

Hebrew Sanctuary: Signs, Symbols & Antitypes

1. Sanctuary Layout – The Way of Redemption

Section	Symbol / Article	Type (Symbolic Meaning)	Antitype (Fulfillment in Christ / Plan of Salvation)	Key Texts
Outer Court	Gate	Christ the only entrance to salvation	“I am the Door” — salvation only through Him	John 10:9; Ps. 100:4
	Brazen Altar (Burnt Offering)	Substitutionary death; justification through blood	Christ the Lamb of God slain for the world	John 1:29; Isa. 53:5; Heb. 9:22
	Laver	Cleansing, baptism, rebirth	New birth through water and Spirit	John 3:5; Titus 3:5; Eph. 5:26
Holy Place	Table of Shewbread	Word of God, communion with Christ	Christ the Bread of Life	John 6:35, 63; Matt. 4:4
	Golden Candlestick (Menorah)	Light of the world; witness; Holy Spirit’s presence	Christ the Light; Spirit empowers the church	John 8:12; Rev. 1:12–13; Zech. 4:2–6
	Altar of Incense	Intercession, prayers mingled with righteousness	Christ’s continual mediation and intercession	Rev. 8:3–4; Heb. 7:25; John 17
Most Holy Place	Ark of the Covenant	Throne of God, seat of judgment and mercy	God’s throne of grace and justice	Heb. 4:16; Rev. 11:19
	Mercy Seat	Atonement covering, divine mercy through blood	Christ’s righteousness covering repentant sinners	Rom. 3:25; Ex. 25:17–22
	Cherubim	Witnesses of God’s holiness and justice	Angelic hosts observing the plan of redemption	1 Pet. 1:12; Ps. 80:1
	Law of God (in Ark)	Moral foundation of God’s government	God’s unchangeable character and law written on heart	Heb. 8:10; Rev. 11:19
	Shekinah Glory	Divine presence	Christ’s indwelling Spirit among His people	John 1:14; Col. 1:27

2. Ministries of the Priesthood

Function	Type	Antitype	Key Texts
Daily Sacrifices	Continual need for cleansing from sin	Christ's continual intercession for believers	Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1–2
Priestly Washing	Purification before service	Holiness required of all who minister	Ex. 30:18–21; John 13:8–10
Sprinkling of Blood	Transfer of sin from sinner to sanctuary	Christ bearing sin and its record	Lev. 4:6–7; Heb. 9:23–26
Burning of Incense	Sweet aroma of Christ's merits added to prayer	Mediatorial ministry of Christ	Rev. 8:3–4; GC 414.3
Veil	Separation caused by sin	Torn at Christ's death — access restored	Matt. 27:51; Heb. 10:19–22
High Priest entering Most Holy	Day of Atonement (final cleansing)	Investigative Judgment, final atonement work	Lev. 16; Dan. 8:14; Heb. 9:23–28
Scapegoat (Azazel)	Removal of confessed sins to wilderness	Final bearing of guilt by Satan	Lev. 16:20–22; Rev. 20:1–3,10

3. Materials, Colors, and Numbers

Symbol	Meaning	Antitype / Application	Texts
Gold	Divinity, purity	Christ's divine nature	Ex. 25:11; Rev. 3:18
Silver	Redemption	Price of the soul	Ex. 30:11–16; 1 Pet. 1:18–19
Brass (Bronze)	Judgment, endurance	Christ enduring judgment for sin	Num. 21:9; John 3:14
Blue	Law and obedience	God's law, heavenly origin	Num. 15:38–39
Purple	Royalty	Christ's kingship	John 19:2
Scarlet	Sacrifice, blood	Atonement through Christ's blood	Isa. 1:18; Heb. 9:14
White Linen	Righteousness of saints	Christ's imputed and imparted righteousness	Rev. 19:8
Acacia (Shittim) Wood	Incorruptible humanity	Christ's sinless human nature	Ex. 25:10; John 1:14

Oil	Holy Spirit	Anointing and consecration	Zech. 4:2–6; 1 Sam. 16:13
Water	Word and Spirit	Cleansing and regeneration	Eph. 5:26; John 3:5
Blood	Life and atonement	Christ's sacrifice	Lev. 17:11; Matt. 26:28
Fire	Purification, God's presence	Holy Spirit's sanctifying power	Lev. 9:24; Acts 2:3
Incense	Prayer	Christ's intercession	Ps. 141:2; Rev. 8:3–4
Light	Truth, revelation	Christ the Light of the world	John 8:12

4. Feasts and Their Prophetic Fulfillment

Feast	Symbolic Meaning	Antitype / Fulfillment	Key Texts
Passover	Deliverance by blood	Christ's death as the Passover Lamb	1 Cor. 5:7; John 19:14
Unleavened Bread	Separation from sin	Christ's sinless life; sanctification	1 Cor. 5:8
Firstfruits	Resurrection	Christ's resurrection, first of them that slept	1 Cor. 15:20–23
Pentecost	Outpouring of Spirit	Holy Spirit given; early rain	Acts 2:1–4
Trumpets	Warning message	Final gospel warning before judgment	Rev. 14:6–7; Joel 2:1
Day of Atonement	Cleansing of sanctuary; judgment	Investigative judgment; blotting out of sin	Lev. 16; Dan. 8:14; Heb. 9:23
Feast of Tabernacles	God dwelling with His people	Second Advent; eternal rest and rejoicing	Rev. 21:3; Zech. 14:16–19

5. Type & Antitype Summary Table

Type (Old Testament)	Antitype (Fulfilled in Christ)	Scriptural Link
Lamb	Christ crucified	John 1:29; Rev. 13:8
High Priest	Christ's heavenly mediation	Heb. 4:14–16; 8:1–2

Sanctuary	Heaven itself	Heb. 9:23–24
Altar	Cross of Calvary	Heb. 13:10–12
Laver	Baptism / regeneration	Titus 3:5
Table of Shewbread	Word of God / Christ the Bread	John 6:35
Candlestick	Light of the world / Spirit-filled church	Rev. 1:12–13
Incense	Intercession / Prayers	Rev. 8:3–4
Ark	Throne of God's law and grace	Rev. 11:19
Mercy Seat	Christ's righteousness covering the law	Rom. 3:25
Scapegoat	Satan bearing final punishment	Lev. 16:21–22; Rev. 20:10
Shekinah	Presence of God through the Spirit	John 14:17–23
Day of Atonement	Final judgment, cleansing of records	Dan. 8:14; Rev. 14:7
Tabernacle Itself	God's desire to dwell with humanity	Ex. 25:8; John 1:14; Rev. 21:3

Spiritual Application Summary

Sanctuary Location	Experience	Grace Function	Spiritual Duty
Outer Court	Justification	Grace Received	Faith, repentance
Holy Place	Sanctification	Grace Applied	Prayer, Word, witness
Most Holy Place	Glorification	Grace Perfected	Purity, perseverance, preparation

Key Thought

“The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ’s work in behalf of men.”

“Every divine institution has been ordained to teach some truth connected with the great plan of redemption.

“The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him is reflected in every service, every sacrifice, every ceremony.”