

HOLY OF HOLIES

God communicated with the high priest in the **Holy of Holies** about everything He commanded the Israelites to do. (It seems He spoke to the priests from the mercy seat.)

- **Exodus 25:22:** "And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel."

When the high priest entered the **Holy of Holies**, he was to take a small amount of holy incense and place it before the Ark of the Covenant. (It seems this would create an incense cloud, which would prevent him from seeing God. Otherwise he would risk looking at God and dying.)

- **Exodus 30:35-36:** "And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure and holy: And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy."

The reason Aaron couldn't enter the **Holy of Holies** whenever he wanted was because if he did he would die (because God was going to appear there).

- **Leviticus 16:2:** "And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in

the cloud upon the mercy seat."

Before Aaron could enter into the **Holy of Holies**, he had to offer a young bullock for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

- **Leviticus 16:3:** "Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering."

Before Aaron could enter into the **Holy of Holies**, he had to wash himself and put on the priestly garments.

- **Leviticus 16:4:** "He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on."

Before Aaron could enter into the **Holy of Holies**, he had to take from the Israelites two goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

- **Leviticus 16:5:** "And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering."

Before Aaron could enter into the **Holy of Holies**, his own sin had to be atoned for (by offering a sacrifice).

- **Leviticus 16:6:** "And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house."

- **Leviticus 16:11:** "And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself:"

Before Aaron could enter into the **Holy of Holies**, he had to take the two goats from the Israelites and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle.

- **Leviticus 16:7:** "And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation."

The scapegoat comes up in the context of the Day of Atonement, and the sacrifices Aaron had to offer in order to enter into the **Holy of Holies**.

- **Leviticus 16:8:** "And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat."

When Aaron went inside the **Holy of Holies**, he had to bring incense and a censer full of burning coals that had been taken from the altar of burnt offering.

- **Leviticus 16:12:** "And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail:"

Once Aaron crossed to the other side of the veil and was in the **Holy of Holies**, he had to cast the incense onto the burning

coals that he was carrying to create a cloud of incense that covered the mercy seat. This was necessary because God appeared as a cloud on the mercy seat, and if it wasn't obscured then Aaron would see God and die.

- **Leviticus 16:13:** "And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not:"

When Aaron went inside the **Holy of Holies**, he was to take the blood of the bullock (which had been offered as a sin offering for his own sins) and sprinkle it with his finger before the mercy seat seven times. (In other words, he had to atone for his own sin before he could atone for the sins of Israel.)

- **Leviticus 16:14:** "And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times."

When Aaron went inside the **Holy of Holies**, he had to bring the blood of the goat and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat.

- **Leviticus 16:15:** "Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:"

When Aaron went inside the **Holy of Holies**, he was to make atonement for the holy place by sprinkling the blood of the

sacrifices that had been offered.

- **Leviticus 16:16:** "And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness."

When Aaron went inside the **Holy of Holies**, no one else could be in the tabernacle until he finished making atonement for himself, his household, and the Israelites.

- **Leviticus 16:17:** "And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel."

The tenth day of the seventh month was the Day of Atonement. (That was the day when the high priest went into the **Holy of Holies** to make atonement for the sins of Israel.)

- **Leviticus 16:29:** "And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you:"

The **Holy of Holies** was also referred to as "the oracle".

- **1 Kings 6:5:** "And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about, against the walls of the house round about, both of the temple and of the oracle: and

he made chambers round about:"

- **1 Kings 6:16:** "And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place."
- **1 Kings 6:19:** "And the oracle he prepared in the house within, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD."
- **1 Kings 6:20:** "And the oracle in the forepart was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in the height thereof: and he overlaid it with pure gold; and so covered the altar which was of cedar."
- **1 Kings 6:21:** "So Solomon overlaid the house within with pure gold: and he made a partition by the chains of gold before the oracle; and he overlaid it with gold."
- **1 Kings 6:22:** "And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house: also the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold."
- **1 Kings 6:23:** "And within the oracle he made two cherubims of olive tree, each ten cubits high."
- **1 Kings 6:31:** "And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive tree: the lintel and side posts were a fifth part of the wall."
- **1 Kings 7:49:** "And the candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right side, and five on the left, before the oracle, with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs of gold,"
- **1 Kings 8:6:** "And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims."
- **1 Kings 8:8:** "And they drew out the staves, that the ends

of the staves were seen out in the holy place before the oracle, and they were not seen without: and there they are unto this day."

- **2 Chronicles 5:7:** "And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims:"
- **2 Chronicles 5:9:** "And they drew out the staves of the ark, that the ends of the staves were seen from the ark before the oracle; but they were not seen without. And there it is unto this day."

The **Holy of Holies** was located inside the temple.

- **1 Kings 6:16:** "And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place."

The **Holy of Holies** is also called the most holy place.

- **1 Kings 6:16:** "And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place."
- **1 Kings 7:50:** "And the bowls, and the snuffers, and the basins, and the spoons, and the censers of pure gold; and the hinges of gold, both for the doors of the inner house, the most holy place, and for the doors of the house, to wit, of the temple."
- **2 Chronicles 5:7:** "And the priests brought in the ark of

the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims:"

In the first temple, the floor and walls of the **Holy of Holies** was made of boards of cedar.

- **1 Kings 6:16:** "And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place."

In the first temple, there was a place in the first temple where the Ark of the Covenant was located. (This was the **Holy of Holies**.)

- **1 Kings 6:19:** "And the oracle he prepared in the house within, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD."

In the first temple, the **Holy of Holies** was overlaid with pure gold.

- **1 Kings 6:20:** "And the oracle in the forepart was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in the height thereof: and he overlaid it with pure gold; and so covered the altar which was of cedar."
- **1 Kings 6:21:** "So Solomon overlaid the house within with pure gold: and he made a partition by the chains of gold before the oracle; and he overlaid it with gold."

In the first temple, the **Holy of Holies** was 20 cubits wide, 20 cubits deep, and 20 cubits tall. (This would have been about

30 feet.)

- **1 Kings 6:16:** "And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place."
- **1 Kings 6:20:** "And the oracle in the forepart was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in the height thereof: and he overlaid it with pure gold; and so covered the altar which was of cedar."

In the first temple, there was a partition that separated the Holy Place from the **Holy of Holies**.

- **1 Kings 6:21:** "So Solomon overlaid the house within with pure gold: and he made a partition by the chains of gold before the oracle; and he overlaid it with gold."

In the first temple, the altar that was by the **Holy of Holies** was overlaid with gold.

- **1 Kings 6:22:** "And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house: also the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold."

The statues of cherubim that were inside the **Holy of Holies** in the first temple were 10 cubits high. (This would have been around 15 feet.) The statues were made of olive wood.

- **1 Kings 6:23:** "And within the oracle he made two cherubims of olive tree, each ten cubits high."

The distance from the farthest part of one cherubim wing in the **Holy of Holies** to the other measured 10 cubits. (This would have been around 15 feet.)

- **1 Kings 6:24:** "And five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other were ten cubits."

The two wings on the statues of cherubim that were inside the **Holy of Holies** of the first temple were each 5 cubits. (This would have been around 7.5 feet.)

- **1 Kings 6:24:** "And five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other were ten cubits."
- **2 Chronicles 3:11:** "And the wings of the cherubims were twenty cubits long: one wing of the one cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing was likewise five cubits, reaching to the wing of the other cherub."

The statues of cherubim that were inside the **Holy of Holies** of the first temple each had two wings.

- **1 Kings 6:24:** "And five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other were ten cubits."
- **2 Chronicles 3:11:** "And the wings of the cherubims were twenty cubits long: one wing of the one cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other

wing was likewise five cubits, reaching to the wing of the other cherub."

Both statues of cherubim that were inside the **Holy of Holies** of the first temple were the same.

- **1 Kings 6:25:** "And the other cherub was ten cubits: both the cherubims were of one measure and one size."
- **1 Kings 6:26:** "The height of the one cherub was ten cubits, and so was it of the other cherub."

Each statue of cherubim that was inside the **Holy of Holies** of the first temple was 10 cubits high. (This would have been around 15 feet.)

- **1 Kings 6:26:** "The height of the one cherub was ten cubits, and so was it of the other cherub."

When the statues of cherubims were put inside the **Holy of Holies** of the first temple, their wings touched one another. (Their wings also touched the wall.)

- **1 Kings 6:27:** "And he set the cherubims within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house."
- **2 Chronicles 3:11-12:** "And the wings of the cherubims were twenty cubits long: one wing of the one cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing was likewise five cubits, reaching to the wing

of the other cherub. And one wing of the other cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing was five cubits also, joining to the wing of the other cherub."

The statues of cherubim, which were inside the **Holy of Holies** of the first temple, were overlaid with gold.

- **1 Kings 6:28:** "And he overlaid the cherubims with gold."
- **2 Chronicles 3:10:** "And in the most holy house he made two cherubims of image work, and overlaid them with gold."

The doors that served as the entrance to the **Holy of Holies** of the first temple were made of olive wood.

- **1 Kings 6:31:** "And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive tree: the lintel and side posts were a fifth part of the wall."
- **1 Kings 6:32:** "The two doors also were of olive tree; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubims, and upon the palm trees."

The doors that served as the entrance to the **Holy of Holies** had carvings of cherubim, palm trees, and flowers. The carvings were overlaid with gold

- **1 Kings 6:32:** "The two doors also were of olive tree; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold, and

spread gold upon the cherubims, and upon the palm trees."

- **2 Chronicles 4:22:** "And the snuffers, and the basons, and the spoons, and the censers, of pure gold: and the entry of the house, the inner doors thereof for the most holy place, and the doors of the house of the temple, were of gold."

Five gold candlesticks were placed on the left and right side of the first temple, in front of the **Holy of Holies**.

- **1 Kings 7:49:** "And the candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right side, and five on the left, before the oracle, with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs of gold,"

Solomon made hinges of gold for the **Holy of Holies** of the first temple.

- **1 Kings 7:50:** "And the bowls, and the snuffers, and the basons, and the spoons, and the censers of pure gold; and the hinges of gold, both for the doors of the inner house, the most holy place, and for the doors of the house, to wit, of the temple."

When the Ark of the Covenant was brought into the first temple, it was put under the wings of the cherubims that were in the **Holy of Holies**.

- **1 Kings 8:6-7:** "And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims. For the cherubims spread forth their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims

covered the ark and the staves thereof above."

- **2 Chronicles 5:7-8:** "And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims: For the cherubims spread forth their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above."

When the book of 1 Kings was written, the Ark of the Covenant was still in the **Holy of Holies** of the first temple.

- **1 Kings 8:7-8:** "For the cherubims spread forth their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above. And they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were seen out in the holy place before the oracle, and they were not seen without: and there they are unto this day."

After the Ark of the Covenant was put in the **Holy of Holies** of first the temple, the staves of the Ark could be seen in the Holy place, but they couldn't be seen from outside the temple.

- **1 Kings 8:8:** "And they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were seen out in the holy place before the oracle, and they were not seen without: and there they are unto this day."
- **2 Chronicles 5:9:** "And they drew out the staves of the ark, that the ends of the staves were seen from the ark before the oracle; but they were not seen without. And there it is unto this day."

After the Ark of the Covenant was placed into the **Holy of**

Holies, the glory of God filled the first temple.

- **1 Kings 8:11:** "So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD."

David gave gold for the cherubims that covered the Ark of the Covenant in the **Holy of Holies** in the first temple.

- **1 Chronicles 28:11, 18:** "Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasures thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat, ... And for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the pattern of the chariot of the cherubims, that spread out their wings, and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD."

Solomon used 600 talents of gold to overlay the **Holy of Holies** in the first temple.

- **2 Chronicles 3:8:** "And he made the most holy house, the length whereof was according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits: and he overlaid it with fine gold, amounting to six hundred talents."

The **Holy of Holies** was also referred to as the most holy house.

- **2 Chronicles 3:8:** "And he made the most holy house, the length whereof was according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty

cubits: and he overlaid it with fine gold, amounting to six hundred talents."

The weight of the gold nails that were used in the **Holy of Holies** in the first temple was 50 shekels.

- **2 Chronicles 3:9:** "And the weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold. And he overlaid the upper chambers with gold."

The two cherubims that were in the **Holy of Holies** in the first temple stood on their feet and faced inward.

- **2 Chronicles 3:13:** "The wings of these cherubims spread themselves forth twenty cubits: and they stood on their feet, and their faces were inward."

When the Ark of the Covenant was put into the **Holy of Holies** in the first temple, Aaron's rod and the jar of manna (which Moses placed inside the Ark) were gone. All that was left were the two stone tablets.

- **2 Chronicles 5:10:** "There was nothing in the ark save the two tables which Moses put therein at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt."

God told Ezekiel that robbers were going to enter into the **Holy of Holies** and defile it. (When Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem, his soldiers looted the first temple and destroyed it.)

- **Ezekiel 7:22:** "My face will I turn also from them, and

they shall pollute my secret place: for the robbers shall enter into it, and defile it."

Jesus went beyond the veil. (This seems to be a reference to His actions as our High Priest, when He entered into the **Holy of Holies** to make atonement for our sins.)

- **Hebrews 6:19-20:** "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

Beyond the second veil of the tabernacle was the holiest place of all (the **Holy of Holies**).

- **Hebrews 9:3:** "And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;"

The **Holy of Holies** of the tabernacle contained a golden censer and the Ark of the Covenant.

- **Hebrews 9:3-4:** "And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;"

When the High Priest entered into the **Holy of Holies**, he had to offer a sacrifice for his own sins.

- **Hebrews 9:7:** "But into the second went the high priest

alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:"

When the High Priest entered into the **Holy of Holies**, he offered a sacrifice for the sins of the people.

- **Hebrews 9:7:** "But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:"

Before the High Priest entered into the **Holy of Holies**, sacrificial blood had to be shed.

- **Hebrews 9:7:** "But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:"

The High Priest only went into the **Holy of Holies** once a year.

- **Hebrews 9:7:** "But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:"

The fact that the way to the **Holy of Holies** was blocked off was a sign from God that something was missing. It indicated that the Levitical system was incapable of making people perfect in God's sight.

- **Hebrews 9:8-9:** "The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did

the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;"

Christ entered the **Holy of Holies** by means of His own blood, which He shed for us.

- **Hebrews 9:12:** "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

When Christ entered the **Holy of Holies**, He obtained redemption for us.

- **Hebrews 9:12:** "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

Christ only entered into the **Holy of Holies** once. He didn't need to ever enter it again, because the redemption that He accomplished for us is eternal.

- **Hebrews 9:12:** "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

Christ is now in the presence of God, working on our behalf. (Under the old covenant the **Holy of Holies** was where the High Priest entered into God's presence. However, he was only allowed to do so once a year. Under the new covenant the Lord Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of God at all times.)

- **Hebrews 9:24:** "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the

true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:"

There is a **Holy of Holies** in Heaven.

- **Hebrews 9:24:** "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:"

The earthly **Holy of Holies** in the tabernacle was patterned after the greater one which is in Heaven.

- **Hebrews 9:24:** "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:"

The **Holy of Holies** that Christ entered into (to make atonement for our sins) was the heavenly one, not the earthly one.

- **Hebrews 9:24:** "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:"

Under the old covenant, the High Priest offered the blood of animals in order to enter the **Holy of Holies**. (Christ, however, offered His own blood.)

- **Hebrews 9:25:** "Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place

every year with blood of others;"

Under the old covenant, the High Priest had to offer yearly sacrifices in order to enter the **Holy of Holies**.

- **Hebrews 9:25:** "Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;"

We can enter into the heavenly **Holy of Holies** by the blood of Jesus. This means we can enter into the very presence of God in Heaven.

- **Hebrews 10:19:** "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,"