

One additional furniture item is to be found in the Holy Place. Upon entering this room, looking to the left, one would see the only light source, a Lampstand of incredible beauty. We will spend some time discussing this object, as it prefigures the Messiah more completely than any other in the Bible. The Lampstand was made of solid gold, emphasizing His deity. Standing with its base touching the bare soil floor, we are reminded of the fact that Jesus left Heaven behind and put His feet upon the same earth that we tread upon. It was not cast or welded or jointed. It was beaten into its shape. On His way to the cross, Jesus was beaten severely, to the point of being unrecognizable. The craftsmanship that went into fabricating this lamp was so incredible that God gave the person who made it special dispensational ability. It was a remarkably beautiful piece of workmanship, breathtaking in detail. Seven arms protruded upwards, each holding a bowl of oil. With wicks in place and lit, the shower of light cascading down the intricate gold detail would have been beyond words. Jesus is the Light of the World, and He is to be the focus of our lives, just as that Lampstand was a focal point in the Holy Place.

One of the great mysteries of God is His triune essence. How He can be three distinct, unique persons and yet be one person is beyond the comprehension of our feeble intellect. It is sufficient that God says that it is so. Perhaps the eternity of Heaven will shed light on the subject for us. Until that time, we have a few hints in the Bible to help expand our understanding of this very difficult concept. The Tabernacle pictures for us all three Persons of God working in concert. Above the Ark of the Covenant, on the Mercy Seat, the very presence of God the Father was manifested in a blinding light display, called the Shekinah Glory of God. God the Son is seen in the Lampstand, voluntarily beaten for us, a beautiful example for us to behold and see, God in human form. God the Holy Spirit is pictured in this room as well. The Holy Spirit is never calling attention to Himself, but pointing us to Christ, and illuminating Scripture. The oil in the bowls illustrates for us how The Spirit works. Odorless, tasteless, and colorless, all but invisible, but still there, the oil is expended in a chemical release of power we call fire and light. That light illuminates the Lampstand for all to see, making something beautiful even more so. The Holy Spirit works similarly. He is always pointing us to Christ, illuminating the Word of God for us, making God more amazingly beautiful to all who are looking.

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As we enter the tent through the singular door, it is noticeable that there is only one source of light for the work that transpires here. To the immediate right, stands the Table of Shewbread, a gold covered table with twelve loaves of bread, meticulously replaced each week. The bread reminds us that Jesus is the Bread of Life. He is our Daily Bread. Moses was instructed by God to place a jar of manna into the Ark of the Covenant. God fed His people for forty years with this bread from Heaven. The manna that appeared each day was also a picture of Jesus Christ. They named this unique substance manna, which literally in Hebrew means “What is it?” When Jesus came to this earth, many of the people who met him and heard His message had the same question weighing heavily on their minds, “Who is He?”

Directly ahead and center, next to the curtain divider, is the gold covered Altar of Incense. With a fire continually burning and smoke from incense rising, the aroma would be quite noticeable. The book of Revelation tells us that the smoke of the incense represents the prayers of the saints rising up to God, a sweet savor to Him.

Immediately behind the Altar of Incense, on the opposite side of the curtain in the Holy of Holies, is the Ark of the Covenant. This ornate, gold covered, wooden box is itself, a picture of Christ. The wood speaks of the humanity of Jesus and the gold, His deity. In the chest is a copy of the Law, (Jesus came to fulfill that Law), a jar of manna, (Jesus is the Bread from Heaven), and the rod of Aaron, the priest, (Jesus is our High Priest). The lid to this box had two angels facing each other looking down upon a bowl-like place called the Mercy Seat. This is where the Shekinah Glory of God would appear. When Jesus died upon the cross, the Gospels tell us that the curtain of the temple was torn from top to bottom, exposing the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy of Holies to the first room. That placed the Altar of Incense adjacent to the Ark. We now have the right to go boldly before God with our prayers. No longer do we need an earthly priest to do that for us. Jesus, our High Priest, is ever before God on our behalf.

