

"The Box"

We finish our series on the Tabernacle of God next weekend. It has been an incredible journey. I believe that if you understand the significance of the Tabernacle that you can understand the entire Biblical Story.

Such a simple tent and yet it contains symbolism and spiritual truths that take more than a lifetime to even begin to unveil. We have learned how, as sinful people, we can approach a very holy God.

And today, we leave the Holy Place and with a great deal of humility approach veil to the Holiest Place. As best I can put together. In the history of the Israelites, only about 70 high priests served God from the exile starting with Aaron until our final High Priest Jesus.

Thus only 70 People on the Day of Atonement entered into the Holy of Holies and actually saw the uncovered Holy of Holies and experienced the presence of God between the Cerubim on the Mercy Seat. Some did it only once others as many as 35 times. There is no reliable biblical or extra-biblical text about any of them dying the Holy of Holies.

We mentioned that the Tabernacle Tent is the place where the Trinity dwells. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Brazen Altar and Holy Place are all about Jesus, The Laver and incense all about the Holy Spirit, and the Holy of Holies and the Ark of the Covenant all about the Father.

Today we enter into the Most Holy Place. A place where few have been. It is in this place where the glory of God is held. We have a great deal to learn here but not near as much as last week. Only one piece of furniture to understand.

Next week we will close the series with some discussion about where the Ark is today and the significance of the Spirit in our lives as 21st century believers.

The Ark of the Covenant IMAGE 1

We get the word Ark from two different Hebrew words...each with very different meanings.

The First Word we translate as Ark is the word "Aron" It means a box. IMAGE 2 It is from this word that we get Ark of the Covenant. Literally a box for the Law of God. It has a few more translations that we will get into in a little bit.

The other word that we translate as Ark is the word Tevah which means boat or floating thing.

It is from this word that we get Noah's Ark....that makes sense...When Moses is a baby he is put in a Tevah...an Ark but in English we decided to translate it as Basket.

So technically both Noah and Moses were divinely placed in Arks in order to save them from disaster. Hint to young adults...That may be on our Firebrand Bible Trivia in the near future.

So....The Ark of the Covenant was a box that held God's law..the ten commandments that He gave to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

Exodus 25:10–16 (ESV) 10 "They shall make an ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. 11 You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside shall you overlay it, and you shall make on it a molding of gold around it. 12 You shall cast four rings of gold for it and put them on its four feet, two rings on the one side of it, and two rings on the other side of it. 13 You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. 14 And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark by them. 15 The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. 16 And you shall put into the ark the testimony that I shall give you.

Ok so we learn a lot about this ark it is no ordinary box. It is made from Acacia Wood and covered in pure Gold. In addition we are given measurements of this box. So what do we know what all that we have learned previously in the Tabernacle?

This piece of furniture does not represent God. It is not solid gold like the Golden Lampstand and it has measurements unlike the Bronze Laver.

That seems kind of odd right? I mean you would think that when you get to the Holy of Holies that everything would be solid gold. That everything would represent the purity and glory of God.

Acacia wood will eventually decay. The fact that the Ark is based in wood suggests that it is not perfect, that it has a temporary existence, and yet it is covered in God's gold...His glory.

In the Holy of Holies there is only one piece of furniture. You would expect it to be the throne of all thrones. Some huge monstrous I am big God you are little people throne. And yet....you find a box. A relatively small box.

4 feet long, 2.5 feet wide...and 2.5 feet tall. Not really impressive. At least in size.

Ok so God had all of human history identify the contents of this incredibly important box. Think of all the things He could have placed in there. Diamonds, Gold, The olive leaf that the Raven brought back to Noah, Some salt from Sodom, The firepot and torch that sealed His covenant with Abraham, the knife that Abraham almost used to sacrifice Isaac, Joseph's Robe, A branch of the burning bush, Maybe something from the 10 plagues in Egypt, what about the hyssop branch from the first Passover, Sea shells from crossing the Red Sea, there were tons of choices. Not to mention any one of the things He created....

So when God chose three things to go into a box that would hold much more...there had to be a reason. Each one of those three things must be symbolic about God.

And it seems that once these things were placed in the Ark no one really did anything with them. No suggestion that they ever opened the box to look inside. It was not part of any Holy Day ritual.

It is almost like God said, put these three things in that box because I don't ever want to see them again. This Ark is not a display case...it is more like a tomb.

He directs them to put three items into this gold plated wooden box. Let's look at these three things to see if we can discover why this box is never opened and the contents, once placed there, are not really addressed again.

What did God decide to place in this Ark?

Hebrews 9:2-5 (ESV) 2 For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. 3 Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, 4 having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. 5 Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

Ok so the packing list for the Ark included three items. First the Law of Moses written in Stone as we have read. Then a golden urn holding some of the manna, the bread from Heaven that God provided. And finally Aaron's staff that budded. Odd right? IMAGE 4

Ok the Law of Moses. No surprise. It is after all the Ark of the Covenant. This would be the second copy as Moses destroyed the First.

Manna seems like a good choice except that it rots. Two days max. Unless they used some kind of supernatural never decaying manna- injected with something like whatever McDonalds used in their hamburgers. But we have no indication from Scripture that this Manna was anything other than basic Manna.

Next comes the less well known contribution to the box. Aaron's rod that budded.

This is from a remote Old Testament story that we don't always really remember. Of course the Jewish People knew it well. Yet of all the objects on earth, throughout human history, this one made it into God's Ark. So let's learn a bit about it.

In ancient Israelite culture, a rod was a symbol of authority. Shepherds used rods to guide and correct their flocks . When God called the shepherd Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, He demonstrated His power by performing miracles using Moses' rod. God also chose Moses' brother, Aaron, to perform miracles with his own rod

Aaron's rod was the one that turned into a snake in Pharaoh's court; when the Egyptian magi also turned their staffs into snakes, the snake that had been Aaron's rod swallowed theirs up . It was Aaron's rod that God used to turn the water of Egypt into blood . And it was Aaron's rod that summoned the plagues of the frogs and gnats.

After Moses and Aaron had led the Israelites out of captivity, God set apart Aaron and his sons as priests . The rest of the Levites were to minister to the Lord in the tabernacle, offer sacrifices, and hear from God for the good of the whole nation.

The most famous story of Aaron's rod begins with a few of the Levites becoming disgruntled about the extra authority given to Moses and Aaron. Remember the Levites were those who served in the temple with the daily chores but not all of the Levites were priests. This is an uprising if you will about the authority structure that God has placed in His church.

Numbers 16:1–3 (ESV) 1 Now Korah the son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men. 2 And they rose up before Moses, with a number of the people of Israel, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men. 3 They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?"

This is one of the most common challenges to church leaders today. Satan never changes His tactics because they always seem to work. God had ordained and anointed the men that He determined would exercise His authority on earth. Other men, acting out of jealousy, rose up within the congregation to try to undermine the leaders. God was not pleased.

Numbers 16:31–33 (ESV) 31 And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. 32 And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. 33 So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.

This was one of many "drop the mic" moments of God. Pretty clear who is called by God to lead them spiritually right? One minute challenging God's authority...next minute realizing it. Pretty sure that would answer it for me. Issue settled right?

Numbers 16:41–42 (ESV) 41 But on the next day all the congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and against Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the Lord." 42 And when the congregation had assembled against Moses and against Aaron, they turned toward the tent of meeting. And behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord appeared.

I find the Bible to be very funny at times...God just dropped three families and all their stuff in a straight shoot to Hell and then covered them up. Now they come at them again...in front of the Tent of Meeting and the Glory of God appears behind Aaron and Moses! Ok....this is stupid in...Biblical proportions.

God essentially told Aaron and Moses to stand back because He is going to smoke them.

Numbers 16:44–45 (ESV) 44 and the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 45 "Get away from the midst of this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment." And they fell on their faces.

The Lord desired to wipe out the whole company, but Moses and Aaron fell on their faces and pleaded with Him not to destroy them. God relented and, instead, sent a plague throughout the company of rebellious Israel; the plague killed 14,700 of them

Issued settled right? No..not yet. They still had doubt and still apparently needed more validation. I am telling you. Numbers is a funny book...you should read it.

To put an end to the unrest, God once again used Aaron's rod for a miracle. God commanded Moses to have the leader of each tribe of Israel bring his rod or staff to the tent of meeting, with Aaron's rod representing the tribe of Levi. Each of the twelve leaders was to have his name inscribed on his rod. The one that blooms overnight is the tribe that God has chosen to lead the people spiritually in the Tabernacle.

Numbers 17:8 (ESV) 8 On the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony, and behold, the staff of Aaron for the house of Levi had sprouted and put forth buds and produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds.

Moses and Aaron are in charge. Any questions?

So now that we know about the story of the original A Rod.....Aaron's Rod...what is the significance of these three items? Why did God choose Aaron's Rod, Moses Law, and Manna from Heaven as the three things that go into the Ark of The Covenant in the Holiest Place on earth?

What do these three items have in common? I am going to pause here for a few minutes and let you consider that question...the answer is not in the handouts so no need to look. Don't shout out answers...just contemplate this question quietly to yourself. I want to use this moment to teach us how to contemplate and meditate on Scripture. 90+% of the time. The answer to the questions that you are asking are already in the Scriptures....So what do these three things have in common?

Pause. This is how you study Scripture...you interrogate the text. You ask the Holy Spirit your questions and you pause and wait for Him to teach you all things. Some questions don't get answered for a long time. Let me show you another scripture to see if you can go a bit deeper here.

Numbers 17:9–11 (ESV) 10 And the Lord said to Moses, "Put back the staff of Aaron before the testimony, to be kept as a sign for the rebels, that you may make an end of their grumblings against me, lest they die." 11 Thus did Moses; as the Lord commanded him, so he did.

Aarons' rod is a sign for rebels...that if they reject the authority of God...they will die. Put that in my box and keep it God says. Reject God's Authority and you will die.

You see this a foreshadowing of the one of Ultimate Authority sent by God....and those who reject Him will die also.

Ok so they rejected God's Authority and He placed Aaron's rod in the memory box. What about the manna and the Law?

Lets take a look at Manna...Israelites are in the desert wandering...2 million friends on a stroll through the desert and they need God to provide food for them. Great right?

Exodus 16:4-5 (ESV) 4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. 5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily."

Interesting that manna was a test for the people of Israel. God says so that I may test them. How could they fail the test of God's provision? God grab food every morning. Thank God for it and live. Well....

Exodus 16:2-3 (ESV) 2 And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, 3 and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Wait a minute...the grumbled against Moses and Aaaon about the manna? We just read those words in Numbers 16 about the Authority of Aaron after the three families were sucked into the earth.

To Aaron they said "You have killed the people of the Lord" and now regarding the manna "you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

God provides Leadership through Aaron and Moses in order to Save them....they say instead that God is killing them.

God provides for His people literally bread from Heaven that tastes incredible...They don't have to grow anything...don't have to hunt anything...it is literally delivered to their front door every day. And yet...they say God is not providing for them...He is trying to kill them...how? with hunger.

I am starting to get the sense that this is not a fond memory box for God...or for us. God has them collect things that prove their rejection of Him. Ut. Oh. This is not looking good for us.

So Aaron's Rod? The Rejection of God's Authority on Earth. Manna? A rejection of God's Provision on Earth. Want to guess what the Law is all about?

The Stone tablets given to Moses by God. The Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments (also known as the Decalogue) are ten laws in the Bible that God gave to the nation of Israel shortly after the exodus from Egypt. The Ten Commandments are essentially a summary of the 613 commandments contained in the Old Testament Law. The first four commandments deal with our relationship with God. The last six commandments deal with our relationships with one another. The Ten Commandments are recorded in the Bible in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21.

Many people mistakenly look at the Ten Commandments as a set of rules that, if followed, will guarantee entrance into heaven after death. In contrast, the purpose of the Ten Commandments is to force people to realize that they cannot perfectly obey the Law (Romans 7:7-11), and are therefore in need of God's mercy and grace.

Romans 7:7–12 (ESV) 7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." ...10 The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. 11 For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. 12 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

The Ten Commandments demonstrate that we have all sinned (Romans 3:23) and are therefore in need of God's mercy and grace, available only through faith in Jesus Christ.

The Stone Tablets in many ways represent all the ways that man could and has failed to be obedient to God. Just pick one and we have failed at it. Any one requires God judgment and punishment. Remember that our very nature guarantees we will fail to live life God's Way.

These commandments are essentially God's declaration of our sinful nature, our rebellion and the scope of our depravity.

They are essentially the charges that would be read in a courtroom to accuse us of our rebellion and rejection of God.

The Ten Commandments represented Old Covenant...based on performance.

In saying that the Old or Mosaic Covenant wasn't "good enough" I'm not saying it wasn't "good". It was. It was an unprecedented blessing for the people of Israel. It provided them with laws to govern their behavior. It promised them spiritual and material and even military blessings if they obeyed that law and remained true to the covenant. God even instituted in that covenant the office of high priest so that the people would have someone to offer sacrifices on their behalf and represent them in the presence of God. That old covenant provided a sacrificial system in which the blood of bulls and goats at least temporarily enabled them to remain in fellowship with God. The Old Covenant under Moses was filled with grace, mercy, patience, and love.

But the Old or Mosaic Covenant had three fundamental flaws. First, although there was a high priest who would regularly offer an animal sacrifice for their sins, such sacrifices could never fully and finally secure their forgiveness

Hebrews 10:4–5 (ESV) 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Second, the law of the Old Covenant that came through Moses was unable to supply the power that people needed to fulfill and obey it. The Law of Moses was very clear in stating, "Thou shalt not" or "Do this and live" or "Be ye holy." But there was nothing in the law itself that could empower the people to obey it. The Law of Moses told the people of Israel what they should and should not do but it was never capable of supplying them with the internal energy or the spiritual power to obey.

Third, the Old or Mosaic Covenant was temporary. God never intended for the Old Covenant to last forever. He never intended for it to be the final revelation of his will for mankind. We know this because we read in Hebrews 8:5 that everything Moses did in constructing the Old Covenant tabernacle, together with its rituals and sacrifices, was only "a copy and shadow of the heavenly things." We also know the Old Covenant was temporary because of what we see in Jeremiah 31:31-34, we read that God always intended to establish a new covenant with his people that would be different from the one he made with Moses and Israel following the exodus from Egypt

Hebrews 8:8–13 (ESV) 8 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 9 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." 13 In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

So the Old Covenant was not obeyed and God is bring us a new Covenant. But until then....the accusations...The standard that we have failed to meet....goes into the Box.

So God said create for me a box...And put into it three things that signify mans' rejection of Me.

Aaron's Rod- Man's rejection of My Authority. Manna Man's rejection of my Provision. The Law man's rejection of my Truth. Put them in a box. An Ark. Do you remember that there is another translation choice for the word aron?

Coffin.IMAGE 5 It is the same word that Joseph used in Genesis

Genesis 50:26 (ESV) 26 So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin (aron) in Egypt.

The Ark of the Covenant could easily be translated as the Coffin of the Covenant. And I believe it would be more accurate. It represents the death of man without the Messiah.

God saying....Take these things....these things that kill man...Rejection of My Authority, Rejection of My Provision, and Rejection of My Truth...and seal them up in a coffin. An Ark, where dead things belong. This Ark is a reminder to everyone...that man has rejected God. It is a symbol of their desperate need for Salvation.

Everything changes with the very next verse. Make the coffin of the Covenant.....AND....

Exodus 25:17–21 (ESV) 17 "You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. 18 And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work shall you make them, on the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the cherubim on its two ends. 20 The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be. 21 And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you.

What we consider the Ark of the Covenant has two components. The ark or box or coffin and then placed on top of it we are told is a Mercy Seat and it is made of pure Gold. With Two Golden Cherubim that look over it at each end and spread their wings and overshadow the mercy seat. Notice that this keeps a pure gold encasement for the presence of God. A covering of Gold on top of a pure Gold seat....not just any seat...a seat of Mercy.

The Golden Mercy Seat is the place of Glory for God's appearance.

Exodus 25:22 (ESV) 22 There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

The Greek word for "mercy seat" in Hebrews 9:5 is hilasterion, which means "that which makes propitiation." It carries the idea of the removal of sin. The very same word is used in Ezekiel to refer to the Brazen Altar. So The brazen altar and the Mercy Seat are linked...they both bring about propitiation...the payment for sins.

Now we are beginning to see the significance of the Ark of the Covenant. God said take all that man has done to reject me and put it in a coffin. It is what it is. Men have rejected me and died....all who reject me will die. Every human born of man is represented in this death box. I should have taken this box and buried it. But I love you.

So God says...I have built an upstairs addition...it is pure gold and it is all me.

I must judge the sins of mankind. All the ugliness in this box. The rejection of Me, My authority, My truth and My Provision.

There is a throne of judgment that sits on top of this Ark of the Covenant. I must judge the rebellion of man. And the judgement is eternal separation from me. All have sinned...All are doomed...All must pay for their sins.

Subtopic

So I am covering it in my mercy. All the sins, all the rejection, all of man's failures...are covered in my mercy....the beautiful glory of pure gold...a mercy seat overshadows it.

Above it and overshadowing it are two Cherubim. Heavenly angelic beings.

So we have a box...a coffin for things that brings death...and on top of it is a judgement seat of pure gold representing God's holiness.

Mans' rebellion and rejection of God on the bottom and God's righteous holy judgment of us on top. That is the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies.

Entering into the Holy of Holies is a dismal fearful place....We have no chance...We can't survive here. We are guilty and the box proves it.

We are missing something aren't we? God said this was a Mercy Seat. Where is the Mercy? God has none for us.....unless we enter into the Holy of Holies by the blood. The most important thing in the Holy of Holies other than God Himself is the blood of the innocent One. For the Israelites the High Priest had to have blood of a bull for his own sins and blood of a goat or lamb for the sins of the Israelites.

Leviticus 16:14 (ESV) 14 And he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the front of the mercy seat on the east side, and in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

Leviticus 16:15–16 (ESV) 15 “Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. 16 Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins.

You see the Bronze Altar and the Mercy Seat are connected. If you want to experience the merciful judgment of God then you better bring innocent blood into the Holiest Place. Without the blood of an innocent sacrifice...the innocent blood of something or someone who died.....there is no forgiveness of sin...No propitiation..And the Mercy Seat....is just a seat of Judgement. It is the innocent blood of the sacrifice that changes everything.

With it we are forgiven, justified, sanctified and glorified. We live in grace and mercy because of the blood that we trust was shed for us.

While the Israelites had to continually sacrifice animals to temporarily cover their sins...we come in the name of the Lamb of God...Jesus...the final sacrifice for all sins...for all time.

At the beginning, we spoke of the fact that the Ark of the Covenant was made of perishable wood. That it was temporary. This whole Tabernacle structure was only needed for a time. It was just a copy of the real Tabernacle in Heaven. One day He would send the Messiah and everything would change.

One day everything that God locked away in the Coffin of the Covenant would come to life for all of eternity.

Instead of Aaron's Rod, One day God would send the ultimate High Priest, His Son Jesus, and people would have to decide once and for all if they are going to reject His authority again. Aaron was a foreshadowing of the true High Priest Jesus.

Instead of Tablets of Law, One day God would send the Ultimate Truth...not written on stones...the very Word Himself...The Word that is God...The word that was with God. The Word that would be written on hearts of flesh and rejected by hearts of stone. And people would have to decide once and for all if they are going to reject His truth again. The Law was a foreshadowing of the Word that is Jesus.

Instead of Manna, One day in the future God would send the Ultimate Provision to Man...Himself...the Bread of Life. And People would have to decide once and for all if they are going to reject His provision for life again. The manna was just a foreshadowing of the true bread from Heaven... Jesus that brings true life to all.

One day everything in the Tabernacle would be replaced with something eternal.

Revelation 11:19 (ESV) 19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

One day God told them, that the Messiah Jesus as our High Priest would enter not the Holy of Holies on Earth but rather the real throne of God in Heaven. He will bring His blood. He will be the final sacrifice. His blood will be the only blood that brings God's Mercy and Forgiveness. Then He will sit down at the right hand of the Father. Because God's promises are trustworthy we can draw near to Him with confidence.

Hebrews 10:19–23 (ESV) 19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

He who promised is faithful. Let's Pray.