

Exodus: Journey toward Apocalypse - Part 2 of 3

What's a tabernacle? Why do we bow/stand/sit when we do during mass? Bring your Bible and join us for Part II of The Book of Exodus, as we explore the Old Testament origins of the Mass and the structure of the church (the building, as well as the organization).

When listening / reading scripture, always ask "Why?"

We must be good Jews in order to be good Christians

Primary Themes: 1) Exodus as a template for worship; 2) The Tabernacle as a template for a church; 3) Typology

Typology - "Types" prefigure, imperfectly, the perfect fulfillment - they point to the "Telos" (Greek) - the 'end' or 'perfection'

- Old Testament types are always less holy/significant/important than their New Testament fulfillments

"The essence of worship is ritualized self-sacrifice." - Brant Pitre PhD

The meanings of the actions and words go back to the Bible - not just the reference, but the context is also critical. The context of the quoted references should tell you about your interior disposition and your external actions and participation.

Creation as type / microcosm of Heaven, Temple as type / microcosm of Creation → Heaven is Macro-Creation or fulfillment of Creation, Creation is Macro-Temple or fulfillment of the Temple → Temple is Micro-Heaven, Heaven is Macro-Temple

When you are in the Tabernacle, you are in the Heavenly Jerusalem

ELEMENTS OF THE TEMPLE PREFIGURING ELEMENTS OF THE CHURCH

If you see something weird/unusual in the church, it's probably from the Old Testament

What's a tabernacle?

Tabernacle / Temple - all of creation

Holy Place - the garden, place of worship (abad and shamar)

Holy of Holies - God's dwelling place

Adam as priest - Abad and Shamar - Genesis 2:15

Tabernacle / Temple - also represents God in creation

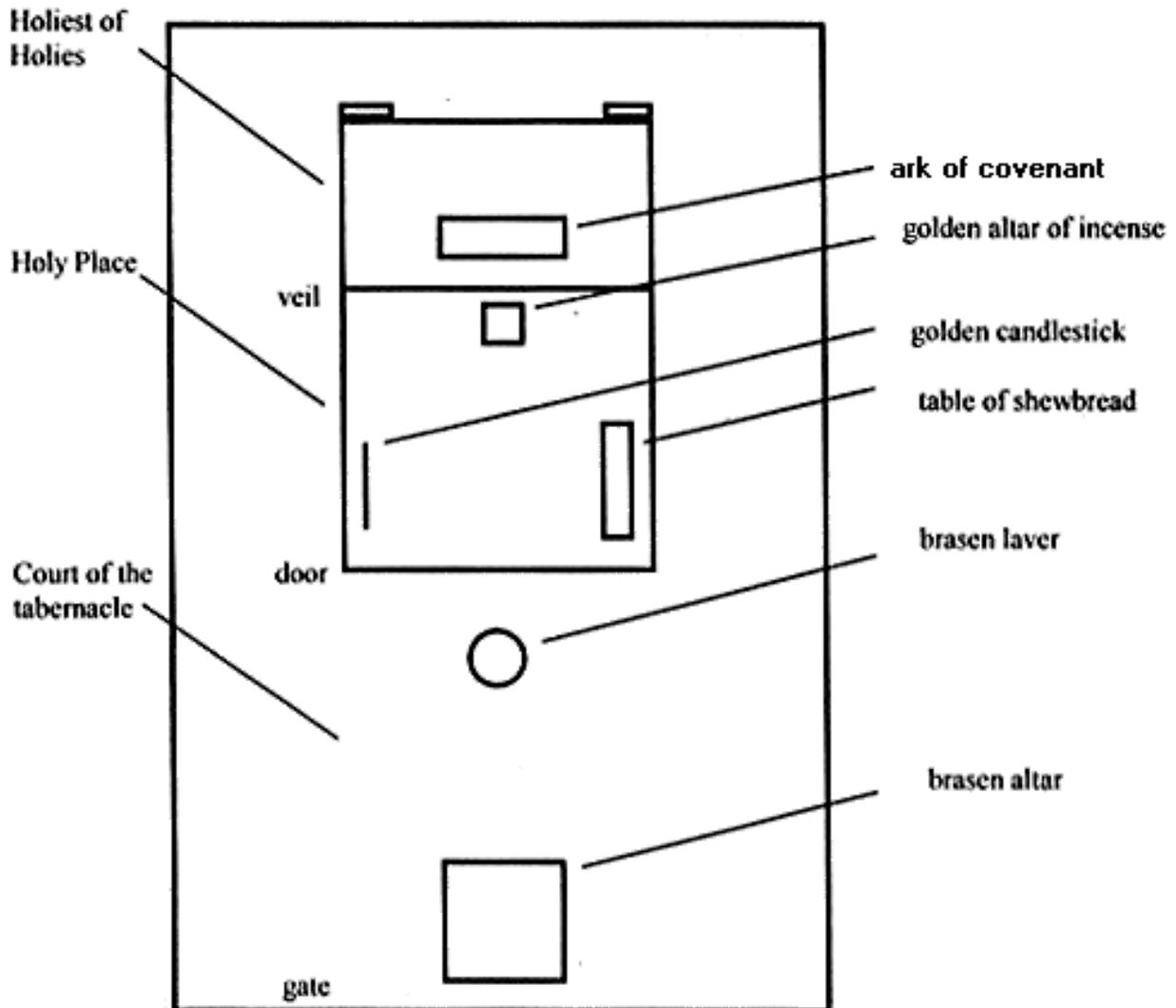
- The Father behind the veil in the Mercy Seat, in Heaven, hidden from view
- The Ark of the Covenant - behind the veil, in Heaven
- The Table of Showbread - outside the veil, in the rest of Creation - Christ in the world
- Menorah - golden lampstand - Holy Spirit in Creation - in the world
- Golden Altar of Incense - prayers of the faithful carried up to Heaven

Holy → Qadosh (Hebrew) - set aside

Layout of the tabernacle - Exodus 40:2-8

- Cherubim - Exodus 25:18; Exodus 26:1
- Holy of Holies
 - Ark of the Covenant - Exodus 25:10-22
 - Mercy seat where God “meets” his people
 - Golden statues of cherubim - Exodus 25:18
 - Hebrews 9:2-4
 - Gold box holding the manna, staff of Aaron, and 10 Commandments
 - Manna is bread from heaven - Ps 78:21-25
 - Manna tastes like wafers made with honey - Exodus 16:31, as foretaste of “land flowing with milk and honey” - Exodus 3:8 - that’s why manna ceases upon arrival in Promised Land
 - Ancient Jewish tradition that with the return of the Messiah, the manna would return also - 2 Baruch 29:3-8
- Holy Place → Sanctuary (Latin)
 - Table of Showbread - Exodus 25:23-30
 - Bread of the Presence (Lechem ha panim)
 - Sacrifice of bread and wine (flagons)
 - Perpetual offering - on the table before me always
 - Represents Christ
 - Menorah - Exodus 25:31-40
 - Golden lampstand
 - Perpetually lit
 - Represents the Holy Spirit
 - Also represents the Tree of Life - petals, flowers, tree imagery
- Veil - Exodus 26:1, 31
 - Blue, purple, scarlet
 - Embroidered with cherubim
 - Represents Heaven
- Sanctuary lamp - Exodus 27:20-21
 - Must burn continually
- Golden Altar of Incense - Exodus 30:1-10
 - Burned morning and evening (9am and 3pm)

- Incense carries the prayers of the faithful to Heaven
- Incense also represents that which is being sacrificed
 - Altar is incensed because of the bread and wine to be offered
 - Priest is incensed because he represents Christ and is to be offering himself
 - The people are incensed as representation of offering themselves
- The Outer Court
 - Bronze Laver - Exodus 30:20-21
 - Bronze Altar of Burnt Offerings
 - Exodus 27:4-7 - the hole in the altar for the blood, to flow down and mix with the water that flows out of the side of the temple into the river Gihon



Priestly vestments - Exodus 28

- Beautiful - Exodus 28:2 - "For glory and beauty"
- Breastplate with 12 stones for 12 tribes - Exodus 28:21 - intercessor
- Vestments make priest holy
- Linen khitom - blue ephod - SEAMLESS ROBE
- Bells on the bottoms of the robe
- Sash
- Miter - golden crown - Exodus 28:36-38

ELEMENTS OF THE JEWISH WORSHIP PREFIGURING ELEMENTS OF THE MASS

If you see something weird/unusual in the Mass, it's probably from the Old Testament

Role of the layman (Alfred Edersheim)

- Lay hands on animal
- Confess sins to priest
- Slay the victim
- Skin the animal
- Cut up animal in pieces
- Wash innards

Role of priest

- Catch the blood in gold / silver basins
- Sprinkle blood on the altar
- Lay wood and light altar fire
- Bring up cut pieces
- Reassemble pieces
- Offer pieces at the altar by burning
- Sexual abstinence while performing priestly duties (Exodus 19:15)
- Exodus 27:4-7 - the hole in the altar for the blood, to flow down and mix with the water that flows out of the side of the temple into the river Gihon

Blood of the covenant - Exodus 24:8

- Thrown on the altar
- Thrown on the people

Heavenly meal - Exodus 24:9

- Beheld God
- Ate and drank

Epiclisis - Exodus 40:34-38; Exodus 16

- Glory Cloud (shekinah) descends on the Tabernacle and on the sacrifices
- Exodus 16 vs words of Epiclisis

- You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness. (He joins his hands and, holding them extended over the offerings, says:) Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them **like the dewfall** so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Compare with Exodus 16** - Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, ***I will rain bread from heaven for you...*** In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and ***in the morning dew*** lay round about the camp. And ***when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing,*** fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat... Now the house of Israel called its name manna; it was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. And Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: `Let an omer of it be kept throughout your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'" And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar, and put an omer of manna in it, and place it before the LORD, to be kept throughout your generations." As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the testimony, to be kept.

Priestly actions

- 5 categories of sacrifices - ALL of them prefigure Christ's sacrifice
- How are priests ordained? - Exodus 29
 - Laying on of hands - verses 10-12, 15-17, 19-21
- Must wash hands and feet before sacrificing - Exodus 30:20-21
- Incense
- Rope around ankle
- 2 goats
- Where does the High Priest go?
 - Only the High Priest can enter the Holy of Holies, and only on Yom Kippur to atone for the sins of the people
- Where do the other priests go?
 - Offer incense
 - Offer the Showbread / Bread of the Presence
 - Offer sacrifice at the Bronze Altar of Sacrifice
 - Keep the lamp burning
- Who carries the Ark and other stuff?
 - The Levites
- How do they carry it (even the Levites aren't supposed to touch the ark too much, hence the poles)

Tabernacle as a microcosm of creation / creation as a macro-temple

- The tabernacle is where heaven touches earth
- The Israelites **IMITATE** the worship of the angels - the template shown on the mountain
- The Catholic Church doesn't just imitate the worship of the angels - we **LEAD** it - Ephesians 3:10; 1 Corinthians 6:3

Procession into Sanctuary by priest, deacon, lector

- All **STAND** - why? - Exodus 33:7 - Moses begins liturgy with procession - imitating liturgy of Old Covenant Tabernacle

Bow / Sit / Stand / Kneel

Bow - show reverence

Sit - receive instruction

Stand - procession, facing toward God

Kneel - prayer, adoration

Orientation - ALL creation toward God

- Adam was the first priest-king - Abad and Shamar
- Priest LEADS the congregation in worship
- If the priest is leading creation on the journey toward God, then all creation should be facing the same direction
- If priest facing people, then worship is circular, enclosed, not reaching out toward God - focus is on the other people, not on God