

The Temple

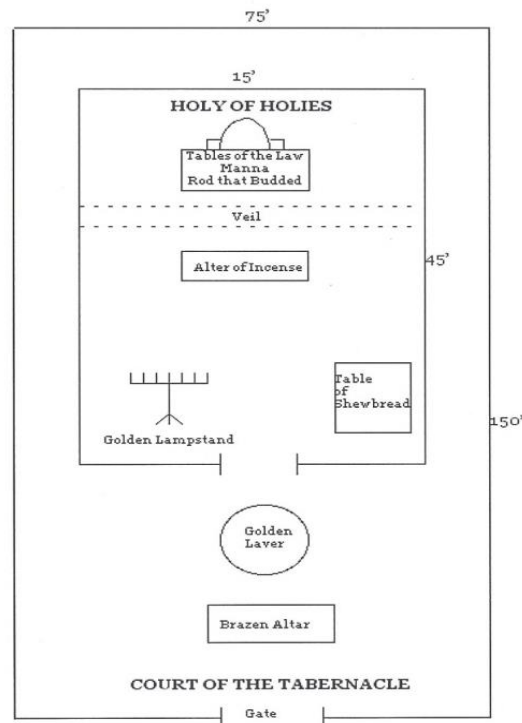
1-3-2021

Introduction

1. There was first a Tabernacle and then four Temples built for Israel.

1.1 The Tabernacle was not a Temple though it served the purpose of what would later be known as The Temple. The Tabernacle was a large tent constructed to strict specifications given by God to Moses.

1.1.1 It served as a mobile structure which was carried during the travels of the Exodus. A schematic of the Tabernacle will help us understand how it was used to teach Bible Doctrine.



2. Following the Tabernacle would be four Temples.

2.1 The Temple of Solomon

2.2 The Temple of Zerubbabel

2.3 The Temple of Herod the Great

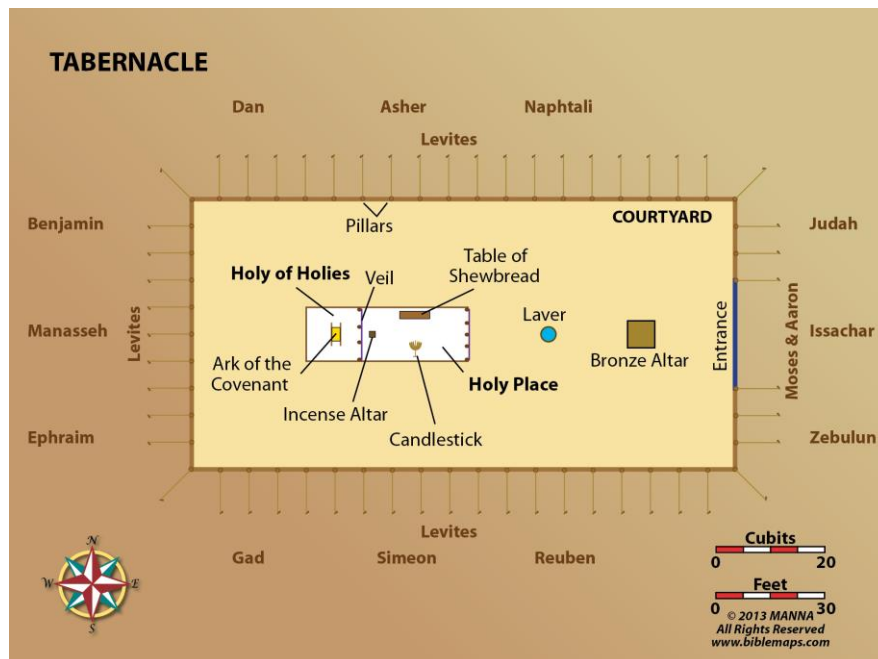
2.4 The Temple for Christ during His reign in the Millennium

3. In the Church Age Paul said the believer's body was the Temple of God.

2Co 6:16 And what agreement has the Temple of God with an idol? For you are the Temple of the living God; as God has said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Historical Summary

1. I want to use the schematic of the Tabernacle to teach the meaning of the Tabernacle/Temple liturgy.



2. The Tabernacle was divided into three areas: a courtyard, the Holy Place or Sanctuary, and the Holy of Holies.

3. The courtyard was a place of preparation and represented the believer in the world before salvation. The courtyard also represented the world in which both believers and unbelievers functioned side by side.

3.1 Some number of believers would take advantage of the accouterments located in the court yard—the Brazen Altar and the Golden Laver were there to serve as training aids. The priests used these aids to communicate Bible Doctrine.

3.1.1 An unbeliever would hear the priests teach of the meaning and work of the Christ to come and the ritual to be followed.

- The participant brought a perfect sacrifice.
- The participant offered it to the priests.
- The priests would cut the throat of the animal on the Brazen Altar.
- The priests caught the blood in the Golden Laver while the “participant” placed his hand on the animal’s head.
- The sins of the “participant” (past present and future) were transferred to the animal representing the Messiah to come and His work in time as the God man.
- The animal would then be butchered and sacrificed as a burnt offering.

3.2 This demonstration of positive volition toward the work of Christ to come was an act of responding to the good news of the gospel—salvation took place in the courtyard and now the believer is ready for his path to maturity—the intake of the Word under the teaching ministry of God the Holy Spirit.

3.3 The Holy Place or Sanctuary was a place where only a priest could go. This area represented a believer’s world where God would provide light, doctrine, guidance and logistical grace. The believer could not enter the Holy Place; only the priests could enter, but it was the job of the priests to communicate the meaning of the three implements inside:

- the lampstand representing Christ as the light of the world,

- the table of shewbread representing God's logistical grace,
- and the altar of incense representing the sweet aroma of the believer's prayers.

3.4 The Holy of Holies represented the third heaven where special mediation is performed in the Throne Room of God.

3.5 The symbolism of salvation occurs just outside the Holy Place where on the altar a perfect animal was sacrificed on behalf of the believer and the blood was caught and placed in the golden laver. The hand of the one bringing the animal was placed on the head of the animal.

3.6 The perfect animal was symbolic of Jesus as the lamb without spot who would go to the cross as the perfect sacrifice.

1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

1Pe 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1Pe 1:20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

3.7 The blood is a picture of the spiritual death of Christ which took care of all the sins of the world--past, present and future.

Luk 22:20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

3.8 Only a priest could enter the Holy Place just as only a believer priest can worship God. "I am the way the truth and the life no man cometh to the Father except by Me." Direct access, without need of the priests, would have to await the Resurrection and the renting of the veil.

3.9 In the Holy Place there are three utensils: the table of shewbread the golden lampstand and the altar of incense.

3.9.1 The table of shewbread had 12 loaves of bread freshly baked and represented the provision and ever-presence of God for the 12 tribes.

3.10 Only the priests were to eat the bread. This symbolized how God makes provision for believers. He is always with us even when we are out of fellowship and receiving discipline.

Jer 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Isa 30:20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:

Isa 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

3.10.1 The bread was replaced each week to teach God's act of continually providing logistical grace to each believer.

Exo 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

3.11 Today we are to keep every day holy, redeeming the time because the days are evil. We live our lives a moment at a time using 1Jo 1:9 as our stabilizer and Bible doctrine as our manual for living the Christian life. It is a two-step process—rebound and taking in the Word of God.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

3.12 The lampstand was the only light in the Tabernacle. This sole light was symbolic of Jesus as the light of the world.

Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

3.12.1 When David captured the city in c. 1000 B.C. many of the Jebusites were absorbed as believing “aliens.” The Jebusites lived in Ursalem which later became Jerusalem after David captured the city. The ruler of the Jebusite city was Melchizedek.

3.12.2 David made the city the capital of his Kingdom. His capital was moved from Hebron to Jerusalem.

3.12.3 In c. 960 B.C. Solomon built the Temple to house the Ark of the Covenant and to provide a place to worship.

3.12.4 In 586 B.C. the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city and the Temple. The Jews in the main were exiled to Babylonia.

3.12.5 Fifty years later in c. 536 B.C. Cyrus a Persian King conquered Babylonia and in c. 500 B.C. the Jews were permitted to rebuild the Temple. (See the Book of Zechariah and/or the Book of Hagai. Zerubbabel built a smaller version of Solomon’s Temple.)

3.12.6 Persia ruled the city until c. 333 B.C., when Alexander took control of the city. Later Ptolemy a Rome senator in c. 60 B.C. took control of all of Palestine. In c. 198 B.C. Antiochus conquered Judaea making it a tributary to Syria.

3.12.7 Later in c. 165 B.C. the Jews successfully revolted under the leadership of the Maccabees reconsecrating Zerubbabel's Temple.

3.12.8 Herod later modified Zerubbabel’s Temple thus it became known as Herod’s Temple.

3.12.9 This Temple was destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70.

4. Hebrew Etymology:

4.1 The principal Hebrew word for "temple " is HEKAL, " palace, a large building."

HEKAL

Isa 39:7 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the "palace" of the king of Babylon.

1Ki 21:1 And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the "palace" of Ahab king of Samaria.

4.2 It is often used with reference to the Temple in Jerusalem; (being either the Temple of Solomon or the Temple of Herod).

4.3 The word is also used of the Sanctuary at Shiloh after the division of Palestine i.e., Israel and Judah.

1Sa 1:9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the "Temple" of the LORD.

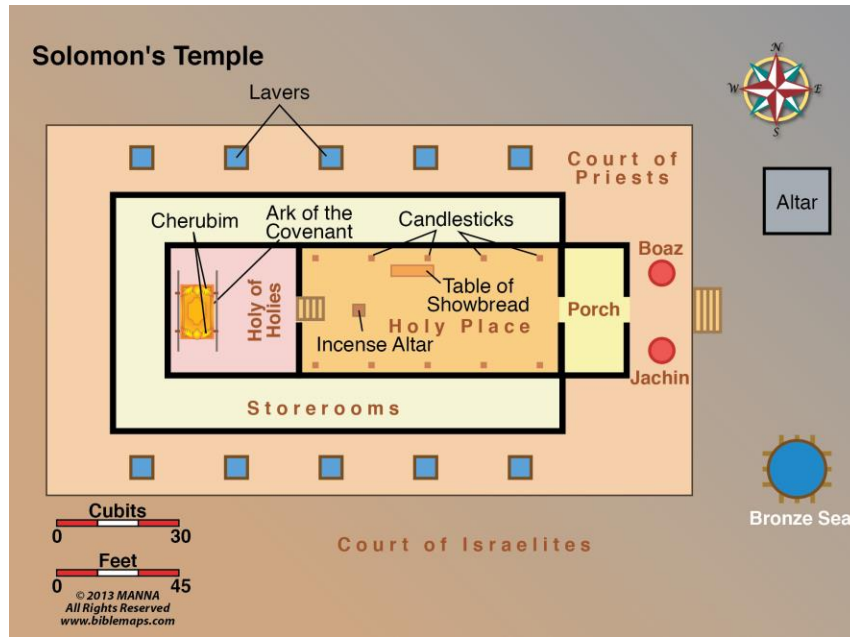
1Sa 3:3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

4.4 Hekal is uniquely used of God's heavenly abode.

2Sa 22:7 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.

Psa 11:4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

4.4.1 Let's look at the ultimate Hekal.



4.5 The word Hekal was sometimes used in error of heathen temples.

Joe 3:5 For you took my silver and my gold and carried off my finest treasures to your temples.

4.5.1 As contrasted to the open-air "high place," the pagan temples were considered as "houses" or dwelling places of various "deities," and only secondarily, as places of worship.

6. At several Israelite sites beginning with the divided monarchy several enclosed sanctuaries have been found. These sites were in the main facades located in the northern kingdom i.e., Israel.

6.1 Amos denounced the worship at Beer-sheba and Gilgal and compared it with the temples which Jeroboam I built at Dan and Bethel on the north and south borders of his kingdom.

Amo 5:5 But seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beersheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall come to nought.

Amo 8:14 They that swear by the sin of Samaria, and say, Thy god, O Dan, liveth; and, The manner of Beersheba liveth; even they shall fall, and never rise up again.

6.1.1 The walls forming an Israelite high place (20 by 61 feet) at Dan have been discovered but no temple building has yet been located at this distant site.

7. In the Greek there are two terms that mean "Temple."

7.1 The more general HIEROS, the place of the priest, which applies to the entire temple complex with all its courts and auxiliary buildings. The more specific is NAOS, "sanctuary, shrine," the chief Temple building itself.

8. Solomon's Temple

8.1 The building was completed in Oct./Nov., 960 B.C., requiring a total of seven and a half years.

1Ki 6:1 And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

1Ki 6:37 In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the LORD laid, in the month Zif.

1Ki 6:38 And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

8.2 The origin of this house of worship is credited to David.

8.2.1 In 1Chronicles chapter 28 God ordered David to replace the Tabernacle with a permanent building.

8.2.2 Although David was forbidden to build this house because he was a warrior and had shed blood, he purchased much of the material to be used in its construction.

1Ch 28:3 But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood.

2Sa 24:21 And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshing floor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.

1Ch 22:2 And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God.

1Ch 22:3 And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joinings; and brass in abundance without weight;

1Ch 22:4 Also cedar trees in abundance: for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David.

8.2.3 David committed the task to his son Solomon.

1Ch 22:6 Then he called for Solomon his son, and charged him to build an house for the LORD God of Israel.

8.3 The plan of this edifice was similar to that of the Tabernacle; but the dimensions were doubled, with the height triple that of the former sanctuary.

8.4 The stone walls were lined with carved cedar which was overlaid with gold.

1Ki 6:22 And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house: also the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold.

We do not authorize any third party to solicit donations on behalf of the Westbank Bible Church.