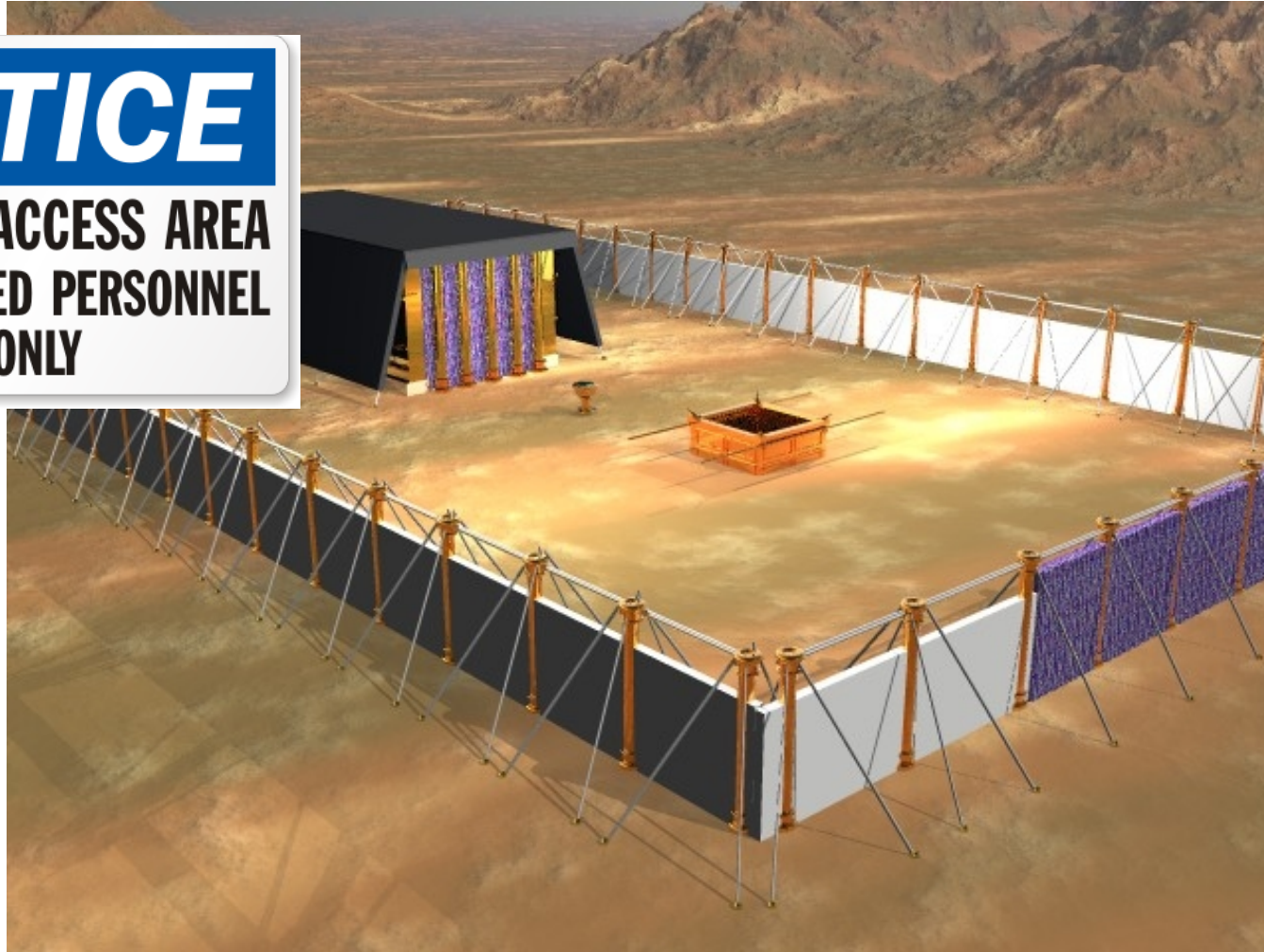


# Limitations of Old Covenant Worship

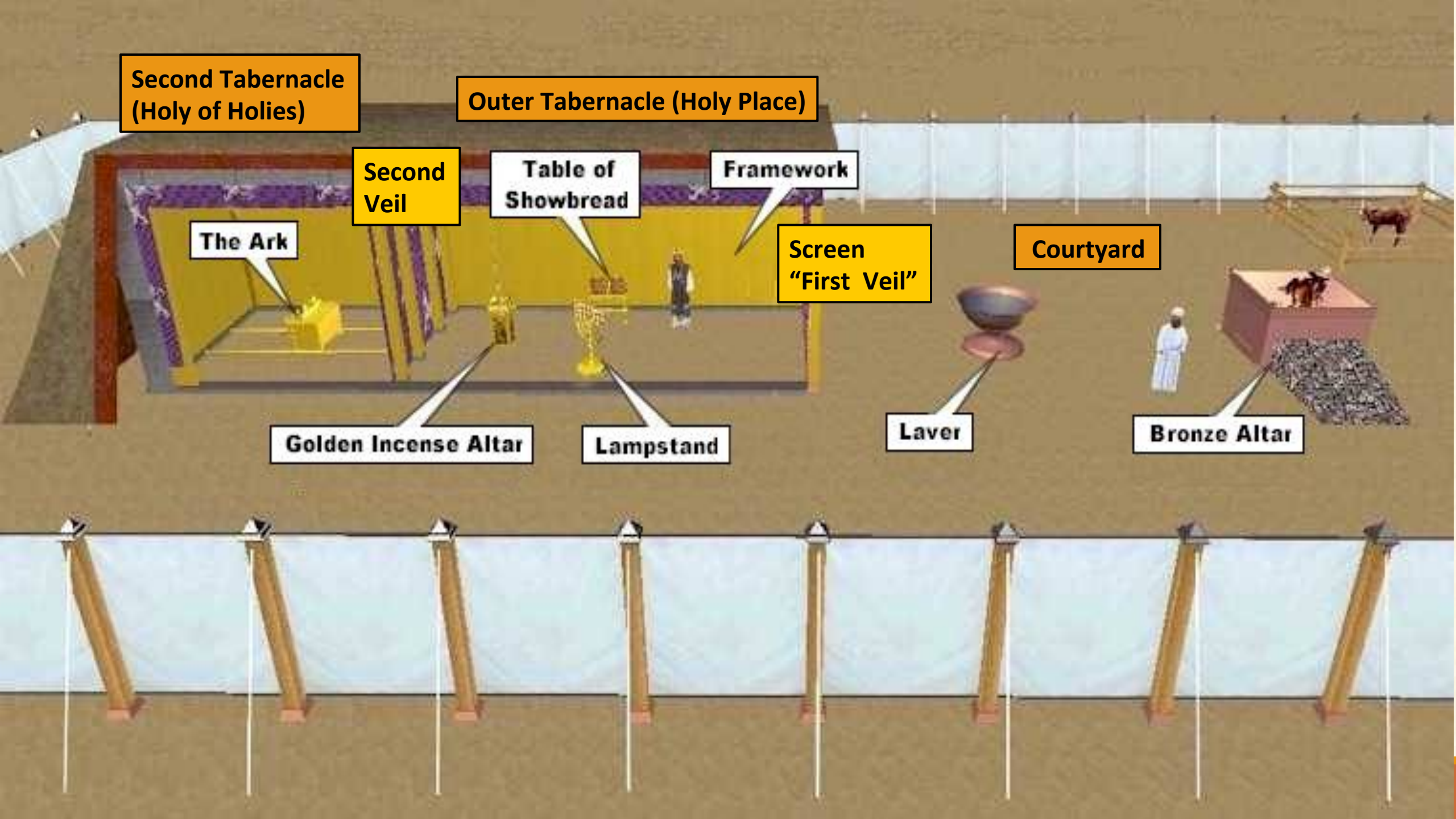
Hebrews 9:1-10

**NOTICE**  
**LIMITED ACCESS AREA**  
**AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL**  
**ONLY**



# Comparing the Covenants

Old Covenant	New Covenant
Established by God with Moses as the mediator	Established by God with Christ as the mediator
Law of Moses – written ordinances	God’s law written on the heart by the Spirit
Conditional – blessing required obedience	Unconditional – a work of the Spirit
Limited knowledge of God	Universal, direct, personal knowledge of God
No real forgiveness, sins covered by yearly atonement	Sins truly and permanently forgiven
Designed to provide a perpetual reminder of sin	God remembers our sin no more
Many sacrifices	One perfect sacrifice
Broken by people with “hearts of stone”	Kept by people with “hearts of flesh” by Spirit’s power
Temporary and now obsolete	Eternal and unchanging
Man says, “I will” and breaks his word again and again	God says, “I will” and keeps His word forever and ever



**Second Tabernacle  
(Holy of Holies)**

**Outer Tabernacle (Holy Place)**

**Second  
Veil**

**Table of  
Showbread**

**Framework**

**The Ark**

**Screen  
"First Veil"**

**Courtyard**

**Golden Incense Altar**

**Lampstand**

**Laver**

**Bronze Altar**



# The Golden Lampstand

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The priests were to keep the lamps burning continually.  
Leviticus 24:2

# The Table of Sacred Bread (Showbread)

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Twelve cakes of bread, one representing each of the twelve tribes of Israel were placed fresh on the table each Sabbath. The bread was holy to the Lord and eaten only by the priests in the Holy Place. Lev. 24:5-9

# The Golden Altar of Incense

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Incense, illustrating the prayers of the people, was burned on this altar only by priests. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest was to make atonement on the horns of this altar with blood of the sin offering of atonement.

# The Ark of the Covenant

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The Ark contained the jar of manna, Aaron's rod and the tables of the covenant. Two golden cherubim were on the lid, with the shekinah glory visible between them. The lid is known as the mercy seat or place of atonement.

# Old Covenant Priestly Activities (6-7)

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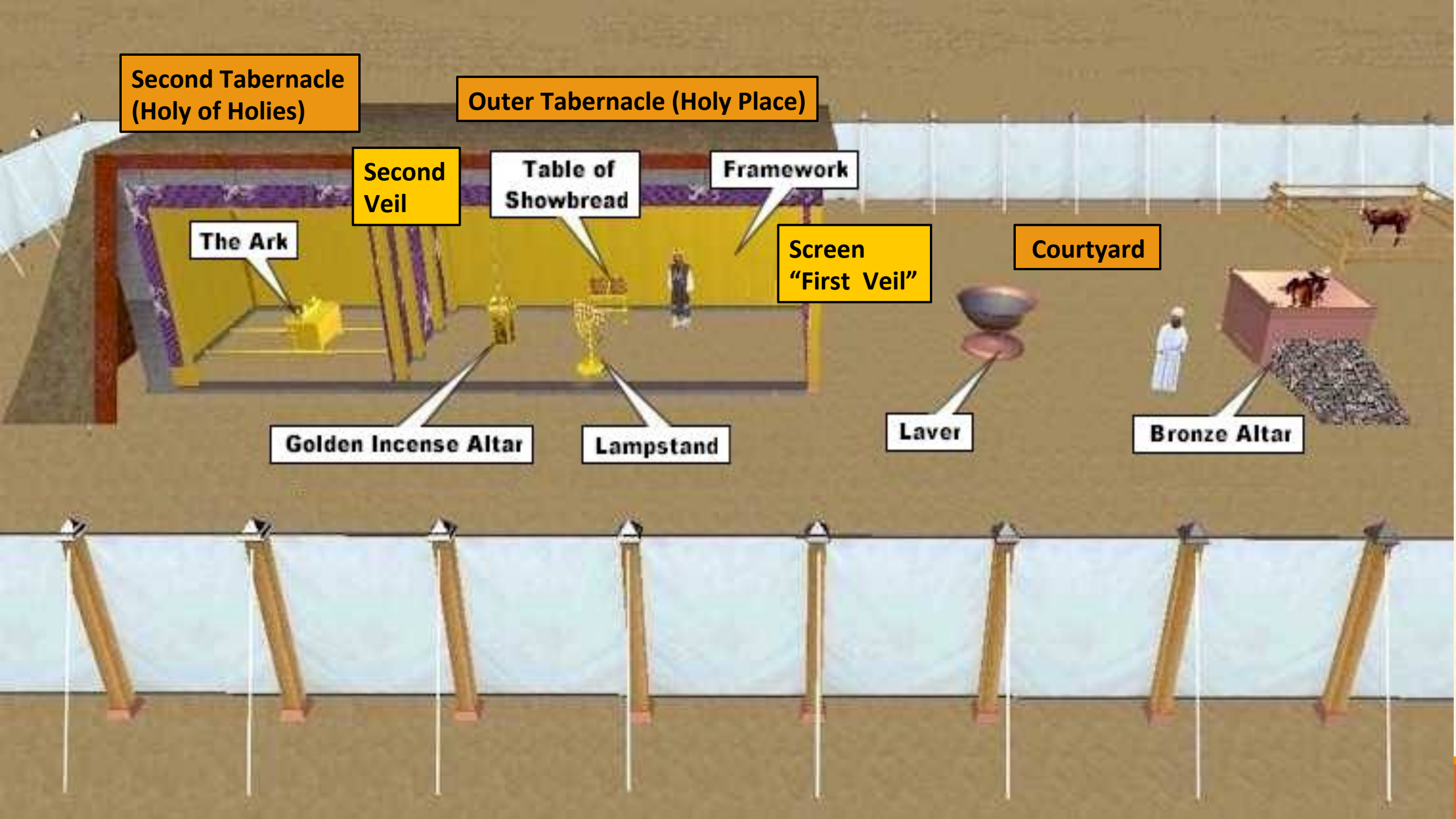
- ❖ The priests were continually entering the outer tabernacle performing worship activities (6)
  - ❖ Maintaining the lamps daily
  - ❖ Burning incense daily
  - ❖ Changing the loaves of bread each Sabbath
- ❖ But only the high priest could enter the inner tabernacle, and then only on one day a year (7)
  - ❖ The Day of Atonement – Leviticus 16



# The Realities Pictured in Old Covenant Worship (8-10)

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- ❖ Worshippers under the old covenant had no access to God because cleansing from sin was limited (8-9a)



**Second Tabernacle  
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# The Realities Pictured in Old Covenant Worship (8-10)

---

❖ Worshippers under the old covenant had no access to God because cleansing from sin was limited (8-9a)

*“Under the old covenant there was no decisive revelation of the means of approaching God, the way into the Most Holy Place. The exclusion of ordinary priests and laity from this second realm was normal. The daily ritual by its very functioning and repetition was sure testimony that the way into the Most Holy Place was blocked. The access of the high priest to this realm did not indicate its openness, but was the exception that proves the rule. **As long as the outer tent had normative status as a sanctuary, it prevented people from seeing, let alone entering, the Most Holy Place.**”* - Peter O'Brien

# The Realities Pictured in Old Covenant Worship (8-10)

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- ❖ Worshippers under the old covenant had no access to God because cleansing from sin was limited (8-9a)
- ❖ Worshipper's cleansing from sin was imperfect because they could not have their conscience cleansed (9b-10a)

*“The old sacrifices were never meant to cleanse from sin, but only to symbolize such cleansing. The conscience of the person sacrificing was never freed from the feeling of guilt because the guilt itself was never removed. The cleansing was entirely external. Consequently, he could never have a clear conscience, a deep, abiding sense of forgiveness.”*

-John

MacArthur



# The Realities Pictured in Old Covenant Worship (8-10)

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- ❖ Worshippers under the old covenant had no access to God because cleansing from sin was limited (8-9a)
- ❖ Worshippers cleansing from sin was imperfect because they could not have their conscience cleansed (9b-10a)
- ❖ The old covenant system of worship was only temporary (10b)

# Implications/Application

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- 1. God is exalted in His holiness.** Here, with this review of old covenant worship, we are reminded of the holiness of God and our utter inability to approach Him on our own. There is no one like our God!
- 2. Our God is a wise and masterful teacher.** In the record of the old covenant system, the Lord has given us a wonderful tool to help us grasp the immense gulf that exists between God in His holiness and man in his sinfulness. It helps us appreciate the wisdom of His master plan of salvation.
- 3. We desperately need Christ!** This passage reminds us of the complex and burdensome nature of the old covenant worship system. When we see its limitations, it helps us appreciate in greater depth the amazing work of Christ who brought a solution to the sin problem that is full and complete and permanent!