



# The Tabernacle: Structure, Objects, and Meanings



# SOP Baselines of Tabernacle and Warnings

## Truths of Tabernacle

- God Himself gave to Moses the plan of that structure, with particular directions as to its size and form, the materials to be employed, and every article of furniture it was to contain” PP, 343
- The system of the Jewish economy was the gospel in figure, a presentation of Christianity which was to be developed as fast as the minds of the people could comprehend spiritual light” Fundamentals of Christian Education, 238

## Warnings

- The enemy will bring in false theories, such as the doctrine that there is no sanctuary, Evangelism, 224
- Read Special Testimonies, Series B, no. 7, p. 17

Significance of the Jewish economy is not yet fully comprehended—Christ’s Object Lessons, 133

# Tabernacle Points to Christ

- Luke 24:44—"And he said to them, "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms
- Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 123—"The whole worship system of ancient Israel was a promise, in figures and symbols, of Christ; and it was not merely a promise, but an actual provision, designed by God to aid millions of people by lifting their thoughts to Him who was to manifest Himself to our world.

# The Court

A freewill offering- Ex. 25:1-9-animal, mineral, vegetable kingdom

## How many sections made up the Tabernacle?

- Heb. 9:2, Rev. 11:2: Ans:3—the court, the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place

## What did the Court look like?

- Read Ex. 27:9-19—Made of linen, 100 cubits on south and north =150 ft, pillars every 5 cubits/15 ft. round about, 20 cubit wide gate/30 ft., Door/veil was blue, purple, and scarlet, height of court was 5 cubits/7.5 ft.

# Characteristics

## Colors represented?

- Outer court linen-White: Rev.19:8 symbol of Christ's purity and spotless righteousness. The righteousness of Saints is Christ's labors and goodness.
- Door: Blue—Num. 15:37-39 (virtue); Scarlet--Is. 1:18: Sins which caused the necessity of the death of Jesus Christ, Purple—Jud. 8:26the mixing of blue and scarlet; or the Commandment keeping Jesus and His sacrifice, which lifts Him and us, to royalty. Scarlet--This color should point us to the amazing sacrifice Christ made on our behalf; His Ministry (includes His death)—John 19:5-Christ is Royalty
- Hooks of Pillars and Fillets (claps) of Silver—Ex. 30:14-16, Atonement/Redemption, which points to obedience, Jer. 6:27-30-PK 399;--- Is. 58:12
- Sockets of brass—bronze-Unsure meaning: strength (Mic. 4:13), decrees or will of God (Zec. 6:1-5), man's sinfulness (Is. 48:4; Jer. 6:28; Ez. 22:18)

# Christ the Door

## Christ is Our Door to the Presence of God.

· John 10:7-9 Read. + 10:17 EGW comments (The Youth's Instructor)

· Ephesians 2:13-18

· A look at Roman Catholicism's Door (Mary, sacraments) & Islam works versus true biblical (John 4:13-15, 7:38; Acts 4:11-12; Rev. 22:12-14-Right to the tree of life)—obedience

· Obedience is a stipulation of salvation—remember the rings, fastened to suffering hold up the righteousness of Christ and maintain purity. What happens to the white linen when our rings of obedience are taken away?

· We are the repairers of the breach-Is. 58:12-14

## Obedience to what/who?

· John 14:23; Deut. 5:33; James 1:22-27; 1 John 3:21-24---to God and to His commandments.—1 John 5:2-It's all over the Old and New Testaments. Fear God and Keep His Commandments. Some say that the Law is done away with, or that commandment keeping is reduced to moral laws (9), or that the new covenant requires no adherence to the Law. It can be proved only in the OT?

Pillars-Ex. 35:17,18 (peg, stake, nail)—strengthened the pillars against wind, etc.

· Sabbath, Ex. 20:8; Luke 23:54-56

· State of Dead, Ecc. 9:5; 1 Thess. 4:13-14, 16-17

· Christ's Ministry in the Sanctuary, Dan. 8:14 (1844), Hebrews 3:1

· Faith of Jesus (Righteousness of Christ by faith), 1 Pet. 2:21 (this makes commandment keeping, baptism by emersion, feet washing, communion—necessary for the Christian to put into practice. This is all done by faith, of course. [Example of core values-good worker] -commandment keeping and doing God's will does not come from within ourselves, or from making a plan of action/works, although heartfelt, these gestures typically end in failure or tainted in some way with self-glorification, eventually leading back into a stumbling of sin (think of the man from Romans 7). Our focus should not be on the display righteousness (SYMPTOMS of a converted heart), but the connection, relationship, and practical application of the word—yes, obedience is key, but it is also by faith, trusting that God has freed you from your sins and will provide a way out. [FAKE TOY FRUIT vs real fruit] 1 John 5:4 Faith overcomes the world

- Three angels Messages (Remnant Church), Rev 14:6-12, What are the messages? 1. Worship the Creator (restoring of Sabbath observance) & Judgment begins... when? 1844, 2. Fate of Babylon—look at the beasts of Revelation 13; Rev. 17:1-3, the symbols point to Roman Catholicism and the Pope (man of sin)—which connects to Daniel 2, 7, 8, & 11, 3. Do not keep the commandments of the beast, but keep God's commandments (Ex. 13:9; Duet. 6:1-8; 11:8). Mark of the Beast is commandment related—as is the seal of God. The Sabbath Commandment is prominent among this message, because the Sabbath has been lost in time by so many denominations—this commandment (along with any others [like No. 2]) will be the crux issue in the last days. Moreover, these issues are linked directly with the Roman Catholic Church because she is the one that changed this time law and set up a spurious sabbath in its place—Sunday-the day of the veneration of the sun. **READ EGW Rev. 14:8.** The second part of the third message is that God will pour out His wrath on those that choose to rebel against Him. Jesus is Coming Soon- for some unto eternal life; to others eternal death.

WHO ARE THE ANGELS? Us! Everyone living in this time is called to be a 3 angels message witness.

- The Law- Matthew 5:17-20, This also includes doing God's will and fulfilling His purposes in our lives. We are to be servants of God; slaves to righteousness, even unto death. EGW Matthew 5:17-19 & 5:21, 22, 27, 28—in the action (right hand) AND the forehead (in the mind/heart) Prayer, preaching and service to others (Jer. 48:10-12 EGW)
- Spirit of Prophecy Rev. 12:17—19:10, Amos 3:7 - Mrs. Ellen White
  - 1 John 4:1-3 (Islam-Muhammad does not qualify as a true prophet)
  - Isaiah 8:20 Mrs. White Upholds the Bible in every publication, moreover, she upholds the Law! All ten of them, and this is a huge ingredient for being a true prophet **Early Writings p. 78**
  - When she had visions she at first lost strength and did not breath in accordance with Dan. 11:17, then was strengthened spectacularly. Proverbs 29:18-without vision the people perish
- 1. Test of fulfilled predictions- (Jer. 28:9, 29:31)- some prophecies are conditional (Jer, 18:7-10): 1849, early writings p. 43 “I saw that the mysterious knocking in New York and other places was the power of Satan, and that such things would be more and more common, clothed in a religious garb so as to lull the deceived to greater security, and to draw the minds of God's people, if possible, to those things, and cause them to doubt the teachings and power of the Holy Ghost”-fulfilled with Fox sisters in 1848 growing into Spiritualist societies. Today there is a book called *Centennial Book of Modern Spiritualism in America, which heralds that* Spiritualism has millions of followers including--eminent judges, physicians, scientists, editors, writers, poets, clergymen, educators, and statesmen of various countries.
- 1902 Mrs. White warned of the coming destruction of San Fran and Oakland in Ev. P. 403---1906 fulfilled

# Our pillars are foundational to upholding our righteousness and purity-Proverbs 9:1

Why I am a Seventh-day Adventist????

1. Logically-based faith (gives answers)
2. Gives reasons for everything (come let us reason together)
3. Not contradictory or confusing
4. Shows God's love in fullness (without Hell or destruction of Law)
5. Prophecy points out the reason for state of affairs, uncovers the enemy, and gives the end-state (Revelation)
6. The problem of sin, plan of salvation, and end state (sanctuary)- God has a plan—what is that plan?
7. Connects OLD and NEW Testaments (Nothing is irrelevant; but perfect)

Other denominations don't believe there founders

- Pins and cords—What did they do/what was their purpose? Ezra 9:8 & Is. 54:2—strengthening of God/sacrifice of Christ; nail-pierced hands

Protection from the winds of strife

[desert wind]

# Which way did the Entrance Face?

## Numbers 3:38--West

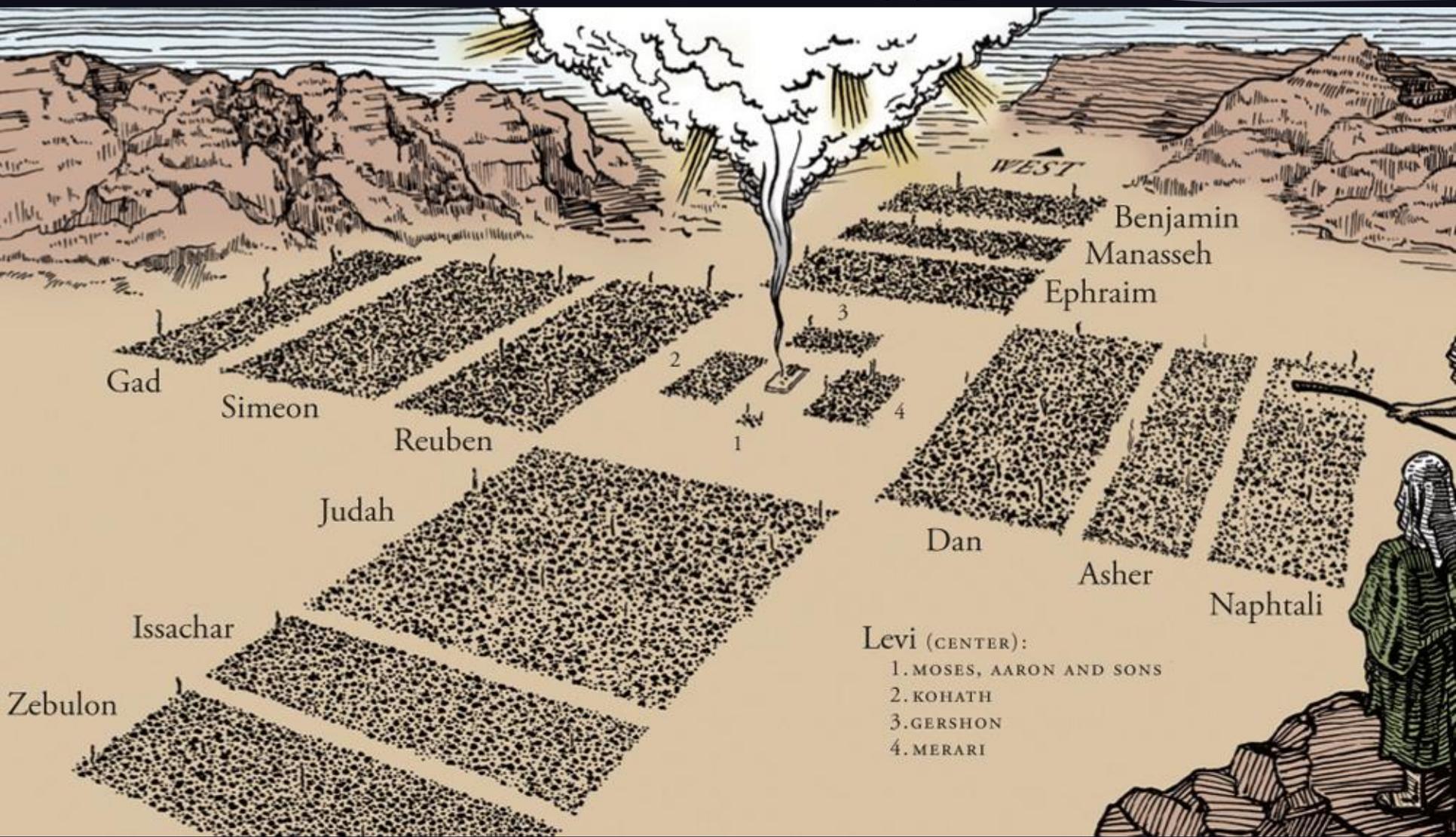
What is the Significance of the West?

1. Opposite of the Sun gods which faced east

Ez 8:16 “And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, *were* about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.

## How were the Tribes Organized Around the Tabernacle?

- Num. 2-3; It was a big cross! East-Sons of Aaron, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun; North-Merari, Dan, Asher, Naphtali; South-Kohathites, Reuben, Simeon, Gad; West-Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin



Gad

Simeon

Reuben

Judah

Issachar

Zebulon

WEST

Benjamin

Manasseh

Ephraim

Dan

Asher

Naphtali

Levi (CENTER):

- 1. MOSES, AARON AND SONS
- 2. KOHATH
- 3. GERSHON
- 4. MERARI

# The Laver and the Alter of Burnt Offering

Exodus 38:1-8; 40:6-8

Made of Brass, and location

## Meaning and Purpose

Laver was used for priests to wash themselves before service, signifying cleansing. So, before the priests or High Priest would begin their ministry or ministerial work of atoning for sin, they would cleanse themselves. Yet, they walk past the alter of burnt offering to get to the laver. Just like as we come to Christ just as we are, no offering needed to come to God, but it does not stay that way. Once I (we) choose to wash ourselves (baptism), like the priests of old, our work of service begins! 1% to 100%

# Another Emblem of Christ

## ☞ Baptism

Matthew 3:13-4:1-Baptism led to the ministerial work of Jesus, just like the priests of the tabernacle! However, did Jesus need cleansing? No! Then why did He do it??

EW 3:13-17

Titus 3:5

# Alter

## Leviticus 1:1-8, 4:1-7, 26

Makes atonement for sin, offering brought and sacrificed on man's behalf. Jesus again, is perfectly symbolized as our sacrifice.

Heb. 10:10-Christ is our offering.

However, What is to be the daily sacrifice? Lev. 6:9—Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 15:31; 1 Cor. 10:31; **Matt. 16:24-26---10:38**

“It is recorded of the holy men of old that God was not ashamed to be called their God. The reason assigned is that instead of coveting earthly possessions or seeking happiness in worldly plans or aspirations they placed **their all upon the altar of God** and made disposition of it to build up His kingdom. They lived only for God's glory and declared plainly that they were strangers and pilgrims on earth, seeking a better country, that is, an heavenly. Their conduct proclaimed their faith. God could entrust to them His truth and could leave the world to receive from them a knowledge of His will” 5T, 188

The Horns represent? Deliverance from God—Power- Deut. 33:17; 1 Sam. 2:1 & EGW “My heart rejoiceth in the Lord; my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies, because I rejoice in thy salvation’ The horn is in some animals the weapon of attack and defense; by the use of this figure, Hannah would acknowledge that her deliverance had come from God” ST, Oct 27, 1881

## 🌿 The Grate-Ex. 27:4,5

## 🌿 The instruments- 27:3—1Cor. 3:9

- Pans for ashes-Lev. 1:16, Psalms 20:3—God is particular about His sacrifice—so particular in fact, that it should really strike us as marvelous that Jesus was able to fulfill God’s sacrifice completely and for all time.
- Shovels assist in the work (1 Kings 7:40)
- Basins used for holding blood (Lev. 1:5)
- Flesh hooks used for moving parts of the victims and arranging them. Used to remove flesh, such as the fat for the alter (Lev. 3:3-5), and the shoulder and breast for the priests (Lev. 7:29-34)
- Firepans? Carrying coals—God’s provision for tabernacle service

# Recap Thus Far

- Laver=Baptism=symbol of resurrection (Rom. 6:3-6)
- Sinner approaches tabernacle with offering, sees the the white wall, the blue-purple-red door, the offering is made on the alter (Jesus)—justifying the sinner, the high priest washes himself in the laver and prepares for ministry of transferring the sin into the sanctuary, first he lays blood upon the the horns of the alter, then moves into the next phase of ministry. [Plus final word on outer court EARTH]

# The Sanctuary

## Materials-Ex. 36:8

1. Blue, Purple and Scarlet, and linen with Cherubims—1 kings 6:29—Rev. 5:11

Connect w/ Jacobs Latter & Heb. 1:13-14—(angel's unawares Heb. 13:1

2. What was inside the Sanctuary? Ex. 37:10-13, 17-18, 25-26

-Table of Shewbread

-The 7 branch candlestick

-Alter of incense

# ALL MADE OF GOLD

☛ What is the meaning of Gold?

(Answer-Study Bible, sections on Rev 3)

-”But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”—1 Thess. 5:8

# The CandleStick

Ex. 25:31-40

1. Beaten-tribulation due to letting our light shine. Jer. 23:29

Another emblem of Christ, the light of the world beaten—Heb. 5:8, in the same way, our trials & tribulations lead to the beautiful final product

## What is Light?

- 1.Psalm 119:105 God's Word (Let there be light)
- 2.The LORD is light (Father of Lights) (Jesus is the Light of the World Jn 8:12)
- 3.Is. 8:20 Knowledge, Word, holy truth
- 4.John 1:4 life
- 5.Rom. 1:20-21 darkness-deception
- 6.Mtt. 5:14-15- We are the Light, called to spread His word, reflect God, and Share eternal life with others—Luke 1:78-79

# Other Characteristics

## Knops, flowers, and bowls

1. They were shaped like almonds, open blossoms of the almonds, bowls could be a representation of buds from the same plant. Sounds familiar? (Aarons Rod)---Num. 17:8—Symbol of Life, God's Chosen or The Anointed One, and Resurrection—In essence, we see Jesus perfectly portrayed in the elements of the candlestick

# Oil and Light

Ex. 35:14-there was oil for the candlestick

## What is Oil? ... Anointing-Ex. 30:22-33

- Symbol of God's choosing/approval---What does Christ mean in the Greek? Or Messiah in the Hebrew?---ANOINTED ONE
- When did Jesus become the Anointed One? Dan. 9:24-25— Beginning of Jesus' Ministry or Anointing—27 AD Jesus' Baptism aka His Anointing (Luke 3:1, 16, 21-23) 457 BC + 483 yrs = 27 AD.
  - Oil is a Symbol of the Holy Spirit—Acts 10:38 COL, p. 407-

# Oil as Holy Spirit

Whose responsibility was it to make sure the candlestick had oil?

- A: The High Priest (Aaron Ex. 30:7-8—Lev. 24:2-3)... Today this Means Jesus (Rev. 1:12-18).

-Jesus enters the Sanctuary, and trims the lamps, pouring out the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-2) Their candlesticks were lit by their High Priest!

(Ten Virgins), (I will remove your candlestick), (Who decides who is a Christian?—Not any man—expound on Christian journey)

# Why 7 lights?

- ✓ Number of perfection
- ✓ Psalm 119:164-hint at perfect exaltation of God
- ✓ Proverbs 9:1 perfect wisdom
- ✓ Rev. 3:1, 4:5, 5:6 IN THE HOLY PLACE (when Jesus shows up, the Holy Spirit is sent into the earth) it's not until later in chapter 11:18-19. -----  
-Holy Spirit is perfect, perfect power, deliverance, and sight/truth/all-seeing
- ✓ 7 day week--Sabbath perfect day of week?
- ✓ Mt. 18:21, 70x7 perfect forgiveness
- ✓ The Candlestick perfectly represents Jesus, His experience, as well as Christians in sharing this experience, It ties in with Prophecy, doctrine, feasts, and the Godhead perfectly

# The church through time

Rev. 1:19-20- These are the literal experiences of the churches at that time as well as prophetic. Then time and End time.

Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, & Laodicea

-This applies to God's Church at separate periods of time, but also, the messages apply to God's SDA people

# Table of Shewbread

## Ex. 25:23-30

Acacia overlaid with pure gold, with a border around the top. ACACIA Tree-Practical reasons-light & dense, resistant to water damage and unpalatable to insects, it was readily available in the desert, specially adapted to dry soil.

Spiritual reasons- “Indestructable”-Just as Jesus’ body never saw corruption and as we are to be after Him (1 Pet. 1:23). Tree pierced at night produced sap that was used for medicinal purposes (by His stripes), it had thorns like Jesus crown (suffering), Christ is the root out of a dry ground, Just like an Acacia tree—(Is. 53:2, 4-5)

-The height of the table of shewbread was equal with the grate of the brazen altar (Ex. 27:1, 5) and the mercy seat (Ex. 25:10)—what does this signify? Christ’s sacrifice elevates man to communion (bread) and to the throne of God (Ark), we boldly approach the throne of God!

What does the border represent or symbolize?

Remember the horns of the two altars (both the altar of sacrifice and incense) is where the blood was applied; this represents, as we have seen power and deliverance of God. However, the table of shewbread and the ark of the covenant have borders (Ex. 37:2—crown)

# 🌿 Crowns represent? Royalty, but what do they represent for the Christian?

- James 1:12, 2 timothy 4:7-8, Rev. 2:10—Rev. 6:2: Crowns signify victory, and since the sanctuary is all about the sin problem and removing it, that victory is over sin. (Rom. 8:1-3)

## WHAT WAS ON THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD?

- Ex. 25:30, Num. 4:7, Lev. 24:5-9---12 cakes of bread in 2 rows, on a blue cloth, with sprinkled frankincense, which was replenished every Sabbath.
- Bread: Symbol of Jesus (John 6:32-35, 51)—(Matt. 4:4)-you must as a priest eat His flesh.
- blue cloth, bread served for the priests (us) on the foundation of faith/character of God, along with the virtue/commandment-keeping characteristics of Jesus. The bread is served on the blue cloth, if you eat a bread not served on the blue cloth-it is simply a counterfeit bread served on a counterfeit foundation

- 12 breads... 12 tribes of Israel, the inheritance of the Lord—Rev. 7:4-8, the 12 tribes. 144,000 is a multiple of 12; there were 12 disciples, the New Jerusalem will have 12 gates (3 on each side), The breastplate of the High Priest has 12 stones representing the tribes of Israel. God's bread, Jesus and His Word, are for His inheritance.
- Frankincense- Mediation of Christ—PP p. 355, 354 (363 & 362 in my version)—(bread to be tempered with frankincense-Lev. 2:1-3). Our reading of the Word (bread) is to be tempered with Christ and the Holy Spirit (oil), it is a "Memorial" unto the Lord
- Who prepared the shewbread? Lev. 24:1-8—Moses or typologically... Jesus.
- When was the bread replaced? Every Sabbath. That is the refreshing of the word. Important not to skip Sabbath—sets the spiritual pace for the week.

# Altar of Incense

Ex. 30:1-10; Lev. 16:12 Censer

Morning and Evening services, just like the burnt offering for the altar of sacrifice. Christ in His Sanctuary, p. 32-33

Prayers of the people offered by the mediation of “Christ” (Frankincense and priest). The mediator for our prayers is outlined by Paul in Romans 8:26-27 as the Holy Spirit. The altar was simultaneous to the evening and morning sacrifice. Moreover, both altars were used in both the daily and yearly services.

Heb. 9:1-3 and the Golden Censer—Nadab  
And Abihu Lev. 10:1, ---Early Writings 256

# Most Holy Place

Heb. 9:1-7—Only entered once a year by the High Priest  
Contained the ark, with the Law, Aaron's rod, and pot of  
manna.

-THE ARK- 25:10-22—10 Commandments inside the ark,  
Crown, pure gold mercy seat as cover with Cherubim on  
top covering it where God would meet with the High Priest  
Once a year, same height as the table of shewbread and  
altar of burnt offering.

Entered once a year (Not without Blood) to cleanse the  
sanctuary. (Lev. 16:14)—the bull's blood applied to the  
Mercy seat 7 times (perfection), in the presence of God and  
The Law. The Law is in the ark, it is our covenant which we  
Have broken demanding our lives, but the mercy seat is  
above the ark, when blood was applied here, the Law and  
God is satisfied.

# What was in the Ark?

☛ The 10 Commandments-representing the covenant. Example- Ex. 32:19

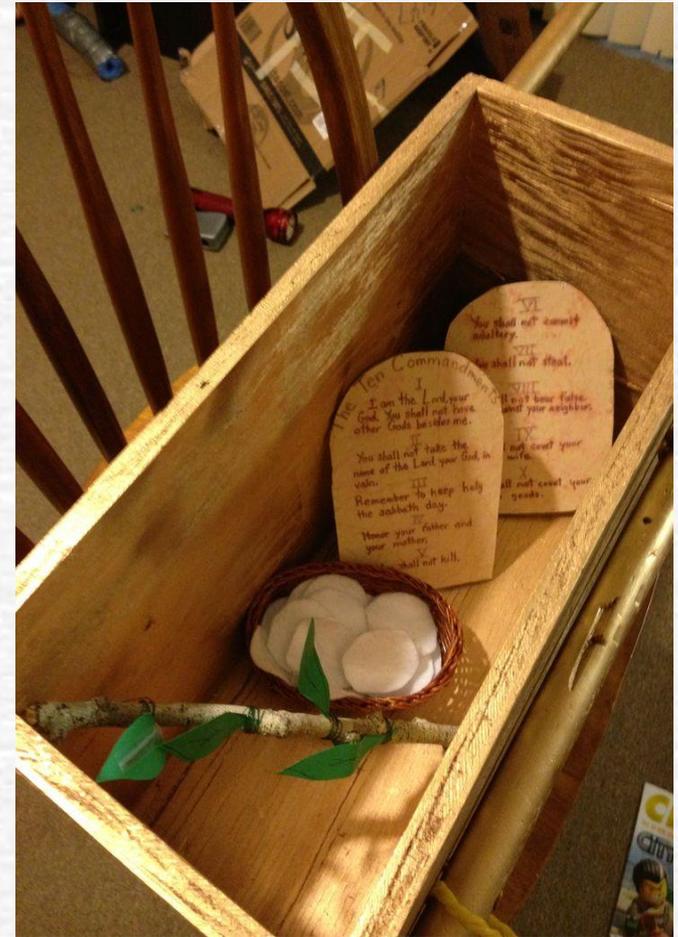
The Law is foundational to Christian faith and covenant with God. EW 254 (Sabbath)  
Aaron's Rod-Symbol of Resurrection, which is found only in God, our Blessed Hope

Pot of Manna-the bread from Heaven, symbol of Christ, God's provision for the Israelites and His desire for their diet. (they craved flesh)--Ex. 16:12-13,31

A pattern of the Real thing—Rev. 11:19-The ark and the Law are exact copies of the true in heaven.

# Inside the Ark:

- Aaron's Rod
- 10 Commandments
- Pot of Manna



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- Heb. 9:3- “And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein *was* **the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant.**
- 