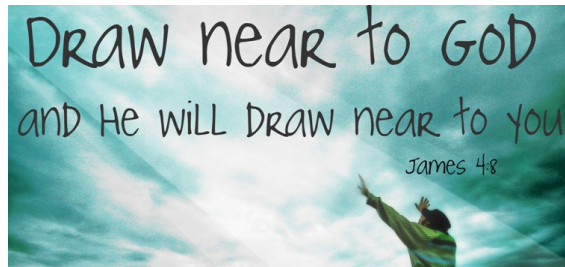


## How Do I Get Close To God?



**READ:** Exodus 25:1-9

The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give. These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; <sup>4</sup>blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; <sup>5</sup>ram skins dyed red and another type of durable leather; acacia wood; <sup>6</sup>olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; <sup>7</sup>and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.

<sup>8</sup>“Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.

<sup>9</sup>Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

### The Picture of the Tabernacle

The Tabernacle is a picture of heaven (Heb. 8:5, NIV) “a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven” Compare with the throne room in the book of Revelation (Rev. 4-8)

- Spirit of God – seven lamps (Rev. 4:5, Is. 11:1)
- 24 elders – church and Israel? – parallels the 12 loaves of showbread before God’s presence? (Rev. 4:4)
- Altar of Incense – prayer of the saints (8:3-4)
- Creatures (Cherubim?) singing God’s praises (Revelation 4:8)
- The Lamb who was slain (Revelation 5:6)

The Tabernacle is a picture of our future with God in heaven  
Revelation 21:1-3 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place (tabernacle) of God is with man. He will dwell (tabernacle) **with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.***

## REFLECT & RESPOND

### 1. How does the Tabernacle picture what is in heaven?

### 2. How does Jesus fulfill the promise of the Tabernacle?

Hebrews 9:11-12 <sup>11</sup> *But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup> he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.*

### 3. What difference does understanding God’s purpose for the Tabernacle make in your life?

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt (tabernacled) among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

What are some of the specific instructions that are given as a follower of Jesus?

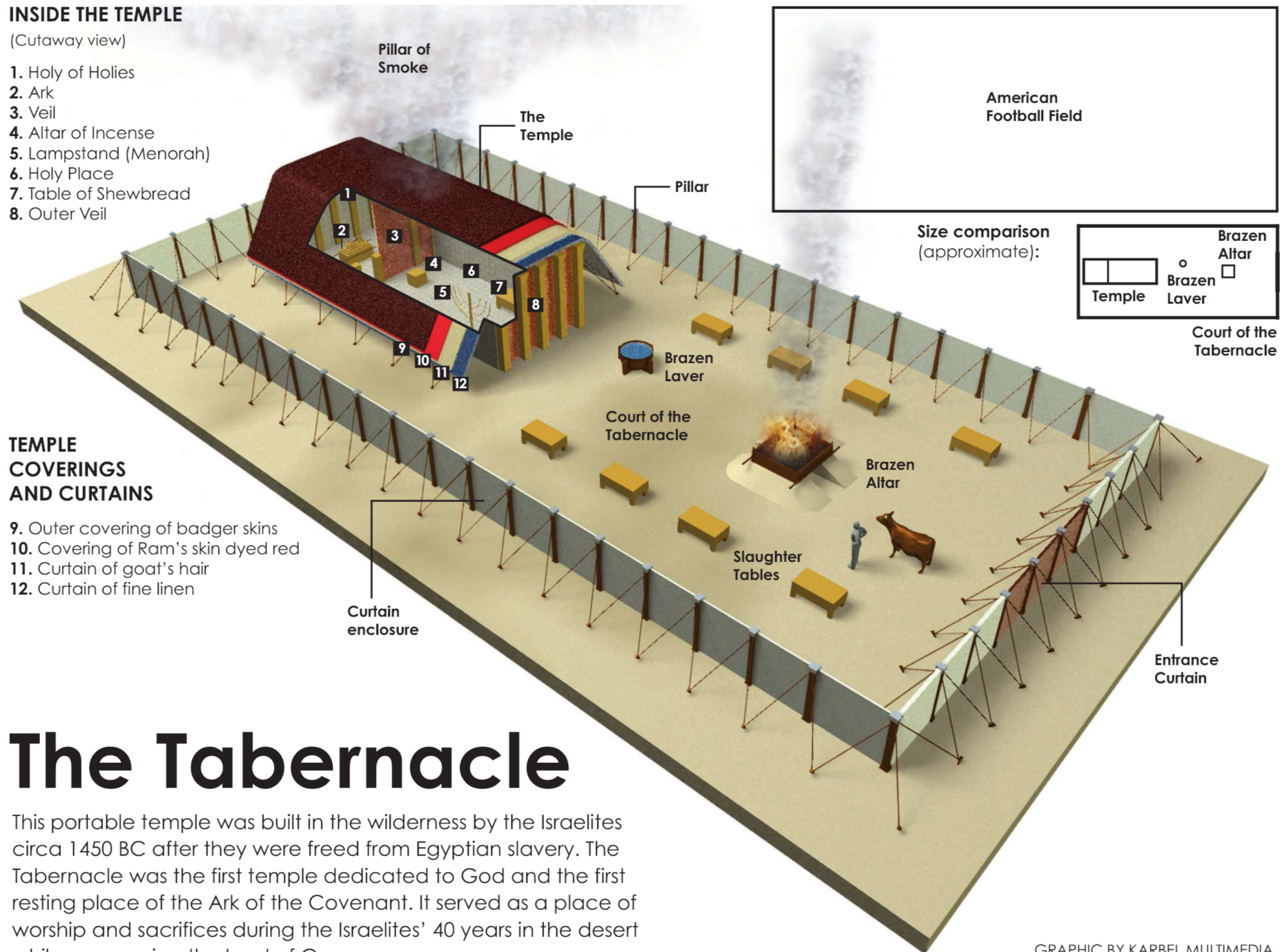
“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup>For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. (Luke 9:23-24)

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup>I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. John 13:14-15

## INSIDE THE TEMPLE

(Cutaway view)

1. Holy of Holies
2. Ark
3. Veil
4. Altar of Incense
5. Lampstand (Menorah)
6. Holy Place
7. Table of Shewbread
8. Outer Veil



## TEMPLE COVERINGS AND CURTAINS

9. Outer covering of badger skins
10. Covering of Ram's skin dyed red
11. Curtain of goat's hair
12. Curtain of fine linen

# The Tabernacle

This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1450 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifices during the Israelites' 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan.