

Context. Having arrived at Mount Sinai, thus completing God's half of the covenant between God and Moses (see Exodus 3:11-12), God will now empower Moses at Mount Sinai so that "he shall serve God".

Background. The Old Testament revolves around 3 main positions, for which people were set apart to do: the king (royal), the prophet and the priest.

Read the following passages. What do these verses tell you about the role of:

I. **Royals.** Held responsible for everything, especially the people, placed under them by God.
A. **1 Samuel 8:10-17.**

B. **2 Chronicles 5.**

II. **Prophets.** Declare on God's behalf and God could speak directly with.

A. **Ezekiel 1:1, Zechariah 1:7-9.**

B. **Malachi 1:1-5.**

III. **Priests.** Appointed to stand between God and man and to carry out the proceedings of the tabernacle/temple.

A. **Numbers 18:1-5, Leviticus 10:11.**

B. **Leviticus 16.**

We often see these 3 roles as separate from each other, or at the most played 2 out of the 3 roles. But was there ever someone who united all 3 roles? **Who was intended to play the role of a royal-prophet-priest?**

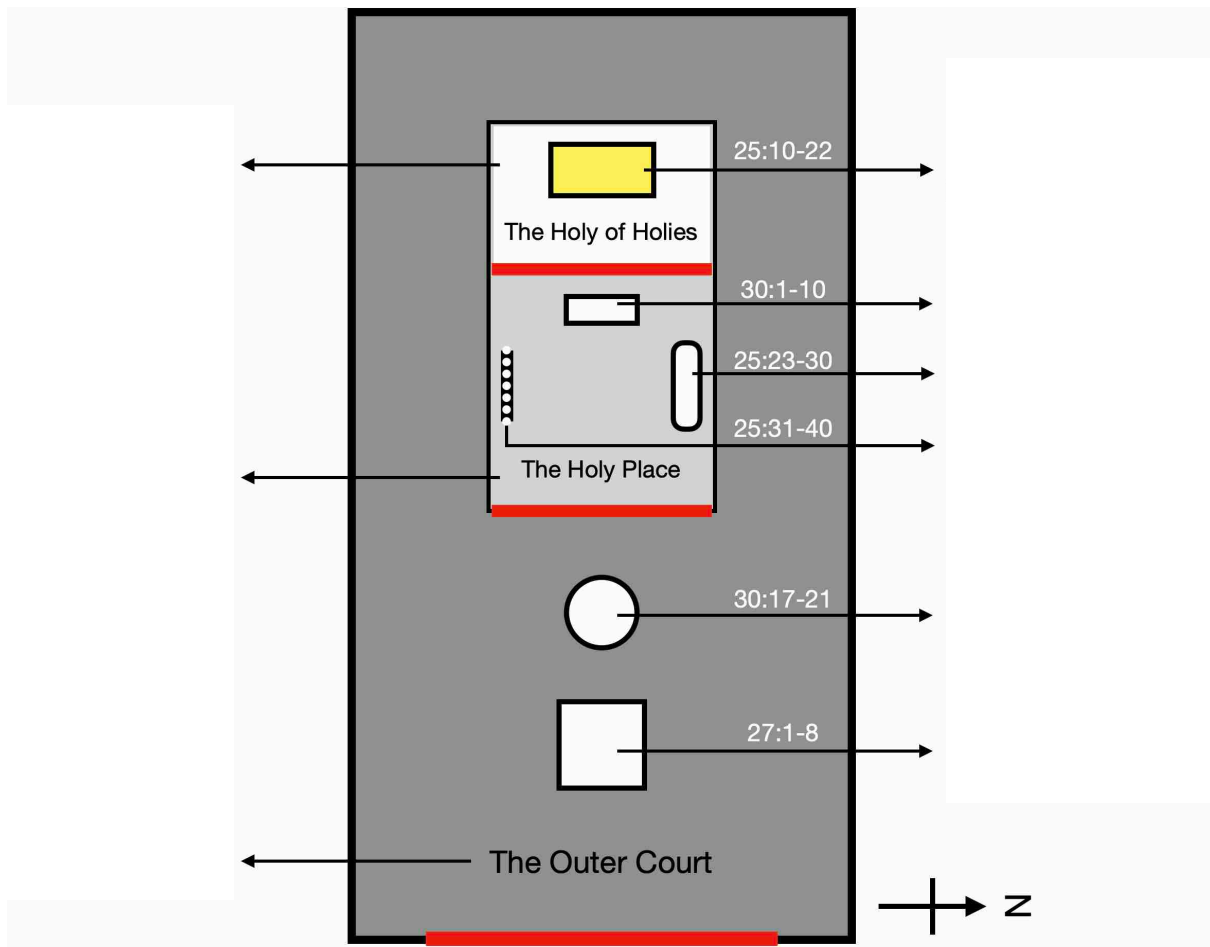
At the time of Moses, Israel was left with only the prophet, in particular the patriarch + Moses. In this section of the Biblical narrative, we will see the introduction of the Israelite priest and the tabernacle, which the priests were instructed to care for and manage.

The Tabernacle. What are some names used for the tabernacle? [See Exodus 23:19, 25:8, 27:21]

Fact: In John 1:14, Jesus is described to be the Word, and "the Word became flesh and *dwelt* [Gk. σκηνώω] among us". The word "dwelt" has the same meaning as the Hebrew 'tent of meeting'.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TABERNACLE.

On the next page, you will see a schematic of the Tabernacle. In the right-hand column, fill in the various artefacts that were found in the Tabernacle.



Read Exodus 25:19-22. **These verses describe the Mercy Seat. Where will God ‘meet’ His people? What is the significance of this “meeting place”?** [Hint: Exodus 20:4]



Read Exodus 27:12-15. **What is the significance of orientating the entrance to the Tabernacle eastward?** [Hint: Genesis 3:21-24]

Read Mark 15:37-38. Read Mark’s account of the crucifixion. **What is the significance of Mark recording that the “curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom”?** [Hint: 1 Peter 2:9]