

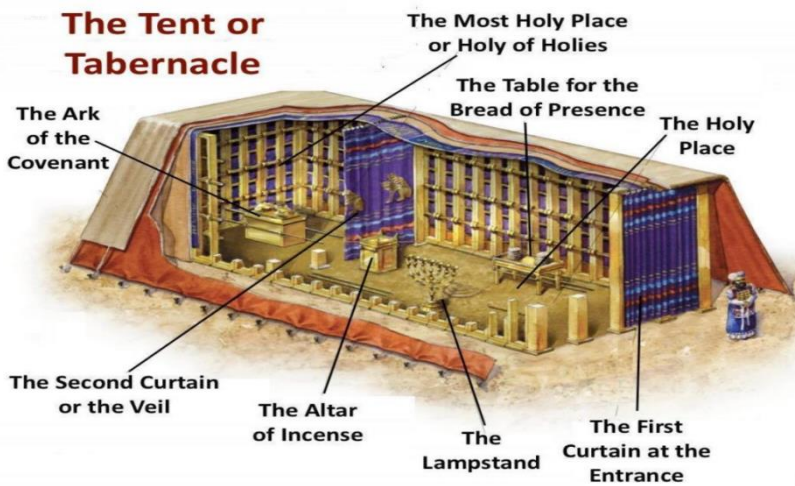
70 studies representing 3.4 million people from the US, Europe, Asia, and Australia found that people are dying of loneliness because *isolation and loneliness had an effect on the risk of dying younger equal to that of obesity.* (Julianne Holt-Lunstad.)

Truly, we were created for friendship with God and for relationship with each other God in whose Trinitarian image we are made - three persons in relationship – *has opened his being to friendship.* Actually, no one dies of or from loneliness. There are no deaths by natural causes. All death is unnatural. Underlying all loneliness is alienation from God – not the absence of people but the presence of sin which separates people spiritually from God and also psychologically from each other.

Rescued from Egypt and gathered at Sinai, Moses is on the mountain and the people are on the plain: saved to serve as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. God is not remote (up there) from his creation. He **fills heaven and earth** (Jer 23:24). The earth is **full of the steadfast love of God** (Ps 33:5). But God ordained that his presence be directly associated with the tabernacle to be especially present with Israel. He will be known by Israel where they are— in the camp in the wilderness.

God will meet and speak with his saved people – but in his way and on his terms.

Have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you. Ex 25:1-9



Tabernacle — *portable tent.*
50 chapters. 500 years.
 Exodus 25-31 — *a windowless wooden skin covered sanctuary.*
Teaching— *The Spirit illustrating the present time* (Hebrews 9:8-9).
 revealing the superior, perfect and permanent saving work of our Great High Priest – Jesus.

The Titles — 25:8 **Sanctuary** 25:9 **Tabernacle** 29:42 **Tent of Meeting**

BEAUTY **PROXIMITY** **EXCLUSIVITY**
Transcendence **Nearness** **Distance**



Gold Silver Bronze **Dwell among them** **Curtain separates**
 A 3 metre curtain **wall** surrounds the sanctuary. *They can't look in or look over.* A curtain **door** on the east side is the only entrance leading into the courtyard which was the busiest space. There daily animal sacrifices were made on **THE ALTAR.**

“For the generations to come this burnt offering is to be made regularly at the entrance to the tent of meeting, before the Lord. There I will meet you and speak to you; there also I will meet with the Israelites, and the place will be consecrated by my glory. Exodus 29:42-43

For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. Leviticus 17:11
Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Hebrews 9:22
Sacrifice was offered by a priest for his sin and the people's as their substitute. No matter how suitable the sacrifice or sincere the priest, this was repeated each year.

LAVER (bronze basin of water: 30:18) for priests to wash before entering the tent.
Only priests entered the Holy Place. Only the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies.

THE HOLY PLACE with a lampstand, a table for bread, and an altar to burn incense.
The Lampstand lit with oil was shaped as the seven lamps of the golden menorah. Fuel for **the altar of incense** came from coals on the altar of burn offering outside. The **Table of Bread** consisted of 12 loaves and was eaten by Aaron and his sons.

THE MOST HOLY PLACE contained the **Ark of the Covenant** protected by two **cherubim** in which were the **Ten Commandments**. On it sat the **Atonement Cover**.

ATONEMENT

Kaf = Cover (Open Hand) **Pey** = Speak (Open Mouth) **Reysh** = (Head Master)
A Prince or Judge is about to declare judgment and sentence a criminal but instead covers his mouth and desists from passing sentence on the convicted criminal.

William Tyndale translated the Hebrew to create the English word **AT-ONE-MENT**.

The Ark of the Covenant uncovered – the Law inside – without a lid (mercy seat) speaks one verdict: GUILTY. Holiness demands perfection. (Leviticus 19:21). Try as hard as we might, we cannot obey our way into God's presence or into his favour. **But the Law is covered** – with its condemnation of us – by the atonement cover. **God meets Israel at the mercy seat where the high priest sprinkles the blood.**

Mercy triumphs over judgment! James 2:13

Could access to God's presence be permanent? Could cleansing of sin be within? Can pardon for sin be total? Such questions are answered finally and fully by Jesus
THE LAW Romans 3:19-20

Whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God... no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

THE LORD Romans 3:25-26

*God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he left the sins committed **beforehand** unpunished. He did it to demonstrate his righteousness at **the present time**, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 Jn 2:1-2

'Atonement to God must be made and it was only possible from God.' (P. T Forsyth)