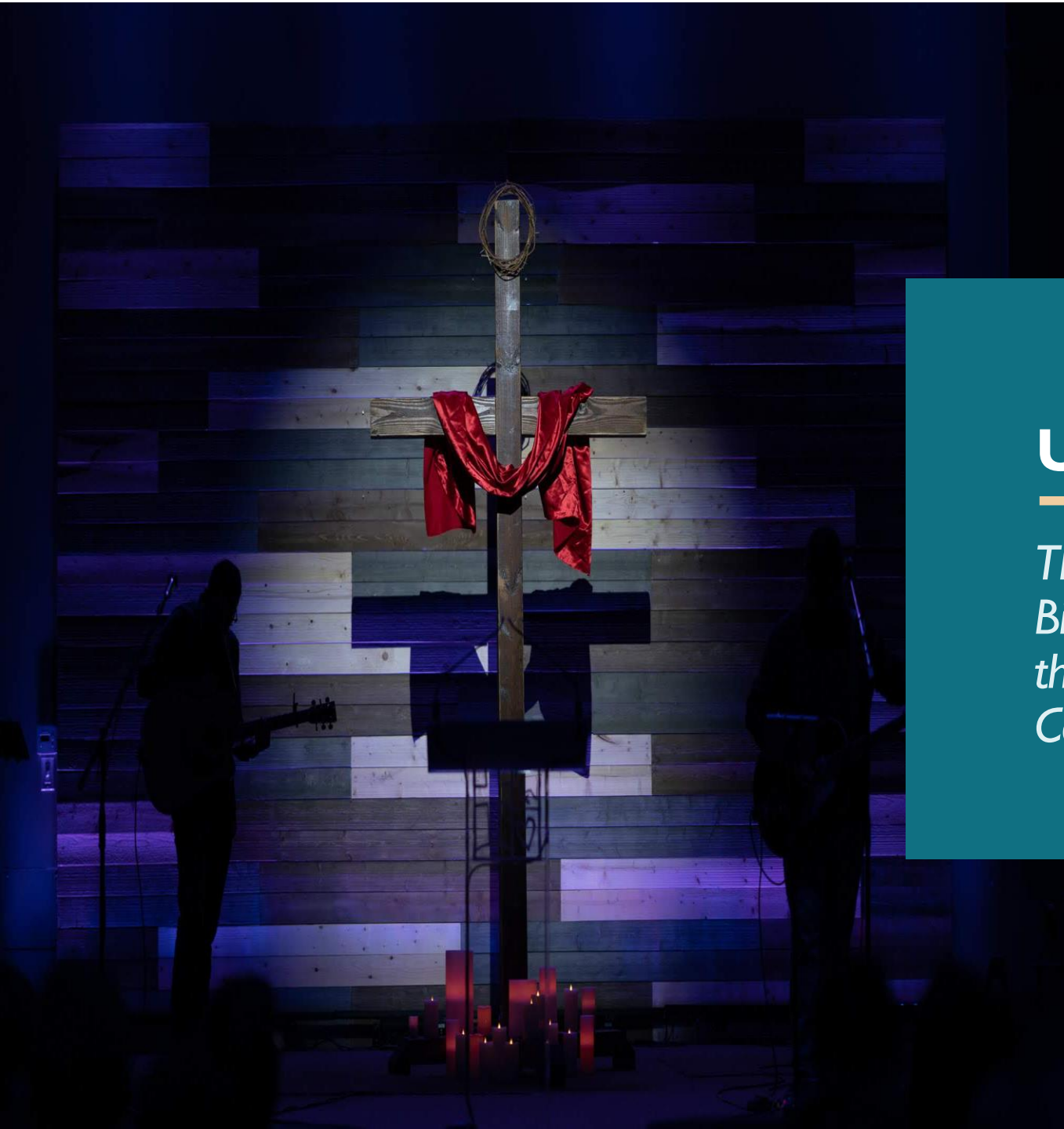


# **THE STORY OF REDEMPTION**

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## **SACRED SPACE**

*SUMMER OF LEARNING*



## UNFOLDING HIS STORY

*The main story that God is telling in the Bible is his Redemptive History. We will see this story unfold as we look at his Divine Covenants, His Kingdom, and His Family*



## GOD'S SACRED SPACE

God, the King, created sacred space for his presence on earth. This generous access to God was not given, as it is today, during the time between the expulsion from Eden and the accomplishment of Christ's great redemptive acts.

## PARADISE GAINED AND LOST: SACRED SPACE FROM THE BEGINNING

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- ✓ Genesis 1 describes the creation of the cosmos. Genesis 2 focuses on the creation of humanity, the apex of God's good work
- ✓ The manner of creation of Adam, the male, illustrates his special place in God's universe. He is connected with the creation: from the dust of the ground. But there is more: he came to life when God breathed breath into his nostrils. He has a special relationship with God
- ✓ God's method of creating Eve shows that her special place in creation was the equal of Adam's. She was to be his "helper": an ally

# PARADISE GAINED AND LOST

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## SACRED SPACE CREATED

*Paradise: Garden of Eden*

## SACRED SPACE LOST

*First Act of Rebellion*

## SACRED SPACE PROMISED

*Grace amid Judgment*

**Sacred Space From the Beginning**

# SACRED SPACE CREATED

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## EDEN

- *Adam and Eve were placed in a very special location, the garden of Eden.*
- *“Eden” itself most likely means “abundance,”*
  - *It was a garden of God according to Ezekiel 31:8*
  - *Ezekiel also describes Eden as a mountain (28:14).*

## RELATIONSHIP

- *Relationship between God and his human creatures was harmonious, personal and intimate.*
- *Adam and Eve related well together.*
  - *This is symbolized by their being naked and feeling no shame in each other's presence.*

## TWO TREES

- *The first was the tree of life.*
- *The real focus of attention is on a second tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*
  - *the name of the tree describes the nature of their rebellious act, their effort to acquire moral autonomy*

There were no special holy places - there was no need for such.  
The whole garden was God's sanctuary.

# SACRED SPACE LOST

## THE FALL

- Eve, in her zeal to defend God's character, stretches the truth.
  - The woman, on the brink of her rebellion, shows herself to be the first legalist.
- The serpent sees the opening and then attacks God's credibility (Gen. 3:4)

## RELATIONSHIPS

- For the first time Adam and Eve feel vulnerable before the gaze of the other person. They feel - indeed they know - that they are inadequate, physically, morally, spiritually.
- As bad as the alienation between Adam and Eve must have been even worse is the effect on the divine-human relationship.

## EFFECTS OF SIN

- The serpent
  - The most significant part of the curse on the serpent, is the resulting enmity between its offspring with the descendants of the woman.
  - From the time of the Fall on, mankind is divided into two parts, a City of Man (following Satan) and the City of God
- Eve
  - Her life-giving role will be fulfilled only with pain and suffering.
  - The relationship that use has with her husband will suffer. (3:16)
    - There will be a power struggle in a relationship that was divinely intended to be a truly equal partnership.
- Adam
  - His judgment focuses on Adam's work.
  - He will succeed, but not without sweat, blood, and sorrow.



# SACRED SPACE PROMISED

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## PATTERN

- *A close study of the major narratives of Genesis 3-11 shows a recurrent pattern that resembles what we have seen in the account of the Fall.*
  - *Humans sin and God gives a judgment speech, which is followed by a token of God's grace and then the execution of God's judgment.*

## GRACE

- *The token of God's grace in Genesis 3 is his provision of cloths made from animal skins to the human couple (v. 21)*

## PROMISE

- *The longing for a return to Eden will not be satisfied until the very end of time. (Rom. 8:16-25). Nonetheless, God will give his people glimpses of Eden, right from the start.*





## Altars: Occasional Testimonies to Sacred Space

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God in his grace did provide a way for his people to come to worship and commune with him.

# ALTARS: OCCASIONAL TESTIMONIES TO SACRED SPACE

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## GOD'S PRESENCE

- The name given to the place of worship between the fall and the Exodus is the altar
  - The first altar was most likely found in Gen. 4:3-5 where Cain and Abel brought their sacrifices to an altar.
- Altar is a simple structure built of earth or stone marking the place where God meets people.
- The Hebrew word translated "altar" is mizbeah, formed from the verbal root zabah, which means "sacrifice" or "slaughter."
  - The heart of the altar was the idea of sacrifice (Exodus 20:24-26)

## GRACE

- Noah disembarked from his ark, and his very first action was to build the altar and offer sacrifices on it. It was a reaction from a man who had been the recipient of god's grace - gratitude.
  - In short, Noah's building an altar was the first step in his act of worship by which he began the new phase of his life after the horrible flood waters.

## PATRIARCH

- The patriarchs were men whom God chose to provide the foundation for Israel, his chosen people.

# THE PATRIARCHS



## ✓ Abraham and Altars

- When Abraham arrived in the promised land, he worshipped God. Not surprisingly, he built altars as he traveled through the land.
  - His first recorded act after entering the promised land was to build an altar (12:7): Shechem
  - Bethel and Ai (Gen. 12:8; 13:4)
  - Hebron (13:18)
  - A mountain in the region of Moriah (22:9)

## ✓ Characteristic of their description.

- Two times Abraham's altar are said to be built next to trees (Gen 12:6)
- It was common practice to build the altar near a prominent tree or grove of trees.
- What is the significance between places of worship and trees.
  - The tree next to the place where God meets his human servants reminds us of the garden of Eden. It is a bit of Eden in a fallen world

## Genesis 12:6-8

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<sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.



## Genesis 13:3-4, 18, 22:9

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<sup>3</sup> And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, <sup>4</sup> to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

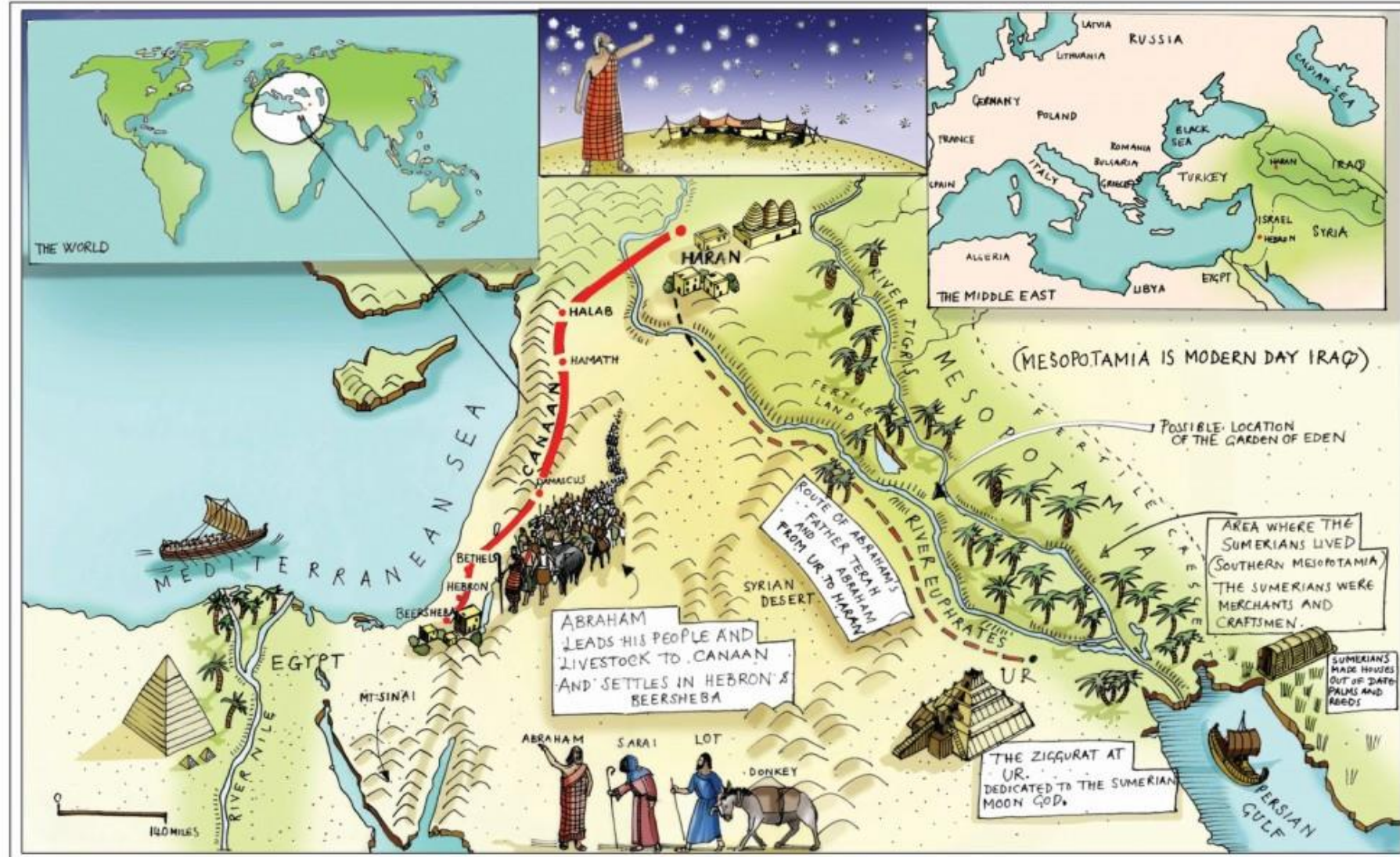
<sup>9</sup> When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood





# Abraham's Journey

The Faith of Abraham.





# **THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES**

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**Sacred Space For The Long Haul**



# THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES: SACRED SPACE FOR THE LONG HAUL

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## ALTARS → TABERNACLE

- *As a nation, Israel needed a place to come into the presence of God to offer sacrifice and to worship.*
  - *God initiated the building of the tabernacle (Ex. 25:8)*
- *The tabernacle replaced the altar as the primary location where God revealed his intimate presence to his people*

## GOD'S PLAN

- *God plans the building of His dwelling place*
- *It was God who initiated the building of his sanctuary. (Ex. 25:9)*

## TENT

- *In a word, the tabernacle was a tent (Exodus. 38:8,30)*

## SYMBOLISM

- *The reason why such care had to be taken with the construction of the tabernacle is that its very structure and the material out of which it was built reflected heavenly realities. (Heb. 8:5)*

## Hebrews 8:5

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<sup>5</sup> They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.”



# THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES: SACRED SPACE FOR THE LONG HAUL

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## STRUCTURE

- *The Tabernacle as the Presence of God on Earth*

## ACCESSIBILITY

- *Gentiles*
- *Israelites*
- *Priest*
- *High Priest*

## CREATION

- *So the tabernacle was heaven on earth*

## CHRIST

- *The Tabernacle was God's home on earth*
- *John 1:14 - "lived" is formed from the noun "tabernacle."*
  - *Jesus is our tabernacle*

## John 1:14

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<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



# LEVELS OF ACCESSIBILITY OF THE TABERNACLE

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OUTSIDE THE CAMP	INSIDE THE CAMP	INSIDE THE COURTYARD	INSIDE THE TABERNACLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Realm of the Gentiles, the ritually unclean</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Only Israelites who were ritually clean could enter the Israelite camp.</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Though lay people could enter this area with their sacrificial animals, the courtyard was dominated by the priests and Levites.</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Only the priests and Levites could enter</i></li><li>• <i>Inside the Holy of Holies. This was the most restricted area of all. Only the high priest could enter this realm, and he could enter it only once a year during the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16)</i></li></ul>

# THE TABERNACLE AND CREATION

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## HOLY SPIRIT

- *The foundational role of the Holy Spirit in both narratives*
  - *The Spirit hovers over the creation according to Genesis 1:2 while Bezalel and the other workers on the tabernacle are given the Spirit to complete their task (Ex. 31:2-3)*

## SEVEN SPEECHES

- *God's command to build the tabernacle in Exodus 25-31 may be divided into seven speeches and that the dedication takes place on Near Year's Day, the commemoration of the first day of creation (Ex. 40:2, 17)*

## GOOD

- *As God looks at his creation and pronounces it good, Moses, God's servant, blesses the completed tabernacle structure (Ex. 39:43)*

## Genesis 1:2 and Exodus 31:2-3

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<sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>2</sup> “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, <sup>3</sup> and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship,





## Exodus 40:2 and Exodus 39:43

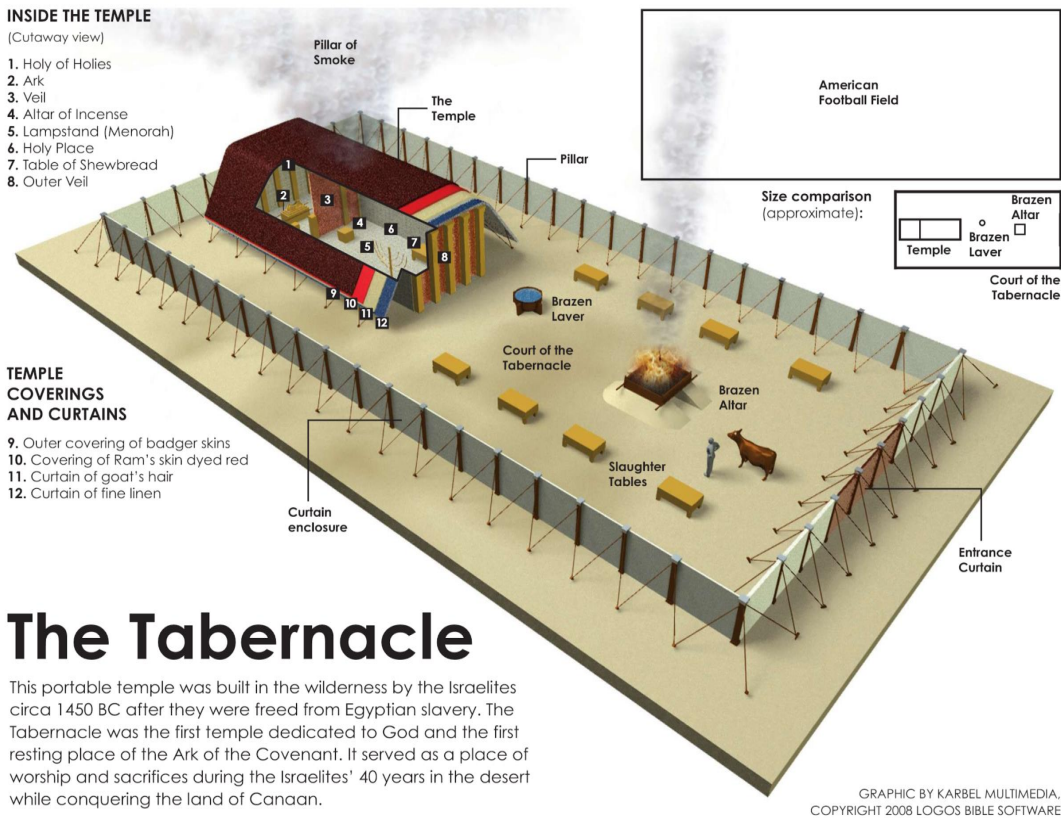
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<sup>2</sup> “On the first day of the first month you shall erect the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.

<sup>43</sup> And Moses saw all the work, and behold, they had done it; as the LORD had commanded, so had they done it. Then Moses blessed them.



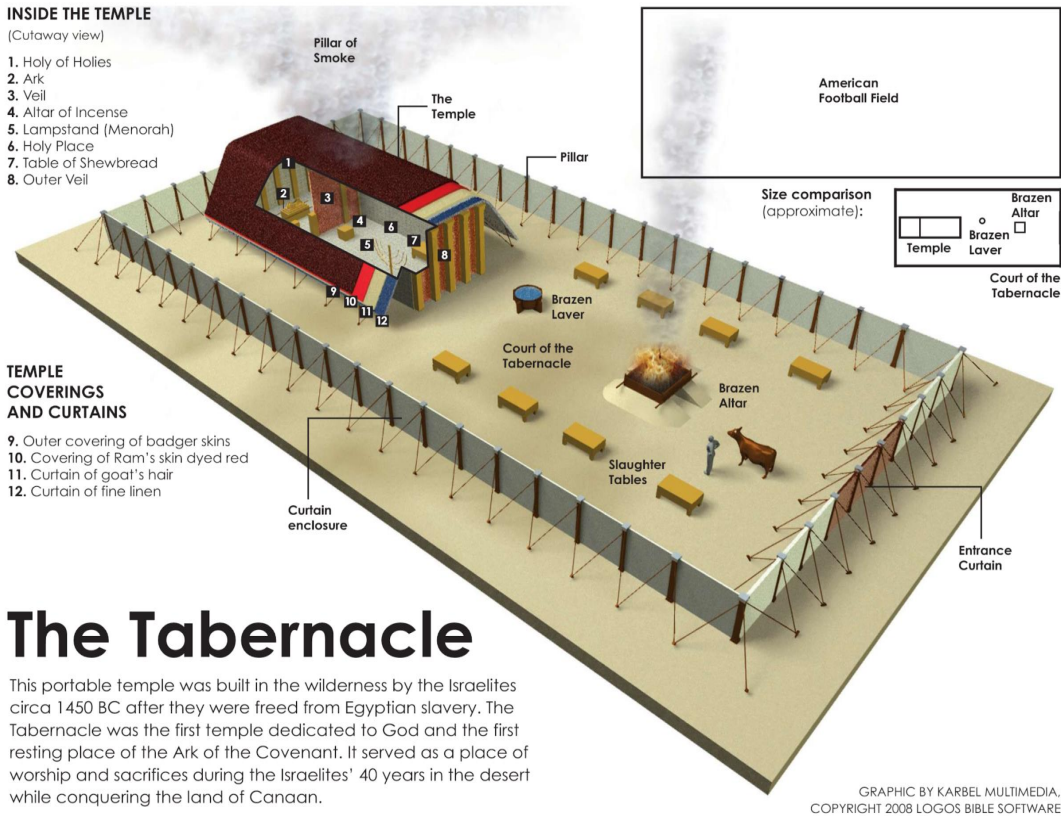
# TABERNACLE



## What Did The Tabernacle Look Like?

- In a word, the tabernacle was a tent (Exodus. 38:8,30)
- Most of the description is devoted to the sheets that overlay the tabernacle.
  - There were four layers of sheets and the instruction start from inside and work out.
  - The innermost layer was the most ornate.
  - As one walked into the tabernacle, he would be symbolically transferred from an earthly location to a heavenly one.
  - Since the next three layers were to cover this very ornate linen sheet, they were longer, made of eleven sheets.
- The entrance of the tabernacle proper, always facing east, was to be made of the same material.

# TABERNACLE STRUCTURE



## The Tabernacle structure and location

- The tabernacle complex itself had three parts, dividing the larger wandering camp of Israelites into four parts
  - Holy of Holies
  - Holy Place
  - Courtyard
- Israelite camp proper
  - The tabernacle was to be placed in the center of the camp, surrounded by the tribes of Israel.
  - In this way, God's tent, the tabernacle, was like the tent of any ancient Near Eastern monarch.
  - The king's tent was always in the center, surrounded by his people.
- The Materials of the Tabernacle
  - Exodus 25:3-7 lists the materials: "gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet year; fine linen; goat hair for cloth; tanned ram skins and fine goatskin leather; acacia wood..."



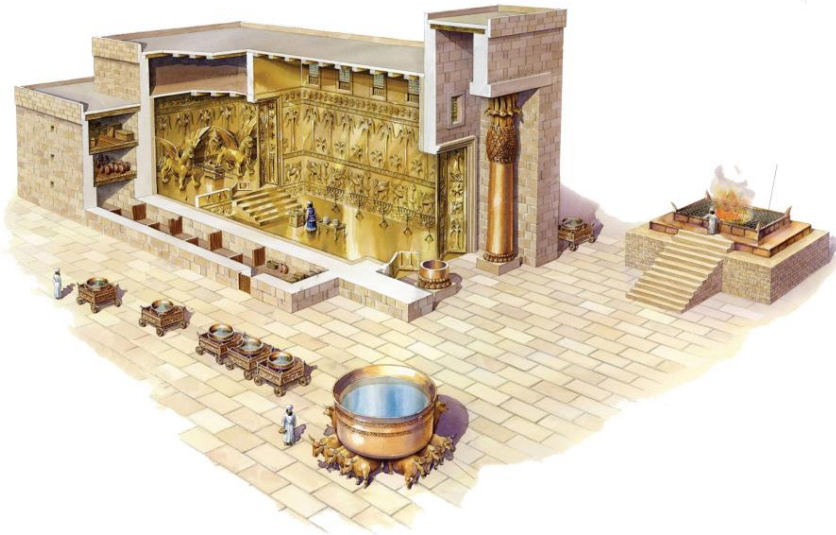
# **SOLOMON'S TEMPLE**

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**Sacred Space Settled in the Land**



# DAVID THE WARRIOR



## ✓ David's Decision

- David made a decision to build Yahweh a new and magnificent temple.

## ✓ God's Rejection

- God rejected his request (2 Sam. 7:5-7)
  - God initiates his own worship. Here David did the initiating, and God did not accept that.
- The principle behind the prohibition was not ethical but redemptive-historical. The temple represented the cessation the battles of conquest; it symbolized the establishment in the land. David was the conquest completer

# MOUNT MORIAH



## God Chooses the Site for the Temple

- Looking back to Genesis, we see another very important connection between the earlier history of the people of God and the location of the temple.
  - In 2 Chronicles 3:1 the location is specified as “Mount Moriah.” The only other place in Scripture that refers to the mountain by this name is Genesis 22, the account of the binding of Isaac.
    - In other words, this is the location where God provided the substitute ram for the sacrifice of Abraham’s long awaited son.

## Exodus 40:2 and 2 Chronicles 3:1

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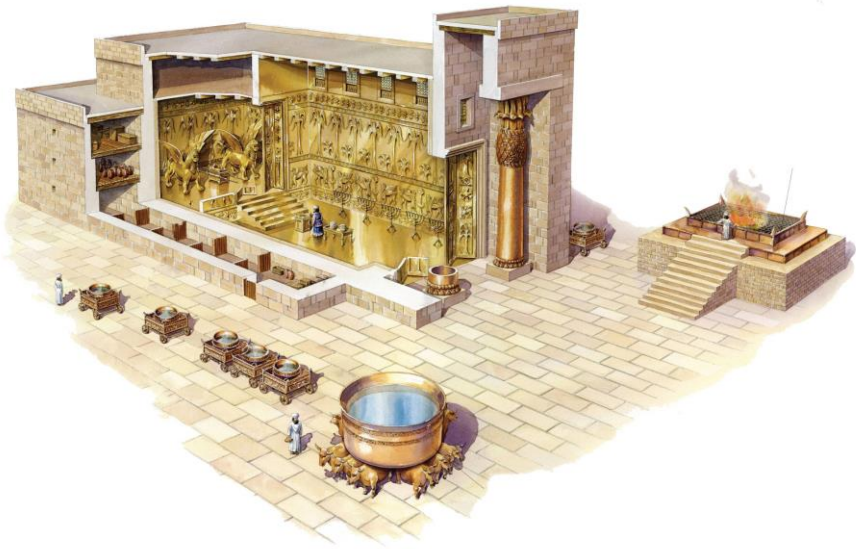
<sup>2</sup> “On the first day of the first month you shall erect the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.

Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to David his father, at the place that David had appointed, on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.





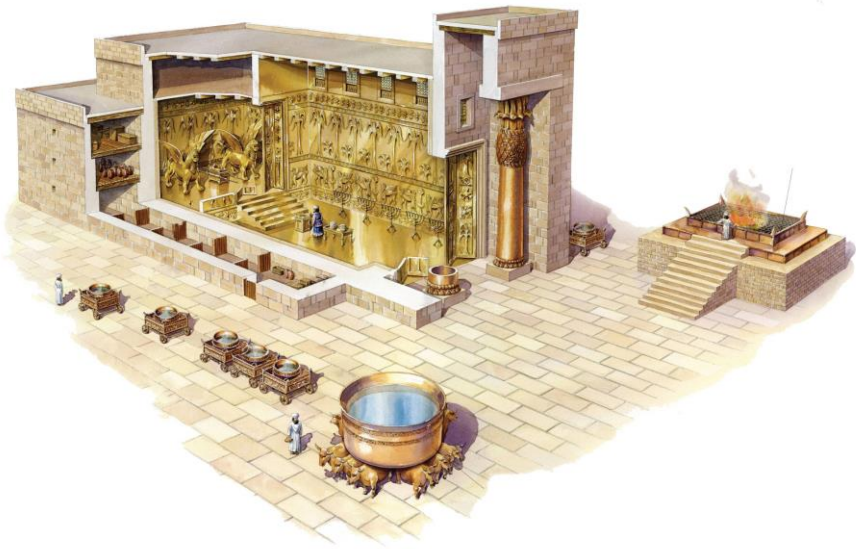
# THE TEMPLE



## What Does the Temple Look Like?

- God gave the plans for its building. (I Chron. 28:19)
- The temple was a magnificent, ornate, and luxurious building, befitting its role as the house of God
- It was ninety feet long and thirty feet wide, thus having a total interior of 2700 square feet.
- While the temple was not large, the quality of its workmanship was unsurpassed in ancient Israel.

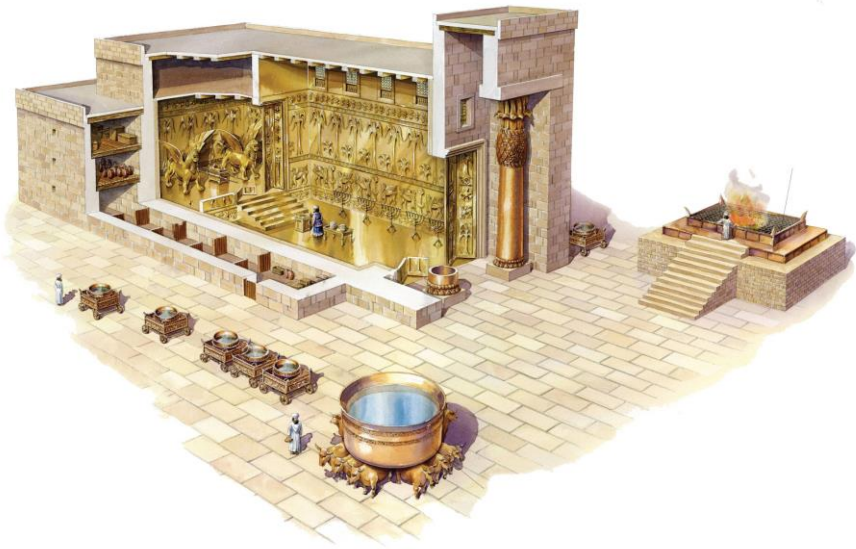
# THE TEMPLE



## What Does the Temple Look Like?

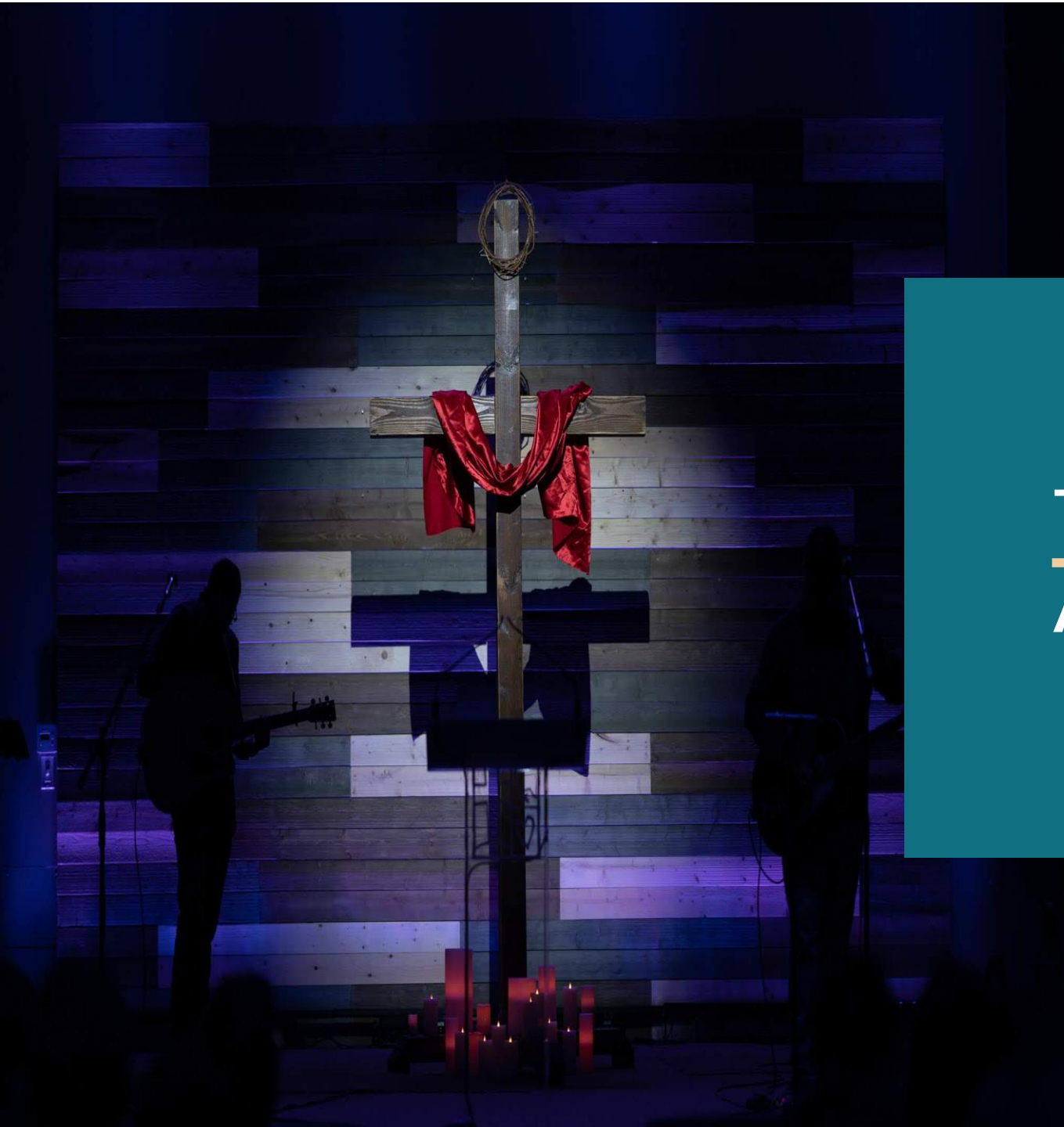
- The building was divided into two parts by a partition that separates the back area - a third of the total area - from the rest of the interior.
- Stepping out of the temple sanctuary, one would see two free-standing pillars.
- In the courtyard outside of the temple proper was a huge basin of water, resting on a base of twelve bronze oxen.
- On the sides of the temple - more complex of rooms, perhaps for administration and storage (1 Kings 6:5-6).
- Though tens of thousands of laborers were involved in the work, it took seven years to complete.

# THE TEMPLE



## The Significance of Temple Symbolism

- Like the tabernacle, the temple symbolizes God's presence with his people
- The temple was a permanent house, whereas the tabernacle was a portable tent.
- The name of the basin of water, the Sea, has obvious significance.
  - The personified sea is often perceived as God's rival, representing the anti-creation forces of chaos.
  - In the temple, the Sea is bounded, controlled right outside the temple, which represents God's throne.
  - This seems to represent the fact that God has defeated his adversaries, the former inhabitants of the land, and has firmly established his people there.



## **The Furniture of the Sanctuary**

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### **An Inside Look at Sacred Space**

# TABERNACLE: FURNITURE

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ARK	MENORAH	INCENSE ALTAR	TABLE	SACRIFICIAL ALTAR
<i>Holy of Holies</i>	<i>Garden of Eden</i>	<i>Holy Place and the Holy of Holies</i>	<i>Presence of God</i>	<i>Sinner and the Holy God</i>

**An Inside Look at Sacred Space**

# THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

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## DESIGN

- Described in Exodus 25:10-22, the ark was constructed from a rather simple design.
- 3 3/4 feet long, 2 1/4 feet wide, and 2 1/4 feet high.
- It also had rings attached to the sides, through which poles were slid for carrying it.

## COMPOSITION

- The composition of the ark was not simple
- The box was covered with gold both inside and outside
- At each side of the ark was to be placed gold statues of cherubim

## CONTAINER

- It was the place where the stone tablets of the covenant were held.
- The ark was connected to the covenant as a concrete token of the divine presence.
- The ark also played an important role in the battles of Israel. As a moveable symbol of God's presence, this was taken to the battlefield to signify God's support of the army

## LID

- Mercy seat: This was the place where God said he would meet with Moses
- It conveys notions of forgiveness and of protection from the power of sin.



## ARK:COMPOSITION



The box was covered with gold both inside and outside

- At each side of the ark was to be placed gold statues of cherubim
  - They were at the sides of the ark with their heads bowed and their wings outstretched and touching each other
  - The reason for their posture was that the ark was the most potent symbol of God's presence in the tabernacle.
  - It was seen as the footstool of his throne (I Chron. 28:2)
  - God the King sat in his earthly house on his throne, and the cherubim, whose wings supported him, looked out the ground to shield their gaze from the radiance of his glory

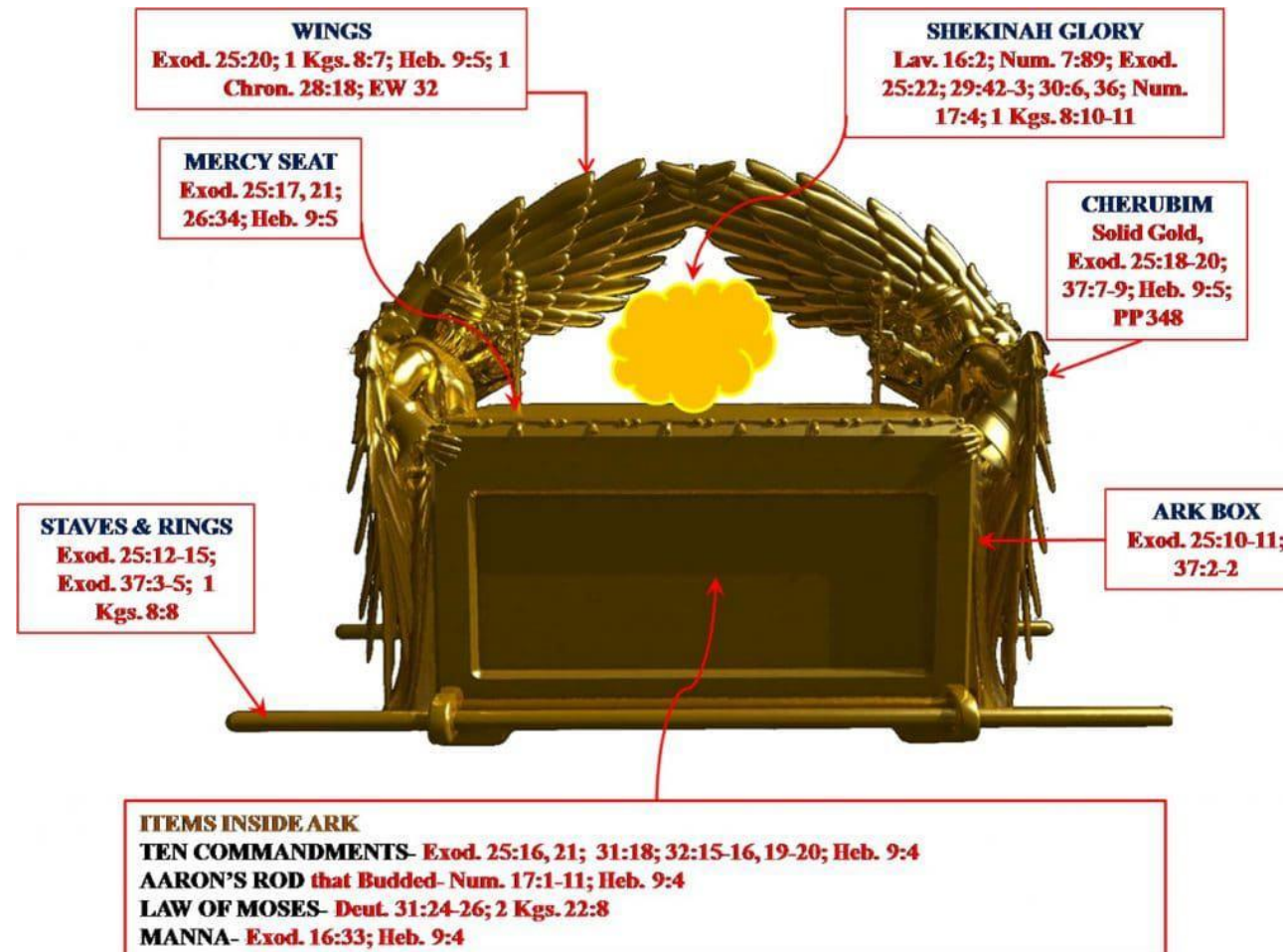
## I Chronicles 28:2

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<sup>2</sup> Then King David rose to his feet and said: “Hear me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD and for the footstool of our God, and I made preparations for building.



# ARK OF THE COVENANT



# MENORAH



## ✓ Exodus 25:31-40:

- God directed Moses to construct a lamp to illuminate the interior of the Tabernacle
- We know that the menorah was large because it took a whole talent of gold (75 pounds) to make it

## ✓ The menorah as tree

- A tree-like menorah reminds us of the garden of Eden and so represents the presence of God on earth.
- The tree was on fire - the burning bush

# INCENSE ALTAR



## Exodus 30:1-10

The incense altar stood at the entrance between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.

## BREAD OF PRESENCE



### ✓ Exodus 25:23-30

- The very nature of the bread, “presence” indicates that it represented the presence of God with his people.
- Covenants were often sealed with a meal, and a host of passages in Deuteronomy talk about Israel or its leaders eating in the presence of the Lord.
- Thus the loaves were a reminder of the intimate relationship the people of God enjoyed with their covenant Lord



# SACRIFICIAL ALTAR



## Sacrificial Altar

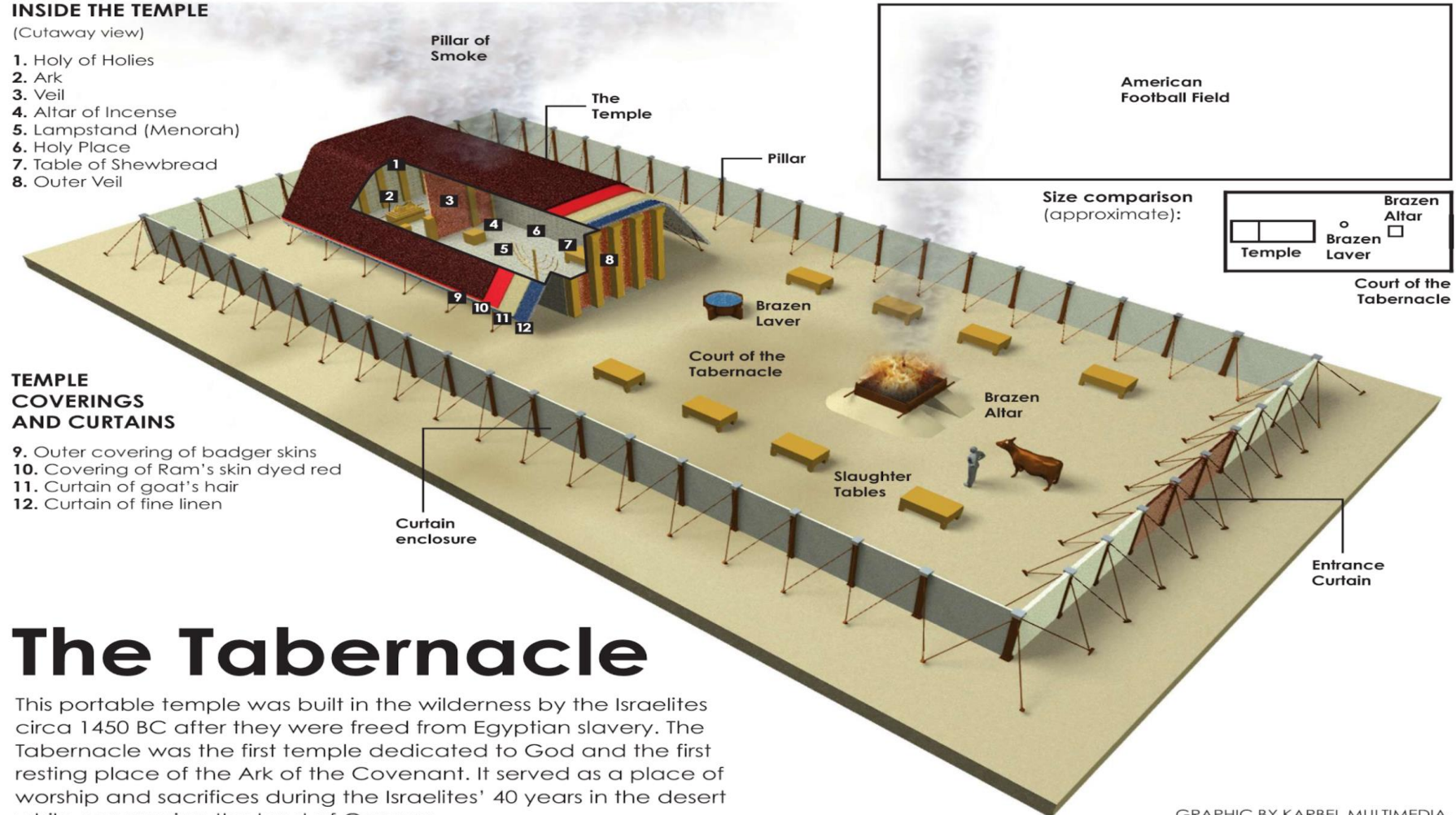
- It was not in the interior but the exterior
- This altar was for the purpose of offering burnt sacrifices
- The placement of the altar outside of the tabernacle proper signified that sinners had to offer sacrifice before getting closer to the awesome presence of their Lord.

# The Tabernacle

## INSIDE THE TEMPLE

(Cutaway view)

1. Holy of Holies
2. Ark
3. Veil
4. Altar of Incense
5. Lampstand (Menorah)
6. Holy Place
7. Table of Shewbread
8. Outer Veil

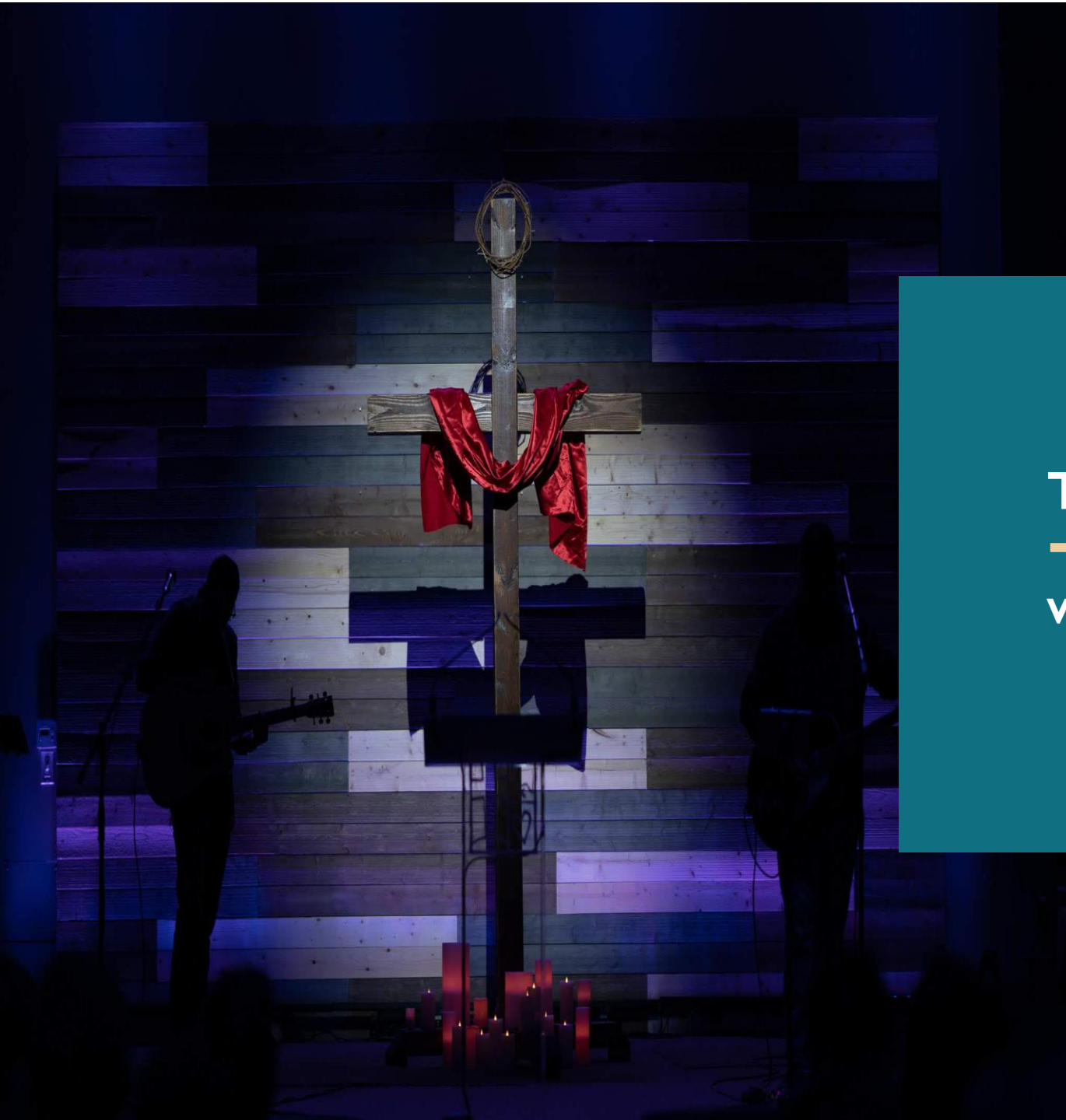


## TEMPLE COVERINGS AND CURTAINS

9. Outer covering of badger skins
10. Covering of Ram's skin dyed red
11. Curtain of goat's hair
12. Curtain of fine linen

# The Tabernacle

This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1450 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifices during the Israelites' 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan.



# THE COMING OF IMMANUEL

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WHERE DO CHRISTIANS FIND HOLY SPACE

# JESUS, OUR “SACRED SPACE,” ACCORDING TO THE GOSPELS

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## TABERNACLE

- *Jesus is the tabernacle (John 1:14)*
  - *Where he is, there is God. When someone met Jesus, he or she was in the presence of God*

## TEMPLE

- *During his lifetime, Jesus showed great respect for the temple that was standing in Jerusalem. (John 2:13-25)*
- *John 2:19: Jesus was making profound and subtle connection between the temple and himself*
- *Although Jesus respected the temple, he knew it was temporary. John 4:20*

## AT HIS DEATH


- *When Jesus died, there was an immediate visible sign that a transformation took place.*
  - *At the moment of Jesus' death “the curtain of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.” This is surely a reference to the curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies.*

## John 1:14, 2:19-22

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<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking about the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.





# JESUS, OUR “SACRED SPACE” ACCORDING TO THE EPISTLES

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## HEBREWS

- *Hebrews was clearly addressed to a Jewish audience.*
  - *Because of Jesus' presence, the importance of the sanctuary - altar, tabernacle, temple - has fallen away*

## TEMPLE

- *To Paul, as Christians no longer have a temple based religion.*
  - *It means that Christians themselves are corporately and individually temples.*
  - *Ephesians 2:19-22*

## HOLY SPIRIT

- *God lives in us in the person of the Holy Spirit. We are filled with the Spirit at our conversion just as the tabernacle/temple was filled with the presence of God*



## Ephesians 2:19-22

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<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.



# The Eschatological Temple: Sacred Space in the End

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The final two chapters of the book of Revelation present us with a glimpse of heaven. Heaven is pictured as a “New Jerusalem. Rev 21:22 tells us that there will be no temple. The reason for the lack of a temple makes it all clear, When Christ has come again and has punished all sin, there is no need for a temple.

<sup>22</sup> And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.



# THANK YOU!

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## QUESTIONS?