

The Tabernacle of Moses

Introduction

Last month I talked about the Holy Spirit and its role in helping us to fully become the new creation. In particular, the importance of allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us and just how this happens. God promises to send the Holy Spirit and put His Spirit within us, so that we may become fully alive. We contain the Holy Spirit.

I will put my Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land (Ezekiel 37:14).

This month I want to talk about the Tabernacle of Moses. God has always sought to establish a very personal and intimate relationship (fellowship) with man. I will give a brief overview of the Tabernacle of Moses and its three parts: the outer court, the Holy Place, and the most Holy of Holies with the ark of the covenant and its three objects: the golden jar of manna, the budded staff of an almond tree; and the two tablets of stone or testimony. What does this mean to you? How does this relate to you?

I: The Dwelling Places Of God

A. In the Old Testament

1. In the Garden of Eden

God enjoyed a relationship with Adam and Eve in the garden

Adam and Eve heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. . . (Gen. 3:8).

After the fall, God sought to establish fellowship wherever and whenever the opportunity afforded. He walked with Enoch, talked to Abram, and communed with Moses and others until we find God in the Tabernacle.

2. The Mosaic Tabernacle

After delivering His people out of Egypt and wandering around in the wilderness, God told Moses to make a *tabernacle* for Him to dwell in. The *tabernacle* gave the people a place where they could approach God and receive His messages to them.

The Tabernacle of Moses was also called: a) a *sanctuary* (Ex. 25:8); b) a *tent* (Num 9:17); c) a *tent of meeting* (Ex. 28:43); d) a *tent of testimony* (Num 9:15); e) a *tent of Jehovah*; and f) the *tabernacle of the congregation* (Ex. 28:43).

Tabernacle—a tent of meeting, residence, dwelling.

Sanctuary—a sacred place or thing.

When they came into the promised land, they brought the tabernacle in with them. (Acts 7:45). The tabernacle served as a place of worship for the Israelites until the beginning of the monarchy and the people had established a kingdom. They no longer lived in tents.

Historical Note

One day, David, the shepherd boy turned King, received an idea to build a house for God: it was no longer fitting for the ark of God to dwell within curtains while he himself lived in a wood house. At the time, the Ark was housed in a tent on Mt. Zion that David had made for it (II Sam 6, 7).

“Although his desire pleased God, David was not permitted to build it because of the blood he’d shed. The building of the house was to be reserved for his son, Solomon. David contented himself by making extensive and costly preparations of wood, stone, gold, silver, etc., for the future sanctuary and its vessels, even leaving behind him full and minute plans of the whole scheme of the building and its contents, divinely communicated. The dwelling of God should be a permanent building situated at the center of the nation’s life, and “exceeding magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all lands, as befitted the glory of Jehovah and the prospects of the state” (I Kings 5:3, Acts 7:46-49, I Chron 22:2,5,8; 28:11, 29). (Source Unknown).

3. Solomon's Temple

Much later, Solomon, David’s son, built a new dwelling place for God to live in on Mt. Zion, which had been formerly ruled by the Jebusites. When the temple was complete, the ark was placed in the Holy of Holies. Solomon dedicated the temple and the temple was filled with the *glory of God* (I King 6:16-18, 8:10-61; II Chronicles 5:13-14, 6:12-42).

Once again, God was now dwelling in the midst of His people, occupying a permanent house. Here, God and man met in fellowship and communion together. In this place, man could pray and God had promised to hear them (II Chronicles 7:11-17).

Solomon’s temple was also called “House of the Lord” or “Temple of the Lord.”

Temple (*hekhal*): palace, sometimes used for the holy place, house.

In the OT, *temple* referred to a large public building.

In the NT, *temple* could mean a sacred place to dwell, or just the central sanctuary itself.

After Solomon’s died, the kingdom declined, and gradually the temple ceased to be the center of the people’s daily life. 400 years later, it no longer existed (II Kings 24,25; II Chronicles 36).

And in those days when you are multiplied and increased in the land, declares the Lord, they shall say no more, ‘The ark of the covenant of the Lord.’ And it shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they miss it, nor shall it be made again (Jeremiah 3:16).

4. Zerrubbabel's Temple

At some time in history (around 516 BC), the Persian ruler Cyrus had the temple rebuilt, but it was not as grand as Solomon’s (II Chronicles 36:23; Ezra 1:1-4). In fact, the ancient men who had actually seen the grandeur of Solomon’s temple wept. The temple did not have the ark of the covenant. Yet God was pleased and filled the temple with His presence (Ezra 3:12,13; 5,6).

Historical Note

“The temple was desecrated and pillaged by Antiochus. In 66 BC, Pompey, having taken the temple-hill, entered the Most Holy Place, but kept his hands off the temple-treasures. Some years later everything of value was carried away. The people revolted, but Rome remained victorious” (Source Unknown).

5. Herod's Temple

Around 20 BC, the wicked King Herod decided to replace Zerubbabel's temple with a new temple—that would be more worthy of the name of their God. It was finished in 64AD, just 6 years before the destruction by the Romans.

B. In The New Testament

1. Christ, The Temple Of God

In The New Testament period, God became closer to mankind, in the person of Christ, in the form of man. Jesus was called Immanuel, meaning *God with us* (John 1:14, 14:10).

God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself (II Cor. 5:19).

Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up. But he spake of the temple of his body (John 2:19,21)

2. The Believer, Now Called The Temple Of God

The coming of Jesus Christ ushered in a change. Now a new possibility had arrived. Jesus announced that the kingdom of God was near and could be within man. For the first time, each individual person could achieve an inward relatedness to God.

The Pharisees wanted to know when the Kingdom of God was coming. Jesus answered and said it is not coming with observation (something you can see with your natural senses); “nor will they say, 'Look here it is' or 'there it is.' 'For behold the Kingdom of God is “*in*: your midst (*within*)’ (Luke 17:21).

Note: In the early church, “*in*” was invariably translated “*within*”.

In the New Covenant, Jesus said it would be better for the people if he went away. Because he would send back the Holy Spirit, who is the promise of the Father, and the Holy Spirit would be in us. The believer or Christian is now called the temple of God. God, himself, through the presence of the Holy Spirit came to live within us—collectively and individually. He has a spiritual house in mind.

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;...you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you (John 14:16-17).

Do you not know that you are a temple (sanctuary) of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you (I Cor. 3:16).

You are of God's household...in whom the whole building...is growing into a holy temple (sanctuary) in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a *dwelling of God in the Spirit* (Eph. 2:19-22).

Christ was faithful as a Son over His house whose house we are...(Heb. 3:6)

You also, as living stones, are being built up *as a spiritual house* for a holy priesthood (I Peter 2:5).

3. The Temple Of God (Ezekiel's Vision)

The vision of the prophet Ezekiel reveals a restored temple, on “a very high mountain”. No longer on Mt Zion here on earth, but elevated. His vision reveals a temple with supernatural features like a flowing stream. Here God reveals His plan to have a sanctuary forever in the middle of his people

- ...the glory of the Lord came into the house by way of the gate facing toward the east, and the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and...the glory of the Lord filled the house (Ezek 43:4,5)
- ...he said to me, Son of man this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever (Ezek 43:7).
- My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people...and the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever (Ezek 37:27).

4. John's Vision Of The Temple

John also describes an eternal temple existing in a spiritual dimension, one without end. No details of the heavenly tabernacle are revealed, except for the golden altar of incense, the candlesticks and the ark (Rev. 14:18, 1:12-13; 11:19).

1. If our earthy house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (II Cor 5:1).
2. I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, and I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them” (Rev. 21: 2-3).
3. The temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and great hail (Rev. 11:19).
4. And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple (sanctuary). And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb ever (Rev. 21:22-23).
5. They shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them, and they shall reign forever (Rev. 22:5)

II. The Structure Of The Tabernacle Of Moses

A. Build A House For God To Dwell In

After coming out of slavery from Egypt, God's people living in tents, moving from place to place in the wilderness. Then God told Moses to build him a *sanctuary*, a place for him to dwell in. The *tabernacle* gave the people a place where they could approach God and receive His messages to them.

1. Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them (Exod. 25:8).
2. I will meet there with you; and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak to you about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel (Exod. 25:22).
3. I will dwell among them and will be their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell among them (Exod. 29:43-46).

Church (Ekklesia) refers to a community of people—that which is called out, not a building.

Other names for the tabernacle

The Tabernacle of Moses was at times called: a) a *sanctuary* (Ex. 25:8); b) a *tent* (Num 9:17); c) a *tent of meeting* (Ex. 28:43); d) a *tent of testimony* (Num 9:15); e) a *tent of Jehovah*; and f) the *tabernacle of the congregation* (Ex. 28:43).

Tabernacle—a tent of meeting, residence, dwelling.

Sanctuary—a sacred place or thing.

Significance of the tabernacle

Nearly 50 chapters of the Bible are about the Tabernacle – compared to just two chapters for all of creation. We must consider it to be of great importance.

- Exodus: 13 chapters; Numbers: 13 chapters
- Leviticus: 18 chapters; Deuteronomy: 2 chapters
- Hebrews: 4 chapters and other references.

B. Detailed Instructions—Make According To The Pattern

God gave Moses *detailed instructions* about how to build this place. He repeatedly said to be very careful to built according to his plan – down to the littlest. We can only conclude that the design or pattern for the tabernacle was very important to God.

1. 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; and they shall construct an ark . . . (Exod. 25:9,10).
2. And see that you make them after the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain (Exod. 25:40; 27:8).
3. You shall erect the tabernacle according to its plan which you have seen shown in the mountain (Exod 26:30).
4. this was the workmanship of the lamp stand, hammered work of gold; from its base to its flowers, it was hammered work; according to the pattern which the Lord had showed Moses (Num. 8:4).

5. Our fathers had the tabernacle of testimony in the wilderness, just as He who spoke to Moses directed him to make it according to the pattern which he had seen in the Mount (Acts 7:44-51).
6. Just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle, See that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain (Heb. 8:5).

C. Description of the Tabernacle

The tabernacle was a portable tent with a wood framework, making it easy to move as God led the people in the wilderness. Over the top of the structure, rich coverings were hung. The entire structure was enclosed by curtains. (Total Size: 150' by 75")

The materials for the tabernacle were brought in by the people: 2500 pounds of gold, 8,400 pounds of silver and 8,400 pounds of brass and bronze. The women spun and wove fine linen for the hangings and curtains.

It was built similar to sheepfold in ancient times. Four walls surrounded an open courtyard and a small building so the sheep could find shelter and protection in bad weather.

D. Tabernacle Had Three Parts

1. The Outer Court, Courtyard—75' by 150'

The entrance into the courtyard, called "*Gate*". Every man in Israel could go into the Court and bring his sacrifices and offerings. The courtyard contained:

1. Altar of burnt offering – the place of sacrifice (Lev. 1:2-4).
2. Laver – place of cleansing hands/feet when entering (Ex. 27:9-19; 30:17-21; 29:1-4)

2. The Holy Place

The first room in the tabernacle was entered through a curtained opening, called the "*Door*." (Exod 36:20-26). The priests could enter the Holy Place. It contained:

1. Golden candlestick, a lamp stand with oil containers.
2. Table of showbread
3. Altar of incense

3. The Holy of Holies or Most Holy Place

The third area, the Holy of Holies, was entered through a curtain called the "*Veil*." (Ex. 36:27-38). Only the high priest was allowed to enter through the *veil* into the Holy of Holies once a year. It held the:

1. Sacred Ark of the Covenant
2. Cherubim
3. Mercy Seat
4. Glory (*shekinah*) means residence, refers to the manifest appearance of God's glory

The Holy of Holies was a 15-foot perfect *cube* (10 x 10 x 10); walls were covered with *gold*.

Called by several names:

- The inner sanctuary, inner court (I Kings 7:50)
- A sanctuary (I Kings 7:50)

- The most Holy Place (Ezek. 41:6)
- The place of God's throne (Ezek. 43:5-7; 37:27)
- The inner house, nave (I King 7:50)
- The sacred tent

Held Only The Ark of the Covenant (Heb. 9:4; Ex. 26:31,33)

The ark was made of acacia wood, about 3 ft. long. It was covered with gold within and without and was ornamented with a molding of gold running all around it. This served to keep the lid from sliding when in transit. At its four feet, rings were added through which the gold-covered carrying staves were put (Ex. 25:10-22). The ark was placed in the Mosaic tabernacle as well as Solomon's. (Ex. 26:33-34; 25:16-22; I King 6:19-23).

Ark, Gr. *aroun*: a box; in the sense of gathering, a chest or a coffin—symbol of the sum of total knowledge that cannot be destroyed.

The Mercy Seat

The mercy seat (throne) was on top of the Ark and served as a lid, a covering. (Ex. 25:17-22).

Purpose of the mercy seat? (Ex. 25:21-22; I John 1:7; John 14:23). What did Aaron, the high priest, do on the Day of Atonement in front of the mercy seat? (Lev. 16:1-31)

Cherubim

Two cherubim's were seated on top of the mercy seat. They were probably shaped like humans except for their wings, which were spread over the Ark.

Cherubim seemed to be spirit creatures that accompanied Yahweh. They were placed by God after the expulsion of Adam from the garden of Eden, at the east, together with the flaming sword to keep the way of the tree of life. They symbolize the omnipresence and omniscience of higher spiritual beings. They function as bearers and movers of the Divine throne. Ezekiel calls them living creatures; the chariot or throne, from which the glory of God went up is spoken of as a cherub.

What was in the Ark of the Covenant

a. Golden Jar Of Manna

The golden jar of manna as a testimony to be kept (Ex. 16: 33).

Manna—spiritual and supernatural nourishment.

b. Budded Staff Of An Almond Tree

The budded staff (almond tree) of Aaron to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put an end to their grumblings against Me, so that they should not die (Num. 17:3-10).

Almond—the essential, the spiritual, and that which is concealed behind the external. It also represents Christ, because his human nature conceals his divine nature. An almond tree is a symbol of alertness and rebirth.

A staff—power, magical knowledge, and legal, judicial power. Also a sign of their function as messenger, angels, etc.

3. Two Tablets Of Stone Written On By The Finger Of God.

When He had finished speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God (Ex. 31:18).

And the tablets were God's work, and the writing was God's writing engraved on the tablets (Ex. 32:16).

Thou shalt put into the ark, the testimony I shall give you (Deut. 9:9,11,15; 10:2).

The Two Tablets: Gr., *eduwth (aydooth)*—testimony, witness.

The Glory of God

When the people finished building it, God's presence descended into the tabernacle, making it possible for the lives and activities to revolve around God. For the first time in history, God dwelt in the midst of His people. He came down to where man was that He might have fellowship with them. God had become a pilgrim with pilgrims and occupied a "tent" with His tent-dwellers.

- Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle (Exod. 40:34).
- People could not stand because of the cloud – the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord (I Kings 8:10-11).
- The glory came into the inner court, the place of my throne (Ezekiel 43:5-7).

Shekinah glory means residence, the manifest appearance of God's glory, particularly the cloud in which He appeared above the mercy seat between the cherubim.

Glory (Kavod)—its root, "heaviness", the fact of being heavy, then wealth, strength, honor, fame, dignity, and worth. But it also means the higher soul as evidenced in Ps. 30:13; 16:9; 57:9; 7:6; and Gen. 49:6. See Ps 108:2.

E. What Was The Purpose Of The Tabernacle?

The tabernacle gave the people of God a way so they could approach God. They were able to know what God had to say to them.

When the people finished building it, God's presence descended into the tabernacle, making it possible for the lives and activities to revolve around God. For the first time in history, God dwelt in the midst of His people. He came down to where man was that He might have fellowship with them. God had become a pilgrim with pilgrims and occupied a "tent" with His tent-dwellers (Unknown Source).

III. Symbolic Meaning Of The Tabernacle

A. In The NT, The Tabernacle...

It is a model of the true tabernacle, pitched by the Lord Heb. 8:2

The tabernacle was a *figure* for that time...but when Christ appeared He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands (Heb. 9:8-11).

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, which is a *symbol* for the present time. (Heb. 9:8-9)

A greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, not of this creation (Heb. 9:11) .

B. The Tabernacle Is Referred to As A...

1. As a *shadow* of good things to come (Heb. 10:1)
2. As a shadow of things in heaven (Heb. 8:5).
3. As an *example/copy* of things in heaven (Heb. 8:5).
4. As *figures/copies* of the true (Heb. 9:24)
5. As *patterns/copies* of things in the heavens (Heb. 9:23,24; 8:5)
6. As a *figure* (symbol): The first tabernacle was a *figure* for that time...but when Christ appeared He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands (Heb. 9:8-11).
7. As a *symbol*: 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, which is a *symbol* for the present time. (Heb. 9:8-9)
8. As a type: expresses spiritual ideas in a symbolic way

Testimony— something evidential, evidence. Its root means *a witness*. See I Cor. 1:6; Rev. 15:5 Rev. 19:10; Rev. 12:11

Pattern—*tupus*, a die, a stamp Heb. 8:5

Pattern—a structure, a model, resemblance Ex. 25:9,40

Shadow— shade, shadow

Example/pattern/—an exhibit for imitation or warning

Figure—similitude, parable, i.e. symbol Heb. 9:9

Throughout the scriptures God speaks through a picture language, using types and shadows (Lawrence Tiller). Apparently, there is no way to directly describe the spiritual realm. It can only be expressed in figures and metaphors which can lead us to a perception or insight of it. This explains why Jesus used metaphors and parables to teach reality of the kingdom of God.

Things which are a mere shadow, but the substance belongs to Christ (Col. 2:17).

The Tabernacle is like a shadow. Trace any shadow with the light before you and you will arrive at the substance.

If we can see the inner meaning of the figures and symbols, then our eyes will open and we will begin to see the real thing. But such an opening can never be given directly in so many words. We can see inner spiritual reality only through an “aha” experience, a sudden insight within our own being.

C. The Believer, The House Of God

The Bible teaches that we are the house of God. The tabernacle is a copy and shadow and a pattern for us: it shows us how the house of God was constructed. He lives with in us and is a source of power and wisdom when we learn how to draw from *the well of living water within us* – our task is to find this well, which is Christ, Himself.

Do you not know that you are a temple (sanctuary) of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you (I Cor. 3:16)?

We have this treasure in an earthen vessel (II Cor. 4:7).

Christ in you, the hope of Glory (Col 1:27).

You are of God's household...in whom the whole building...is growing into a holy temple (sanctuary) in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit (Eph. 2:19-22).

Christ Entered Into This Tabernacle

Jesus entered into a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, He entered into a holy place (Heb. 9: 8-24). Also see Heb. 4:14-16; 8:1-10; 9:1-7; 10:14-22, II Cor. 13:5; Gal 1:16,17; I Cor 1:7; Gal. 4:6; Gal. 4:19; Eph. 3:17; Col. 1:27; Col. 2:2-3; Rom. 8:9,10; Rom. 10:4; Rom. 10:5-10.

D. Symbolizes Three Parts of Us

The structure and each of the items in the Tabernacle are pictures or symbols of spiritual truths.

1. Outer Court – Body (5 senses)
2. Holy Place – Soul (mind, will, emotions)
3. Holy of Holies – Spirit (place of man's awareness of communication with God)

1. What happened in the Holy of Holies?

God prepared an inner sanctuary within the house in order to place there the ark of the covenant of the Lord (I King 6:19). The ark of the covenant was a special symbol of God's presence, God's glory. When the ark was taken, the sanctuary lost its glory.

2. What is the meaning of the Holy of Holies for us?

The Holy of Holies is a place within us, where mystical union, worship, communion take place and the glory is found. The place of man's awareness of communication with God.

E. Symbolize 3 Stages of Growth

1. Outer court – entering into the Kingdom of God through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ & early Christian life
2. Holy Place – where spiritual food & revelation are received.
3. The Holy of Holies – where mystical union, worship, communion take place & the glory of God is found. Eat of hidden manna, the living word of God.

F. What Do The Three Doors or Entrances Symbolize?

1. The Gate, the entrance into the courtyard

2. The Door, the entrance into the Holy Place

Door—symbol of transition from one realm to a new one. The idea of a heavenly gate marks the transition into the divine or spiritual realm. The closed door often points to a hidden secret; the open door or gate presents a challenge to pass through or signifies an open secret. *Jesus: I am the gate or door.*

3. The Veil, the entrance into Holy of Holies.

A heavy veil or curtain hung between the Holy Place and the inner room, the Holy of Holies. (Ex. 26:30-31; 36:37.) It served as a partition between holy place and holy of Holies (Ex. 26:33; Heb. 9:2). The veil was made of beautiful fine twisted linen using blue, purple and scarlet colors, embroidered with cherubim (heavenly beings). It was the only item (other than the ark) actually retained throughout the series of temples.

1. Blue – color of heaven, of the divine, of truth, and of fidelity.
2. Purple – reserved for the clothing of kings and priests due to its costliness (derived from a shellfish yielding purple dye). A symbol of power and honor.

Veil—symbol of disguise and secrecy. Unveiling symbolizes revelation, recognition, and initiation. Access to spiritual secrets is expressed in the unveiling.

What Happened To The Veil In The Temple On The Day Christ Died?

- The veil was torn in a supernatural way, from top to bottom. Human hands could only have torn it or cut it from the bottom up.
- Of what is the veil a picture? (Heb. 10:19-22) How was Christ's flesh rent?

In the New Covenant, Christ Removes The Veil Over Our Hearts

- Heb. 10:19-20: we have confidence to enter the holy place, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh...let us draw near...
- II Cor 3:14: whenever we turn to the Lord, Christ, the veil over the heart, the holy of Holies is taken away, but when we turn to Moses, a veil lies over the heart.

F. What Do The Three Types of Light Symbolize?

1. In the courtyard was the natural light of the sun, which varied according to the weather and the time of day.
2. The Holy Place, was illuminated by the *golden Lamp stand*, which gave out light continually, unaffected by wind or weather.
3. The third light was the *shekinah glory of God*, the light in the Holy of Holies. This glorious divine light was the manifestation of the presence of God. No natural light!

H. What Does The Ark of The Covenant Symbolize For Us?

a. Golden Jar Of Manna

Manna—represents spiritual and supernatural nourishment. Jesus said that we are not to live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

b. Budded Staff Of An Almond Tree

Almond—symbolizes that which is essential, the spiritual, and that which is concealed behind the external.

A staff—symbolizes power, authority, legal and judicial power. Also a sign of our function as a messenger.

3. Two Tablets Of Stone Written On By The Finger Of God.

The Two Tablets: Gr., *eduwth (aydooth)*—testimony, witness.

In the New Testament, God says He will write His word on the tables of our human hearts. He does this through His Holy Spirit. (II Corinthians 2:3)

Jesus is the living Word of God, who is within us.

1. Christ in you, the hope of Glory (Colossians 1:26-27)
2. Do you not know that you are a temple (sanctuary) of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you (I Cor. 3:9-16)?
3. To reveal His Son in me . . . (Gal 1:16)
4. God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father (Gal. 4:6)
5. The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (Rom. 10:5-10)
6. Resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:2-3)
7. We have this treasure (deposit, wealth) in an earthen vessel (II Cor. 4:7).

Note the Ark was lost and was never to be found again. Because it represents a spirituality that was fulfilled in Christ.

...they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the Lord. ...it shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they miss it, nor shall it be made again. (Jer. 3:16).

The temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and great hail (Rev. 11:19).

The Holy Spirit is signifying this that the way into the holy place has not been disclosed while the outer (first) tabernacle is still standing, which is a symbol for the present time (Heb. 9:11,12.24; 10:19).

When the ark was taken, the sanctuary lost its glory, yet a promise remains of entering into the Holy of Holies and experiencing God's glory. At the death of Jesus, the veil over the Holy so Holies was torn open; i.e., the way was opened for us to enter into the presence of God and enjoy a personal relationship with Him. Read Hebrews 9, 9,10

1. What does the Glory mean to us?

How did God show that he had come to live in the tabernacle, particularly in the holy of holies? The glory of God filled the house. Shekinah glory means residence. God takes up residence with in us, and His glory is within us.

Christ in you, the hope of Glory (Colossians 1:26-27)

More Scripture References On Glory

1. Romans 3:23: For all sinned and fall short of the glory of God
2. Romans 5:2: therefore having been justified by faith, we exult in hope of the glory of God.
3. Romans 8:18: for I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed for us. (uncovered)
4. Romans 8:20: for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
5. I Cor. 2:7: but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which God predestined before the ages to our glory
6. II Cor. 3:18: But we all with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
7. II Cor. 4:6,7: for God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves.
8. Ephesians 1:18: that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints
9. Colossians 1:26-27: That is the mystery among the Gentiles, which has been hidden from the past ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom that we may present every man complete in Christ.
10. Colossians 3:3-4: for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.
11. Hebrews 2:10: For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.
12. I Peter 5:1,4: a partaker of the glory that is to be revealed...and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown (lit. wealth) of glory
13. I Peter 5:10: And after you have suffered for a little, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

14. II Peter 1:3: seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory & excellence
15. Ex. 33:18-19 Show me, I pray Thee, Thy glory; I will make all My goodness pass before thee. This scripture tells us how the glory was revealed. Moses stood alone on the top of the mount, the glory passed by, "the Lord descended in the cloud" and the great answer was revealed: "The Lord, the Lord, God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth; keeping mercy unto ...Ex. 34: 6-7

Conclusion

My Dream

A monster is chasing me down the road near my childhood home. I am terrified, and I run into the house and shut the door. I turn around and see that the monster is in my house. I turn toward the monster and face it. I reach out and touch it, suddenly saying, "I know who you are. You are not a monster at all. You are the ark of the covenant...and I know who the ark of the covenant is—it's Jesus!"

But *you* are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. (I Peter 2:9).

II Cor. 3:18: we are transformed by beholding the glory of the Lord (within us), not reform, or conformity to external sets of rules, or laws, or code of living.