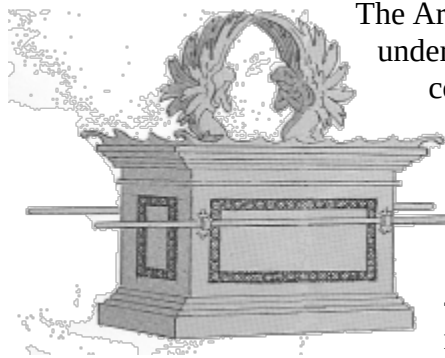


Tabernacle of the Congregation—Furniture

FURNITURE IN THE MOST HOLY PLACE (HOLY OF HOLIES)

The Ark of the Covenant (Ark of the Testimony)



The Ark was a vessel to contain the testimony of God's dealing with Israel under the Covenant of Law. It was a wooden box overlaid with gold and contained 3 things:

- The tables of The Law, to remind them of God's holy and just requirements,
- a pot of Manna, to show them His loving watch-care over them, and
- Aaron's rod that budded, to show the promise of eternal resurrection life.

The Ark is a figure of Jesus as a God-man, in who dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily [Col.2:9].

The tables of The Law are a figure of the Father in His justice and righteousness.

The Manna is a figure of the Son of God who came to men.

Aaron's rod that budded is a figure of the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, and will quicken our mortal bodies [Rom.8:11].

The Mercy Seat

The Mercy Seat is a separate piece of furniture, although it was used to cover the Ark. It was made entirely of gold and as such, portrays the very throne of God that becomes a throne of grace when it is sprinkled with the blood The Law required in payment of sin. God's throne is also justice and holiness.

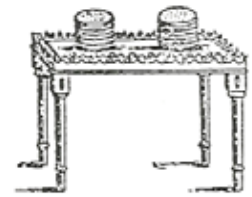
It particularly shows Jesus as God himself, dwelling among us, as seen in the Gospels. Our natural life alone could not save us, it only shows the great gulf between man's condition and God's requirement. The Mercy Seat was the place where blood was sprinkled, showing that Jesus alone could redeem us.

FURNITURE IN THE HOLY PLACE

The Table of Shewbread

The Table of Shewbread was made of wood overlaid with gold. It held the 12 loaves of bread that were kept in the Holy Place at all times. In it we see Jesus as He presented himself in John 6:33...the Bread of Life.

Jesus is a figure of both the table and the bread. We also see a picture of the saints holding forth Jesus as the true, satisfying bread from heaven.



The Golden Candlestick

The Golden Candlestick and the Mercy Seat are the only pieces of furniture made entirely of pure gold. The candlestick held 7 candles, which were the only light in the Holy Place.

This piece of furniture is a picture of Jesus as the perfect, sufficient light of Israel and the whole world. However, since it was in the Holy Place, it speaks of Jesus as the light in the hearts of believers.

The Altar of Incense

The Altar of Incense speaks of the life of Jesus that is a wonderful fragrance to God, a life that is always in harmony with God's will.

It also shows the fragrance of our worship and service to God. However, our worship and service to God is only accepted because of the life of Jesus in us. We see this in the fact that atonement had to be made on the horns of the Altar of Incense once a year [Exo.30:10, 2Co.2:15].



FURNITURE IN THE COURT



The Brazen Altar

The Brazen Altar was the first piece that was seen when coming into The Court. It speaks of Jesus at Calvary, where God's judgment was poured out on Him; one so undeserving as figured by the animals offered there.

The dimensions of the Brazen Altar were 5 cubits on each side. This shows God's grace is extended to the whole world at Calvary [Rom.5:20].

The Brazen Laver

The Brazen Laver is a figure of new birth through the Lord Jesus Christ, who washed us in His own blood [Rev.1:5]. Jesus' redemption is not only for salvation, but also for sanctification [Eph.5:26, the washing of water by the Word].

The priests washed at the Laver every time they came into the Tabernacle.



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