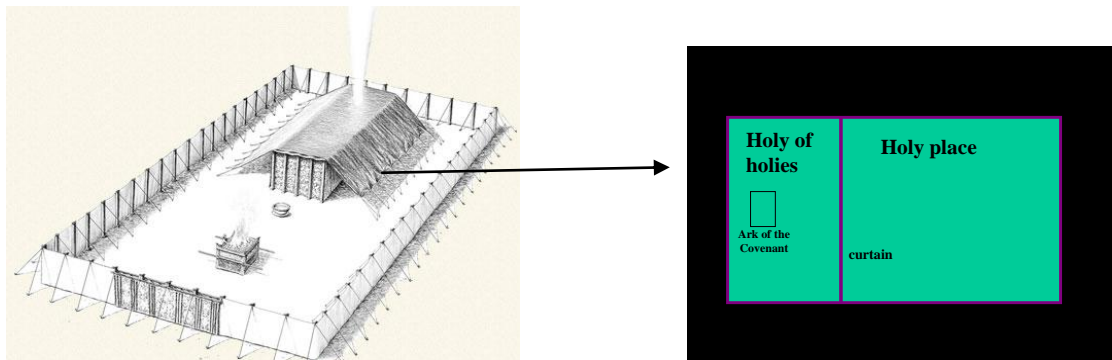


The Presence of God – Bible Overview

1. God creates the world and us by His Spirit and His word (Genesis 1:1; 2:7)
2. Humanity is made in the image of God for intimacy with God (Genesis 1:26-27)
3. Our sin ruins our intimacy with God, and we hide from him (Genesis 3:8)
4. We are cast out of the presence of God in Eden. Cherubim and a flaming sword prevent return to the garden and God's presence (Genesis 3:23-24)

The rest of the Bible is concerned with God's plan to restore our intimacy with him. To do this, God makes a covenant - a lasting promise, defining our relationship to him, on his terms, at his initiative, for our good - so we might be His people, in His presence.

5. There is limited access to God in the Old Testament. The Tabernacle design shows the limited access: curtains separate the people from the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies (Exodus 26:1, 31-33)



6. God makes a covenant with the people that he might dwell with them

They are to be a kingdom of priests - Exodus 19:3-6

God gives them the tabernacle to dwell among them - Exodus 29:44-46

Moses insists that God go with them - Exodus 33:15-16

7. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is only given to a few people at specific times for specific tasks:

Exodus 31:1-5

Judges 6:14-15, 34

8. When God judges his people, God's glory leaves the temple (Ezekiel 10:1-22, nb v18)

Looking Forward

9. The OT looks forwards to a time when God will pour out His Spirit

Jeremiah 31:31-34 – a new relationship

Ezekiel 36:26-27 – by God's Spirit

Joel 3:28-32 – in all His people

10. OT looks forward to a time when the Lord would come to his temple (Malachi 3:1)

11. Jesus is God living among us – *'the word became flesh and tabernacled among us'* (John 1:14)
Jesus is the presence of God among us, not the temple (John 2:19-22)

12. Jesus promises to send 'another counsellor' (John 14:15-19)

13. Jesus is cast out of God's presence, so what we can come into God's presence (Mark 15:33-38)

14. God now invites us into his presence with confidence (Hebrews 4:16)

15. The Holy Spirit is poured out at Pentecost (Acts 2)

16. Our bodies are now a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

17. The church is now the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:17; 2 Corinthians 6:16)

18. Worship is no longer associated with a place, but with Jesus (John 4:21-24)

19. After Jesus once for all sacrifice, the only sacrifices we offer are our bodies and our praise (Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 13:15)

20. Eternity will involve the deepest intimacy with God again (John 17:3)

Revelation 7:14-17

Revelation 21:1-5; 22:1-6