

Bridgeway Community Church
Ronald Greene
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Dwelling Place

In His Presence

Minister Ronald Greene

ONE MOMENT IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE FOREVER.

Dictionary Dwelling means “home”

Question: Whats the difference between a NEIGHBORHOOD an a row of HOMES?

“Some of us are yearning for more of that not just within our neighborhoods in our house but also our spiritual neighborhoods, our neighborhood in our church...Some of us are yearning for that connect that says I want to do life with people.”

We are yearning for that relationship with God too. We want a deeper connection.

“I want my relationship with God to look more like a neighborhood and not just a row of homes.”

Home is where you feel welcome
Home is where you find a sense of peace
Home is where you find a sense of your purpose

Psalm 84 NIV

¹ How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!

² My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God.

⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

⁶ As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

⁷ They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

⁸ Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty; listen to me, God of Jacob.

⁹ Look on our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.

¹⁰ Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹¹ For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

¹² Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

Psalm was written by the sons of Korah, workers in the temple of God.

Psalm 84:5 NIV

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

Question: What does pilgrimage have to do with a dwelling place? What does pilgrimage have to do with home?

A vagabond has no home

A fugitive is running from home

A stranger seems to be far away from home

A pilgrim knows where home is and is pursuing home

Some feel like a vagabond like we don't have a home

Some feel like fugitives because we are running from that place that gave us peace and purpose. God wants you to come back.

Some of feel like strangers who need to return to home.

We need to be pilgrims who know where our home is and know we are on our way there.

But the current circumstances of life may feel like I am NOT on my way home, to my place of peace, my place of purpose.

Psalm 84:6 NIV

As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

Baka is NOT a place, it is a posture.

Baka means “weeping”

Question: How can I pass through a place of weeping and it become springs?

Answer: Because I know where the dwelling place is, when I know where my destination is.

Psalm 121:1-2 ESV

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

² My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Some of you maybe experiencing a season of Baka, a season of weeping.

Question: What is this dwelling place? Where is it?

Answer: This dwelling place, this sense of home is in the presence of God

Elder Kevin Thornton

Early in my Christian life I began to read in Exodus 25-31 about God dwelling in the tabernacle in the wilderness.

A mentor showed me images of the tabernacle as we read in Exodus the descriptions and this world of the tabernacle just opened up for me.

I want to share some of those with you and what they tell us about dwelling with God.

God desired to be with his people so much he designed a place to be built in the middle of the nation of Israel so he could be with them, making his presence accessible.

God had very specific dimensions and materials to be used to build his house, the tabernacle.

Exodus 25:8-9 NIV

[God speaking] Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. ⁹Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

The Hebrew word for 'tabernacle' is mishkān, meaning dwelling place or abode, a place where one's spirit will rest.

Here you can see:

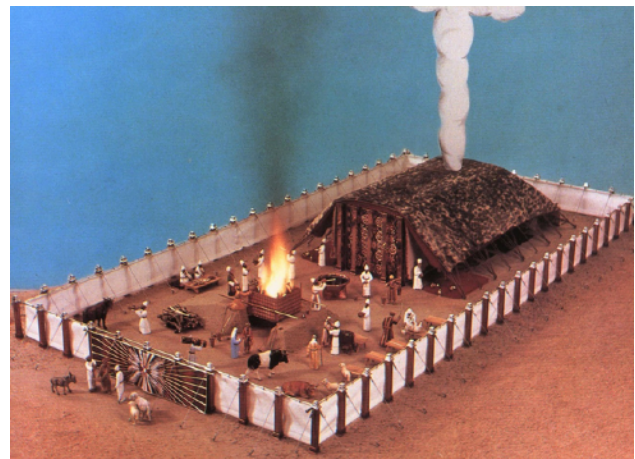
The gate in the bottom left of the picture

The white curtain wall going all the way around it were 7 1/2 feet high

The outer court in front of the building

The back building contains the holy place and the holy of holies.

The whole tabernacle was 150 feet long and 75 feet wide



Aerial view of the Old Testament tabernacle

Psalm 100:4 NIV

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

THE CURTAIN

The white curtain wall is there “to separate a profane world from a profound God”

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving” means to enter into the tabernacle you brought an offering.

THE ALTAR

The fire you see in the inner court is called “the brazen¹ altar.” It is where penitent would bring their sin offering to God and the ritual would be performed by the priest. This would be how forgiveness of sins would be acquired.

This is as far as the penitent was allowed to physically go into the tabernacle, closer the presence of God. The rest of the tabernacle only the priests could enter.

THE LAVER

There was “the brazen laver” that was only for the priests to use to cleanse themselves before entering into the presence of God.

Exodus 30:17-21 NIV

Then the Lord said to Moses, ¹⁸ “Make a bronze basin, with its bronze stand, for washing. Place it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it. ¹⁹ Aaron and

his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it. ²⁰ Whenever they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water so that they will



¹ the word “brazen” means made of bronze metal.

not die. Also, when they approach the altar to minister by presenting a food offering to the Lord, ²¹ they shall wash their hands and feet so that they will not die. This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants for the generations to come.”

“The priest could examine his outward being, he could take water from the bowl and cleanse his out garments and his face. It was a place of cleansing and a place of refreshing before coming into the presence of a holy God.”

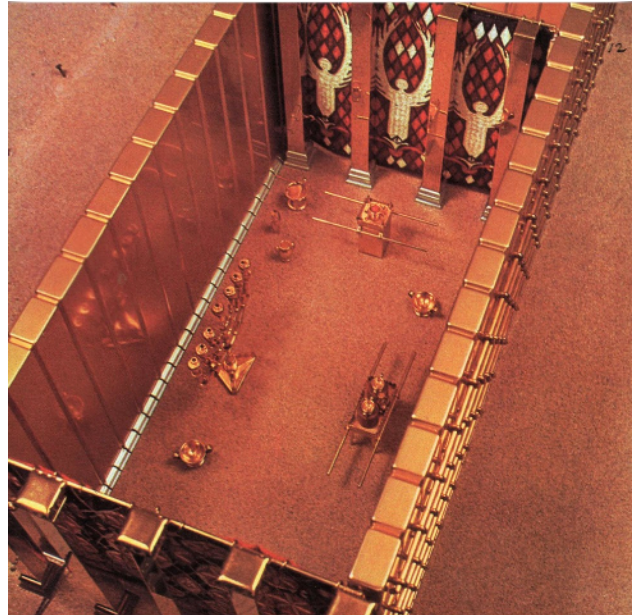
THE HOLY PLACE

The walls of this structure are made of wood covered with beaten gold.

The roof was a curtain that covered it was made of white linen symbolic of purity, embroidered with blue, scarlet and purple with angels woven into the fabric.

One priest would come into the Holy Place twice a day. Once in the morning, once in the evening.

- **Golden Candle Stick** [left in the image] - made out of 150 lbs of pure gold. It was the only light in the room.
- **Table of Shewbread**² [right in the image] - where God would commune with the priest
- **The Golden Altar of Incense** [middle top of the image] - this sat right outside the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. Standing at this altar the priest would be within 10 feet of the Shekinah Glory³ of God which was behind the veil in the Holy of Holies.



² a small table of gold-covered acacia wood, only 36 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 27 inches high.

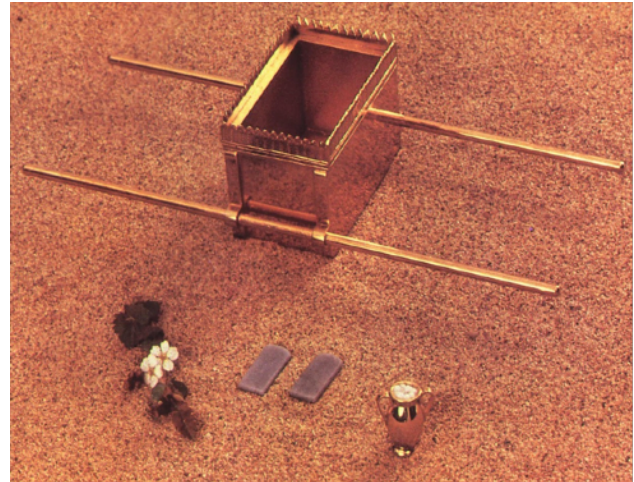
³ this phrase is a title for the physical manifestation of the presence of God on earth.

Had to be an awesome experience for the one priest to be alone in the presence of God!

THE HOLY OF HOLIES

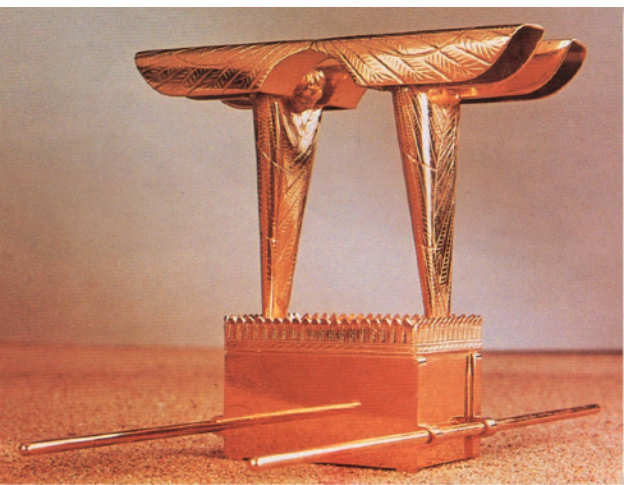
One time a year, the high priest, after going through a whole cleansing ritual, on the day of atonement, would carry blood and incense. He would put blood on the horns of the ark⁴ and on the Mercy Seat. The incense would create a smoke that would keep him from seeing the glory of God fully so he would not die.

The Ark of the Covenant - wooden box covered in pure gold. Inside the ark were a pot of manna, the tablets containing the ten commandments and Aaron's rod that budded.



Ark of the Covenant

The Mercy Seat - this is the name of the cover or lid of the Ark of the Covenant. It is made of 150 lbs of pure gold. The images on it are two angels facing each other with their wings stretching out touching. The presence of God, Shekinah Glory, would rest in between these two angels



The Mercy Seat

⁴ The Ark of the Covenant. Think Indiana Jones!

“[God speaking] I want you to come in my presence that’s why I built this building in the first place. This is my dwelling place, this is my house but you have to follow my rules to come in.”

He calls us to sit and be with him!

We are looking for peace, we are looking for joy and it is only found in the presence of a holy God.

“We as New Testament priests don’t have to go through all these sacrifices and offerings because Jesus Christ did it once for all...As New Testament priests we can come into his presence whenever we want.”

