In the Old Testament, the Tabernacle was arranged for a specific purpose; to move people into God’s presence to worship.

The Tabernacle was designed as a model of heaven; to model our future worship in the actual presence of God. Worship in the physical tabernacle was merely a shadow, a copy of the real thing.

After Christ, He exchanged this shadow for reality.

New Testament comparisons:
- Christ pitched His tabernacle among us – John 1; true tabernacle is presence of God; since we had God in human flesh living on earth, the tabernacle was here.
- Matthew – Veil, which is His flesh
- Passover lamb
- More comparisons emerge

Tabernacle – grand object lesson for worship; moving into God’s presence

**Overview of the tabernacle** – one year after first Passover

150’ X 75’
Fence – 7ft. high
Tabernacle = 45’ X 15’; divided into two parts
Roof = four layers; fine linen; goat’s hair; rams’ skin dyed red; leather (porpoise, manatee?)

I. The Camp
   A. Surrounding the Tabernacle; worship was central
   B. Fire outside the camp – judgment
   C. Rear in the west, entrance in the east (Ex 26:22).
      - Moving to the west (east to west) is movement toward God.
      - Movement to the east (west to east) is movement away from God
   D. Gate
      - Only one entrance
      Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13-14
• Always open
  – Open to all who sought forgiveness and fellowship
  – Temple era
    Court of Priests, Israelites, Women
    Court of the Gentiles – 3 cubit high wall (~4.5 ft); Eph. 2:14

• Same colors used throughout
  – white – His spotless purity
  – blue – His heavenly origin
  – red – Sufferings and death
  – purple – His reign in glory

E. Tabernacle, not the Temple, was used for illustration. Why?
  • Outlined as part of old covenant
  • Temple modeled on Tabernacle
  • Emphasis: temporary nature of rules for worship

II. The Outer Court – 150’ X 75’

A. Altar of burnt offering – Ex 27:1-8
  • Sin offering; male without blemish from flock or herd
  • Lay hands on
  • Slaughter; sprinkle blood on horns and in front of veil
  • Burn it; extra parts burned outside of camp

B. Bronze Laver – Ex. 30:17-21; made from metal used for mirrors (38:8); reflection of self; water to cleanse; water a symbol of Spirit (Is. 44:3)

John 13:1-10; Jesus telling Peter – you are already clean

Author doesn’t mention either of these things:
  Develop his primary theme of substitutionary sacrifice

III. The Holy place – 9:2

Priest on duty only person allowed

1 Pet. 2:9; We are called priests; invited in for fellowship because we have been cleansed

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
—Hebrews 10:19-22
A. Altar for incense in morning and evening; intercession – Ex. 30:1-9

Priest wore 12 stones with the names of the 12 tribes

May my prayer be counted as incense before You; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering. Psalm 141:2

Jesus Christ is our intercessor

B. Table for the bread of the presence; 12 loaves, 12 tribes; sustenance – Lev. 24:5-9

Fellowship; welcome; table prepared for you

Provision made for you; 12 baskets left over; “I am bread of life”

C. Lampstand with seven lamps; truth, light – Ex 25:31

Only source of light in Holy place

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.
—John 1:4-9

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”
—John 8:12

“I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”
—John 12:46

IV. The Holy of Holies

A. Veil; thick; allowed no light

No lampstand

B. Perfect cube (15x15x15); just like the New Jerusalem in Revelation

C. Ark of the Covenant
   - Aaron’s rod – Num. 17:10; symbol of rebellion against God’s authority
   - Manna – distrust of God; doubt of His goodness and ability to provide
   - Tablets – breaking of the Law
Lid – throne of God

Cherubim – guardians of sacred things; Ezek. 48 (face of man and lion)

Lessons for Israel:

• Absolute authority
  Not ungracious; He made a way

• Cannot come empty-handed
  Costly; impossible to calculate how many animals were slaughtered;

• Restricted access; Worship from a distance
  Few could come
  Infrequently

  They needed a much better system.

Lessons for us:

• Build a model tabernacle; wonderful object lesson.
• All of life is to be arranged around worship of Jesus.
• Jesus Christ is:
  1. The door
  2. Our substitute
  3. Our cleansing for fellowship
  4. Our bread that sustains
  5. Our light that illumines
  6. Our intercessor
  7. Our access through the veil

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

—Revelation 21:1-5