### 11012020

The most basic understanding of who God is and what God desires is Relationship... God's essence is Relationship and wants Relationship....first within the Godhead...Father, Son and Holy Spirit... They exist if profound unity and unique diversity simultaneously. The relationship of dynamic love..(not Stagnant) is the very essence of who God is. They indwell and love one another...and that desire is for us... <sup>2CO 13:14</sup> May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

It has always been God's Plan.... As we <u>examined last week scripture often</u> <u>describes our relationship to God as one like a marriage... and this marriage relationship started in Exodus 19-20. with the proposal and vows of the relationship given as the ten commandments... The vows/commandments were spelled out in summary form (Ten Commandments) in more detail in the "book of the covenant," (20:22–23:33).</u>

- The Nation Israel has been camped at the base of Mt. Sinai for some time. They will continue on there for a considerably longer period.
- the next big event comes in chapter 24 of Exodus at Mt. Sinai
  - 1) Where the The covenant /vows are confirmed
  - 2) The God who cannot be seen, is seen, not only by Moses, but Joshua, his servant, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, the priests, and also by seventy of the elders of Israel.
  - 3)In addition to seeing God, the nobles of the nation Israel also sat and ate a meal in His presence.

lets jump in...

EX 24:1Then the LORD instructed Moses: "Come up here to me, and bring along Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of Israel's elders. All of you must worship from a distance. Only Moses is allowed to come near to the LORD. The others must not come near, and none of the other people are allowed to climb up the mountain with him."

• God's called Moses, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders to come up to worship Him

- Worship is not practiced among equals. The inferior always worships the superior being.
- While the leaders of Israel had to keep their distance, the nation as a whole had to remain even further removed. God is the superior Being who institutes this covenant with Israel.
- Such distinctions are abolished in the new covenant. where all God's kids are called priests...
- EX 24: <sup>3</sup> Then Moses went down to the people and repeated all the instructions and regulations the LORD had given him. All the people answered with one voice, "We will do everything the LORD has commanded." <sup>4</sup> Then Moses carefully wrote down all the LORD's instructions......
- There has been great care taken to communicate the covenant clearly, and over a period of time, so that this verbal commitment is based upon a clear understanding of the conditions of the covenant. Then, Moses put the "book of the covenant" into writing ...
- The commitment which the nation Israel makes 4 is one which is based upon a clear understanding of the covenant which is put before them.
- Twice in these verses (vss. 3, and in 7), the Israelites have verbally committed themselves to keep this covenant. If this is not enough, they have said virtually the same words before, in chapter 19, verse 8.

<sup>4</sup> ..... Early the next morning Moses got up and built an altar at the foot of the mountain. He also set up twelve pillars, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>5</sup> Then he sent some of the young Israelite men to present burnt offerings and to sacrifice bulls as peace offerings to the LORD. <sup>6</sup> Moses drained half the blood from these animals into basins. The other half he splattered against the altar. <sup>7</sup> Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it aloud to the people. Again they all responded, "We will do everything the LORD has commanded. We will obey." <sup>8</sup> Then Moses took the blood from the basins and splattered it over the people, declaring, "Look, this blood confirms the covenant the LORD has made with you in giving you these instructions."

- The blood of the sacrifices is sprinkled upon the altar and upon the people, thus linking the people with the covenant sacrifices. Israel has confirmed the covenant which God gave through Moses.
- It is a blood covenant...in effect until it is replaced by the New blood covenant with Jesus

Hebrews 8:7 If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant to replace it. 8 But when God found fault with the people, he said: "The day is coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah.

<sup>9</sup> This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of the land of Egypt. They did not remain faithful to my covenant, so I turned my back on them, says the LORD. <sup>10</sup> But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day, <sup>[b]</sup> says the LORD: I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>11</sup> And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the LORD.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already. <sup>12</sup> And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins. <sup>13</sup> When God speaks of a "new" covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear.

• When did this happen?

Luke 22:20 After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the **new covenant** between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.

• which is why we celebrate communion...

<sup>1Cor 11:23</sup> For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread <sup>24</sup> and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it." <sup>26</sup> For every time you eat this

bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

 ....At the conclusion of the blood sacrifice come the celebration meal... They saw God...but only his feet

EX 24: <sup>9</sup> Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel climbed up the mountain. <sup>10</sup> There they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there seemed to be a surface of brilliant blue lapis lazuli, as clear as the sky itself. <sup>11</sup> And though these nobles of Israel gazed upon God, he did not destroy them. In fact, they are a covenant meal, eating and drinking in his presence!

- The covenant meal, eaten by the 75 leaders of Israel in the presence of God, is the final act of confirmation.
- The way covenants were made, it is not unusual to find the leaders of the nation Israel eating the covenant meal in the presence of God, for both parties were present at the covenant meal.
- What is unusual is that men saw God and did not perish, and that the vision of God is indeed rare, unlike all other manifestations of God in the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible).

Precisely what did these leaders see? Well, we know that they saw God. We also know that the God they saw had feet (cf. v. 10). All that is described, to our dismay, is the feet of God and the lapis lazuli-like clear blue pavement under them. Why does our text describe only the feet of God and the pavement under them? answer in a bit...

• There are two other texts which describe God enthroned in heaven, which are parallel to the description of God in Exodus 24, each one a more broader pictru of God....

**Ezek 1:** <sup>3</sup> (The LORD gave this message to Ezekiel son of Buzi, a priest, beside the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians, and he felt the hand of the LORD take hold of him.) <sup>4</sup> As I looked, I saw a great storm coming from the north, driving before it a huge cloud that flashed with lightning and shone with brilliant light. There was fire inside the cloud, and in the middle of the fire glowed something like gleaming amber. <sup>5</sup> From the center of the cloud came four living beings that looked human, <sup>6</sup> except that each had four faces

and four wings. <sup>7</sup> Their legs were straight, and their feet had hooves like those of a calf and shone like burnished bronze. <sup>8</sup> Under each of their four wings I could see human hands. So each of the four beings had four faces and four wings. <sup>9</sup> The wings of each living being touched the wings of the beings beside it. Each one moved straight forward in any direction without turning around.

<sup>10</sup> Each had a human face in the front, the face of a lion on the right side, the face of an ox on the left side, and the face of an eagle at the back. <sup>11</sup> Each had two pairs of outstretched wings—one pair stretched out to touch the wings of the living beings on either side of it, and the other pair covered its body. <sup>12</sup> They went in whatever direction the spirit chose, and they moved straight forward in any direction without turning around.

<sup>13</sup> The living beings looked like bright coals of fire or brilliant torches, and lightning seemed to flash back and forth among them. <sup>14</sup> And the living beings darted to and fro like flashes of lightning. <sup>15</sup> As I looked at these beings, I saw four wheels touching the ground beside them, one wheel belonging to each. <sup>16</sup> The wheels sparkled as if made of beryl. All four wheels looked alike and were made the same; each wheel had a second wheel turning crosswise within it. <sup>17</sup> The beings could move in any of the four directions they faced, without turning as they moved. <sup>18</sup> The rims of the four wheels were tall and frightening, and they were covered with eyes all around.

<sup>19</sup> When the living beings moved, the wheels moved with them. When they flew upward, the wheels went up, too. <sup>20</sup> The spirit of the living beings was in the wheels. So wherever the spirit went, the wheels and the living beings also went. <sup>21</sup> When the beings moved, the wheels moved. When the beings stopped, the wheels stopped. When the beings flew upward, the wheels rose up, for the spirit of the living beings was in the wheels.

<sup>22</sup> Spread out above them was a surface like the sky, glittering like crystal. <sup>23</sup> Beneath this surface the wings of each living being stretched out to touch the others' wings, and each had two wings covering its body. <sup>24</sup> As they flew, their wings sounded to me like waves crashing against the shore or like the voice of the Almighty<sup>[e]</sup> or like the shouting of a mighty army. When they

stopped, they let down their wings. <sup>25</sup> As they stood with wings lowered, a voice spoke from beyond the crystal surface above them.

<sup>26</sup> Above this surface was something that looked like a throne made of blue lapis lazuli. And on this throne high above was a figure whose appearance resembled a man. <sup>27</sup> From what appeared to be his waist up, he looked like gleaming amber, flickering like a fire. And from his waist down, he looked like a burning flame, shining with splendor. <sup>28</sup> All around him was a glowing halo, like a rainbow shining in the clouds on a rainy day. This is what the glory of the LORD looked like to me.....

# Then in Revelation... a much more expansive picture...

REV 5:1 Then I saw a scroll<sup>[a]</sup> in the right hand of the one who was sitting on the throne. There was writing on the inside and the outside of the scroll, and it was sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> And I saw a strong angel, who shouted with a loud voice: "Who is worthy to break the seals on this scroll and open it?" <sup>3</sup> But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll and read it.

<sup>4</sup> Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and read it. <sup>5</sup> But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, "Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David's throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals."

<sup>6</sup> Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirit<sup>[c]</sup> of God that is sent out into every part of the earth. <sup>7</sup> He stepped forward and took the scroll from the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song with these words:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. <sup>10</sup> And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth." Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders.

- The revelation of God in each of these three passages is similar, but that God is progressively more closely and more intimately revealed, and from a vastly broader perspective perspective.
- 1) I believe that the <u>elders of Israel (Exodus 24) saw God enthroned high above them, from under the crystal floor, looking through it.</u> They would thus have seen only the feet of the God who was enthroned, since the throne would have obscured the rest of Him. Since the floor was crystal clear, they could see God above them through the floor, with the throne sitting on the floor, and God on the throne.
- 2) Ezekiel's vision describes God as enthroned on the crystal expanse, above the heads of the four living creatures, but more of Him is seen. Thus, Ezekiel must have been closer, and perhaps elevated and looking at the throne of God from a different angle.
- 3) John, on the other hand, sees God enthroned "from heaven," so that his view of God is not restricted. Appropriately, those who behold God at later times see more of Him.

This distant view of God may explain why we do not read of any fear on the part of the elders (Joy amazement and wonder).

This also helps to explain why Moses could later ask to see God, as though he had not seen Him earlier (Exod. 33:17-23).

but you and I have something else...God lives in us...

## 1 Corinthians 6:19

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself....

How broad is your picture of God? end

end

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These same distinctions are paralleled in the tabernacle, where the priests had greater access to God than the people, and the high priest alone could enter the holy of holies, once a year.

- There is not only a distinction drawn between the Israelites and God, but also a distinction made between Israelites. Furthest removed is the nation as a whole, back at the base camp.
- This study is one of the most fascinating and unique passages in the Old Testament. This chapter records one of the most significant and solemn events of the Old Testament. The covenant /vows are confirmed
- Centuries before, God had promised Abraham that he would become a great nation, through his offspring.
- He promised Abraham a seed (a son, which would become a great nation), a land (the land of Canaan), and the promise that this nation would be blessed and a blessing to all nations (Gen. 12:1-3). The promises which God made were confirmed as a pledge or cpvenant between Himself and Abraham in the 15th chapter of Genesis.

- That covenant was reiterated to Abraham's offspring, Isaac and Jacob, and the sons of Jacob. In our chapter, the Mosaic Covenant is now become in effect upon Israel by the God who has delivered her out of Egypt.
  - 1. The 24th chapter of Exodus is the transition point, where once the covenant is ratified, the tabernacle becomes the most prominent subject.

# If Jesus will never leave us ...so the Father and Spirit will never leave us...

MT 28: 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, <sup>[a]</sup> baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

John 1:1 In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- <sup>2</sup> He existed in the beginning with God.
- <sup>3</sup> God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.
- <sup>4</sup> The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.
- <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it

Eph 3:10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. 11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. 14 So the Word became human and made his home among us. He

was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

### Always has been Gods' plan

**Eph 3:6** And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus.<sup>□</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence

HEB 8: 3 And since every high priest is required to offer gifts and sacrifices, our High Priest must make an offering, too. 4 If he were here on earth, he would not even be a priest, since there already are priests who offer the gifts required by the law. 5 They serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven. For when Moses was getting ready to build the Tabernacle, God gave him this warning: "Be sure that you make everything according to the pattern I have shown you here on the mountain." [8]

<sup>6</sup> But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.

<sup>7</sup> If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant to replace it. <sup>8</sup> But when God found fault with the people, he said:

"The day is coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah.

<sup>9</sup> This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of the land of Egypt. They did not remain faithful to my covenant,

so I turned my back on them, says the LORD.

10 But this is the new covenant I will make

with the people of Israel on that day, says the LORD:

I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

11 And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the LORD.'

For everyone, from the least to the greatest,

will know me already.

<sup>12</sup> And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.

<sup>13</sup> When God speaks of a "new" covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear.

Luke 22:20 After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.

HEB 9: **9** That first covenant between God and Israel had regulations for worship and a place of worship here on earth. <sup>2</sup> There were two rooms in that Tabernacle. In the first room were a lampstand, a table, and sacred loaves of bread on the table. This room was called the Holy Place. <sup>3</sup> Then there was a curtain, and behind the curtain was the second room called the Most Holy Place. <sup>4</sup> In that room were a gold incense altar and a wooden chest called the Ark of the Covenant, which was covered with gold on all sides. Inside the Ark were a gold jar containing manna, Aaron's staff that sprouted leaves, and the stone tablets of the covenant. <sup>5</sup> Above the Ark were the cherubim of divine glory, whose wings stretched out over the Ark's cover, the place of atonement. But we cannot explain these things in detail now.

<sup>6</sup> When these things were all in place, the priests regularly entered the first room<sup>[6]</sup> as they performed their religious duties. <sup>7</sup> But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. <sup>8</sup> By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the entrance to the Most Holy Place was not freely open as long as the Tabernacle<sup>[6]</sup> and the system it represented were still in use.

<sup>9</sup> This is an illustration pointing to the present time. For the gifts and sacrifices that the priests offer are not able to cleanse the consciences of the people who bring them. <sup>10</sup> For that old system deals only with food and drink and various cleansing ceremonies—physical regulations that were in effect only until a better system could be established.

#### **Christ Is the Perfect Sacrifice**

<sup>11</sup> So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.

<sup>13</sup> Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. <sup>14</sup> Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds<sup>®</sup> so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. <sup>15</sup> That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.

### **EZE 10:1** The LORD's Glory Leaves the Temple

**10** In my vision I saw what appeared to be a throne of blue lapis lazuli above the crystal surface over the heads of the cherubim. <sup>2</sup> Then the LORD spoke to the man in linen clothing and said, "Go between the whirling wheels beneath the cherubim, and take a handful of burning coals and scatter them over the city." He did this as I watched.

- <sup>3</sup> The cherubim were standing at the south end of the Temple when the man went in, and the cloud of glory filled the inner courtyard. <sup>4</sup> Then the glory of the LORD rose up from above the cherubim and went over to the entrance of the Temple. The Temple was filled with this cloud of glory, and the courtyard glowed brightly with the glory of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> The moving wings of the cherubim sounded like the voice of God Almighty and could be heard even in the outer courtyard.
- <sup>6</sup> The LORD said to the man in linen clothing, "Go between the cherubim and take some burning coals from between the wheels." So the man went in and stood beside one of the wheels. <sup>7</sup> Then one of the cherubim reached out his hand and took some live coals from the fire burning among them. He put the coals into the hands of the man in linen clothing, and the man took them and went out. <sup>8</sup> (All the cherubim had what looked like human hands under their wings.)
- <sup>9</sup> I looked, and each of the four cherubim had a wheel beside him, and the wheels sparkled like beryl. <sup>10</sup> All four wheels looked alike and were made the same; each wheel had a second wheel turning crosswise within it. <sup>11</sup> The cherubim could move in any of the four directions they faced, without turning as they moved. They went straight in the direction they faced, never turning aside. <sup>12</sup> Both the cherubim and the wheels were covered with eyes. The cherubim had eyes all over their bodies, including their hands, their backs, and their wings. <sup>13</sup> I heard someone refer to the wheels as "the whirling wheels." <sup>14</sup> Each of the four cherubim had four faces: the first was the face of an ox,<sup>10</sup> the second was a human face, the third was the face of a lion, and the fourth was the face of an eagle.
- <sup>15</sup> Then the cherubim rose upward. These were the same living beings I had seen beside the Kebar River. <sup>16</sup> When the cherubim moved, the wheels moved with them. When they lifted their wings to fly, the wheels stayed beside them. <sup>17</sup> When the cherubim stopped, the wheels stopped. When they flew upward, the wheels rose up, for the spirit of the living beings was in the wheels.
- <sup>18</sup> Then the glory of the LORD moved out from the entrance of the Temple and hovered above the cherubim. <sup>19</sup> And as I watched, the cherubim flew with their wheels to the east gate of the LORD's Temple. And the glory of the God of Israel hovered above them.
- <sup>20</sup> These were the same living beings I had seen beneath the God of Israel when I was by the Kebar River. I knew they were cherubim,

4 Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." <sup>2</sup> And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it. <sup>3</sup> The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones—like jasper and carnelian. And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow. <sup>4</sup> Twenty-four thrones surrounded him, and twenty-four elders sat on them. They were all clothed in white and had gold crowns on their heads. <sup>5</sup> From the throne came flashes of lightning and the rumble of thunder. And in front of the throne were seven torches with burning flames. This is the sevenfold Spirit of God. <sup>6</sup> In front of the throne was a shiny sea of glass, sparkling like crystal. In the center and around the throne were four living beings, each covered with eyes, front and back. <sup>7</sup> The first of these living beings was like a lion; the second was like an ox; the third had a human face; and the fourth was like an eagle in flight. <sup>8</sup> Each of these living beings had six wings, and their wings were covered all over with eyes, inside and out. Day after day and night after night they keep on saying,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty— the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come."

Matthew 5:17 "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. 18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.

The concept of a covenant must be understood, since the gospel is the proclamation of a new covenant, which was instituted by our Lord, Jesus Christ. In the Gospels of the New Testament, the greatest amount of detail is given with respect to the last week of our Lord's life. We thus must surmise that the events of this week were of great importance.

The first and second divisions of this chapter are similar in that they both begin with the call of God ("come up," vss. 1, 12). The first call includes Moses, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. The second call is for Moses alone. Both divisions end similarly, as well. The first division ends with a description of the revelation of God as seen by the elders. The last division ends with a description of the revelation of God as seen by the Israelites in the camp.

The Call to Worship and the Confirmation of the Covenant

- (2) We cannot possibly understand the message and the meaning of the Old Testament apart from an understanding of the old covenant, which is instituted here in Exodus 24.
- (3) We cannot understand the New Testament apart from an understanding of the Old, of which the Mosaic covenant is the key. Even a casual reading of the Book of Hebrews underscores the need to understand the old covenant and the Old Testament, if we are to grasp the work of Christ in bringing the new covenant. Understanding covenants is important to Christianity.

The ratification of the vows/covenant in the 24th chapter of Exodus is the key to the remainder of the Book of Exodus. When we come to the Book of Exodus, we find that the "human interest" accounts of the book are heavily outnumbered by the details bearing upon the design, the construction, and the inauguration of the tabernacle.

<sup>MK 1:9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

EPH 2: 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. <sup>2</sup> A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. <sup>3</sup> Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

HEB 9:6 When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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 standing. <sup>9</sup> 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 worshiper. <sup>10</sup> They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings--external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

HEB 9:11 When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. <sup>12</sup> 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, having obtained eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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!

HEB 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.