EQUIP TUESDAYS

# Worship through the Tabernacle

FAITH
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

LESTER ONG

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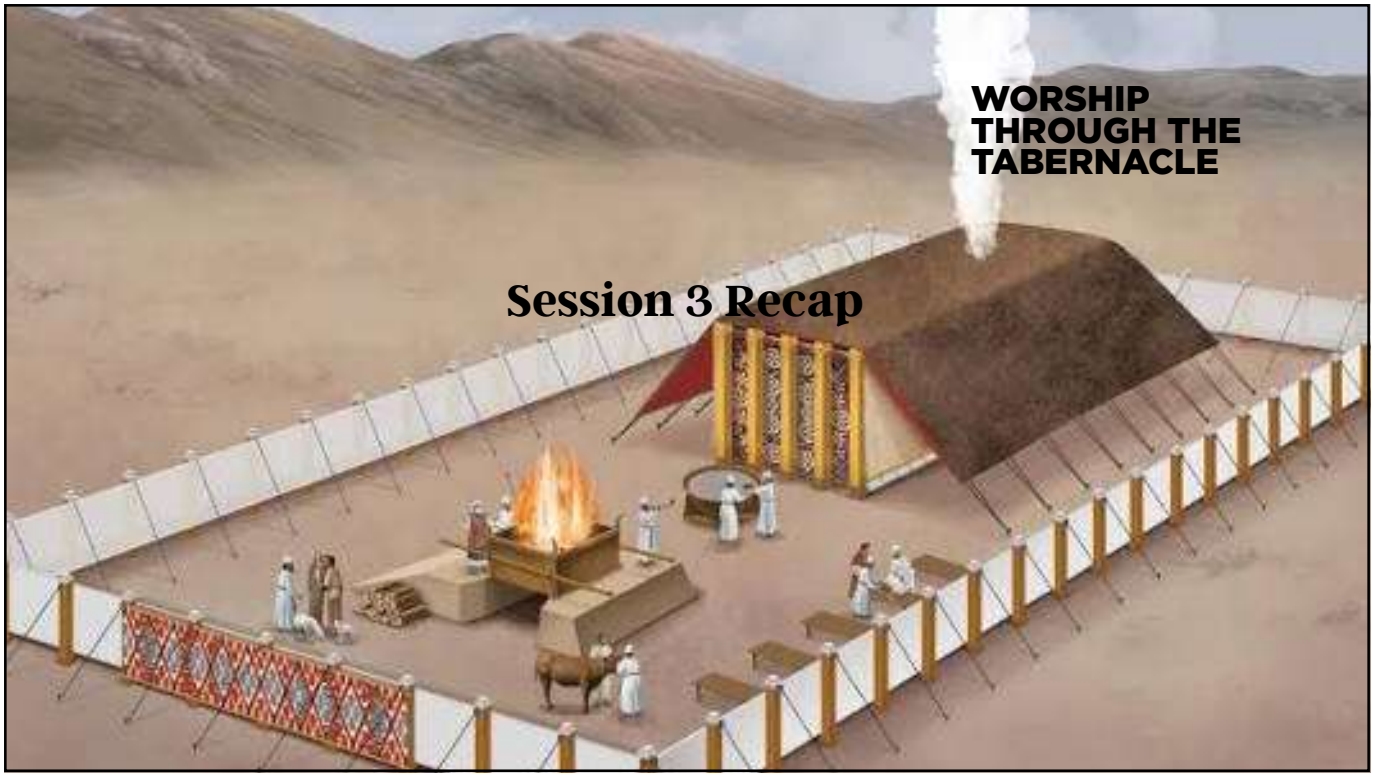


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## The Altar of Incense



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## Exodus 30:1-10

Make an altar of acacia wood for burning incense. It is to be square, a cubit long and a cubit wide, and two cubits high—its horns of one piece with it. Overlay the top and all the sides and the horns with pure gold, and make a gold molding [crown] around it. Make two gold rings for the altar below the molding—two on each of the opposite sides—to hold the poles used to carry it. Make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. Put the altar in front of the curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law—before the atonement cover that is over the tablets of the covenant law—where I will meet with you.

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## Exodus 30:1-10

Aaron must burn fragrant incense on the altar every morning when he tends the lamps. He must burn incense again when he lights the lamps at twilight so incense will burn regularly before the Lord for the generations to come. Do not offer on this altar any other incense or any burnt offering or grain offering, and do not pour a drink offering on it. Once a year Aaron shall make atonement on its horns. This annual atonement must be made with the blood of the atoning sin offering for the generations to come. It is most holy to the Lord.

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## Prayer as Incense

- The Altar of Incense is a picture of Christ and His intercessory ministry.
- Psalm 141:2
- Prayer = *tefillah* = intercession or supplication
- The greater blesses the lesser: Heb 7:1,7

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## The Gospel Movement in God's Blessing

- *Barak* = bless = to kneel
- Genesis 1:28
- When we bless God, we return to Him what is His. When God blesses us, He gives us what we cannot give ourselves.
- God blessing us is an act of kneeling; of stooping down.
- Philippians 2

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## Worship and Intercession Together

- Praise and intercession go together as we approach the throne of God.
- Revelations 5:8
- The Lord's prayer: Praise/Adoration (Hallowed be Thy Name); Intercession (Your Kingdom come, Your will be done)

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## Exodus 30:34-38

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Take fragrant spices—**gum resin [stacte]**, **onycha** and **galbanum**—and pure **frankincense**, all in equal amounts, and make a fragrant blend of incense, the work of a perfumer. It is to be salted and pure and sacred. Grind some of it to powder and place it in front of the ark of the covenant law in the tent of meeting, where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you. Do not make any incense with this formula for yourselves; consider it holy to the Lord. Whoever makes incense like it to enjoy its fragrance must be cut off from their people."

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## The Incense

- A holy formula reserved for the Lord
- Leviticus 10:1-3

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## The Incense

- **Stacte** – dripping, dropping of words by inspiration; cutting away of the flesh; Phil 3:3
- **Onycha** – prayer from the depths; the roar of a lion
- **Galbanum** – odourous and unpleasant; brokenness
- **Frankincense** – white; purity; the personal cost of worship

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## Jesus Our Intercessor

- Hebrews 7:23-25
- Romans 8:34
- 1 John 2:1
- Jesus' efficacious intercession is the basis of our assurance of salvation
- Hebrews 6:19-20

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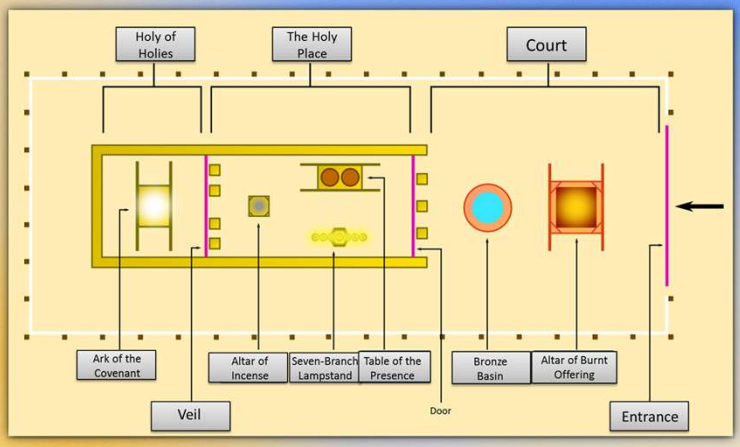
## The Holy of Holies

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| The Outer Courts | Holy Place | Holy of Holies |
|---|---|---|
| Ministry to the public | Ministry to God | God meets with the High Priest |
| Our outside body | The inner life (soul) | The spirit |
| Open access | Access to the believer | Restricted access (manifest presence) |

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## The Veil

### Exodus 25:23-30

Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim woven into it by a skilled worker. Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases. Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the covenant law behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

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## The Veil

- Genesis 3:23-24
- Matthew 27:50-52
- Hebrews 20:19-20

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## The Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat



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## Exodus 25:10-22

"Have them make an ark of acacia wood—two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold molding [crown] around it. Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry it. The poles are to remain in the rings of this ark; they are not to be removed. Then put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you.

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## Exodus 25:10-22

"Make an atonement cover of pure gold—two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. Make one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; make the cherubim of one piece with the cover, at the two ends. The cherubim are to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the cover. Place the cover on top of the ark and put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law that I will give you. There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites."

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## The Shekinah Glory

- Exodus 40:34-56
- *Shakan* = to dwell, settle or abide
- 2 Chronicles 5:13-14

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## The Uncompromising Holiness of God's Presence

- Numbers 4:5-6
- Exodus 33:18-22
- Numbers 4:15-20
- 1 Samuel 5:10-12
- 1 Samuel 6:19-20
- 1 Chron 15:13-15

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## The Uncompromising Holiness of God's Presence

- 2 Corinthians 3:6-9
- Romans 7:9-12
- Hebrews 1:3
- Hebrews 8:1
- Hebrews 10:11-12
- Hebrews 12:2

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The Plot Twist!

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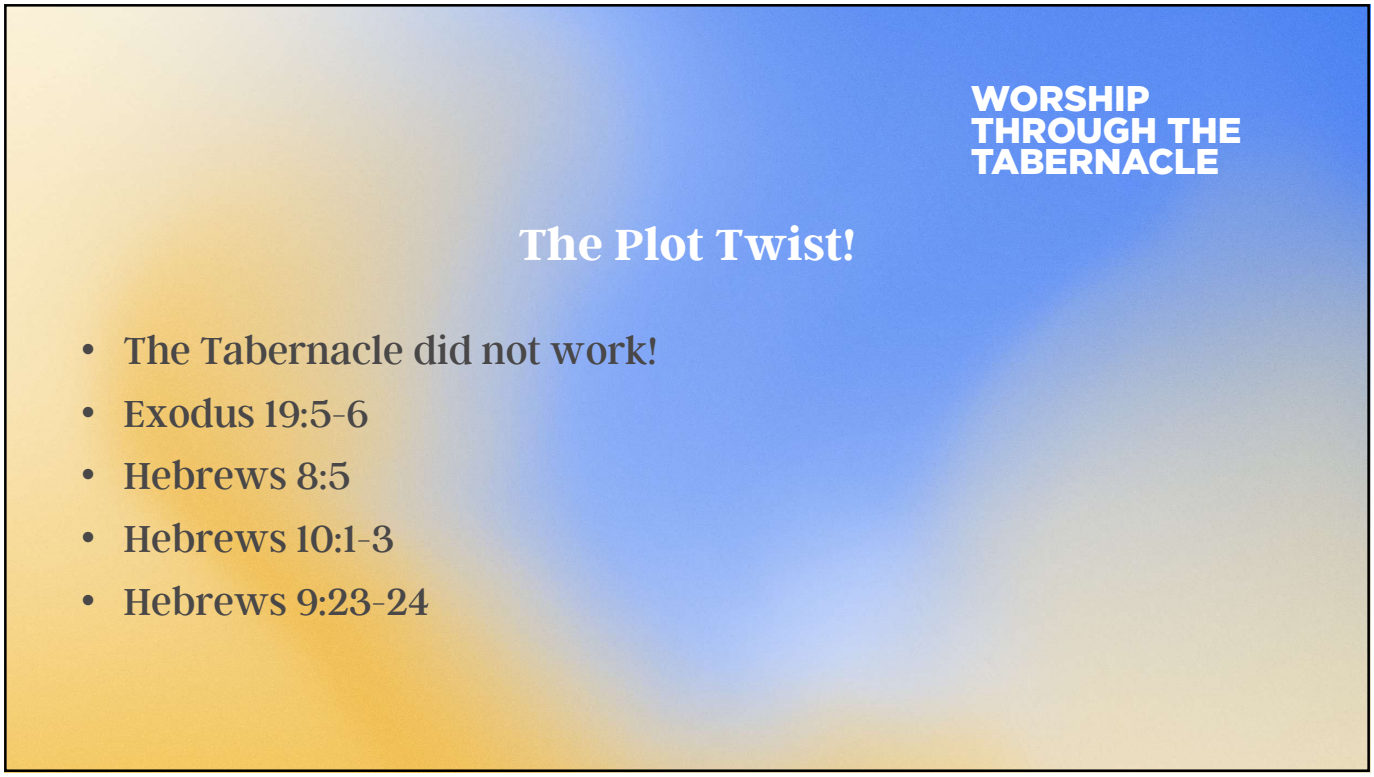
WORSHIP
THROUGH THE
TABERNACLE
The Plot Twist!
• The Tabernacle did not work!
• Exodus 19:5-6
• Hebrews 8:5
• Hebrews 10:1-3
• Hebrews 9:23-24

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## Jesus is Better

### Belonged to a Better Priesthood

- Perfect but emphathetic (Heb 4:14-15)
- Belonged to the original priesthood (Heb 7:9-10)
- The original priesthood was a gentile priesthood (Heb 7:13)
- An enduring Priest (Heb 7:3)

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## Jesus is Better

### Brought a Better Sacrifice

- Never to be repeated (Heb 7:27)
- Jesus embodied both sacrifice and obedience (Heb 9:13-14)

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## Jesus is Better

### Mediated a Better Covenant

- God's promises by obedience; God's promises by faith (Heb 6:13-15; Heb 8:6; Gal 3:10-14)
- Tablets of stone; tablets of heart (Heb 8:10)
- God's people in name; God's people by relationship (Heb 8:10-11)
- The blood sacrifice covered; Jesus' sacrifice removed (Heb 10:11-18)

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## Jesus is Better

### Ministered at a Better Tabernacle

- The High Priest's work was temporal; Jesus' work was eternal (Heb 9:12)
- The High Priest work never finished; Jesus sat down (Heb 10:11-12)
- The High Priest had restricted access; we have free access (Heb 10:19-25)

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## Jesus is Better

**Our response: faith, hope and love**

- We draw near with full assurance of faith
- We hold fast to our hope.
- We provoke one another to love.

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## The Prophetic Fulfillment

| Article | Era | Date | Doctrine |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brazen Altar | Martin Luther | 1500 | Justification by faith |
| Brazen Laver | John Wesley | 1750 | Sanctification and holiness |
| Golden Lampstand | Pentecostal | 1901 | Power of the Holy Spirit |
| Table of Shewbread | Charismatic | 1955 | Unity in the Spirit |
| Altar of Incense | Prayer | 1980 | Spiritual Warfare |
| Ark of the Covenant | Second Coming of Jesus | ? | Glorification |

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# The Spirit and the Bride, say "Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"

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Equip Tuesdays - Feedback form



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