A person is shown in profile, facing right, with their hands clasped in prayer. The image is set against a dark blue background with a subtle light flare on the right side. The person's face and hands are highlighted by a soft light, creating a contemplative and spiritual atmosphere.

THE TABERNACLE PRAYER



LETCWORTH
GARDEN CITY
CHURCH

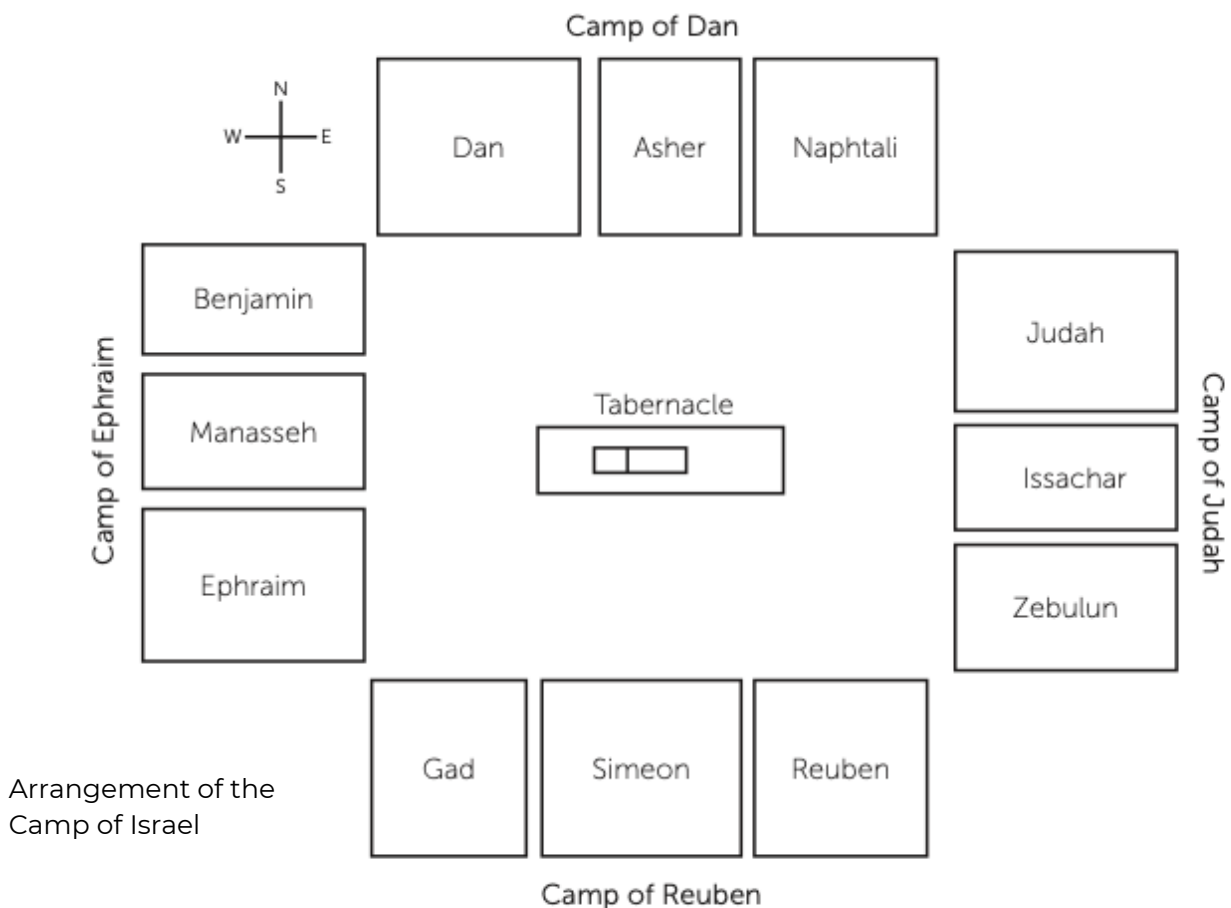
THE TABERNALE PRAYER

A MODEL FOR PRAYER

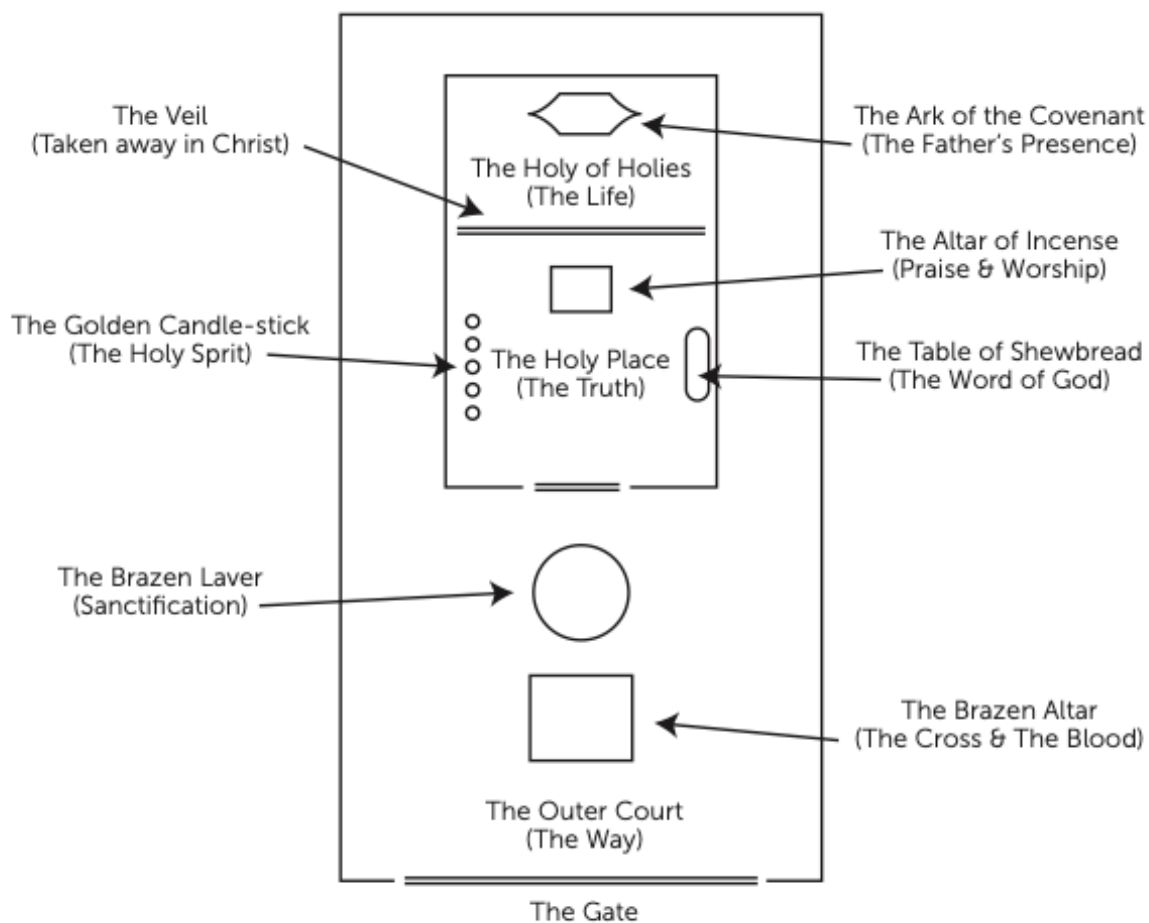
The tabernacle or “tent of meeting” was the dwelling place of God where He would meet with His people. It was built to His exact specifications (see Exodus 25 -31). God’s people would pass through each of the seven stations, following His instructions, so that they could experience His presence. Thankfully, because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we no longer need a physical tabernacle, but these same steps will help us approach and connect with God today. This prayer model will introduce us to each station of the tabernacle and provide insight to help our prayer life.

“Then 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.”

EXODUS 25:8 - 9



Tabernacle Layout



01 ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with Praise.” Psalm 100:4

The gates that the Bible refers to are the doorway entrance to the outer court. The tabernacle was surrounded by walls of white linen with only one way to enter the outer courts. This gateway was called ‘The Entrance Gate’ and was made of blue, purple and scarlet curtains. The bright contrast of this gateway with the white linen walls was a spectacular visual reminder that there was only one way to approach God.

As the Jews entered through these gates, they were required to come in an attitude of thanksgiving and thankfulness. This symbolic entrance into the presence of God was a prophetic picture of what Jesus Christ would later accomplish for all of humanity. Jesus said about Himself, “I am the gate, whoever enters through Me will be saved”. (John 10:8)

In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Let your mind be filled with awe, that because of Jesus you can approach God who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Let your mouth be filled with thanksgiving as you approach God in prayer, knowing that you can only enter by receiving Jesus and being thankful for eternal life.

Jesus died in the most excruciating way on the cross, so we could enjoy such privilege. The Jews could never have imagined such freedom. To be able to access God whenever and wherever was beyond their imagination.

We pray in the name of Jesus, because it is through Jesus that God is able to hear our prayers. How much more should we be filled with thanksgiving because of what Jesus has done for us?

Pray

Jesus, thank You that You are my gateway into the presence of God. I am so grateful that You died for me. There was no other way for me to enter into the presence of God, except by Your sacrifice. Help me to be thankful and count the blessings in my life.

(Spend a moment writing down the things and people that you are thankful for. Then declare them out loud.)

02 HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with Praise." Psalm 100:4

Praise means to celebrate God for who He is; to give Him honour and adore Him. Praise is about declaring how great God is. "For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise." (1 Chronicles 16:25) God is most worthy of praise, because of His character. God's character is not just good, He is all good. God is not just powerful, He is all powerful. God is not just loving, He is all loving. Praising God is declaring who He is.

When the Israelites of the Old Testament would enter through the gate to the tent of meeting with thanksgiving, they would then enter a spacious courtyard. In the courtyard they would declare their praises to God. As a result, the courtyard would be full of praise. In that same way, God desires that our lives would continually be filled with praise. Psalm 34:1 tells us, "His Praise will always be on lips". When praise is continually on our lips, we create an atmosphere of possibility everywhere we go, and a powerful joy is released in our lives.

Before the Israelites rushed into the presence of God presenting all of their prayer requests, they focused on praising Him. When you praise Him for who He is, you will raise your expectation of what He can do. The Bible teaches that praise brings the presence of God (Psalm 22:3). Before you rush into your prayer list, remind yourself who He is by declaring that He is the Lord God Almighty.

- You can praise God by declaring out loud who He is (Psalm 104:1)
- You can praise God in song (Psalm 147:1)
- You can praise God with musical instruments (Psalm 150)
- Or you can simply make a joyful noise (Psalm 98)

There will be times when it is easy to praise God and times when it could be more difficult. Hebrews 13:15 encourages us, “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise”. Even when you don’t feel like it, be consistent in your praise to God.

Pray

God I praise you for who you are. You are God eternal, all powerful, all present and all knowing. This day I commit to let the praise of God be continually on my lips. Even when I don’t feel like it, I bring you my praise as a sacrifice. (Take a moment to praise God for all of the aspects of His character that come to mind). Praise you God that You are great and most worthy of praise!

03 THE BRONZE ALTAR

God said to Moses, “Overlay the altar with bronze”. Exodus 27:2

In the Old Testament tabernacle, there was a Bronze Altar that was meticulously designed according to the exact representation God gave to Moses in Exodus 27 for the purpose of animal sacrifice. Moses was commanded to place the altar directly in front of the entrance to the tabernacle, the tent of meeting (Exodus 40:6) so that when the people of God entered through the gate, into the outer courts, it would be the first thing they would see.

Each time the Israelites wanted to be in the presence of God, they had to sacrifice an animal. It was impossible to approach God’s presence until a sacrifice was made. This process is described in detail in Leviticus 1-7. The altar represents the cross of Christ with Jesus Himself as our sacrificial lamb. When Jesus began His ministry, John the Baptist said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29) Jesus is our sacrificial lamb and through His own death, we can have access to God! (Hebrews 9:26; Romans 3:25)

Jesus is the lamb without blemish or defect. He exchanged His perfect, sinless life, for our life of sin. When Jesus died on that cross, His blood became the sacrifice so anyone, in any place, at any time could be forgiven of all their sins.

No longer was the dwelling place of God confined to the Tabernacle. God's presence is with you right now as you pray and read these words. Let the reality of the saving grace of Jesus fill your mind and heart. Wherever, whenever you can approach the presence of God because of the sacrifice of Jesus.

Pray

Thank You Jesus that You are the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. Thank You that through Your death, You became my lamb and my sacrifice. Thank You that You have taken away all my sins. I pray that I would understand how blessed I am to be able to receive such great love. Help me to have confidence and boldness as I approach You to pray today for my friends, family and co-workers. Thank You that in all situations, You are with me.

04 HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE

God said to Moses, "Place the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it". Exodus 40:6

Do you know that you are forgiven, loved and cherished by Almighty God? Have you ever struggled to be free from past regrets or know someone who has? Understanding what the water basin represents will help. The water cleansed the dirt, dust and grime from God's people before they entered His presence. It was a looking glass, in which they would look and reflect on their hearts and conscience before going into the Holy Place. The priests washed their hands, feet and face at the Laver, representing cleansing from their sin.

Hebrews 10:22 says, "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". Being forgiven and knowing that you are forgiven are two entirely different things. The Water Basin symbolises the power of the forgiveness of God and the refreshing work of the Holy Spirit cleansing us from sin.

There was a great king in the Old Testament called David. After he sinned, he prayed “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me”. (Psalm 51:10) Asking for God’s help to have a pure heart, a clean conscience and to find freedom from past mistakes is a great way to pray. Read and meditate on these scriptures, asking the Holy Spirit to highlight any areas that you need His cleansing power:

- “I wash my hands in innocence and go about Your altar Lord.” Psalm 26:6
- “Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.” Psalm 51:2
- “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”
- Titus 3:5

Another way the Bible uses water as a symbol of purification is through water baptism, as an outward act of what God has already done in your heart.

- “This water symbolises baptism that now saves you also.” 1 Peter 3:20
- “What are you waiting for? Get up, be baptised and wash your sins away,
- calling on His name.” Acts 22:16

If you have never been water baptised, why not pray about this today too?

Pray

Lord, thank You that I am forgiven. Create in me a clean heart and help me to be cleansed by Your Holy Spirit of all effects of sin. I pray for all roots of any remaining sin in me to be exposed today, and I thank You that because of the cleansing of the Holy Spirit I am free.

05 THE GOLDEN LAMP & THE TABLE OF BREAD

God said, “Put the bread of the Presence on this table to be before Me at all times”. Exodus 25:30

God said, “Make a lampstand out of pure gold; and keep the lamps burning from evening till morning”. Exodus 27:20

Finally, we are in the tent of the tabernacle itself! At one end is the Golden Lampstand, the only light in the tent, and at the opposite end is a table overlaid with pure gold with 12 loaves of fresh bread. Interestingly, all the items in the outer court were made of common bronze, but inside the tent all the items are precious gold, which was given to the Israelites by the Egyptians when they left Egypt (Exodus 12:35). When you enter God’s presence, the very things that were meant to destroy you can be turned for His glory. Some things only make sense and can only be healed in the presence of the living **18** God.

Both the lampstand and the bread represent Jesus:

The lampstand represents Jesus as the light of the world, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life". (John 8:12) As you pray and read the word, allow the light of Jesus Christ to illuminate your soul and give you fresh hope. The lampstand is symbolic of the Holy Spirit, the sevenfold Spirit of God: wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of the Lord, holiness.

The Bread represents Jesus as the bread of life. 'Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty."' (John 6:35) Are you hungry for more of God? Are you hungry for a greater sense of fulfilment? Feed yourself the spiritual word of God and in His presence you will grow spiritually strong. Try reading the Bible and choose a promise of God to meditate on. For example:

- "A sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous." Proverbs 13:22
- "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him."
- Romans 8:28
- Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
- according to His power that is at work within us." Ephesians 3:20

Pray

Thank You Jesus for being my light and my bread. This day give me Your wisdom to help me to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. Be my substance to have strength and stamina to serve You and Your purposes. Thank You that Your light shines even brighter in darkness.

(List the areas of your world that you would like to see Jesus light up with hope and love in the weeks and months to come.)

06 ALTAR OF INCENSE

God said to Moses, "Place the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it". Exodus 40:6

Do you know that you are forgiven, loved and cherished by Almighty God? Have you ever struggled to be free from past regrets or know someone who has? Understanding what the water basin represents will help.

The water cleansed the dirt, dust and grime from God's people before they entered His presence. It was a looking glass, in which they would look and reflect on their hearts and conscience before going into the Holy Place. The priests washed their hands, feet and face at the Laver, representing cleansing from their sin.

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07 THE ART OF INTERCESSION

God said, "And there I will meet with you". Exodus 25:22

The final place in the tent of the tabernacle is the Holy of Holies. Hebrews 9:3-5 says, "Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place". Only the high priest could enter this place once a year. A beautiful veil separated the holy place from the Most Holy Place.

Inside the Most Holy Place was the Ark, which represented the covenant of God with people. The Ark was built exactly to the pattern that God set in Exodus 25:17-22. The golden Ark had two cherubs at each end that were seated on what God called the atonement cover. There between the two cherubs, above the cover, God would dwell. The glory of the Lord dwelt over the Tabernacle as a cloud by day, and fire by night (Exodus 40:38).

The moment Jesus Christ died on the cross everything changed. The veil of the Most Holy Place was ripped from the top down (Matthew 27:51). God had ripped the veil because the sacrifice of Christ did what no human could ever do. God had come down because Jesus became our eternal sacrifice. Through receiving Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, by grace we can enter into the very presence of God Himself.

Therefore, we are urged to first of all, make requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving for everyone, "for kings and all those in authority that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Therefore, spend some time praying and interceding for:

- your family
- your community
- your church leaders
- local, regional and national leaders and all those in authority

Pray

Thank You Jesus that You are my High Priest. Because of You, I can have complete and total access to the very presence of God. Jesus You have created a way for me to enter into the presence of God. (Take some time praying for your family, friends, and leaders.) God, I pray that my family, friends, and everyone I know would come to know Jesus as their personal saviour. I pray for other Christians to understand the power of what it means to be able to access Your Most Holy Place because of Jesus.

