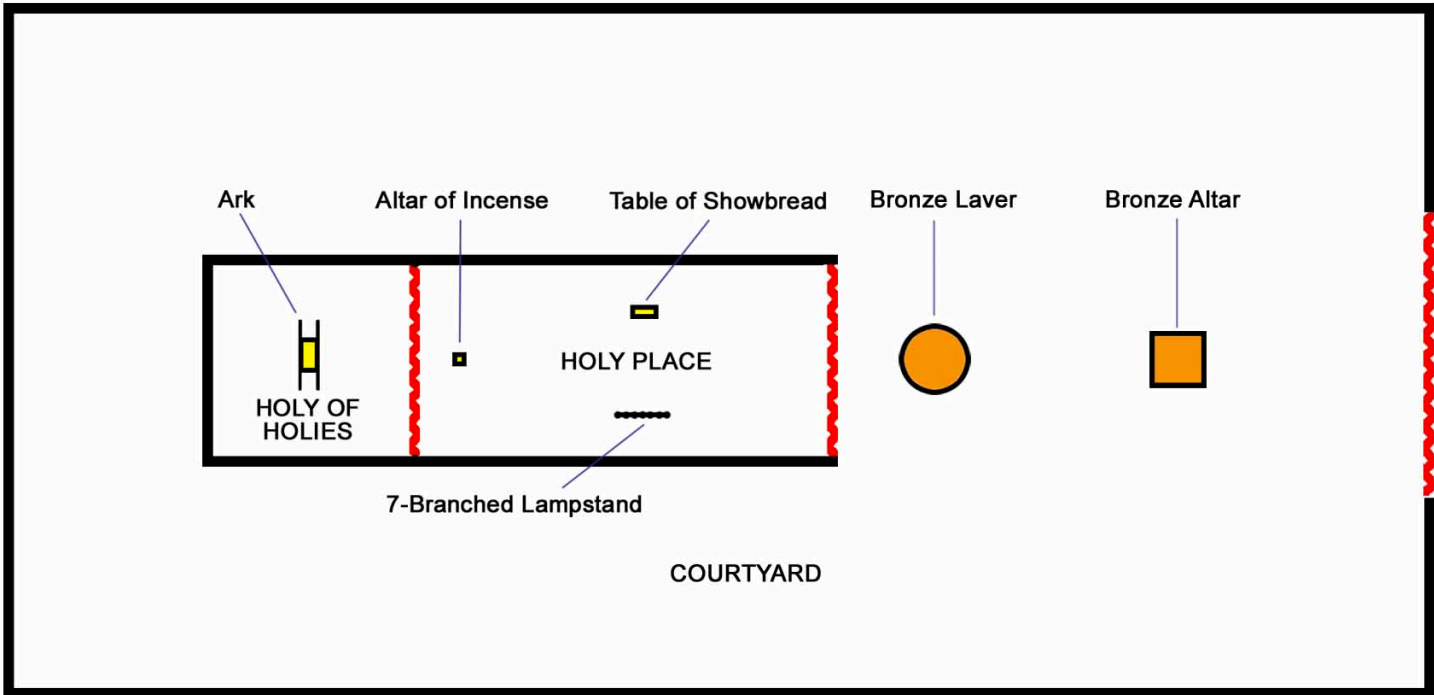
3) THE SERIOUSNESS OF SIN- This is the place where the problem is solved about how a holy God can dwell in the midst of a sinful people. The tent curtains, and especially the thick veil, served as a separator, a dividing barrier between God and the people so that God would not "break out against them" and kill them (Exodus 33:5). Also the tabernacle was a place of sacrifice, so that the sins of Israel could be atoned for. While the solution was not permanent, it did facilitate communion between God and His people.

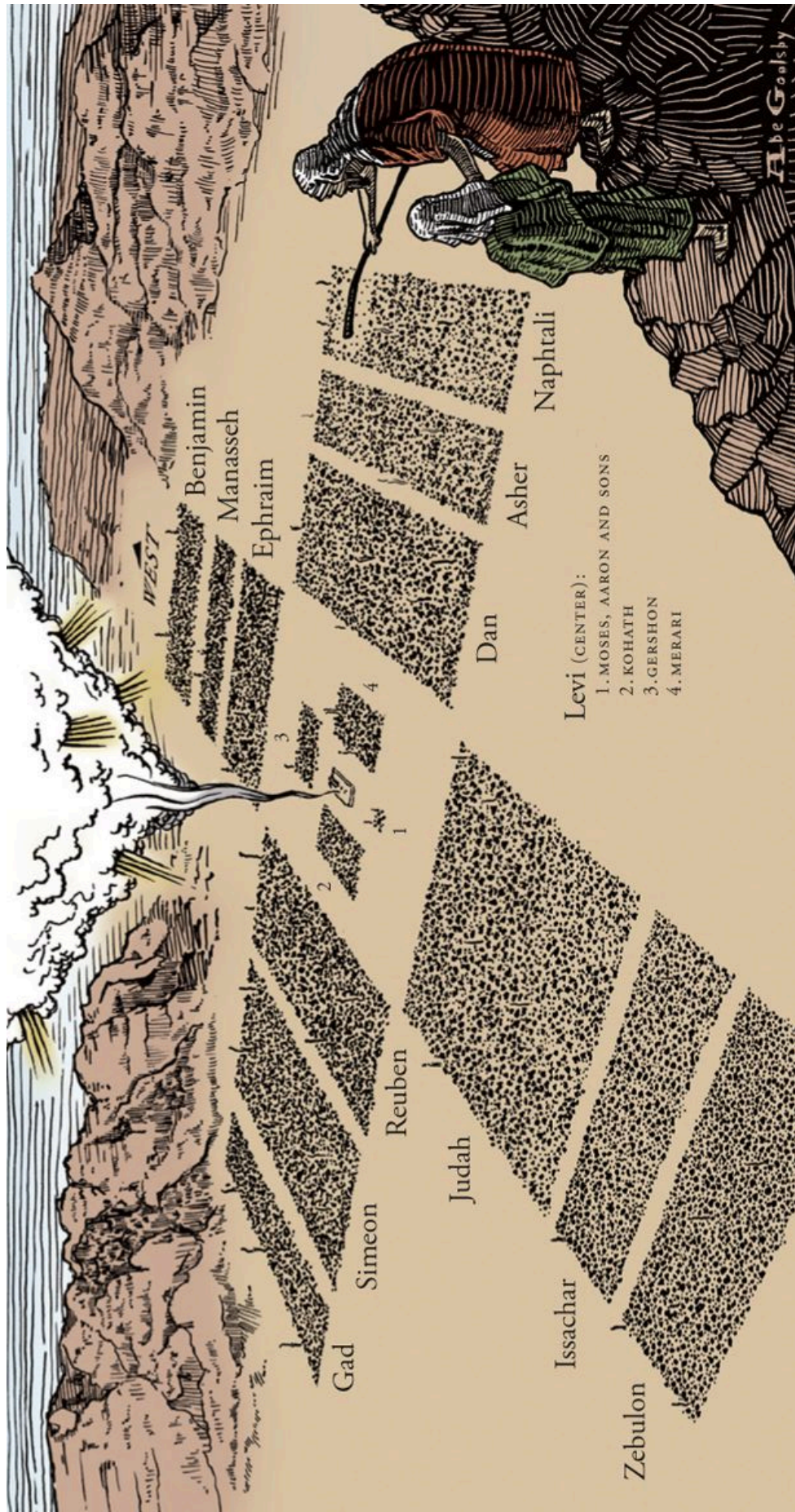
4) THE GLORY OF GOD- God, Himself would dwell in this place and His glory would be on display!

These Israelites, when all was finished according to the pattern in the mount, had then something to show which would make an impression on men of the right sort in the outside world. Here was an answer to the question, "Where is now your God?" Visible he himself is not; but here is a dwelling-place not in anything constructed after art and man's device, but entirely of Divine direction. All our institutions are nothing unless we can trace them to the inspiration and control of God. - Young

APPLICATION TAKE-AWAYS:

- ❖ God desires fellowship with His people.
- ❖ God always is the one to initiate fellowship between Him and man.
- ❖ God has a plan to bring that fellowship about.
- ❖ God clearly shows man how to have fellowship with Him.
- ❖ Man must approach God in the way in which God appoints.
- ❖ The tabernacle points to Christ dwelling with and in man.
- ❖ Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of the tabernacle.





ADDITIONAL NOTES

www.hardysbc.net/redemptive-thread

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