

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a model of the Tabernacle is set up on a sandy plain. The Tabernacle is a large, rectangular structure with a white, tent-like roof and white walls. It is surrounded by a low, white, rectangular fence. Inside the fenced area, there is a large, rectangular, reddish-brown structure, likely representing the bronze altar. To the left of the altar, there is a small, circular, reddish-brown structure, likely representing the bronze laver. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. A few palm trees are visible on the left side of the image. Two gazelles are standing in the foreground, near the bottom center of the image.

# **THE HOLY PLACE**

## **FROM THE TABERNACLE TO THE RESURRECTION**

WHOLE BIBLE CONNECTIONS SERIES | 19 FEBRUARY 2024





# WHOLE BIBLE CONNECTIONS

## Five Transformative Themes:

1. The Scarlet Thread (08 Jan)
2. **The Holy Place (11 Mar)**
3. The Sacred Rest (15 Apr)
4. The Living Tree (13 May)
5. The Anointed Persons (08 Jul)

NEW!

NEW!

WHOLE BIBLE CONNECTIONS SERIES

# RECAP

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‘Scarlet Thread’ describes the continuous theme of sacrifice through the shedding of blood throughout the Biblical narrative.

- The role of humans in God’s divine blessing is to participate in stewarding this blessing.
- Sin reverses God’s blessings, resulting in a life void of God’s presence.
- Jesus, the Lamb of God, came as a sacrifice for us; forgiveness was bought with His blood.
- The blood of the Lamb continues to perform its redemptive work until all of Creation is restored back to God.





# CHECK-IN

Share a brief story or describe a place that holds a special significance for you.

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THE HOLY PLACE



# **THE HOLY PLACE: FROM THE TABERNACLE TO THE RESURRECTION**

At the end of today's session, you will be able to:

- **Grasp the theological concept of 'Holiness'**
- **Recognise "Holy Place" as a unifying theme in the Bible**
- **Appreciate the symbolism associated with sacred spaces**
- **Recognise continuity of sacred spaces in God's story**





# **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

THE WHOLE EARTH IS FULL OF HIS GLORY





# ISAIAH 6

*vv.1-3 I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, and they were calling to one another:*

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”*



# **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Biblical epizeuxis: literary device where a word or phrase is repeated in succession, with no intervening words.**

**Purpose: to stretch the boundaries of your imagination.**



# WHAT IS "HOLY"?

OT translation for 'holiness' comes from the Hebrew word **קדוש** (qadowsh) which has dual meanings:

- "to cut", to be in one's own, distinct from anything that has ever existed.
- to be entirely morally pure, all the time and in every way possible.



## PRINCIPLE #1

- **God's holiness is not an aspect of who He is or what He does; God's holiness is the essence of who He is.**





**The first thing in the Bible that is called “holy”  
is:**

➤ **The Sabbath**



# GENESIS 2

*v.3 [Day 7] God blessed the seventh day and made it **holy**, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.*



**The first thing, outside of the Creation story that is called “holy” is:**

- **Ground around the burning bush**



# EXODUS 3

The first thing, outside of the Creation story that is called “holy” is:

- Ground around the burning bush

*vv.5-6 “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is **holy** ground.”*

# THE HOLINESS PARADOX

- God's holiness is the source of all life and sustains our existence.
- But God's holiness can become dangerous to mortal humans corrupted by sin





# THE TABERNACLE

GOD'S PRESENCE AMONG HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE



# WHAT IS THE “TABERNACLE”?

מִשְׁכָּן (mishkan) from the Hebrew root meaning “to dwell”. The Tabernacle is the earthly dwelling place of God.

In Exodus 25, God instructs Moses and the Israelites to build a *mikdash* (sanctuary).

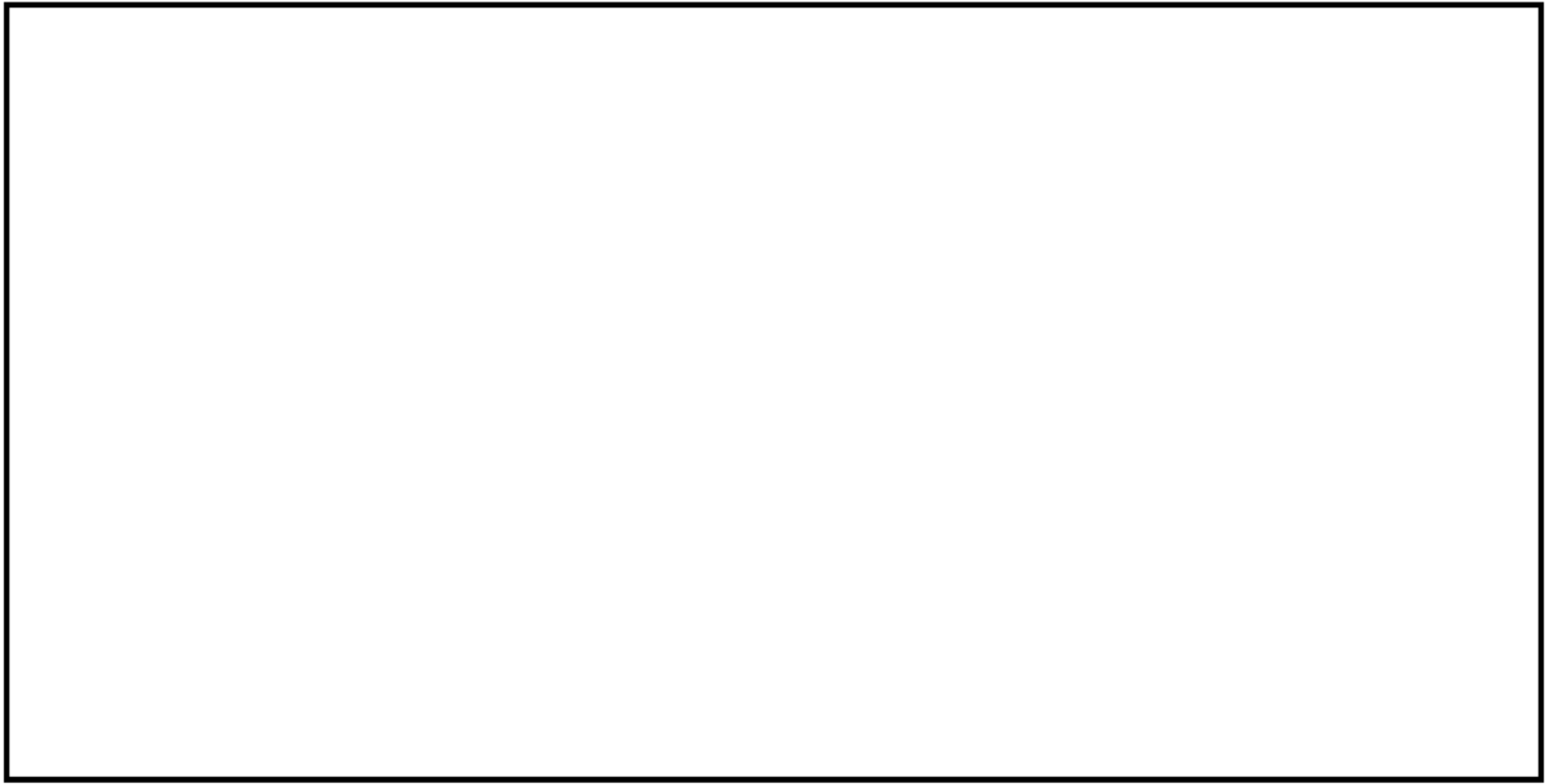


# WHAT IS THE “TABERNACLE”?

**Exodus 25-31 describes the blueprints of the Tabernacle.**

- **Exodus 25: Materials needed for Tabernacle artifacts.**
- **Exodus 26: The tabernacle, the bars, partitions.**
- **Exodus 27: The copper altar, the enclosure, oil.**
- **Exodus 28: Priestly garments.**
- **Exodus 29: Consecration of priests and altar.**
- **Exodus 30: Incense altar, washstand, anointing oil.**

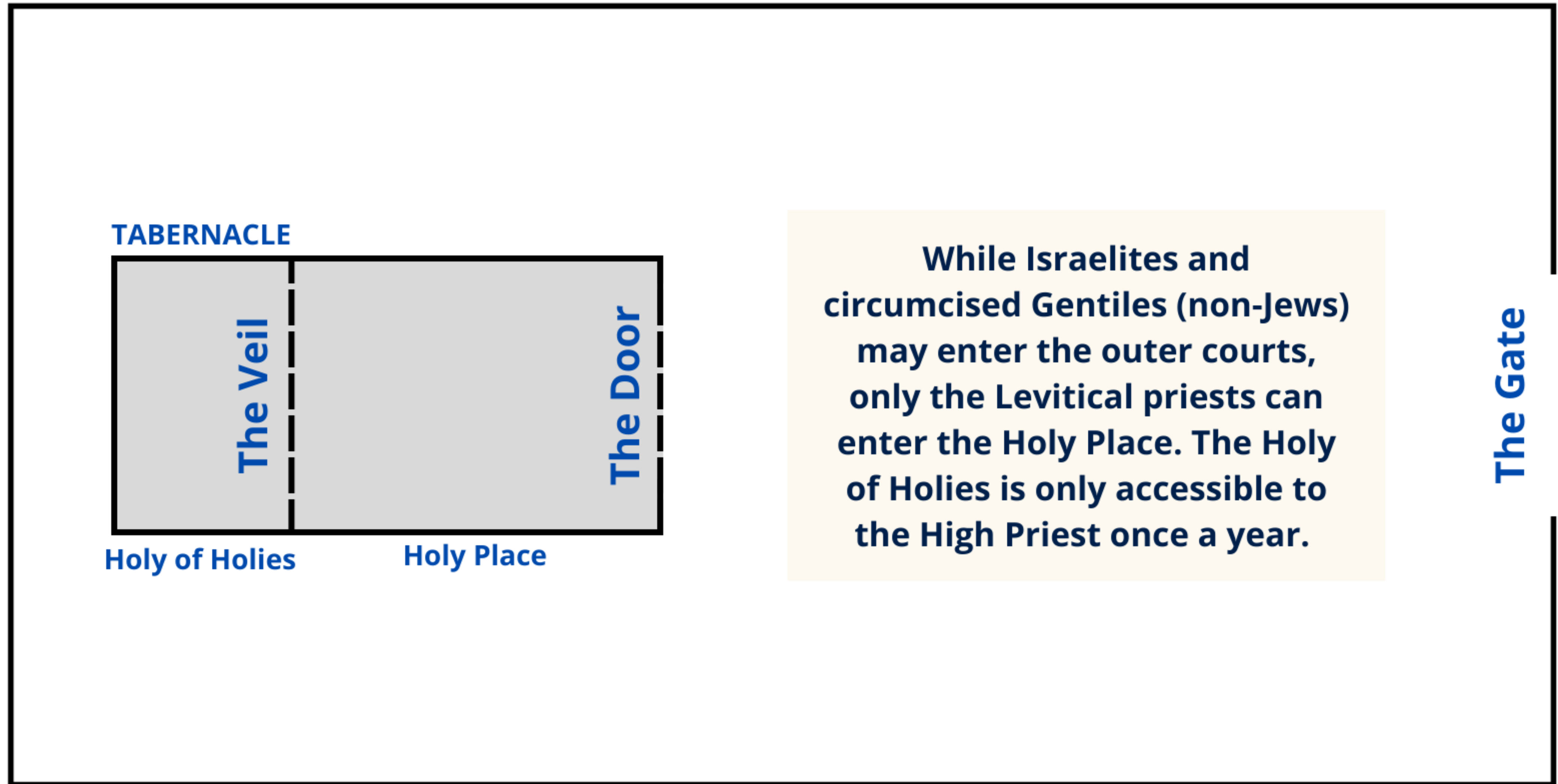
OUTER COURTS



THE HOLY PLACE



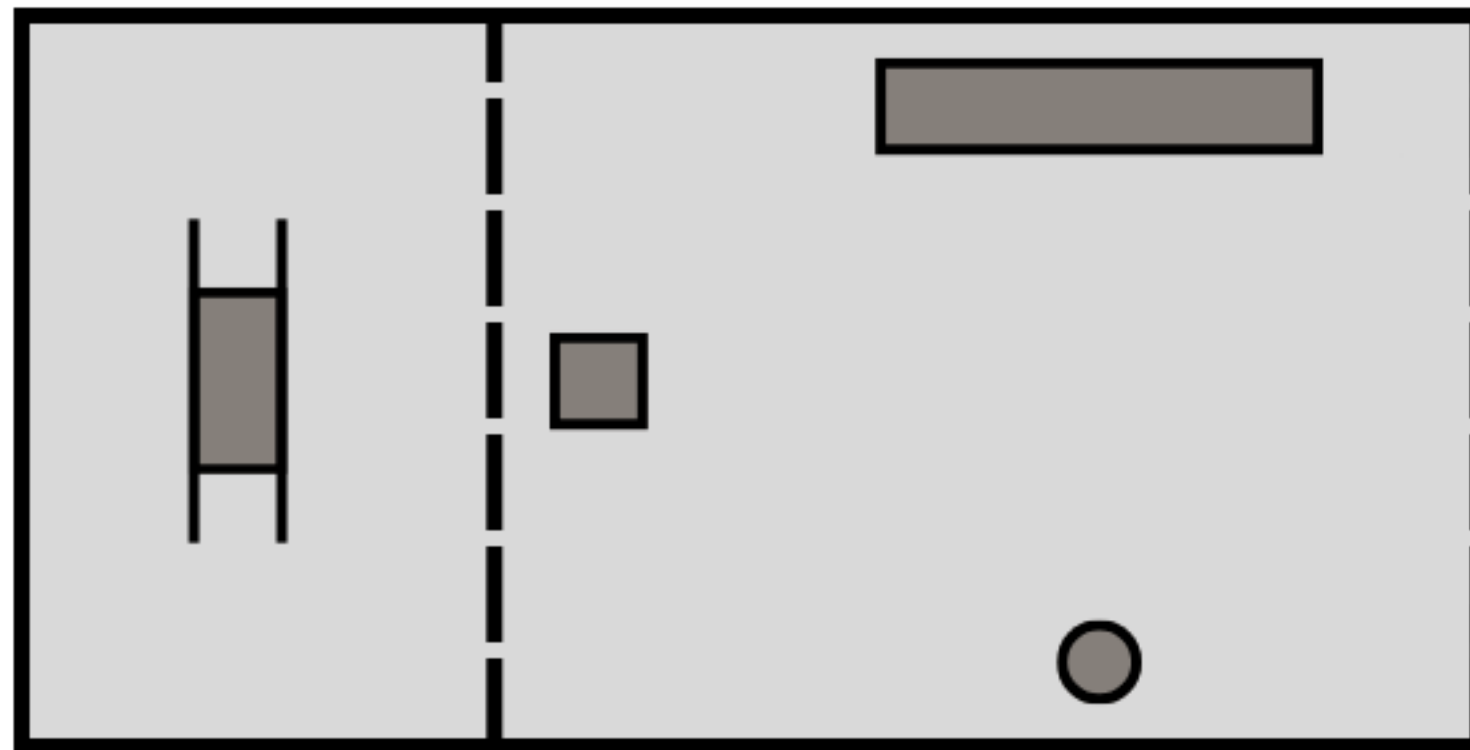
## OUTER COURTS



THE HOLY PLACE

OUTER COURTS

TABERNACLE



THE HOLY PLACE





**Mercy Seat**  
God's presence

**Ark of the Covenant**  
Represented God's  
covenant with Israel

- 10 commandments
- Jar of Manna
- Aaron's staff

**Ark & Mercy Seat**

God's presence  
and covenant

**Table of Bread**

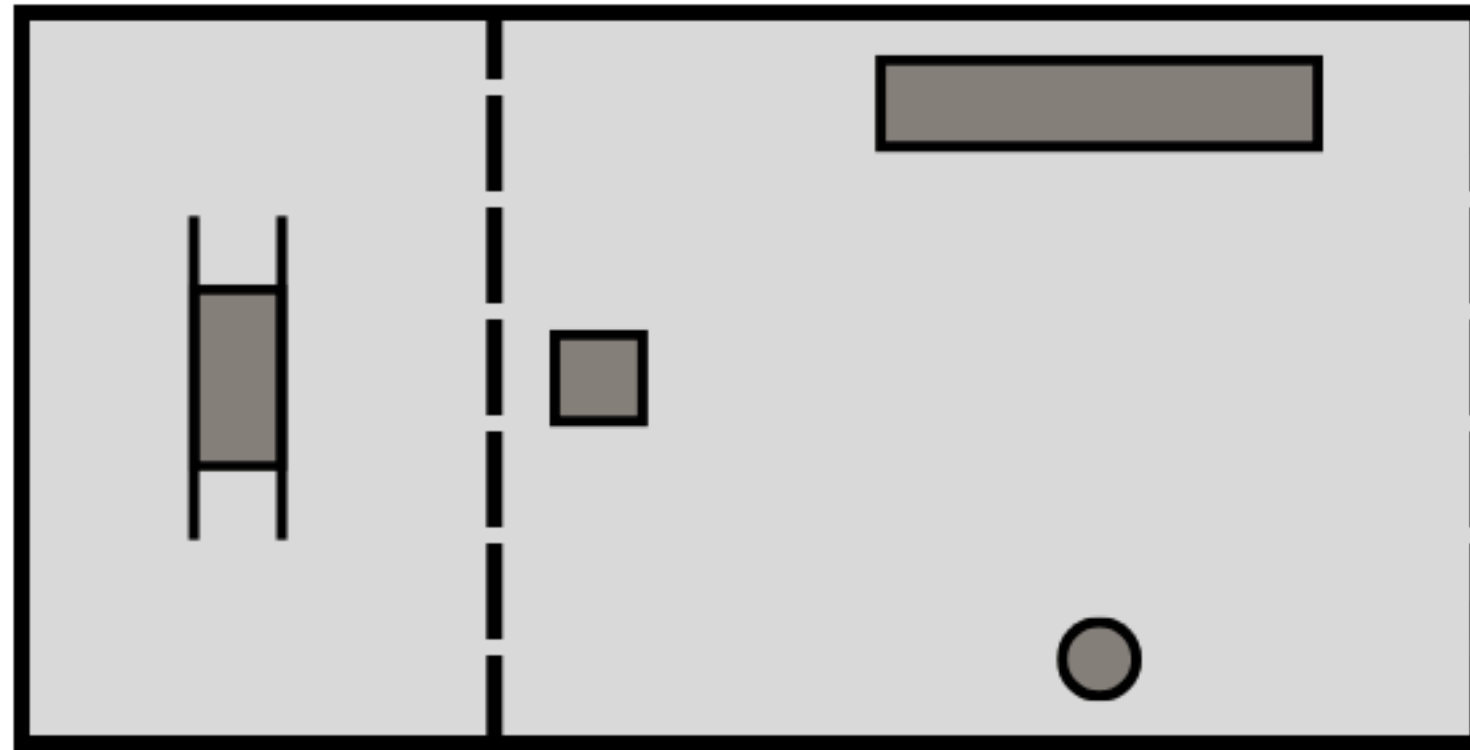
Represented  
God's provision

**Laver**

Purification  
through washing

**Altar**

Atonement  
through sacrifice



**Altar of Incense**

Represented  
prayers rising to  
God

**Menorah**

Represented  
God's guidance  
and wisdom



THE HOLY PLACE



# EXODUS 40

*vv. 33b-35 And so Moses finished the work. Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.*

# 2 CHRONICLES 7

***v. 1 When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.***



THE HOLY PLACE

# THE HOLINESS PARADOX

- **God's holiness is the source of all life and sustains our existence.**
- **But God's holiness can become dangerous to mortal humans corrupted by sin**



**Isaiah the prophet had a strange vision where he was in the temple (where he didn't belong!) and in the direct presence of God.**

**He is terrified for his life because of his moral impurity (symbolised by his "unclean lips").**

# ISAIAH 6

*vv. 4-5 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.*

*“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”*

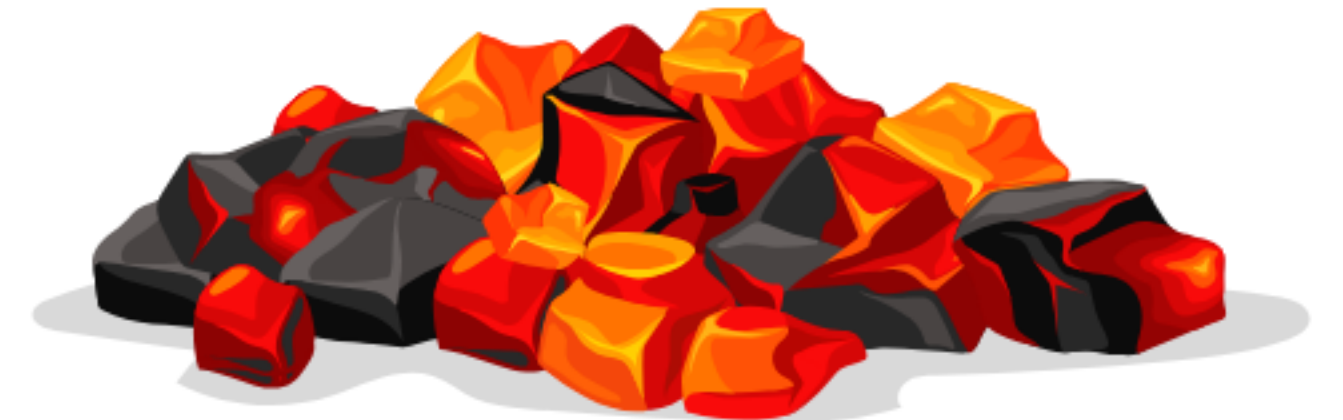
# ISAIAH 6

*vv. 6-7 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."*



**Instead of being destroyed, God has a burning, holy coal is taken from his presence and applied to Isaiah's lips.**

**Instead of the temple becoming contaminated by Isaiah's impurity, the opposite happens: God's holiness transfers to Isaiah and erases his sin and impurity.**



THE HOLY PLACE





**10 MINUTES BREAK**





# THE NEW TABERNACLE

GOD'S PRESENCE AMONG HIS PEOPLE





# JOHN 1

***vv.1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.***

***v.14. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling (ἐσκήνωσεν) among us.***

 **"tabernacle"**

# JOHN 2

*vv. 19-21 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."*

*They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body.*

# EXODUS 3

*vv.13-14 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"*

*God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"*

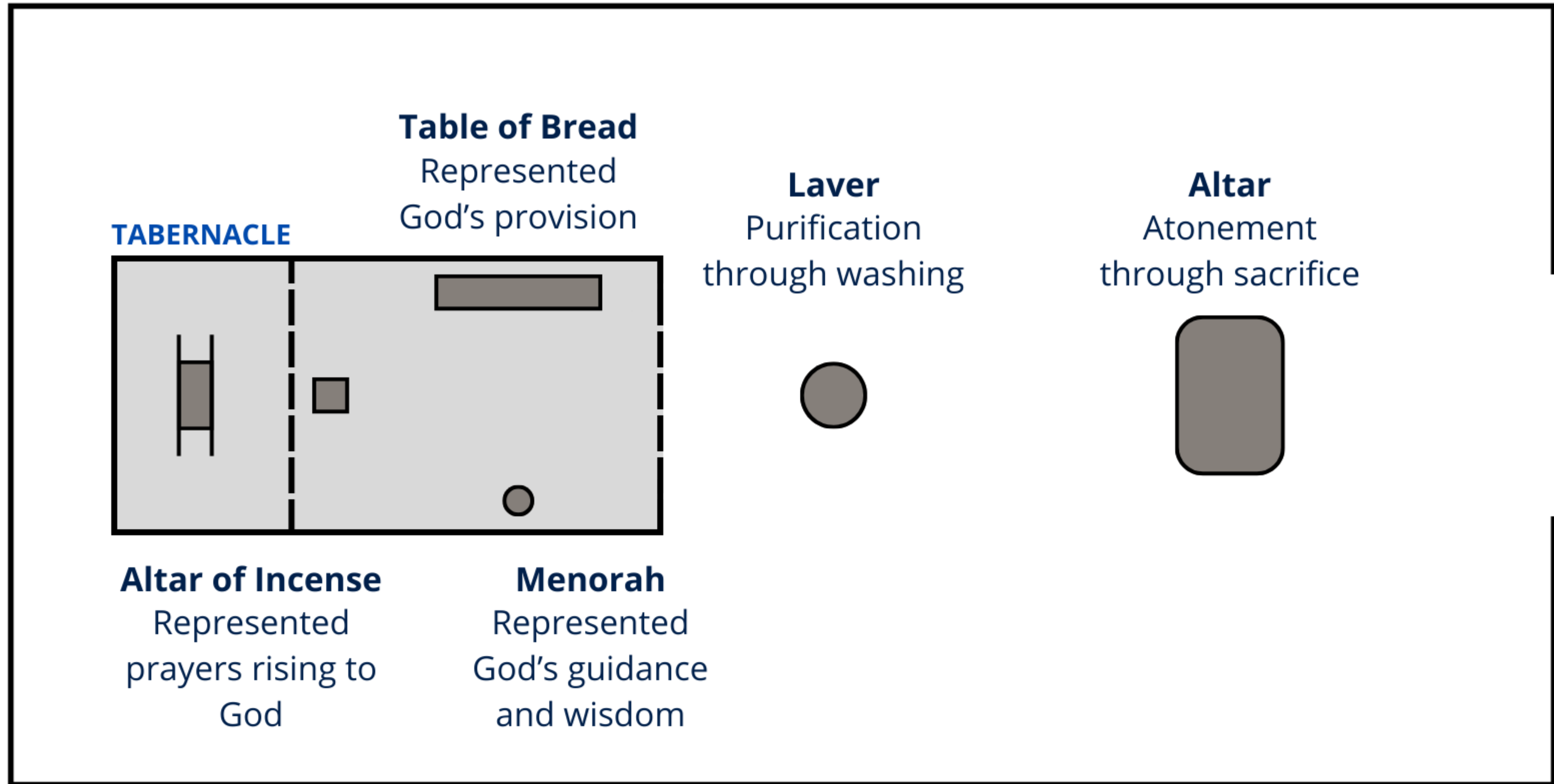


# **'I AM' STATEMENTS IN JOHN**

**The Gospel according to John contains 7 instances where Jesus refers to himself as 'I AM'**

- the bread of life (6:35),
- the light of the world (8:12),
- the door (10:7),
- the good shepherd (10:11, 14),
- the resurrection and the life (11:25),
- the way the truth and the life (14:6), and
- the true vine (15:1)

## OUTER COURTS



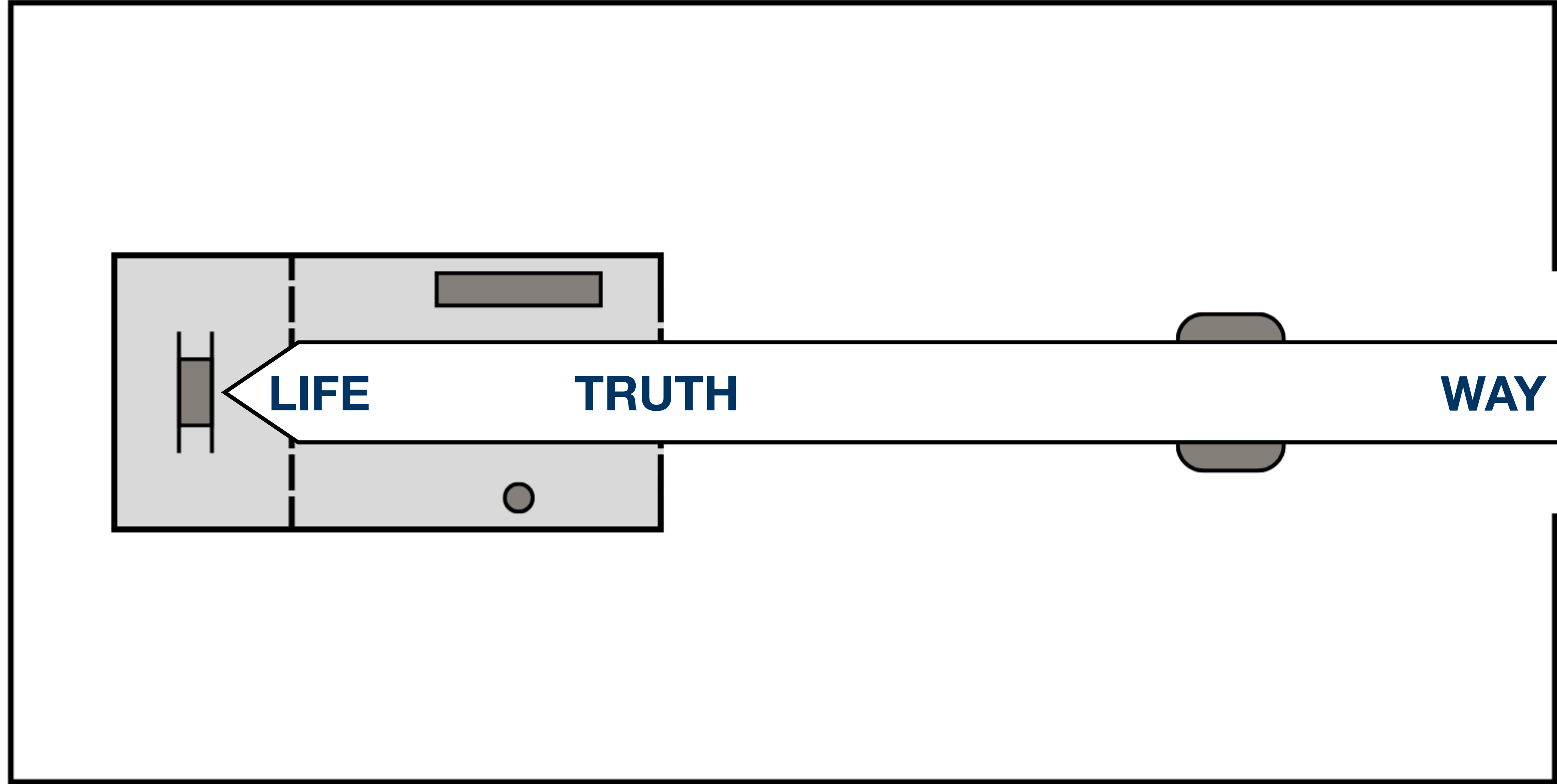
THE HOLY PLACE

# MATTHEW 27

*vv. 45-46 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”*

*vv. 50-51 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*





THE HOLY PLACE

## PRINCIPLE #2

- **Jesus Christ is the true Tabernacle, every component of worship in the Tabernacle points to Christ and His finished work.**



# THE TEMPLE TODAY

The coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 resembles the entrance of God's holy presence into the temple.



# ACTS 2

*vv. 1-4b When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...*

# 1 CORINTHIANS 3

***v. 16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?***



THE HOLY PLACE

# EPHESIANS 2

*vv. 19-20 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*



THE HOLY PLACE



**IF BELIEVERS ARE THE  
TEMPLE OF TODAY,  
WHAT/WHO FORMS THE  
TEMPLE OF THE FUTURE?**



# THE ORIGINAL TABERNACLE

GOD'S PRESENCE AMONG CREATION





# TABERNACLE NARRATIVE

**Exodus 25-31 contain seven speeches opening with divine command:**

- **Speech 1 - Exodus 25:1**
- **Speech 2 - Exodus 30:11**
- **Speech 3 - Exodus 30:17**
- **Speech 4 - Exodus 30:22**
- **Speech 5 - Exodus 30:34**
- **Speech 6 - Exodus 31:1**
- **Speech 7 - Exodus 31:12 [Sabbath]**



# CREATION NARRATIVE

**Genesis 1:1-2:3 contain divine declarations, each corresponding to a day:**

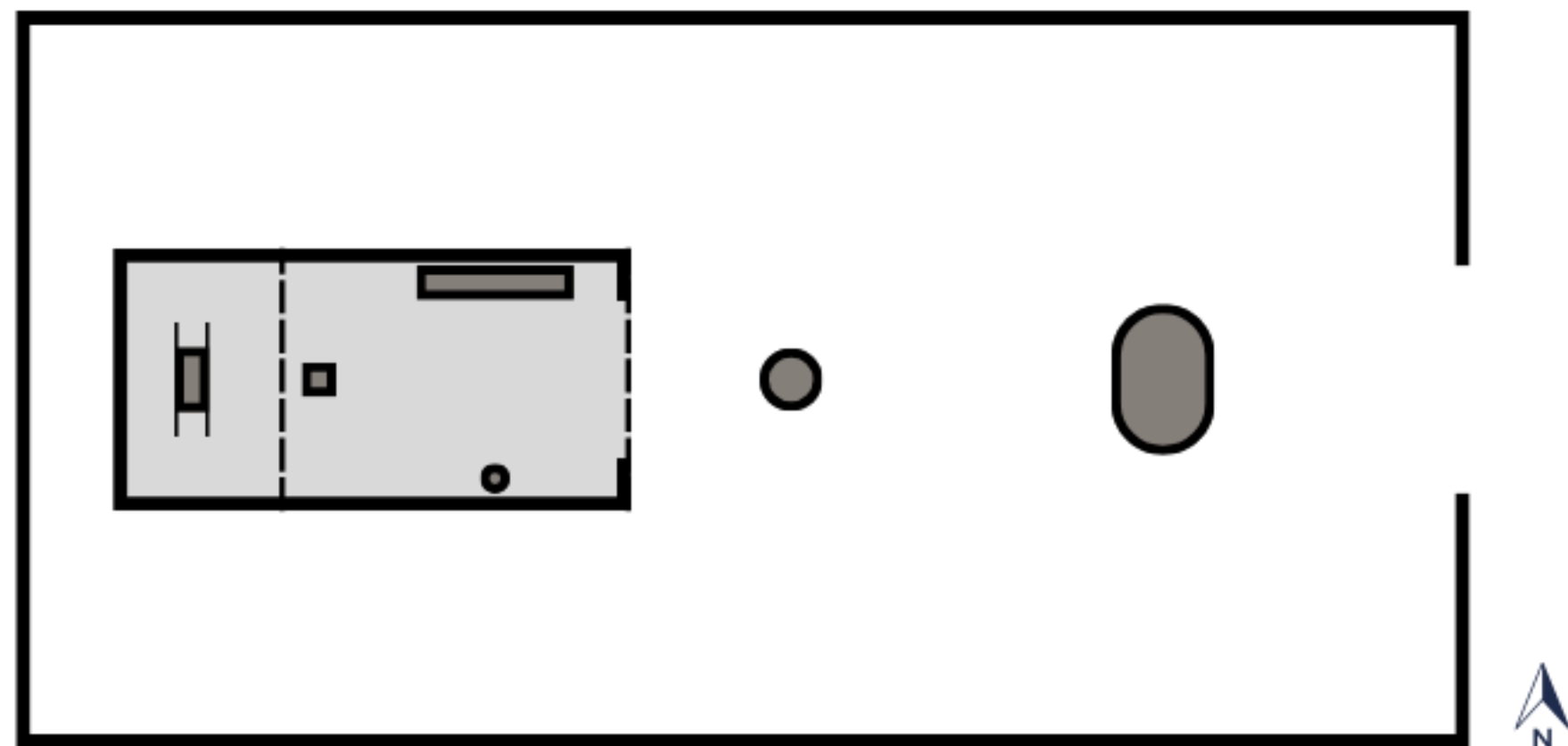
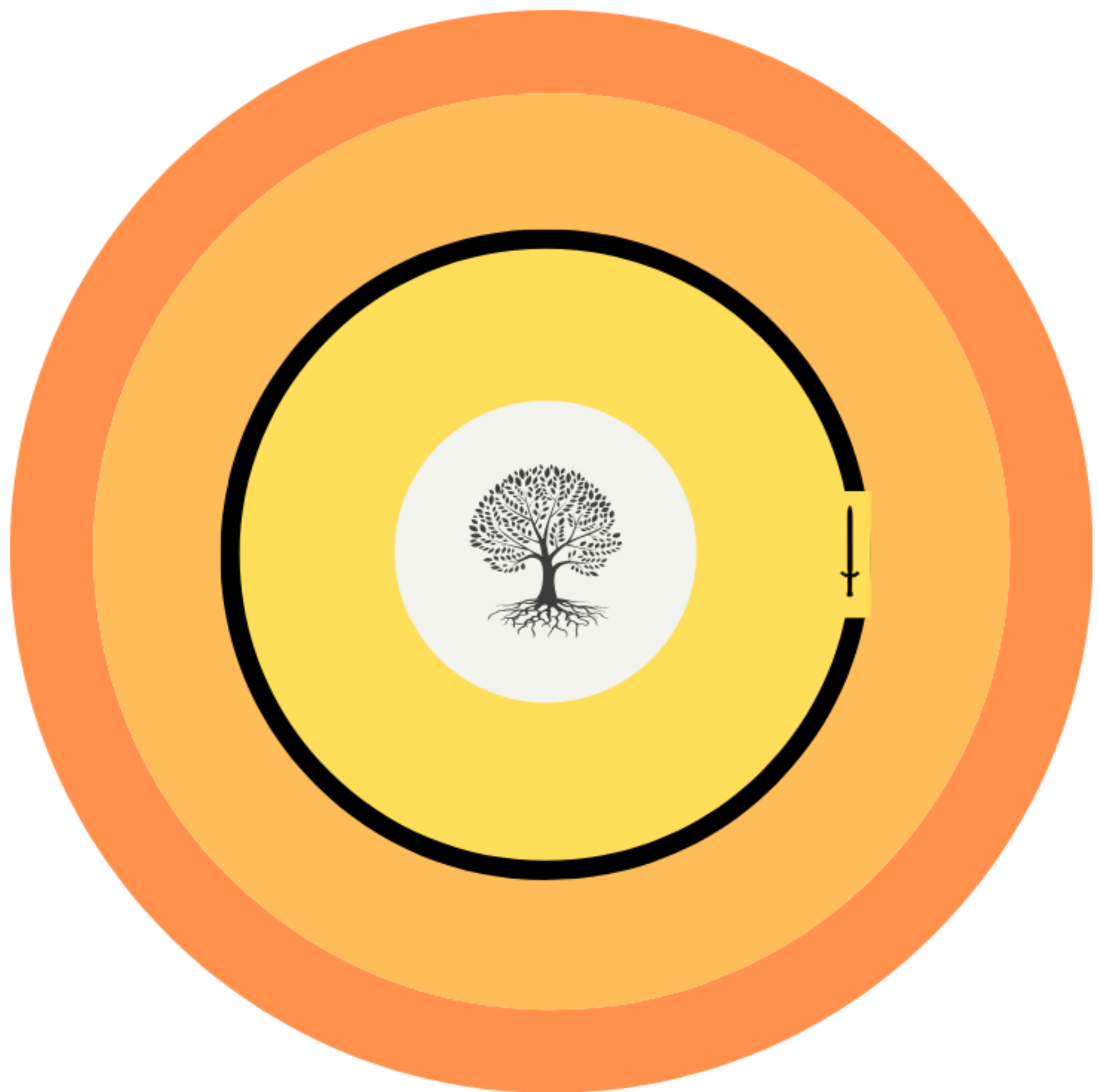
- **Day 1 - Genesis 1:3**
- **Day 2 - Genesis 1:6**
- **Day 3 - Genesis 1:9**
- **Day 4 - Genesis 1:14**
- **Day 5 - Genesis 1:20**
- **Day 6 - Genesis 1:24**
- **Day 7 - Genesis 2:3 [Sabbath]**

# GENESIS 3

*v. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

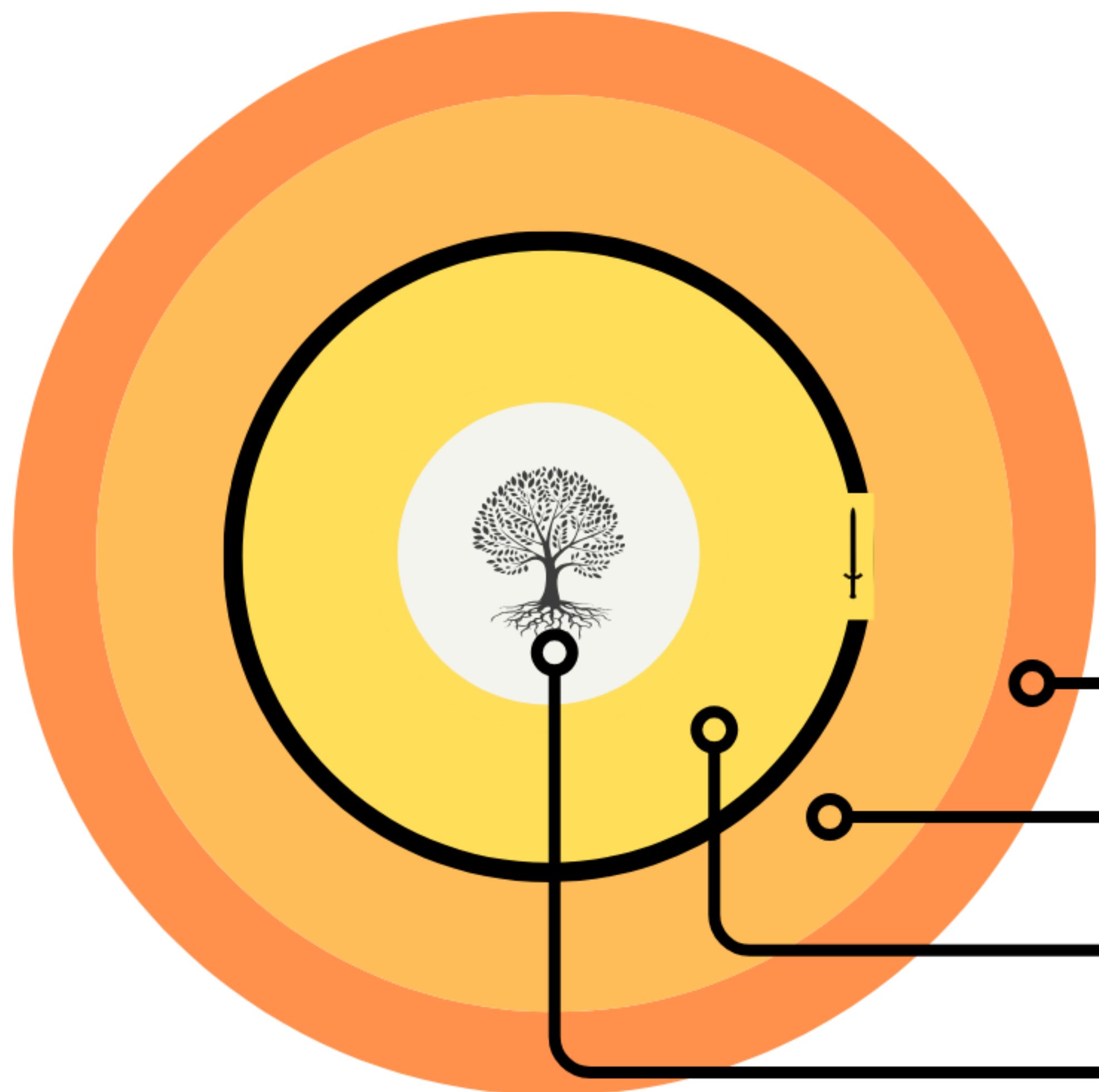


THE HOLY PLACE



THE HOLY PLACE



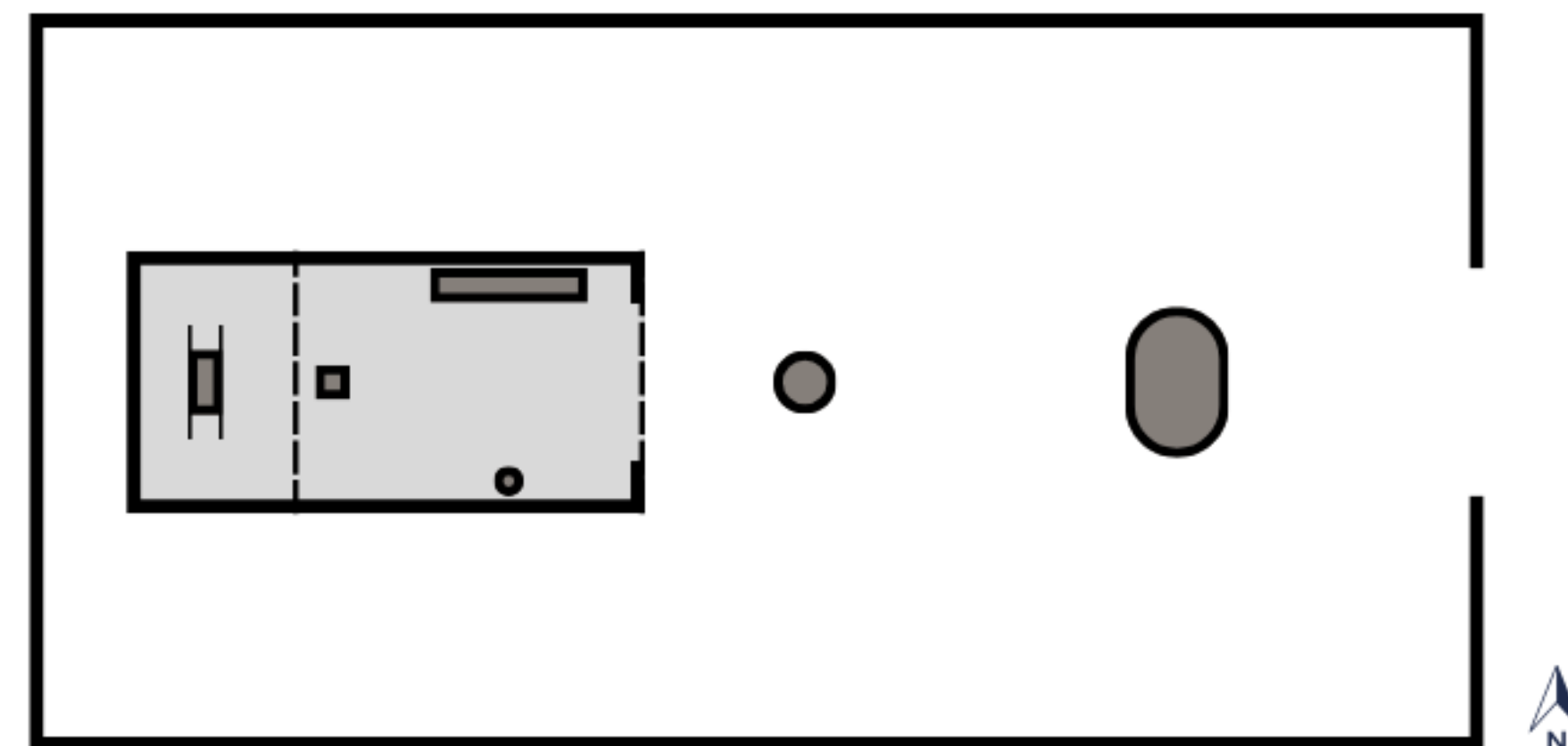


**Beyond Eden: Wilderness**

**Eden: Outer courtyard**

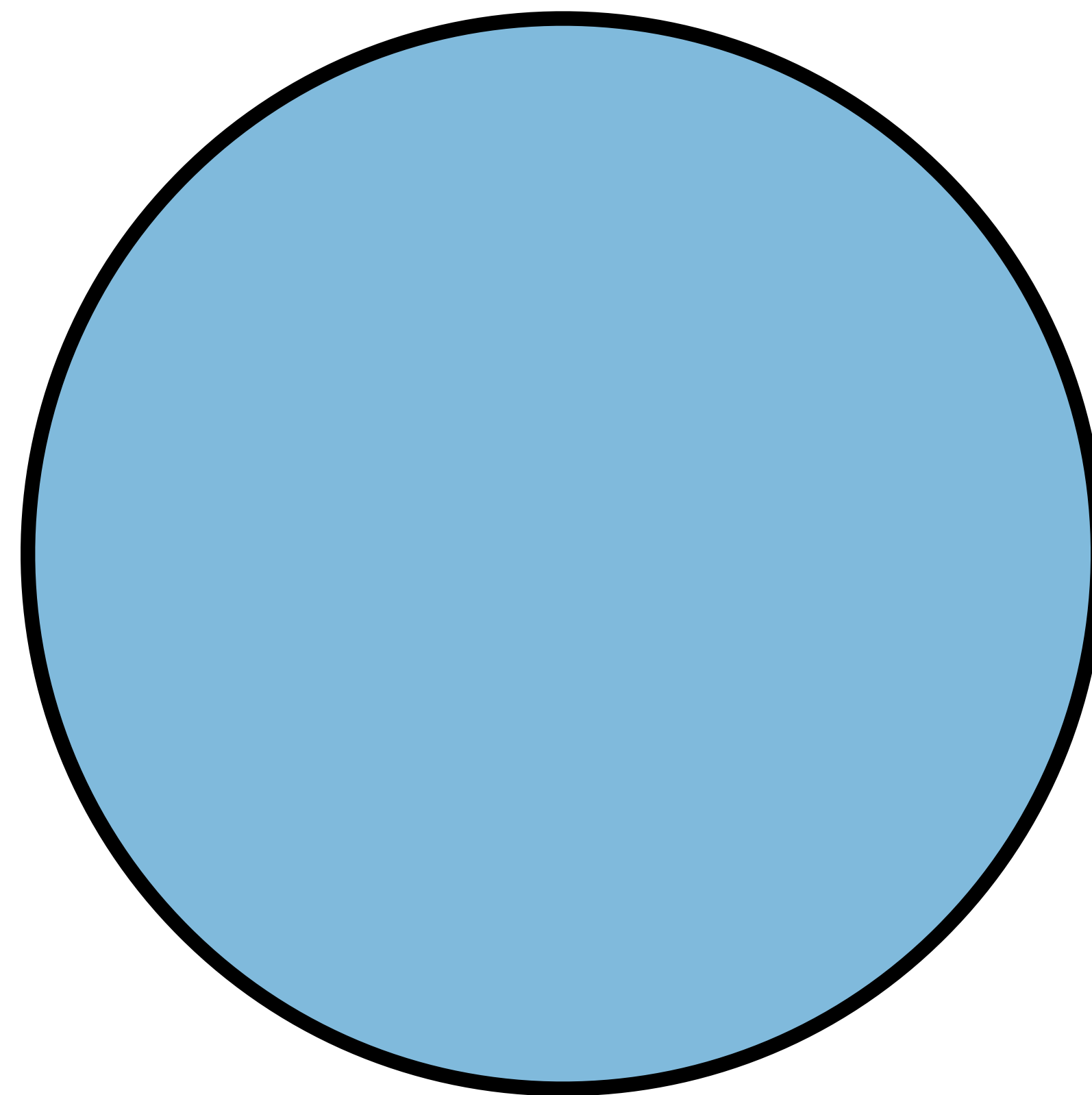
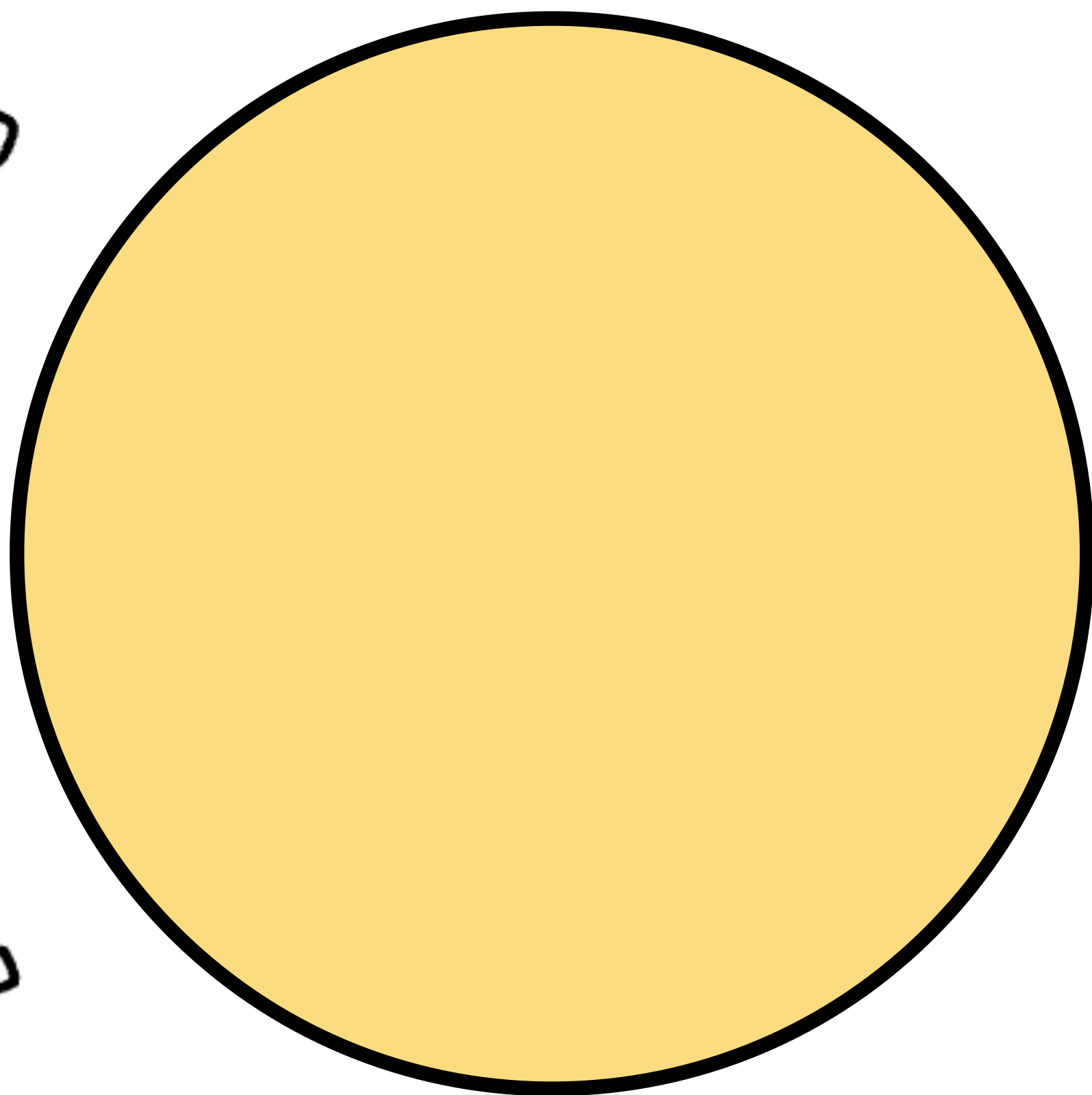
**Garden of Eden: Holy Place**

**Tree of Life: Holy of Holies**



THE HOLY PLACE

HEAVEN



EARTH

THE HOLY PLACE

HEAVEN

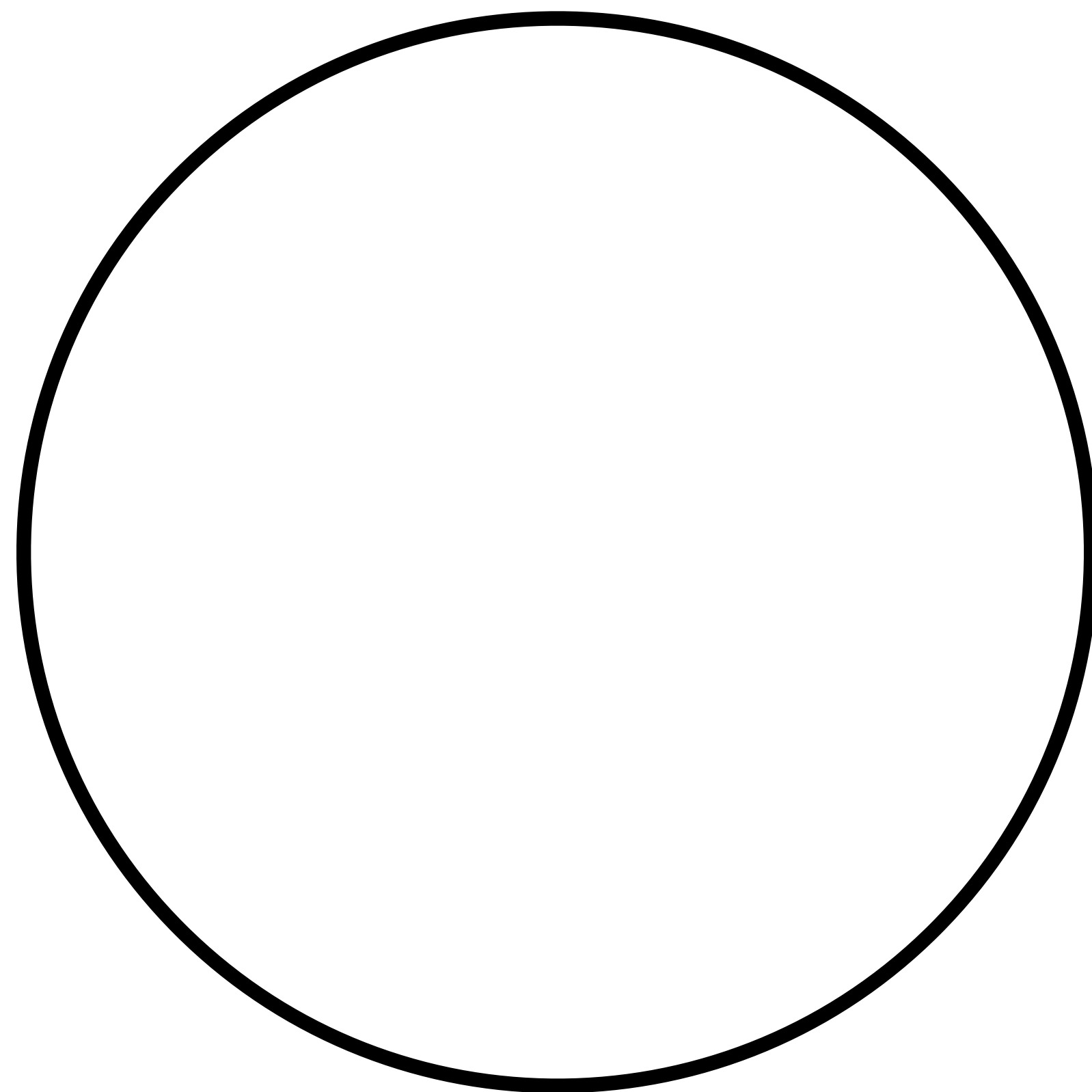
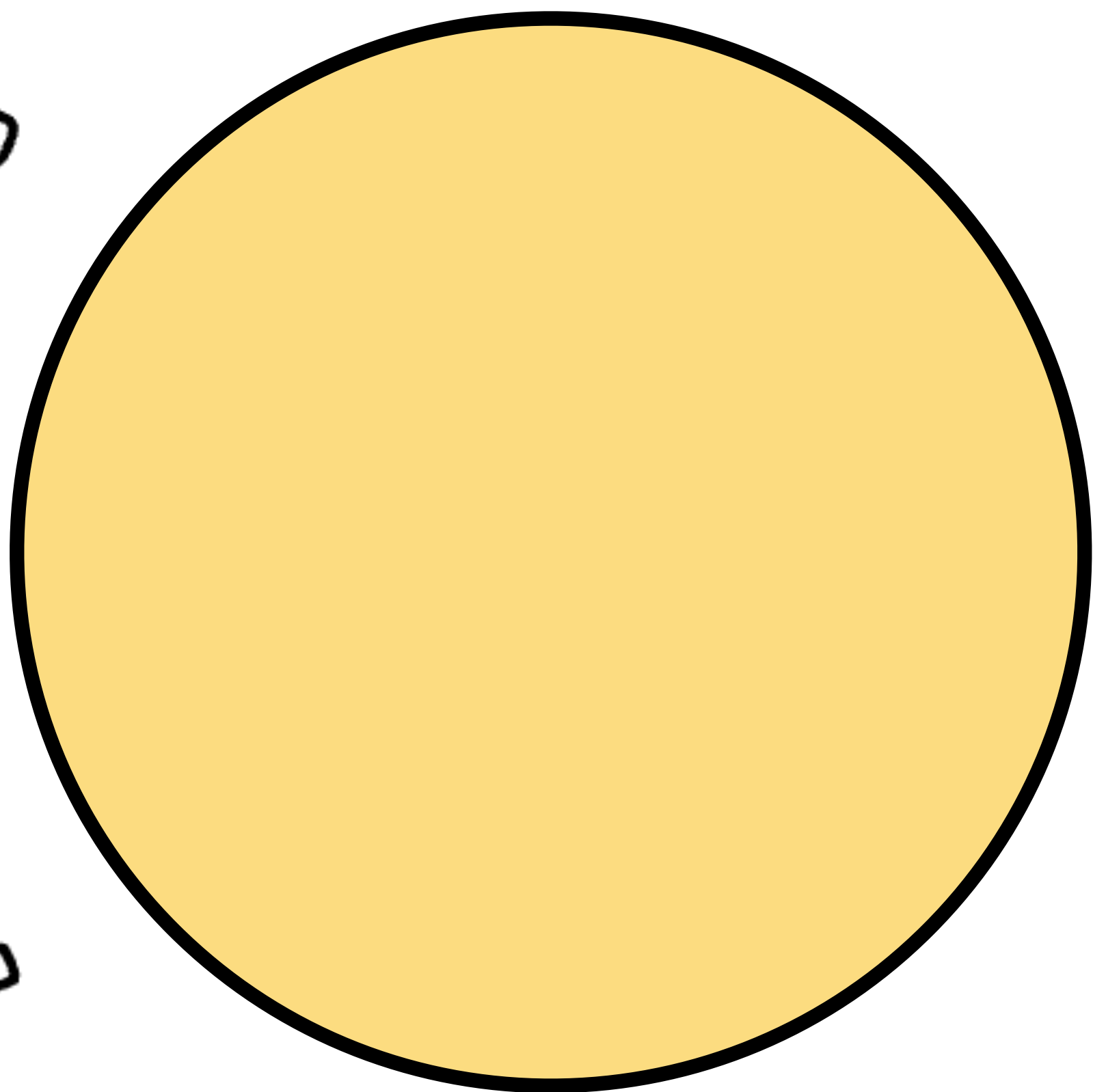


EARTH

THE HOLY PLACE



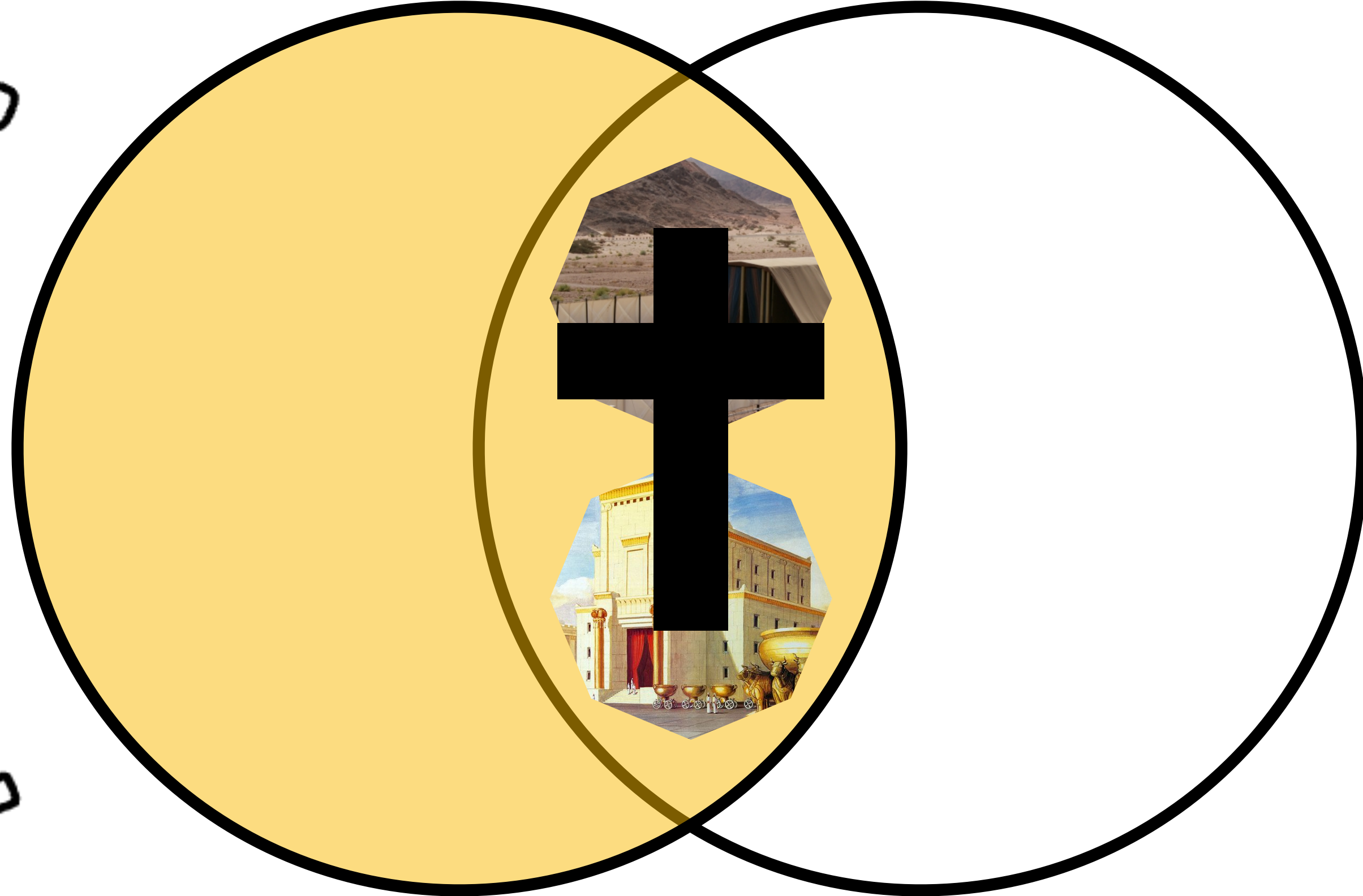
HEAVEN



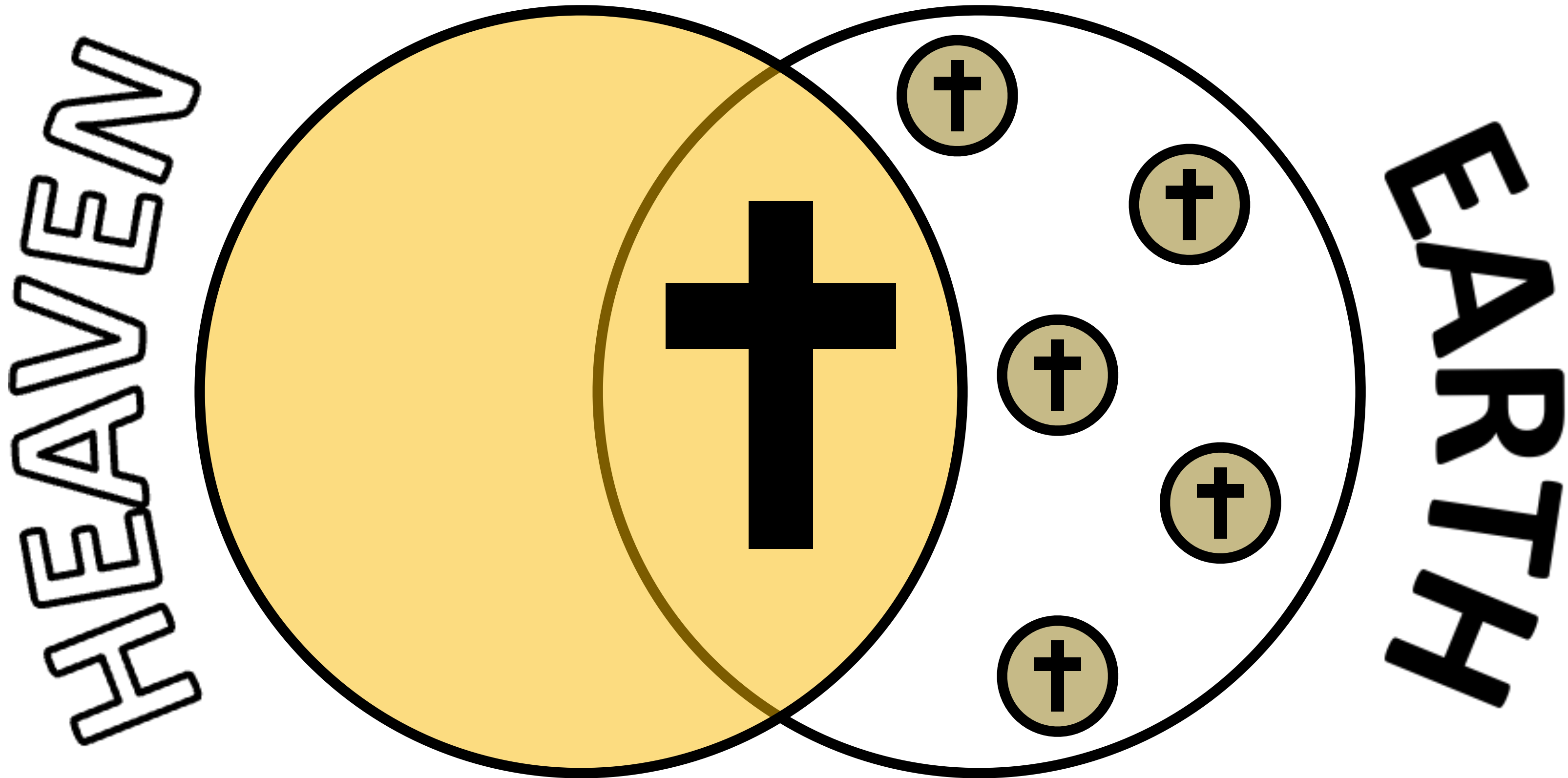
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THE HOLY PLACE

HEAVEN

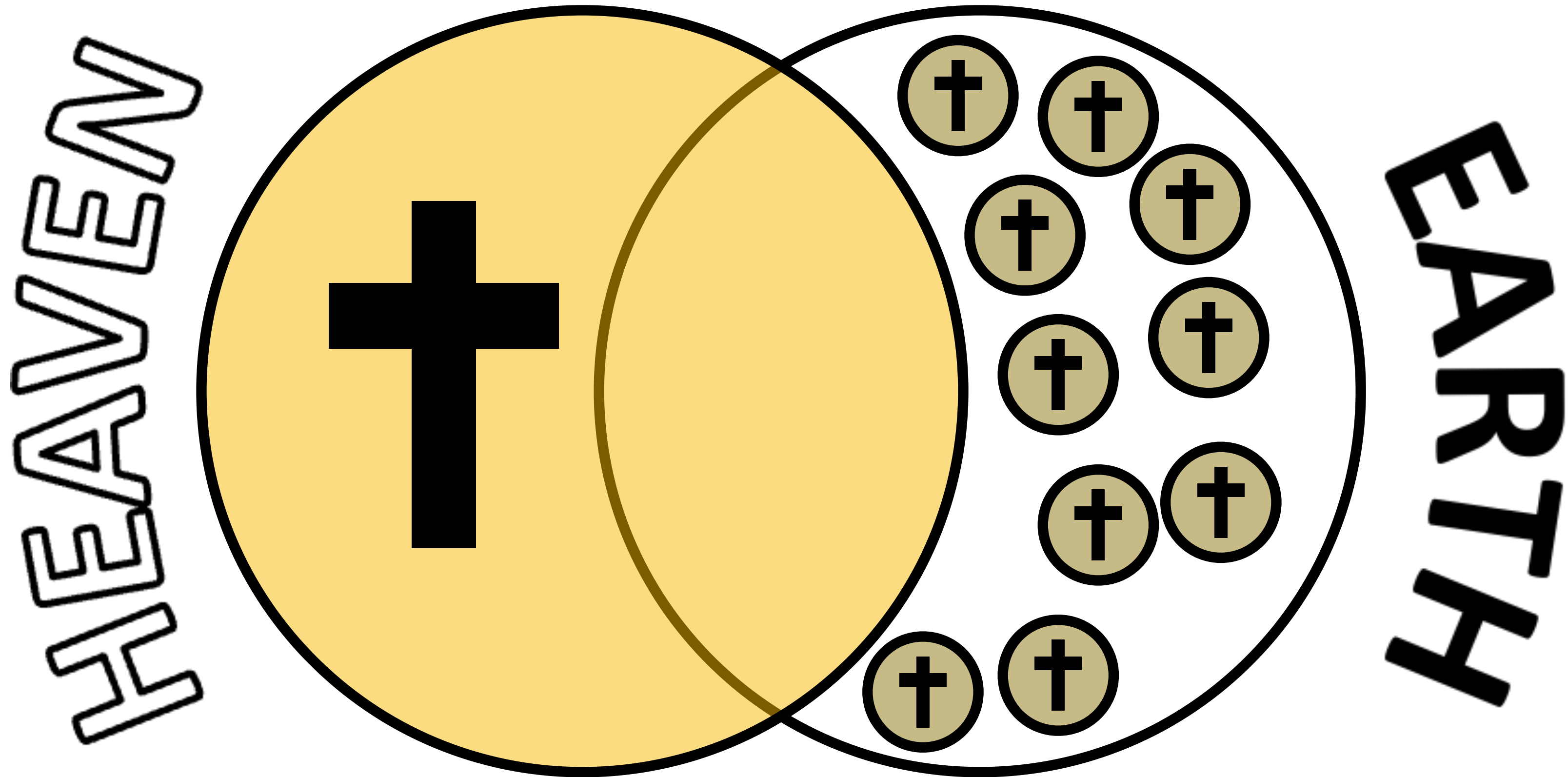


EARTH



THE HOLY PLACE





THE HOLY PLACE





# THE ETERNAL TABERNACLE

GOD'S PRESENCE WITH HIS PEOPLE FOR ETERNITY





# LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.*

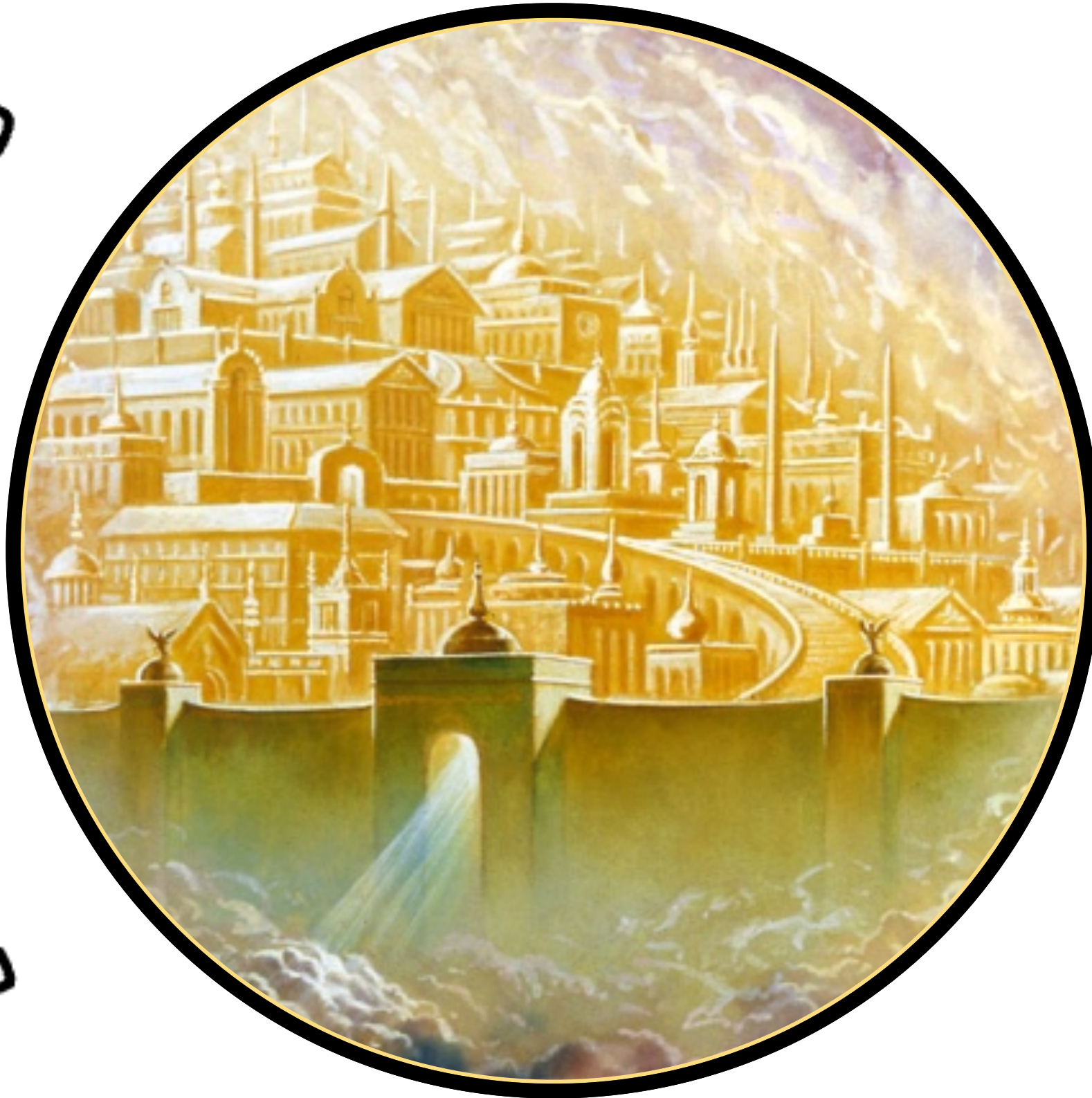


# REVELATION 21

*vv. 1a, 2-3 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them."*

THE HOLY PLACE

HEAVEN



EARTH

THE HOLY PLACE

## PRINCIPLE #3

- The reunion of Heaven and Earth is through Jesus Christ's redemptive work, culminating in the renewal of creation and the restoration of perfect communion between God and humanity.





# RESOURCES

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- "The Tabernacle: Shadows of the Messiah" by David M. Levy:
- "Heaven on Earth: The Temple in Biblical Theology" by T.D Alexander and S. Gathercole
- "Christ in the Tabernacle" by A.B. Simpson
- "A New Heaven and a New Earth: Reclaiming Biblical Eschatology" by Richard Middleton
- "The New Heaven and New Earth as Depicted in Revelation 21-22" by The Bible Project - suitable for the young

