

A painting depicting a man in a white robe standing on a path in a blue, hazy landscape. In the foreground, several figures are shown from the chest up, looking upwards with their hands raised in a gesture of awe or prayer. The background is a vast, blue, textured expanse, possibly representing a sky or a distant horizon. The overall style is expressive and somewhat abstract, with visible brushstrokes and a rich color palette of blues, browns, and whites.

JESUS

AND THE SUPERIOR SANCTUARY



HEBREWS SO FAR: JESUS IS ...

Chapter 1-2 **SUPERIOR TO ANGELS**

Chapter 3 **SUPERIOR TO MOSES**

Chapter 4 **SUPERIOR TO JOSHUA**

Chapter 6-7 **SUPERIOR HIGH PRIEST**

Chapter 8 **SUPERIOR NEW COVENANT**



HEBREWS 9

Heb 9:1-14

THE SUPERIOR SANCTUARY
(OR TABERNACLE)

Heb 9:15-28

THE SUPERIOR SACRIFICE

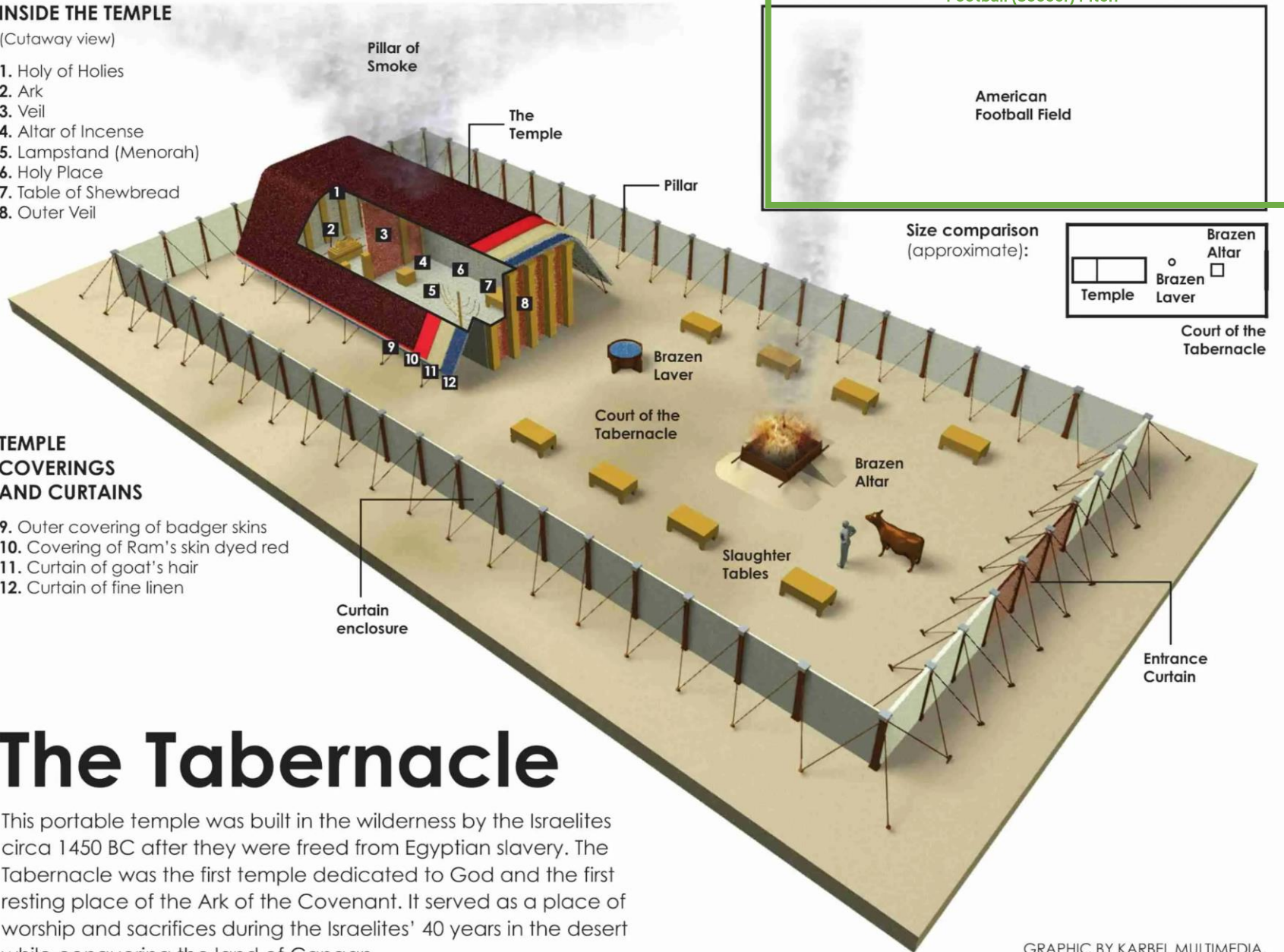
HEBREWS 9

- 1** Now **the first covenant** had regulations for worship and also **an earthly sanctuary**.
- 2** **A tabernacle was set up**. In its first room were the lampstand and table with its consecrated bread; this was called the **Holy Place**.
- 3** Behind the second curtain was a room called the **Most Holy Place**,
- 4** which had the **golden altar of incense** and the **gold-covered ark of the covenant**. This ark contained the **gold jar of manna**, **Aaron's staff that had budded**, and the **stone tablets of the covenant**.
- 5** Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

INSIDE THE TEMPLE

(Cutaway view)

1. Holy of Holies
2. Ark
3. Veil
4. Altar of Incense
5. Lampstand (Menorah)
6. Holy Place
7. Table of Shewbread
8. Outer Veil



TEMPLE COVERINGS AND CURTAINS

9. Outer covering of badger skins
10. Covering of Ram's skin dyed red
11. Curtain of goat's hair
12. Curtain of fine linen

The Tabernacle

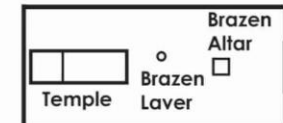
This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1450 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifices during the Israelites' 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan.

Read: Exodus chapters 25-27 & 35-40

Football (Soccer) Pitch

American Football Field

Size comparison (approximate):



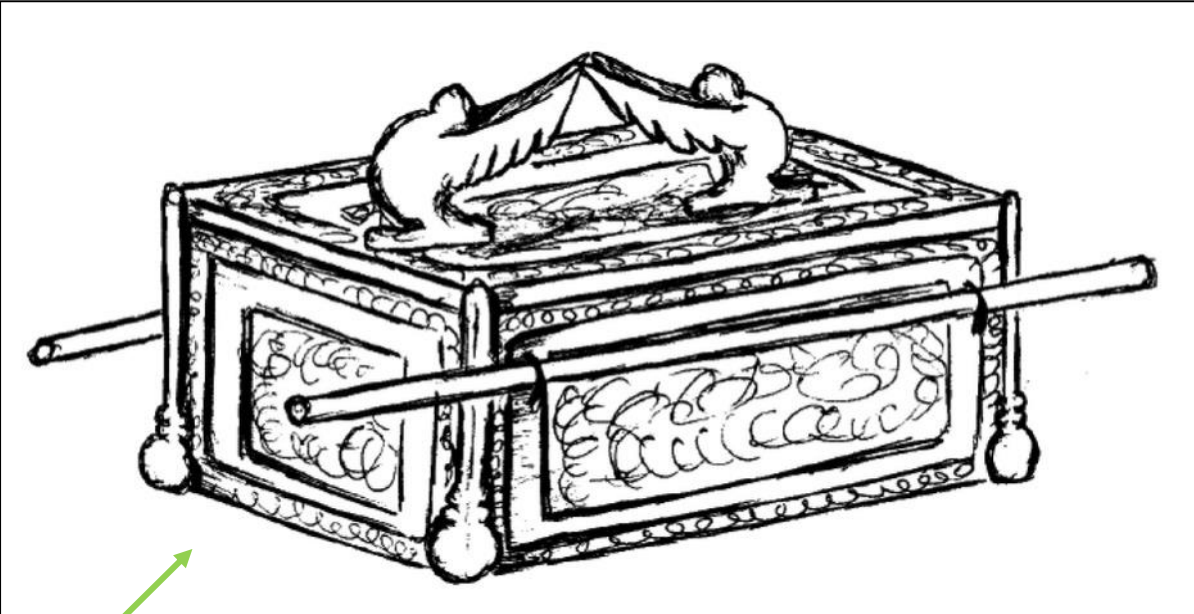
Court of the Tabernacle

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INSIDE THE TEMPLE

(Cutaway view)

- 1. Holy of Holies
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Stone tablets

Aaron's staff

Gold jar of manna

HEBREWS 9

- 6 When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry.
- 7 **But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year** (*the Day of Atonement*), and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.
- 8 The Holy Spirit was showing by this that **the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed** as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning.

HEBREWS 9

- 9 This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that **the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshipper.**
- 10 They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings — external regulations applying until the time of the new order.
- 11 But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, **he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands,** that is to say, is not a part of this creation.

HEBREWS 9

- 12** He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but **he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood**, thus obtaining eternal redemption.
- 13** The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.
- 14** **How much more, then, will the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, **cleanse our consciences** from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

EARTHLY SANCTUARY

Human high priest

Human-made tabernacle

1-2 Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an **earthly sanctuary**. A tabernacle was set up ...

HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

Divine high priest

Divine, perfect tabernacle

11 But when **Christ came as high priest** of the good things that are now already here, he went through the **greater and more perfect tabernacle** that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation.

EARTHLY SANCTUARY

Reminders of our separation

3-5 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the **golden altar of incense** and the gold-covered **ark of the covenant**, which had the **golden altar of incense** and the gold-covered **ark of the covenant**.

ALTAR OF INCENSE

Exo 30:6 “Put the altar in front of the curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law — before the atonement cover that is over the tablets of the covenant law — where I will meet with you.”

 **REMINDER OF MAN'S LIMITED ACCESS TO GOD**

EARTHLY SANCTUARY

Reminders of our separation

3-5 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the **golden altar of incense** and the gold-covered **ark of the covenant**, which had the **golden altar of incense** and the gold-covered **ark of the covenant**.

JAR OF MANNA

Exo 16:32 “Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the wilderness when I brought you out of Egypt.”

John 6:49 “Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died.”

 **REMINDER OF MAN'S
FALLEN FLESH**

EARTHLY SANCTUARY

Reminders of our separation

3-5 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the **golden altar of incense** and the gold-covered **ark of the covenant**, which had the **golden altar of incense** and the gold-covered **ark of the covenant**.

AARON'S STAFF

Num 17:10 “The Lord said to Moses, ‘Put back Aaron’s staff in front of the ark of the covenant law, to be kept as a sign to the rebellious. This will put an end to their grumbling against me, so that they will not die.’”

 **REMINDER OF MAN'S GRUMBLING AGAINST GOD**

EARTHLY SANCTUARY

Reminders of our separation

3-5 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the **golden altar of incense** and the gold-covered **ark of the covenant**, which had the **golden altar of incense** and the gold-covered **ark of the covenant**.

STONE TABLETS

Deut 31:26-27 “Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God. There it will remain as a witness against you. For I know how rebellious and stiff-necked you are. If you have been rebellious against the Lord while I am still alive and with you, how much more will you rebel after I die!”

 **REMINDER OF MAN'S
REBELLION AGAINST GOD**

EARTHLY SANCTUARY

Reminders of our separation

3-5 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the **golden altar of incense** and the gold-covered **ark of the covenant**, which had the **golden altar of incense** and the gold-covered **ark of the covenant**.

CHERUBIM

Exo 25:22 “There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites.”

 **REMINDER OF MAN'S LIMITED COMMUNION WITH GOD**

EARTHLY SANCTUARY

Reminders of our separation

6-7 The priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. But **only the high priest entered the inner room**, and that **only once a year**, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

Redeemed by His blood

12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but **he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood**, obtaining **eternal redemption**.

EARTHLY SANCTUARY

Unclean despite sacrifices

9-10 The gifts and sacrifices being offered were **not able to clear the conscience of the worshipper**. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings — external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

Cleansed by the blood of Christ

13-14 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, **cleanse our conscience from acts that lead to death**, so that we may serve the living God.

EARTHLY SANCTUARY

Human high priest

Human, manmade tabernacle

Reminder of our separation

No access to Most Holy Place

Unclean despite sacrifices

HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

Divine high priest

Divine, perfect tabernacle

Redeemed by the blood

Access to the Most Holy Place

Cleansed by the blood of Christ

JESUS CALLS US TO
THE SUPERIOR SANCTUARY

HEBREWS 9

- 15** For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that **he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.**
- 16** In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, **17** because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living.
- 18** This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood.

FIRST/OLD COVENANT VS NEW COVENANT

RECAP: What was the old covenant and what were the promises it was based on?

On Israel's side:

- Israel promised to obey all that God told them to do
- Israel promised that God will be their only God

On God's side:

- God promised to prosper and protect Israel
- God promised Israel that they would be His special people among all others on the earth

HEBREWS 8: THE SUPREMACY OF THE NEW COVENANT

ELDER DAVID FOO



FIRST/OLD COVENANT VS NEW COVENANT

What was the **new** covenant and what were the promises it was based on?

On Israel's side:

- NOTHING

On God's side:

- God promised to prosper and protect Israel
- God promised Israel that they would be His special people among all others on the earth
- **3 NEW FEATURES**

HEBREWS 8: THE SUPREMACY OF THE NEW COVENANT

ELDER DAVID FOO



FIRST/OLD COVENANT VS NEW COVENANT

New Feature #1

A new heart 

New Feature #2

A personal relationship 

New Feature #3

A clean slate 

HEBREWS 8: THE SUPREMACY OF THE NEW COVENANT

ELDER DAVID FOO



HEBREWS 9

- 19** When Moses had proclaimed every command of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. He said: **20** “This is the blood of the covenant, which God commanded you to keep.”
- 21** In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies.
- 22** In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

HEBREWS 9

- 23** It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.
- 24** For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; **he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.**
- 25** Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the **high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own.**

HEBREWS 9

- 26** Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. **But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.**
- 27** Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, **28** so **Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many;** and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but **to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.**

ABOUT BLOOD

20 “This is the blood of the covenant, which God commanded you to keep.”



8 Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

ABOUT BLOOD

22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

THE LAW = LEVITICUS 17:11

“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.”

Imperfect sacrifice + Imperfect covenant = Imperfect atonement

Mere animals/creatures

Because of “imperfect” party

Transient, needed again & again

Perfect sacrifice + Perfect covenant = Perfect atonement

Better than mere animals

Negating “imperfect” party

Permanent, once and for all

ANIMAL SACRIFICE

- Access to “**SURENESS** of the sacrifice
- High priest uses **SOURCE** of the sacrifice that is “not his own”
- Sacrifice needs **SCALE** of the sacrifice
- Sacrifices need **SUBJECT** of the sacrifice to pay for every person’s sin
- Focus is **SIGNIFICANCE** of the sacrifice

JESUS’ SACRIFICE

- Jesus “entered heaven itself”
- Atoning blood is from “the sacrifice of himself”
- Sacrifice made “once for all”
- Christ “sacrificed once to take away the sins of many”
- Focus is to “bring salvation”

The **SUPERIORITY** of the sacrifice of Jesus

\$10,000 Credit card bill

\$400 Monthly repayment

\$400 Monthly interest



\$10,000 Credit card bill



JESUS CALLS US TO
THE SUPERIOR SANCTUARY
BY GIVING HIS LIFE AS
THE SUPERIOR SACRIFICE

Will you accept the invitation?



“If the heavenly sanctuary/tabernacle is obviously better, surely everyone would want it? Why would anyone miss out?”

Yet from the time of Jesus until today, there is an annual example where people celebrate earthly dwellings/tabernacles and reject Jesus.



SUKKOT

Aka Feast of Tabernacles

Weeklong Jewish festival (this year, Sept 29 to 6-7 Oct, 2023)

Begins 5 days after Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

One of three annual pilgrimage feasts.

Pesach (Passover) • Shavuot (Pentecost) • Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)

SUKKOT

Aka Feast of Tabernacles

“On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the Lord’s **Festival of Tabernacles** begins, and it lasts for seven days.

“On the first day, take branches from luxuriant trees — palms, willows and other leafy trees — and rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days.
Live in temporary shelters (booths/tents/tabernacles) for seven days.

“All native-born Israelites are to live in such shelters so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in temporary shelters when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

SUKKOT

Aka Feast of Tabernacles



JOHN 7: JESUS AT THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

**“Halfway through the festival
(the Feast of Tabernacles) Jesus went up
to the temple courts and begin to teach.”**

JOHN 7:14

JOHN 7: JESUS AT THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

PICTURE THE SCENE AT THE FESTIVAL ...

The 8th day of Sukkot is known as Simchat Torah, “*the joy of reading the Law*”. On this day, they complete the **annual cycle of the reading of the Torah** by reading the following passages:

Deut 14:22-16:17

- Every 7th year: Cancel all debts, free your slaves
- Firstborn animals set apart as “best” sacrifices

Deut 33:1-34:12

- Death/burial of Moses – associated with giving of the Law

JOHN 7: JESUS AT THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

PICTURE THE SCENE AT THE FESTIVAL ...

Another passage they read in the the middle 5 days of Sukkot:

Isaiah 12:2-3

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.

The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defence;

He has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

JOHN 7: JESUS AT THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

PICTURE THE SCENE AT THE FESTIVAL ...

Psalm 118 is also read on the final day of the Feast of Tabernacles, which is known as **Hoshannah Rabbah**. jewishawareness.org/psalm-118

Psalm 118:22-25

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
The Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

The Lord has done it this day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

LORD, SAVE US! (HOSANNA!)

Hoshannah Rabbah means “great salvation”.

It is a cry for ultimate, permanent, lasting salvation.

JOHN 7: JESUS AT THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

“On the last and greatest day of the festival,
Jesus stood and said in a loud voice,

**“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.
Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said,
rivers of living water will flow from within them.”**

JOHN 7:37-38

WHY SETTLE FOR ...

- **An earthly tabernacle**
- **A fragile tent**
- **An annual pilgrimage**
- **The Law that condemns**
- **Water that can never fully quench your thirst**
- **Crying out for salvation**

WHEN JESUS OFFERS ...

- **A superior heavenly sanctuary**
- **The cornerstone**
- **Permanent access to God**
- **The Word made flesh**
- **Never thirst again with rivers of living water**
- **Receiving eternal salvation**

JESUS CALLS US TO
THE SUPERIOR SANCTUARY
BY GIVING HIS LIFE AS
THE SUPERIOR SACRIFICE

Will you accept the invitation?

