

## **Israel & The Church**

### **End Times Series**

A famous theologian was asked, why do you believe in God, he answered: "Two words, The Jews." Mark Twain once wrote:

Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of star dust in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly the Jew ought hardly to be heard of; but he is heard of. He is as prominent on this planet as any other people. His commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk. His contribution to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and abstruse learning are also altogether out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in the world in all ages and he has done it with his hands tied behind him.

One astounding fact that dramatically illustrates Twain's point is the disproportionate number of Nobel Prizes awarded to Jews. From 1901 to 2007, a total of 777 Nobel Prizes have been given to individuals, in recognition of significant contributions to mankind. Of that total, 176 have been awarded to Jews. The Jews represent less than two-thirds of 1 percent of the world population of 6 billion people yet they have won 22.6 percent of all the Nobel Prizes.<sup>2</sup>

I disagree with one thing Mark Twain said. The Jews have survived for one reason and only one reason: they are God's chosen people. The story of Israel begins at the very beginning of the Bible, in the Book of Genesis. The very proportion of the coverage tells us something about the importance of Israel. Only two chapters are given to the whole story of creation. One chapter records the fall of man. Eight chapters cover the thousands of years from creation to the time of Abram. Then we find that 38 chapters deal with the life of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Five-sixths of the Bible is about Israel; from Genesis 12 to Revelation 22. More space is devoted in the Scriptures to the description of the Tabernacle than any other single subject except Christ Himself. God used 50 chapters to explain the Tabernacle and only 2 chapters to explain creation. For every prophecy of Jesus' first coming, there are eight for His Second Coming. He is coming again to usher in the Kingdom or Millennial Period which is to fulfill the promises God made to Abraham and the Israelites. Apparently God finds Abraham his descendants to be of enormous importance.<sup>3</sup>

Israel is the only nation that has its origin, history, ups and downs, and destiny all written out in advance for the diligent. Every time you encounter a Jew you are witnessing a miracle. No race on the planet has endured more systematic, heavily resourced

attempts to wipe it out than the Jewish race. From the Egyptians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Haman in the book of Esther, Hitler, Iran, ISIS and many more, we see a long list of people and nations that have wanted to destroy the Jewish race. Throughout history, the judgements of God have fallen heavily upon Israel's oppressors - Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Rome and in more modern times, Spain, Germany, and Russia. The fact that there are Jews alive today is a miracle; the fact that their nation has been re-established in Israel is not only a miracle, it's on schedule! And there's more to come! <sup>4</sup>

How tragic it is when, even in Christian theology, Israel has been substantially dismissed. We are in a period of time about which the Bible says more than it does about any other period of time in history, including the time that Jesus walked the shores of Galilee and climbed the mountains of Judea. At a time when we could be united as Christians that Jesus is surely coming soon, the Christian world hardly recognizes "the signs of the times."

Let's listen to what a couple of modern day Jewish Rabbi's say about Israel:

Rabbi Binyamin Elon, a member of the Israeli Knesset:

*I believe that if you do not know how to read the Bible, you cannot understand the daily newspaper. If you do not know the biblical story of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob you cannot possibly understand the miracle of the modern state of Israel.* <sup>5</sup>

*I travel to my home in Beth El from Jerusalem on the same route that Abraham and others traveled in Biblical times, from Shechem to Hebron and places in between. Today we pass many other beautiful flourishing Jewish communities along the way. When I reach the Givat Assaf intersection, I am always inspired by the large sign posted there, sponsored by our local grocer: "Here, in Beth El, 3800 years ago, the Creator of the World promised the Land of Israel to the people of Israel. It is by virtue of this promise that we dwell today in Haifa, Tel Aviv, Shilo, and Hebron."* <sup>6</sup>

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel:

*The love of the land was due to an imperative, not an instinct, not to a sentiment. There is a covenant, an engagement of the people to the land. We live by covenants. We could not betray our pledge or discard the promise. When Israel was driven into exile, the pledge became a prayer; the prayer a dream; the dream a passion, a duty, a dedication. It is a commitment we must not betray. To abandon the land would make a mockery of all our longings, prayers, and commitments. To abandon the land would be to repudiate the Bible.* <sup>7</sup>

The history of the Bible can be viewed as a Tale of Two Cities: Babylon as the City of Man; Jerusalem as the City of God. The Bible focuses on 3 primary promises:

- God's covenant with Abraham - in His seed all the nations will be blessed

- God's covenant with the nation Israel - if they faithfully served Him they'd prosper and if they forsook Him they'd be destroyed
- God's covenant with David, that his family would produce the Messiah who would reign over God's people forever. <sup>8</sup>

## Why did God choose the Jews as His people?

We don't know why God specifically choose the Jews but we do know why He did choose a peoples:

*"I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has freed you from the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.' "* (Exodus 6:7–8, NRSV)

*"Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."* (Exodus 19:5–6, NRSV) (conditional promise)

*"And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth." The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."* (Exodus 33:15–17, NRSV) (Moses speaking)

*"Aaron and his sons shall wear them when they go into the tent of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister in the holy place; or they will bring guilt on themselves and die. This shall be a perpetual ordinance for him and for his descendants after him."* (Exodus 28:43, NRSV) (Priestly garments and ordination; perpetual ordinance what we see re-instituted in the Kingdom Period)

*"It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. I will meet with the Israelites there, and it shall be sanctified by my glory; I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar; Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate, to serve me as priests. I will dwell among the Israelites, and I will be their God. And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them; I am the Lord their God."* (Exodus 29:44–46, NRSV)

*“a land that the Lord your God looks after. The eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.” (Deuteronomy 11:12, NRSV)*

### **Why did God choose the Jews?**

- It was His sovereign purpose to do so (He loves His people)
- To be their God and for them to be His people
- God wanted to dwell among His people
- To have fellowship with His creation
- **To set aside a priestly kingdom and a holy nation for the world to see**
- To have a distinct people
- To give them what He promised them

### **Why set aside a priestly kingdom and a holy nation?**

- Just like in our day - so that all might be saved  
*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NRSV)*

### **The Unconditional Covenant God Made With Abraham**

The covenant made with the Jews was originally made with Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 and confirmed and enlarged to him in Genesis 12:6-7; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-4; 22:15-18, entitled certain basic promises. The things promised by God are the following:

1. That Abraham's name shall be great.
2. That a great nation should come from him.
3. He should be a blessing so great that in him shall all families of the earth be blessed.
4. To him personally and to his seed should be given Palestine forever to inherit.
5. The multitude of his seed should be as the dust of the earth.
6. That whoever blessed him should be blessed and whosoever cursed him should be cursed.
7. He should be the father of many nations.
8. Kings should proceed from him.
9. The covenant shall be perpetual, “an everlasting covenant.”
10. The land of Canaan shall be “an everlasting possession.”
11. God will be a God to him and to his seed.
12. His seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.
13. In his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed

### **We have now established that God has chosen a distinct peoples, the Jews:**

- To shower His love on
- To make them a holy nation so that all the peoples of the earth would recognize God
- Be blessed by
- See God and believe in Him and then spend eternity with Him
- They would be a great nation that included kings and were given the provision of a land to dwell in forever
- Those who blessed them would be blessed and those who cursed them would be cursed

### **Covenant Re-affirmed to Jacob - The Israelites**

- The covenant was re-affirmed with Jacob, Abraham's grandson when Jacob struggled with God and God re-named Jacob, Israel which means you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed.

*"Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." (Genesis 32:28, NRSV)*

- It is re-affirmed to Jacob later in Genesis:

*"God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and he blessed him. God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall you be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he was called Israel. God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall spring from you. The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you." Then God went up from him at the place where he had spoken with him. Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured out a drink offering on it, and poured oil on it. So Jacob called the place where God had spoken with him Bethel." (Genesis 35:9–15, NRSV)*

**From Jacob or Israel would come the 12 tribes of Israel also known as the children of Israel or the Israelites** and the offspring that is mentioned in the verse above - Gen 35:9-15.

### **God Communicated With and Wanted to Dwell Among His People**

- The presence of God passed through the animals Abraham killed to confirm His relationship with Abraham; an animal sacrifice.

*And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between*

*those pieces. 18 On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates Genesis 15;17-18*

- The Israelites entered Egypt as a family; emerged from Egypt as a nation. Joseph had found favor in Egypt but they were eventually enslaved by a new and different Pharaoh (Assyrian). God delivers the Israelites out of Egypt with series of plagues, institution of the Passover, exodus from Egypt and a miracle parting of the Red Sea so they could leave.
- As the Lord led Israel out of Egypt (1450 BC) He was with them, protected them, provided for them and made His presence visible to them. He appeared in a pillar of a cloud by day and pillar of fire at night. The nation could see the presence of God (the glory of the Lord), as He led them through the wilderness.

*And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people. Exodus 13:21-22*

- God appeared to Moses on Mt. Sinai and gave Moses the Law and Tabernacle. This included the 10 commandments to live by and instructions to build a Tabernacle so that God could continue to dwell with them and they could have communion with God and worship God.
- The 10 Commandments

*"Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the mountain top. Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights." (Exodus 24:15–18, NASB95)*

*"It came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony were in Moses' hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him." (Exodus 34:29, NASB95)*

- The Tabernacle - **See Tabernacle at the end of this section**

*"Then you shall erect the tabernacle according to its plan which you have been shown in the mountain." (Exodus 26:30, NASB95)*

*"Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Tell the sons of Israel to raise a contribution for Me; from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution. "This is the contribution which you are to raise from them: gold,*

*silver and bronze, blue, purple and scarlet material, fine linen, goat hair, rams' skins dyed red, porpoise skins, acacia wood, oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breast piece. "Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them." (Exodus 25:1–8, NASB95)*

- More space is devoted in the Scriptures to the description of the Tabernacle than any other single subject except Christ Himself. God used 50 chapters to explain the Tabernacle and only 2 chapters to explain creation.
- Like Adam and Eve, sin separated Israel from God. In the wilderness, God established the Tabernacle so people could be restored to God for their sins. Sacrifice was a principle established by God (God first sacrificed an animal to cover Adam and Eve's shame at their sin), where the blood of another could substitute for the sins of the sinner. Through the sacrificing of innocent animal blood at the Tabernacle, Israel could atone for their sins and be restored to God. God would let Himself be known to the High-Priest, who would communicate God's will to the people, and the priest would intervene before God on their behalf (Leviticus 16).
  - The tabernacle (tent) was a portable structure used for worship before the Jerusalem Temple was built by Solomon. It denotes the temporary dwelling of God among his people.
  - God's purpose was to dwell in His Tabernacle among His people so that He could be their God and they could be His people (Exod. 6:7; 29:44–46).
  - God dwelt in the Holy of Holies of the Tabernacle, enthroned above the Mercy Seat (Lev. 16:1–2).
  - God wanted a holy people (Exod. 19:5–6) and His presence among the Israelites was what made them holy (Exod. 3:5; 33:15–17)
  - The Tabernacle was also called the Tent of Meeting because the Lord met with His people in it at appointed times (Exod. 28:43; 29:42, 44).
  - Through the sacrificial system of the Tabernacle and later the Temple, the Creator would reveal Himself to His fallen creation.
  - It provided a standard of righteousness
  - Every detail points to Christ - go to Tabernacle charts and pics

**Israel grumbled and complained against God about their circumstances which resulted in the nation wandering Sinai for 40-years as the complaining and rebellious generation died off.**

### **Judges from 1400- 1800 BC.**

- Israel struggled with the other nations and sinned with idolatry and became contaminated with their false religions and apostasy from God.

- Through judges such as Samson, Gideon and Debra, God delivered His people. Theme of this period of time is “and everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

## **Kings**

- David, the sheep herder, singled out by God to be king over the nation.
- Through David’s family line God would send the Messiah who would redeem the world from their sins (Isaiah 9:6-7, II Samuel 7:12-14)
- David purchases the land of Mount Moriah, a part of Jerusalem, at the command of God where God’s Tabernacle was to dwell (1 Chron 21).
- Solomon builds the magnificent Temple.
- The last mention of the location of the ark is Solomon’s Temple (2 Chr 35:3).

## **Judgements, Captivity and Times of the Gentiles**

- After David’s son, Solomon’s death, the kingdom of Israel was split into two nations due to a civil war:
  - Israel to the north, 10-tribes
  - Judah to the south
- For the next 300-years both Israel and Judah had competing kings, many of the kings turned the people toward the idols of the land and away from God, such as Ahab who worshipped Baal. Some of the kings remained true to the Lord such as Hezekiah and Josiah.
- God’s continual presence and relationship was contingent on Israel’s obedience. If Israel obeyed they would be blessed, but if the nation turned away from the Lord, then they would be scattered and the Temple destroyed.

*"But if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, "then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a proverb and a byword among all peoples. "And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and will hiss, and say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?' "Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore the Lord has brought all this calamity on them.' I Kings 9:6-9*

- During this period God intervened by sending prophets and judgments:
  - Elijah battled the false prophets of Baal in the valley of Carmel (I Kings 18).
  - Three Major Prophets were there to testify to the sins of the nation, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. All three lived in Jerusalem before the judgments, Jeremiah was the oldest.

- There was a war for the soul of the nation.
  - Israel's sins: (Eze 21 - 23) (Judah was just as bad if not worse)
    - Jerusalem was labeled "the bloody city" because of its violent crimes and child sacrifice to Molech. Eze talks about progression from violence to wickedness.
    - Idolatry exceeded the heathen nations
    - Scorned their fathers and mothers
    - Profaned the Sabbath
    - Committed murder and adultery
    - Mistreated the fatherless and the widow
    - Violated sisters and daughters-in-law and neighbors wife
    - Took bribes and bore false witness
    - Eze 16 so sad and indicting that some of the ancient rabbis did not allow it to be read in public. <sup>9</sup>
    - God gives Ezekiel vision of abominations in Jerusalem (Eze 8) and other sins:
      - Worshiped other gods and worshiped at idol altars (high places)
      - Child sacrifices
      - Sorcery was practiced mainly by women
      - Secret cult of idolatrous elders (Eze 7-12)
      - Leaders offering incense to Egyptian animal cults (Eze 8:10)
      - Defiled the sanctuary - their greatest sin (25 men worshipping the sun; represented 24 orders of priests plus the High-Priest) (Eze 8:16)
      - People were weeping over vegetation god's death each summer
      - Unclean animals in the Temple and animal cults
      - Pre-incarnate Christ (Man clothed in linen) is commanded to mark the people in Jerusalem who mourned over the idolatry; the angels are instructed to go throughout the city and slaughter the people who did not have the mark starting with the elders
      - 3 groups - those who will die by :
        - famine and plague
        - the sword
        - carried away
      - Then the Glory of the Lord departs the Temple
      - Israel is like an abandoned child
- He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; for they are a rebellious house. Eze 3:27*

*One third of you will die by plague or be consumed by famine among you, one third will fall by the sword around you, and one third I will scatter to every*

*wind, and I will unsheathe a sword behind them. Eze 5:12*

*"But I will spare some. Some of you shall escape the sword among the nations and be scattered through the countries." (Ezekiel 6:8, NRSV)*

- Israel was judged first in 722 BC. God sent the armies of Assyria to destroy the land and take the people captive. In their place other people were settled in the land. Later Babylon defeats the Assyrians. These captives would later have been part of the Judean captivity.

*For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, 23 until the Lord removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day. II Kings 17:22-23*

- Judah was judged and invaded by Babylon 3 times under leadership of Nebuchadnezzar - 605, 597, 587 BC:
  - 587 BC Babylon destroyed the Temple and the city, tearing down its walls. Jeremiah wrote the *Book of Lamentations* witnessing the destruction of the people and the city.
- All these defeats were judgments against the land, because the people were turning away from the Lord. The people caused God to judge the land; because they turned away from God and worshipped the gods of Babylon, Egypt, Moab and the Philistines.

*"Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? 18 "The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger. 19 "Do they provoke Me to anger?" says the Lord. "Do they not provoke themselves, to the shame of their own faces?" Jeremiah 7:17-19*

- The Israelites had no place to offer atoning blood, thus bearing their sins without relief
- Sadly, the exile and affliction did not make the Jews more responsive to God; rather they were hardened by their sufferings. <sup>10</sup>
- Throughout the Bible and especially in the OT God judged Israel and the nations; Israel for their disobedience and apostasy and the nations for their arrogance, pride, disobedience and treatment of Israel. In the OT the judgments are mainly temporal and in the NT mostly eternal.
- The first judgment was in Genesis 12:17. God plagued Pharaoh of Egypt for touching Abram's wife Sarai. The first Judgment of the nations is in Gen 11 with the Tower of Babel.
- Judgements play a big part in the book of Revelation. Evil nations have been against God and His people throughout the OT and the age ends with empires

compared with wild and ferocious animals. This present age is evil, under the dominion of the kingdom of darkness and will be followed by a judgment on the present cosmic order. <sup>11</sup>

### **General Statements in Favor of Israel**

*“But thus says the Lord: Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued; for I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children.” (Isaiah 49:25, NRSV)*

*“For thus said the Lord of hosts (after his glory sent me) regarding the nations that plundered you: Truly, one who touches you touches the apple of my eye.” (Zechariah 2:8, NRSV)*

### **Judgment Against the Nations in General**

*“For then, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat, and I will enter into judgment with them there, on account of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations. They have divided my land,” (Joel 3:1–2, NRSV) (those days and at that time)*

*“Therefore, be patient,” says the Lord. “Soon I will stand and accuse these evil nations. For I have decided to gather the kingdoms of the earth and pour out my fiercest anger and fury on them. All the earth will be devoured by the fire of my jealousy.” (Zephaniah 3:8, NLT)*

- Isaiah’s Prophecies:
  - Judgment on the Southern Kingdom for sin and lack of loyalty to God
  - God’s restoration to Israel; they would be judged but not wiped out like the Northern Kingdom
  - Breath taking vision of the Throne of God
  - Virgin birth of Jesus
  - Jesus’ atonement, crucifixion, judgement
  - House of David would ultimately come a supernatural king
  - Jesus states Isaiah’s mandate (The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me....) when He came the first time and left off the end of the quote, “and the day of vengeance of our God”. He will fulfill that part at His Second Coming
  - Ultimate destruction of Babylon - this is still to come

- Jeremiah's Prophecies:
  - Weeping prophet; for 40 years he never had a grateful response from anyone (Jesus was also the weeping prophet (O Jerusalem, O Jerusalem, who killed the prophets and stoned them ....))
  - Warned Israelites not to fight the Babylonians but to surrender or they would be destroyed (false leaders told them otherwise) (Jer 27:9-17)
  - Key theme divine judgement, God is not dead and is very concerned and active in history
  - Speaks of distressed times (when parents ate their children and sons ate their fathers in the times of starvation - one of the sieges lasted for 18 months)
  - Message from God to Jerusalem - I will punish and I will restore
  - Announces the New Covenant
  - Specifies precisely the 70 year captivity. Daniel was in Babylon reading the prophecies of Jeremiah, he noticed the 70 years were almost over.
  - Thru Jeremiah, God pronounced a blood curse on King Jeconiah, who was in the blood line of David. This was resolved with the Virgin Birth.
  - Ultimate destruction of Babylon - this is still to come
- Daniel's Prophecies: (Daniel was taken captive in the first siege of Jerusalem)
  - Became the primary confidante to the ruler of Babylon; when Babylonia was taken over by its enemies, he rose to the 2nd - 3rd position in the Persian Empire
  - Only 2 people in the Bible other than Jesus of which there is no evil spoken - Joseph and Daniel. Both were administrators and executives.
  - Daniel is the most authenticated book of the OT - it has been attacked because of it's remarkable prophecies, but to no avail.
  - God gave Daniel an interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream which was about the end times
  - Up until now the Bible has been thru the lenses of the Israel; now it is telling of the "times of the Gentiles"
  - Starts with Nebuchadnezzar and ends with a final world leader who will be dealt with by Jesus at His Second Coming
  - Fall of Babylon (your number is up)
  - Sees empires as man might see them: bright, shiny metals (Dan 2) and then sees them as God would see them - a series of voracious beasts (Dan 7). Same sequence with last empire in 2 phases. Last empire an emergence of the Roman Empire - a European Super State)
    - Fall of the Persian empire
    - Fall of the Greek empire
    - Fall of the Roman empire

- Emergence of the split Roman Empire
- Interrupted prayer by Gabriel with 4-verse prophecy - most astonishing passage in the Bible - the 70 weeks of Daniel; they are weeks of years
  - Focus of this prophecy is specifically Jewish
  - Restore and rebuild Jerusalem - Ezra and Nehemiah (Nehemiah got authority and funding to rebuild the city)
  - Prediction of the exact day the Messiah would present Himself as King to Jerusalem (rode donkey in and also prophesied in Zech 9:9 - riding on a colt)
  - Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans (laid siege for 9 months and over a million were slaughtered). Why was Jerusalem destroyed? Jesus held them accountable to know the specifications of Gabriel's prophecy to Daniel - Luke 19:44, Jesus said, "and they will level you to the ground and your children within you and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."
  - Final week of the vision is defined by a coming leader enforcing a covenant for 7 years. In the middle of 7 years he will establish an idol in the Holy of Holies: this act is called the Abomination of Desolation. The last half of that 4 year period is labeled by Jesus as "The Great Tribulation". It ends with the Second Coming of Jesus.
  - Jesus stopped Israel's timepiece in Luke 19. The clock has one 7 year period left yet to be ticked off.
  - Detailed profile of the kings of both the Seleucid and the Ptolemaic dynasties that fight for over several centuries.
  - Detailed glimpses regarding the final world ruler who will prevail until the end to be interrupted by the Second Coming of Christ.
- Ezekiel's Prophecies: (Ezekiel was taken captive in the second siege of Jerusalem at about age 25; it would be another 11 years before the final overthrow of Jerusalem)
  - Commissioned by God at about age 30 (the age when priests commenced their office) to communicate His message in some very strange ways; He shut himself up in his house; he bound himself; he was struck dumb; he had to lie on his right and left sides for a total of 430 days; he deliberately ate bread prepared in an unclean manner; he shaved his head and beard which was considered a shame in his particular calling (foretelling of the shame to come to Israel at defeat of their enemies) and was told not to mourn the death of his wife
  - Had 2 visions of the throne of God (Chpts 1 and 10)

- Living creatures called cherubim with face of a lion, ox, man and eagle
- Formation for the Camps of Israelites and visions of Isaiah, Ezekiel and Book of Rev forming a model of the Throne of God (See Chart - The Camps of Israel)
- Prophesied from Babylon before Jerusalem was destroyed
- Prophesied about Israel's condemnation and then restoration
  - Ruin of Jerusalem (warned of false prophets who said they would return)
  - Retribution on nearby nations
  - Last call for Israel to repent (individual responsibility)
  - Future restoration of Israel (Kingdom Period)
- God's purpose of glorious triumph so that all may "know that I am the LORD". (mentioned more than 60 times).
- Destruction of Jerusalem and awful conditions that would occur
  - Mourning and helpless condition of the people
  - Wealth and possessions would mean nothing (7:17-22)
  - Holy of Holies would be desecrated by pagans (7:22)
- Warned about false leaders - saying would be no judgement from God
- Prophesied about destruction of Israel's enemies
  - Ammonites - incestuous origin and often hostile toward Judah <sup>12</sup>
  - Moab and Seir - gloated over Israel's fall <sup>13</sup>
  - Edom - gloated over Israel's fall
  - Philistines - Perpetual enmity and vengefulness against Israel
- Israel would be judged 430 years: using God's calendar of 360 days in a year counting from the Servitude of the Nation (1st seige) it comes out to be May 14, 1948 when Israel was restored as a nation. David Ben Gurion, on international radio, using Ezekiel as his authority announced that the name of the Jewish homeland was Israel. Using the Desolations of Jerusalem, the 3rd seige, the count comes out on June 7, 1967, the Restoration of Jerusalem or the Six-Day War.
- Wrote 9 chapters on the Millennium
- Millennial Temple - very specific and detailed
  - All the nations will come to worship there
  - Offerings and sacrifices will be resumed but not like the Mosaic sacrifices
  - Will be open on the Sabbath Day and on New Moons
  - The Magog Invasion - Coming from the uttermost parts of the north - Russia, Iran (Persia), Ethiopia (Cush), Libya and North Africa (Phut)

## **Kingdom Period Summary**

The prophets also told of the downfall of many of Israel's enemies and the restoration of Israel and the blessing that was to come.

### **Return From Exile - The Temple is Rebuilt**

- At the appointed time, a remnant returns to Jerusalem. (Jeremiah predicted)
- There are two restorations from Babylonian captivity.
- God was at work through pagan kings such as Cyrus and Artaxerxes (Ezra 1:1; 7:27) to bring about the return from exile and the rebuilding of the temple.
- Nehemiah a strong governor and Ezra a devout teacher played key roles in the restoration of God's people from Babylon to Jerusalem.
- It showed Israelites who had come back to their land that they were still God's people, despite the years of exile and the difficulties they had experienced since their return.
- The first group of returning exiles restored worship of the Lord, culminating in a rebuilt temple, but Ezra, who led the second group, re-established Israelite community under Mosaic law, culminating in putting away mixed marriages. <sup>14</sup>
- Although the Temple is rebuilt it is not restored to its original glory:
  - The Ark of the Covenant is gone
  - The Holy of Holies stands empty

### **Silent Years**

400 year period in which no prophet was heard

### **John The Baptist**

John the Baptist ushered in the New Testament period

### **Jesus**

Birth, Ministry, Crucifixion and Ascension of Jesus Christ  
Pentecost

### **Diaspora**

Jerusalem and the Temple are destroyed again and Israel is scattered all over the world  
- 70 AD

### **Israel the Nation**

In 1948 Israel becomes a nation again. OT prophecies were literally fulfilled

### **This Present Age - The Latter Days Before Christ Returns**

## **Rapture**

Church is translated

## **Tribulation - Jacob's Trouble**

7 year period of judgement

## **Kingdom or Millennial Period**

1000 Year Reign of Christ

God fulfills His covenant with Abraham and the Israelites

## **Eternity - The New Heavens and The New Earth Israel in the NT and the Church in the OT**

- Church in the OT
  - Church was not revealed in the OT
  - Jesus was revealed in the OT (the Messiah)
  - Restoration of the Jews and the fulfilling of the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants revealed in the OT (happens in the Millennial or Kingdom Period).
- Israel in the NT
  - The Gospel was taken to the Jew first (Rom 1:16)
  - Paul explains in Romans that the OT saints who believed God were credited to them as righteousness, their sins were covered and not taken into account and they are in heaven. (Rom 4:3; 6-8; Heb 12:22-24)
  - In Romans 9, Paul gives a history of the Israelites and says that Jews that are the children of the promise are descendants (believers), gives a lesson on pre-destination (says He has mercy on whom He desires and hardens whom He desires), He will call people who are not His people His people (saved Gentiles or NT believers) and Israel stumbled over stumbling stone (Jesus) because they pursued faith by the Law (their works) rather than faith in Christ.
- In Romans 10:
  - Paul says that his heart's desire is the the salvation of the Jews
  - Gives the salvation prayer (confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Rom 10:9)
  - Says there is no distinction between Jew and Greek as far as salvation goes
  - Isaiah foretold the coming of Jesus so Israel knew (But as for Israel He says, "All the day long I have stretched out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people." (Rom 10:21)

- In Romans 11:
  - Paul says the Jews have not been cast away or rejected (God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. (Rom 11:2)
  - In the present time there is a remnant according to God's gracious choice and the remnant is saved by grace (Rom 11:5-6)
  - The rest were hardened (Rom 11:7-10)
  - By Israel's transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles to make them jealous (Rom 11:11)
  - The Gentiles are grafted in where the unbelieving Jews were broken off; the Gentiles are not to be arrogant toward the branches. Uses analogy of an olive tree. (Rom 11:17-23)
  - Jews will be grafted in again when they believe. Grafted into God not the Church. (Rom 11:23)
  - A partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in (Rom 11:25) When did the times of the Gentiles start and when will it end?
  - Paul says he does not want them (the Jews) to be uninformed of this mystery - the mystery is the Church and Church age; it is not discussed in the OT. (Rom 11:25)
  - After the fullness of the Gentiles then all Israel will be saved, Jesus comes, all ungodliness is removed, and He will take away their sins. This is referring to the Millennial or Kingdom Period. (Rom 11:26-27)
  - The unbelieving Jews are enemies from the standpoint of the gospel but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of their righteous Israelite fathers and should be shown mercy just as we (the Gentiles) were shown mercy when we were disobedient. (Rom 11:28 - 32)
  - God has shut up the Jews so that He may show mercy to all. (Rom 11:32)

## Summary

The OT is the record of a nation, Israel: the NT is the record of a Man. The central event of all history is that the Creator became a Man. The most exalted privilege is to know Him. That's what the Bible is all about. <sup>15</sup>

Prophecy is the central theme of the Bible. There are 8,362 predictive verses in Scripture with 1,817 predictions on 737 subjects. Prophecy is not just about the future; it is the forth telling of God's entire plan of redemption therefore, some think all Scripture is prophetic. Some indicate that prophecy is pattern, not just prediction. <sup>16</sup>

God is not finished with Israel. There are still a number of His covenants and prophecies to be fulfilled. Which of the covenants have been fulfilled and which are still to come?

1. That Abraham's name shall be great.
2. That a great nation should come from him.
3. He should be a blessing so great that in him shall all families of the earth be blessed.
4. To him personally and to his seed should be given Palestine forever to inherit.
5. The multitude of his seed should be as the dust of the earth.
6. That whoever blessed him should be blessed and whosoever cursed him should be cursed.
7. He should be the father of many nations.
8. Kings should proceed from him.
9. The covenant shall be perpetual, "an everlasting covenant."
10. The land of Canaan shall be "an everlasting possession."
11. God will be a God to him and to his seed.
12. His seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.
13. In his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed

*"No, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things. You have come to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect. You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel." (Hebrews 12:22–24, NLT)*

## **The Tabernacle**

### **Materials:**

- Brass was the material available to the Israelites and could sustain fire, therefore brass symbolized fire or judgment.
- Gold represented kingship or deity.
- Silver represented blood (the redemption coin of the Temple was silver. Remember Judas when he said he betrayed innocent blood and threw the silver coin on the temple floor).

### **Size:**

- The Tabernacle was about 75 feet wide and 150 feet long and was surrounded by a white linen fence about 7.5 feet wide.

### **Visual Description:**

- The first thing seen when approached, was white embroidered linen- righteousness, in a sense.
- There was only one entrance, on the east side.
- Looking up, the ceiling was embroidered with cherubim in gold, purple, blue & scarlet
  - On top of that was goat's hair - the skin bearer
  - On top of that was ram's skins died red - substitutionary ram
  - On top of that porpoise or badger skins (depending on the translation)
- The first thing you encountered upon entering was the brazen altar, the Altar of Sacrifice.
- The next thing was the laver - a huge brass washbasin. In Solomon's Temple, it was about 15 feet in radius and 7.5 feet deep (the exact size is not specified in the Tabernacle).
- The laver was where the priests washed in preparation for their various duties. Then they could enter the Tabernacle proper.
- The Tabernacle was a building made of acacia wood planks covered with gold & placed vertically.
- The base of these gold planks rested on silver sockets.
- The entire Tabernacle rested on silver (rested on the Blood, as it were).
- When first entering the Tabernacle proper, the priests entered a room that was roughly 15 feet by 30 feet called the Holy Place.
- The Holy Place was separated from the inner sanctum, the Holy of Holies, which was an exact cube: 15 feet square.
- In the Holy of Holies stood a seven-branched lamp stand - the menorah.

- Across from the seven-branched lamp stand was the Table of Showbread: twelve loaves that were changed every Sabbath.
- In front of the veil of the Holy of Holies was a golden altar, called the Altar of Incense.
- In the Holy of Holies was the Ark of the Covenant, a coffin-like structure that held the Ten Commandments, the Pot of Manna, & Aaron's Rod that budded.
- On top of the ark was the Mercy Seat (means propitiation)
- The Mercy Seat was solid gold with 2 cherubim over it.
- God described Himself as "He that dwells between the cherubim."
- When this was all assembled, God, in the form of the Shekinah Glory, entered and hovered over the Mercy Seat
- God was represented in the midst of His people
- The tribes camped around the Tabernacle in a prescribed fashion; in 4 camps & each tribe had a standard & symbol; the camp of Israel was in the shape of a cross - See The Camp of Israel Handout

### **The Tabernacle: Portrait of Christ**

<b>Tabernacle</b>	<b>Christ</b>
The Gate	I Am the Way
The Door	I Am the Door
The Lamp	I Am the Light
The Bread	I Am the Bread of Life
The Altar	He is the Sacrifice for our sins
The Veil	His body
The Mercy Seat	His blood was sacrificed

## Tabernacle

Israelites Communed with God through the Tabernacle	Christians Commune with God through Jesus
1. Bronze altar for sacrifices	Christ's sacrifice
2. Bronze laver for washing	Cleansing through confession
3. Lampstand	Enlightened by the Holy Spirit
4. Table of the bread of the presence	Fed by the living Word; Bread of Life
5. Altar of incense	Prayer, communication, intercession
6-7. Through the veil into the Most Holy Place	Entering God's presence boldly through Christ
8. Priests and the garments	Service to God and others

### Why is the Tabernacle Important Today?

#### 1. Today, believers are God's dwelling place

*"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19, NRSV)*

#### 2. God's holy presence is among us

#### 3. As believers, we are a part of a priesthood

*"like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5, NRSV)*

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV)*

#### 4. The Tabernacle shows a pattern of worship prescribed by God

*"Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:19–25, NRSV)*

Rose Guide to the Tabernacle. Rose Publishing, Inc. 2008

## Sacrifices in the Tabernacle

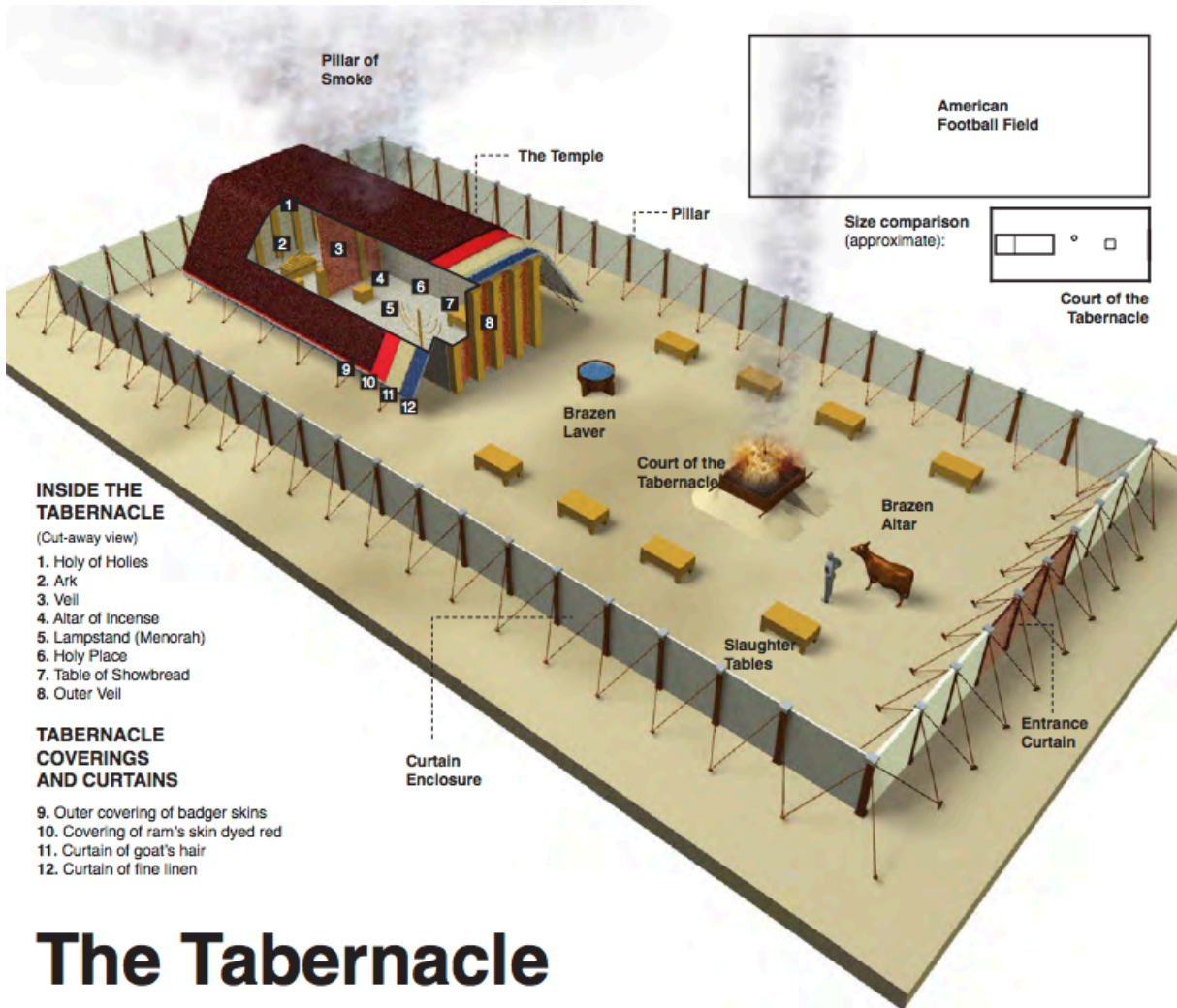
Sacrifice	Significance
<p><b>Sin Offering &amp; Guilt Offering</b> Lev 4-6; Num 15:1-12</p> <p>Sin offerings &amp; guilt offerings focused on paying for sin. The sin offerings atoned for sins against God. The guilt offerings addressed sins against others and included paying damages with interest. Various animals were offered, depending on the person's position &amp; income. Priests &amp; leaders, as examples to others, had to offer larger sacrifices for sin, while the poor offered what they could afford. Blood was sprinkled on the altar, the parts of the animals were burned, often with wine poured on them (drink offering). Other parts were roasted for the priests. Since the priests were full-time Tabernacle workers, sacrificed animals were their main source of food.</p>	<p><b>Christ's Offering:</b> Isa 53:10; Matt 20:28; 2 Cor 5:21</p> <p><b>Paying for Damages:</b> Matt 5:23, 24; Luke 19:1-10</p> <p><b>Poor:</b> Luke 2:2-24; 21:1-4</p> <p><b>Leaders as Examples:</b> 1 Tim 3:1-7; 5:19, 20</p> <p><b>Providing for Christian Workers:</b> Phil 4:18; 1 Cor 9:13, 14; 1 Tim 5:17, 18</p>
<p><b>Burnt Offering</b> Lev 1</p> <p>This sacrifice represented complete dedication &amp; surrender to God. The animal, usually an unblemished male, bore the worshiper's sins, and died in their place. After the blood was sprinkled on the altar, the animal was completely burned up. None of it was roasted for eating.</p>	<p><b>Surrender:</b> Psalm 51:16, 17; Matt 26:39; Rom 12:1</p> <p><b>Dedication:</b> Phil 2:17; 2 Tim 4:6-7</p>
<p><b>Grain (Meal) Offering</b> Lev 2</p> <p>This offering was given to God in thankfulness. The people brought fine flour, unleavened cakes, or roasted grain to the priests. The priests burned a symbolic handful at the altar &amp; could partake of the rest. There was very little ceremony involved.</p>	<p><b>Giving:</b> Matt 26:6-10; 2 Cor 9:7-11</p> <p><b>Praise:</b> Psalm 100; Heb 13:15-16</p> <p><b>Thankfulness:</b> Psalm 147; Phil 4:6</p>
<p><b>Fellowship (Peace) Offering</b> Lev 2: 7:11-21</p> <p>This offering symbolized fellowship &amp; peace with God through the shed blood. After some meat was ceremonially waved &amp; given to the priests, worshipers &amp; their guests could share in the feast as a meal with God.</p>	<p><b>God's Peace:</b> Col 1:20; Acts 10:36; Eph 2:14</p> <p><b>God's Feast:</b> Luke 14:15-24; 1 Cor 11:17-26; Jude 1:12; Rev 3:20</p>

Rose Guide to the Tabernacle. Rose Publishing, Inc. 2008

**Jewish Feasts** - The Tabernacle in the Wilderness, Fred Overton, Jr, Seminar booklet 1993

<b>Feast &amp; Length</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>OT Significance</b>	<b>NT Significance</b>
<b>Passover *</b> One Day Lev 23:5	Nisan March - April	It was observed as a reminder of deliverance from Egyptian bondage. There was a need for lamb without blemish.	A picture of Jesus Christ's death on the cross.
<b>Unleavened Bread</b> 7 days Lev 23:6-8	Nisan March - April	It was observed after the Passover. The Jews were to eat only pure, unleavened bread as it symbolizes a holy life. Leaven symbolizes sin.	Holy life characteristic of the believer.
<b>Firstfruits</b> 1 day Lev 23:9-14	Nisan March - April	It was observed on the day after the Sabbath following the Feast of Passover. So it occurred on the first Sunday of the week of Unleavened Bread or the first Sunday following Passover. The first fruits of the early crops were brought to the Temple.	Jesus kept & fulfilled the Feast by rising from the dead on the Sunday of Firstfruits.
<b>Pentecost *</b> 1 day Lev 23:15-22	Sivan May - June	The Feast of Pentecost celebrated the firstfruits of the wheat harvest & commemorates the giving of the Law at Sinai. It occurred 50 days after the Feast of Firstfruits (Sunday).  It is also called Feast of Weeks or Shavuot; Pentecost means 50 in Greek. The Covenant between God & Israel was initiated on Shavuot.	The Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost, 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Firstfruits).
<b>Trumpets</b> Rosh Hashanah 1 day Lev 23:23-25	Tishri Sept - Oct	The trumpets were blown in Israel to gather the people together for worship & war. On this day they were blown to gather the people to bring sacrifice.	At the end of the Church age, the last trump (final trumpet) will sound to call God's people together both living & dead.
<b>Day of Atonement</b> Yom Kippur 1 day Lev 23:26-32	Tishri Sept - Oct	On the Day of Atonement the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies to atone for the sin of the nation of Israel.	Pictures the Cross & sacrifice of Jesus which atones for the believer's sins.
<b>Tabernacles *</b> Booths 7 days Lev 23:33-43	Tishri Sept - Oct	It was observed as a reminder of how the forefathers of the Jewish people lived during the wilderness wanderings as they would live in small huts (booths) for 7 days.	It pictures for the Christian believer something yet to come - a better dwelling place called Heaven.

\* Feasts for which all Jewish males were required to travel to the Temple in Jerusalem.



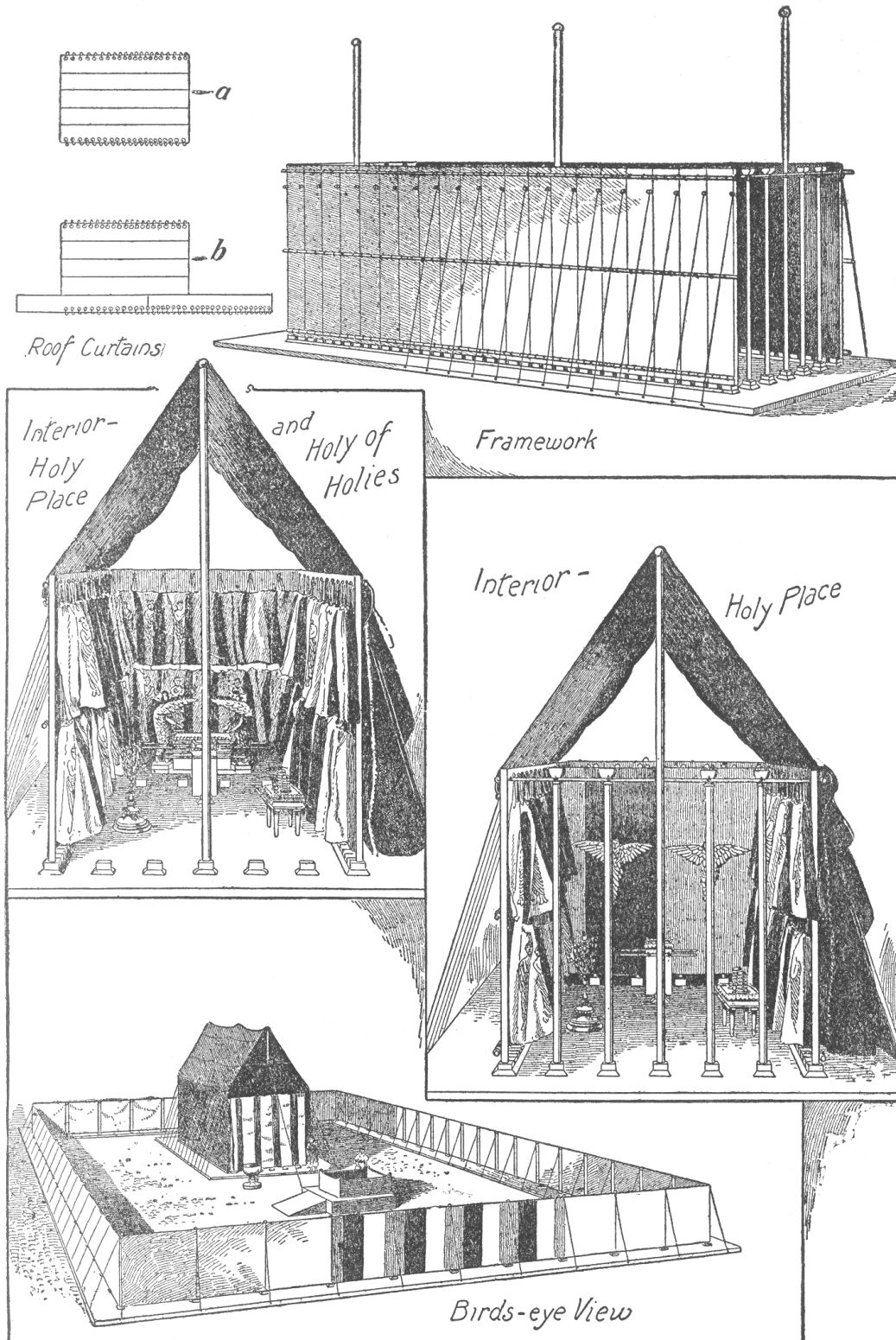
# The Tabernacle

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.

GRAPHIC BY KARBEL MULTIMEDIA,  
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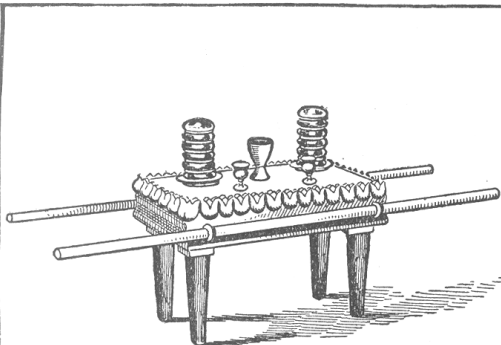
# The Jewish Tabernacle

Images from The People's Bible Encyclopedia

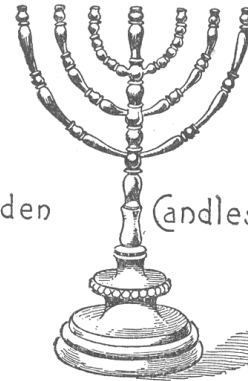


# Furniture of the Tabernacle

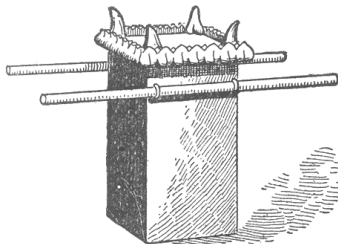
Images from The People's Bible Encyclopedia



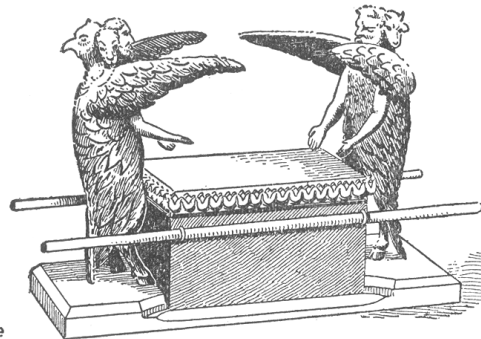
The Table of Showbread.



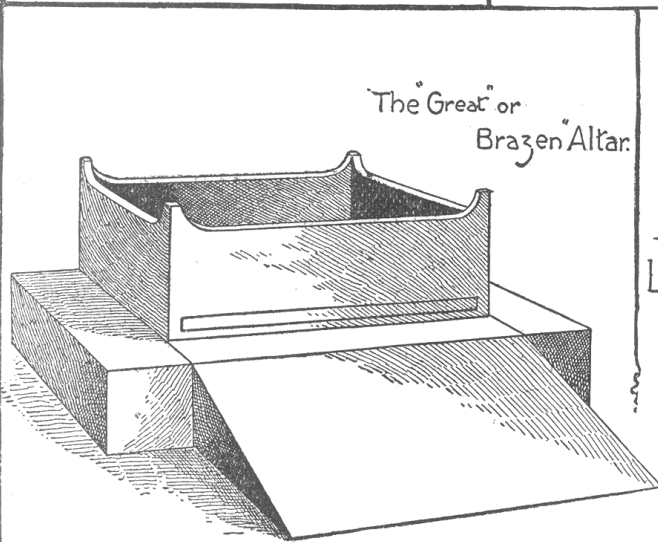
The Golden Candlestick.



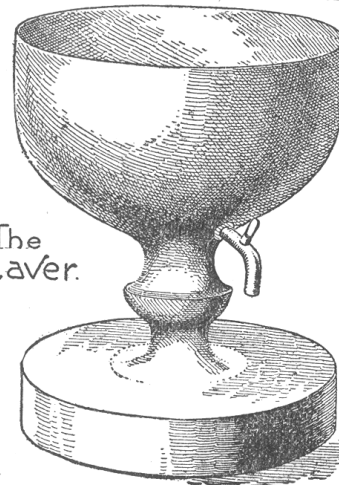
The Golden Altar or Altar of Incense.



The Ark of the Covenant and Cherubim.

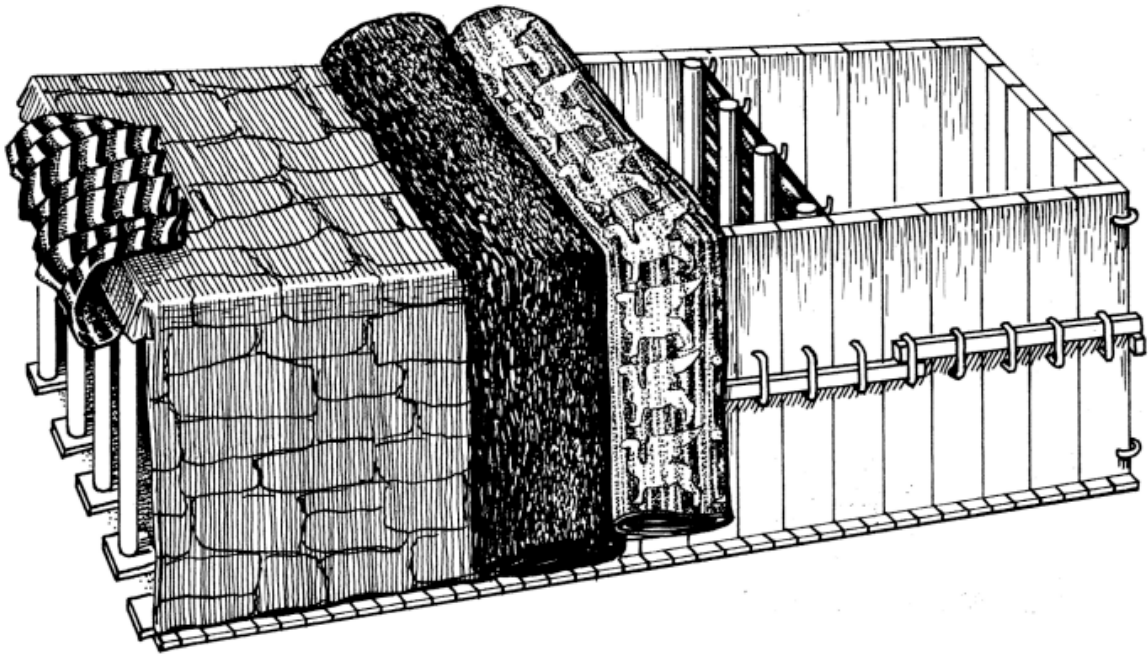


The Great or Brazen Altar.



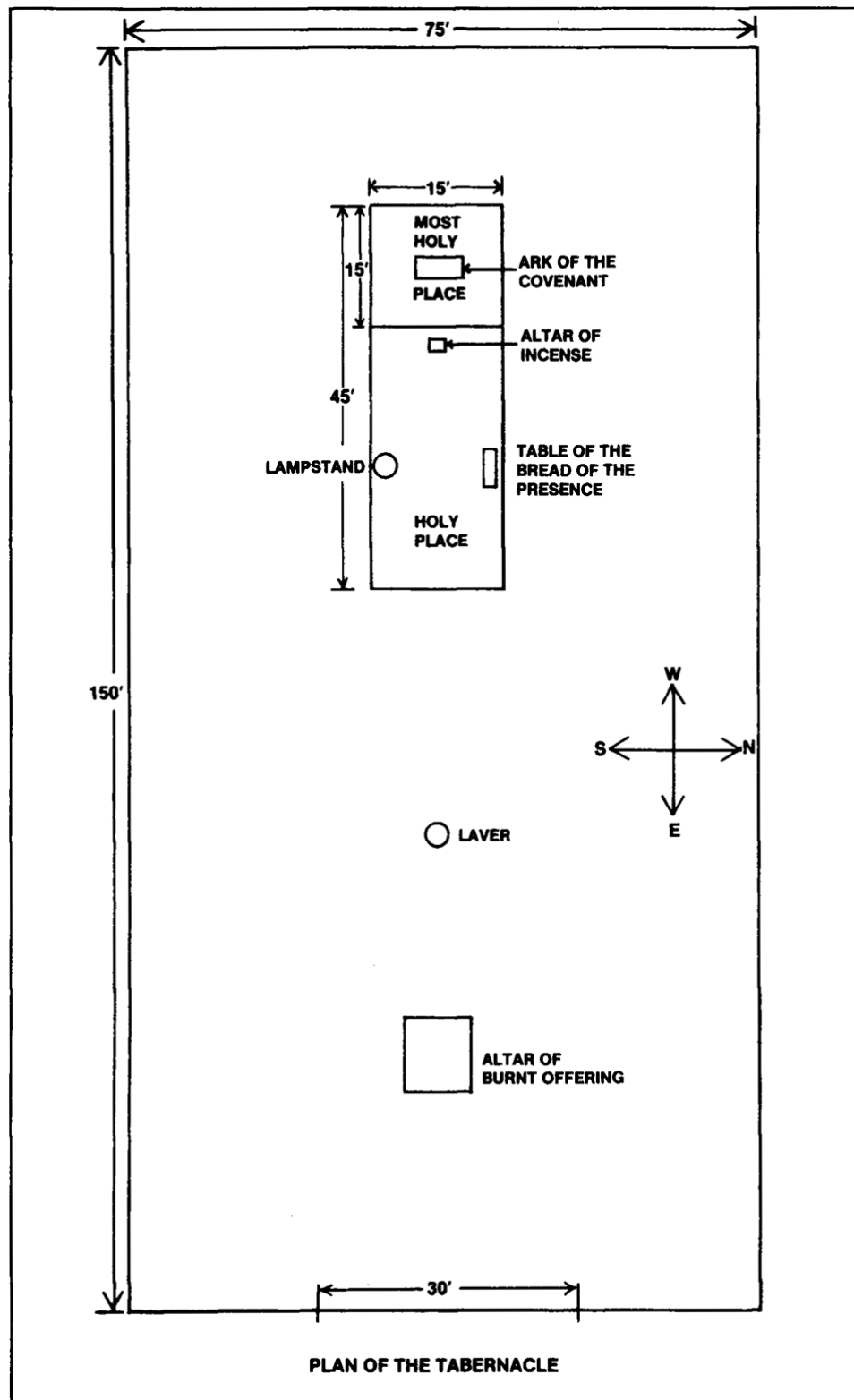
The Laver.

**Tabernacle**  
1000 Bible Images

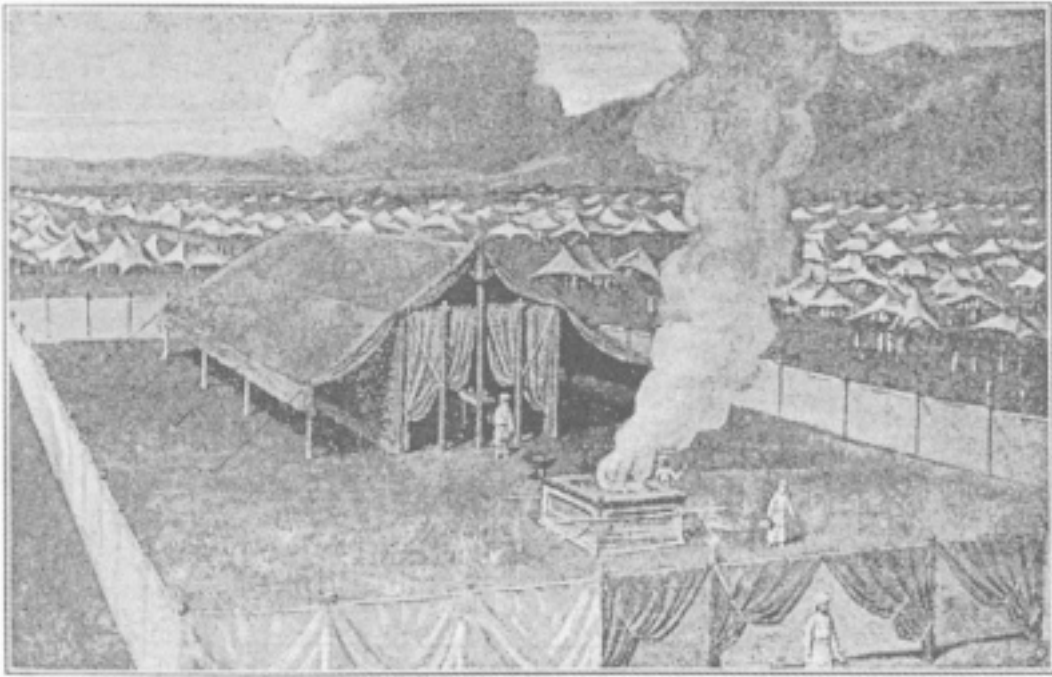


# Plan of the Tabernacle

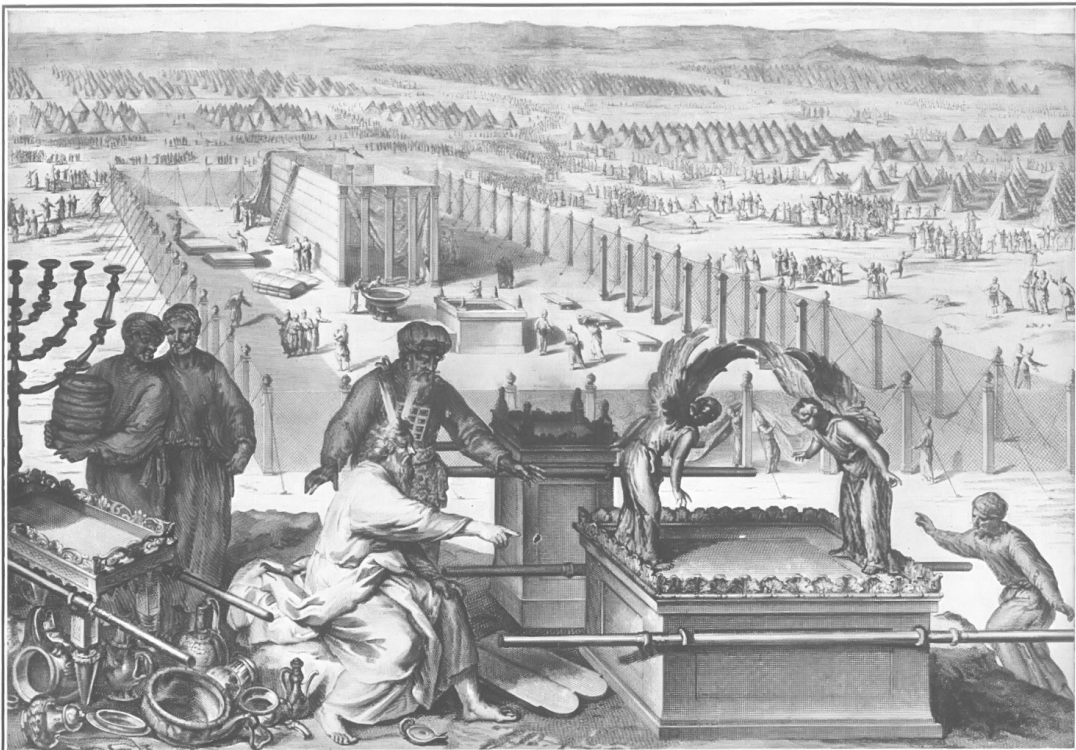
The Bible Knowledge Commentary



**Tabernacle in the Wilderness**  
The New Manners and Customs of the Bible



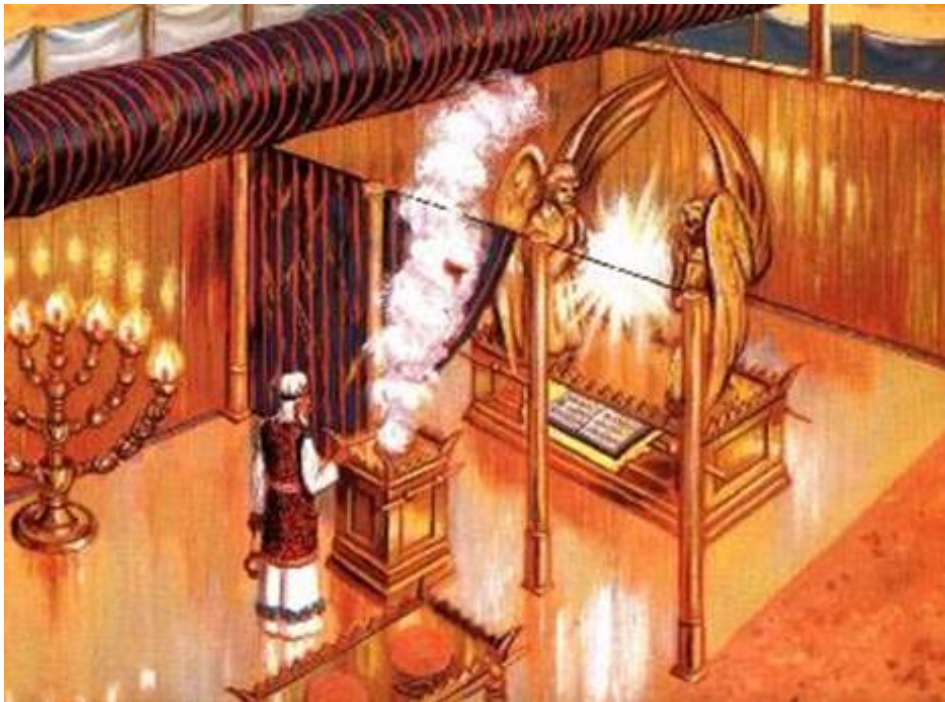
**The Tabernacle**



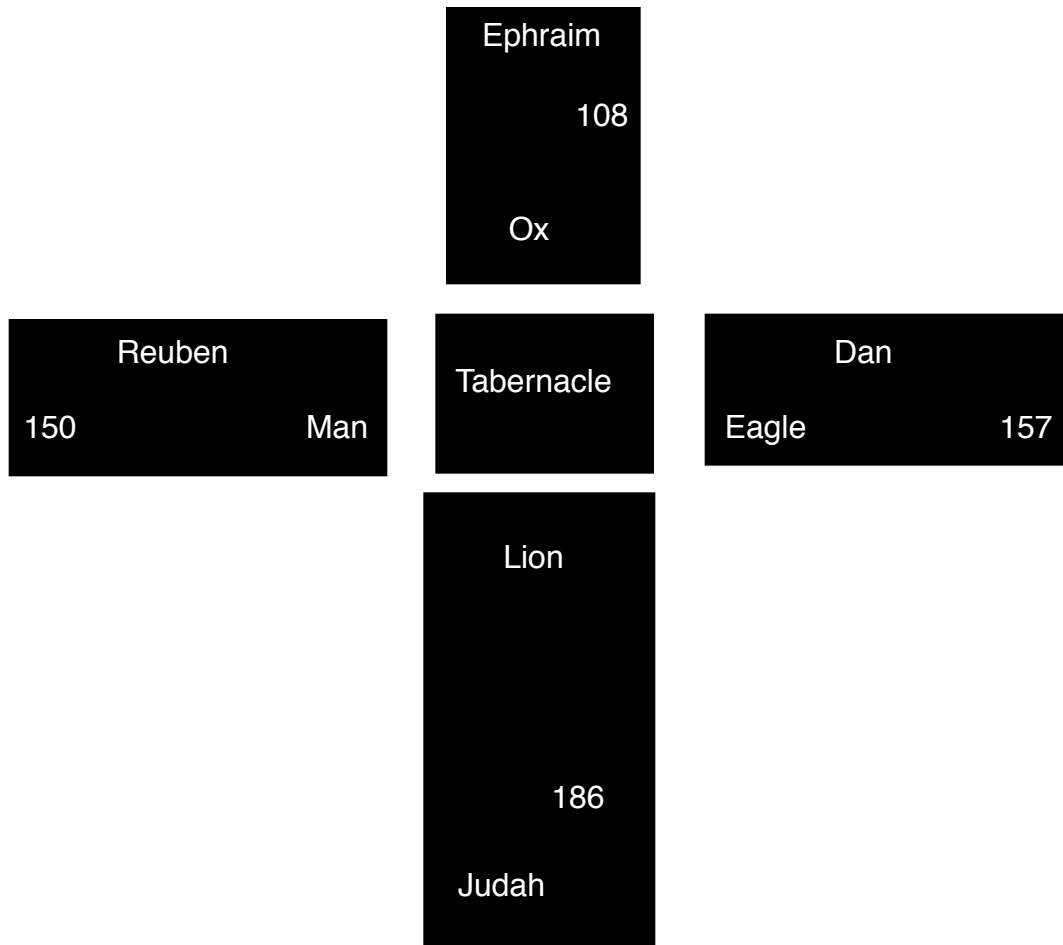
## The Glory Enters the Tabernacle



## The Temple



## The Camp of Israel



### Each tribe had a standard & a symbol

- Judah's standard was the Lion of the Tribe of Judah
- Ruben was a man
- Ephraim was the ox
- Dan the eagle
- These 4 symbols are also the 4 faces of the cherubim around the throne of God in Isaiah 6 & Ezekiel 1 & 10 & Rev 4.
- Judah, Isaachar & Zebulun were to rally around the standard of Judah. They collectively represented 186,400 people
- Ruben, Simeon & Gad represented about 151,000 people
- Ephraim, Manasseh & Benjamin 108,100 people
- Dan, Asher & Naphtali 157,000 people

The Levites & Moses & the Priests along with the Gershonites, Kohathites & Merarites camped around the Tabernacle.

NT Book	Symbol for Jesus	Symbol
Matthew	Lion of the Tribe of Judah	Lion
Mark	Servant	Ox
Luke	Son of Man	Man
John	Son of God	Tabernacle/Temple

## Temple Size Comparisons

COURT OF THE  
TABERNACLE  
100 x 50 cubits  
150 x 75 ft

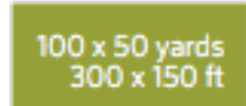


SOLOMON'S  
TEMPLE



AMERICAN  
FOOTBALL FIELD

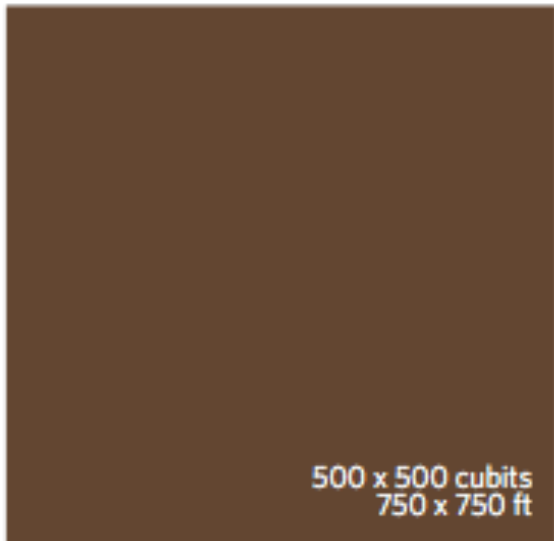
100 x 50 yards  
300 x 150 ft



HEROD'S TEMPLE



EZEKIEL'S TEMPLE



500 x 500 cubits  
750 x 750 ft

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## End Notes

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9. MacArthur, John. Author & General Editor. *The MacArthur Study Bible*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson 1997, pg 1169
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11. Skinner, Tim, Th.M. *The Judgment of the Nations*. Lithonia, GA: Journal of Biblical Ministry, Luther Rice Seminary, Fall 2014, pg 63
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