

MOSES

Part 10

The Tabernacle

Exodus 40:17 – 37



Finding God in the Journey

THE TABERNACLE TENT

The entire tent was 45 feet (13.7 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high. It was a wooden skeletal structure, overlaid with gold, with no solid roof or front wall (Ex. 26:15–29). Five wooden bars (overlaid with gold) passed through rings attached to each frame (Ex. 26:26–30).

The Most Holy Place was a 15-foot (4.6-m) cube, containing only the ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:10–22; 37:1–9). It was here that Yahweh would descend to meet with his people in a cloud theophany (divine appearance). The high priest could enter only once a year, on the Day of Atonement (see note on Heb. 9:7).

The framed structure was covered by four layers of cloth and skin (Ex. 26:1–14).

The table for the bread of the Presence (Ex. 25:23–30)

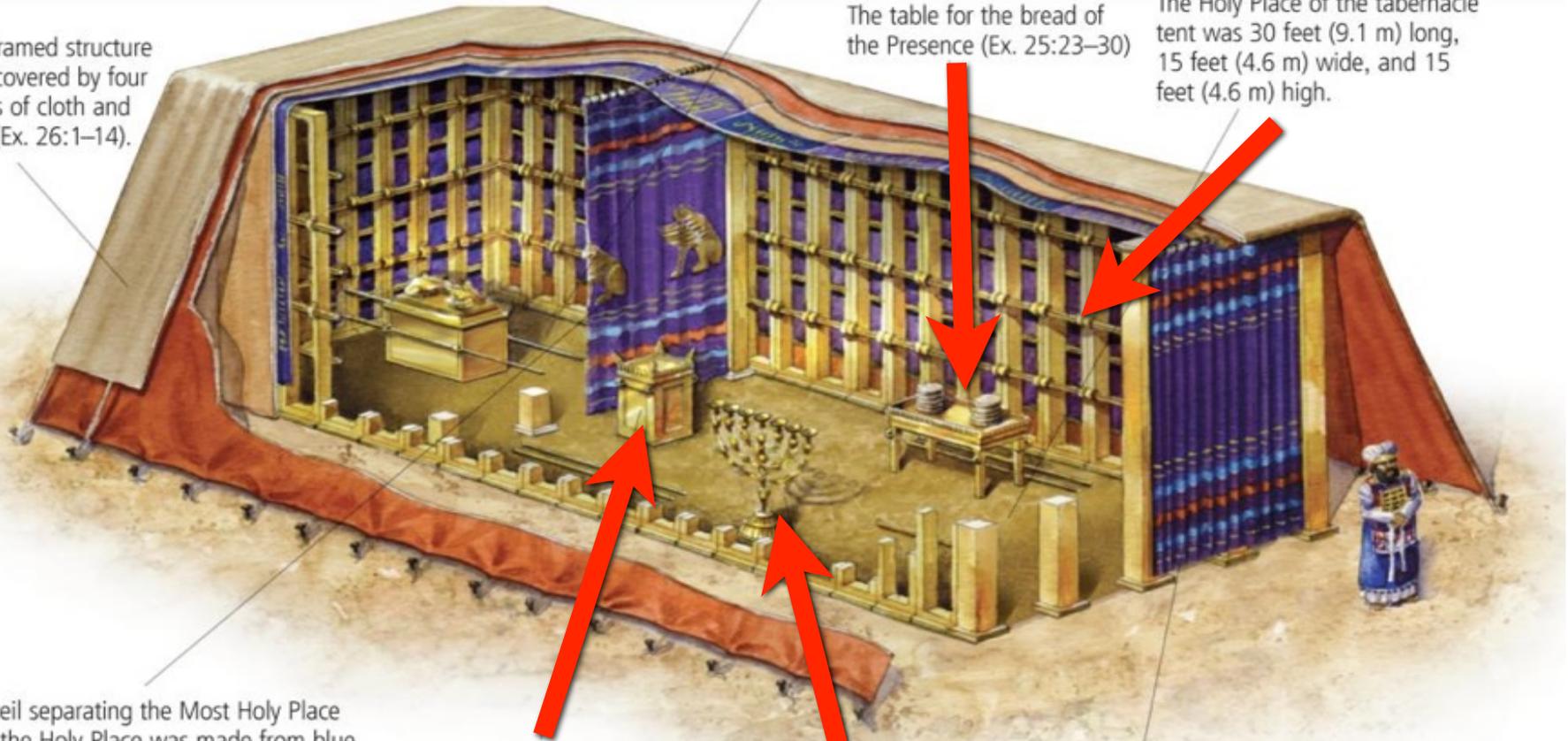
The Holy Place of the tabernacle tent was 30 feet (9.1 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high.

The veil separating the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place was made from blue, purple, and scarlet dyed yarns woven with fine twined linen and embroidered with cherubim (Ex. 26:31–33). It hung on four golden pillars.

The altar of incense (Ex. 30:1–5; 37:25–29)

The golden lampstand (Ex. 25:31–40; 37:17–24)

The veil that formed the entrance to the tabernacle was similar to the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, except that cherubim were not embroidered on it. It was suspended on five golden pillars (Ex. 26:36–37).



THE TABERNACLE TENT

The entire tent was 45 feet (13.7 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high. The structure was made of gold, silver, and bronze, with no solid roof or front wall (Ex. 26:15–29). Five wooden bars (covered with gold) passed through rings attached to each frame (Ex. 26:26–30).

The framed structure was covered by three layers of cloth and animal skin (Ex. 26:1–14).

The Most Holy Place was a 15-foot (4.6-m) cube, containing only the ark of the covenant. The high priest could enter only once a year, on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:2–13).

The table for the bread of the Presence (Ex. 25:23–30) was 3 feet (0.9 m) long, 1.5 feet (0.45 m) wide, and 1.5 feet (0.45 m) high.

The Holy Place of the tabernacle tent was 30 feet (9.1 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high.

They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” Hebrews 8:5 NIV



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Hebrews 9:11 & 12

¹¹ But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. (NIV)

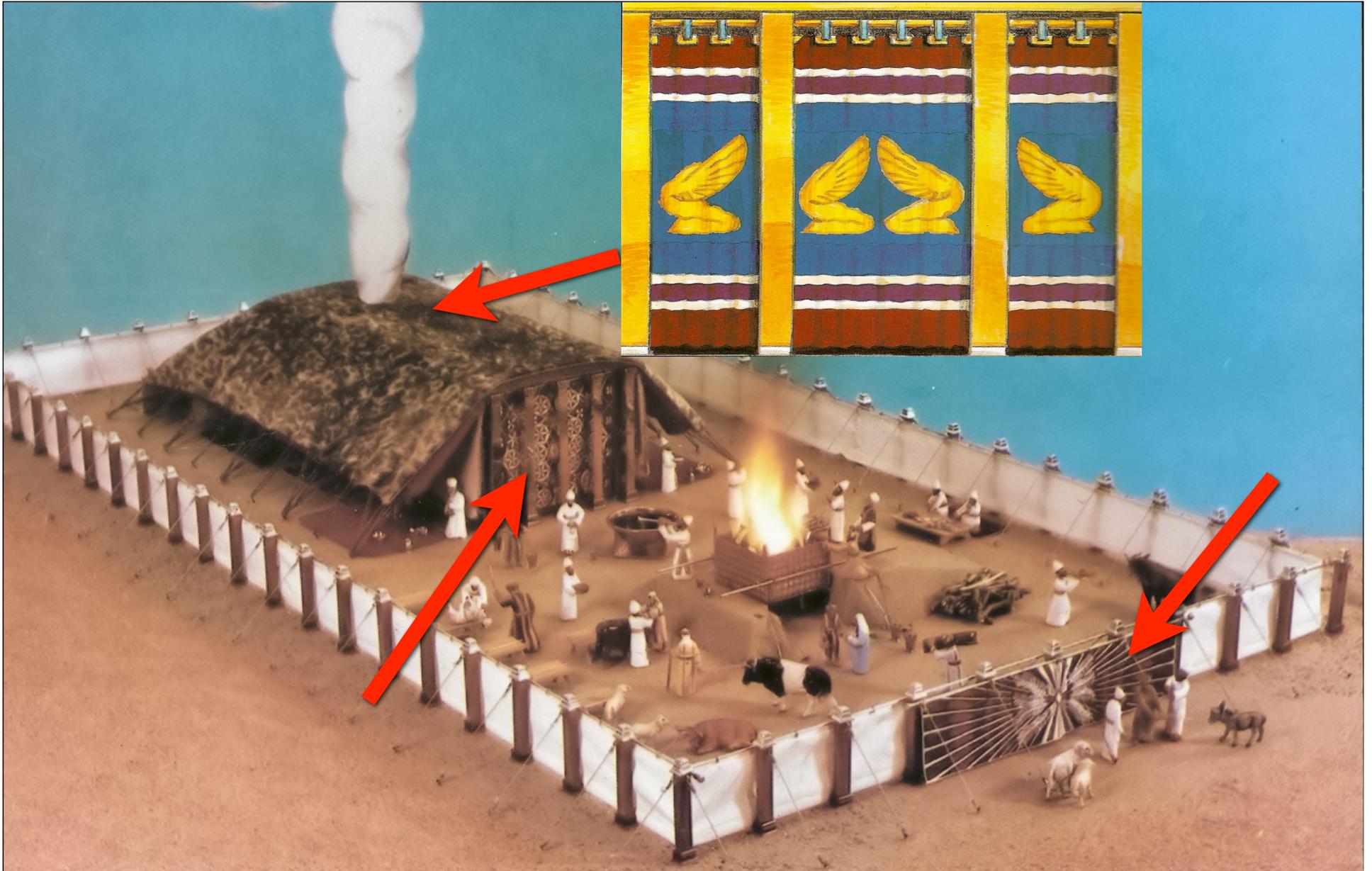
Hebrews 9:23 & 24

²³ It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For 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. (NIV)

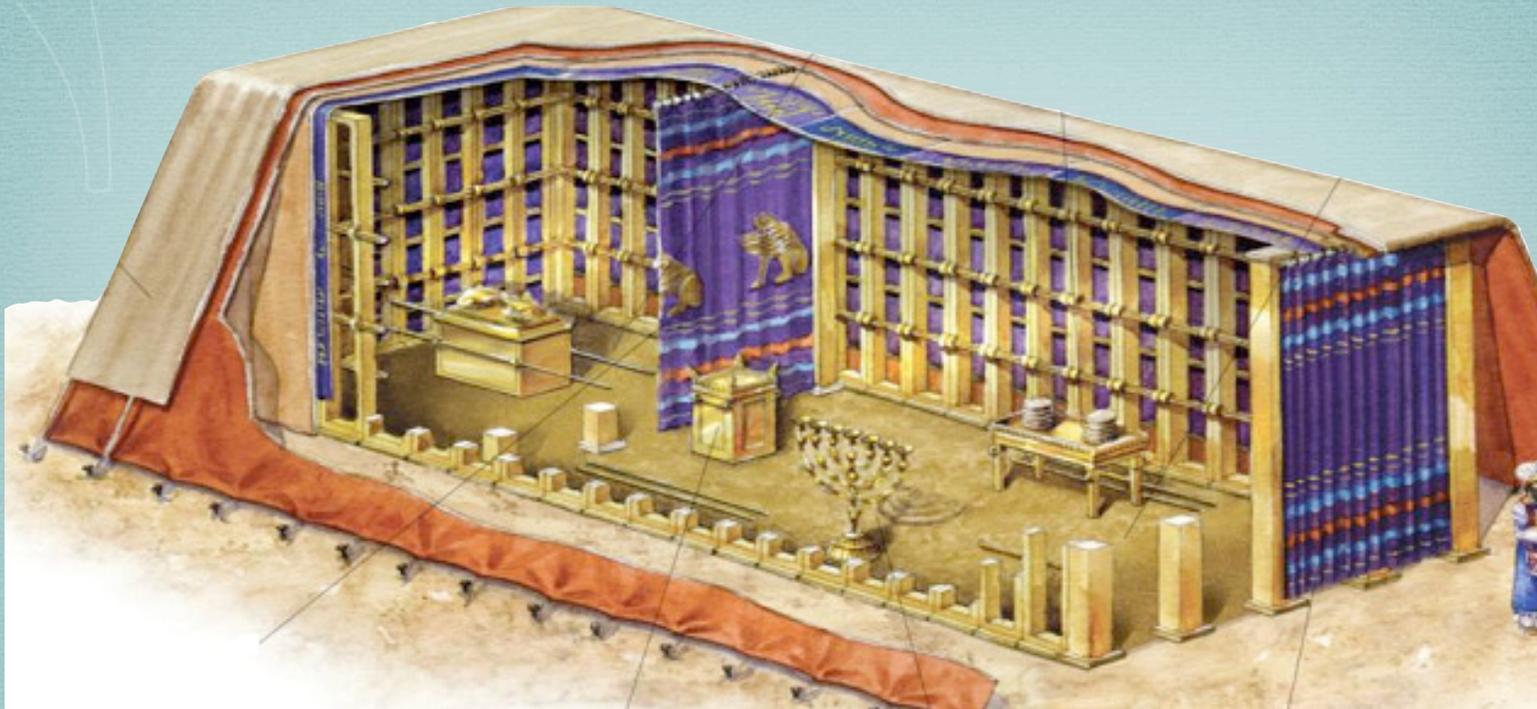
Do we need the tabernacle?

Genesis 3:23 & 24

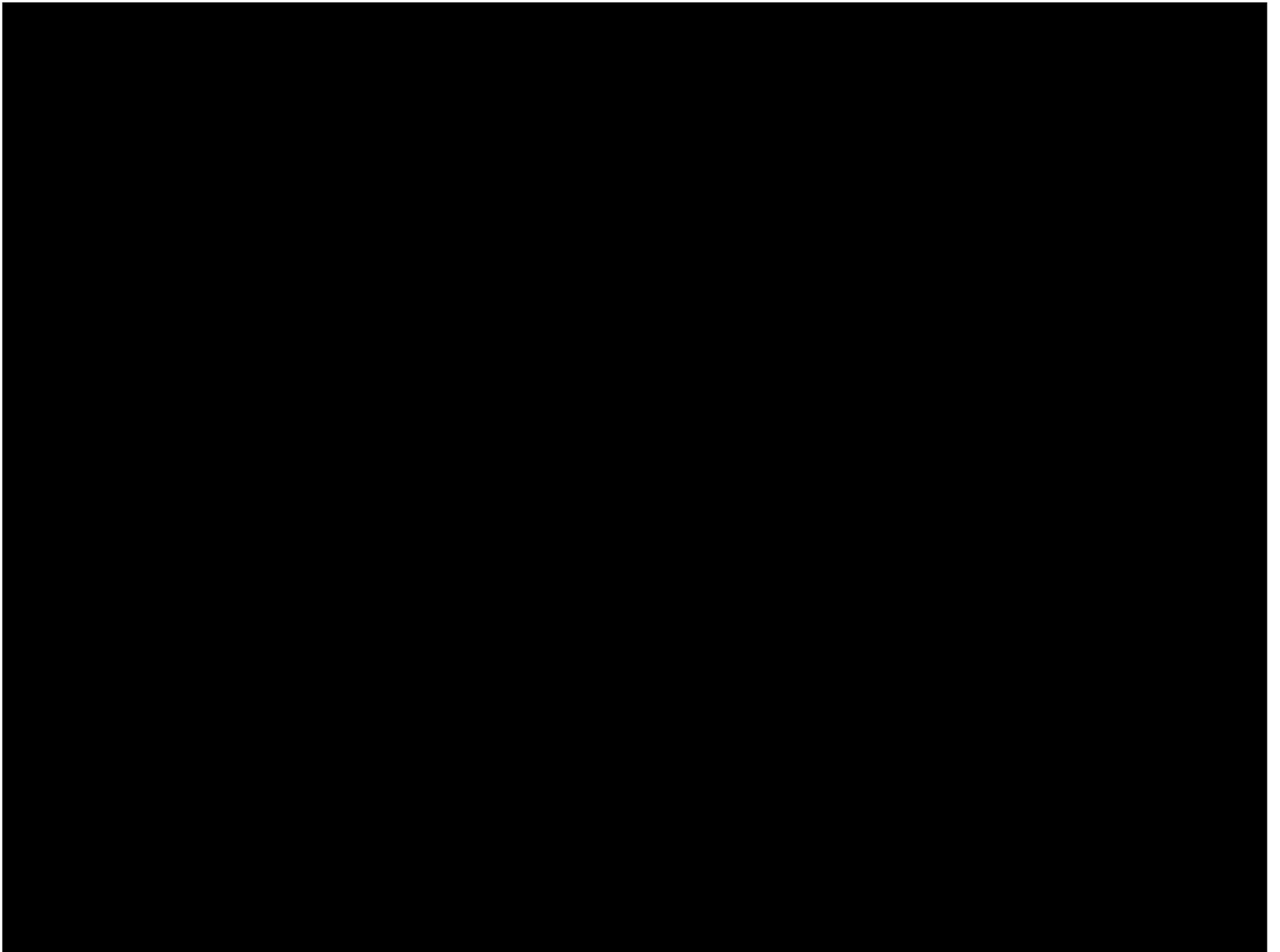
²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the Tree of Life. (NIV)



Is the Tabernacle important to us today?



God is very deliberately opening the way into his presence from the *inside out*.



The sense that in this universe we are treated as strangers, the longing to be acknowledged, to meet with some response, to bridge some chasm that yawns between us and reality, is part of our inconsolable secret. And surely, from this point of view, the promise of glory . . . becomes highly relevant to our deep desire.



For glory means good report with God, acceptance by God, response, acknowledgement, and welcome into the heart of things. The door on which we have been knocking all our lives will open at last.



In some sense . . . we can be both banished from the presence of Him who is present everywhere and erased from the knowledge of Him who knows all. We can be left utterly and absolutely outside—repelled, exiled, estranged, finally and unspeakably ignored.

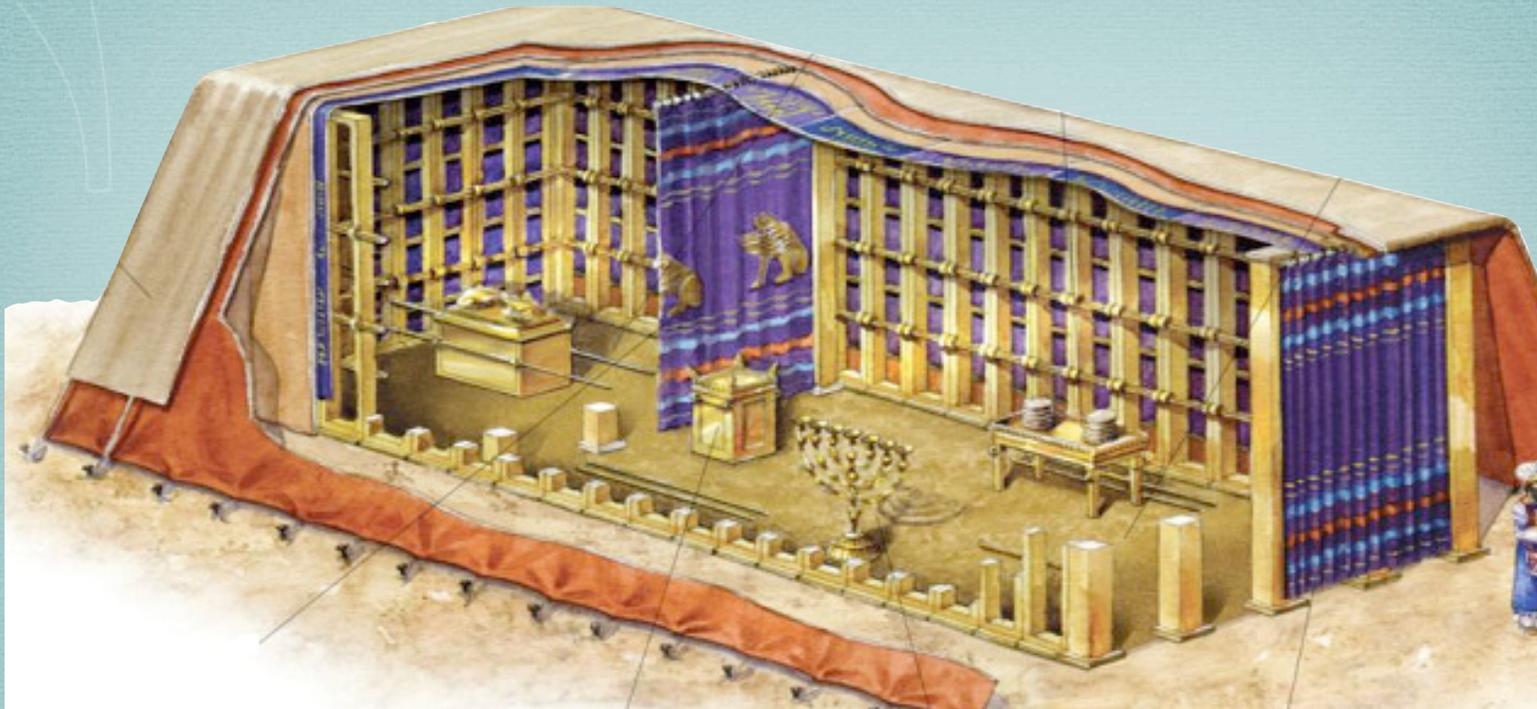


On the other hand, we can be called in, welcomed, received, acknowledged . . . our lifelong nostalgia, our longing to be reunited with something in the universe from which we now feel cut off, to be on the inside of some door which we have always seen from the outside, is no mere neurotic fancy, but the truest index of our real situation. And to be at last summoned inside would be both glory and honor beyond all our merits and also the healing of that old ache.



(C. S. Lewis, *Weight of Glory*, p. 38 & 39)

Is the Tabernacle important to us today?



Is the Tabernacle important to us? Yes!
Because it breaks through barriers and
opens the way into the presence of God.

If the Tabernacle is only a shadow what is the Reality?

Matthew 26:59 – 61

⁵⁹ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰ But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward ⁶¹ and declared, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’” (NIV)

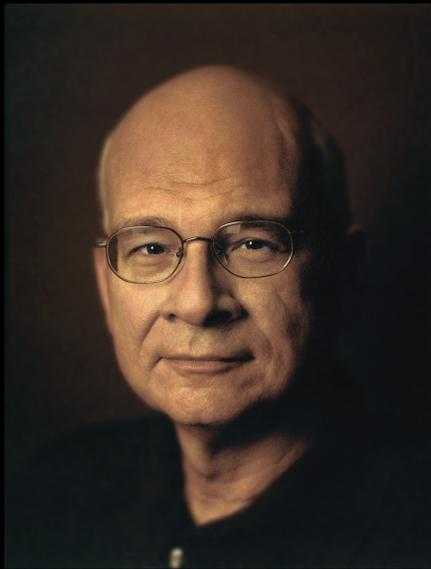
If the Tabernacle is only a shadow what is the Reality?

Matthew 26:59 – 61

“I am able to destroy the temple of God
and rebuild it in three days.”

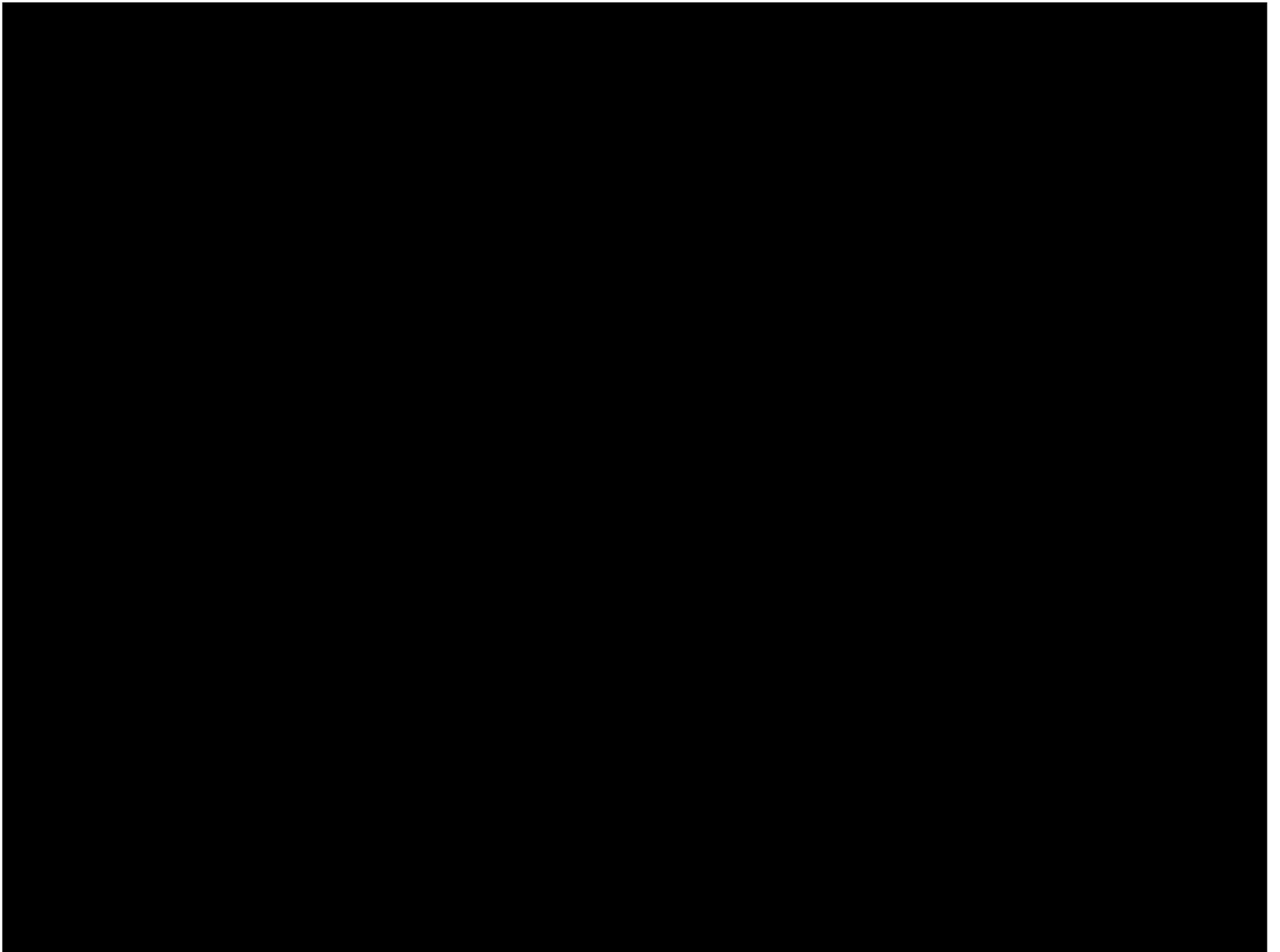
John 2:21

. . . the temple he had spoken of was his
body. (NIV)



The only way back to God is to go under the sword. Someone has to pay for sin . . . for our rebellion . . . for our defiance. The only way back in, is through the sword.

That's why, when the high priest went into the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement, he had to go under the sword. He had to go with a sacrifice. There had to be blood, and in the case of the priest it was the blood of an animal.



If the Tabernacle is only a shadow what is the Reality?

Exodus 40:33

Then Moses set up the courtyard . . . And so Moses finished the work.



John 19:30

“It is finished!”

If the Tabernacle is only a shadow what is the Reality?

Hebrews 10:19 - 22

“Therefore . . . since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body . . .



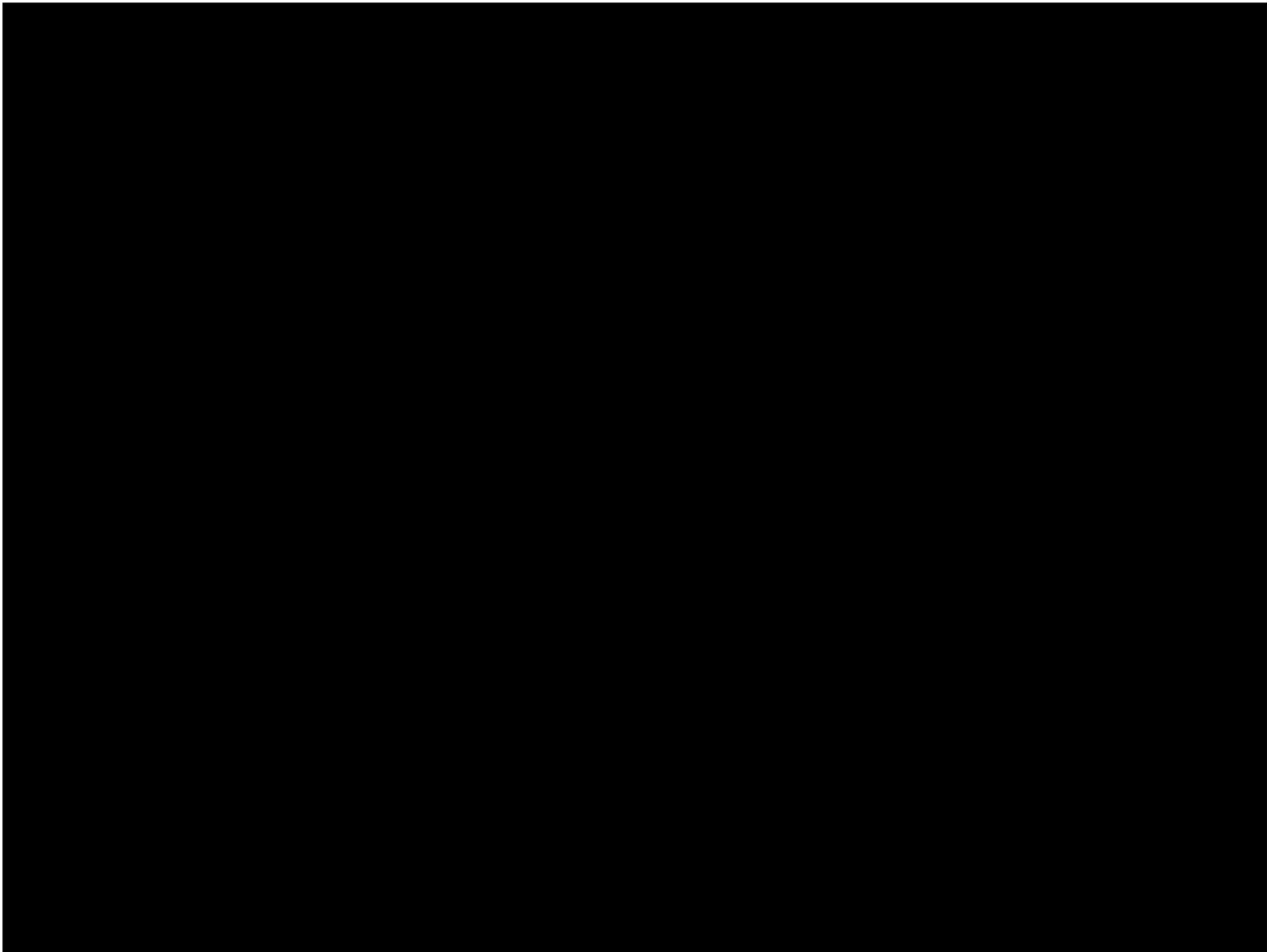
. . . let us draw near to God with . . . the full assurance that faith brings . . .”

What does God want us to learn from the Tabernacle?

First, we are invited into an intimate relationship with God

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to ***enter the Most Holy Place*** by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us ***through the curtain***, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us ***draw near to God . . .***

(Hebrews 10:19 – 22 NIV)



What does God want us to learn from the Tabernacle?

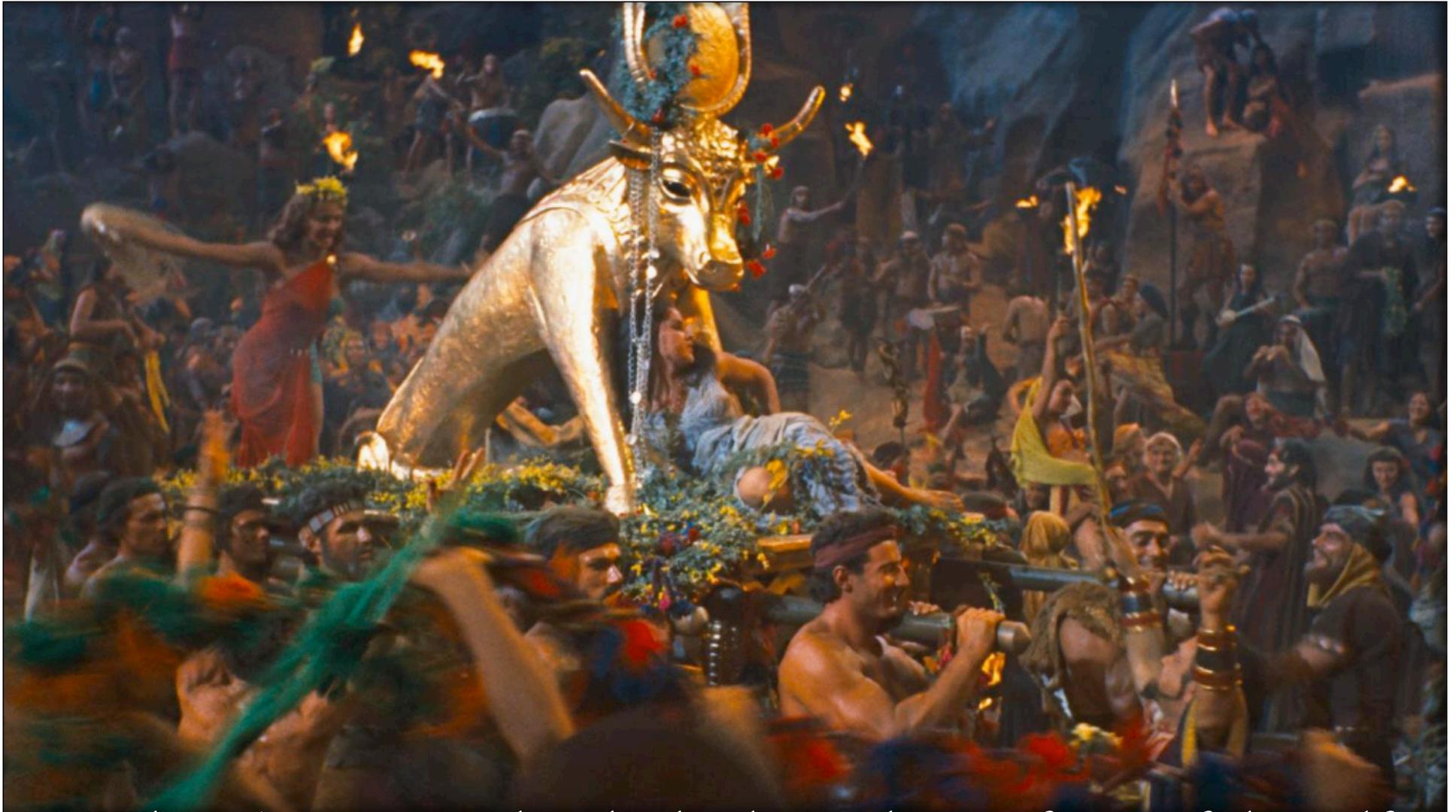
Secondly, we must approach God on his terms

... ²² let us draw near to God with a
sincere heart ...

(Hebrews 10:22 NIV)

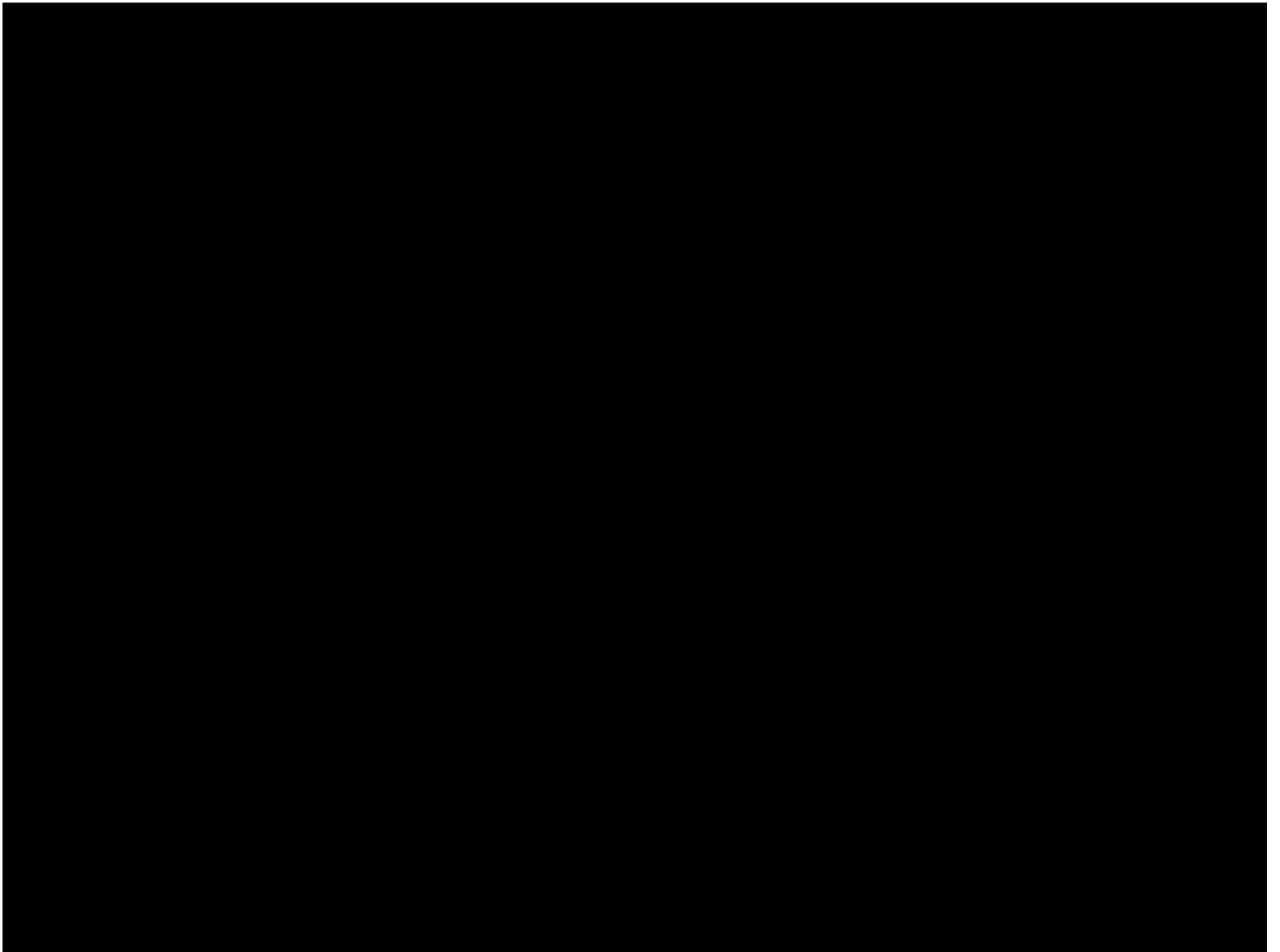
sincere = “that which has not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name, real, true, genuine. Opposite to what is fictitious, counterfeit, imaginary, simulated or pretended.”

(NET Bible translator notes)



⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.”

(Exodus 32:3 – 5 NIV)



What does God want us to learn from the Tabernacle?

Secondly, we must approach God on his terms

²⁶ If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

(Hebrews 10:26 & 27 NIV)

What does God want us to learn from the Tabernacle?

Last, work on growing your trust in God, go to church regularly and help one another grow strong in their faith

²³ Let us hold without wavering 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.

(Hebrews 10:23 - 25 NIV)

What does God want us to learn from the Tabernacle?

Last, work on growing your trust in God, go to church regularly and help one another grow strong in their faith

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

(Hebrews 9:28 NIV)

