**Station 4: Most Holy Place**

Where His Glory Dwells

# Welcome

## The tabernacle was divided by a veil into two rooms – the Holy and the Most Holy Places (Ex. 26:31-33).

## Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place, and only on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:2)

## This room was 15 feet long, 15 feet wide, and 15 feet square – a perfect square.

## Only one piece of furniture here.

# History – How it worked in the past

## Ark of the Covenant (Ex. 25:10-22)

1. 2 ½ cubits long, 1 ½ cubits wide, 1 ½ cubits tall
2. Made of acacia (shittim) wood overlaid and inlaid with pure gold

[It was important to God that not only the outside but also the inside be covered with gold.]

1. Had a crown of pure gold around the edge
2. Box was covered by the mercy seat
   1. Made of pure gold, hammered into shape
   2. Two cherubs, one on each end
      1. One wing stretched up, covering the mercy seat
      2. Their faces were turned to each other, looking downward at the mercy seat
   3. Where God promised He would dwell and meet with His people
3. Had four rings of gold fastened to the four corners
   1. These were to hold the staves needed to carry the ark
   2. The staves were made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold
   3. The staves were not to be removed from the rings
4. Had three items inside
   1. Designed to house the 10 commandments (“the testimony” – Ex. 31:18; Deut. 4:13)
   2. Also housed a pot of manna and Aaron’s rod that budded
5. The Torah, the five books of Moses, was stored on the outside of the ark
   1. Contained history such as Creation and the Exodus
   2. Contained instruction on health, government, and the sanctuary services
   3. Was to be brought out and read to the people every seven years (Deut. 31:11-13)

## Day of Atonement (Lev. 16)

1. Responsibility of the High Priest
   1. Bathe and put on plain white linen garments of the common priest
   2. Would gather several animals, including a bullock and two goats
      1. Cast lots for the goats – one to be the Lord’s goat, the other to be the scapegoat
      2. Offer the bullock as a sin offering for himself and his household
   3. Enters the Holy Place with the blood and pauses at the altar to collect coals and incense for his censer
      1. No man can see God and live (Ex. 33:20)
      2. Cloud of incense was to shield the priest as he entered the presence of God (Lev. 16:13) – the sweetness of Christ’s righteousness covering the priest
      3. Also represented the prayers of the people being offered that day
   4. Continues into the Most Holy Place with the censer and the blood
      1. Sprinkles blood seven times *upon* the mercy seat eastward
      2. Sprinkles blood seven times *before* (in front of) the mercy seat
   5. Returns to the courtyard to offer the Lord’s goat as a sin offering
   6. Does not stop in the Holy Place, but goes straight into the Most Holy Place with the blood
      1. Sprinkles blood seven times *upon* the mercy seat eastward
      2. Sprinkles blood seven times *before* (in front of) the mercy seat
   7. Returns to the Holy Place to “make atonement” for the altar of incense
      1. Place the blood of the bull and the goat on the horns of altar
      2. Sprinkle the blood seven times around the horns to “cleanse it”
   8. Returns to the courtyard to the live goat – the scapegoat
      1. Lays his hands of the head of the goat and confesses over it “all the iniquities of the children of Israel”
         1. All the sin is symbolically transferred to the goat, so it is worthy of death (Rom. 6:23)
         2. However, shedding blood is for the remission or forgiveness of sins (Heb. 9:22). Since all the sins have already been atoned for, this goat will not shed blood.
      2. A strong (“fit”) man will lead the goat far into the wilderness where no one lives (“a place uninhabited”) so it will die of natural causes
      3. Now the children of Israel can rejoice because all the sin is removed from their camp. (Lev. 23:34, 40)
2. Responsibility of the People
   1. But before this time of rejoicing, there was to be a time of seriousness.

[This was a day to remove sins from the camp of Israel (Lev. 16:29-30)]

* 1. No one else was to be in the courtyard or the tabernacle on this day (Lev. 16:17)
  2. Except for the high priest, no one was to work (Lev. 23:28)
  3. Each was to afflict his soul, or else be cut off from the camp (Lev. 23:27, 29)
     1. Involved fasting (Ps. 69:10; Isa. 58:3)
     2. Also involved searching the heart and confessing sins (Ps. 139:23-24)

# Timeline – How it is played out in earth’s history

## Christ’s Work

1. Christ has fulfilled the symbols of the courtyard (*review)*
2. Christ has entered the Holy Place (*review)*
3. If He is our High Priest, he must someday enter the Most Holy Place.
   1. Foretold in prophecy – Daniel 8:14
   2. When the prophecy was given, Jerusalem and its temple had been destroyed. So which temple would be cleansed?
   3. Only the heavenly sanctuary still existed at the time of this prophecy.

## Our Work

1. When this prophecy comes to pass, what will our responsibility be?
2. The children of Israel did three things
   1. Did no work – still have to work, but seek first the kingdom of God so that nothing distracts from our relationship with God (Matt. 6:33)
   2. Fasted – to keep the mind clear; only eat foods that keep our minds clear and our bodies healthy (1 Cor. 10:31)
   3. Afflicted soul – confess and forsake all sin so that Christ can cleanse it and remove it from our lives (1 John 1:9)
3. Eventually Christ will put the censer down, but not until all have had an opportunity to invite God into their hearts and lives.

# Application – How it works in my life

How do we invite God into our hearts?

## Items in the Ark

1. Ark of the Covenant
   1. The 10 Commandments were hidden safely inside the ark
   2. Hebrews 8:10 – God promises to write His law in our hearts and mind
   3. Ark of Covenant represents our hearts
      1. The ark is where the law was stored in the earthly sanctuary
      2. The body is where the law is stored in our body temple (Ps. 119:11)
      3. Inviting God the Father into our heart
2. Pot of Manna
   1. Story Summary (Ex. 16)
      1. Took an empty vessel early in the morning
      2. Gathered only enough food for the day
      3. Knelt on the ground to pick up the food
   2. Represents spending time with Jesus and His word every morning
   3. Inviting Jesus into our heart
3. Aaron’s Rod
   1. Story Summary (Num. 17)
      1. Rebellion in Israel about who should be the manager of the sanctuary (Num. 16:3, 40)
      2. God by Moses collected the rods of the 12 princes of the tribes of Israel
      3. God chose Aaron: his rod budded, blossomed, and bore fruit
   2. Ps. 23:4 – the rod is a comforter
      1. The Holy Spirit is a comforter (John 14:16-17)
      2. The life in Aaron’s rod was only possible by a miracle
      3. The good fruit in our lives in only possible through the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)
      4. Inviting the Holy Spirit into our heart