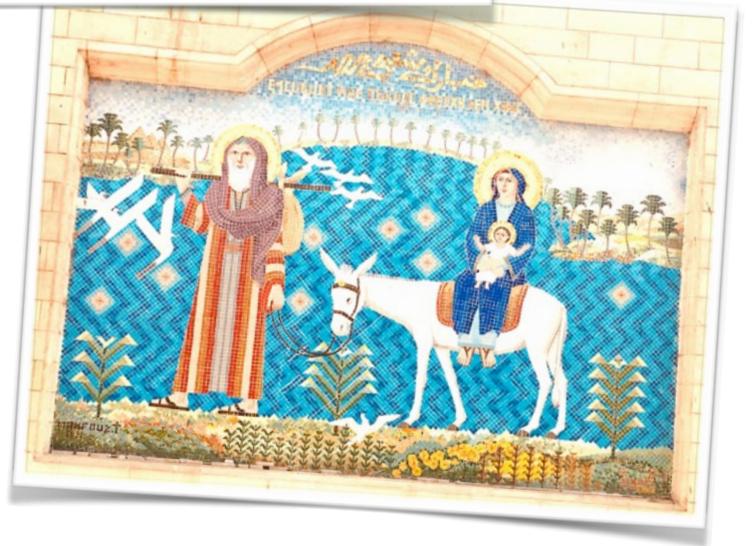


Through the Temple

A SEVEN DAY JOURNEY THROUGH THE TABERNACLE
OF MOSES



About This Devotional

ONE DAY AT A TIME

The Tabernacle of Moses was a portable center of worship wherein God dwelled, or tabernacled, within the heart of the Israelite camp over their 40 year journey en route to the promised land. It took nine months to build and was composed with the wood of Sinai, animal skins, and the brass, silver, and gold that they obtained as they left Egypt.

Each part of the tabernacle had at least three levels of significance. It was first and foremost a place where God could meet with his people and be worshiped. Second, it prefigures Jesus at almost every turn of the corner. Each of the seven pieces of furniture in the tabernacle (the Altar of Sacrifice, Brass Laver, Golden Lampstand, Table of Showbread, Altar of Incense, Ark of the Covenant and Mercy Seat) was anointed on dedication day with the sacrificial blood from a slain animal – which speaks powerfully that all worship is done through the Blood of Christ. Finally, it speaks to us as individuals. It provides a rich weekly devotion wherein we can be drawn closer to God and live in his likeness. As individuals, and as “church,” we are living temples, a place where God continues to tabernacle within the praises of his people.

Our time with God this week will take us from one end of the temple to the other. We will spend time focusing on one piece of furniture (or ministry station) per day. Each devotion contains a description of the the days’ station,

Scriptures referring to both the practical and symbolic natures of each piece of furniture, a way to walk it out through the day, and a prayer.

Ideally it'd be best to begin on Sunday with "Day One" and end the following Saturday with "Day Seven." But it makes no difference. Make it your own. You'll be surprised how the Spirit will customize it to exactly what you need to hear on *any* given day.

My prayer for you is that, like the high priests of old, you will wear a well worn path all around the sandy ground of the temple. Linger long, breathe deeply, and seek the Spirit's invitation as you enter through his gates with thanksgiving and worship him deeply in the Holy of Holies.

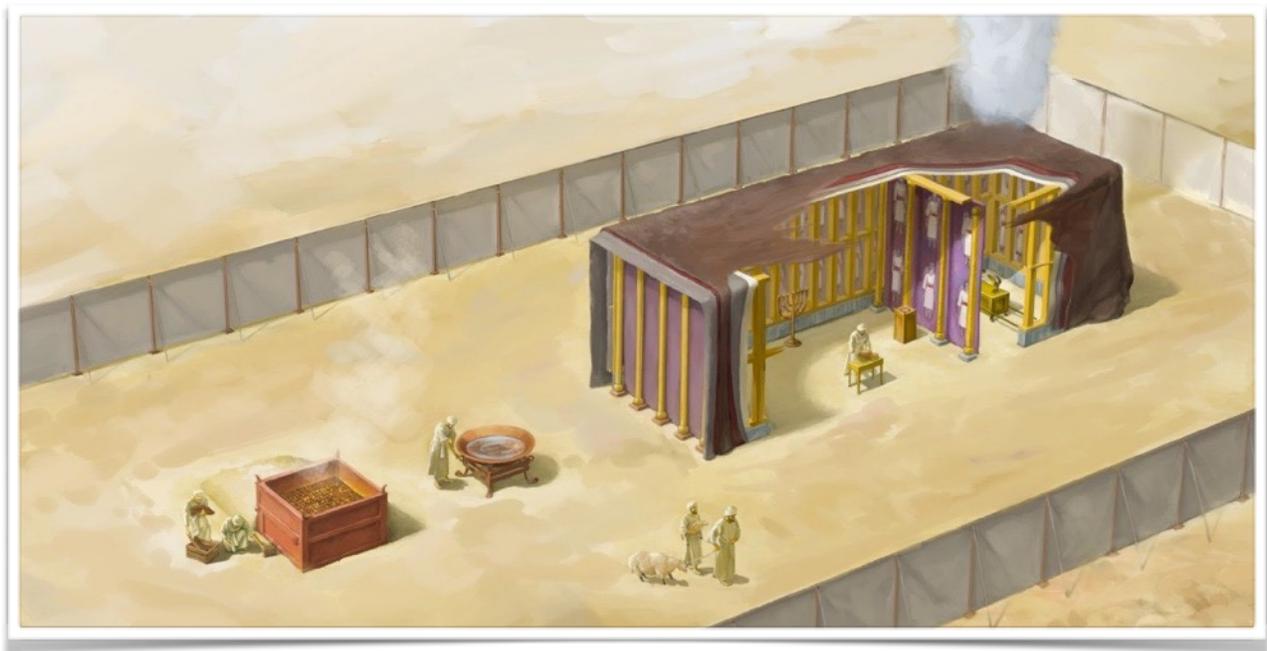
DAILY PRAYER OF CONSECRATION (TO BE USED EACH DAY TO BEGIN)

I enter through your gates this day, in praise that you will meet me in my desert.

Forgive, cleanse and fill, illumine my darkness, nourish my soul, and hear my prayer - all for your glory and witness in the world.

I adore you, most merciful God, and will worship you enthroned in heaven with all the saints, for ever and ever.

Amen.



THE OUTER COURTS

The Gate

DAY 1

When we enter into the Tabernacle of Moses, it's more than just a building. It's true fellowship with the pillars of the faith and one another.

While horrific and brazen at first, the progression leads us beyond the healing waters of the laver, into the dimly lit tent of meeting, and into the heart of the matter – the holy of Holies, where intimacy and joy surround the throne of God.

But first we begin with praise and thanksgiving, blessing God for what he's done and who he is. We begin our week thanking God in anticipation and expectation of what awaits us we we "enter into." True thankfulness to God happens before he even shows up, or before any of his promises come to pass. For we know, whatever it is, it will be good. For he is good.

SCRIPTURES TO SAVOR

Psalms 100

Revelation 19:6b-8

Ezekiel 37:26-28

Additional Study: John 1:14 (note; the word for *dwell* in the Greek is **tabernacle**), Revelation 22:12

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, tabernacle among us as we enjoy fellowship with one another within the pillars of the temple. Amen.

WALK THE TALK

Spend some time thanking God, alone or with others at sweet spots throughout the day!

PSALM OF DEVOTION : ENTER INTO¹

Enter into, enter into his courts with praise
Come into his courts, into his courts giving praise to his Name

Lift up your hands, lift up your hands in the Holy Place
He is your God, he is the Father of mercy and grace

*We will sing, we will dance
We will clap our hand
And sing a song of praise to the Lamb
Awake, my soul, in him rejoice
Lift up a song of praise with your voice*

Sing your praise to the Lamb
Hallelu, hallelujah!
Lift a shout to the Lord
Hallelu, hallelujah!

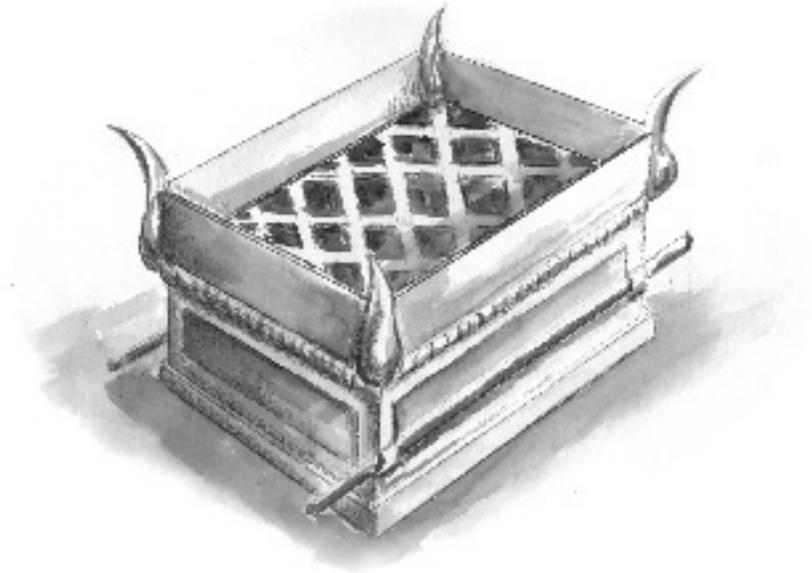
¹ *Enter Into*, words and Music by Bill Blomquist, Copyright © 2002 Blomquistian Music LTD., ARR

THE OUTER COURTS

Altar of Sacrifice

DAY 1

The first station of ministry isn't for the faint of heart. Blazing sun, the slaughtering of innocent goats and lambs, and the bleating of crying animals as they're thrown across the fiery brass grid to be offered up for sacrifice ... This is an all too all a bloody realization of what atonement really means, and the price paid for us as Christ was thrown upon the furnace of the cross.



This is no seeker friendly worship, where sin and our need for a savior is swept under the rug until church membership is secured. Sin and atonement and an assured salvation from eternal hell through the sacrifice lamb is the **first** thing prospective worshipers need to face before getting any deeper into the tabernacle. There are no short cuts here.

This Altar of Sacrifice is by far the largest ministry station in the progression, symbolizing our great need for a savior and his capacity to cover our most nightmarish fears, abominable actions, hellish addictions, and separation from God with the precious blood of the Passover lamb.

SCRIPTURES TO SAVOR

Exodus 27:1-8

Hebrews 9:22

Isaiah 53: 3-5, 12

Colossians 2:13-15

Additional Study: Hebrews 9:12-14, 1 John 1:5-9

WALK THE TALK

Throughout this day be intentional about bringing your condition – a sin, sins, or thorn – before the Lord. See it as a tattoo on his arms of which he died to forgive. Release forgiveness to and from yourself. Walk in *gracious humility*, knowing your very being is both accepted and invited into the all competent shadow of the Cross through the Blood of Christ.

PRAYER

Holy Christ, may I live in the fullness of your death, in your passion and fierce agony. Mark my name at your wrists and my soul at your feet at Calvary. Amen.

PSALM OF DEVOTION : BLEED ON ME²

Ancient is the mystery, the blood of one lamb slain
Smear across the door and post, to rescue in the plague
Baptized in the widening sea, betrothed at Sinai
Priests' appeasing sacrifices dying to give life

Bleed on me
Bleed on me
Precious Saviour on that Tree
Bleed on me

Holy hanging on the cross, trembling
Precious blood falls to the ground, pleading there for me
Broken, bruised, and lifted high, for the world to see
Only in this blood is life, only at this tree

Holy Lamb, Redeemer slain, smear on us today
Blood of hyssop; blood of Skull, cross our hearts we pray
Sorely we still grieve your heart, filled with sin and pride
Wash us in the sacred cup, the fountain at your side

² *Bleed on Me*, words and Music by Bill Blomquist, Copyright © 2019 Blomquistian Music LTD., ARR

THE OUTER COURTS

Brass Laver

DAY II

Lying in stark contrast to the hard edges and gruesome activities happening at the *Altar of Sacrifice*, we now come to the *Brass Laver* – a refreshing, cleansing, and most needed oasis in the heat of the day. Here is where the priests splashed their faces, washed their feet, and *recovered* from doing ministry back at the Altar of Sacrifice.



Whereas blood flowed first; water comes here. This is to symbolize the working relationship with the other ministry station in the Outer Courts – both of which speak to the ministry of Jesus (remember blood and water also flowed from his heart at the crucifixion). In the Outer Courts we are both forgiven and sanctified (1 Peter 3:21).

As we gaze in and appropriate the clear prismatic waters of the Laver into our souls, we are washed by the water of the word, sanctified and made whole by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The residue of the old life (shame, memories, guilt, regret, unanswered questions, demonic strongholds, addictions, etc.) are dealt with here as living water splashes upon our spirits and fills the deepest places of our hearts. It is here that we realize we are not defined by our sin, but able to lay it aside as God's Word penetrates between our very bones and marrow.

The laver is also a place of empowerment, a place where we are baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit to continue serving God's people in his compassion and power. Too many of us minister from our own resources, or even forget to receive for ourselves that which we are ministering to others. The minister needs ministry, too. Here we are cleansed from the past and equipped for the future, as we receive the Spirit fresh and anew.

Finally we are reminded of our own baptism. After receiving forgiveness from sin, and baptized in his Name, we are then ready to enter into the Tent of Meeting to minister unto the Lord.

SCRIPTURES TO SAVOR

Exodus 30:18-21

1 John 5:6

Ephesians 5:26

Ephesians 5:25b-27

Additional Study: John 13:5-10, Hebrews 10:19

WALK THE TALK

Romans 5:5 tells us that the Love of the Father is poured out to us through the Holy Spirit. Take five minutes alone with God and ask him to make this verse so. Ask him fall afresh on you – to melt you, mold you, fill and empower you – all things he loves to do with his children. Resist the temptation to pray. Just receive. This is “me time.” There will be time for prayer later in the week. For now, take five and be a sponge for anything the Spirit wants to do.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (FIVE PETITIONS)

Holy Spirit, come

Unify as one

In heart and mind, come unify

Our hearts in Christ the Son

Holy Spirit, come

From the Father pour

The love of God, into our hearts

To live forevermore
Holy Spirit, come
Breathe on us this hour
Your witness strong, to right the wrong
Your kingdom here with power

Holy Spirit, come
With gifts of fruit and power
Raise us to be, for all to see
Your rescue in this hour

Holy Spirit, come
And one day we will see
You face to face, and give you praise
For all eternity

Holy! Holy!
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
For all eternity³

³ From the song, *Holy Spirit, Come*, words and music by Bill Blomquist, Copyright © 2016, Blomquistian Music LTD.,
ARR

PSALM OF DEVOTION : FALL ON ME⁴

Jesus, Jesus, come and heal my soul
Jesus, Jesus, come and make me whole

*With your wind, breathe into my sin
With your rain, cleanse me once again
With your fire, make holy my desire*

In the stillness of this place
Fall on me

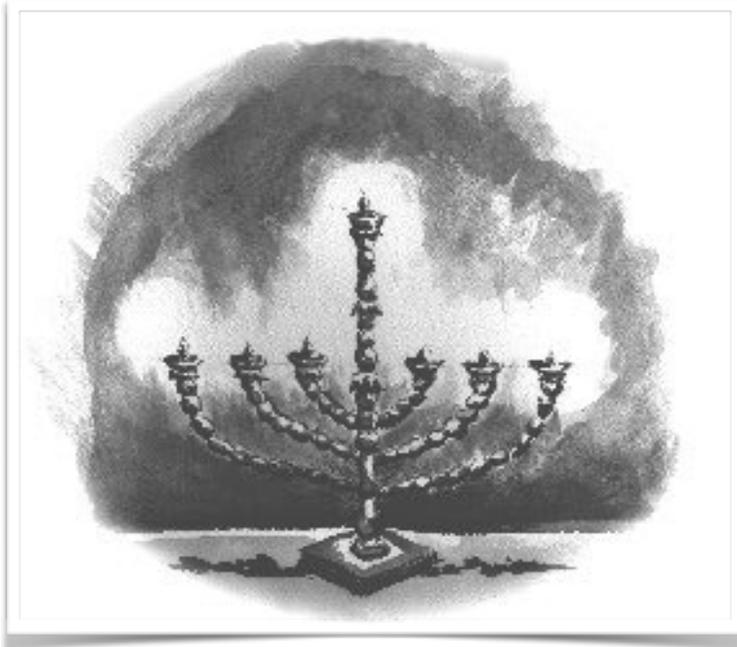
⁴ *Fall on Me*, words and Music by Bill Blomquist, Copyright © 2001, Blomquistian Music LTD., ARR

THE INNER COURTS
TENT OF MEETING | HOLY PLACE

The Gold Lampstand

DAY III

Today we enter a whole new world. Leaving the harsh elements of the desert sun and heat behind, we find ourselves in a cool, dimly lit, space with the glistening reflections of gold shimmering across the royally decorated tapestries (walls and ceiling) of the *Tent of Meeting*. Vivid colors woven into the fabrics provide us with a mysterious and wondrous curiosity as we are overwhelmed with the smell of fragrant spices silently burning from across the room.



We are struck with the site of a *Golden Lampstand*, just to the left. Its sculptured arms of pure gold rise four feet off the ground and are decorated with an ornate array of buds, leaves, and pomegranates. Atop each menorah-like branch burns an oil lamp, each one filling the place with a soft, soothing light. These lamps

are the only lights in the place and for that reason, they are meticulously trimmed and pruned by the priests on a daily basis. Too much wick creates too much smoke. Not enough wick results in a waning brilliance. This is important, for all the ministry in this part of the Mosaic Tabernacle is performed under the unified illumination of the lamps, burning silently atop each branch.

SCRIPTURES TO SAVOR

Exodus 25:31-40

Matthew 5:14-16

John 15:1-2

Additional Study: Hebrews 12:5b-7, Revelation 1:12-13, 20 and 2:1

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, light of the world, prune me and illumine me for your glory so that those whom I serve in darkness would see your great light. May your light penetrate and transform the deepest places of my heart. May I burn transparently with your compassion and brilliantly in my greatest potential. Through the purity of your Name, and through the oil of your Spirit, I pray. Amen.

WALK THE TALK

The lamps burned pure olive oil, a rich symbol of the Holy Spirit. As lamps unto the Lord, sometimes our oil gets cloudy, or clumped with sin, behaviors, or busy-ness that hinders God's brilliance from its full potential. Our wicks, too, need pruning from time to time to assure the world that the light they see in us is God's light, not ours. Set yourself in the light of Christ, asking him to prune you if needed, purify you in his grace, and set you on fire for his Name. (Note: the lamps and wicks are not meant to burn; only the wicks. When we do ministry under our own power, we burn out.)

Once I was walking with a friend with a flashlight lamp on my hat. Hers had run out of batteries so I tilted my head to shine my light on the path before her. We both made it down the mountain together. Perhaps this day you, too, can provide light for a person needing illumination.

PSALM OF DEVOTION : YOU, O LORD, KEEP MY LAMP BURNING (PSALM 18:28)⁵

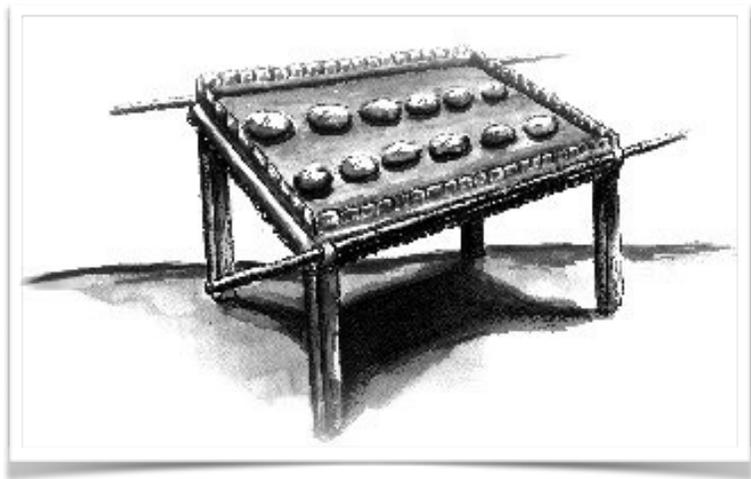
You, O Lord
Keep my lamp burning
My God turns my darkness
Into light

⁵ *You, O Lord, Keep My Lamp Burning (Psalm 18:28)*. Copyright © 1993 Blomquistian Music LTD., ARR

THE INNER COURTS
TENT OF MEETING | HOLY PLACE
Table of Showbread

DAY IV

Across from the *Golden Lampstand* is a table which is enclosed on all sides with a gold crown. Laying within the golden rim we see 12 loaves of pita bread. Each loaf is pierced and lies before the presence of the Almighty. This speaks of Jesus, who was pierced (John 19:33-34) for our transgressions and “passed through the fires of the Cross” for the iniquities of humankind. The surrounding crown speaks of his universal kingship, the gold symbolizing the divinity displayed before the throne. All is still before the illuminating lamps of the most holy place.



This is a place of communion, fellowship, and duty. This bread was changed routinely, and sometimes even wine was a part of the priests responsibilities. (Though the Bible says they didn't drink it, but poured it into the ground). While going about their work, the priests often shared their life with one

another - they enjoyed fellowship (gr. *koinonia*) as they went about doing the work God called them to do.

The *Table of Showbread* speaks powerfully, foreshadowing without a doubt, our Lord. Here he is at the right hand of the Father (represented through the Ark of the Covenant), and reveals himself to be the Bread of Life. This is a sacramental place, speaking deeply into Holy Communion.

SCRIPTURES TO SAVOR

Exodus 25:23-30

John 6:25-35, 48-50, 50-51

Zechariah 12:10 and 13:6

Additional Study: Revelation 1:7

PRAYER

O Christ the Bread of Life, feed me in your communion, secure me as a priest in your kingdom, and multiply my meager loaves to feed those you have called me to serve. Amen.

WALK THE TALK

One thing that happened at the *Table of Showbread* was fellowship with one another. There was rich sharing, times of corporate reflection, and the

joy of just having a friend through whom you can hear God's voice, or perhaps even be God's voice to another. Today call a brother or sister aside for coffee, a meal or a walk outside. Enjoy them as a gift from God, and seek to hear his voice through them in your time together.

PSALM OF DEVOTION : FULLNESS OF HIS LOVE⁶

Fill us with the fullness
In our inner man
Strengthen us in your Spirit
Root us, ground us
The fullness of your love

Grant us the grace to know you
Together with all the saints
The incomprehensible mystery
Christ in us, our glorious hope
The fullness of your love

*How deep and high
How long and wide*

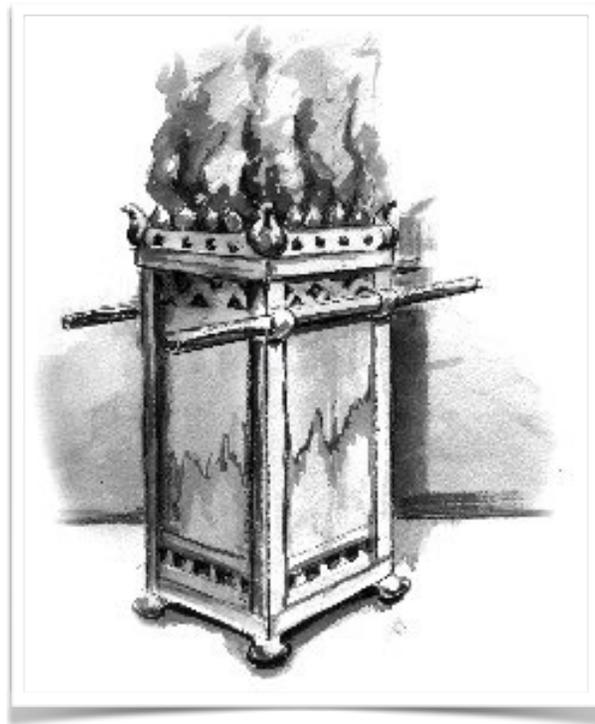
Out of his glorious riches
Dwelling in all the saints
Unsurpassing knowledge
Power of God, dwell in our heart
The fullness of your love

⁶ *Fullness of His Love*, Words and Music by Bill Blomquist, Copyright © 2016, Blomquistian Music LTD., ARR

THE INNER COURTS
TENT OF MEETING | HOLY PLACE

The Altar of Incense

DAY V



Don't let the size of this golden object fool you. Though the *Altar of Incense* stands in stark contrast with the other altar in the tabernacle, the *Altar of Sacrifice* – this being 2ft square and about waist high, while the first altar

measuring a whopping 7ft square and easily chest high – it is extremely important and, in fact, the ministry station closest to the heart of the temple.

Wreaking of fragrant spices burning a crackling scent into the room, the Altar of Incense speaks into the heart of Christ's ministry of prayer and intercession (Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34). Deep within it's burning coals lies a fiery passion that rises before the very throne of God. It's placement here, located closest to the heart of the temple, speaks volumes.

Why so tiny? It's size speaks to the hearts posture when coming before the Lord God, King of the Ages. "Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord." A heart of humility is essential when approaching God in prayer. Broken-heartedness and humility are inner postures of the heart that compel God like a moth to a flame as we pray for ourselves and intercede for others.

SCRIPTURES TO SAVOR

Exodus 30:1-6

Psalm 141:1-2

Revelation 5:8

Romans 8:26-27

Additional Study: Isaiah 56:7, Psalm 141:2, Exodus 26:31-33

PRAYER

Our Father who lives in heaven, holy is your Name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not, into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, yours is the power, yours is the glory forever.
Amen.

WALK THE TALK

Traditionally Christians prayed standing up, hands lifted to the Father. Try this. Stand up where you are. Then recite slowly, with heartfelt devotion, line for line, the Lord's Prayer above. Move through it with sensitivity, aware of prompting from the Holy Spirit in the silence after each petition.

Most intercession happens for the sake of others. Be intentional to pray for others, or outside situations at this time. And come humbly, knowing that the Almighty One is listening, just on the other side of the veil.

PSALM OF DEVOTION : AT THE THRONE OF GRACE⁷

As we move into your presence
We offer you a sacrifice of praise
Knowing that our prayers like incense
Will be received at the throne of grace

⁷ *At the Throne of Grace*, words and music by Bill Blomquist, Copyright © 1993 Blomquistian Music LTD., ARR

*And we worship you, worship you
We stand beside our great high priest
Yes we worship you, worship you
Almighty God, Yahweh our King*

Coming to the Holy of Holies
We tremble at your mercy seat
Our crowns reflect shekinah glory
As we lay them at your feet

THE INNER COURTS
TENT OF MEETING | MOST HOLY PLACE | HOLY OF
HOLIES

Ark of the Covenant

&

Mercy Seat

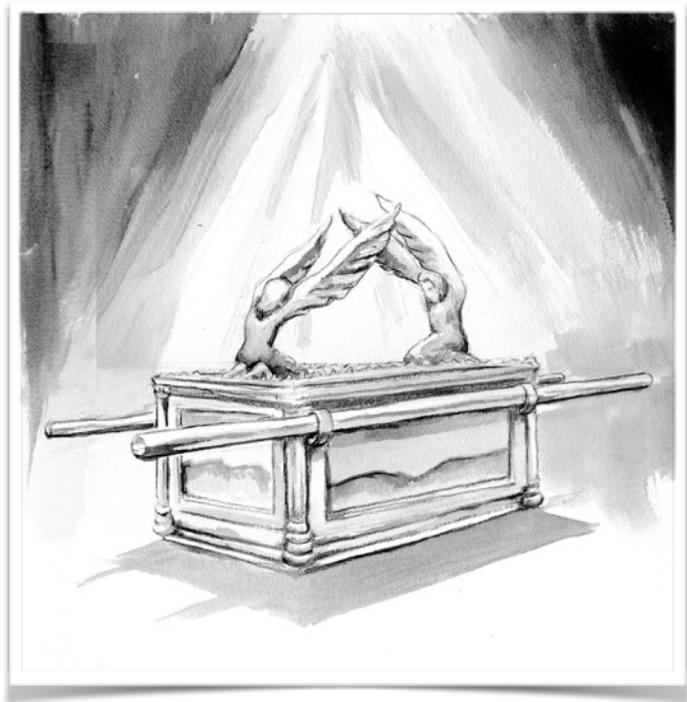
DAY VI

Passing through the veil and stepping into this magnificently decorated room, we now come to the heart of the temple (i.e. *palace* in Hebrew – and for good reason; for it is the dwelling place of a king), the throne room of God Almighty. This is the deepest, darkest, most mysterious place of the tent, where *Kronos* mingles with *kyros*; where worlds blend and all space and time dissolve into the Eternal Present.

Look around. The walls and ceiling of the tent, each with their royal patterns and brilliant colors, are supernaturally illuminated by the light of his living fire, the shekinah life of Yahweh, churning and burning silently with passion and presence. You have arrived at the Most Holy Place. Be like Moses. Remove your shoes and step closer in awe and reverence before the great I AM.

The pillar of fire that both led and protected the Israelites through the Exodus, resides here, between the wings of the cherubim atop the golden *Mercy Seat*. This living light, the Light of Life, is the **only** light given here, in the *Holy of Holies*.

Before you is what appears to be a single piece of furniture; a golden box with the wings of angels shimmering reflective shadows all about the tented room. Upon a deeper look, you see there are actually *two* pieces of furniture here: the *Ark of the Covenant* and the *Mercy Seat*. Each has a different function, and, like the relationship between the *Altar of Sacrifice* and the *Brass Laver* in the Outer Courts, they work together revealing essential elements of God's eternal nature.



The *Ark* reveals justice, sovereignty, the Law, provision and judgement. It is a knee-knocking fearful place to stand, just as it is a dreadful fate to fall into the hands of the living God. Conversely, it is by his grace alone (revealed in the overarching wings of angels atop the *Mercy Seat*) that we are able to remain in his Presence (James 2:3).

What is one to do when confronted with the reality of such matchless holiness and mercy? We can do nothing more than fall flat on our faces, crying out, "Holy! Holy! Holy, Lord God Almighty. The whole earth is filled with Your glory!"

Yet there is also another response here. In the *Mercy Seat* we see **rest**, a laying aside of duty, and complete freedom to lay aside the cares of this world, embraced in the extended arms of the One one who loves and cherishes us as we have been created, as we are in our truest of selves. It is a glorious reuniting between the one of he has fearfully and wonderfully made and his or her Creator. It is here where we transcend through the formality of the "Holy" and enter the realm of utter transparency before One who loves us as we are, just as he has made us, and not for anything we have done or even become in the world behind. Without even realizing it our speech changes from worshipping him as *holy, holy, holy* to adoring him as *daddy, daddy, daddy*.

SCRIPTURES TO SAVOR

Ark: Exodus 25:10-16, 26:31-33

Mercy Seat: Exodus 25:17-22 9

Isaiah 6:1-9, Revelation 4:1-11; 5:6-14

Psalms 99

Matthew 6:25-34

Additional Study: Psalm 46:10; Zechariah 2:13, Matthew 11:28-29, 1 Peter 4:5, Hebrews 8:1-2, Romans 8:15-16, Galatians 4:6-7

PRAYER

Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the Ages! And though you sit in high and lofty places your grace extends to - of all people - me, the least of your children. I praise and bless you my God and Father. I still my heart in reverence to your glory, I recall your mighty acts, your wisdom revealed throughout all ages through the foolishness and supposed folly of the Cross. You are the holy one, the holy One of Israel, whom I will praise and adore, with countless saints across all eternity, singing and proclaiming your glory, with them and all the angels, throughout all generations. Amen.

WALK THE TALK

Make every act an act of worship today. Recall the week, the devotions leading up to where you are, and be thankful. The invitation to stand before the eternal One of the Universe may be granted to you without cost, but it cost him everything. Never forget that – as it fuels your adoration in all you do. Slip away from the pulse of “life” today (if only for an hour) and intentionally rest in the glory which is freely poured through the blood of the Lamb. Breathe deeply, be filled with the breath of the One who has loved you from the beginning of time and longs to embrace you at the end of your days.

PSALM OF DEVOTION FOR THE ARK OF THE COVENANT : BE STILL⁸

Be still
And know I am God
Be still
And know I am God

*I will be exalted
In you*

I will be exalted
Yes, I will be exalted
I will be exalted in you

Be still
Be still
Be still

PSALM OF DEVOTION FOR THE MERCY SEAT : MARVELOUS!⁹

Saints above, saints below
All bow down, at the throne
With one voice, we proclaim
"Marvelous! Sovereign Reign!"

⁸ *Be Still*, words and music by Bill Blomquist, Copyright © 2008 Blomquistian Music LTD., ARR

⁹ *Marvelous!*, words and music by Bill Blomquist, Copyrighted © 1993 Blomquistian Music LTD., ARR

Marvelous!

We lift your Name on high

Holy, holy, holy!

"Holy" is our cry

You are marvelous,

We lift your Name on high

Holy, holy, holy,

Holy is our cry

Incense fills, the holy place

Prayers ascend, the earth shakes

May your will, on earth be done

Holy, is the Father and Spirit and the Son

Lord, how long, will it be

When we meet, at the sea?

We are weak, our hearts faint

For that day when we'll exalt your holy Name with all the saints

THROUGH THE WEEK

Summary

POSTLUDE

Let's take a look of where we've been:

+ We entered into through the Gate in celebration and expectation of meeting God in the desert (John 10:9, 14:6; Psalm 100).

+ In the Outer Courts we stood at the Altar of Sacrifice and appropriated his Blood into the deepest issues of our heart where we received forgiveness from sin and reconciliation to God (Hebrews 10:19). A deeper work continued at the Brass Laver, where we were washed, cleansed, and sanctified through the prismatic waters of Word and Spirit. Here we became empowered to move on to serve him in the Tent of Meeting (Hebrews 10:22).

+ Then we moved into the Inner Courts. We passed through the first veil into the Tent of Meeting and stood within the midst of the *Golden Lampstand, Table of Showbread, and Altar of Incense* – each gold piece radiant with the divinity of Christ. Having been pruned (Revelation 1:12-16; James 1:17, John 15:1-9; Psalm 18:28), we enjoyed fellowship (John 6:35; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26) and lifted our intercessions unto God (Revelation 5:8).

- + Finally we reached the darkest, most illusive realms of the tent, the Holy of Holies – where all natural light was overshadowed by the living shekinah of God. You extolled him in his all consuming majesty as revealed in the *Ark of the Covenant* (Revelation 4; John 1:14) and rested in unconditional acceptance with your Heavenly Father at the *Mercy Seat* (Luke 15:20).

FINAL BLESSING

May God reveal to you the Person of Jesus through each step of the journey.

May you see him symbolized in new and iconic ways.

May your life always be marked with the fragrance of his presence emerging from sweet intimacy with your father.

And may you always **always** be covered in the dust of your Rabbi!

PSALM 84

For the director of music. According to *gittith*. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.

1

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord Almighty!

2

My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.

3

Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—
a place near your altar,
Lord Almighty, my King and my God.

4

Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.[c]

5

Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

6

As they pass through the Valley of Baka,
they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.[d]

7

They go from strength to strength,
till each appears before God in Zion.

8

Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty;
listen to me, God of Jacob.

9

Look on our shield,[e] O God;
look with favor on your anointed one.

10

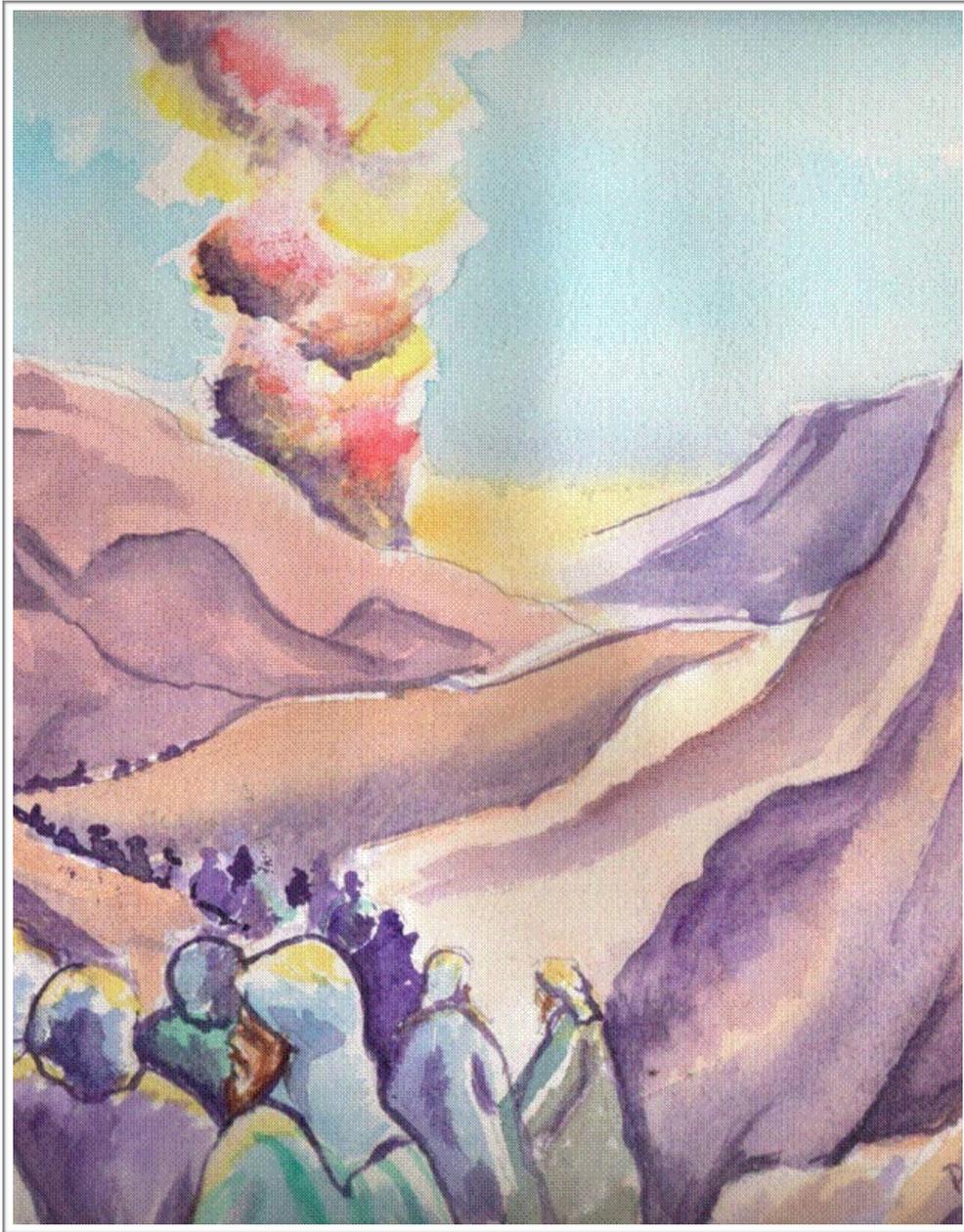
Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

11

For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
the Lord bestows favor and honor;
no good thing does he withhold
from those whose walk is blameless.

12

Lord Almighty,
blessed is the one who trusts in you.



Artwork : Mr. Paul Choate