

4. Behind the lampstand and the bread lies a deeper symbolism that points us to Jesus.
 - a. The lampstand provided light only inside the tent, but what does Jesus illuminate? (Jn. 1:4, 9; 8:12)

 - b. How is the bread of life different from the ceremonial bread that needed to be replaced regularly? (Jn. 6:35)

5. The contents of the ark are listed briefly and without context. The manna was God's daily provision for his people as they wandered in the desert for forty years (Ex. 16). Aaron's staff budded as God's confirmation that Aaron, his tribe, and his descendants were the chosen priests and caretakers of the tabernacle after other tribes rebelled and tried to claim the priesthood for themselves (Num. 17:1–11). The two stone tablets were the laws of the covenant that the Israelites were to obey (Ex. 24:12).

What do you think it would be like for the Israelites to have the physical objects that were a reminder of God's faithfulness (the manna), a warning against rebellion (Aaron's staff), and the standard for God's people (the stone tablets) out of sight, inside the ark, behind a curtain, in the forbidden inner room of the tent sanctuary?

6. "The second curtain" (v. 3) that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place (the Holy of Holies) is described in Exodus 26:31 as depicting specific angelic beings that also adorned the ark. Who were these beings depicted above the ark, and how are they described? (v. 5a;  Ex. 25:18–20)

Cherubim

Of cherubim, Daniel M. Gurtner writes, "their presence suggests the presence of Yahweh enthroned among his people."¹

➤ Read Hebrews 9:6–10.

7. The lampstand needed to be refilled daily and the consecrated bread had to be replaced every week before it went stale, so what area of the tabernacle were the priests allowed to enter regularly? (vv. 2, 6)

12. What happened to allow us to confidently “approach God’s throne of grace” (4:16) in the heavenly Most Holy Place, instead of fearing death for entering into the presence of a holy God? (Heb. 10:19–22; Mt. 27:50–51a)

Now when you look at the rules and regulations regarding the tabernacle, think about your full access to God through Jesus. Do you need to carry around a guilty conscience, or can you approach God in confidence?

13. The tabernacle with its regulations was a picture of man’s desperate need for atonement and for a better high priest. Reread the passage and write down or draw some aspect of the old covenant that encourages you as you see it fulfilled in Jesus.