

**THE TENT OF THE COVENANT**  
The Old Testament Today  
Banska Bystrica, 23rd January 2022

**1Cor 3:16** Οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι ναὸς θεοῦ ἐστε, καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ θεοῦ οἰκεῖ ἐν ὑμῖν;

**1Cor 3:16** Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

**Exodus 40:1-15** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> "On the first day of the first month you shall erect the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. <sup>3</sup> And you shall put in it the ark of the testimony, and you shall screen the ark with the veil. <sup>4</sup> And you shall bring in the table and arrange it, and you shall bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps. <sup>5</sup> And you shall put the golden altar for incense before the ark of the testimony, and set up the screen for the door of the tabernacle. <sup>6</sup> You shall set the altar of burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, <sup>7</sup> and place the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it. <sup>8</sup> And you shall set up the court all around, and hang up the screen for the gate of the court. <sup>9</sup> "Then you shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and consecrate it and all its furniture, so that it may become holy. <sup>10</sup> You shall also anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar, so that the altar may become most holy. <sup>11</sup> You shall also anoint the basin and its stand, and consecrate it. <sup>12</sup> Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and shall wash them with water <sup>13</sup> and put on Aaron the holy garments. And you shall anoint him and consecrate him, that he may serve me as priest. <sup>14</sup> You shall bring his sons also and put coats on them, <sup>15</sup> and anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may serve me as priests. And their anointing shall admit them to a perpetual priesthood throughout their generations."

כִּי־הָיִיתָ מַחֲסֶה לִּי מִגְדֹּל־עַז מִפְּנֵי אוֹיֵב  
אֲנוּרָה בְּאֶהְלֶךְ עוֹלָמִים אֲחֻסָּה בְּסִתְרֵי כְּנָפֶיךָ סֵלָה  
כִּי־אַתָּה אֱלֹהִים שָׁמַעְתָּ לְנַדְרֵי נַתַּת יְרֵשֶׁת יִרְאֵי שָׁמַךְ

**Psalms 61:3-5** for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy. <sup>4</sup> Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! Selah <sup>5</sup> For you, O God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name

## OUTLINE

### 0. INTRODUCTION

- 0.1. THE PURPOSE OF A TEMPLE
- 0.2. SYMBOLISM

### 1. THE TEMPLE IN THE CENTRE

- 1.1. ISRAEL CREATED FOR WORSHIP
- 1.2. THE PURPOSE OF HUMAN EXISTENCE

### 2. THE PATH OF WORSHIP

- 2.1. THE BRAZEN ALTAR
- 2.2. THE BRAZEN LAVER
- 2.3. THE HOLY PLACE
- 2.4. THE VEIL
- 2.5. THE MOST HOLY PLACE

### 3. THE NEW TESTAMENT TRANSFORMATION OF WORSHIP

- 3.1. PEOPLE
- 3.2. PLACE
- 3.3. TIME
- 3.4. RITUAL

#### 4. TO REMEMBER

##### 0. INTRODUCTION

###### 0.1. THE PURPOSE OF A TEMPLE

- is *creation* a temple of God? → modern theologies (ecology?)
- **Ps 11:4** The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test, the children of man. (יְהוָה בְּהִיבֵל קָדְשׁוֹ יְהוָה בְּשָׁמַיִם כִּסְאוֹ עֵינָיו יַחֲזוּ עַפְעָפְיוֹ יִבְחֲנוּ בְּנֵי אָדָם)
- Biblical axiology: (1) the holy, (2) the common ["neutral"] (3) the evil ⇒ is creation holy?
- Biblical God: (1) immanent → in all creation; (2) transcendent → invisible; inaccessible
- **WORSHIP ⇒ ACCESSING A HOLY ("INACCESSIBLE") GOD!**
- temple → requires a *decision* to worship God ...

###### 0.2. SYMBOLISM

- structures → the way of salvation
- colours → representing participating ...in salvation
- WORSHIP → bringing sacrifices
- **Heb 13:15** Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name

##### 1. THE TEMPLE IN THE CENTRE

###### 1.1. ISRAEL CREATED FOR WORSHIP

- the tribes camped in an orderly manner around the Tent of the Covenant
- they carried the disassembled Tent with them in their wanderings in the wilderness

###### 1.2. THE PURPOSE OF HUMAN EXISTENCE

- happiness?
- work?
- Serving God → joy; service [Westminster catechism] → Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him for ever.
- **Ps 16:11** ...in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore...
- **Mt 5:8** "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

##### 2. THE PATH OF WORSHIP

- From the Brazen Altar to the Most Holy Place

###### 2.1. THE BRAZEN ALTAR

- Exodus 27:1-8; 38:1-7
- burnt sacrifice → "...does Jesus' willingness to suffer for the world imply conformity to the will of God? Or is the cross merely the result of the evil plotting of human beings?" (John Sanders *Atonement and violence*)
- **2Cor 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin [offering] (ἁμαρτία) who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (Τὸν γὰρ μὴ γινόντα ἁμαρτίαν, ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν ἁμαρτίαν ἐποίησεν, ἵνα ἡμεῖς γενώμεθα δικαιοσύνη θεοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ)

###### 2.2. THE BRAZEN LAVER

- Exodus 30:17-21; 38:8 → obtained from "the **looking glasses** of the women" (Ex. 38:8). → **James 1:23** ...he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a **mirror**

- **John 13:10** Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.
- **John 15:3** Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.
- **1Cor 11:31** But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged.

## 2.3. THE HOLY PLACE

### 2.3.1. CONSTRUCTION

porpoise → sviňucha; manatee → lamantin; morská krava?

- boards encased in gold; silver sockets; golden clasps...
- Inside: royal colors: blue; purple; scarlet;
- Outside: grey color of animal skins

### 2.3.2. THE TABLE, SHEWBREAD, LAMPSTAND, OIL

- Jesus → the sole GUIDE into the Holy of Holies
- John 6 → the Bread of Life
- John 5 → the Light of the world
- John 14 → the Holy Spirit

### 2.3.3. THE GOLDEN INCENSE ALTAR

- Exodus 30:1-10; 37:25-28
- **1Tim 2:5** ...there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus

## 2.4. THE VEIL

- **Ex 26:33** And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in there within the veil. And the veil shall separate for you the Holy Place from the Most Holy.
- **Heb 10:19-20** Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,
- **Mt 27:51** And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

## 2.5. THE MOST HOLY PLACE

- Exodus 25:10-16; 37:1-5
- the arch of the covenant: (1) the Tablets of Stone; (2) Golden Pot of Manna; (3) Aaron's rod
- **Heb 9:5** Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat (τὸ ἱλαστήριον z'ltovnica). Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

## 3. THE NEW TESTAMENT TRANSFORMATION OF WORSHIP

### 3.1. PEOPLE

- Aaron's sons; Levites
- **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light

### 3.2. PLACE

- the tent of the covenant; Jerusalem...
- **John 4:23-24** But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.  
<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

### 3.3. TIME

- set times; Sabbath; Feasts of the Lord

- **Rom 14:5-9** One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup> The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.
- **Colossians 3:17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him

### 3.4. RITUAL

- prescribed garments; bringing offerings...
- **1Cor 10:31** So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God
- **Col 3:23** Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men

### 4. TO REMEMBER

- The purpose of life [Westminster catechism] → Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.
- To enjoy the closeness of God is to dwell in his presence – in the temple.
- To get near God we have to go the way of faith prepared for us by Jesus → through Calvary and his resurrection to the Throne of Grace.