

## God's Building, Part 3: Drawing near

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## God's building

For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." [1 Peter 2.6]

- God lays the foundation.

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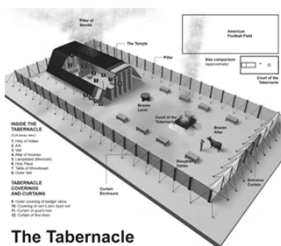
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## The Tabernacle



**The Tabernacle**

<sup>1</sup>Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. <sup>2</sup>For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. <sup>3</sup>Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place... [Hebrews 9.1-3]

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## Hebrews 10.14-25

<sup>14</sup>For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

<sup>15</sup>And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, <sup>16</sup>"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"

<sup>17</sup>then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." <sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

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## Hebrews 10.14-25

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

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## Simplified Structure

Since we have a **perfect** sacrifice and  
Since we have a **perfect** priest,  
Let us **draw near** to God with confidence,  
Let us **draw near** to the future with hope,  
 and  
Let us **draw near** to each other with intent.

In other words:

Since we have a perfect foundation, let us  
 draw near and build on it.

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## The perfect sacrifice

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near... [Hebrews 10.19-22]

- 'to enter the holy places' = surprising.
- 'blood' and 'flesh' imply sacrifice.
- Most modern people we dislike sacrifice.
- 'curtain' = 'his flesh' (cf. Matt 27.50-51)

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## The perfect priest

<sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God... [Hebrews 10.21]

- Lord Farquaad's 'sacrifice'.
- Abraham: 'Some of your sons may die...'
- So is the cross just 'divine child abuse'?

See John 3.16 AND John 10.17-18 <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

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## Priest and sacrifice

The relationship between the priest and the sacrifice: The priest sacrifices the sacrifice.

Heb 9.14 [NLT] ...For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

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### Priest and sacrifice




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### The Self-Sacrificing Priest

**Jesus paid the price  
we couldn't live with  
in order to gain the  
prize we couldn't live  
without.**

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### The Perfect Result

The perfect Priest making the perfect Self-Sacrifice produced the perfect result:

Hebrews 10.17 [NLT] Then he adds, "I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds."

*οὐ μὴ μνησθήσονται ἔτι: selective amnesia*

Hebrews 10.14 [NLT] For by that one offering he perfected forever all those whom he is making holy.

- His Self-sacrifice empowers ours.

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### The Perfect Result

The result of His perfect sacrifice is so perfect that we can add nothing to it!

**‘We contribute nothing to our salvation except the sin which makes it necessary.’**

- Jonathan Edwards

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### Summary

**Since we have a perfect Priest Who offered Himself, as the perfect Sacrifice,**

1. Let us draw near to God with confidence.
2. Let us draw near to the future with hope.
3. Let us draw near to each other with intent.

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### Discussion Questions

- How do you feel about the concept of sacrifice?
- How does the fact that Jesus offered Himself for your sins make you feel?
- With how much confidence to you enter the Most Holy Place?

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