

# ZECHARIAH

*The Apocalypse of the Old Testament*

**Chapter 4, Part 1**

# Zechariah 4

Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. <sup>2</sup> And he said to me, “What do you see?”

So I said, “I am looking, and there *is* a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the *stand* seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. <sup>3</sup> Two olive trees *are* by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left.” <sup>4</sup> So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, “What *are* these, my lord?”

# Zechariah 4

<sup>5</sup> Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, “Do you not know what these are?” And I said, “No, my lord.”

<sup>6</sup> So he answered and said to me: “This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>7</sup> ‘Who *are* you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel *you shall become* a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of “Grace, grace to it!”’”

# Zechariah 4

<sup>8</sup> Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

<sup>9</sup> “The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish *it*. Then you will know That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.

<sup>10</sup> For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth.”

# Zechariah 4

<sup>11</sup> Then I answered and said to him, “What *are* these two olive trees—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?” <sup>12</sup> And I further answered and said to him, “What *are these* two olive branches that *drip* into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden *oil* drains?”

<sup>13</sup> Then he answered me and said, “Do you not know what these *are*?”

And I said, “No, my lord.”

<sup>14</sup> So he said, “These *are* the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.”

# Zechariah 4

On February 10, 1949 the newly formed and recognized state of Israel **revealed its official seal.**

It is made of the seven-branched menorah with an olive branch on either side. The menorah and the olive branches are symbols of the rebirth of Israel, through God's Spirit, and not by the power of man.



# Zechariah 4



The inspiration for this official seal was taken from this chapter 4 in Zechariah.

Near the Israeli Knesset (parliament) is a giant menorah with branches measuring 16 feet high and 13 feet wide. This menorah has figures that highlight Israel's history, and it is engraved with the scripture ***"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says YHVH of Hosts."*** (a verse in this chapter)

# Zechariah 4

What Israel celebrated in 1949 with the unveiling of their official seal was the **same graphic representation of Israel's restoration at the time of Zechariah.**

The prophecies of Zechariah are still being fulfilled today. God is not done yet!



# Zechariah 4

- In the previous chapter (3) the high priest Joshua, clothed in dirty garments which God replaced with clean garments, represents a people brought back to their covenant land and position with God.
- But they can't be used in their sin. They have to be cleansed and they cannot do it themselves. Their religion won't do it, even if those rites and rituals were commanded by God.
- The cleansing must come from **outside themselves.** God Himself provides the redemption “... *with the precious blood of Yeshua, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*” (1 Peter 1:19).

# Zechariah 4

- *“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as **wool**”* (Isaiah 1:18). The cleansing is actually salvation—  
***“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit”***  
(Titus 3:5).
- But even though Joshua, representing all Israel (*and all believers*) is cleansed, he is not yet ready for service.  
**That’s where this vision comes in.**

# Zechariah 4



- In this vision Zechariah sees a lampstand, a menorah similar to the one found in the Temple (*yet different*). The menorah is symbolic for God as the Light of the world.
- It was God's purpose that Israel would be His lightbearer and witness to the surrounding nations lost in the darkness of paganism. He set the boundaries of the nations accordingly (*Deuteronomy 32:8; Matthew 5:14-16; Luke 12:35; Ephesians 5:8-9; Philippians 2:15; Revelation 1:20*).

# Zechariah 4

- **Jerusalem was set smack dab in the center:** *“Thus says Adonai YHVH: ‘This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her.’”* (Ezekiel 5:5) All languages write “toward” Jerusalem: western, left to right; eastern, right to left.
- Yeshua is the Light of the World, and it is our Messiah’s purpose that His followers now be His lightbearers as well.
- However, service to a holy God, and bringing His light to the nations, **cannot be fulfilled in our own power**. Just as we cannot save ourselves, neither can we serve our Maker without His empowerment.

# Zechariah 4

- And that empowerment will be in the form of His Holy Spirit's filling and direction – **the oil in the lamp.**
- The menorah represents the Light of the World, but it had to run on some sort fuel to burn to make light. That fuel was **olive oil.**



# Zechariah 4

- To completely understand this chapter and God's message not only for Israel but for all followers, we **must also understand two major Biblical concepts:** *The symbolism behind...*



- the **Tabernacle/Temple** and its furnishings
- **oil** in scripture
- We will take a look at both of these *before investigating the words of Zechariah 4 further.*

# Zechariah 4

- Just as it does now, the Tabernacle/Temple and its furnishings all pointed to the **fulfillment of the cleansing of Israel** (*and the entire world*) through a promised coming God-given sacrifice.
- Since the menorah, **the only light in the darkness of the main structure of the Tabernacle**, is key to this vision, it would be good for us to quickly review the details.
- Zechariah did not seem to know what the unusual menorah he saw represented. By the angel's response, he should have. The Tabernacle/Temple has always had a message to point God's people to His plan. *It is just as important for us to know these things today.*

# Zechariah 4

**Once we understand these concepts, interpreting this chapter, and much of scripture, becomes much easier, and more meaningful for not only application in Zechariah's day, but for each of us today.**

**Our God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.**

# Zechariah 4

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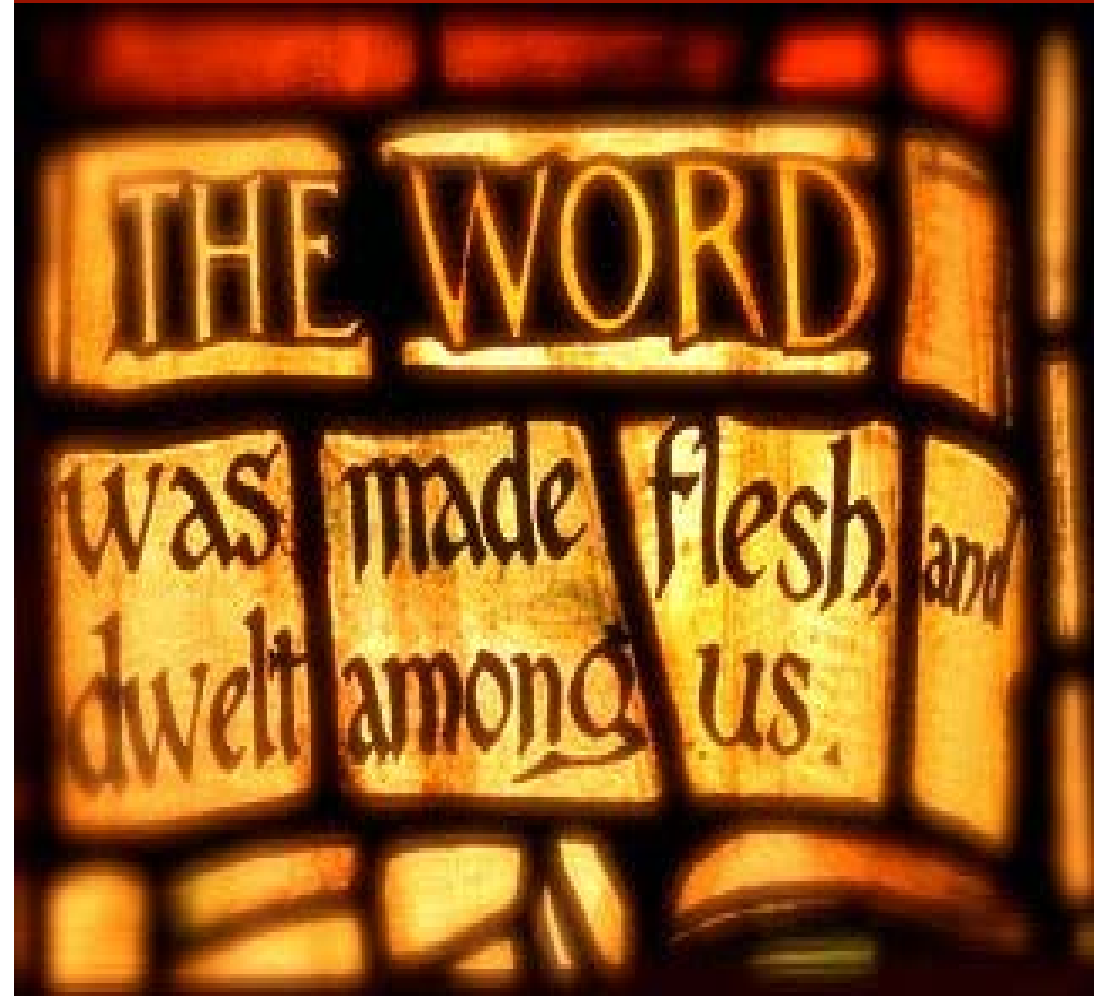
**Quick Crash  
Course in  
the  
Symbolic  
meanings of  
the  
Tabernacle/  
Temple**

# Zechariah 4

- Moses not only carried the tablets of stone with the ten commandments, **he also had “blueprints” for the Tabernacle.** A unique structure, a portable building and seven pieces of “furniture” - *all rich in symbolism.*
- Purpose shows us God’s heart – **He always**, from the very beginning and continuing even beyond our rebellion, **desired to be with His people.** The Tabernacle would serve this purpose until Solomon built the “permanent” structure called the Temple. Both were places designed to tell a story in advance, and for God to dwell among His people. But both of these are just temporary for the ultimate dwelling together.

# Zechariah 4

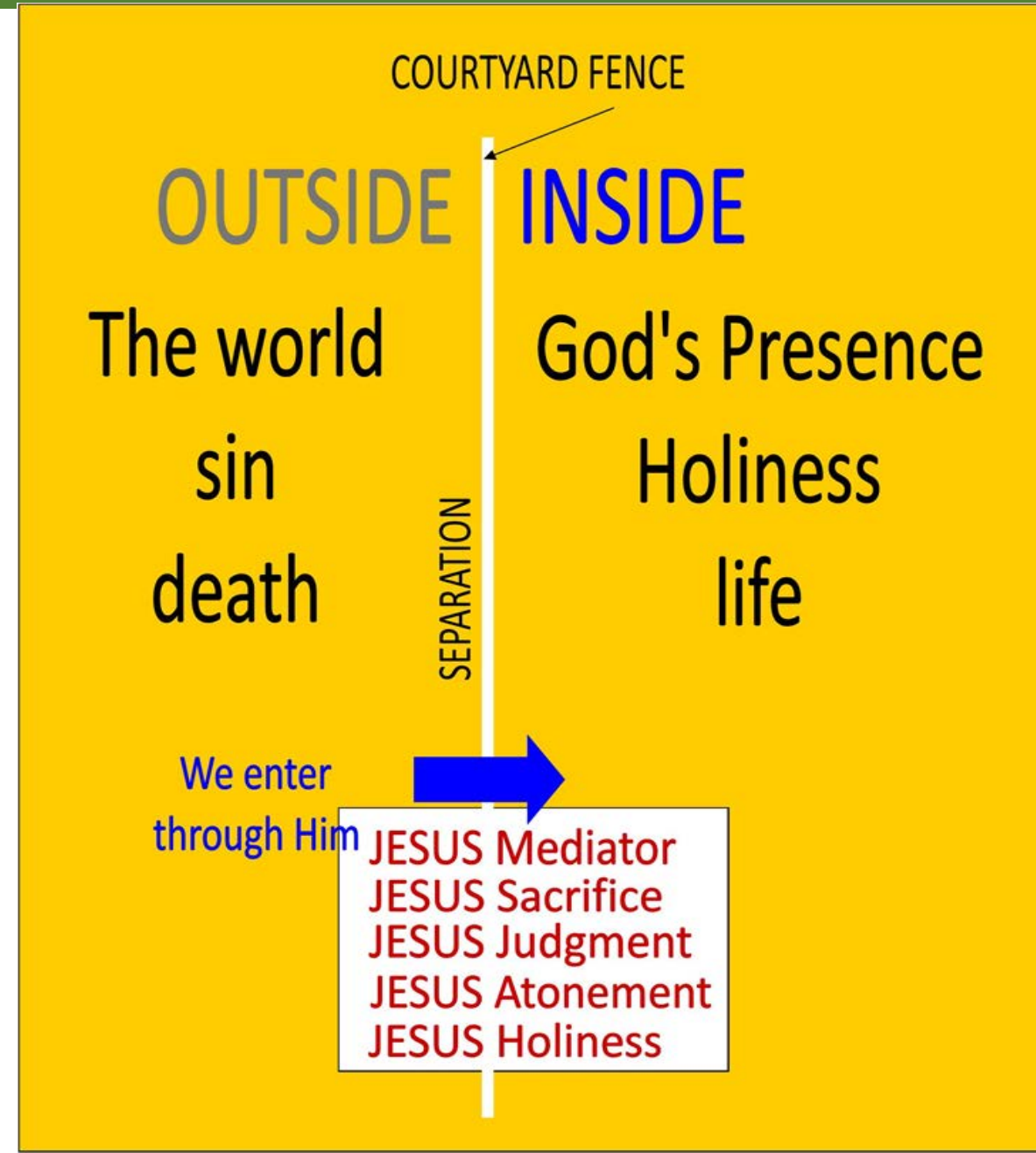
- Every detail of the Tanakh (OT), including the Tabernacle and Temple, points in some way to our Master Yeshua (Revelation 19:10; Matthew 5:17,18, etc.).
- *“The Word was made flesh and **tabernacled** among us...”* (John 1:14) In fact, Jesus aligned Himself with every element of the tabernacle design.



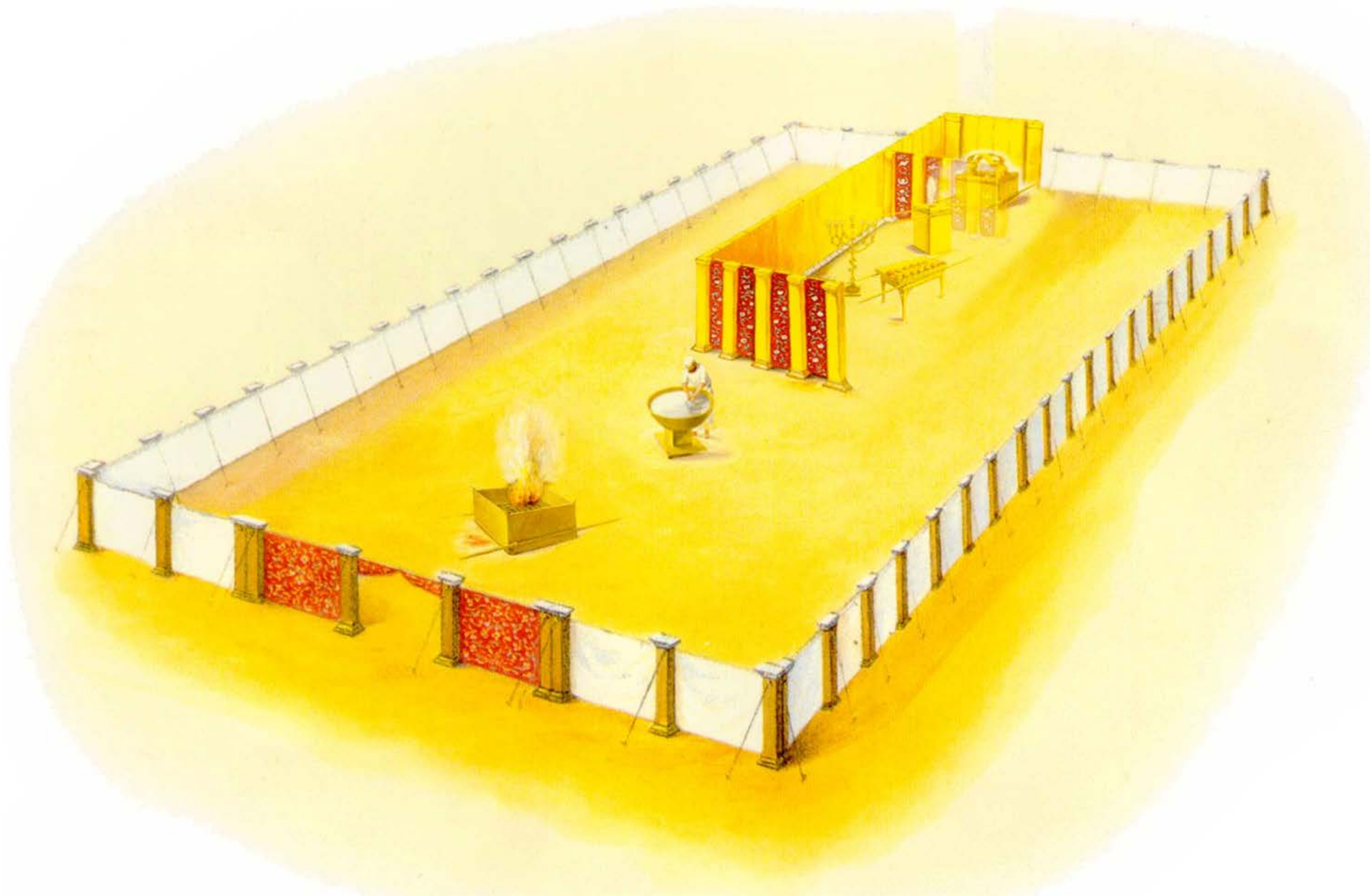
# Zechariah 4

## The Courtyard

- White linen fence, supported by poles in bronze sockets, with a single entrance on the east side. About 75 feet by 150 feet (*various sizes for cubit*). The white fence represents the righteousness of the Sacrificial Lamb Yeshua, **and a barrier. He is the perimeter, the barrier, or the fence that must be entered to approach the Father.**



# Zechariah 4



# Zechariah 4

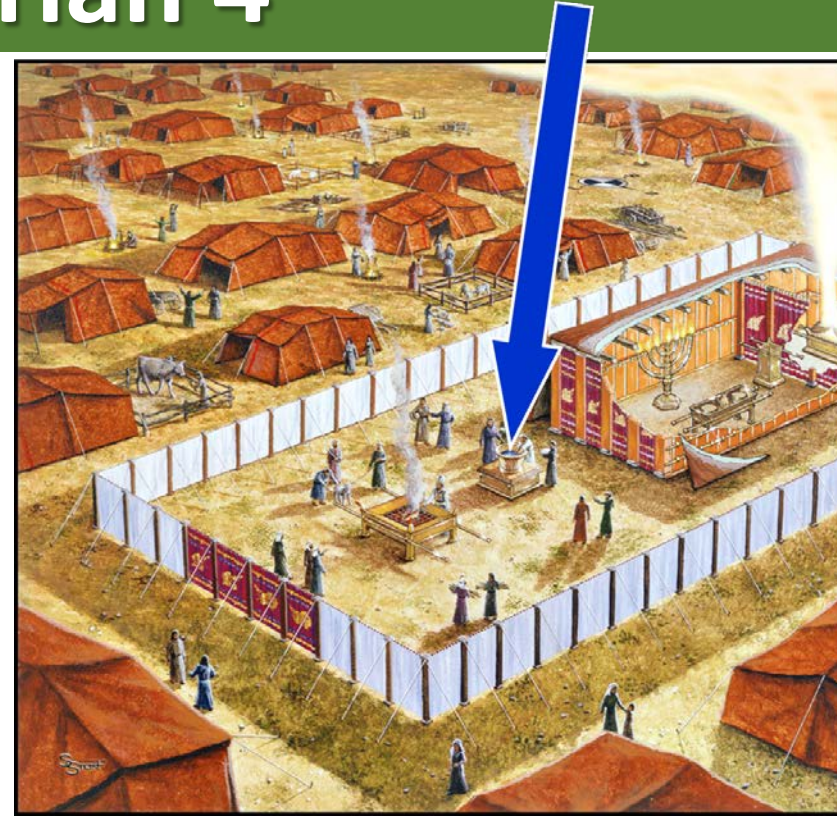
- Posts set in **bronze sockets**. Everything outside was bronze, **symbolizing judgment**. Bronze was the metal that could endure fire; it was the Levitical symbol for judgment.

We must accept His sacrifice before entering into His Presence and fellowship with Him.

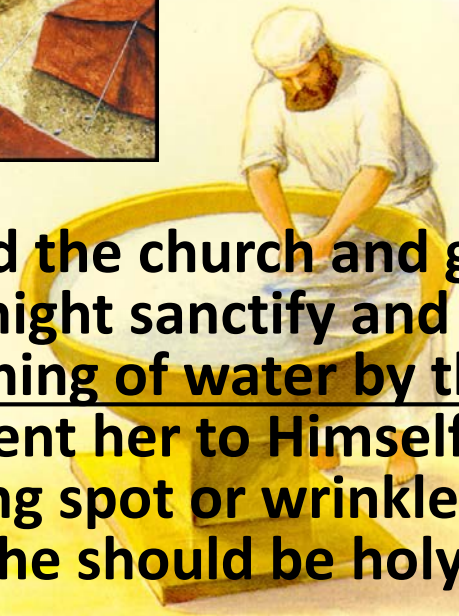
- Inside the “fence” was a **bronze altar** for sacrifices in accordance with Levitical ordinances. This altar represents the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus.

# Zechariah 4

- Next was a **large laver for washing** before entering the Holy Place itself. (*This is translated “molten sea” in the King James Version. “Molten” is a way of referring to cast bronze.*)
- The Laver symbolizes the power of the Word of God to cleanse us also (Eph. 5:25-27; Revelation 4:6; John 4:10, 14; 7:37, 38).



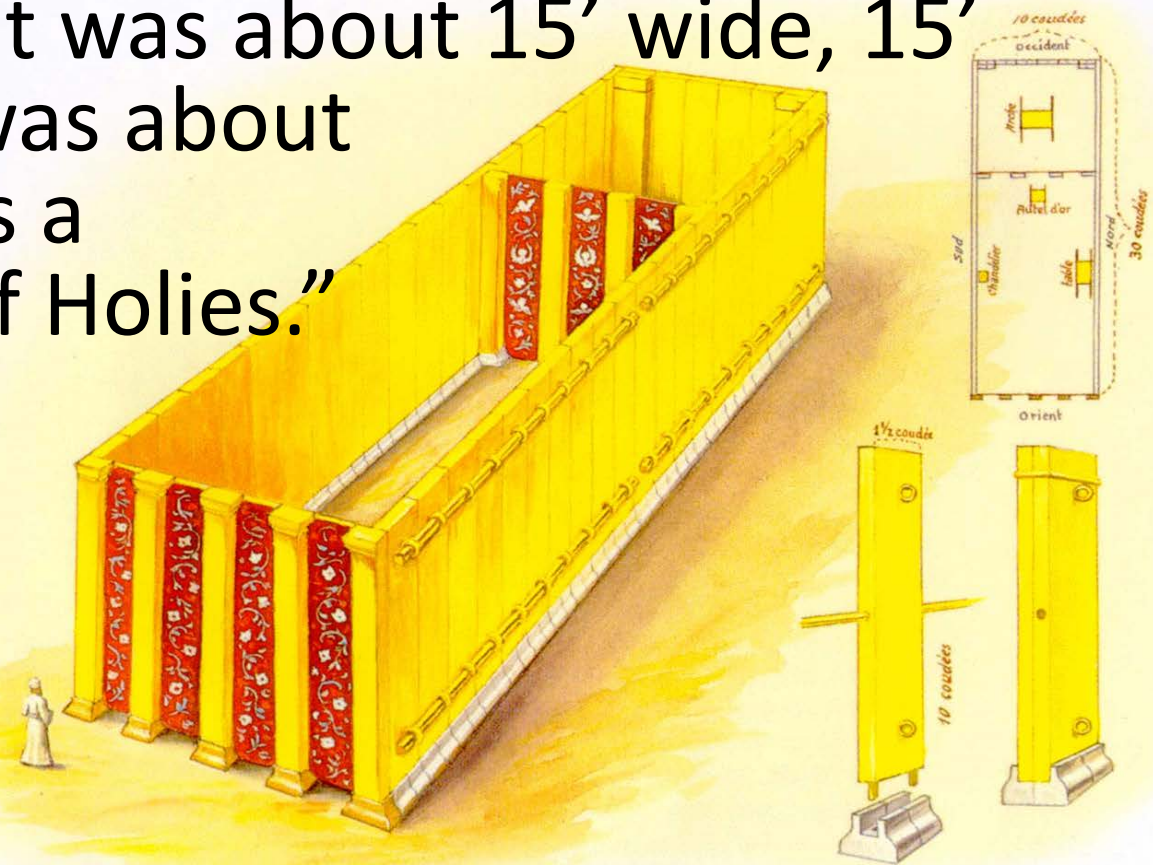
“...just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”



# Zechariah 4

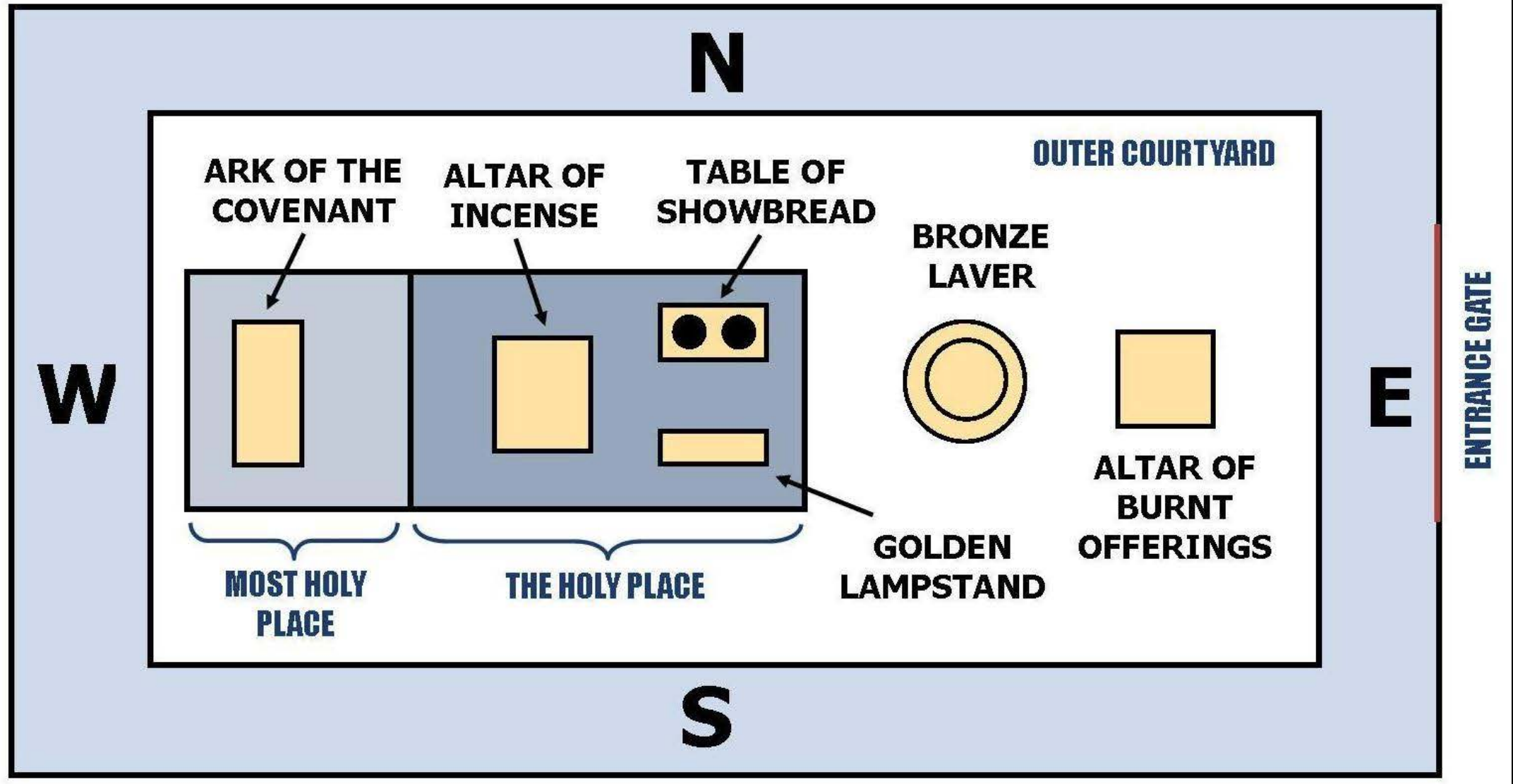
## The Structure

- Tabernacle put together from vertical wooden planks covered with gold, and fitted with rings.
- Horizontal poles made it rigid. It was about 15' wide, 15' high, and 45' long. First room was about 30' long, the final 15' room was a perfect cube called the "Holy of Holies."
- **Wood speaks of Messiah's humanity; gold, of His deity.** The planks rested on *silver* sockets: silver is the Levitical symbol for blood/redemption.



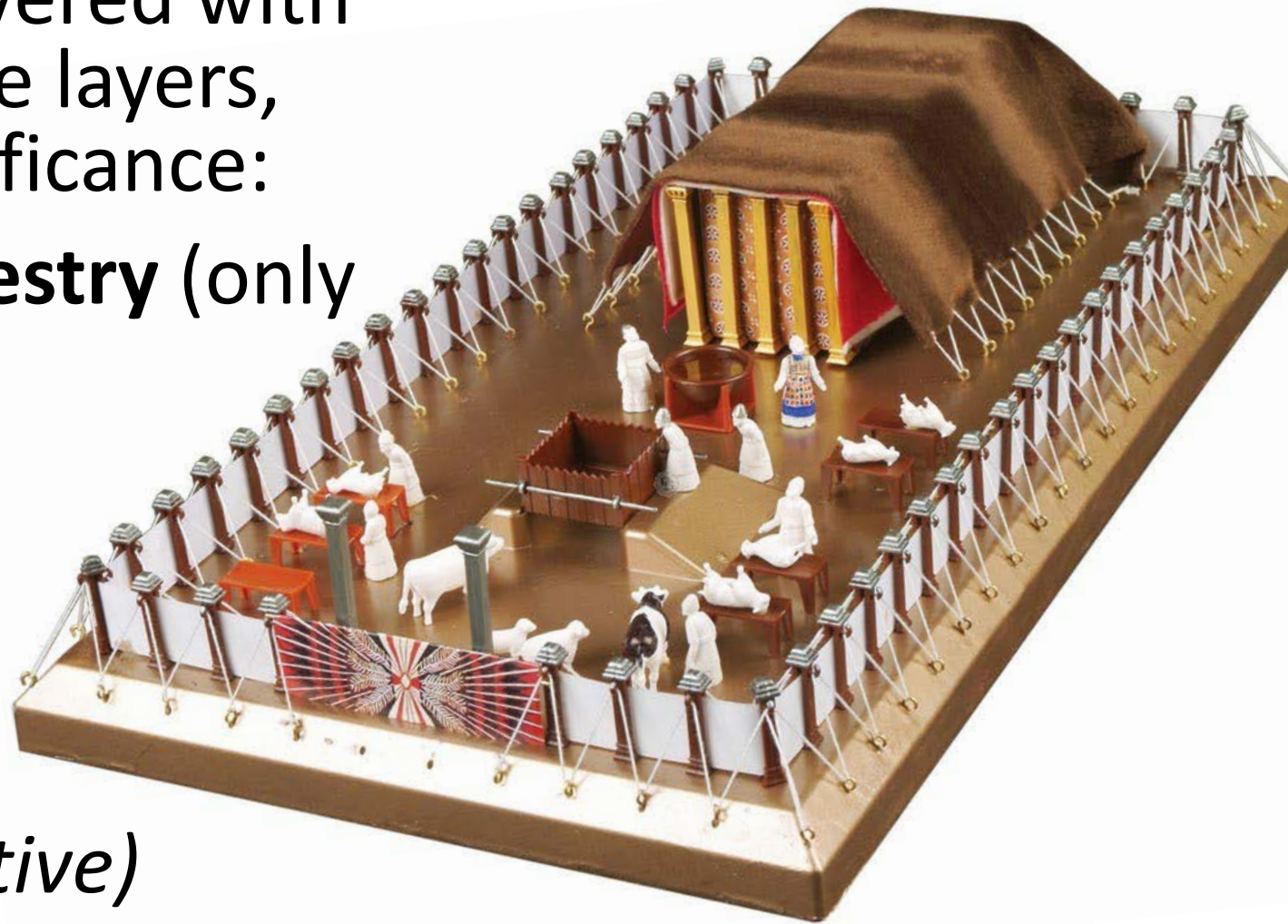
# Zechariah 4

## THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES (EXODUS 35-40)



# Zechariah 4

- Entire structure was covered with four specified successive layers, each with spiritual significance:
  - 1) **embroidered linen tapestry** (only one seen inside)
  - 2) **goat's hair** (sin bearer)
  - 3) **ram's skins dyed red** (blood of the sacrifice)
  - 4) **porpoise skins** (*"Badger skins" alternative*) (plain, unattractive)



# Zechariah 4

- With final covering the structure itself was not attractive:  
***“It has no beauty that we should desire it.”*** (Isaiah 53:2.)  
*Until we go inside.*

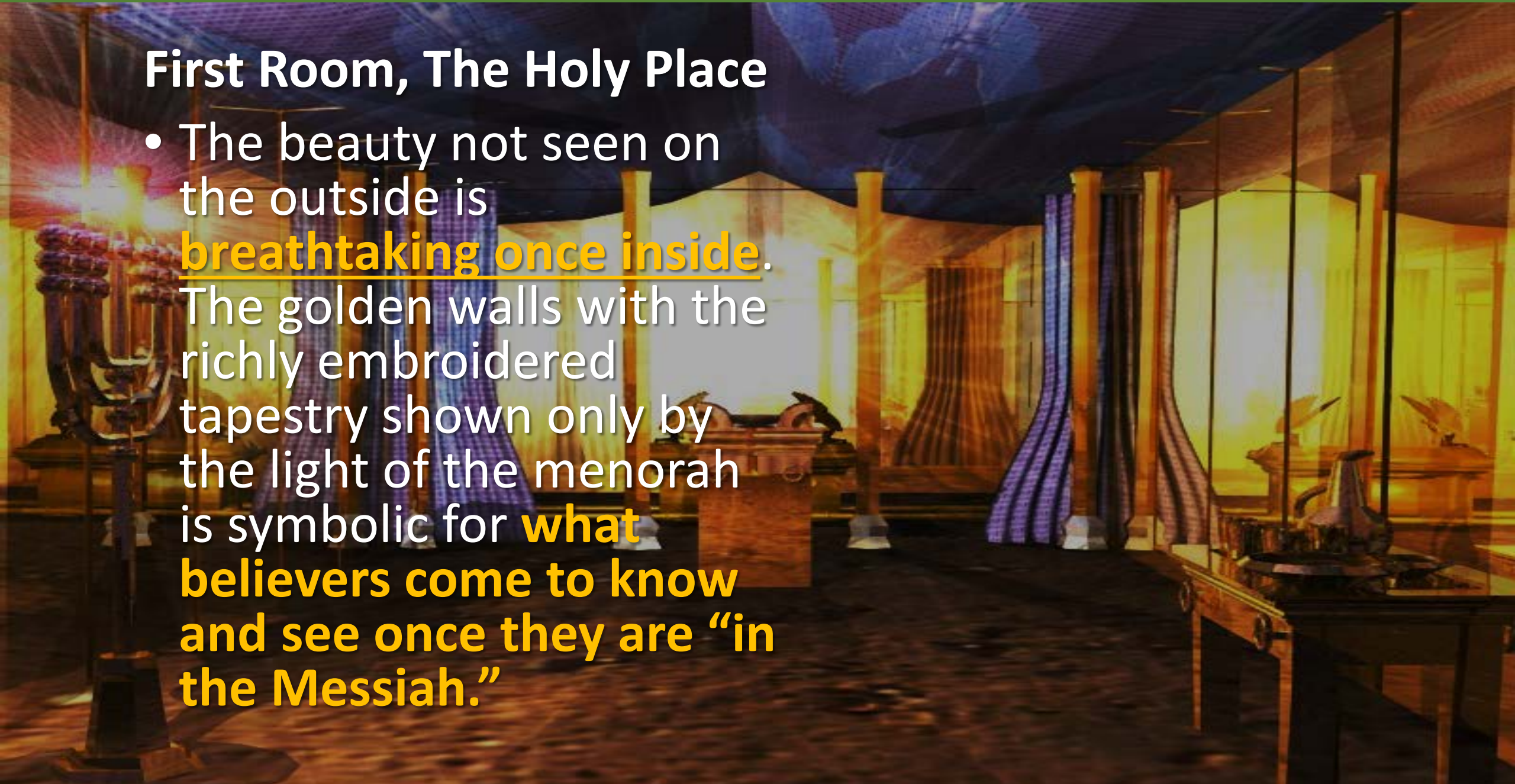
The tabernacle  
had only one  
entrance. ***“I am***  
***the door. Anyone***  
***who enters but by***  
***me is a thief and***  
***a robber...”*** (John  
10:1-8) and ***“no***  
***one comes to the***  
***Father except***  
***through Me.”***  
(John 14:6)



# Zechariah 4

## First Room, The Holy Place

- The beauty not seen on the outside is brehtaking once inside. The golden walls with the richly embroidered tapestry shown only by the light of the menorah is symbolic for **what believers come to know and see once they are “in the Messiah.”**



# Zechariah 4



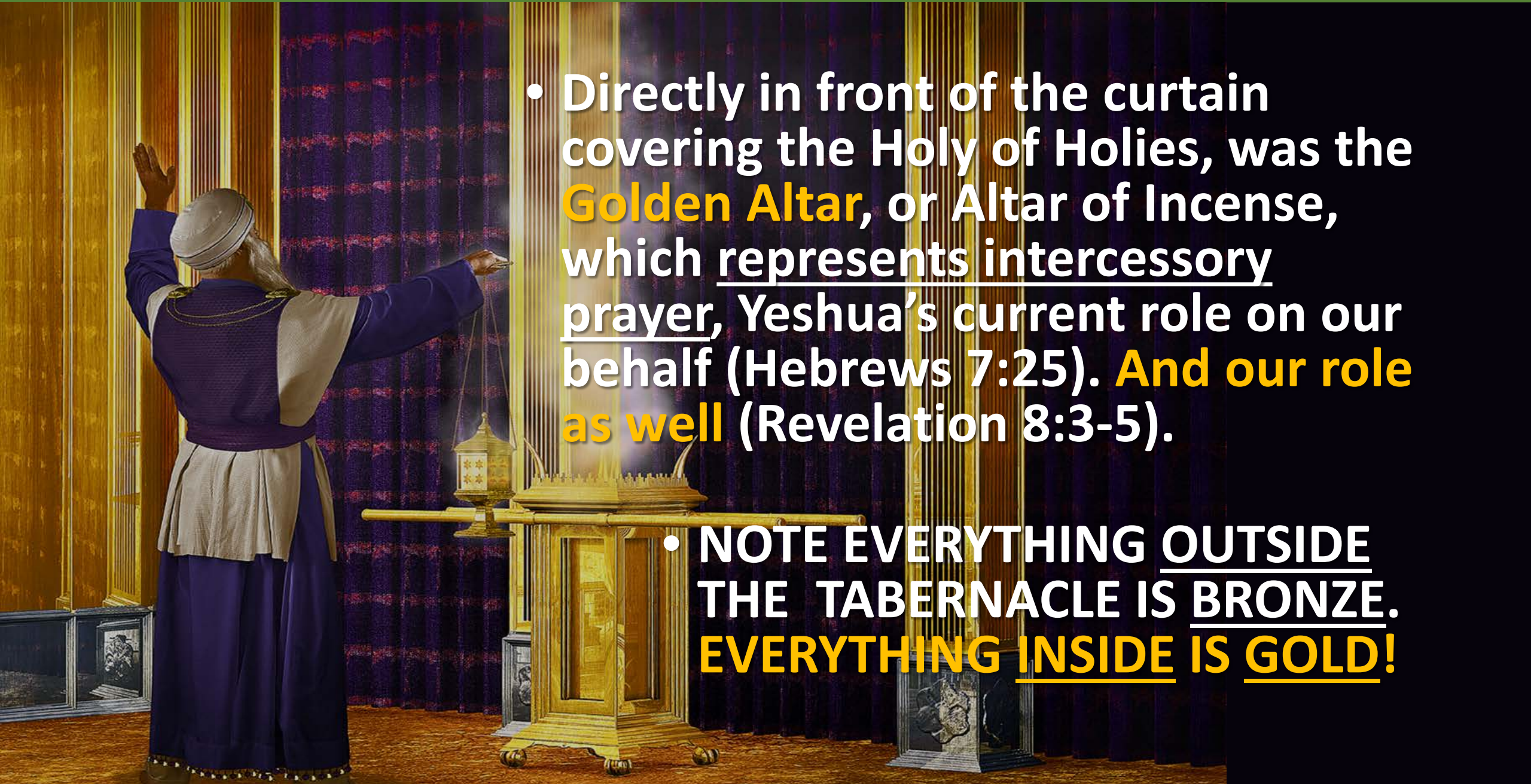
- To the left of the entrance is the Menorah. **“I am the Light of the World,”** (Matthew 5:14; John 8:12; 9:5). The lampstand was made from a *single piece* of gold: **“I am the vine, you are the branches.”**  $1 + 6 = 7$  (Lampstands of Rev 1, 4). **“You are the Light of the World.”** (Matthew 5:14)

# Zechariah 4

- On the right across from the Lampstand, was the Table of Showbread (with 12 loaves of unleavened bread, one for each of the 12 tribes, refreshed every Shabbat); **“I am the Bread of Life.”** (John 6:35).



# Zechariah 4

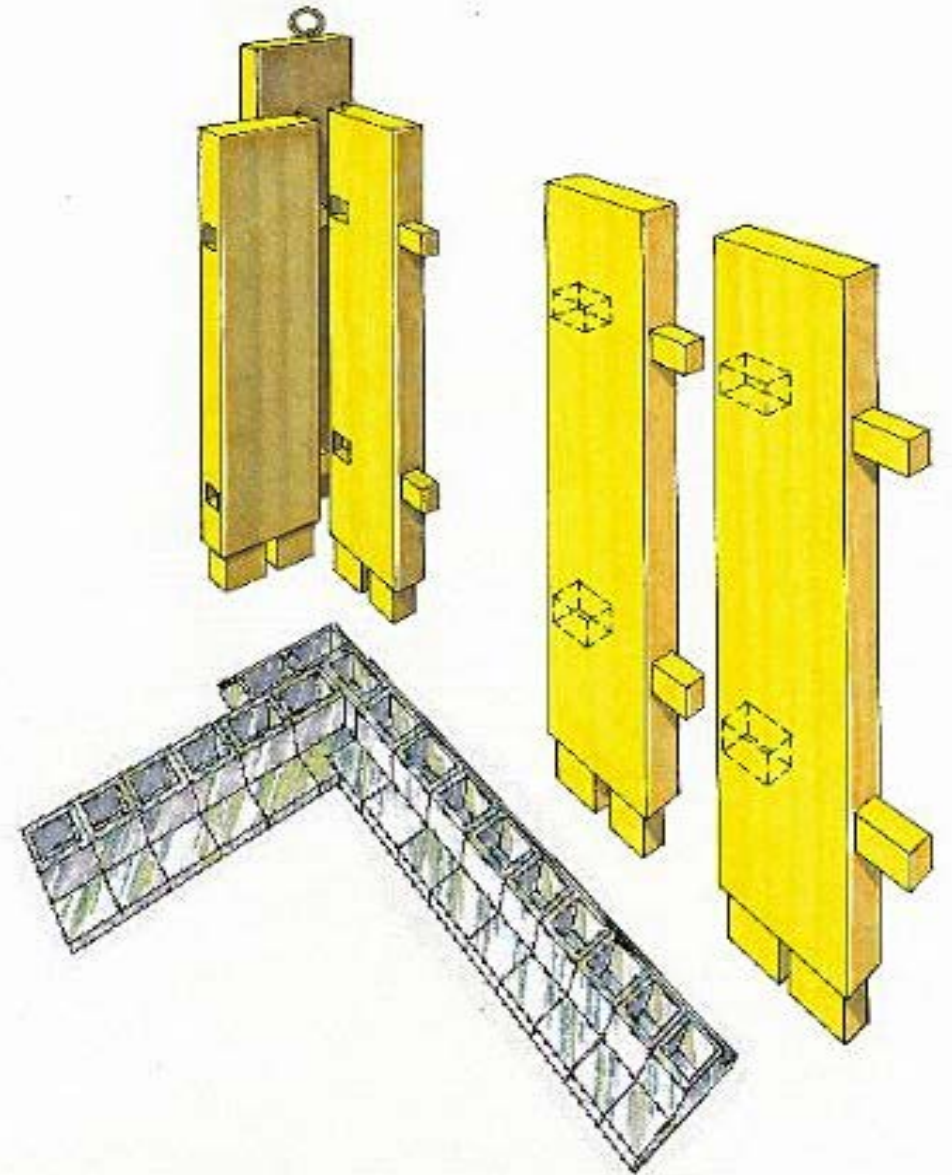


- Directly in front of the curtain covering the Holy of Holies, was the **Golden Altar**, or Altar of Incense, which represents intercessory prayer, Yeshua's current role on our behalf (Hebrews 7:25). **And our role as well** (Revelation 8:3-5).

- **NOTE EVERYTHING OUTSIDE THE TABERNACLE IS BRONZE. EVERYTHING INSIDE IS GOLD!**

# Zechariah 4

- Except for the **silver sockets** inside and outside.
- Silver is the symbol of redemption.
- **EVERYTHING** stands on the redemptive work of Yeshua!



# Zechariah 4

## The Holy of Holies

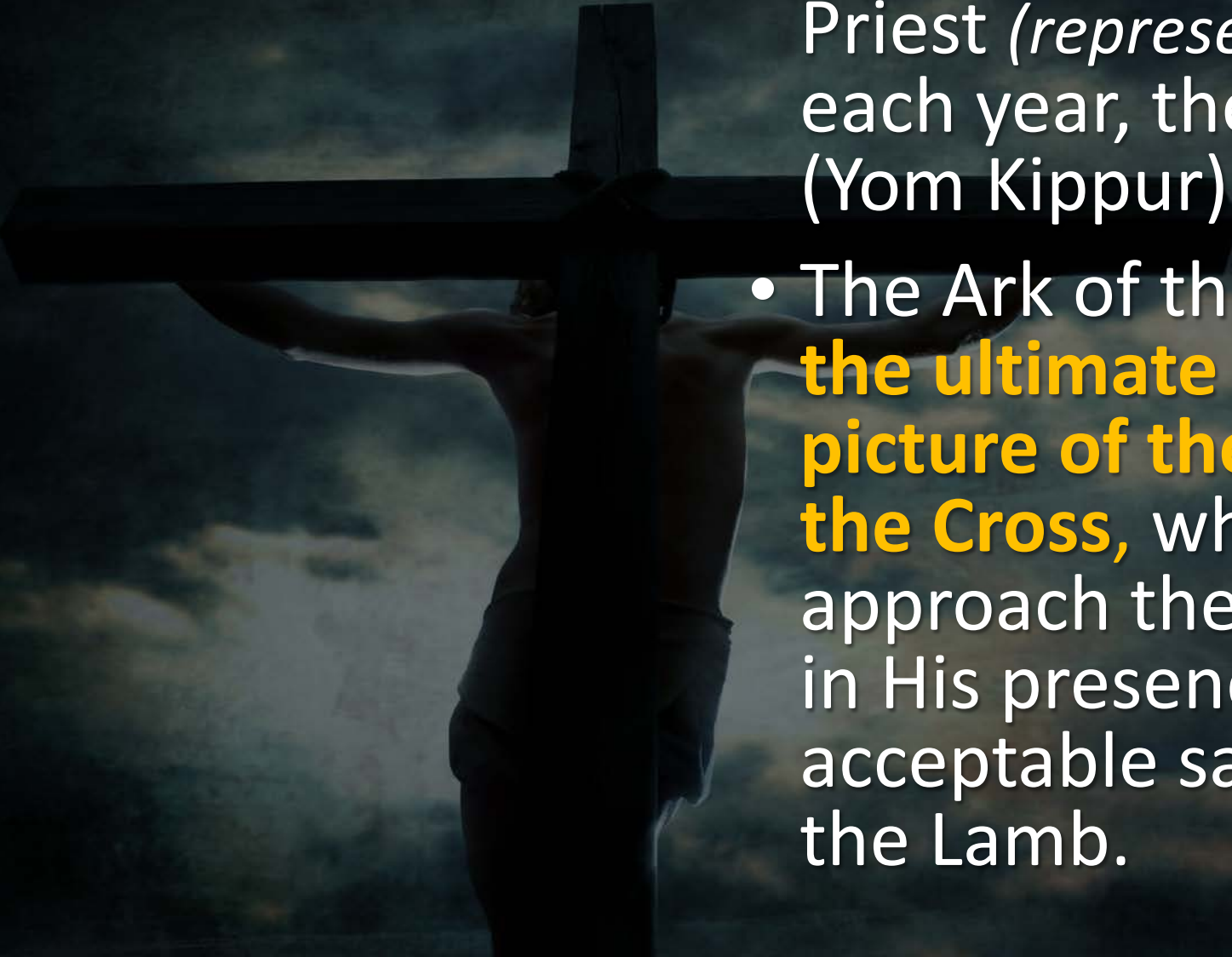
- The inner sanctum (Holy of Holies, a perfect cube) contained the Ark of the Covenant and its unusual lid called the Atonement Cover (or “Mercy Seat” *Kappoeth*).
- *(NOTE: These are considered two separate pieces of furniture, not one (yielding 7 pieces total))*
- The Ark was made of acacia wood, covered inside and outside with gold. It contained the two tables of stone with the Ten Commandments, a pot of manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded (Numbers 17:1-9). *(Reminders of God’s faithfulness)*

# Zechariah 4

- Atonement Cover was gold, with two cherubim (Ezekiel 1,10; Isaiah 6; Revelation 4.) The shekinah glory (*cloud by day and pillar of fire by night*) entered the Tabernacle and dwelt above the ark, between the cherubim (Exodus 25:22; Numbers 7:89; Leviticus 1:1).



# Zechariah 4

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- This is where God met the High Priest (*representing all Israel*) one day each year, the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
  - The Ark of the Covenant **signified the ultimate sacrifice—a prophetic picture of the completed work of the Cross**, which enables us to approach the throne of God and be in His presence (forever!), with the acceptable sacrifice of the blood of the Lamb.

# Zechariah 4



- The menorah like the one in the Temple is the **main feature** of this vision in Zechariah.
- But what about what fueled the menorah? That would be the **olive oil...provided by the two olive trees flanking this dream menorah**. What do we need to know about oil??

# Zechariah 4

- Olive oil is used both symbolically, and in practical daily life, throughout scripture. It was an important part of not only Hebrew culture, but Gentiles as well due to its ability to provide light. It was used every day in most homes. When processed and stored correctly it will last for years.
- Because it was central in the culture then, it was also used as a **symbol of richness, joy and good health**: *“Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, Streaming to the goodness of the LORD—For wheat and new wine and oil, For the young of the flock and the herd; Their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, And they shall sorrow no more at all. (Jeremiah 31:12)*

# Zechariah 4

- During times of judgment it was said that the “**olive oil fails.**” *“The field is wasted, The land mourns; For the grain is ruined, The new wine is dried up, The oil fails.”* (Joel 1:10)
- Because olive trees were plentiful in Israel, olive oil was also used for cooking. Other cultures may have had to resort to animal fats.



# Zechariah 4

In scripture olive oil is mentioned many times:

**In each of these uses, a spiritual parallel can be applied:**

- Used for lighting lamps, including the menorah in the tabernacle/temple. People would bring offerings of oil for the priests to use in the lampstand (part of grain offerings, etc.).

**Elohim (plural Father, Son, Holy Spirit) as The Light of the World**

- Used for anointing kings, prophets, etc.

**Elohim as the One who separates out and sets apart, and empowers kings, prophets, priests and others**

- Used for anointing and sanctifying priests and the tabernacle and all its furnishings.

**Elohim is seen in the Tabernacle and all its furnishings**

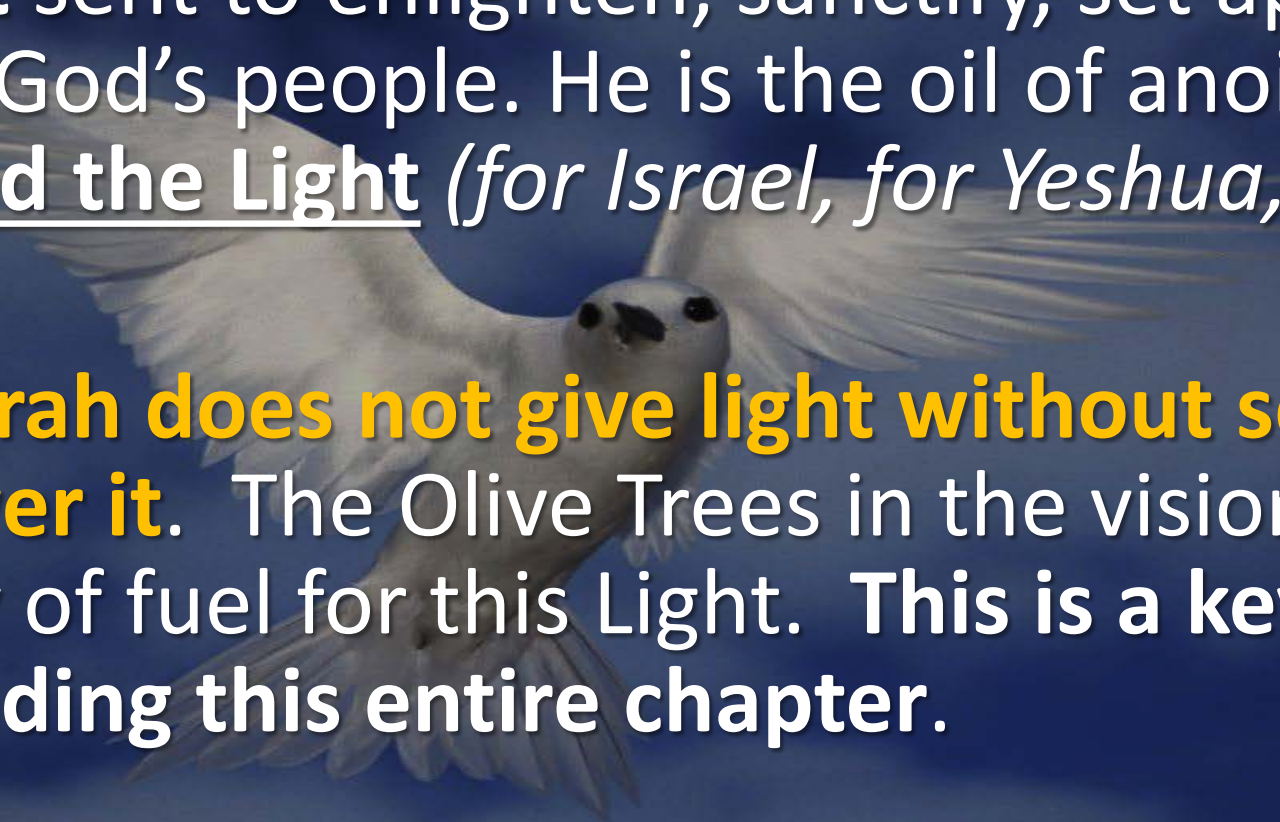
# Zechariah 4

- It is interesting to note that oil has seven attributes, and each one can be applied to the Holy Spirit:
  1. Oil is a source of light; illuminates
  2. Oil soothes, comforts, heals
  3. Oil lubricates; eliminates friction; smooths over
  4. Oil warms
  5. Oil invigorates
  6. Oil adorns; emblem of adornment
  7. Oil polishes *(He's not finished with any of us yet!)*



# Zechariah 4

- In scripture **oil symbolizes the person and work of the Holy Spirit** sent to enlighten, sanctify, set apart, and empower God's people. He is the oil of anointing, and **fuel behind the Light** (*for Israel, for Yeshua, and for us today!*).
- The **menorah does not give light without something to empower it**. The Olive Trees in the vision provide the supply of fuel for this Light. **This is a key factor in understanding this entire chapter.**



## Zechariah 4

Okay, now we've brushed up on the symbolism of the Tabernacle/Temple, including the menorah, and the importance of olive oil. Both the menorah and the olive trees/oil are features in this vision. NOW we can go to verse one!