

# Face to Face in the Holy of Holies

From the Series

“The Sanctuary: God’s Plan for Your Lives”

Guiding Passage: **Exodus 25:8–9 (NASB95)** — **8** “Let them *construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them.* **9** “According to *all that I am going to show you*, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it.

Scripture Reading: **Hebrews 9:2–5 (NASB95)** — **2** For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place. **3** Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies, **4** having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron’s rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant; **5** and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

## Christology and Ecclesiology

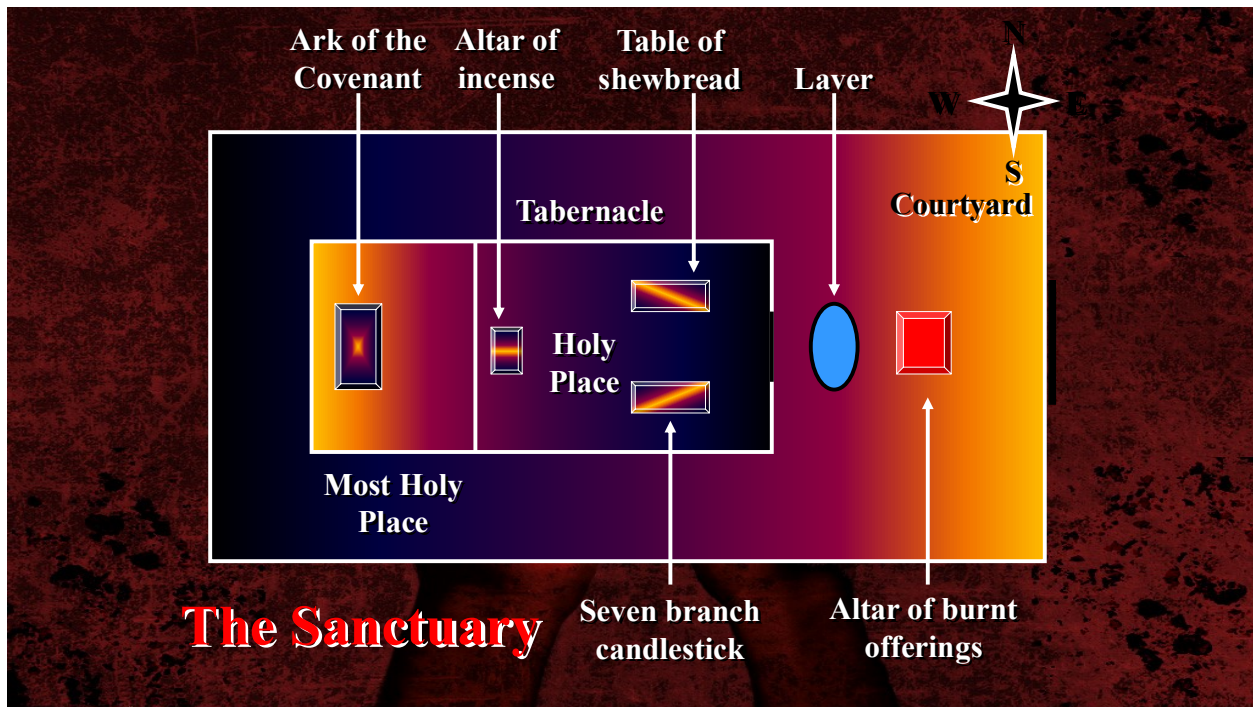
Jesus is the Door – He has given us the keys  
Jesus is the Altar that Sanctifies – We must bear our cross  
Jesus is the Lamb – We are His lambs  
Jesus is our High Priest – We are Priests  
Jesus was the Baptizer – Commissions us to baptize  
Face to Face in the Holy of Holies  
Jesus is our Food and Drink – Rivers of Living Water flow  
Jesus is the Light – We are the light  
Jesus is the Incense – We are His fragrance  
Jesus is the Veil – We have access to the Holy of Holies  
Jesus is the Mercy Seat – We have passed from death to life.

## We Sacrifice in the Courtyard

*As we noted, Jesus according to sanctuary typology was sacrificed in the courtyard. But instead of a bronze altar, it was a cross. It is not to be overlooked that we are also called as disciples of Jesus Christ to daily pick up our crosses. Paul tells us that he died daily. As priests, ministers of reconciliation, we are called to sacrifice ourselves for others. Our sacrifice does not save others as Jesus’ sacrifice, but it points them to His sacrifice.*

## We Worship in the Holy Place

*Everything we need to sustain our spiritual lives and ministry is found in the Holy Place. Our spiritual sustenance is found on the table of shewbread, where we find the bread of Presence and the revitalizing water of life. The light we need to guide us through life is found on the golden candelabra.*



We Had Access

**Genesis 2:7 (NASB95)** — 7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and *breathed into his nostrils the breath of life*; and man became a living being.

Hiding from His Face

**Genesis 3:8 (NASB95)** — 8 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and *the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God* among the trees of the garden.

Lost Access

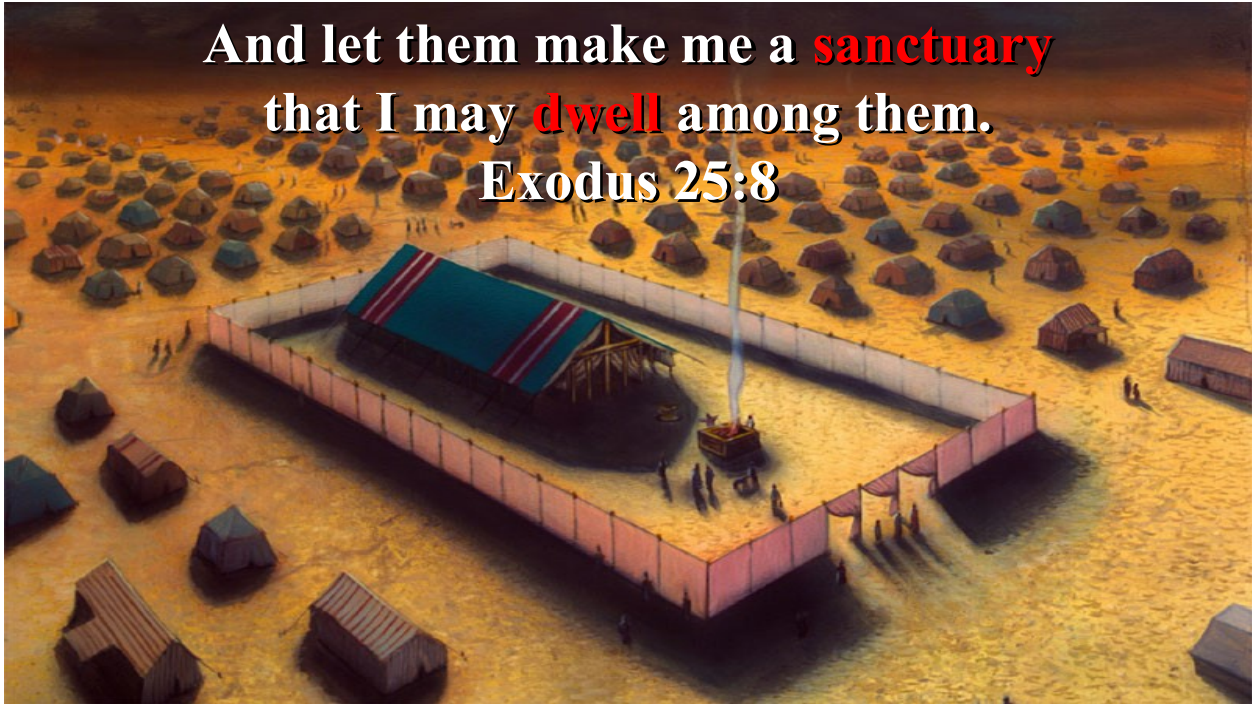
**Genesis 3:22–24 (NASB95)** — 22 Then the Lord God said, “Behold, *the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil*; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and *take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever*”— 23 therefore *the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden . . . 24 So He drove the man out . . .*

Cain’s Curse

**Genesis 4:14, 16 (NASB95)** — 14 “Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and *from Your face I will be hidden*, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” . . . 16 Then *Cain went out from the presence of the Lord*, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

And let them make me a **sanctuary**  
that I may **dwell** among them.

Exodus 25:8



Moses Gains Access

**Exodus 33:7–11 (NASB95)** — 7 Now *Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp*, a good distance from the camp, and *he called it the tent of meeting*. . . 9 *Whenever Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent; and the Lord would speak with Moses*. 10 *When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would arise and worship, each at the entrance of his tent*. 11 *Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend*. When Moses returned to the camp, *his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent*.

Transformed by Access

**Exodus 34:29–30 (NASB95)** — 29 It came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony were in Moses' hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that *Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him*. 30 So when Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses, *behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him*.

The Earthly Tabernacle

**Hebrews 9:2–5 (NASB95)** — 2 For there was a tabernacle prepared, *the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place*. 3 *Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies*, 4 *having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant;*

**5** and *above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat*; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

#### Only the Priests Had Access

**Hebrews 9:6–8, 11 (NASB95)** — **6** Now when these things have been so prepared, *the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship*, **7** but *into the second, only the high priest enters once a year*, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance. **8** The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that *the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed* while the outer tabernacle is still standing . . . **11** *But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle*, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;

#### Christ Has Access

**Hebrews 9:24–25 (NASB95)** — **24** For *Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands*, a mere copy of the true one, but *into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us*; **25** nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as *the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own*.

#### Christ Enters the Throne Room

**Hebrews 10:1 (NASB95)** — **1** For the Law, since it has only *a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things* . . .

**Hebrews 10:11–12 (NASB95)** — **11** Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; **12** but *He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God*,

#### The Veil Is Gone

**Hebrews 10:19–20 (NASB95)** — **19** Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way which *He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh*,

**Matthew 27:50–51 (NASB95)** — **50** And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. **51** And behold, *the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom* . . .

#### We Have Access

**Hebrews 10:19–20 (NASB95)** — **19** Therefore, brethren, since *we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus*, **20** by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

**Hebrews 4:16 (NASB95)** — **16** Therefore *let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace*, so that *we may receive mercy and find grace* to help in time of need.

## The Altar of Incense

**Hebrews 9:3–4 (NASB95)** — **3** Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is *called the Holy of Holies*, **4** having a *golden altar of incense* and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron’s rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant;

**Revelation 8:3–4 (NASB95)** — **3** Another angel came and *stood at the altar*, holding a golden censer; and *much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar* which was before the throne. **4** And *the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints*, went up before God out of the angel’s hand.

## We Are His Fragrance

**2 Corinthians 2:14–15 (NASB95)** — **14** But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and *manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him* in every place. **15** For *we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing*;

## Standing Between the Living and the Dead

**Numbers 16:46–48 (NASB95)** — **46** Moses said to Aaron, “*Take your censer and put in it fire from the altar, and lay incense on it*; then bring it quickly to the congregation and *make atonement for them, for wrath has gone forth from the Lord*, the plague has begun!” **47** Then Aaron took it as Moses had spoken . . . So *he put on the incense and made atonement for the people*. **48** *He took his stand between the dead and the living . . .*

**As a Priest, Are You Sharing with Others That We Have Access?**