



Biblical Imagery: 5 – Tabernacle 2

The Furnished Way

From Tabernacle Gate to Glory

October 4, 2026

Key Verses

Genesis 3:24 “He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a

Leviticus 6:13: The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.

Exodus 30:20: When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not.

Exodus 27:20: Pure olive oil beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.

Exodus 40:34: Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Today's Thought

God did not leave the way to His presence bare. He furnished it — and every piece, from the bronze altar to the golden ark, is a signpost pointing to Jesus Christ (Hebrews 9:8). Trust and obedience are the key to walking the path that leads to life.

1 — The Brazen Altar

Exodus 27:1–8; Leviticus 6:13; 9:24; 1 Chronicles 21:26

Nothing goes further until something dies and fire falls

- The first thing inside the east gate was the altar. No path to the lamp, the bread, or the ark went around it — one narrow way (Matthew 7:13–14).
- The fire came from God: “there came a fire out from before the LORD” (Leviticus 9:24). The priests kept it; they did not start it.
- Fire fell on Ornan’s threshing floor (1 Chronicles 21:26) and at the temple’s dedication (2 Chronicles 7:1) — the threshing floor brought inside the gate.
- The flaming sword barred the way; the altar opened it. Christ entered “by his own blood... having obtained eternal redemption for us” (Hebrews 9:12).
- Our part: repent (Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9), and keep coming back to the flame — a living sacrifice, dying daily (Romans 12:1).

Key truth: “The first thing inside God’s gate is an altar — there is no way to His presence that goes around the sacrifice, and the fire on it comes from heaven.”

2 — The Laver

Exodus 30:17–21; 38:8; 29:4; Hebrews 10:22

A mirror, then a washing

- Placed between the altar and the tent: after the sacrifice, before the door. Washing was life or death — “that they die not” (Exodus 30:20).
- The altar was not the end of the path: sins need remission, the blood applied (Matthew 26:28).
- The laver was cast from the women’s bronze “lookingglasses” (Exodus 38:8) — see yourself, then be washed (James 1:23).
- Priestly consecration began with water (Exodus 29:4); Hebrews 10:22 joins sprinkled hearts and washed bodies.

Key truth: “The laver was made of mirrors: God shows you yourself honestly, and then He washes you — and no one goes into the Holy Place unwashed.”

3. The Holy Place

Exodus 25:23–40; 27:20–21; 30:1–10; Leviticus 24:5–9

Light, bread, and prayer

- No daylight — the only light was a lampstand beaten from one talent of pure gold (Exodus 25:31, 39).
- Its fuel was “pure olive oil beaten” (27:20) — the oil that so often pictures the Holy Spirit, who guides us into all truth (John 16:13). Jesus: “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12).
- Twelve loaves, “bread of the face,” always before the LORD (Leviticus 24:8). Jesus: “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35); we live “by every word... of God” (Matthew 4:4).
- The incense altar stood before the veil, morning and evening: “Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense” (Psalm 141:2; Revelation 8:4).

Key truth: “The Holy Place had no daylight: its only light came from beaten oil, its only food was bread before God’s face, and its only fragrance was prayer rising toward the veil.”

4. The Ark and the Glory

Exodus 25:10–22; 40:33–35; Hebrews 9:4

Gold overlaid wood — and glory

- Acacia wood, overlaid with pure gold “within and without” (Exodus 25:11). Gold marks where God means to dwell — and in Jesus, that place became a body (John 1:14).
- Inside: manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant (Hebrews 9:4) — provision, resurrection, and word, beneath the mercy seat.

- “So Moses finished the work. Then a cloud covered the tent... and Moses was not able to enter” (Exodus 40:33–35).

Key truth: “At the center of God’s house was ordinary wood covered in gold — and when everything was in place, the glory came, and the furniture was never the point.”

Our Passages at a Glance

Passage	Movement	Message
Exodus 27; Leviticus 9:24	The Altar	Sacrifice first; fire from heaven.
Exodus 30:17–21; 38:8	The Laver	A mirror, then a washing.
Exodus 25; 27:20; 30:1–10	The Holy Place	Light, bread, and prayer.
Exodus 25:10–22; 40:34	The Ark	Wood and gold — and the glory filled the house.

For Reflection & Discussion

- Have you been seeking God’s light or provision without first coming to the altar?
- What has God been showing you in the mirror lately? What would it look like to be washed of it?
- Is your lamp burning on His oil? Is your prayer rising morning and evening, or only in emergencies?
- Where is God asking for trust and obedience rather than understanding first?
- Has your spiritual life become well-arranged furniture without glory?

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You that You did not leave the way to Your presence empty.

You furnished it with signposts to Your Son — an altar where the sacrifice was accepted, a basin where we are shown ourselves and washed, a lamp that burns on beaten oil, bread that is always before Your face, and prayer rising like incense.

Thank You that all of it pointed to Jesus, our sacrifice, our cleansing, our light, and our bread. Keep our lamps filled.

Keep our prayers rising. And do not let our lives become furniture without glory — fill this house, and fill each of us, the way You filled the tent in the wilderness. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

Scripture

Text: Hebrews 9:1-5

¹Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.

²For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

³And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

⁴Which 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;

⁵And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

*Hebrews 9 * (A study of the tabernacle)*

*Hebrews 9:8 * (The Holy Ghost posting signs)*

Exodus 27:1-8 I'll read. Get your Bible if you want to follow.

Leviticus 6:13; 9:24

¹³The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.

²⁴And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.

1 Chronicles 21:26

²⁶And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering.

*Luke 13:3,5 * (Repent!)*

*2 Peter 3:9 * (God's will is for us to repent)*

*Romans 12:1 * (Be the sacrifice, daily)*

Exodus 30:17-21; 38:8; 29:4 I'll read.

Hebrews 10:22

²²Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

*Matthew 26:28 * (Remission is by the Blood of Christ)*

*James 1:23 * (Beholding his face in a glass (mirror))*

Exodus 25:23-40; 27:20-21; 30:1-10 I'll read.

Leviticus 24:5-9 I'll read.

*John 8:12 * (I am the light of the world)*

*John 6:35 * (Jesus is the bread of life)*

*Psalms 141:2 * (Our prayer as incense)*

*Revelation 8:4 * (Our prayers ascend before God)*

Exodus 25:10-22; 40:33-35 I'll read.

Hebrews 9:4

⁴Which 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;

*John 1:14 * (the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.)*

*Acts 2:38 * (Obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ)*

** Not directly quoted: for your later study* 

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Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

(Fanny Crosby – 1869)

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain;
Free to all, a healing stream,
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

[Refrain]

Refrain

*In the cross, in the cross
Be my glory ever,
'Til my ransomed soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.*

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star
Shed His beams around me. [Refrain]

3 Near the cross! O lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]

4 Near the cross! I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever;
Till I reach the golden strand,
Just beyond the river. [Refrain]

Victory in Jesus

(Eugene M. Bartlett – 1939)

1 I heard an old old story
How a Savior came from glory
How He gave His life on Calvary
To save a wretch like me
I heard about His groaning
Of His precious blood's atoning
Then I repented of my sins
And won the victory

Chorus

*O victory in Jesus
My Savior forever
He sought me and bought me
With His redeeming blood
He loved me 'ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him
He plunged me to victory
Beneath the cleansing flood*

2 I heard about His healing
Of His cleansing pow'r revealing
How He made the lame to walk again
And caused the blind to see
And then I cried, "dear Jesus,
Come and heal my broken spirit!"
And somehow Jesus came and brought
To me the victory [Chorus]
3 I heard about a mansion
He has built for me in glory
And I heard about the streets of gold
Beyond the crystal sea
About the angels singing
And the old redemption story
And some sweet day I'll sing up there
The song of victory [Chorus]

My Jesus, I Love Thee

(William R Featherston – 1864)

1 My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art
mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art
Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
2 I love Thee because Thou hast first
loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's
tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on
Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Refrain

*I'll love You in life, I will love You
in death,
With every beat of my heart, with
every breath.
I love You in life; yes, I love You in
death,*

With every beat of my heart, with every breath.

3 In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
[Refrain 3x]

He Paid a Debt

(Ellis J. Crum—1977)

Chorus

*He paid a debt He did not owe
I owed a debt I could not pay
I needed someone to wash my sins away
And now I sing a brand new song
Amazing Grace all day long
Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay*

1 He paid that debt at Calvary
He saved my soul and set me free
I'm glad that Jesus washed all my sins away

I, now, can sing a brand new song
Amazing Grace all day long
Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay [Chorus]

2 One day He is coming back for me
To live with Him eternally
Won't it be glory to see Him on that Day?

And now I sing a brand new song
Amazing Grace all day long
Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay [Chorus]

Nothing but the Blood

1 What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
[Refrain]

2 For my pardon this I see:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing this my plea:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
[Refrain]

3 Nothing can for sin atone:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
[Refrain]

4 This is all my hope and peace:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
[Refrain]

Refrain:

*O precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

OUR MISSION

The Victory Fellowship is in Keene, NH, offering the community a hand of friendship. Our purpose is oriented toward Keene and Cheshire County. We are here:

- To glorify Almighty God;
- To share the love of Jesus Christ;
- To preach the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole community;
- To lead those who will to victorious salvation in Jesus Christ through love and fellowship;
- To equip our people to live the life God intended them to live;
- To render aid we can to the hurting and lost.

OUR VISION

That all will hear the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ as preached in the days of the Acts of the Apostles; that all will have the opportunity to respond to His love; we desire that all be saved.

Victory: The fruit of purposeful effort, effort spent overcoming obstacles, difficulties, and challenges. Obstacles, difficulties, and challenges are part of life. One need never face these aspects of life alone. Through fellowship with Jesus Christ and the Body of Christ (His Church), we can obtain victory!

Jesus said, *In the world, you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world* (John 16:33b, NKJV).

Fellowship: Whether sitting with friends, relaxing and sharing a moment, or striving together to overcome life's obstacles, difficulties, and challenges, there is an opportunity to share, maintain a common focus, and offer mutual support.



New Hampshire-
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