

A Reflection of JESUS

Lesson 5 The Most Holy

Once a year on the Day of Atonement the Holy Place was entered and it was entered only by the high priest. If anyone else were to enter, they would die. A veil separated the inner room or Holy of Holies from the outer room (Exodus 25-27; 30:1-10, 17-21).

The Veil

Exodus 26:31; 30:10

The veil was a curtain of blue, purple, and scarlet. It was embroidered with cherubim and hung on four gold-covered pillars. There was no separation in the curtain; it was one continuous piece (Exodus 26:31-37). The high priest entered from the side.

The veil acted as a barrier between God and man. The veil represented the body of Jesus. When Christ died, God tore the veil to the Holy of Holies which was then in the Temple. It was torn from the top to the bottom (Matthew 27:51).

Now everyone has access to God the Father through Jesus Christ, our High Priest (Hebrews 10:19,20).

The Ark of the Covenant

Exodus 25:10,14-16; 25:22, Hebrews 9

The Ark of the Covenant was the holiest of the furnishings in the Tabernacle. There are no pictures of what it looked like. However we can read Exodus 25:10-22 which describes it.

It was a box shape measuring about 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches high. It was made from acacia wood and overlaid with gold. There were two poles on the side that were inserted into rings.

This made it possible for the ark to be moved without anyone touching it. Inside the ark there were three items, all to remind them of WHO brought them out of Egypt: (1) the stone tablets on which God wrote the Ten Commandments; (2) a gold pot filled with manna; (3) Aaron's rod that budded.

The Mercy Seat

Exodus 25:17,20; Hebrews 9:5

The mercy seat was made of *solid* gold and had beautiful carvings. Arched above the mercy seat were two cherubim with outstretched wings. The cherubim faced each other with heads bowed toward the mercy seat. The ark was placed between them.

It was at this seat that God spoke to Moses during the wilderness wandering (Numbers 7:89). On the day of Atonement, the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies and sprinkle the blood from the sacrificed animal on the mercy seat. This was how an atonement was made for the sins of the priest and the people of Israel (Leviticus 16:15).

Propitiation or satisfaction is the Old Testament meaning word "mercy seat." In Romans 3:25 the same Greek word is used for *propitiation*. The mercy seat is a symbol of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:2).

The blood that was sprinkled on the mercy seat prefigured Christ. When God saw it, He was satisfied that the price for sin had been paid.

Christ, as our High Priest offered His own blood for the forgiveness of our sins (Hebrews 9:11-14). Christ fulfilled the requirements of the sin offering by taking the sins of the world on Himself:

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21; see also 1 Peter 2:24). □

Scripture for Today

"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us"
(Hebrews 9: 12)

Questions

1. How often could the high priest enter into the most Holy Place? _____
2. What separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies? _____
3. What resided within the Holy of Holies? _____
4. How many items did the ark contain? _____
5. Name the items contained within the ark. _____
6. The ark rested upon what? _____
7. The Mercy Seat was made of what? _____
8. The high priest sprinkled what upon the Mercy Seat each year at Atonement? _____
9. Is there anything more valuable than the blood of Jesus _____

The Veil

The veil was a heavy, fine woven cloth, stretching for ten cubits (15 feet or 4.5 meters). The word *veil* (Hebrew, *paroketh*) means to separate and describes its function.

There was no opening in the middle. The priest had to go around the side to enter the most Holy Place. When the Temple was built its veil followed a similar design.

The Temple veil was torn from the top to the bottom when Jesus died. Every believer can now approach God through Jesus.

The Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat

The Ark more clearly reflects Jesus Christ than any other thing in the Bible.

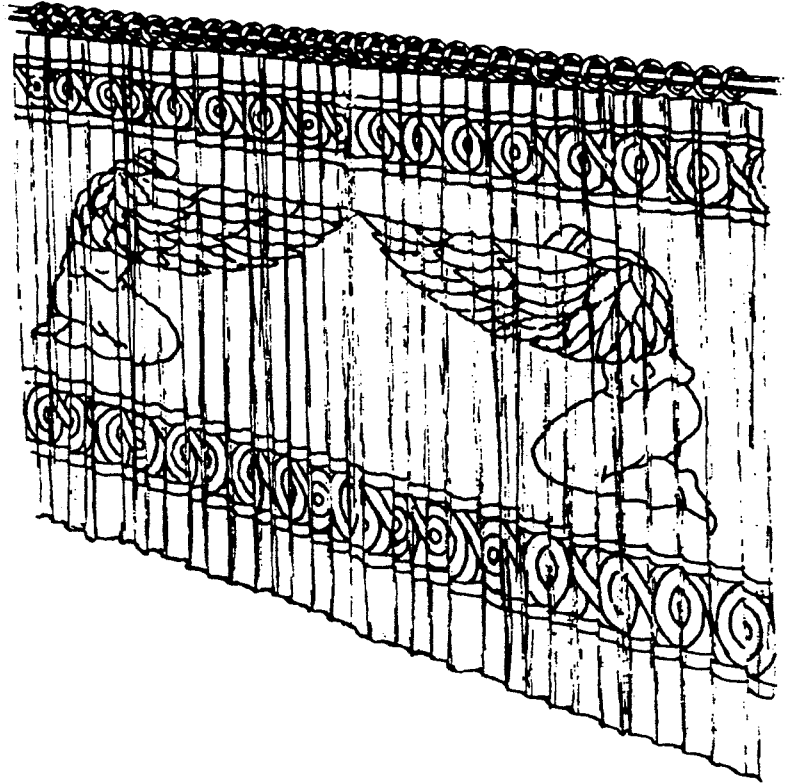
The central focus of the entire Tabernacle was the Holy of Holies where God spoke to the high priest above the Mercy Seat—the area where the winged cherubim face each other.

The layout of the Tabernacle, along with the steps of sacrifice, cleansing, and remembering God's promises, are all designed to bring sinful mankind to a loving and holy God.

The Veil

It separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. It was a barrier between God and man.

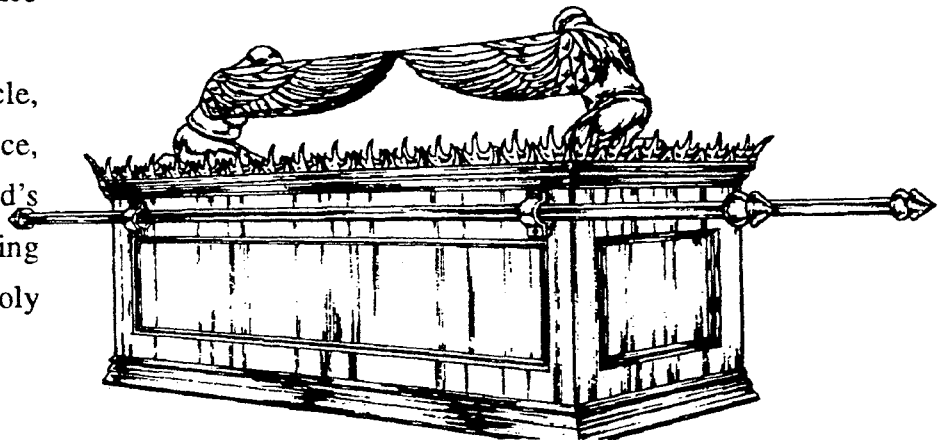
Size: at least 10 cubits wide (1 cubit=18 inches=46 cm)



The Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat.

The most sacred article of furniture in the Tabernacle

Size: 1 1/2 cubits wide x 2 1/2 cubits long x 1 1/2 cubits high
(1 cubit=18 inches=46 cm)



Crossword and Puzzle

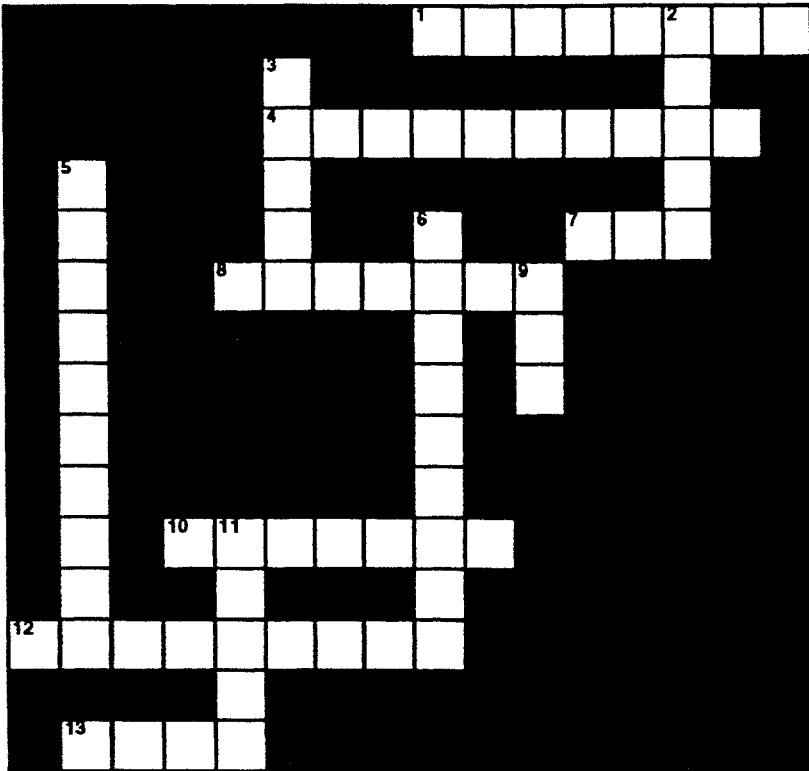
The Most Holy

Across:

1. They sat upon the Mercy Seat.
4. The wood used in building the Ark (2 words)
7. Aaron's staff.
8. The 10 Commandments were written upon them.
10. Anything that prevents passage.
12. Amends.
13. Used to overlay the wood used in the Tabernacle.

Down:

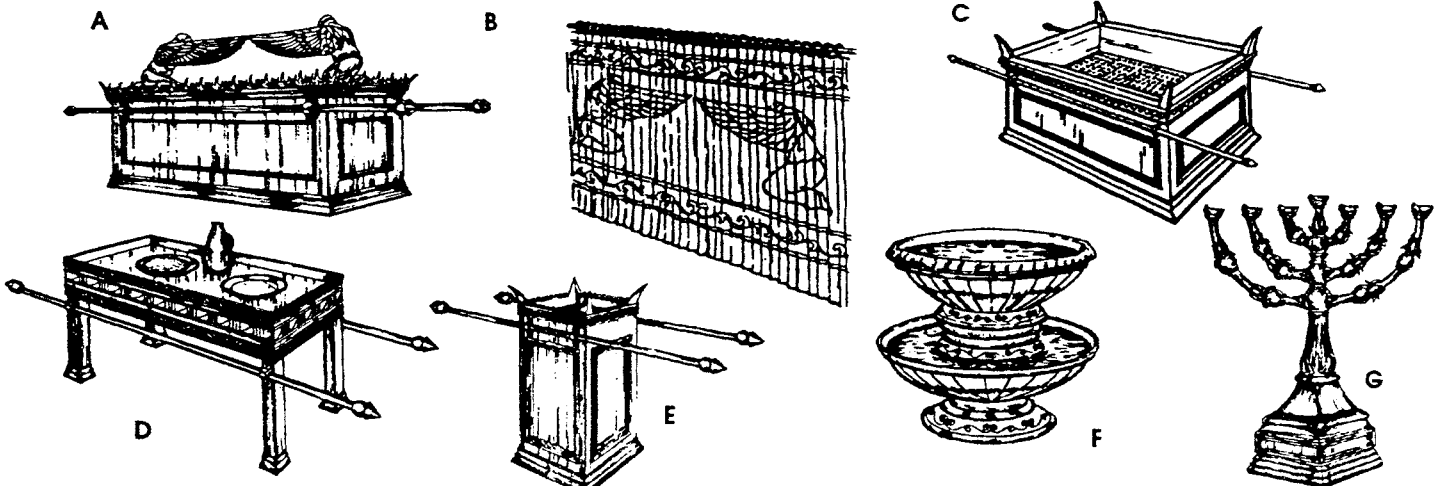
2. There can be no atonement without the shedding of _____.
3. The food miraculously provided to Israel in the wilderness.
5. Only this person could go in to the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement (2 words).
6. The Ark of the Covenant sat upon this; it was made of solid gold (2 words).
9. Blood on the Mercy Seat signified that the price for _____ had been paid.
11. To correct something.



Across: 1. Cherubim; 4. Acacia wood; 7. Rod; 8. Tablets; 10. Barrier; 12. Atonement; 13. Gold. Down: 2. Blood; 3. Manna; 5. High Priest; 6. Mercy Seat; 9. Sin; 11. Amend.

It's a Match!

At the bottom, identify the name of the tabernacle furnishing with the LETTER that illustrates it



- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The Altar of Incense _____ | 4. The Veil _____ | 7. The Brazen Altar _____ |
| 2. The Table of Showbread _____ | 5. The Brass Laver _____ | _____ |
| 3. The Golden Candlestick _____ | 6. The Ark & the Mercy Seat _____ | |

ANSWERS: 1. E; 2. D; 3. G; 4. B; 5. F; 6. A; 7. C