

A dark, high-contrast photograph of a mountain range. The mountains are rugged and jagged, with some snow or light-colored rock visible on the peaks. The sky is dark and cloudy. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted hills. A solid blue rectangular box is centered in the middle of the image, containing the text "WEEK 4" in white, outlined, uppercase letters.

WEEK 4

SYMBOLISM OF THE TABERNACLE

The Tabernacle served many purposes:

1. to give the Israelites a much needed physical symbol of God's presence in their midst. It was to be a sanctuary, a place set apart, for God to dwell among His people.
2. to represent a divine means through which sinful humanity could approach a holy God.
3. to foreshadow the One in which all the symbolism and sacrifices would ultimately be fulfilled.

The Tabernacle was to be a portable structure so that it could go with the Israelites as they traveled in the wilderness to the Promised Land. Today the dwelling place of God is still portable, living inside of believers.

God was so specific about the details of the tabernacle because **it was a symbol of heavenly things** (Hebrews 8:5; 9:11). God wanted His people to learn more about Him through the tabernacle. Each item in the tabernacle had symbolic meaning.

Ultimately this symbolism points to Jesus...**every part, and detail is designed and patterned to present Jesus Christ!**

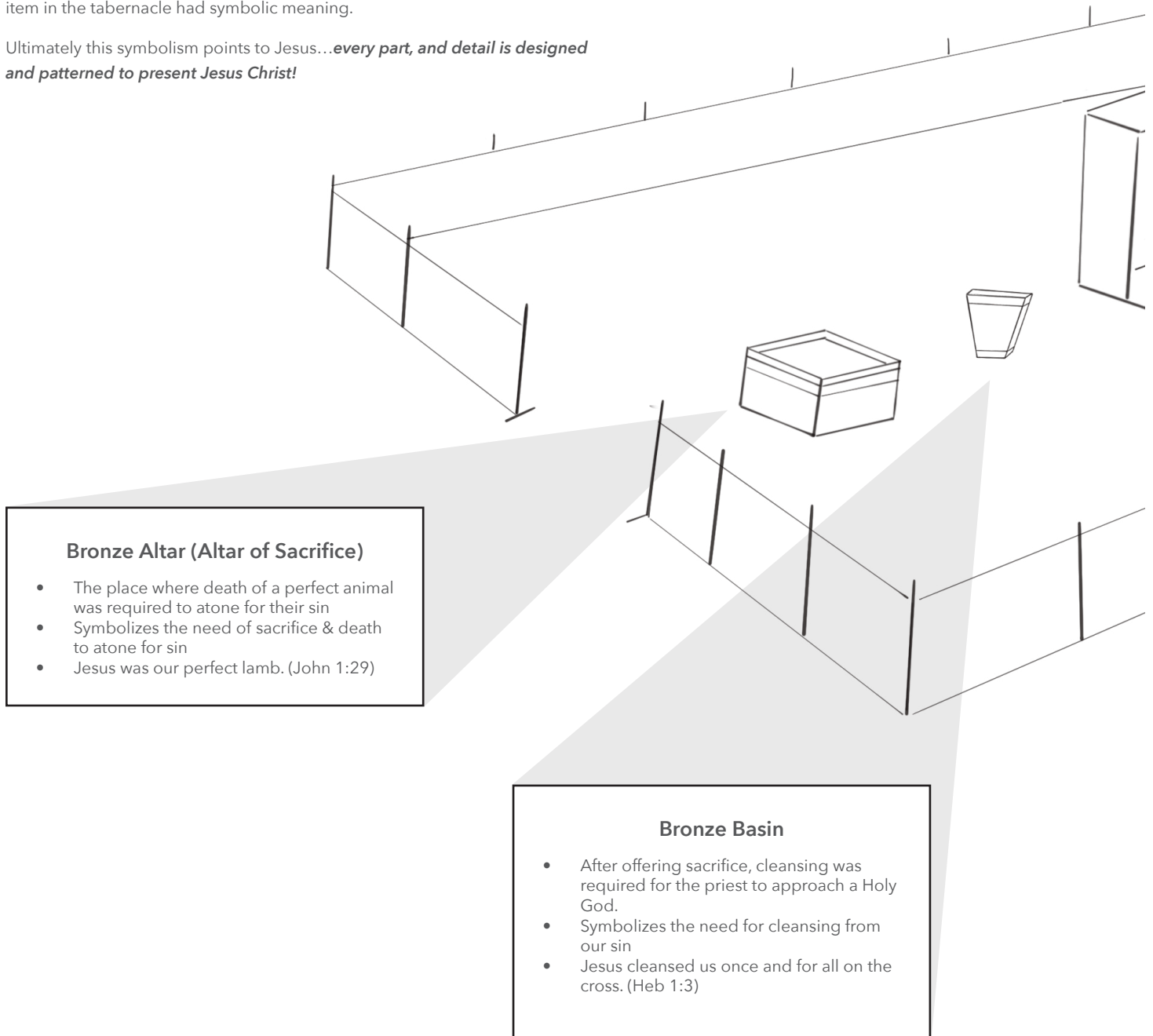
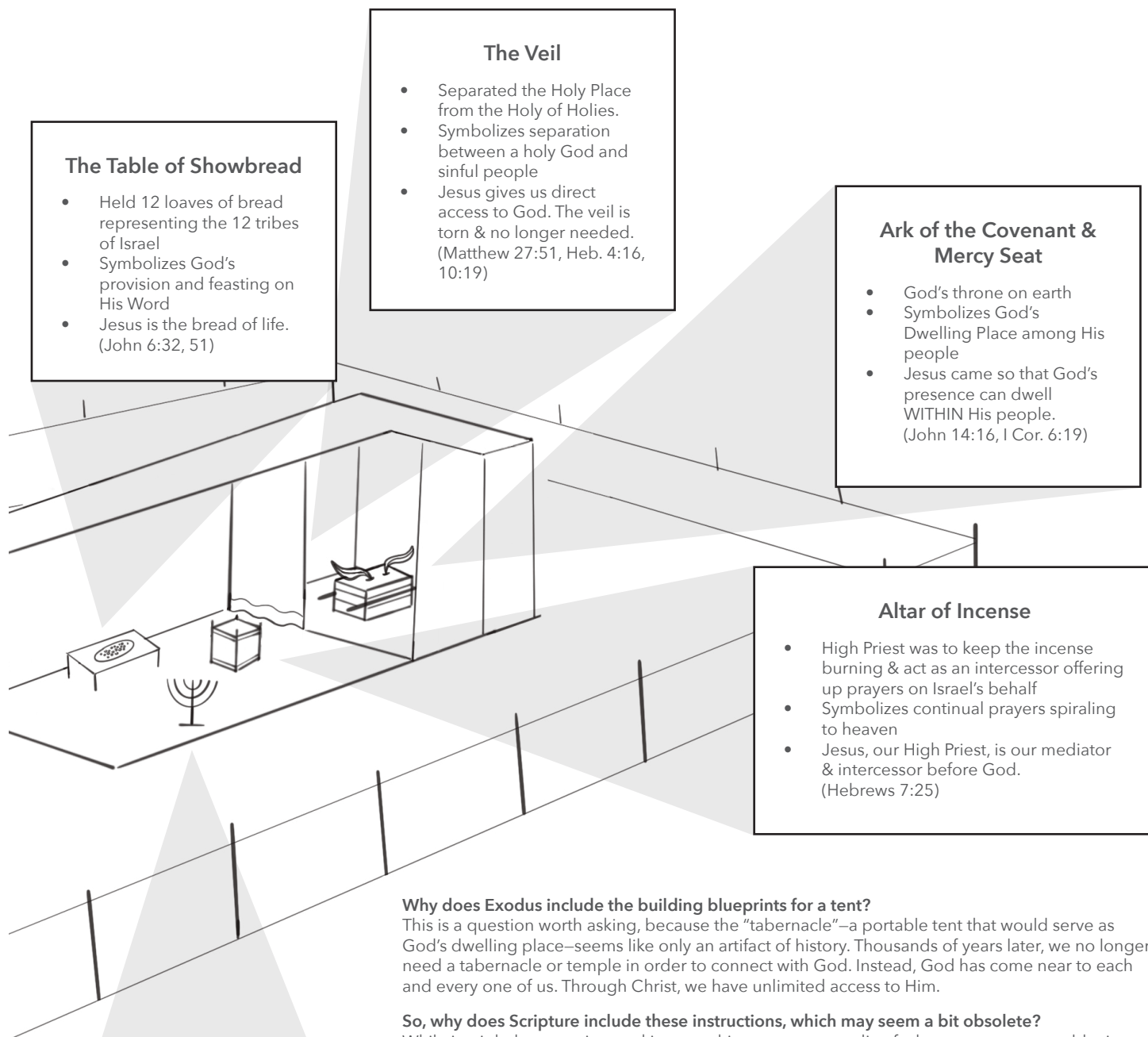


Illustration by Emily Crosby



The Table of Showbread

- Held 12 loaves of bread representing the 12 tribes of Israel
- Symbolizes God's provision and feasting on His Word
- Jesus is the bread of life. (John 6:32, 51)

The Veil

- Separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies.
- Symbolizes separation between a holy God and sinful people
- Jesus gives us direct access to God. The veil is torn & no longer needed. (Matthew 27:51, Heb. 4:16, 10:19)

Ark of the Covenant & Mercy Seat

- God's throne on earth
- Symbolizes God's Dwelling Place among His people
- Jesus came so that God's presence can dwell WITHIN His people. (John 14:16, 1 Cor. 6:19)

Altar of Incense

- High Priest was to keep the incense burning & act as an intercessor offering up prayers on Israel's behalf
- Symbolizes continual prayers spiraling to heaven
- Jesus, our High Priest, is our mediator & intercessor before God. (Hebrews 7:25)

Golden Lampstand

- Light to the Holy Place attended to day & night by the priests
- Symbolizes being a light in the darkness
- Jesus is the Light of the World. (John 1:9, 8:12)

Why does Exodus include the building blueprints for a tent?

This is a question worth asking, because the "tabernacle"—a portable tent that would serve as God's dwelling place—seems like only an artifact of history. Thousands of years later, we no longer need a tabernacle or temple in order to connect with God. Instead, God has come near to each and every one of us. Through Christ, we have unlimited access to Him.

So, why does Scripture include these instructions, which may seem a bit obsolete?

While it might be tempting to skim over this passage as a relic of a bygone era, we would miss something important if we did. The truth is, Exodus does not simply contain the blueprint of a historical artifact; it contains the blueprint of history.

Within the instructions for building the tabernacle, we discover tiny clues pointing to God's plan for humankind, a plan for redemption. The garden of Eden was the last time in history when God and humans dwelt together. Because of sin, that intimacy and fellowship was disrupted. But God had a plan to repair it, and the tabernacle was a part of that plan. In his writings on the tabernacle, theologian N.T. Wright refers to this as a "signpost." The tabernacle was pointing to the temple, and the temple was pointing to Jesus, who would eventually "tabernacle" among us (John 1:14). In other words, the tabernacle was a foretaste of "God come near," and a foreshadowing of God's restoration of creation.

All of that is tucked into these seemingly obscure instructions for the tabernacle. They belong to the great arc of redemption, which God had only begun to unveil. All along, God was orchestrating a cosmic reversal to overcome the consequences of our sin, and He left all sorts of bread crumbs along the way.

Woven into these instructions was a plan to save the world, but the instructions tell us something else too. They tell us about God's character. The God of the tabernacle is a sovereign God, a faithful God, a God of resurrection, who is working all things together for His will (Romans 8:28). He is a God who wrote redemption into the seemingly mundane details and instructions for the building of the tabernacle, and we can trust He is doing the same in our lives today.

Written by Sharon Hodde Miller - *She Reads Truth*

WEEK 4

DAY 22 - MONDAY - INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 26, Genesis 3:24, Hebrews 9:6-14

GOD IS IN THE DETAILS

There's a lot of detail in this section, but one interesting thing is that the layout of the tabernacle parallels a lot of what we saw in Eden: There's an east-facing entrance, there are cherubim guards, the burning lampstand symbolizes the Tree of Life, and the testimony (the law) symbolizes the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. So when God starts telling them these details and says He'll come there to dwell with them, it's a step toward restoring paradise and all that was lost in the garden of Eden. We won't see the fulfillment of this until Christ returns and we have a new heaven and a new earth. But here in Exodus, we see God advancing in that direction to dwell with His people forever.

Written by Tara-Leigh Cobble - *The Bible Recap*

**WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT
GOD IN READING THE DETAILS
OF THE TABERNACLE?**

**HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO
WHAT YOU READ TODAY?**

**HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO
PRAY?**

Go to graceclarksville.com/intheword for additional study resources.

WEEK 4

DAY 23 - TUESDAY - THE LAMPSTAND OIL

Exodus 27, Zechariah 4, Revelation 11:1-4

GOD AS OUR SOURCE

The priests are instructed to fill the lampstand with pure oil regularly in order to keep it burning. The lampstand, in doing the work of providing light to the tabernacle, also served as a constant reminder of God's presence.

This picture of a lampstand is one Scripture returns to again and again. Jesus says He is the light of the world and gives the same responsibility to His followers (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14). The Apostle Paul describes us as children of the light, a reflection of Christ through the work of His Spirit (Ephesians 5:8).

We are meant to be small lights twinkling in a dark world.

The instructions for the lampstand in Exodus 25 describe seven bowls shaped like almond blossoms with wicks placed in them. This isn't a candelabra. The fire in this lampstand kept burning because it was filled regularly with oil from an outside source, not from burning its own wax like a candle.

The words in Zechariah 4:6 remind us again that the source of the light is not us. The Lord shares a picture here of limitless oil, in the form of two olive trees, flowing straight from the source to directly fuel the lampstand. He tells Zechariah that this is the work of the Spirit. We have access to what we need in the Spirit; we have fuel from the source. We have this gift from the true Priest who constantly fills us. As we are filled with His Spirit, we become more and more reflective of Jesus.

Written by Jessica Lamb - *She Reads Truth*

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO REMEMBER THAT WE NEED TO PLUG INTO THE TRUE SOURCE IN ORDER TO BE A LIGHT IN THE WORLD.

ARE YOU MAKING SPACE AND TIME IN YOUR SCHEDULE TO PLUG INTO THE SOURCE?

CAN YOU TELL A DIFFERENCE WHEN YOU ARE NOT PLUGGING INTO THE SOURCE?

IN WHAT WAYS CAN YOU PLUG INTO THE TRUE SOURCE THIS WEEK?

WEEK 4

DAY 24 - WEDNESDAY - INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PRIESTLY GARMENTS

Exodus 28, Ezekiel 44:15-19, 23-29, 1 Peter 2:4-5

SACRED EQUIPMENT

God pays a lot of attention to priestly attire, but it's not just clothes we're dealing with here—it's more like sacred equipment. These garments serve a function. The high priest is a foreshadowing of Christ, connecting God and man, so his clothes are supposed to indicate his role as a mediator. His attire symbolically represents the people while he's in the presence of God—hence the names of the tribes on the shoulder pieces and the twelve stones of the ephod—and symbolically represents God to the people. Then there's the Urim and Thummim. We don't really know what these are, except that they're part of the ephod and they seem to be tools used for discerning God's will. Even the bells on the hem of the robe serve a purpose. The priest has a lot of duties, and all that movement keeps those bells ringing. If the priest falls dead while performing his tasks, the bells go silent. This is important because the priest has to enter the Most Holy Place alone.

Written by Tara-Leigh Cobble - *The Bible Recap*

**WHAT DID YOU LEARN
ABOUT GOD IN READING THE
DETAILS OF THE PRIESTLY
GARMENTS?**

**HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO
WHAT YOU READ TODAY?**

**HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO
PRAY?**

WEEK 4

DAY 25 - THURSDAY - INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONSECRATION

Exodus 29, Psalm 132:12-16, Hebrews 7:23-28

THE HIGH PRIEST WE NEED

In Scripture, priests are the curators of holiness, you might say, acting as intercessors between God and man in order to maintain the holiness of God's broken people. The priest makes sacrifices asking for the forgiveness of sins from God for His people. When Moses anoints Aaron and his sons as priests, they are meant to pass this priesthood on to their family for generations, and this does happen. However, **the "Aaronic" priesthood is ultimately overruled by a greater priesthood—a priesthood that makes the Son of God the intermediary between God and man.**

Jesus is the true and better Aaron. He intercedes on our behalf before God, His Father, even today. Hebrews 7:26-27 tells us, "For this is the kind of high priest we need: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He doesn't need to offer sacrifices every day, as high priests do—first for their own sins, then for those of the people. He did this once for all time when he offered himself."

We have been purchased by the blood of Jesus. How can this reality not affect the way we live? The blood of Jesus, who is the perfect sacrifice, makes us holy before God. Jesus is the perfect priest and the spotless sacrifice (1 Peter 1:19). This Easter season, be reminded that the Son of God is advocating for you because He loves you and died for you.

Written by Chris Martin - *He Reads Truth*

**WHAT DOES CHRIST'S
SACRIFICE ON YOUR BEHALF
FOR YOUR SINS MEAN TO
YOU?**

**TAKE SOME TIME TODAY TO
PRAISE HIM SPECIFICALLY
FOR BEING THE ULTIMATE
HIGH PRIEST WHO MAKES US**

WEEK 4

DAY 26 - FRIDAY - THE INCENSE ALTAR

Exodus 30, II Corinthians 2:14-16, I John 2:24-27

THE AROMA OF CHRIST

Burning incense was a symbol of the prayers of the people of God rising up before His throne. It was also a symbol of the fragrant aroma of Christ covering all of the furniture and utensils in the temple, the most holy place, and the priest himself. It was an aroma that infused the place of worship and rose to the very throne room of heaven.

On account of the significance that incense had in the worship of God in old covenant Israel, we should not be surprised to find connections between old covenant worship rituals and the spiritual realities that we now have in Christ in the new covenant. Indeed, the aroma of Christ fills every place where the knowledge of His divine person and redeeming work is made known.

The Apostle Paul further unfolded this truth when he told the believers in Corinth that God "in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing" (2 Corinthians 2:14-16).

Written by Nick Batzig - *He Reads Truth*

**WHAT IS REVEALED ABOUT
GOD IN THESE PASSAGES?**

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO
BE "THE SWEET AROMA OF
CHRIST"?**

**HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO
WHAT YOU READ TODAY?
HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO
PRAY?**

WEEK 4

DAY 27 - SATURDAY - GRACE DAY

Use today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's reading.

As you reflect on what you've read this week:

1. What themes did you see emerge?
2. What was the biggest thing that God revealed to you this week?
3. What next step do you need to take based on what He revealed to you this week?

WEEK 4

DAY 28 - SUNDAY - REFLECTION DAY

Meditate on these verses:

"They are to make a sanctuary for me so that I may dwell among them."

Exodus 25:8

"But because he remains forever, he holds his priesthood permanently. Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, since he always lives to intercede for them."

Hebrews 7:24-25