

"The MOST Holy Place"

Exodus 25, 26

May 28, 2017

The "MOST" Holy Place (The Holy of Holies)—Ex 26:31-34

- The furnishings: the Ark of the Covenant & Mercy Seat—Ex 25:10-11, 17-18, 21-22
 - The guarding cherubim
 - The contents of the Ark (the tablets of the commandments; Aaron's Rod; manna)
 - The Mercy Seat - The ritual of the day of atonement
 - The manifesting of God's glory above the mercy seat

Observation Not to be overlooked here—"gradation"... the fact that there is "MORE" to experience with regards to the presence of God.

"...the three-part structure of the tabernacle, moving from lesser to greater degrees of holiness, reflects the gradations of holiness on Mount Sinai. The tabernacle is modeled after a higher, cosmic reality: the dwelling place of God." Peter Enns, "Exodus", p. 521

"The Tabernacle" concept comes on the scene of the human story in the following context:

- ***God's presence has been Lost since the Garden of Eden***; there are now "random intrusions" of the presence of God into man's story
- ***Gradation at Mt. Sinai—the Presence of God was NOT the Same Everywhere...***

Ex 19:2-3 There Israel encamped before the mountain,³ while Moses went up to God.

Ex 19:10-12 The Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments¹¹ and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on

Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹² And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, ¹ Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it.

Ex 19:16-18 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire.

Ex 19:20 The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

Ex 24:1-2 Then he said to Moses, "Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. ² Moses alone shall come near to the Lord, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him."

Ex 24:9-18 Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹ And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

¹² The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³ So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴ And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them."

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of

Israel. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

"They were allowed to come near. ...the narrative at this point suggests that these favoured men were permitted to behold some appearance of the Divine Being who had invited them for this purpose." F.B. Meyer, "Exodus", vol 2, kindle loc 582

- ***Gradation at the Tabernacle*** ... there is a clear presentation of a variety of "nearness" in experiencing God: the nations around Israel here news reports and legend; the nation of Israel encamps nearby; the Levites get front row seats; the priests get to go into the holy place; the High Priest gets to go into the Most Holy Place once a year!
...Clearly, you could be standing in one of these settings and concluding, "There's More to Encountering God Than I Have Known!"
... "THERE'S MORE" ... Encountering God should lead us to seek for More of Him!

Exodus 33:12-23, 34:1-8 ... 'There's More'

...And this is MOSES!!... Moses resume of Encountering God is pretty full?

- The Burning Bush encounter
- The Miraculous Ministry of 10 plagues in Egypt!
- The Miraculous Deliverance and Provision in the Wilderness
- The Giving of the Law and the Encounter with God on the Summit of Mt. Sinai!
- The Conversational Relationship with God

Ex 33:7, 9, 11 Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. ...⁹ When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. ...¹¹ Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

Deut 34:7, 9-12 Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. ...⁹ And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses. ¹⁰ And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, ¹¹ none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, ¹² and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

If Moses resume of "encountering God" left him crying out, "show me more!"... Can I imagine what "more" is still available to me???

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¹ Cor 3:1-3 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³ for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

¹ Cor 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

Heb 5:11-14 About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, ¹³ for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Phil 3:10-14 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

Eph 3:14-21 ...Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians

*"What kind of experience should be expected and how should it be sought? ...Paul prays for his readers 'that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith' and that they would 'know this love' of Christ. Finally, he prays that they would be filled with 'all the fullness of God.' ...These Ephesian readers, however, were all Christian believers. ...In Ephesians 1, he teaches that by being united with Christ, they already have the fullness of God in them (Eph 1:22-23). ...Why is he asking God to give Christians things they must already have? There can be only one answer. At one level, Christians have these things. At another level, they haven't experienced them. ...What Paul is talking about is the difference between having something be true of you in principle and fully appropriating it, using it, and living in it—in your 'inner being' or 'in your heart'.
Timothy Keller, "Prayer", p. 165-167*

*... Blaise Pascal was a Christian believer and philosopher and one of the great minds of history. When he died it was discovered that he had sewn into the inner lining of his coat the description of an experience he had one night. It read: "in the year 1654, Monday, 23rd November, from about 10:30 in the evening until half an hour after midnight... FIRE... God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, and not of the philosophers and of the learned. Certainty. Certainty. Feeling. Joy. Peace." Pascal was not talking about a site of literal flames but rather an experience of the presence of God – what fire in the Bible so often represents."
Timothy Keller, "Prayer", p. 167*

*"God is, of course, omnipresent – he is everywhere. What does it mean, then, to seek his face and to "draw near "if he is everywhere already? ... it is to have our hearts enabled by the Holy Spirit to sense his reality and presence.... To lose a sense of God's presence is to lose God's face, and to seek his face is to seek communion with him, a real interaction with God, sharing thoughts and love."
Timothy Keller, "Prayer", p. 175*

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