Station 3: The Holy Place

A Continual Ministry

# Welcome

## Only the priests could enter the Holy Place after washing at the laver (Ex. 30:19-21)

## This room had three pieces of furniture.

1. From this point on, everything is *primarily* made of gold or covered in gold.
   1. The walls of the tabernacle were overlaid with gold (Ex. 26:15, 29)
   2. But the bases of the walls were made of silver (Ex. 26:19)
   3. Also, the bases of the pillars between the Holy and Most Holy were silver (Ex. 26:32) and the bases of the pillars at the door of the tabernacle were brass (Ex. 26: 37).
2. Remember from the courtyard that the brass illustrates earth and the gold illustrates heaven.

# History – How it worked in the past

## Coverings

1. Inner covering – colorful curtain with embroidered cherubim (Ex. 26:1-6)
   1. Same colors as the gate
   2. Also had gold threads woven into it

[Ex. 39:3 explains how this was done in the high priest’s ephod.]

1. Goat’s hair (Ex. 26:7-13)
2. Ram’s skin dyed red (Ex. 26:14)
3. Outermost covering – Badger’s skin (Ex. 26:14)
   1. A protection from the weather
   2. From the outside, the tabernacle looked plain (a dark colored tent with the white curtain surrounding it; it did not look like anything special.
      1. Jesus came to earth as a simple man; He had no outward beauty to make Him stand out from the crowd (Isaiah 53:2)
      2. Yet, for those who got to know Him, He had a special treasure (John 1:10-12; Psalm 34:8)

[Personal application of the curtains:]

1. Badger’s skin – Our sinful state (Romans 5:8) [or Christ’s protection against temptation and sin (Psalm 91:1; Psalm 121:5-8)]
2. Ram’s skin dyed red – Christ’s cleansing blood (1 John 1:7)
3. Goat’s hair – Christ’s righteousness covering us (Isa. 1:18; Rev. 19:8)
4. Colorful curtain – Jesus changes our heart to become beautiful (Eze. 36:26-27; Eccl. 3:11; 1 Sam. 16:7)

## Table of Shewbread (Ex. 25:23-30; 37:10-16)

1. Located on the north side of the Holy Place (Ex. 26:35; 40:22)
2. Two cubits long, one cubit wide, one and a half cubits tall
3. Made of acacia (shittim) wood overlaid with pure gold
4. Had a crown of pure gold around the edge of the table and a second border with a second crown of gold on it
5. Had four rings of gold fastened to the four corners
   1. These were to hold the staves needed to carry the table
   2. The staves were made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold
6. Had the shewbread placed on it
   1. Twelve loaves (“cakes”) of unleavened bread set in two equal stacks (“rows”) of six loaves each (Lev. 24:5-6)
   2. Pure frankincense on each row (Lev. 24:7)
   3. Bread to be on the table always (Ex. 25:30)
      1. Prepared and changed out every Sabbath by the Levites (Lev. 24:8; 1 Chr. 9:32)
      2. The old bread was eaten by the priests in the Holy Place (Lev. 24:9)

## Altar of Incense (Ex. 30:1-9; 37:25-29)

1. Located “before the veil” on the west side of the Holy Place
2. One cubit square, two cubits high
3. Made of acacia (shittim) wood and overlaid with pure gold
   1. Had horns on its four corners
   2. Had two staves for carrying the altar
4. Had a crown made of pure gold
5. Had two gold rings on the two sides
6. Used only for burning incense
   1. Only a specific type of incense to be used (Ex. 30:34-36)
   2. Only to be used in the sanctuary; it was holy to the Lord (Ex. 30:37-38)
   3. No other incense was allowed
   4. Kept burning perpetually
   5. Tended to at the same time as the morning and evening sacrifice (2 Chr. 13:11)
7. Used to “record” sins on the horns of the altar (Lev. 4:16-18; Jer. 17:1)
   1. Sometimes, the blood from the sin offerings was brought into the Holy Place
      1. Sprinkled seven times before the veil
      2. Applied to the horns of the altar
   2. This was important for the Day of Atonement
   3. The sins recorded there would be cleansed or atoned for on the Day of Atonement. (Ex. 30:10)

## Golden Candlestick (Ex. 25:31-40; Ex. 37:17-24)

1. Located on the south side, opposite the table of shewbread
2. The exact dimensions are not given in Scripture
3. Made from one talent of gold hammered into shape (“beaten work” – not melted)

[One talent weighed 70 to 120 pounds]

1. Had a central shaft and three branches out of each side
2. Designed like an almond tree
   1. The six side branches each had three clusters shaped like a flower, a bulb (“bowl”) and a knob.
   2. The central shaft had four clusters shaped like a flower, a bulb (“bowl”) and a knob.
3. Had seven lamps shaped like almond nuts
   1. Filled with pure olive oil (Ex. 27:20; Lev. 24:2)
   2. Provided light in the Holy Place
   3. The lamps were to be burning always
   4. The high priest tended to every morning and evening (Ex. 30:7-8; Lev. 24:1-4)

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

## Table of Shewbread – “The Throne of the Majesty in the Heavens”

1. “The Throne of the Majesty in the Heavens”
2. After Christ’s death and resurrection, He ascended to heaven sit at the right hand of His Father (Heb. 8:1-2; 10:12; Mark 16:19; Col. 3:1)
3. The table had two gold crowns / borders, indicating kingship, and kings sit on thrones.
4. Jesus is represented here as the bread of life (John 6:35, 48, 51; Matt. 26:26). Who is represented by the second stack of bread?
   1. Christ overcame and sat on the Father’s throne (Rev. 3:21)
   2. Just as the stacks of bread were equal, so the Father and the Son are equal (John 10:30; John 14:7-9; John 1:1; Phil. 2:5-6)
5. The table/throne is located on the north side, the place Lucifer wanted to usurp (“I will sit… in the sides of the north” – Isaiah 14:13)
6. The bread represents not only Jesus, but also the Word of God (Matt. 4:4)
7. Jesus is the Word (John 1:1-2, 14).
8. Bread = Jesus = Word
9. The Scriptures, or the Word of God, tells us about Jesus (John 5:39).
10. His words are truth, and Jesus is truth (John 17:17; 14:6).

## Altar of Incense

1. Privilege of Prayer
   1. The incense represents our prayers (Ps. 141:2; Rev. 5:8).

[The altar of incense is the furniture closest to the presence of God (in the Most Holy Place); prayer is our closest connection to God.]

* 1. Just as the incense was to be burning continually, so are we to maintain a constant connection with God (1 Thess. 5:17; Rom. 12:12; Col. 4:2)
  2. God delights to hear our prayers (Prov. 15:8).
  3. However, sin blocks our prayers so that God cannot hear us (Isa. 59:2)

[Compare Prov. 15:29 with Rom. 3:10, 23 and Isa. 64:6]

1. Christ the Mediator
   1. Because we are sinful, Christ intercedes between us and God (1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:25; John 14:6)
   2. The Holy Spirit also intercedes for us (Rom. 8:26-27)
   3. When pray in Jesus’ name, we can have the assurance that God will answer (John 14:13-14; 15:15-16; 16:26-27)
   4. As the high priest, He is constantly sending our prayers up to God and mingling them with the sweetness of His righteousness (Rev. 8:3-4)
2. Angels on the veil
   1. Represents the thousands of angels surrounding the throne of God (Ps. 68:17; 1 Kings 22:19)
   2. They are ministering spirits, aiding God in answering our prayers (Dan. 7:10; Ps. 104:4; Heb. 1:14)
3. Horns on the altar
   1. Christ has entered into the Holy Place “not made with hands” to minister for us (Lev. 4:2, 5-7; Heb. 9:12, 24)
   2. Just as priest brought blood into the Holy Place after completing a sin offering, Christ has entered with His own blood to record sins on the incense altar so that they can be blotted out / cleansed on the Day of Atonement (Jer. 17:1; Ex. 30:10; Isa. 51:1, 9)

## Golden Lampstand

1. Holy Spirit
   1. The olive oil also represents the Holy Spirit (Zech. 4:1-6; also compare Acts 10:38 with Ex. 29:7; 1 Sam. 16:1; and Ps. 89:20).
      1. It is only because of the oil that the lamp can burn
      2. The Holy Spirit enables us both to understand the truth and to live the truth.
   2. The lamp shines light on the shewbread – the Holy Spirit shines light on the Word of God so that we can understand. (John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:10-14)
2. As our high priest, Jesus is seen ministering among the candlesticks (Rev. 1:10, 12-17)
   1. He is dressed in the white priestly garments
   2. He promised to send us the Holy Spirit just as the priest daily added oil to the lamps (John 14:16; John 16:7)
   3. While Jesus was on earth, He was the light of the world (John 9:5).
   4. Now He is helping us to shine for Him, ensuring that our lights never go out.

# Application – How it works in my life

After the experience of the courtyard (surrender and baptism = new birth), we need to eat of the Word so that we can grow (1 Pet. 2:2; Job 23:12).

## Table of Shewbread – Studying the Word

1. Eating and internalizing the Word of God (John 6:50-56)
2. Weekly church attendance – Just as the priests prepared fresh bread every Sabbath, so we too gain fresh messages from God as we attend church each Sabbath. (Isaiah 66:23)
3. Daily study – But Jesus also instructed us to pray “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matt. 6:11; Luke 11:3).
4. Pure Words of God
   1. Silver represents the pure words of God (Ps. 12:6)
      1. God spoke His law from Sinai
      2. The silver represents His law in our hearts and minds
   2. The bases and borders in the Holy Place are silver (in addition to the capitals in the courtyard)
   3. Represents walking in the words of God

## Altar of Incense – The Privilege of Prayer

1. Prayer is speaking with God as to a friend
2. As He shares truths in His word, we respond in prayer
3. This builds our relationship with Him

## Golden Candlestick – Our Witness

1. The candlesticks represent Christ’s church (Rev. 1:20)
2. Now that we have been communing with God, He can fill us with His Spirit as on the Day of Pentecost (represented by fire)
3. While Jesus was on earth, He was the light of the world (John 9:5).
4. Now that He has ascended, we are to shine as lights for Him (Matt. 5:14-16)