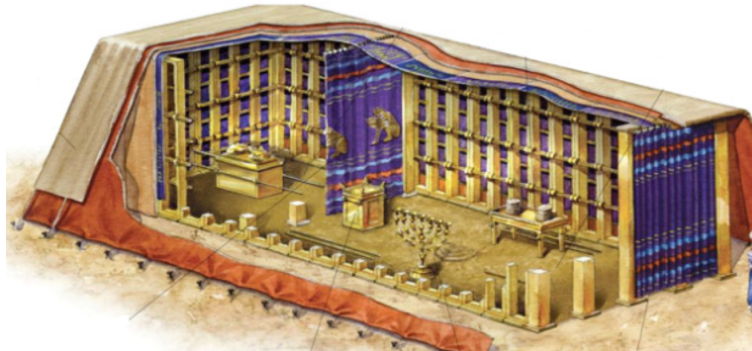


An Extraordinary Backroom Plan: Designed for Presence and Power



NOTES

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“Backroom” Dynamics

In camera (closed meeting, in chamber), secret, mysterious, private, inaccessible, out-of-sight, “behind closed doors,” deal-making, political brokering, committees of assembly processes, an exclusive setting for planning and reaching agreements, lack of transparency but often practically and narrowly efficacious with selective benefit.

General Description

Backroom Blueprint: God’s design: The two-room tabernacle in wilderness and its backroom (Exodus 25 for backroom details then Ex 26-27 for rest). **The Veil** (thick between front room=holy place and backroom=holy of holies, a 15’ x 15’ chamber). Problem of separation of sinners and holy God (See Matt 27:51)

The Ark of the Covenant (Ark of Testimony, Ark of God): About 50 chapters in Bible speak of this Ark. Featured gold covered box (45” x 27”x 27”), carrying staves, lid (mercy seat, atonement seat of pure gold) and two cherubim. In ark were ten commandments, pot of manna and Aaron’s rod that budded.

Human Activity in the Backroom: Once a year (Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur: Lev 16) the high priest, as mediator, would go through veil with incense and coals from altar. Then take blood of bull and scapegoat into Holy of Holies and sprinkle onto the mercy seat, laying down the sins of the people. 1 Pt 1: 18, 19

Divine Dynamics: Making Sense of the Backroom Foreshadowing

God’s Dwelling Presence in the Holy of Holies: Exodus 40:34-38 (cloud and glory of God, fire in the cloud by night). The Tent of Meeting (tabernacle) was the throne of God in the wilderness journey: Unique theophany – an abiding manifestation of God. Ps 91:1; Ps 97: 1, 2; A foreshadowing of Immanuel: Heb 8:1-6, Jn 1:14, Heb 1:3.

God’s Powerful Rescue: The Atoning Work of Jesus Christ: Atonement is the act of removing barriers for reconciliation; for covering, making amends, reparation, purification, satisfying penalty of sin. 1 Jn 2:2; 1 Jn 4:10

Invitation to Enjoy Presence of God and Provision of Redemption and Relationship

Hebrews Chapters 9: ²A tabernacle was set up . . . ³Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, ⁷But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. ¹¹But when Christ came as high priest . . . **He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption** ... ¹⁵For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant ... ²²In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness** ... ²⁴For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; He entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence ... ²⁷Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸so **Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many...**

Hebrews Chapter 10: ¹⁰ . . . we have been **made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ** once for all . . . ¹⁴For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. ¹⁸And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary. ¹⁹Therefore, brothers and sisters, since **we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus**, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²**let us draw near to God** with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³**Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess**, for He who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And **let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds**, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but **encouraging one another—and all the more** as you see the Day approaching.

1. Jesus made **true, perfect, and finishing sacrifice** through the cross. Heb 4:15; Heb 1:3; Jn 19:30
2. We have been **made holy** Heb 10:10; Eph 4:24; **with Advocate** 1 Jn 2:1; Heb 7:25; Rom 8:34
3. In Him we have **confidence to enter** the now accessible Most Holy Place and come **into the presence of God** Heb 10:19-22. "Bidden or unbidden God is present."
4. By the grace of His atoning sacrifice, we come to God as clean persons, **people of hope**.
5. **Called into community** of redeemed; **from backroom to Kingdom room** Heb 10:24, 25

Essence of Today's Message: The Ark of the Covenant provides a foreshadowing picture of the presence of God and of Jesus Christ's atoning work. We see that "the life that Jesus lived qualified Him for the death that He died; the death that He died qualifies us to receive the life that He lived" and that "He had to be what He was (perfect) to do what He did (redeem)." He shed His blood that we might live in His presence, glorify Him, and enjoy Him forever. Jesus is our saviour, our high priest (intercessor) and our King.

Invitation to Respond: Enter by the blood of Jesus, **draw near** with assurance, **hold to hope**, **encourage others** to love and good deeds.

Footnote: God willing, on August 20th we will consider the **Unpredicted Adventures of a Special Box: The Travelling Type**. We will look to the Bible narratives that trace the movement of the Ark of the Covenant, to turn our attentions to the holiness of God and our triune God's vast superiority over pagan idols, superstition, and religiosity. Insights into the profound implications from stories for 21st Century Christians.