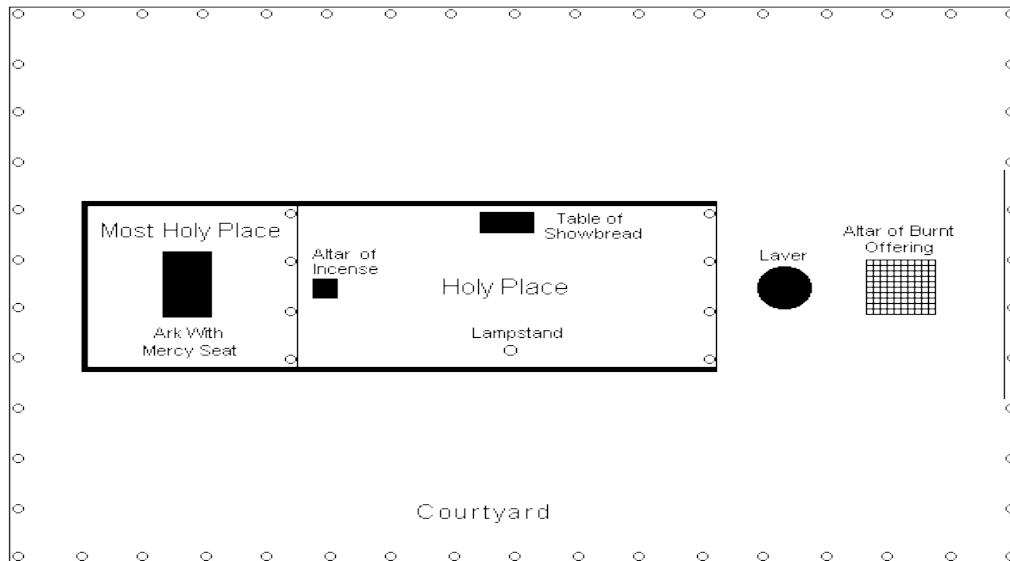


Sanctuary, Salvation and Our Savior: Altar of Incense Sermon Study Guide

Praying Through the Sanctuary



1. Enter His Gates: Praise

Psalms 100:4 NIV

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with _____; give thanks to him and praise his name.

There was only one curtained gate on the eastern side of the courtyard. This provided the only way into God's presence and symbolized Jesus who said that He Himself was the only Way (John 14:6) and the one true gate: "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture" (John 10:9).

Prayer Thought #1—As you leave, for a time, the troubles of this world and through Jesus enter the security and protection of the sanctuary, what can you truly thank God for?

2. Altar of Burnt Offering: Behold the Sacrifice

John 1:29 NKJV

Behold the _____ of God who takes away the sin of the world.

The first thing the worshipper would see as they entered the gates was the altar of sacrifice which was about seven and one-half feet square and four and a half-feet high (Exodus 27:1). It was made of bronze and upon it the priests would offer the daily sacrifices of the sanctuary service.

Prayer Thought #2—As you behold Jesus the innocent Lamb suffering and dying in your place, what thoughts, feelings and emotions about your own self-filled life arise?

3. Laver: Cleanse the Heart

1John 1:9

If we _____ our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Praise God that He Himself has provided the Living Water that we might be cleansed from all of our sins! Not only that, but the cleansing water is right there, next to the mirror. The Lord never shows us the law without providing the water. It is always in the same basin. It is time to wash up. We are about to enter the Holy Place.

Prayer Thought #3—As you behold the reflection of His loving character, what smudges of self do you want to be cleansed from your own soul?

4. Lamp Stand: The Holy Spirit

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world.... Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

The seven-branched lampstand was made out of one talent of pure gold (Exodus 37:24) and provided light for the service in the Tabernacle. It was on the left side, opposite the table of showbread and was a fitting symbol for the balanced life of devotion and service every believer is called to partake in.

How does the Holy Spirit shine through us? The Holy Spirit shines through us through the fruits of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22, 23 NKJV

But the _____ of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Prayer Thought #4—Abide in Christ so that we can have the fruits of the Spirit in order to shine out to those around us.

5. Table of Showbread: Feed on the Word

Jeremiah 15:16 NIV

When your _____ came, I _____ them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty.

As the priest would enter the Holy Place, the Table of Showbread or the Bread of the Presence was on the right hand side. There twelve loaves of bread would be placed every Sabbath. These loaves were made out of the manna and represented Jesus who was the Living Bread that came down from heaven (John 6:35). The Word of God is like bread for our souls. This is the time to read and meditate on the Word of God.

Prayer Thought #5—Besides the verse noted above, meditate on the following verses as you think about the blessing of God's Word in your life: "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11). "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105 KJV).

6. Altar of Incense: Intercessory Prayer

Psalms 141:2

Let my prayer be set forth before thee as _____; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

In the Ancient Near East, incense was widely regarded as a fitting symbol for prayer. Just as the perfumed smoke would ascend, the petitioner would be reminded that their prayers should ascend to the Lord above.

In the Tabernacle in the wilderness the golden altar of incense stood right in front of the curtain which separated the Holy from the Most Holy Place. This is the time in your prayer to pray for others. Perhaps, you can make a list of people that you pray for every day – family, friends, loved ones.

Prayer Thought #6—Who has special needs today? Is there someone that God is calling me to pray for today?

7. Ark with Mercy Seat: Behold the Law of Love

Romans 13:10 KJV

Therefore _____ is the fulfilling of the law.

In the second compartment of the Tabernacle was the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the 10 commandments.

Prayer Thought #7—Ask God to write His law of love upon your heart.