

learning about

# THE TABERNACLE

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# THE TABERNACLE

After delivering Israel from Egypt, God established a covenant with the people on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19-20). This covenant was not only about deliverance, but also about dwelling. God wanted not only to rescue His people, but to dwell among them, revealing His continual presence and care.

**“And they shall make me a sanctuary , that I may dwell among them.” (Exodus 25:8)**



The Tabernacle was built under the leadership of Moses and erected in the first month of the second year after the Exodus (Exodus 40:17). It became the center of worship and sacrifice, playing a crucial role until the establishment of the Temple in Jerusalem during Solomon's reign (1 Kings 6:1).



# PURPOSE



The Tabernacle symbolized God's dwelling place among His people, representing His presence, glory and holiness. It was also the center of worship and atonement for sins, prophetically pointing to Jesus Christ as the perfect manifestation of God's redemptive plan (Exodus 25:8; Hebrews 8:5).



**Divine Habitation:** It showed God's desire to be close to his people.



**Worship and Sacrifice:** It was the place where sins were atoned for, prefiguring Christ's definitive sacrifice.



**Shadow of Future Realities:** Every detail of the Tabernacle revealed aspects of God's redemptive plan, fully accomplished in Jesus.





# THE MAIN PARTS OF THE TABERNACLE



● Atrium: The place where sin was confronted.

● Holy Place: The area of communion and service to God.

● Holy of Holies: The most sacred place, where God manifested His presence.





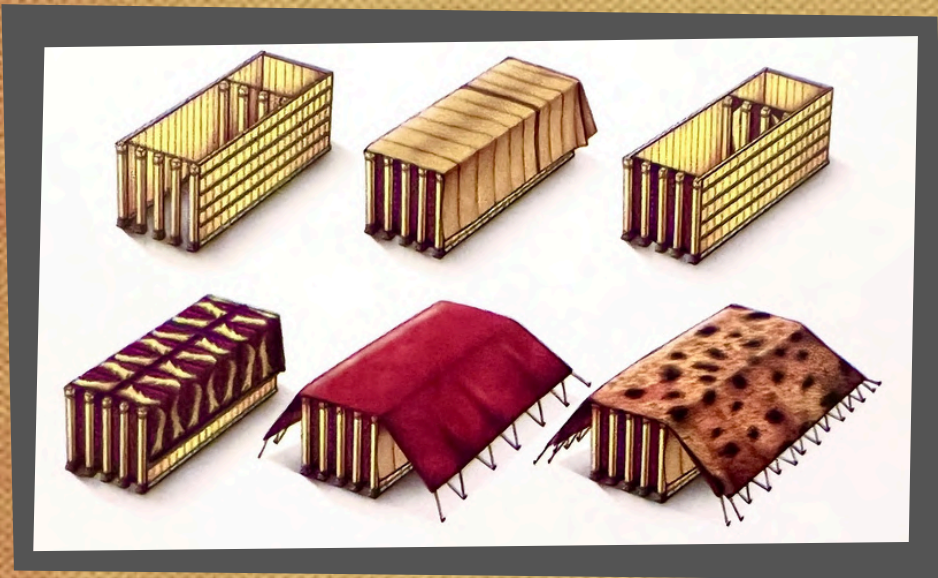
THE TABERNACLE DESCRIBED IN THE PENTATEUCO was a folding tent where the sacrifices prescribed by the Mosaic Law were to be performed.

It was a structure perfectly adapted to the nomadic way of life in which the Israelites found themselves on their way to Canaan.

The tabernacle replaced the temporary tent that had been erected outside the camp (Ex 33:7-11).



In the image below, the process of assembling the Tabernacle. The Levites were responsible for dismantling, transporting and reassembling the structure, as well as helping to provide firewood, wash utensils and carry water.



Although the animal was immolated by the offerer himself, only the priest could perform the rituals on the altar and on the sacred furniture.



The Tabernacle had several access restrictions when traveling inside.

The people remained outside the courtyard, and only the offerer with his sacrifice passed through the door, arriving only at the Altar of Burnt Offerings. There, the animal was killed and its blood taken only by the priest into the Tabernacle, into the Holy Place.

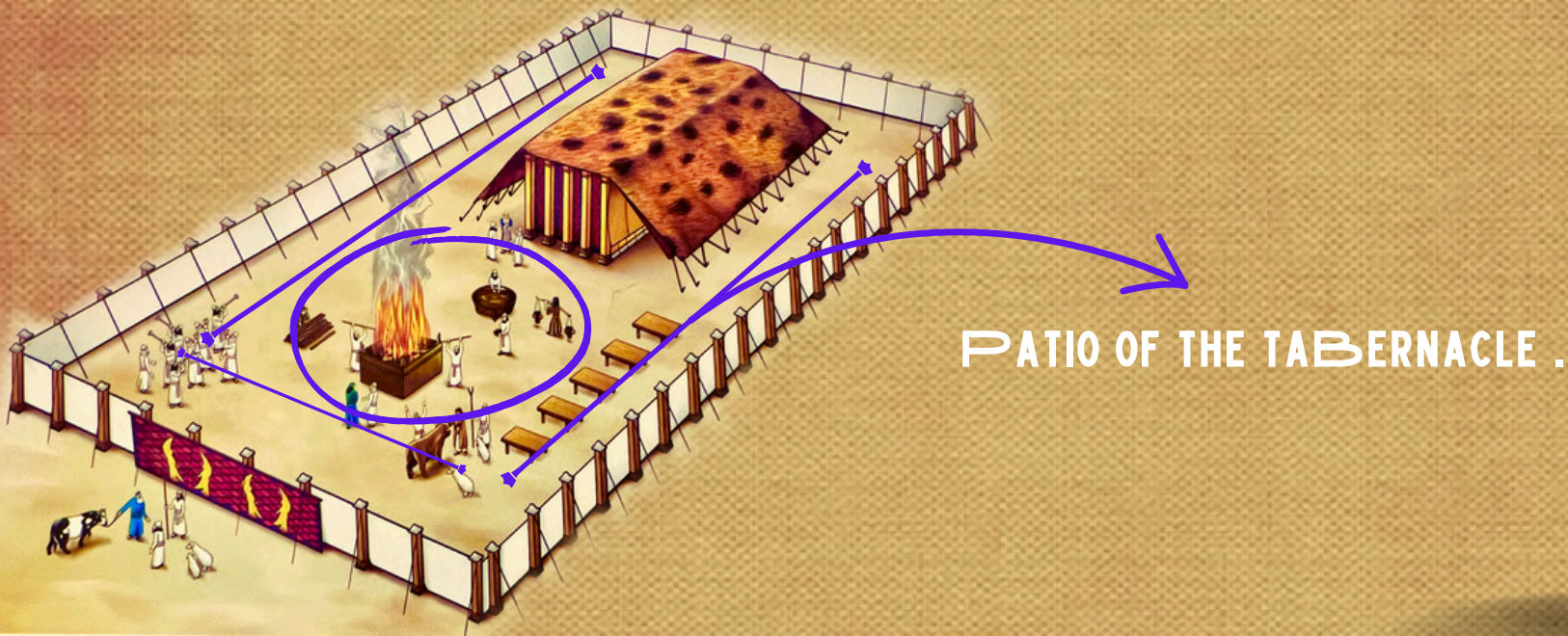


As for the most sacred part, the Holy of Holies, the high priest could only enter once a year, on the Day of Atonement.



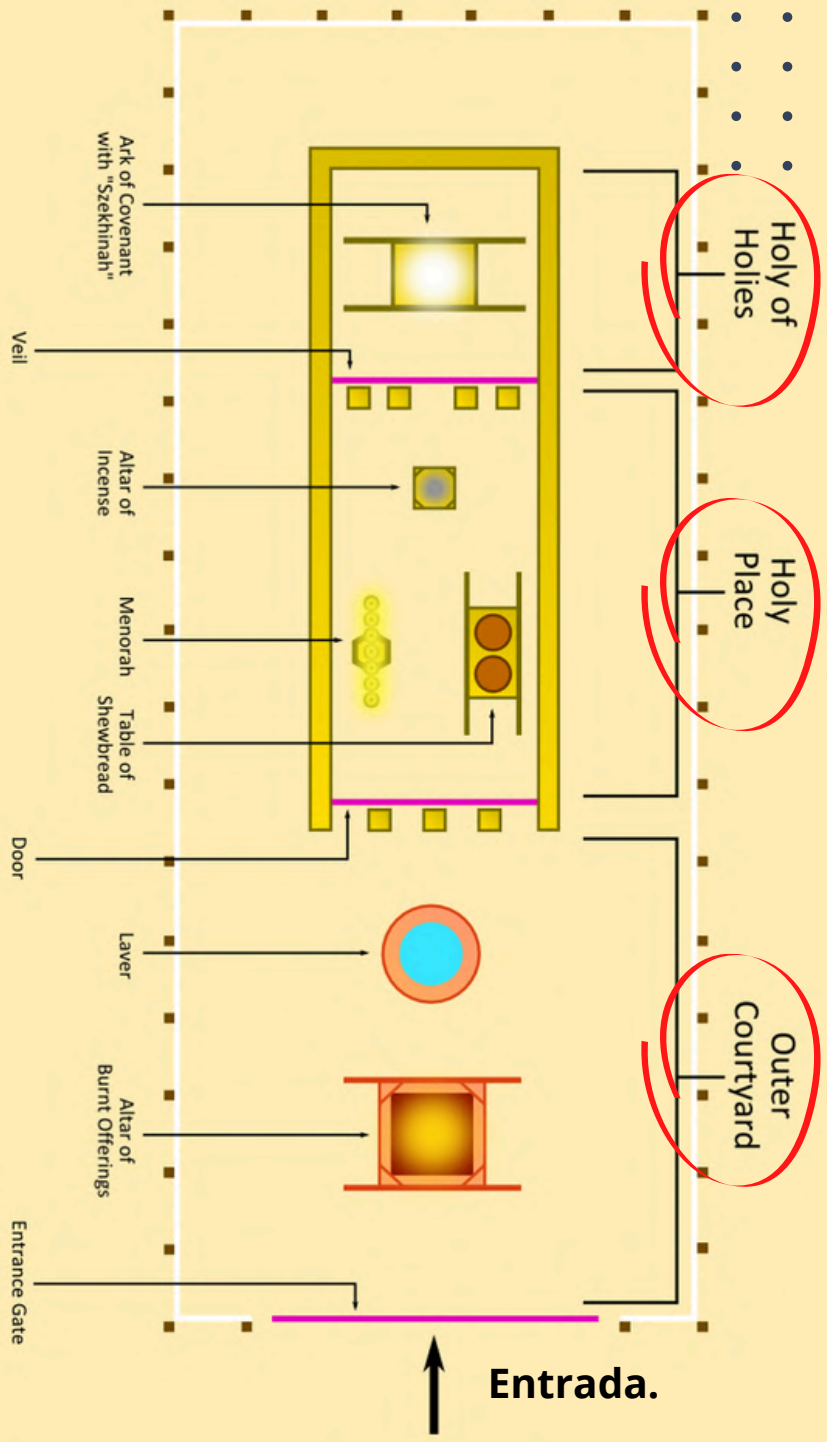
# COURTYARD OF THE TABERNACLE

The courtyard surrounding the Tabernacle was surrounded by curtains 2.5 meters high, limiting an area of approximately 50 meters x 25 meters. This "fence" was supported by 20 pillars on each side, plus 10 pillars at the back and another 10 at the front:





# PLAN OF THE TABERNACLE



THE 3 DIVISIONS WITHIN THE TABERNACLE.

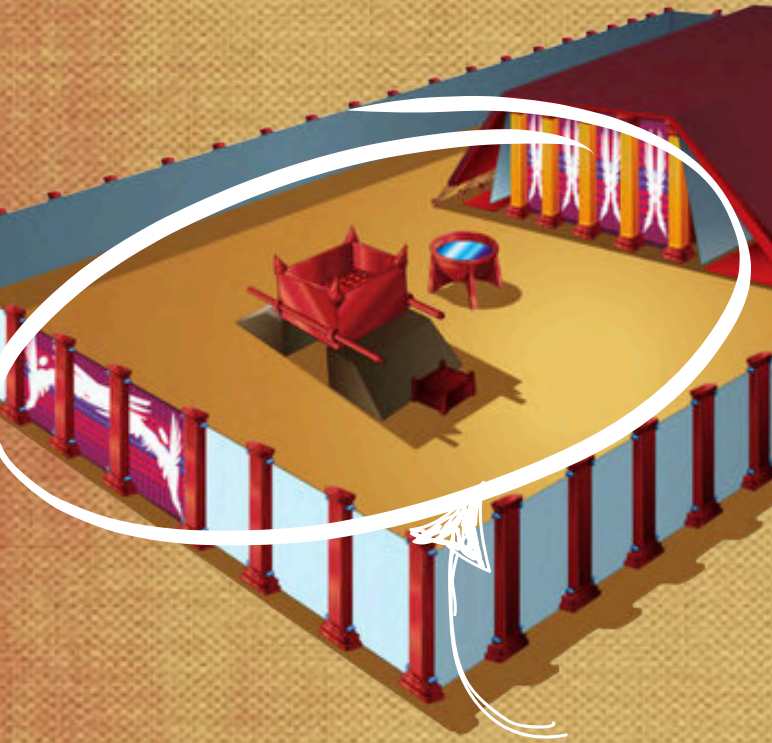


# THE ATRIUM



The Atrium was the outer part of the Tabernacle, surrounded by curtains of fine linen, which delimited the sacred space where God met with His people.

This space symbolized the starting point of the spiritual journey, a place where sin was confronted and dealt with. The Atrium highlighted the need for purification and reconciliation before any approach to the Creator. It represents God's universal call for sinners to begin their journey towards holiness through repentance and faith (Exodus 27:9-19).



**THE ATRIUM WAS THE  
OUTSIDE AREA.**



# ALTAR OF SACRIFICE

The Altar of Sacrifice, made of wood covered in bronze, was the place where sacrifices were continually offered to the Lord. Located at the entrance to the Tabernacle, it was the first element encountered by those seeking the divine presence.

This altar symbolized the substitutionary sacrifice, pointing directly to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). It prefigured Christ's definitive sacrifice, described in Hebrews 10:10, where the shed blood brought redemption and eternal forgiveness.

## **SPIRITUAL LESSONS**

The Altar of Sacrifice teaches us that the way to God is through repentance and atonement for sin. It emphasizes that a relationship with the Lord is established through Jesus' perfect sacrifice, which reconciles us with the Father.





# BRONZE SINK

The Bronze Sink, located between the Altar of Sacrifice and the Holy Place, was a container filled with water, used by the priests to wash their hands and feet before entering the Tabernacle. Made of polished bronze, its surface reflected the image of the person approaching it, symbolizing introspection and self-cleansing.

The water in the font symbolized the need for spiritual purification before any approach to God. This purification refers to the “washing by the Word” (Ephesians 5:26), which sanctifies us and makes us fit for divine service.

## SPIRITUAL LESSONS

The Bronze Sink reinforces the importance of continuous sanctification in Christian life. Just as the priests needed to be clean to serve, we are called to seek a pure heart and a life of holiness before the Lord.





# ●

## ● INITIAL REFLECTION

The Tabernacle Atrium reminds us that the spiritual journey begins with confronting sin and the need for redemption. The Altar of Sacrifice points to the perfect work of Jesus, while the Bronze Font exhorts us to daily sanctification. These elements reinforce that God calls us to a life of purity and commitment, inviting us to approach him with sincere repentance and living faith.



# THE HOLY PLACE

The Holy Place was the first area inside the Tabernacle, separated from the Atrium by a curtain. This environment symbolized a growing intimacy with God, marking the transition to a deeper relationship and a life dedicated to service and worship. In the Holy Place, the elements pointed to different aspects of communion with God and the spiritual sustenance He offers His people (Exodus 26:33-35).

## THE ELEMENTS OF THE HOLY PLACE

**ALTAR OF INCENSE**



**GOLDEN CHANDELIER**



**TABLE OF PROPOSITION BREAD**



# ⋮ GOLDEN CHANDELIER

The Chandelier, made of pure gold, had seven arms and was lit continuously, illuminating the Holy Place.

**Spiritual meaning:** It symbolizes the light and presence of God, who guides and enlightens His people. It also points to Christ, the light of the world (John 8:12), and to the role of the Holy Spirit, who brings clarity and direction to the believer's life (Exodus 25:31-40).

**Spiritual lesson:** The Candlestick teaches us the importance of depending on divine light to walk in the darkness of this world, reflecting God's glory through our lives.





# TABLE OF PROPOSITION BREAD

This table, made of wood overlaid with gold, contained 12 loaves of bread, representing the 12 tribes of Israel. The loaves were renewed every week and consumed by the priests.

**Spiritual meaning:** The Table of Bread represents God's continual provision for His people and the communion He desires to have with us. It also points to Christ as the bread of life, who supplies all our spiritual needs (John 6:35).

**Spiritual lesson:** This element reinforces the truth that God is our food, and only he can satisfy the spiritual hunger of the soul.



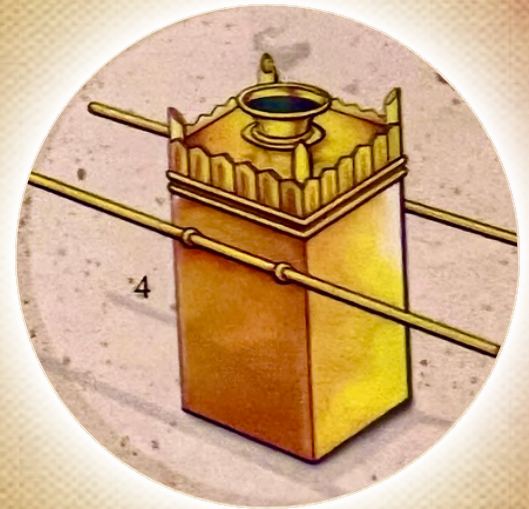


# ALTAR OF INCENSE

The Altar of Incense, made of wood covered in gold, was the place where aromatic incense was burned daily, as an offering exclusively dedicated to the Lord.

**Spiritual meaning:** Burning incense symbolized the prayers and worship of God's people rising as a pleasing aroma before the Creator (Psalm 141:2; Revelation 5:8). It reminds us of the need for a life of constant and sincere prayer.

**Spiritual lesson:** The Altar of Incense teaches us that prayer is an essential form of worship and communion with God. Our prayers, when offered in faith, are pleasing and accepted by the Lord.







# ⋮ HOLY PLACE REFLECTION ⋮

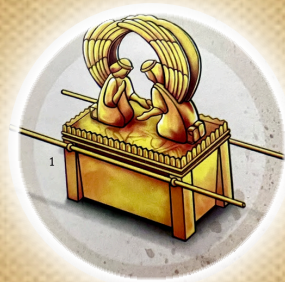
The Holy Place reveals God's invitation to a deeper communion. Each element - the Candlestick, the Table of Bread and the Altar of Incense - points to different aspects of the relationship with the Lord: the light that guides us, the spiritual sustenance that strengthens us and the worship that brings us closer to God. Together, they challenge us to live a life dedicated to service, prayer and continual dependence on God.



# THE HOLY OF HOLIES

The Holy of Holies was the most sacred place in the Tabernacle, separated from the Holy Place by a thick veil. Only the high priest could enter it, and this happened once a year, on the Day of Atonement, to make propitiation for the sins of the people (Leviticus 16:2). This space represented God's manifest presence in the midst of His people, being a symbol of divine holiness and the exclusive relationship He wishes to have with His own.

## THE ELEMENTS OF THE HOLY OF HOLIES



**ARK OF THE COVENANT  
PROPITIATORY**



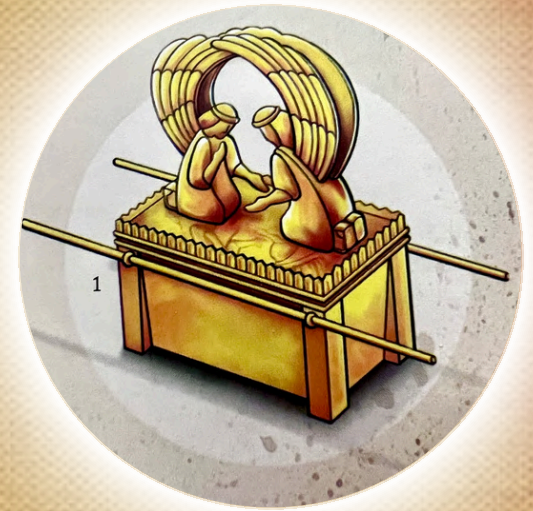
# ARK OF THE COVENANT

The Ark of the Covenant was a wooden chest covered in gold, containing sacred items:

- The Tablets of the Law (Exodus 25:16), representing God's covenant with Israel.
- The Manna (Exodus 16:33), symbolizing divine sustenance in the desert.
- Aaron's border that blossomed (Numbers 17:10), showing the divine choice of the priesthood.

**Spiritual meaning:** The Ark of the Covenant symbolizes God's presence and His covenant with His people. It points to Christ, who perfectly fulfills the Law and offers eternal provision for those who trust in Him (John 1:14).

**Spiritual lesson:** The Ark reminds us of God's faithfulness to his promises and his continuous care for those who seek him.





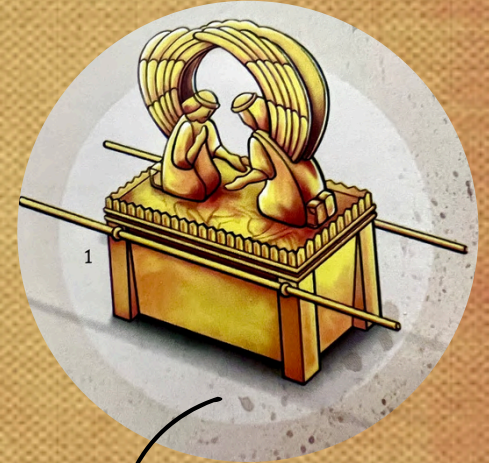
# PROPI TIATORY

The Mercy Seat was the lid of the Ark, made of pure gold, with two cherubs with open wings facing the center.

It was there that the high priest sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice on the Day of Atonement, symbolizing the propitiation for the sins of the people.

**Spiritual meaning:** The Mercy Seat represents God's throne of grace, where sin is atoned for. It points to Jesus Christ, our mediator and perfect sacrifice, who intercedes for us before the Father (Hebrews 9:12).

**Spiritual Lesson:** The Mercy Seat teaches us about the need for atonement and the way Jesus opened for us to have direct access to the Father, through His definitive sacrifice on the cross.







# FINAL REFLECTION

The Holy of Holies is a testimony to God's desire to dwell among His people, even though His holiness requires atonement and mediation. The Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat point to Christ as the perfect fulfillment of the Law, the spiritual sustenance, and the way to reconciliation with God. These elements invite us to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice, which grants us access to the throne of grace and restores our relationship with the Father.



# .....THE END OF THE TABERNACLE.

The Tabernacle, built at God's direction to Moses in the wilderness, served as the central place of worship for the people of Israel during their journey to the Promised Land.

Its primary use continued until the construction of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, about 480 years after the Exodus from Egypt (1 Kings 6:1).

When Solomon completed the Temple, the Tabernacle ceased to be the center of worship, as the sacred utensils, such as the Ark of the Covenant, were transferred to the new location (1 Kings 8:4-6).

The Temple replaced the Tabernacle as God's dwelling place among the people of Israel, symbolically marking the end of its use. After this, the Tabernacle disappears from the biblical record, and its materials are presumed to have been disused.



# .....THE END OF THE TABERNACLE.

The Tabernacle was established as a meeting place between God and His people, symbolizing holiness and the divine presence in the midst of Israel. More than a physical structure, the Tabernacle was a visible manifestation of God's desire to dwell with His people and restore the fellowship lost through sin.

Every detail of the Tabernacle pointed to important aspects of the relationship between God and man: cleansing, worship, fellowship, and atonement for sins. It was a constant reminder of the need for holiness and God's plan of redemption.



# .....THE TABERNACLE AND CHRIST.

## Spiritual Meaning

The Tabernacle was a prophetic symbol of God's redemptive plan, fully and definitively fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He is our living Tabernacle, who dwelt among us to reveal the glory of God and establish the way of reconciliation.

**"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."  
(John 1:14)**

Jesus became the meeting point between God and humanity, offering purification, communion and eternal salvation. The Tabernacle, in all its complexity and symbolism, points to Christ as the perfect fulfillment of the divine promise.