



The Perfect Way

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Sometimes it's easier to have someone challenge our **“WHAT”** if we know their motive is **LOVE.**

In turn, we may be provoked to examine our **“WHY”**, which could eventually affect our **“WHAT.”**

A *good way* isn't always **The Perfect Way!**

WHY?

1. Communicate in various methods and at various times?
2. Create a totally NEW ORDER of priesthood and introduce the person of Melchizedek?
3. Not have Jesus come through the line of Aaron as opposed to the line of Judah if He is to be a priest?
4. Design a tabernacle that would never be permanent and would eventually need to be replaced?

#1 **WHY** communicate in various methods and at various times?

Hebrews 1:1 Throughout our history God has spoken to our ancestors by his prophets in many different ways. The revelation he gave them was only a fragment at a time, *building one truth upon another*.

Footnote: The Greek is “God spoke in different times in different parts.” That is, he reveals one piece and then another, *like pieces of a puzzle*, with one piece complementing the other. *The Aramaic can be translated “God spoke to our ancestors by all methods and at any price” or “in every way, shape, and form.”* That is, by sample and by example God reveals his ways **progressively**, building on previous understandings, leading us into Christ’s fullness.

#2 **WHY** create a totally **NEW ORDER** of priesthood and introduce Melchizedek?

The issue in Hebrews 7 is **priesthood**. We don't really understand the importance of this office to the Jewish people for whom the book of Hebrews is written. Based on Old Testament teaching, these people were raised with firm convictions that a priest was **absolutely necessary** in their relationship with God. The priest was a go-between or a mediator between God and man. Such a person was necessary because of the Holiness of God. Moses was given specific instructions as to the fact that ALL priests would come from the tribe of Levi and further more from Aaron and his sons.

The Problem:

As mentioned above, a Jewish priest must be from the tribe of Levi. The author of Hebrews intends to show that Jesus is, in fact, the only ordained priest that God has **for believers**. Jesus was not from the tribe of Levi but from the tribe of Judah. This means that according to Mosaic law, Jesus lacked the first requirement for priesthood.

Hebrews 7:13-15 The Voice

¹³ We're talking about someone who comes from another tribe, from which no member has ever served at God's altar. ¹⁴ It's clear that *Jesus*, our Lord, descended from the tribe of Judah; but Moses never spoke about priests from that tribe. ¹⁵ Doesn't it seem obvious? *Jesus is* a priest who resembles Melchizedek *in so many ways*;

Hebrews 7:1 This Melchizedek was king of the city of Salem and also a priest of God Most High. **Hebrews 7:2b and 3** The name Melchizedek means "king of justice," (**king of righteousness**) and king of Salem means "**king of peace.**" ³ There is no record of his father or mother or any of his ancestors—no beginning or end to his life. He remains a priest forever, resembling the Son of God.

#3 **WHY** not have Jesus come through the line of Aaron as opposed to the line of Judah?

Hebrews 7: 11 So if the priesthood of Levi, on which the law was based, could have achieved the **perfection God intended**, why did God need to establish a different priesthood, with a priest in the order of Melchizedek instead of the order of Levi and Aaron?

Hebrews 7:16 Jesus became a priest, not by meeting the physical requirement of belonging to the tribe of Levi, **but by the power of a life that cannot be destroyed.**

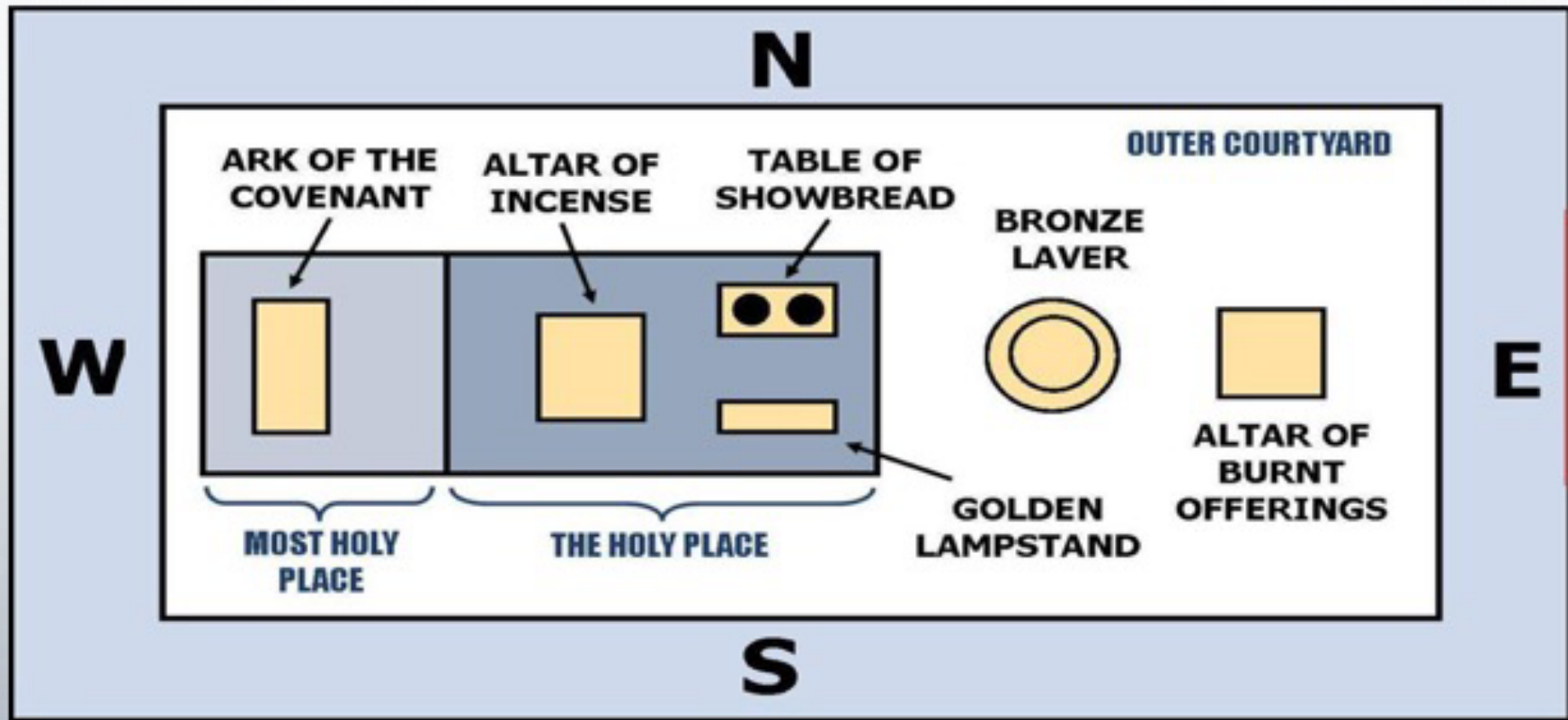
¹⁷ And the psalmist pointed this out when he prophesied,
“**You are a priest forever** in the order of Melchizedek.”

¹⁸ Yes, the old requirement about the priesthood was set aside because it was **weak and useless**. ¹⁹ For the law never made anything perfect. **But now we have confidence in a better hope, through which we draw near to God.**

²² So we can see that Jesus has become the guarantee of a *new and* better covenant. ²³ Further, the prior priesthood *of the sons of Levi* has included many priests because death cut short their service, ²⁴ but Jesus holds His priesthood permanently because He lives His resurrected life forever. ²⁵ From such a vantage, He is able to save those **who approach God through Him for all time because He will forever live to be their advocate in the presence of God.**

²⁶ It is only fitting that we should have a High Priest who is **devoted to God, blameless, pure, *compassionate toward but separate from sinners, and exalted by God to the highest place of honor.*** ²⁷ Unlike other high priests, He does not first need to make atonement every day for His own sins, and only then for His people's, **because He already made atonement, reconciling us with God once and forever when He offered Himself as a sacrifice.**

THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES (EXODUS 35-40)





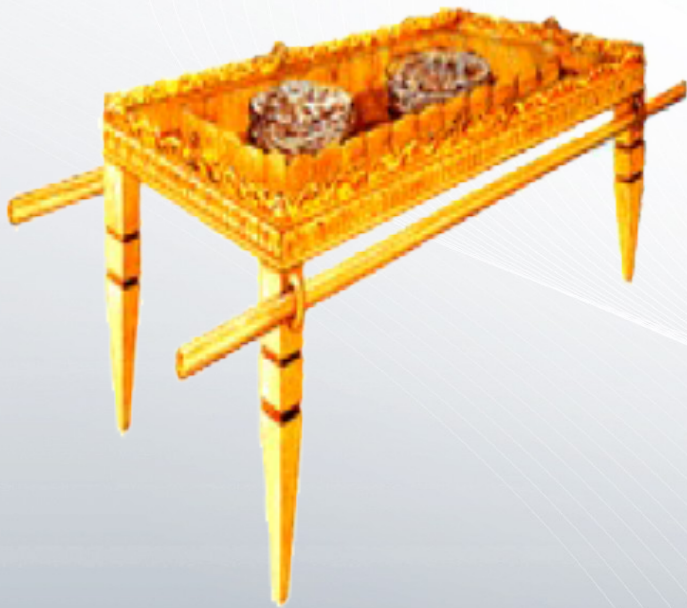
The Brazen Altar –

- Altar on which the animal sacrifices were made, which Lev.1:9 describes as a “sweet smelling aroma in the nostrils of a holy God.”
- Acacia wood overlaid with bronze.
- The priest on duty assisted the father in making the sacrifices. Then, they captured the blood and spread it on the altar.
- **Heb 9:22 “Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”**
- For believers, this represents the process of justification.



The Bronze Laver – *Exod 30:17-21*

- Made from the bronze mirrors of the women.
- It was here that the priests washed their hands and feet before entering into and coming out of the holy place.
- This speaks of the **sanctification** that the “washing of the Word” does for believers by providing instructions on becoming holy.
- It was the most used piece of furniture as **sanctification** is a process in the life of those who are being changed daily by reading the Bible.
- Hebrews 12:14 (AMP) *Continually* pursue peace with everyone, and the sanctification without which no one will [ever] see the Lord.



The Table of Showbread

- The primary purpose of the table was to hold “the bread of the presence,” which was set before the presence/face of The LORD.
- Exactly twelve loaves were arranged into two rows of six, and these loaves represented the twelve tribes of Israel.
- The bread had no yeast – a type and shadow of sin, as the priest were ceremonially cleansed before entering.
- The table of showbread emphasizes God’s **provision for Israel as well as the intimate fellowship that exists between God and His people through Jesus, our mediator.**



The Golden Lampstand

- The golden lampstand was hammered from **one piece of pure gold into 66 pieces**. This represents the 66 books of the Bible, which lights our path.
- In the holy place there was no window or place to let in the light, therefore the lampstand was the light source. **Jesus is the light of the world.**
- The seven oil lamps resting in the flower petals were like small bowls. A flax or **linen wick** would be placed in the lamp and the fire was never to go out (Lev. 24:2).
- Twice every day, morning and evening, a priest attended to the wick and replenished the pure beaten olive oil for the lamps (Ex 30:7).



The Altar of Incense

- Made from acacia wood overlaid with pure gold.
- The altar was used for burning incense, which twice a day was offered by the priest.
- The incense was a mixture of three, rare spices blended with frankincense and beaten to a fine powder and then salt was added.
- The incense was burned on pieces of hot coal, which the priest removed in a censer from the brazen altar in the courtyard.
- Poured out on burning coals the incense produced a delightful aroma in the Holy Place, which represented the prayers and worship of believers.
- **Hebrews 7:25 - Therefore Jesus is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.**



The Ark of the Covenant

- Spiritually, the Ark was the manifestation of God's physical presence on earth.
- It was accessible only once a year, and then, only by one person.
- On Yom Kippur, **the High Priest** could enter the Holy of Holies to ask forgiveness for himself and for all the nation of Israel (Lev. 16:2).
- It was built of acacia wood and was overlaid inside and out with gold. Its cover, made of solid gold, featured two golden cherubs, one at each end. They faced each other with their faces toward the cover and their wings extending upward.
- The Ark was an archive for sacred items **that would remind the Israelites of the covenant, or agreement**, that God had made with them at Mount Sinai.
- The only light in the Holy of Holies comes from the presence of God.



#4 WHY design a tabernacle that would never be permanent and would eventually need to be replaced?

Hebrews 9: 8-10 ⁸ Now the Holy Spirit uses the symbols of this pattern of worship to reveal that **THE PERFECT WAY** of holiness had not yet been unveiled. For as long as the tabernacle stood ⁹ it was an illustration *that pointed to our present time of fulfillment*, demonstrating that offerings and animal sacrifices **had failed to perfectly cleanse the conscience of the worshiper.** ¹⁰ For this old pattern of worship was a matter of external rules and rituals concerning food and drink and ceremonial washings which was imposed upon us until the appointed time of heart-restoration had arrived.

Hebrews 8:9-10 Amplified Bible

9 Not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt;
For they did not abide in My covenant, and so I withdrew My favor *and* disregarded them, says the Lord.

10 “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
After those days, says the Lord:
I will imprint My laws upon their minds [even upon their innermost thoughts and understanding], and engrave them upon their hearts [effecting their regeneration].

And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Revelation 21 The Passion Translation

A New Heaven, a New Earth, the New Jerusalem

21 Then *in a vision* I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and earth had passed away, and the sea no longer existed. ² I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, descending out of the heavenly realm from the presence of God, like a pleasing bride that had been prepared for her husband, *adorned for her wedding*.

³ And I heard a thunderous voice from the throne, saying:

“Look! **God’s tabernacle is with human beings.**

And from now on **He will tabernacle with them as their God.**

Now God himself will have his home with them—

‘God-with-them’ will be their God!

⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes
and eliminate death entirely.

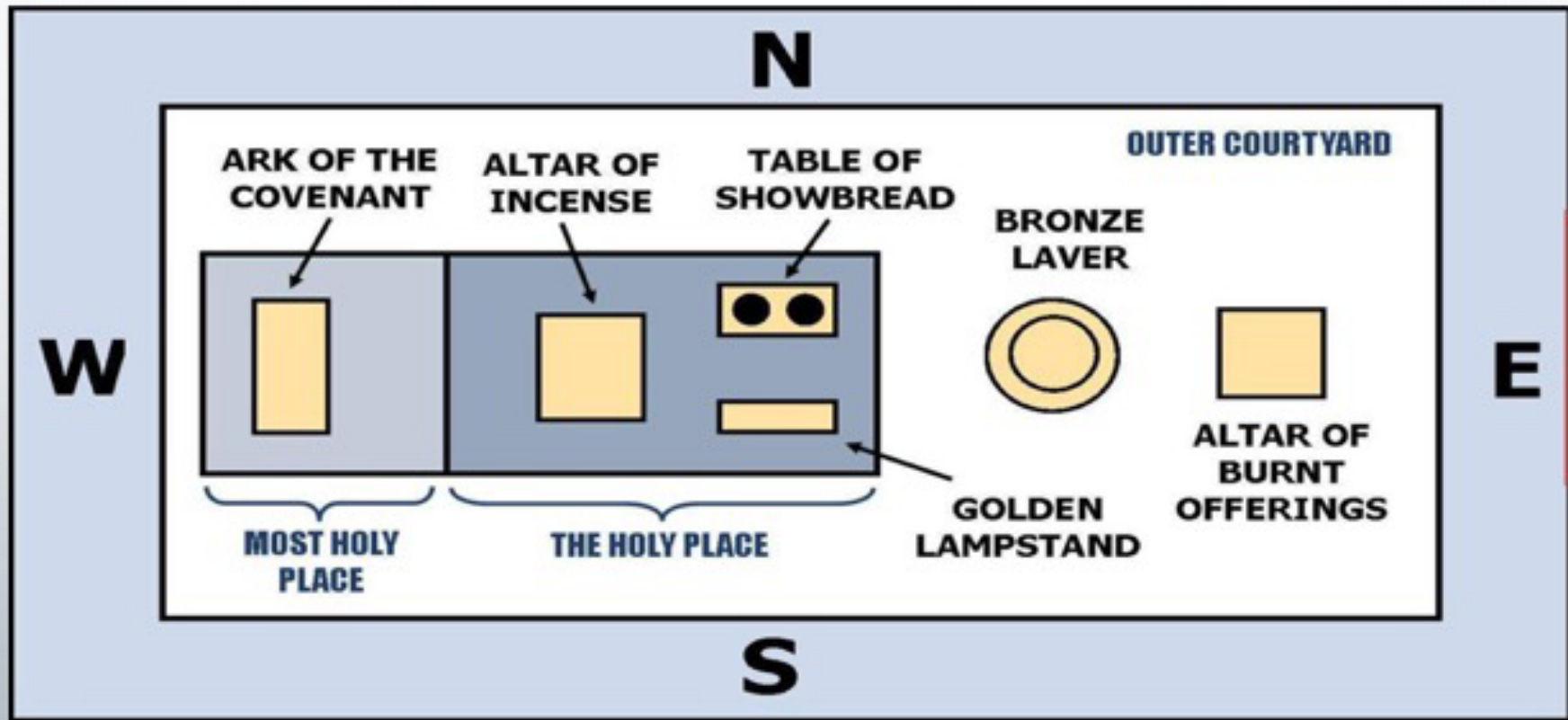
No one will mourn or weep any longer.

The pain of wounds will no longer exist,
for the old order has ceased.”

⁵ And God-Enthroned spoke to me and said, **“Consider this! I am making everything to be new and fresh.** Write down at once all that I have told you, because each word is trustworthy and dependable.”

⁶ Then he said to me, “It has been accomplished! For I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give water to all who are thirsty. As my gracious gift, they will continuously drink from the fountain of living water. ⁷ **The conquering ones will inherit these gifts from me. I will continue to be their God and they will continue being children for me.”**

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