

## ~MOST HOLY (487)

· No Ark In Later Temples

· Symbolic Use

- The innermost room of the tabernacle and, later, of the temple, also called the Holy of Holies.
- And you must put the curtain under the hooks and bring the ark of the testimony there within the curtain, and the curtain must make a division for you between the Holy and the **Most Holy**. (**Exodus 26:33**) Footnote
- Further, he built twenty cubits at the rear sides of the house with boards of cedar, from the floor up to the rafters, and built for it inside the innermost room, the **Most Holy**. (**1 Kings 6:16**)
- This compartment in the tabernacle was apparently cubical, each of its three dimensions being ten cubits (4.5 meters)(14.6 feet), the dimensions of the **Most Holy** in the temple built by Solomon were twice those of the tabernacle, so that it was eight times as large in volume.
- And you must make the panel frames for the tabernacle of acacia wood, standing on end. (**Exodus 26:15**)
- Ten cubits is the length of a panel frame, and a cubit and a half is the width of each panel frame. (**Exodus 26:16**)
- And you must make the panel frames for the tabernacle, twenty panel frames for the side toward the Negeb, to the south. (**Exodus 26:18**)
- And for the rear sections of the tabernacle to the west you will make six panel frames. (**Exodus 26:22**)
- And you will make two panel frames as corner posts of the tabernacle on its two rear sections. (**Exodus 26:23**)
- Further, he built twenty cubits at the rear sides of the house with boards of cedar, from the floor up to the rafters, and built for it inside the innermost room, the **Most Holy**. (**1 Kings 6:16**)
- And it was forty cubits that the house proved to be, that is, the

- temple in front of it. (1 Kings 6:17)
- And the innermost room was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in width, and twenty cubits in its height, and he proceeded to overlay it with pure gold, and to overlay the altar with cedarwood. (1 Kings 6:20)
  - And he proceeded to make the house of the **Most Holy**, its length in relation to the width of the house being twenty cubits, and its own width being twenty cubits, and then he covered it with good gold to the amount of six hundred talents. (2 Chronicles 3:8)
  - The High Priest entered the **Most Holy** only on the annual Day of Atonement, at no time could any other person go beyond the curtain that hung between this room and the Holy Place.
  - And Yehowah proceeded to say to Moses; Speak to Aaron your brother, that he should not at all times come into the holy place inside the curtain, in front of the cover which is upon the Ark, that he may not die, because in a cloud I shall appear over the cover. (Leviticus 16:2)
  - In the **Most Holy** the High Priest was surrounded by the colorful embroidered cherubs on the tabernacles inner covering and on the curtain.
  - And the tabernacle you are to make of ten tent cloths, of fine twisted linen and blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material. With cherubs, the work of an embroiderer, you will make them. (Exodus 26:1)
  - And you must make a curtain of blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material and fine twisted linen. He will make it with cherubs, the work of an embroiderer. (Exodus 26:31)
  - And you must put the curtain under the hooks and bring the ark of the testimony there within the curtain, and the curtain must make a division for you between the Holy and the **Most Holy**. (Exodus 26:33)
  - In Solomon's temple the walls and ceiling were of cedarwood covered with gold, and cherubs, palm-tree figures, gourd-shaped ornaments, and blossoms were engraved on the walls.

- **Further, he built twenty cubits at the rear sides of the house with boards of cedar, from the floor up to the rafters, and built for it inside the innermost room, the **Most Holy**. (1 Kings 6:16)**
- **And it was forty cubits that the house proved to be, that is, the temple in front of it. (1 Kings 6:17)**
- **And the cedarwood on the house inside was with carvings of gourd-shaped ornaments and garlands of blossoms. All of it was cedarwood, there was no stone to be seen. (1 Kings 6:18)**
- **And all the walls of the house round about he carved with engraved carvings of cherubs and palm-tree figures and engravings of blossoms, inside and outside. (1 Kings 6:29)**
- **And he went on to cover the house, the rafters, the thresholds and its walls and its doors with gold, and he engraved cherubs upon the walls. (2 Chronicles 3:7)**
- **And he proceeded to make the house of the **Most Holy**, its length in relation to the width of the house being twenty cubits, and its own width being twenty cubits, and then he covered it with good gold to the amount of six hundred talents. (2 Chronicles 3:8)**
- **The Scriptures outline three entries of the High Priest into the **Most Holy** on Atonement Day. First with the golden censer of perfumed incense, fired by coals from off the altar, a second time with the blood of the bull, the sin offering for the priestly tribe, and finally with the blood of the goat, the sin offering for the people.**
- **And Aaron must present the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement in behalf of himself and his house, and he must slaughter the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself. (Leviticus 16:11)**
- **And he must take the fire holder full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before Yehowah, and the hollows of both his hands full of fine perfumed incense, and he must bring them inside the curtain. (Leviticus 16:12)**
- **He must also put the incense upon the fire before Yehowah, and the cloud of the incense must overspread the Ark cover, which is upon the Testimony, that he may not die. (Leviticus 16:13)**

- **And he must take some of the bull's blood and spatter it with his finger in front of the cover on the east side, and he will spatter some of the blood with his finger seven times before the cover. (Leviticus 16:14)**
- **And he must slaughter the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, and he must bring its blood inside the curtain and do with its blood the same as he did with the bull's blood, and he must spatter it toward the cover and before the cover. (Leviticus 16:15)**
- **After these things had been constructed this way, the priests enter the first tent compartment at all times to perform the sacred services. (Hebrews 9:6)**
- **But into the second compartment the High Priest alone enters once a year, not without blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of ignorance of the people. (Hebrews 9:7)**
- **Neither is it in order, that he should offer himself often, as indeed the High Priest enters into the holy place from year to year with blood not his own. (Hebrews 9:25)**
- **He sprinkled the blood of the animals on the ground before the golden ark of the covenant, on the cover of which were golden cherubs and above which cover Yehowah's presence was symbolized by a cloud.**
- **And you must make a cover of pure gold, two and a half cubits its length and a cubit and a half its width. (Exodus 25:17)**
- **And you must make two cherubs of gold. Of hammered work you are to make them on both ends of the cover. (Exodus 25:18)**
- **And make one cherub on this end and one cherub on that end. On the cover you are to make the cherubs at its two ends. (Exodus 25:19)**
- **And the cherubs must be spreading out their two wings upward, screening over the cover with their wings, with their faces one toward the other. Toward the cover the faces of the cherubs should be. (Exodus 25:20)**

- **And you must place the cover above upon the Ark, and in the Ark you will place the testimony that I shall give you. (Exodus 25:21)**
- **And I will present myself to you there and speak with you from above the cover, from between the two cherubs that are upon the ark of the testimony, even all that I shall command you for the sons of Israel. (Exodus 25:22)**
- **And Yehowah proceeded to say to Moses; Speak to Aaron your brother, that he should not at all times come into the holy place inside the curtain, in front of the cover which is upon the Ark, that he may not die, because in a cloud I shall appear over the cover. (Leviticus 16:2)**
- **And he must take some of the bull's blood and spatter it with his finger in front of the cover on the east side, and he will spatter some of the blood with his finger seven times before the cover. (Leviticus 16:14)**
- **And he must slaughter the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, and he must bring its blood inside the curtain and do with its blood the same as he did with the bull's blood, and he must spatter it toward the cover and before the cover. (Leviticus 16:15)**
- **That cloud evidently shone as a bright light, being the sole light for this compartment of the tabernacle, which had no lampstand in it.**
- **While the tabernacle was in the wilderness, above the **Most Holy** resided a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, visible to the entire camp of Israel.**
- **The pillar of cloud would not move away from before the people in the daytime nor the pillar of fire in the nighttime. (Exodus 13:22)**
- **For Yehowah's cloud was over the tabernacle by day, and a fire continued upon it by night in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their stages of journey. (Exodus 40:38)**
- **Now on the day of setting up the tabernacle the cloud covered the tabernacle of the tent of the Testimony, but in the evening what appeared to be fire continued over the tabernacle until morning. (Numbers 9:15)**

- **O Shepherd of Israel, do give ear, you who are conducting Joseph just like a flock. O you who are sitting upon the cherubs, do beam forth. (Psalms 80:1)**

## ·· **No Ark In Later Temples**

- **Just when and under what circumstances the ark of the covenant disappeared is not known. Apparently the Babylonians did not capture it when they pillaged and destroyed the temple in 607 B.C.E, for the Ark is not listed among the temple articles carried off.**
- **And the pillars of copper that were in the house of Yehowah, and the carriages and the copper sea that were in the house of Yehowah, the Chaldeans broke in pieces and went carrying the copper of them to Babylon. (2 Kings 25:13)**
- **And the censers and the shovels and the extinguishers and the cups and all the utensils of copper with which they used to minister they took. (2 Kings 25:14)**
- **And the chief of the bodyguard took the fire holders and the bowls that were of genuine gold and those that were of genuine silver. (2 Kings 25:15)**
- **As for the two pillars, the one sea and the carriages that Solomon had made for the house of Yehowah, there happened to be no way to tell the weight of the copper of all these utensils. (2 Kings 25:16)**
- **Eighteen cubits was the height of each pillar, and the capital upon it was of copper, and the height of the capital was three cubits, and the network and the pomegranates all around upon the capital, the whole of it, was copper, and the second pillar had the same as these upon the network. (2 Kings 25:17)**
- **Also, King Cyrus himself brought forth the utensils of the house of Yehowah, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought out from Jerusalem and then put in the house of his god. (Ezra 1:7)**
- **And Cyrus the king of Persia proceeded to bring them forth under the control of Mithredath the treasurer and to number them out to Sheshbazzar the chieftain of Judah. (Ezra 1:8)**

- Now these are the numbers of them, thirty basket-shaped vessels of gold, a thousand basket-shaped vessels of silver, twenty-nine replacement vessels. ([Ezra 1:9](#))
- Thirty small bowls of gold, four hundred and ten small secondary bowls of silver, a thousand other utensils. ([Ezra 1:10](#))
- All the utensils of gold and of silver were five thousand four hundred. Everything Sheshbazzar brought up, along with the bringing up of the exiled people out of Babylon to Jerusalem. ([Ezra 1:11](#))
- In the second temple, built by Zerubbabel, and in the more elaborate temple of Herod, there was no Ark in the **Most Holy**. At the time of Jesus death God expressed his anger by causing the thick, heavy curtain that separated the **Most Holy** from the Holy Place to be ripped in two from top to bottom.
- The priests who were carrying on their work in the Holy Place were then able to see into the **Most Holy** and to have impressed upon them the fact that this compartment contained no Ark representing God's presence with them.
- This action by God confirmed that the atonement sacrifices offered by the Jewish High Priest were now no longer of value and there was no need for the services of the Levitical priesthood anymore.
- And, look! The curtain of the sanctuary was rent in two, from top to bottom, and the earth quaked, and the rock-masses were split. ([Matthew 27:51](#))
- Look! your house is abandoned to you. ([Matthew 23:38](#))
- For its part, then, the former covenant used to have ordinances of sacred service and its mundane **holy place**. ([Hebrews 9:1](#))
- For there was constructed a first tent compartment in which were the lampstand and also the table and the display of the loaves, and it is called, the **Holy Place**. ([Hebrews 9:2](#))
- But behind the second curtain was the tent compartment called, the **Most Holy**. ([Hebrews 9:3](#))
- This had a golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid all

- around with gold, in which were the golden jar having the manna and the rod of Aaron that budded and the tablets of the covenant. (**Hebrews 9:4**)
- **But up above it were the glorious cherubs overshadowing the propitiatory cover. But now is not the time to speak in detail concerning these things. (**Hebrews 9:5**)**
  - **After these things had been constructed this way, the priests enter the first tent compartment at all times to perform the sacred services. (**Hebrews 9:6**)**
  - **But into the second compartment the High Priest alone enters once a year, not without blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of ignorance of the people. (**Hebrews 9:7**)**
  - **Thus the Holy Spirit makes it plain that the way into the holy place had not yet been made manifest while the first tent was standing. (**Hebrews 9:8**)**
  - **This very tent is an illustration for the appointed time that is now here, and in keeping with it both gifts and sacrifices are offered. However, these are not able to make the man doing sacred service perfect as respects his conscience. (**Hebrews 9:9**)**
  - **But have to do only with foods and drinks and various baptisms. They were legal requirements pertaining to the flesh and were imposed until the appointed time to set things straight. (**Hebrews 9:10**)**
  - **However, when Christ came as a High Priest of the good things that have come to pass, through the greater and more perfect tent not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. (**Hebrews 9:11**)**
  - **He entered, no, not with the blood of goats and of young bulls, but with his own blood, once for all time into the holy place and obtained an everlasting deliverance for us. (**Hebrews 9:12**)**
  - **For if the blood of goats and of bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who have been defiled sanctifies to the extent of cleanness of the flesh. (**Hebrews 9:13**)**
  - **How much more will the blood of the Christ, who through an**



everlasting spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works that we may render sacred service to the living God? (**Hebrews 9:14**)

- So that is why he is a mediator of a New Covenant, in order, that, because a death has occurred for their release by ransom from the transgressions under the former covenant, the ones who have been called might receive the promise of the everlasting inheritance. (**Hebrews 9:15**)

## · Symbolic Use

- The **Most Holy** compartment in the tent of meeting, or the tabernacle, contained the ark of the covenant, the cover of that Ark surmounted by two golden cherubs represented God's throne. Therefore the **Most Holy** was used, figuratively, to represent the dwelling place of Yehowah God, heaven itself.
- The inspired letter to the Hebrews gives us this interpretation of matters when it compares the entry of Israel's High Priest into the **Most Holy** one day a year, on the Day of Atonement, with the entry of the great High Priest Jesus Christ into what the **Most Holy** symbolized, once for all time with his sacrifice for sins.
- But into the second compartment the High Priest alone enters once a year, not without blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of ignorance of the people. (**Hebrews 9:7**)
- Thus the Holy Spirit makes it plain that the way into the holy place had not yet been made manifest while the first tent was standing. (**Hebrews 9:8**)
- This very tent is an illustration for the appointed time that is now here, and in keeping with it both gifts and sacrifices are offered. However, these are not able to make the man doing sacred service perfect as respects his conscience. (**Hebrews 9:9**)
- But have to do only with foods and drinks and various baptisms. They were legal requirements pertaining to the flesh and were imposed until the appointed time to set things straight. (**Hebrews 9:10**)
- However, when Christ came as a High Priest of the good things that have come to pass, through the greater and more perfect

- tent not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. (**Hebrews 9:11**)
- He entered, no, not with the blood of goats and of young bulls, but with his own blood, once for all time into the holy place and obtained an everlasting deliverance for us. (**Hebrews 9:12**)
  - Therefore it was necessary that the typical representations of the things in the heavens should be cleansed by these means, but the heavenly things themselves with sacrifices that are better than such sacrifices. (**Hebrews 9:23**)
  - For Christ entered, not into a holy place made with hands, which is a copy of the reality, but into heaven itself, now to appear before the person of God for us. (**Hebrews 9:24**)
  - So Jesus Christ as the great High Priest according to the manner of Melchizedek fulfilled what Israel's High Priest of the line of Aaron could do only typically when entering into the earthly **Most Holy**.
  - For Christ entered, not into a holy place made with hands, which is a copy of the reality, but into heaven itself, now to appear before the person of God for us. (**Hebrews 9:24**)
  - The spiritual brothers of Christ, joint heirs with him, are strengthened by the words of the same letter to the Hebrews, that we who have fled to the refuge may have strong encouragement to lay hold on the hope set before us.
  - This hope we have as an anchor for the soul, both sure and firm, and it enters in within the curtain, where a forerunner has entered in our behalf, Jesus, who has become a High Priest according to the manner of Melchizedek forever.
  - In order, that, through two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to the refuge may have strong encouragement to lay hold on the hope set before us. (**Hebrews 6:18**)
  - This hope we have as an anchor for the soul, both sure and firm, and it enters in within the curtain. (**Hebrews 6:19**)
  - Where a forerunner has entered in our behalf, Jesus, who has become a High Priest according to the manner of Melchizedek

forever. (**Hebrews 6:20**)

- **Again, Paul encouraged these Christians to feel fully free and confident to approach God and to hold fast to their hope without wavering by these further words.**
- **Therefore, brothers, since we have boldness for the way of entry into the holy place by the blood of Jesus. (**Hebrews 10:19**)**
- **Which he inaugurated for us as a new and living way through the curtain, that is, his flesh. (**Hebrews 10:20**)**
- **And since we have a great priest over the house of God. (**Hebrews 10:21**)**
- **Let us approach with true hearts in the full assurance of faith, having had our hearts sprinkled from a wicked conscience and our bodies bathed with clean water. (**Hebrews 10:22**)**
- **Let us hold fast the public declaration of our hope without wavering, for he is faithful that promised. (**Hebrews 10:23**)**