

# Lenten Devotional

## 2020

Thursday, March 26, 2020  
Day 26, Exodus 26

### **Boldly Go**

*Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the covenant law behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. (Exodus 26:33)*

One of my earliest memories as a child is of visiting my father's wife's dying father. This man was barely known by me at all, but he was Opi. I remember this so clearly because I and my siblings had to hide. Yes, once upon a time children weren't allowed (at least in certain places) in the hospital. So when the nurse was coming we had to hide behind the long drapes. We were restricted from the area.

That is a bit like what is being described in this section of the directions for the Tabernacle. This was a mobile structure so it had movable walls made of curtains. Most of the curtains were for the outside of the structure, but there was also a Holy of Holies or Most Holy Place. One author describes it as radiating holiness inward. Israel camps with the Tabernacle right in the centre. Directly around the Tabernacle are the Priest's the Levites. Around them and the Tabernacle are the other tribes of Israel. Beyond them are the rest of the people of the world.

If we zoom into the Tabernacle, we find an alter within the Tabernacle, then a Holy place with the show bread, and then the Most Holy place where resides the Ark of the Covenant. With each intensity of Holiness fewer people could enter, so that only the High Priest once per year could enter the Holy of Holies and only after careful preparation. Once again, this is God demonstrating his Holiness to his people. The marvel is his willingness to dwell with the people.

We have already, in this series, talked about God's holiness and willingness to be with us. I think what makes this so powerful is to contrast it with the Covenant through Jesus's blood (rather than the blood of animals). Ephesians 3:12 says, "In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence," and Hebrews 4:15-16 says, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Through Jesus's death and resurrection we are no longer barred from the Most Holy Place (the veil on the temple tore after Jesus's death). Rather, Jesus our High Priest has made it so we may enter that most holy place with confidence of receiving grace and holiness. Thanks be to God!

### **Prayer**

Holy One, thank you that you did not keep a barrier between us and you, but in Jesus you brought that barrier down. As a result we are able to enter the Holy Place through grace and receive your mercy in our time of need. That time is now and we pray your mercy would flow to us and through us to the ends of the earth. Amen.