Symbolism in the Tabernacle

The Tabernacle

- The Furnishings
- The Pattern of Worship
- The Ark of the Covenant
- Symbolism that Points to Jesus
- The Sacrifices in the Tabernacle
- The Garments of the High Priest
The Tabernacle
Exodus 25–40; Hebrews 9–13
What is the Tabernacle?

The Tabernacle was a moveable “tent of meeting” that God commanded Moses to build. God wanted to dwell among his people, the Israelites. He wanted to have fellowship with them and be able to communicate with them.

The Tabernacle and its courtyard were constructed according to a pattern set by God, not by Moses. We study the Tabernacle to understand the steps the Lord laid out for a sinful people to approach a holy God. The Tabernacle was built approximately 1440 BC, and was the place where God dwelt with his people for 400 years. It was used from the time of the Exodus until the time of King Solomon, when the Temple was built. The Tabernacle was the center of the Israelite camp. The 12 tribes of Israel camped around the Tabernacle in a special arrangement.
Entering the Tabernacle

1 Gate of the Court
First, a person would enter the Gate of the Court to offer a sacrifice for sin or thanksgiving.
- a. Hanging curtains (blue, purple, scarlet, white)
- b. Four pillars of brass
- c. Sockets of bronze (brass)
- d. Hooks and fillets (clasps) of silver on the tops of the pillars

Exodus 27:10, 11, 14-16; Exodus 38:14-18, 19; John 10:9
20 cubits wide x 5 cubits high
(30 ft x 7.5 ft., or 9.2 m x 2.3 m)

2 Court Fence
Not shown to scale
After passing through the gate, the person would come into the court. The court fence was made of a long piece of linen held up by posts that surrounded the Tabernacle. Only priests from the tribe (family) of Levi were allowed to touch the Tabernacle, so the fence protected people from coming too close accidentally.
- a. Linen curtains
- b. Pillars, sockets, hooks, and fillets (tops and rods)
- c. Pins of bronze held the linen curtains in place

Exodus 27:9-18; 38:9-20; 40:33
100 cubits long x 50 cubits wide x 5 cubits high
(150 ft. x 75 ft. x 7.5 ft., or 46 m x 23 m x 2.3 m)

3 Brazen Altar
God wanted to dwell among his people. How does a holy God dwell among sinful people? First God required the people to offer a sacrifice for their sins. God told Adam and Eve that the result of their sin was death. God, however, had mercy on humankind and provided them with a way to temporarily cover their sin. Instead of immediately requiring their own blood (death), God allowed the blood of an animal to atone or take away sin, making it possible for the worshippers to enter into God’s presence.

- Only the finest animal—a perfect one—was good enough. God asked them for a perfect, flawless sacrifice because:
  - The animal represented an undeserving recipient of a deserved punishment.
  - God wanted people to trust in his provision, so he asked that the sacrifice be valuable.
  - The perfect animal foreshadowed Jesus, the perfect sacrifice who atones for sin once for all.

Because these sacrifices only temporarily covered the sins of the people, they needed to be offered on a regular basis.

The people would bring the offering and would put their hand on the head of the lamb while it was killed. This symbolically, yet temporarily, put their sins onto the animal, and the animal died in their place.

The brazen altar was made of acacia (shittim) wood and covered with bronze. The four corners had horns. There were bronze shovels, basins, fleshhooks (forks), and fire pans to collect ashes. A bronze grate with a ring in each corner was put under the brazen altar. Carrying poles made of acacia wood covered with bronze were used to carry the altar.

Genesis 2:17; 3:21; 4:3-7; Exodus 27:1-8, 40:6, 10, 29; Leviticus 1; 16:1, 2, 16; 17:11; Isaiah 59:2; Romans 3:23; Hebrews 9:25; 10:10, 26-31
5 cubits long x 5 cubits wide x 3 cubits high
(7.5 ft x 7.5 ft. x 4.5 ft., or 2.3 m x 2.3 m x 1.38 m)

4 Offerings at the Altar
Several offerings were offered at the Altar:
- Burnt offering of bulls, sheep, goats, doves, or pigeons
- Grain offering of cakes or wafers of fine flour
- Peace offering of a goat or lamb
- Sin offering of a bull or lamb
- Trespass offering of a female from the flock: a lamb, goat kid, dove, pigeon, or grain

Leviticus 1–6; Leviticus 7:11; Hebrews 8:3; 9:11-14, 18-22; 10:1-4

5 Bronze Laver
The rest of the steps were performed by the priests on behalf of the people. After making the sacrifice, the priest washed himself at the brass laver. This washing purified the priest and prepared him to enter the Tabernacle. The Lord said that the priest must wash so that he would not die.

The brazen laver was made from brass mirrors donated by the women. It may have had a shiny mirrored surface which would help the priest wash thoroughly and to remind him that the Lord sees past the outward appearance, straight into the heart.

Size unknown
The Pattern of Worship in the Tabernacle

6 Tabernacle  The Tent of Meeting
The priest entered the Tabernacle through the curtains at the entrance. The Tabernacle was divided into two sections—the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies)—which were made of:
- a. Goats’ hair covering with linen covering beneath
- b. Ram skin covering dyed red
- c. Badger, porpoise, or sea cow skin covering
- d. 48 boards
- e. 100 sockets (96 silver sockets for the boards, four under the pillars of the veil)
- f. Bars
- g. Pillars, hooks
- h. Curtains at the entrance
Exodus 25–26
30 cubits long x 10 cubits wide x 10 cubits high
(45 ft. x 15 ft. x 15 ft., or 13.8 m x 4.6 m x 4.6 m)

7 Holy Place
Every day the priests entered into the Holy Place to serve the Lord. Inside were the table of showbread, the seven-branched golden lampstand, and the altar of incense in front of a veil that separated the Holy Place from the smaller area, the Most Holy Place.
Exodus 26:33; Hebrews 9:2, 6
10 cubits wide x 20 cubits long
(15 ft. x 30 ft., or 4.6 m x 9.2 m)

8 Golden Lampstand  Candlestick
The lampstand provided light in this otherwise dark room. The priests trimmed the wicks to keep them burning brightly. The lampstand or candlestick was made from a single piece of gold. It was not pieced together. It had a central shaft with six branches, three on each side, making it a seven-branched lampstand. Each branch had knobs, flowers, and an almond-shaped bowl to hold pure olive oil.
Exodus 25:31-40  Size unknown

9 Table of Showbread  Table of Shewbread
On the table of showbread, the priests placed twelve loaves of bread made from fine flour, representing the twelve tribes of Israel. The loaves were a continual reminder of the everlasting promises between God and the children of Israel, and a memorial of God’s provision of food. The bread was eaten by Aaron and his sons and was replaced every week on the Sabbath. The table of showbread was made of acacia wood. It was overlaid with gold and had a crown or frame of gold around it. Gold carrying poles were put through rings on the corners of the table. There were also gold dishes, pans, pitchers, and bowls.
Exodus 25:23-30; Hebrews 9:2
2 cubits long x 1 cubit wide x 1.5 cubits high
(36 in. x 16 in. x 27 in., or 92 cm x 46 cm x 69 cm)

10 Altar of Incense
The High Priest burned incense on the altar of incense every morning and evening. The four corners of the altar each had a horn; and a crown, or moulding, on the edge. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the horns of the altar were sprinkled with the blood of the sin offering.
The Lord required that special incense be burned constantly on the altar of incense. It was a special sweet incense, a mixture of spices to be used only for the Tabernacle. God specifically required this recipe. None other was to be burned on the altar. The incense was a matter of life and death, as Leviticus 10:1-2 clearly show us, when two of Aaron’s sons offered a “strange fire” before the Lord and were struck dead. The altar of incense was made from acacia wood covered with gold.
In Luke 1:5-17, the priest Zechariah was in the Holy Place when an angel appeared near the Altar of Incense. Zechariah fell down with fear. The angel announced that God had heard Zechariah’s prayers and that he and his wife would have a son named John (the Baptist) who would turn many of the children of Israel to the LORD their God.
Exodus 30:1-37; Hebrews 9:2
1 cubit long x 1 cubit wide x 2 cubits high
(1.5 ft. x 1.5 ft. x 3 ft., or 46 cm x 46 cm x 92 cm)
The Pattern of Worship in the Tabernacle

Veil
The veil was a divider between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. It was a barrier between God and man. Only the High Priest would enter into the Most Holy Place. The veil was made of heavy woven cloth. There was no separation in the middle. The High Priest had to go around the side. A woven veil of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, with designs of cherubim embroidered on it, was hung on four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Four gold hooks were put in four sockets of silver.

Later when the Temple was constructed, it followed a similar design. The thick veil of the Temple tore from top to bottom when Jesus died. This symbolizes the ability of every believer, not just a High Priest, to approach God through the death of Jesus.

Exodus 26:31-33; Hebrews 10:19, 20
10 cubits x 10 cubits
(15 ft. x 15 ft., or 4.5 m x 4.5 m)

Most Holy Place Holy of Holies
The High Priest entered the Most Holy Place only once a year, the Day of Atonement. The focus was the Ark of the Covenant. The glory of God rested upon the lid of the Ark (Mercy Seat). The high priest entered to sprinkle blood on the Mercy Seat to atone for his sins and the people’s sins.

Exodus 26:33, 34; Hebrews 9:3
10 cubits long x 10 cubits wide
(15 ft. x 15 ft., or 4.6 m x 4.6 m)

Ark of the Covenant Ark of the Testimony
The central focus of the entire Tabernacle was the Ark, in the Most Holy Place, where God spoke to the High Priest above the Mercy Seat—the area where the winged cherubim face each other.

Annually, the High Priest would sprinkle blood on the Mercy Seat to atone for the sins of all the people. Then the friendship between God and his people was restored. God reached out and made it possible for people to know him.

The Ark was made of acacia wood. It was overlaid with gold, with a crown or molding around the edge. Carrying poles were placed through the four gold rings. The poles were wood overlaid with gold. The Mercy Seat was placed on top of the Ark.

The contents of the ark included:

a. The stone tablets with the Ten Commandments (“the Testimony”) given by God. The Law given by God reminded the people that God would protect them if they were obedient to him.

b. A jar of manna reminded the people that God constantly provides for them.

c. Aaron’s rod, which budded and bore fruit, proved that Aaron was chosen by God. The rod also reminded the people that God has the power to bring life from death.

John 6:44; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Exodus 25:10-16; Hebrews 9:4
2.5 cubits long x 1.5 cubits wide x 1.5 cubits high
(45 in. x 27 in. x 27 in., or 115 cm x 69 cm x 69 cm)

Mercy Seat
The Mercy Seat was symbolic of God’s divine throne and presence. With the sprinkling of blood on the Mercy Seat, the judgment of God is transformed into grace and mercy.

The Mercy Seat was made of pure gold. Two winged cherubs facing each other with their wings outstretched towards each other were on it. The Mercy Seat was beaten or hammered from one solid piece of gold. It was placed above the Ark.

Exodus 25:17-22; Hebrews 9:5
2.5 cubits long x 1.5 cubits wide
(45 in. x 27 in., or 115 cm x 69 cm)

Cloud and Pillar of Fire
The LORD manifested His presence with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. This cloud or pillar of fire would rest above the Tabernacle, directly above the Mercy Seat. When the cloud or pillar of fire moved, the children of Israel followed it. Wherever it stopped, they camped there until it moved again.

Exodus 25:8, 22, 29:43; 40:34-38
The Ark of the Covenant

- The Ark of the Covenant was made of acacia wood and covered with gold. The Ark was the first item of furniture constructed after God told Moses to build the Tabernacle. It was the place where God met with and talked with Moses (Exodus 25:10-22).
- The Tabernacle was built to house the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant was intended to be the central focus of the Most Holy Place in the Tabernacle, and 400 years later in the Temple (Ex. 40:1-21).
- The Ark of the Covenant rested in the Most Holy Place behind a thick curtain. This heavy veil in the Temple was torn from top to bottom at the moment of Jesus' death (Exodus 26:31-33; Matthew 27:50, 51).
- God set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the Ark and stand before him, to serve him, and to bless his name. Only the High Priest was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place. He entered once a year on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, to sacrifice and to sprinkle blood on the Mercy Seat to atone for the sins of the people (Deut. 10:8; Lev. 16; Ex. 37:6-9).
- The Mercy Seat was placed on top of the Ark of the Covenant. It included the winged cherubim that faced each other. God dwelled between the cherubim and spoke to the priest (2 Samuel 6:2 and Psalm 89:1).
- There are two lists in Scripture about the contents of the Ark of the Covenant.
  - Hebrews 9:4 says that the Ark contained the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments (the “tables of the covenant”), a golden jar (pot) of manna, Aaron’s rod (stick) that budded.
  - Exodus 25:16 and Deuteronomy 10:5 list the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments. Other verses mention that a jar of manna (Exodus 16:32-34) and Aaron’s rod (Numbers 17:10) were laid before the testimony and were to be kept for future generations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Atonement for Sins</th>
<th>OLD COVENANT (OLD TESTAMENT)</th>
<th>NEW COVENANT (NEW TESTAMENT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of Sacrifice</strong></td>
<td>Blood of animals (Exodus 12:5, Leviticus 1–7)</td>
<td>Blood of Jesus (Hebrews 9:12, 13:12, 1 John 1:7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quality of Sacrifice</strong></td>
<td>Not enough (Leviticus 1–7, Hebrews 9:7-9, 10:4)</td>
<td>Enough (Offered just once) (Hebrews 9:12, 26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantity of Sacrifice</strong></td>
<td>Many (Leviticus 1–7, Hebrews 10:1)</td>
<td>One (Hebrews 9:25, 26)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Effectiveness</strong></td>
<td>For a day, for a year (Exodus 29–30, Hebrews 10:1-4)</td>
<td>Forever (Hebrews 7:26, 27, Hebrews 9:12-15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action or Result</strong></td>
<td>Temporary (Exodus 30:10, Hebrews 9:25)</td>
<td>Final (Romans 6:10, Hebrews 9:25-28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shadow (Type)</td>
<td>Old Testament Symbols of Jesus</td>
<td>New Testament</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THE TABERNACLE</strong></td>
<td>The place where God dwelled among his people</td>
<td>Jesus is God in the flesh dwelling among his people</td>
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<td><strong>THE HIGH PRIEST</strong></td>
<td>The high priest offers gifts and sacrifices for sins in the Most Holy Place</td>
<td>Jesus is our high priest in the true tabernacle in heaven that was made by God, not by man</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THE SACRIFICE</strong></td>
<td>Each year, the High Priest offered a blood sacrifice for the sin of the people</td>
<td>Jesus was the perfect and final sacrifice for all time</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THE ARK</strong></td>
<td>Place of God's presence</td>
<td>Jesus is God in human form</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Constructed of acacia wood</td>
<td>Represents Jesus' human nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Covered with gold inside and out</td>
<td>Represents Jesus' divine nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THE CONTENTS OF THE ARK</strong></td>
<td>The Law given by God</td>
<td>Jesus said the he came to “fulfill the Law”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Ten Commandments “the Testimony”</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Aaron's Rod</td>
<td>Represented God's choice for priesthood, and that God brings life from death</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Manna</td>
<td>Given by God as food to the people in the wilderness</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Inscription on Turban “Holy to the Lord” (Exodus 28:36)

Breastplate with 12 Precious Stones (Exodus 28:30; Exodus 28:17-21)

The Urim and Thummim (not visible) were placed in the breastpiece (Exodus 28:30)

Onyx Stones on Shoulders (Exodus 28:9-12; 39:6, 7)

Censer of Burning Coals (Leviticus 16:12, 13; Hebrews 9:4)

Ephod (Exodus 28:4; Ps. 132:9)

Robe (Exodus 28:34)

Bells and Pomegranates

Fine Linen Tunic

Girdle (a Sash)

Turban (Mitre) (Exodus 28:4, 39; 29:6)

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The High Priest

Aaron, The High Priest
Exodus 28; Exodus 39:1-31

Qualifications
The Lord made Aaron, Moses' brother, the first High Priest. He was to be holy, to stay away from anything that would defile him, because he was an intermediary between the Lord and the people. Only Aaron’s descendants were allowed to be priests. Aaron was from the tribe of Levi. The Levites were the only ones allowed to move the Tabernacle and to carry the Ark. Numbers 1:51

Clothing
The priest's clothes were made for glory and beauty. He wore a tunic, undergarments, cap, and turban (or mitre) of fine linen. The priest wore a blue robe with the ephod with onyx stones on each shoulder bearing the names of the sons of Israel. He wore a gold breastpiece set with twelve precious stones carved with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. This was worn over the priest's heart and was a memorial before the Lord. The Urim and Thummim, objects used to determine the Lord's will for his people, were placed in the breastpiece.

Service
The High Priest made sacrifices of bulls and goats for his own sins and for the sins of the people. He placed the blood of the sacrifice on the altar to atone (pay) for sins and to receive the Lord’s forgiveness. The priest came before the Lord to ask for decisions. He ministered to the Lord by taking care of the Tabernacle, keeping the wicks trimmed, placing new bread on the altar, and burning incense daily. The priest would also pronounce people to be “clean,” or acceptable. For example he would pronounce a person clean if he or she had become defiled by having a skin disease or by touching a dead body.

Jesus, The Better High Priest
Hebrews 4:14–5:10; 6:19–10:22

Qualifications
Jesus was a fulfillment of the perfect priesthood. He was not from the line of Aaron, but from a higher line, the order of Melchizedek, which made him a better High Priest. He lives forever, unlike Aaron, who eventually died and passed on the priesthood to his sons. Jesus is both priest and king, whereas Aaron was a priest only. Jesus was holy and never sinned, and does not need to offer sacrifices for himself. He was tempted in every way, but did not give in. All those who follow Jesus may now approach God in the Holy Place. Hebrews 10:19

Service
Jesus did not sacrifice animals, because the blood of animals did not take away sin; it simply made the person ceremonially cleansed. Jesus offered himself, the perfect Lamb of God. He was the perfect sacrifice that was required—one perfect sacrifice—to take away sins for all time. His willing, voluntary death was the last sacrifice ever needed. “He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” Jesus serves as our High Priest in heaven, and appears in God’s presence on our behalf. Hebrews 7:25 NASB
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sacrifices in the Tabernacle</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sin Offering and Guilt Offering</strong> (Leviticus 4-6; Numbers 15:1-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sin offerings and guilt offerings focus on paying for sin. The sin offerings atoned for sins against God. The guilt offerings were for sins against others, and included paying damages with interest. Various animals were offered, depending on the person’s position and income. Priests and leaders, as examples to others, had to offer larger sacrifices for sin, while the poor offered what they could afford. Blood was sprinkled in the Holy Place, smeared on the horns of the Altar of Incense, and poured on the altar. The parts of the animal were burned, often with wine poured on them (drink offering). In some cases, the meat could be eaten by the priests. Since the priests were full-time Tabernacle workers, sacrificed animals were their main source of food.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Burnt Offering</strong> (Leviticus 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>This sacrifice represented complete dedication and surrender to God. The animal, the best of the flock, bore the worshipper’s sins, and died in his/her place. After the blood was sprinkled on the altar, the animal was completely burned. None of it was roasted for eating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grain (Meal) Offering</strong> (Leviticus 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This offering was given to God in thankfulness. The people brought fine flour, unleavened cakes, or roasted grain to the priests. The priests burned a symbolic handful at the altar, and could partake of the rest. There was very little ceremony involved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fellowship (Peace) Offering</strong> (Leviticus 3; 7:11-38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This offering symbolized fellowship and peace with God through shed blood. After some meat was ceremonially waved toward heaven and given to the priests, worshippers and their guests could share in the feast as a meal with God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christ's Offering:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Isaiah 53:10  
Matthew 20:28  
2 Corinthians 5:21 |
| **Paying for Damages:** |
| Matthew 5:23, 24  
Luke 19:1-10 |
| **Leaders as Examples:** |
| 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 5:19, 20 |
| **Providing for Christian Workers:** |
| Philippians 4:18  
1 Corinthians 9:13, 14  
1 Timothy 5:17, 18 |
| **Surrender:** |
| Psalm 51:16, 17  
Matthew 26:39  
Romans 12:1 |
| **Dedication:** |
| Philippians 2:17  
2 Timothy 4:6, 7 |
| **Giving:** |
| Matthew 26:6-10  
2 Corinthians 9:7-11 |
| **Praise:** |
| Psalm 100  
Hebrews 13:15, 16 |
| **Thankfulness:** |
| Psalm 147  
Philippians 4:6 |
| **God's Peace:** |
| Colossians 1:20  
Acts 10:36 |
| **God's Feast:** |
| Luke 14:15-24  
1 Corinthians 11:17-26  
Jude 1:12  
Revelation 3:20 |
The Journey of the Ark of the Covenant from Mt. Sinai

1450 BC
1. Exodus 25 God gives Moses directions to build the Ark of the Covenant
2. Exodus 26:31-33 The Veil is woven
3. Exodus 40:1-21 The Ark is placed in the Tabernacle
4. Leviticus 16; Numbers 4, 10, 14; Deuteronomy 10 The Ark is carried for 40 years in the Wilderness
5. Joshua 3 Priests carry the Ark across the Jordan River
6. Joshua 4 People build a memorial after the Jordan River parts
7. Joshua 6 The Ark is carried around Jericho; Jericho’s walls fall
8. Joshua 8 After conquering the town of Ai, the covenant (law of Moses) was remembered at Mt. Ebal

1400 BC
9. Joshua 18:1 Tabernacle at Shiloh
10. Judges 20:27 Ark taken to Bethel
11. 1 Samuel 1:3; 3:3 The LORD speaks to the child Samuel who is sleeping near the Ark at Shiloh
12. 1 Samuel 4 Philistines take the Ark of God
13. 1 Samuel 6 The Philistines return the Ark to the town of Beth Shemesh
14. 1 Samuel 6:19-21 Men struck dead for looking into the Ark
15. 1 Samuel 7 Ark brought to the house of Abinadab in Kiriath Jearim; stays there 20 years
16. 1 Samuel 14:18 Saul brings the Ark to war camp temporarily
17. 2 Samuel 6 Ark moved on a cart to the house of Obed-Edom for three months; Uzzah struck dead

1000 BC
18. 2 Samuel 6:12-17 David brings the Ark to Jerusalem and places it in a tent that is set up for it
19. 2 Samuel 15 David flees Jerusalem with the Ark but sends Ark back to Jerusalem
20. 1 Kings 8 Solomon has Ark brought into Most Holy Place in the Temple
21. 2 Chronicles 34:14–35:3 Josiah recovers book of the Law and puts the Ark in the Temple
22. 2 Chronicles 36:19 The Babylonians destroy and burn the Temple in Jerusalem
23. Jeremiah 3:16, 17 Jeremiah the prophet wrote that the Ark would not be thought of or missed nor would another be made. It would be replaced by the LORD’s presence

500 BC
Hebrews 9:7, 11, 12—“But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered [by sprinkling on the Ark] for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.”

Revelation 11:19—“Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

Numbers 17:8, 10 Aaron’s rod laid before the Testimony
6. Joshua 4 People build a memorial after the Jordan River parts
9. Joshua 18:1 Tabernacle at Shiloh
11. 1 Samuel 1:3; 3:3 The LORD speaks to the child Samuel who is sleeping near the Ark at Shiloh
14. 1 Samuel 6:19-21 Men struck dead for looking into the Ark
16. 1 Samuel 14:18 Saul brings the Ark to war camp temporarily
19. 2 Samuel 15 David flees Jerusalem with the Ark but sends Ark back to Jerusalem
22. 2 Chronicles 36:19 The Babylonians destroy and burn the Temple in Jerusalem

Before the Babylonians destroyed and burned the Temple in Jerusalem in 586 BC, they plundered it and removed the sacred vessels (2 Chron. 36:18). The Ark was either taken by the Babylonians and destroyed, or hidden by the Levites. Its existence, or location, remains uncertain today.
The Tabernacle

Why is The Tabernacle Important Today?
1. Today, believers are God's dwelling place. (1 Corinthians 6:19)
2. God's holy presence is among us. (Exodus 40:34-38)
3. As believers, we are part of a priesthood. (1 Peter 2:5, 9)
4. The Tabernacle shows a pattern of worship prescribed by God. (Hebrews 10:19-25)

Isaiahites Communed with God through the Tabernacle

1. Brazen altar for sacrifices
2. Laver of Brass for washing
3. Lampstand
4. Table of Showbread
5. Altar of Incense
6-7. Through the Veil into the Most Holy Place
8. Priest and the garments

Christians Commune with God through Jesus

1. Christ's sacrifice
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