

A hand in a white robe is pulling a blue curtain with a gold floral pattern. The curtain is being pulled back to reveal a golden altar with two eagle statues on top. The background is a bright, golden light. The title "A Divine Design" is written in large, gold, serif letters across the top of the image.

A Divine Design

The Jewish Temple
in History, Prophecy,
and ***YOUR LIFE***



A Divine Design
The Jewish Temple in History,
Prophecy, and Your Life

PRESIDENT
DOUG BATCHELOR

MANAGING EDITOR
ANTHONY LESTER
editor@amazingfacts.org

WRITERS **ART DESIGN/LAYOUT**
DOUG BATCHELOR HALEY TRIMMER
CURTIS RITTENOUR

FEATURING ARTWORK BY
STEVE CREITZ
PHIL MCKAY

Copyright © 2019 by Amazing Facts International
All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

Unless otherwise noted, Scriptures are taken from the
New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas
Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Amazing Facts, a nonprofit ministry, shares the
saving truths of Jesus Christ around the world
through literature, radio, television, the Internet,
public evangelism, outreach training, and more.

**Amazing Facts
International**
P.O. Box 1058
Roseville, CA 95678
Phone: 916-434-3880

Visit our website at
amazingfacts.org

FREE BIBLE STUDIES

To enroll in our free 27-lesson Bible study,
visit our homepage at amazingfacts.org
and click on “Free Online Bible School.”
Or to take the free course by mail, send us
your name, address, and phone number
and specify that you would like to begin
the course. (Printed lessons are in English
and are available only in Canada, the
United States, and their territories.)

ONLINE BOOKSTORE

Visit **afbookstore.com** to discover all the
great Christian resources available through
Amazing Facts, including books, DVDs,
and other products to help you better
understand the Bible.

TABLE OF
Contents



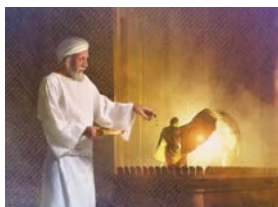
Introduction 4
When heaven came under attack, God set in motion
a plan to rescue and forever secure the universe.
Discover the heavenly sanctuary—His command
center designed to save humanity.



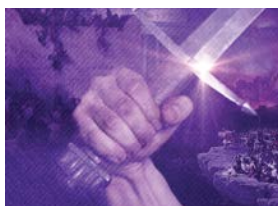
Chapter 1 — Sanctuaries in Time 6
God gave the Hebrew people a blueprint for building
an earthly temple patterned after the heavenly
sanctuary. Learn about the structure and furnishings
of this fascinating tabernacle.



Chapter 2 — The Ultimate Sacrifice 14
The rescue operation to save the human race and
to end evil required a sacrifice of such magnitude, it
became the central feature of the earthly sanctuary.



Chapter 3 — The Final Cleansing 24
Once a year, the earthly temple was cleansed,
illustrating God’s final steps to remove sin from the
universe forever. Discover more about this ancient
ceremony—and what it means for you today.

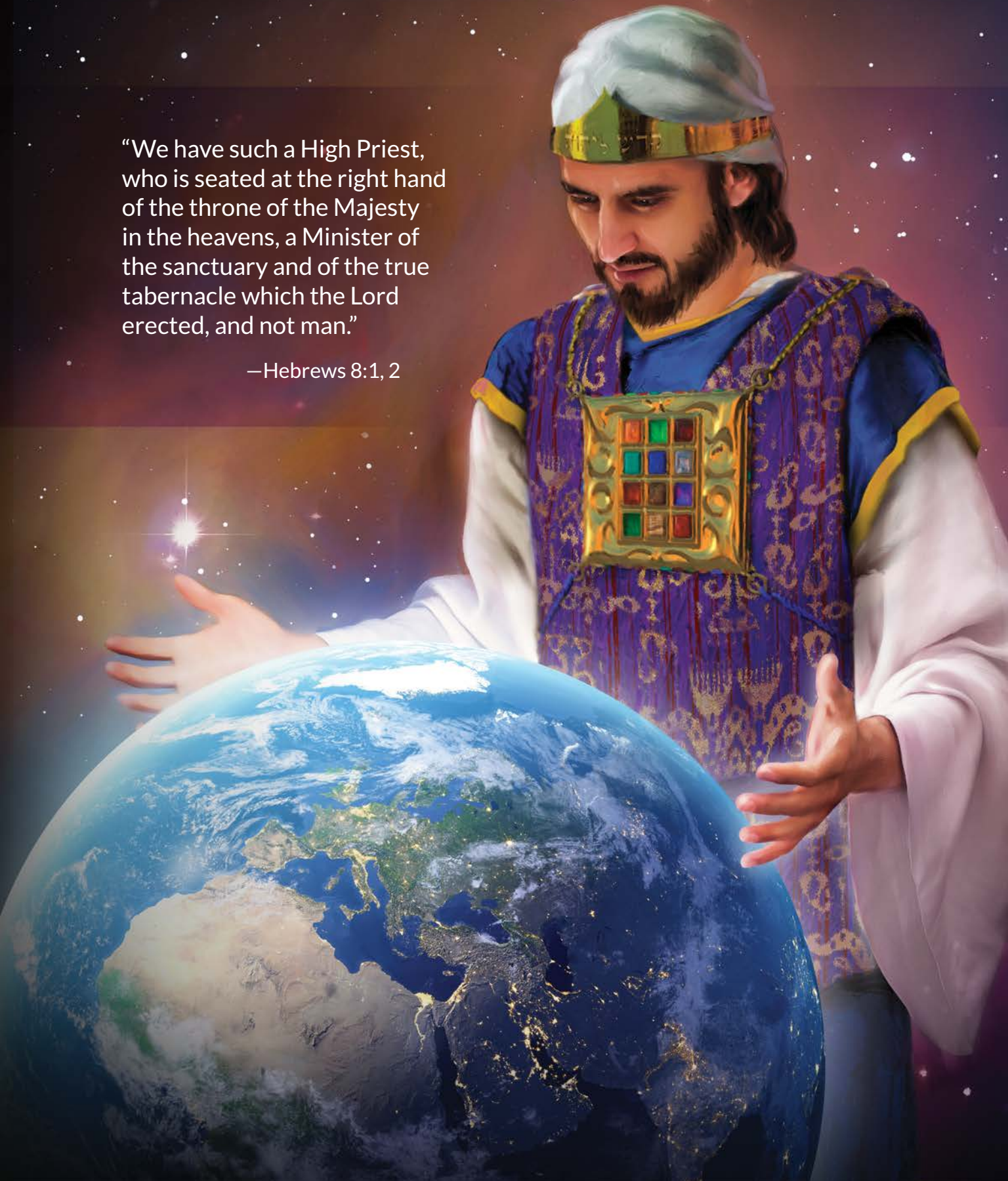


Chapter 4 — The Sanctuary Attacked 30
The longest time prophecy in the Bible foretells how
an evil power has attacked and attempted to occupy
the position of Jesus Christ in the heavenly sanctuary.
Learn how to spot the real from the fake.

Your Questions Answered 42
More Resources 46

“We have such a High Priest,
who is seated at the right hand
of the throne of the Majesty
in the heavens, a Minister of
the sanctuary and of the true
tabernacle which the Lord
erected, and not man.”

—Hebrews 8:1, 2





HEAVEN'S Command Center

When a major crisis erupts somewhere in the world, you will likely find the President of the United States in a special place: The Situation Room.

Located somewhere below the West Wing of the White House, this 5,525-square-foot conference room is a 24/7, one-stop hub of top-secret information.

Equipped with the latest communications technology, the Situation Room is an “intelligence management center” run by the National Security Council and is used to monitor major crises at home and abroad, enabling the president

and his advisors to have real-time command and control of all U.S. forces around the globe.

However, even more secure than the Situation Room is a safe-room located deep beneath the East Wing of the White House. Called the Presidential Emergency Operations Center (PEOC), this reinforced underground bunker serves as a special communications center in times of extreme crises, such as in the event of a nuclear attack.

The PEOC was constructed during World War II for Franklin D. Roosevelt as an evacuation point for any life-threatening attack to the Commander in Chief. During the September 11 attacks, for instance, high-ranking government leaders were evacuated from their offices to the PEOC, which had been built to withstand a direct hit by a nuclear warhead.

Cosmic Crisis

Did you know that the government of heaven once came under attack, endangering the security of the entire universe? Through the influence of the most powerful angel, named Lucifer, a rebellion was triggered against God’s kingdom, exploding like a nuclear chain reaction and threatening to destroy the perfect harmony of heaven.

This cosmic war eventually spilled out onto the earth, where Lucifer—now identified as Satan, the adversary—lured the first humans to join his revolt against heaven.

However, God was not caught off guard.

From the “Situation Room” of the universe, the Creator mobilized operations to save humanity from the life-threatening deceptions of the devil and to put an end to evil, pain, and death forever.

The central issue of this conflict is sin, which the Bible defines as the spirit of lawlessness and the breaking of God’s law (1 John 3:4). Sin, which separates people from





War broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

—Revelation 12:7-9



God (Isaiah 59:2) and leads to death (Romans 6:23), must be conquered in order to save Planet Earth and its people from eternal destruction.

The Bible reveals that ever since sin entered the universe, God's principal focus has been to remove the catastrophic blight from His creation. Seated upon His throne in the supreme operations center of heaven, He works to save all humanity—that includes you! This center, which is located in the very nucleus of the universe, is called the heavenly "sanctuary" (Hebrews 8:2), the ultimate "temple" (Revelation 7:15).

What does the Bible uncover about this sanctuary? Why did God command the Israelites to build a model of this divine design on the earth? What are the meanings behind the sacrifices and services of the earthly sanctuary? How does the message of the sanctuary relate to end-time Bible prophecy? Must the Hebrew sanctuary be rebuilt in Jerusalem to usher in the Antichrist? And in what way does the Bible sanctuary relate to the saving work of Christ in your life today?

All these questions and more will be answered! Your eyes are about to be opened to one of the greatest—yet often neglected—Bible secrets: the truth about a situation room in heaven where the leader of the universe, God, is working day and night to save your life.

Sanctuaries IN TIME

During the Cold War era, a cavernous hideaway was blasted out of solid greenstone near Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania. It was equipped with two underground reservoirs, a power plant, food supplies, and several buildings to accommodate hundreds of wartime staff.



The U.S. government created this sprawling “underground Pentagon,” known as the Raven Rock Mountain Complex, to provide the Department of Defense an offsite location to regroup in the event that a nuclear weapon destroyed the Pentagon, the nation’s military headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. In the event of a catastrophic attack, officials could be quickly shuttled to this “alternate seat of government” and resume operations to defend the United States.

Some 3,500 years earlier, halfway around the planet, God commanded Moses, the leader of the Hebrew people, to build a temple in the wilderness. The blueprint that God gave him was based on the sanctuary in heaven, patterned after His seat of government—though on a smaller scale.

But the Lord didn’t need an earthly hideaway because the sanctuary in heaven was at risk of being destroyed. No. Instead, this temple was designed to host the presence of God and to reveal His plan of salvation through a three-dimensional panorama. You see, the wilderness sanctuary and the other Hebrew temples that followed reveal the Lord’s desire to remove the barrier between God and humanity caused by sin so that He might once again draw close to us.

What did this first earthly sanctuary look like? How was it made? Did God really dwell in a building? What furniture was placed inside it? And what services were held within?

Let’s find out ...

This chapter will provide you with an overview of the temple on earth. The next chapter will explain the deeper significance of the sanctuary and its services.

The Wilderness Tabernacle

After God freed the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt, He did not immediately take them into the Promised Land. Instead, He first led them into the wilderness, to Mount Sinai, where they temporarily settled. Why? These former captives had lost much of their knowledge about God and needed to learn about His plans for them to be a great nation—a nation that would help to reveal His love for the world and help save humanity from sin and death.

While the Hebrews lived on these desert plains, Moses often walked up the mountain to meet with God and to receive messages for the people. One day, the Lord said, “Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering” (Exodus 25:2). The people were to bring precious metals, fine linens, animal skins, oils, spices, incense, and precious stones for this purpose:

“Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them” (v. 8).

And just as God gave Noah a blueprint for building the ark, He also gave Moses a divine design for building a sanctuary on earth. “According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it” (v. 9). This earthly structure was a simplified miniature patterned after “the copies of the things in the heavens”—that is, God’s sanctuary in heaven. (See Hebrews 9:23, 24.)

A Heartfelt Response

Unfortunately, the people rebelled against God soon after Moses had received this blueprint, so the tabernacle was not immediately built. But eventually, the people happily responded to God’s request, bringing in the large amounts of gold, silver, and other expensive materials necessary to build this earthly dwelling place for the Lord’s presence.

When the builders assessed all the materials being brought for the project, they were amazed:

“The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the LORD commanded us to do.’ . . . And the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done—indeed too much” (Exodus 36:5–7).

Their intense devotion indicated their readiness to serve God. The Bible also explains that God especially gifted certain people with artistic skills in the building of this structure.

“Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whom the LORD has put wisdom and understanding, to know how to do all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, shall do according to all that the LORD has commanded” (Exodus 36:1).

So what did this sacred sanctuary look like?



The Tabernacle and Courtyard

The wilderness sanctuary was constructed as a portable building because the Hebrews would spend many years as nomads traveling to the Promised Land.

This tent structure was a rectangle, built to be about 55 feet long, 18 feet wide, and 18 feet tall. The hard, dense acacia wood found in the area around Mount Sinai was used for much of the building and furniture. For the walls, boards overlaid in gold were placed in silver bases. Layers of curtains made of fine linen, goat hair, ram skins, and badger skins formed the roof, giving the building protection from the elements.

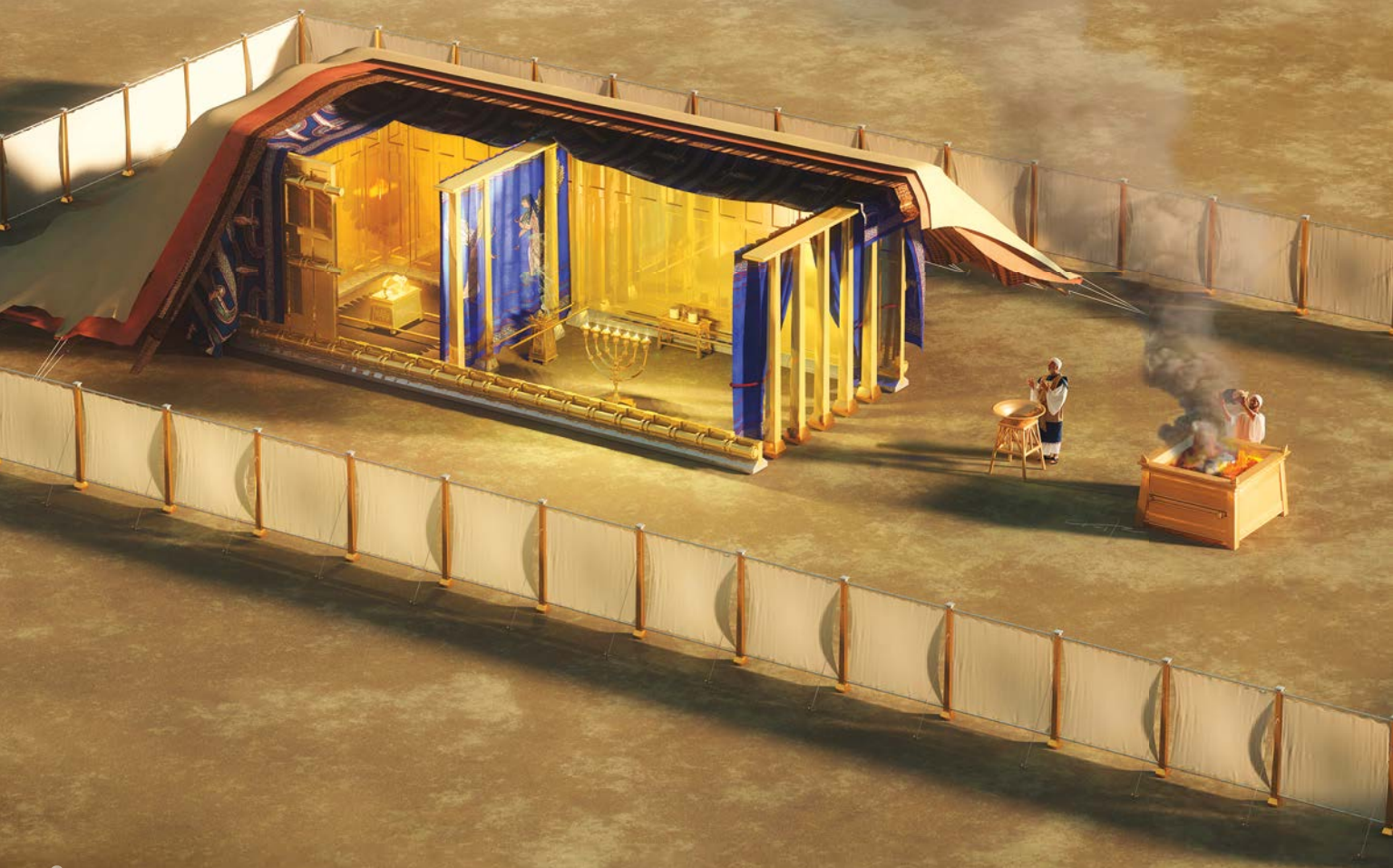
The inner tent was divided into two rooms: the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. A heavy, elaborately woven curtain separated these two rooms from each other; it was hung from four gold-covered pillars and was made with rich colors—blue, purple, and scarlet—and embroidered with pictures of cherubim. It was designed to be a stunning representation of the real ministering angels who serve God in the heavenly sanctuary.

Around the perimeter of the sanctuary were curtains that created a 150-foot-long by 75-foot-wide courtyard, which prevented people and animals from accidentally wandering into the sacred space. The curtains were placed low enough so that people could see the sanctuary, but entry was permitted only by a single door, a curtained gate at the east end.

Courtyard Furnishings

When entering the sanctuary courtyard, the first article of furniture an Israelite encountered was the altar of burnt offering. This bronze-covered, hollow square was about seven-and-a-half feet in length and width and about four-and-a-half feet high. It was built with a grate on which to burn animal sacrifices, and utensils were made to assist the priests in their work. A curved horn jutted out from each corner of the altar, and blood from the sacrifices was smeared on them.

The next article of courtyard furniture was the laver, which was situated between the altar and the inner tent. This large, polished-bronze basin held water and was





used by the priests to wash themselves before serving at the altar or in the tabernacle.

Holy Place Furnishings

The entrance into the sanctuary was a thick curtain made of blue, purple, and scarlet thread. It hung from five pillars made from acacia wood plated with gold and set in five bronze bases. It brought priests into the room called the Holy Place.

In the Holy Place were three articles of furniture. To the north side was the table of showbread ("presence bread"). It was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold and was about three feet long, one-and-a-half feet wide, and two-and-a-quarter feet tall. At its top were two borders of gold molding shaped like crowns. God instructed Moses, "You shall set the showbread on the table before Me always" (Exodus 25:30).

On the south side of the Holy Place stood a large menorah, a seven-branch lamp made of solid gold. It had gold cups to hold the olive oil and wicks that were "to burn continually" (Exodus 27:20); its seven branches were beautifully decorated with flowers. The lampstand weighed about 75 pounds and provided light in the enclosed room.

Located in front of the curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was the altar of incense. It was also made of acacia wood covered in gold. This upright, rectangular piece of furniture was about one-and-a-half feet in width and depth and stood about three feet high. As with the table of showbread, the altar of incense had gold molding shaped like crowns around the top edge, and like the altar of burnt offering, its corners were topped with four horns. Incense was burned daily on this small altar before the Lord, whose presence was behind the veil in the Most Holy Place.

Most Holy Place Furnishing

Behind the separating curtain was the most sacred space in the tabernacle, called the Holy of Holies or the Most Holy Place. This inner sanctum was the primary place the presence of God appeared. The Most Holy Place was a square room approximately 18 feet in height, depth, and width. It was entered into only once a year by the high priest on the Day of Atonement.

Only one piece of furniture was found in the Most Holy Place: the ark of the covenant. This chest was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold inside and out. It was about three-and-three-quarters feet long and two-and-a-quarter feet in height and depth. A solid gold lid was made for the top and was called the mercy seat.

Mounted on each side of the chest were figures of two golden angels, winged cherubim looking

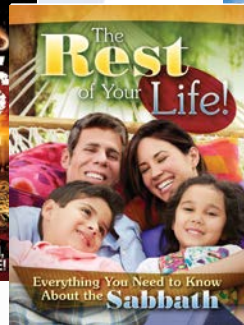
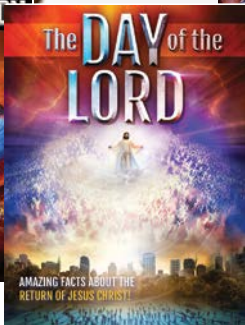




Did you enjoy this magazine?

Explore more Bible truth at

afbookstore.com



Six
Colorful,
Truth-Filled
Magazines!

Daniel and Revelation: Secrets of Prophecy

This easy-to-follow guide through the Bible books of Daniel and Revelation features stunning contemporary artwork and historical images and facts that uncover the deepest mysteries of prophecy in staggering clarity.

The Day of the Lord

Discover the signs and manner of Christ's return, the truth about the rapture, and what happens after His return. Even more important, you'll learn how to be ready for this imminent event so you can face the future with confidence!

Final Events of Bible Prophecy Magazine

You'll love this colorful, captivating 32-page magazine that unveils astonishing predictions about our planet's final days as revealed by Bible prophecy. Packed with fascinating facts and compelling Scripture, it examines seven last-day events including the signs of the end, the millennium, and more!

The Rest of Your Life

Loaded with vivid, full-color graphics and fascinating facts, this one-of-a-kind magazine reveals the astonishing truth about the Sabbath! See why it's critical for you to know the future of God's holy day!

Amazing Health Facts!

This full-color magazine presents eight powerful biblical health lessons in a direct, captivating way—including the benefits of a good diet, exercise, rest and the Sabbath, sunlight, water, and more. Get healthier now!

The Afterlife Mystery

Unravel the mysteries of death, hell, heaven, eternal life, and more! Packed with breathtaking, full-color graphics, this captivating, easy-to-read 32-page magazine dispels the darkness of confusion with the light of God's Word about what really happens when we die.