

The Torn Curtain

*Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,
Hebrews 10:19 NKJV*

Return Church

Sunday April 27, 2025

Access

- Have you ever felt like God is a million miles away?
- Have you ever felt so sinful that you can't approach God?
- Have you ever felt like you were praying to the roof?
- Have you ever thought you had to go to a preacher or priest in order to really connect with God?
- Do you know what it really means for you to be in Christ and for Christ to be in you?
- Are you aware of God's personal presence all throughout each day?
- Are you aware of the access that you have to God?

The Manifested Presence

Do you have a hunger and a thirst for God's personal presence?

As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? ***Psalms 42:1-2 NKJV***

*When You said, Seek My face, my heart said to You, Your face, Lord, I will seek. ***Psalms 27:8 NKJV****

God has given you access

If you are a born-again believer, then God has given you access. You are a child of God. You don't need an appointment to see Him. You can approach Him whenever you need or want to.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. ***Romans 8:14-17 NKJV***

Approach God with boldness

Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. ***Ephesians 3:12 NLT***

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. ***Hebrews:4:16 NKJV***

God wants to have a personal relationship with you.

You can approach God with confidence and boldness, and you can know that He will accept you, and that He hears your prayers. You can experience His personal presence.

The problem

Adam and Eve sinned and were driven out of the Garden:

So the Lord God **banished** him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he **drove** the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 3:23-24 NIV

God drove man out of paradise, man no longer had intimacy with God.

All have sinned

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—***Romans 5:12 NIV***

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ***Romans 3:23 NKJV***

We were all born into sin. And we all had lost our relationship with God. Sin separated us from God.

The consequences

For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Romans 6:23 NKJV***

The soul who sins shall die. ***Ezekiel 18:4 NKJV***

That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am who I claim to be, you will die in your sins. ***John 8:24 NLT***

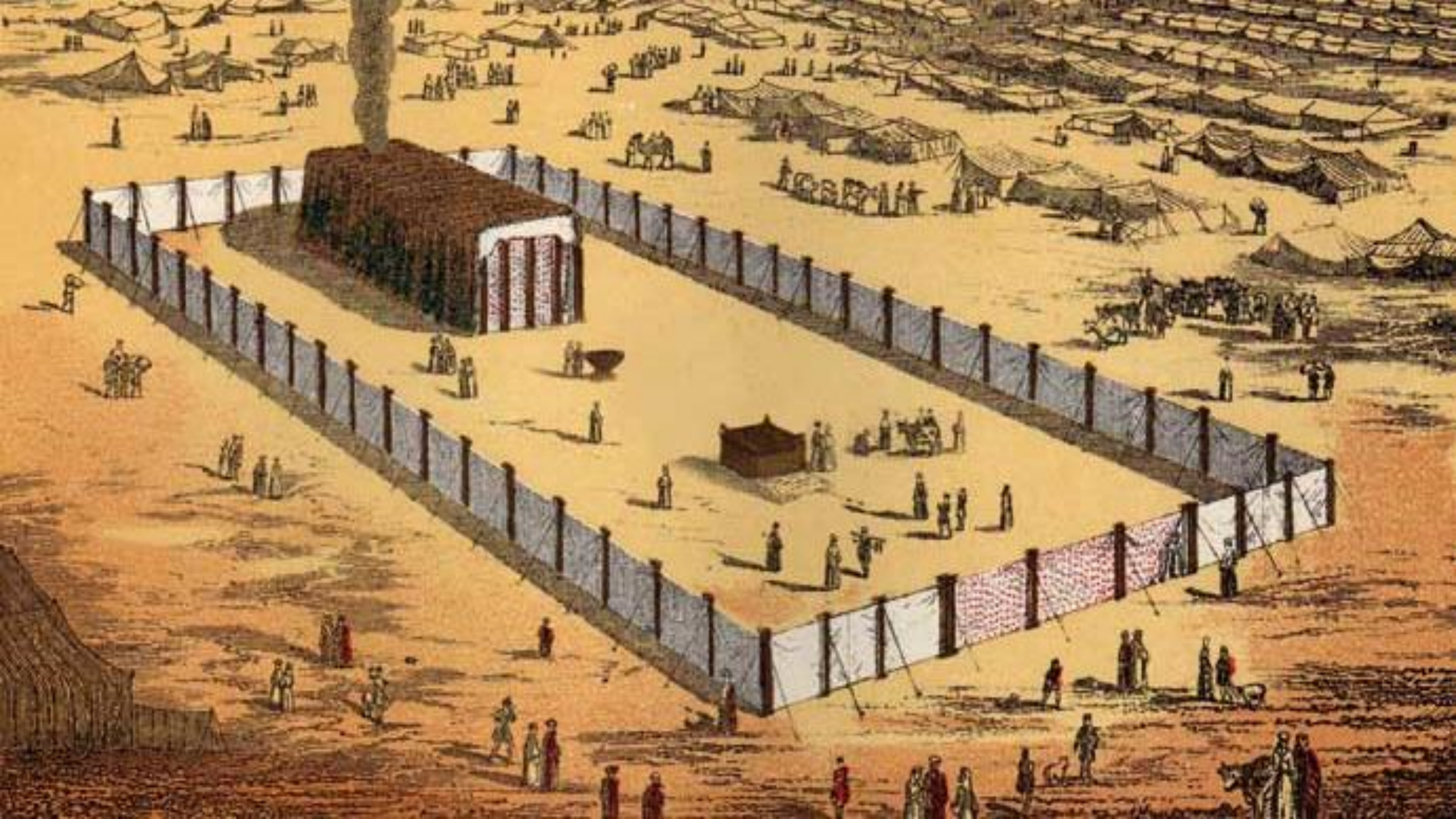
And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. ***Revelation 20:15 NKJV***

God is Holy and Just

- Yes, God is loving, kind, gracious and merciful, but on the other side He is also holy and just.
- Because God is holy and just, He must punish sin.
- God can't say, Oh, it will be alright, I'll just let you off the hook, I'll just turn my head the other way and pretend you didn't do it.
- No, all have sinned, sin has separated God from man, and God must punish all sin because He is holy and just.

The Tabernacle

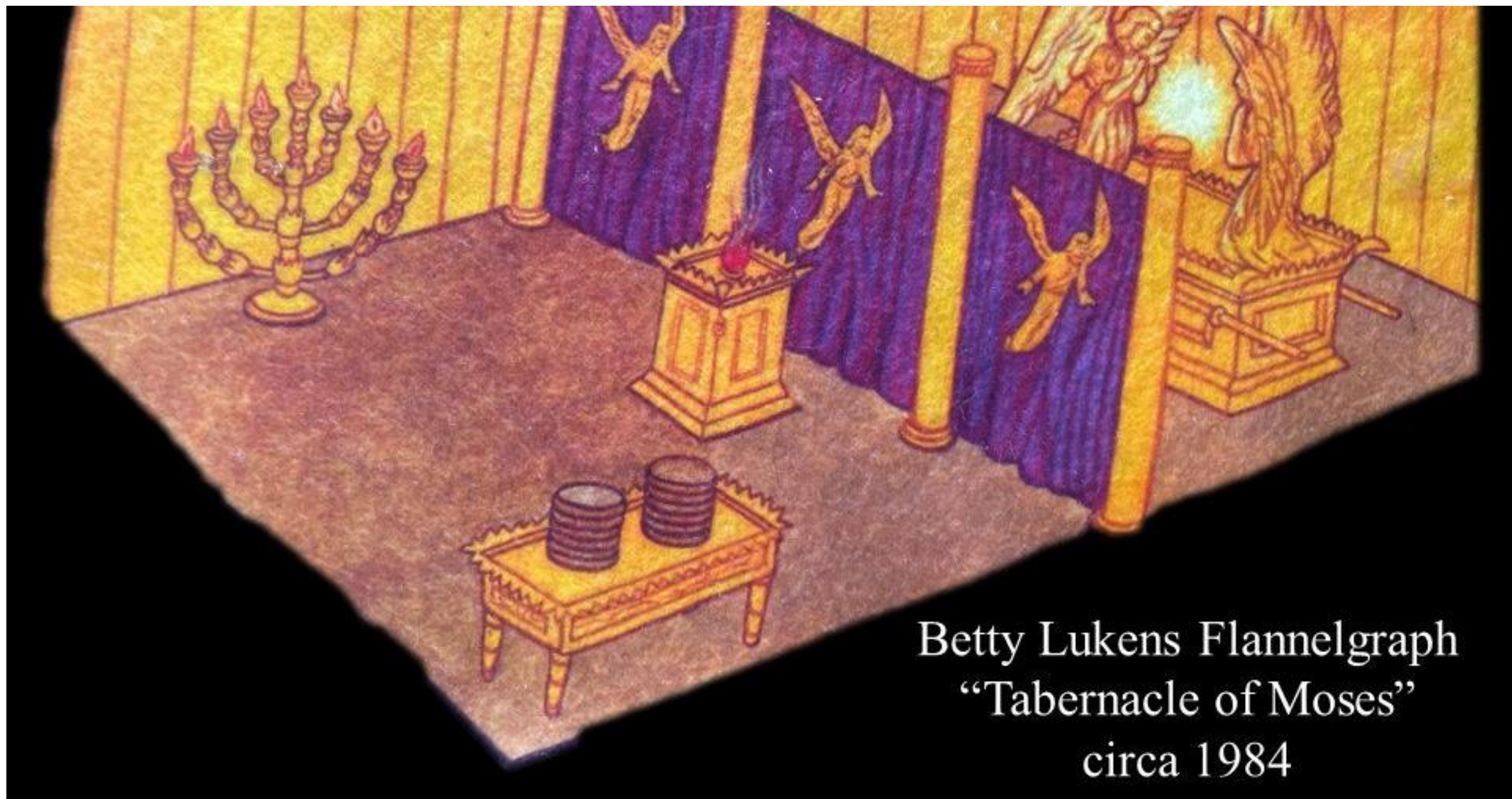
- In Old Testament days, God had Moses build a Tabernacle in the wilderness.
- This is where God dwelt; in the Tabernacle.
- The Tabernacle was the go-between or the mediator between God and man. (This was a picture or a shadow of things to come, Jesus Christ.)



Only entered once a year

In the Tabernacle, God dwelt in the Holy of Holies, between the Cherubim's, above the Mercy Seat on the Ark of the Covenant. Only the priest could go in there.

But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the entrance to the Most Holy Place was not freely open as long as the Tabernacle and the system it represented were still in use. ***Hebrews 9:7-8 NLT***



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph
“Tabernacle of Moses”
circa 1984



The Ark

- There was a time that the Philistines captured the Ark and brought it into the temple of Dagon. The next morning when the people came into the temple, the idol Dagon had fallen, and his head and hands were broken off. Then all the people got tumors (probably hemorrhoids.) They couldn't wait to get rid of the Ark.
- They brought the Ark to Beth Shemesh, where the people pulled open the Mercy Seat and looked into it, and the Bible says there was a great slaughter. Many translations say that 50,070 people died.
- Then David tried to bring the Ark into Jerusalem and the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out his hand and steadied the Ark of God. Then the Lord's anger was aroused against Uzzah and He struck him dead.
- Lesson learned; you must be careful how you approach God.

The solution

And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without **shedding of blood** there is no remission. ***Hebrews 9:22 NKJV***

Life for life. We were all sinners and therefore destined to die in our sin and go to hell. But God made a way for blood to be shed, a life for our life. In the Old Testament, God made provision through animal sacrifice, which covered sins and pointed the way for Messiah to come where one day He would save the world from their sins.

Blood was shed

This was only a temporary solution and the blood of animals could only cover sin, it couldn't remove or take away the sin.

- **Adam and Eve**, the Garden of Eden – animal skins. (Genesis 3:21)
- **Cain and Abel** – Abel's offering was acceptable, Cains was not. (Genesis 4)
- **Noah** – 7 clean animals on the Ark. The LORD smelled a sweet savour. (Genesis 8:20)
- **Abram** – The covenant, a smoking furnace and a burning lamp. (Genesis 15)
- **Passover** – Lamb without blemish was slain. (Exodus 12)
- **The Tabernacle** – sin offering blood, a young bull. (Exodus 29)
- **The Temple** –22,000 bulls,120,000 sheep. (II Chronicles 7)

Rivers of blood shed in the Old Testament, pointing to the coming Messiah.

The Day of Atonement

There was one special day of the year where Israel could get their sins atoned for. It was called the Day of Atonement.

The word atonement means to cover, to expiate, to appease.

On this day the High Priest would enter into the Holy of Holies, where God dwelt above the Mercy Seat, on the Ark of the Covenant,. But the High Priest had to do everything correct and exactly the way that God said to do it, or he would die.



The Veil (Curtain)

The flame of the presence of God was the beating heart of the Levitical order. The fact that the LORD was there. His presence was behind the veil or the curtain, He dwelt on the Mercy Seat, between the Cherubim's.

This veil stood between God and man.

Only the High Priest on the Day of Atonement could enter and only once a year and with caution.

Israel's relationship with God was from a distance, and they had to go through the High Priest, through the tabernacle.

The Law

And the Lord said to Moses: Tell Aaron your brother not to come at *just* any time into the Holy *Place* inside the veil, before the mercy seat which *is* on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat. ***Leviticus 16:2 NKJV***

The law, (the 10 commandments) was in the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark was in the Holy of Holies. If the priest (or anyone else) were to just walk in there he would die. God is holy, and His law condemns us all, we are all guilty and we all deserve death.



The Holy of Holies

And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which *are* on the ark of the Testimony, ***Exodus 25:22 NKJV***

The Day of Atonement

On the tenth day of the appointed month in early autumn, you must deny yourselves. Neither native-born Israelites nor foreigners living among you may do any kind of work. This is a permanent law for you. On that day offerings of purification will be made for you, and you will be purified in the Lord's presence from all your sins. It will be a Sabbath day of complete rest for you, and you must deny yourselves. This is a permanent law for you. In future generations, the purification ceremony will be performed by the priest who has been anointed and ordained to serve as high priest in place of his ancestor Aaron. He will put on the holy linen garments and purify the Most Holy Place, the Tabernacle, the altar, the priests, and the entire congregation. This is a permanent law for you, to purify the people of Israel from their sins, making them right with the Lord once each year. ***Leviticus 16:29-34 NLT***

The priest instructions

Thus Aaron shall come into the Holy *Place*: with *the blood of* a young bull as a sin offering, and *of* a ram as a burnt offering. He shall put the holy linen tunic and the linen trousers on his body; he shall be girded with a linen sash, and with the linen turban he shall be attired. These *are* holy garments. Therefore he shall wash his body in water, and put them on. And he shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats as a sin offering, and one ram as a burnt offering. ***Leviticus 16:3-5 NKJV***

Jewish history teaches us that the high priest had to have a rope tied around his ankle in case he did something wrong as he entered into the Holy of Holies. So if he died, they could drag him out with the rope.

A sin offering for the priest and A sin offering for the people

Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering, which *is* for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord *at* the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the scapegoat. And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the Lord's lot fell, and offer it *as* a sin offering. But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, *and* to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness. ***Leviticus 16:6-10 NKJV***

The sin offering for the priest

And Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house, and shall kill the bull as the sin offering which *is* for himself. Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the Lord, with his hands full of sweet incense beaten fine, and bring *it* inside the veil. And he shall put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that *is* on the Testimony, lest he die. He shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle *it* with his finger on the mercy seat on the east *side*; and before the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times. ***Leviticus 16:11-14 NKJV***

The sin offering for the people

Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which *is* for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. So he shall make atonement for the Holy *Place*, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness. There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atonement in the Holy *Place*, until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel. And he shall go out to the altar that *is* before the Lord, and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. Then he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, cleanse it, and consecrate it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel. ***Leviticus 16:15-19 NKJV***

The scape goat

And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy *Place*, the tabernacle of meeting, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat. Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send *it* away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man. The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness. ***Leviticus 16:20-22***
NKJV

Final instructions

Then Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of meeting, shall take off the linen garments which he put on when he went into the Holy *Place*, and shall leave them there. And he shall wash his body with water in a holy place, put on his garments, come out and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people, and make atonement for himself and for the people. The fat of the sin offering he shall burn on the altar. And he who released the goat as the scapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp. The bull *for* the sin offering and the goat *for* the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the Holy *Place*, shall be carried outside the camp. And they shall burn in the fire their skins, their flesh, and their offal. Then he who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp. ***Leviticus 16:23-28 NKJV***

The blood of animals

- So, the High Priest followed the LORD's instructions and once a year on the Day of Atonement, he atoned for the sins of the people.
- The blood of animals could not remove the sins of the people, it only covered their sins.
- These animal sacrifices were a type and a shadow of things to come, more specifically the Messiah.
- The prophet Isaiah foretold or prophesied of the Messiah about 700 years before He came to the earth.

Isaiah 53

He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. ***Isaiah 53:3-7 NKJV***

The Lamb of God

Yes, Jesus was a great teacher, but Jesus didn't come primarily to teach and give us a good example. Jesus came primarily to die. To shed His blood. To pay the price for our sins.

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold! The **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world! ***John 1:29 NKJV***

John introduced Jesus to the world, as the Lamb of God, who would take away the sins of the world. Jesus came to be the final substitutionary sacrificial offering.

Jesus shed His blood

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, **shedding his blood**.

Romans 3:23-25 NLT

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ***II Corinthians 5:21 NIV***

The veil of the temple was torn

Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Some of those who stood there, when they heard *that*, said, This Man is calling for Elijah! Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled *it* with sour wine and put *it* on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. The rest said, Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him. And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, ***Matthew 27:45-51 NKJV***



The veil was torn

- Now the Holy of Holies was opened up for all of us.
- No longer do you need a Temple.
- No longer do you need a High Priest.
- No longer do you need The Day of Atonement.
- No longer are you under the law of Moses or the Old Covenant.
- Now you as an individual can come boldly to the throne of grace.
- Now you can approach God with confidence, and faith.
- You no longer need animal blood to make a sacrifice, because Jesus came and was the final and ultimate sacrifice.

*When God speaks of a “new” covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear. **Hebrews 8:13 NLT***

Approach God with boldness

Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. ***Ephesians 3:12 NLT***

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. ***Hebrews:4:16 NKJV***

Musicians

You can now approach God

- Because of what Jesus did on the cross, you can now approach God with boldness and confidence.
- You don't have to clean up your life, you come to God just as you are. God will clean you up later.
- God is here to answer your prayers, to forgive your sins.
- Now everyday is a day of atonement. Every day is the day we can approach God personally and intimately.
- The old covenant is now obsolete. It is fulfilled, it is finished.
- You can have your own personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

One mediator

For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, ***1 Timothy 2:5 NKJV***

You don't need a preacher or a priest to connect you with God. You don't need the ceremonial law, or a temple. Jesus Christ was our High Priest, He was the Temple, and He was the blood sacrifice, He was the Lamb of God that took away the sin of the world. Jesus fulfilled all of the law.

Another Veil

God waits to be wanted. He yearns for communion, fellowship, intimacy with us. God has done His part, the veil is torn.

What keeps us from experiencing God with our 5 senses? We should be seeing God, hearing God, tasting God, smelling God, and touching God? What is preventing communion, intimacy, fellowship between us and God? Not God's veil, but ours.

The Veil of the Self-life:

Self-righteousness, self-confidence, self-sufficiency, self-pity, self-centeredness, selfishness. (**Fruits:** Unbelief, doubt, fear, worry, etc..)

Our wall

The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he stands behind our wall; He is looking through the windows, gazing through the lattice. ***Song of Solomon 2:8-9 NKJV***

She said our wall, it was really her wall.

God has torn the curtain; He has opened the way so we can experience His personal presence.

Push on into His presence

Ransomed men need no longer pause in fear to enter into the Holy of Holies, God wills that we should push on into His presence and live our whole life there. We should live this way consciously. This is more than a doctrine to hold, it is a life to be enjoyed every moment of everyday.

Aware of His Presence

God waits to be wanted. Pray for a hunger, a thirst, a desire to commune, to fellowship with God personally.

Learn to be aware of His presence at all times. Don't wait till you think you have been good enough, enter in now.

The curtain separating us and God has been torn. God no longer lives behind the curtain. Press into His Presence and enjoy Him.