



Presence
Come Boldly To The Throne of Grace!

Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
NKJV

Hebrews was written to the Jews who believed upon Jesus. Because of the old covenant that God had made with the Jews, they had many beliefs that were difficult for them to change. In this passage and throughout the book of Hebrews, the problems they were having with their beliefs are addressed. For example....

- In the Old Covenant, the High Priest had to be from the tribe of Levi and had to be a descendant of Aaron.

In the New Covenant, the High Priest was from the tribe of Judah and was a descendant of David.

- In the Old Covenant, the High Priest had to offer sacrifices every day on behalf of his sins and the sins of the people.

In the New Covenant, the High Priest never sinned and offered himself once for the sins of the world.

- In the Old Covenant, the High Priest could only enter the Holy of Holies in the temple once a year and the people were never allowed to enter the Holy of Holies.

In the New Covenant, the High Priest never leaves the Holy of Holies in the heavenly temple and anyone can enter if they enter in His name.

In the beginning God created man in His own image. God placed man in an incredible environment called the garden of Eden. The most incredible thing about

the garden of Eden was that God and man walked together like friends in the garden.

After the fall of man into sin, God closed the garden of Eden to Adam and Eve. The judgement for sin was death and in the garden, there was a tree called the tree of life. Anyone who ate the fruit of that tree would never die.

Adam and Eve gained something because of their fall and they lost something. They gained death and they lost the personal presence of God. They could no longer walk with God as a friend walks with a friend.

God never lost His desire for mankind to know His presence and walk with Him. I am sure that it grieved Adam and Eve to lose the intimate relationship that they had with God but I know that it grieved God much more than it grieved them.

God created man in His image to reveal His glory. Man was created with the ability to know God and make God known in ways that were not possible for any other living thing.

But knowing God personally and making God known were dependent upon men knowing God's personal presence and walking with God. When men were cut off from the personal presence of God, they became a very distorted image of the glory of God.

- Man became selfish rather than loving.
- Man became perverted rather than being Holy.
- Man became deceived rather than knowing the truth.

For many years after the fall, men did not even seek the personal presence of God. It was like they were not even aware of what they had lost. They did not call upon God. The first mention of men calling upon the Lord is found in...

[Genesis 4:26](#)

[And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.](#)

[NKJV](#)

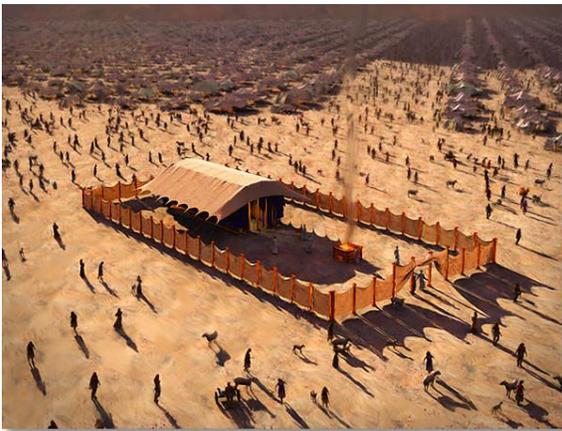
It does not say why men began to call on the Lord. I know it would not have happened without God moving in the heart of man to long for His presence.

A series of men from the descendants of Seth longed for the presence of God and called upon God amid a growing population of men that could care less. Man's desires were set upon evil and every man did what was right in his own eyes to satisfy his desires. There was no respect for life, property, or women and woman had no respect for themselves.

God decided to destroy mankind except for one man and his family. His name was Noah and Noah longed for God's presence.

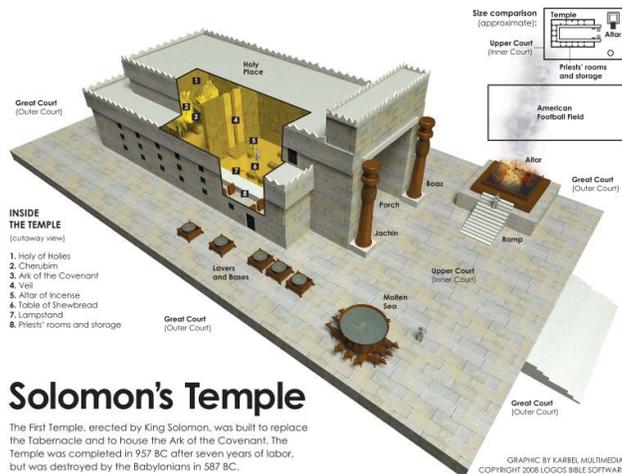
After God destroyed the rest of mankind with a great flood, through Noah and His descendants God established nations and gave man his first laws of government. But His plan for man never changed. He desired that mankind would reveal His glory. The only way for that to happen was for men to know His presence. And for men to know His presence God would somehow have to atone for the sins of mankind and remove the barrier that separated men from God.

His plan for atonement included the selection of one nation, the nation of Israel. God chose to manifest His presence in ways to Israel that would cause that nation to long for a personal relationship with Him. He chose Abraham to be the father of this nation. After the nation grew from one family to 12 tribes, God led the nation into slavery in Egypt so that they would learn to depend upon His presence. For 400 years, the population of the nation grew and then Moses led the nation of Israel out of slavery in Egypt through miraculous signs.



God then gave this nation His laws. God wanted the nation to have a place where they could go and personally meet with Him and hear His laws. God gave Moses instructions to build a portable tabernacle where the people could meet with God.

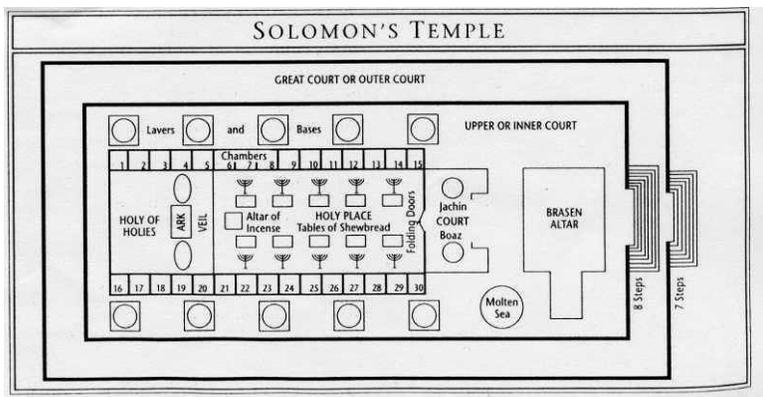
After the Jews inherited the land of Israel, the tabernacle of Moses was set up at a place called Shiloh. 3 times a year, God required the Jews to come to Shiloh to meet with Him and hear His laws.



Solomon's Temple

The First Temple, erected by King Solomon, was built to replace the Tabernacle and to house the Ark of the Covenant. The Temple was completed in 957 BC after seven years of labor, but was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC.

Then, many years later God gave King Solomon instructions to build a more permanent tabernacle for these meetings in the city of Jerusalem.



In the tabernacle of Moses and in the tabernacle of Solomon, there was a place called the Holy of Holies. The Holy of Holies was where God personally met with the High Priest of Israel. The Holy of Holies was separated from the rest of tabernacle by a veil.

But, the High Priest could only go behind the veil and enter the Holy of Holies in the temple once a year and the people were never allowed to enter the Holy of Holies and be in the personal presence of God.

In the fullness of time God sent His son Jesus to atone for the sins of mankind and create a way for all men to know His presence. When Jesus Christ died upon the cross, the veil in the tabernacle was torn from top to bottom. This signified that all men now have access into the personal presence of God through the blood of Jesus.

The author of Hebrews said this tabernacle on earth was just a copy or shadow of a heavenly tabernacle.

Hebrews 9:24

24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

NKJV

Paul said that Jesus is a perpetual high priest who is seated at the right hand of God in the Holy of Holies. He also said that anyone can enter the personal presence of God in the Holy of Holies if they enter in the name of Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-6

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...NKJV

What an incredible promise. Through Jesus, we can experience the personal presence of God. Because of His presence we can overcome. We do not have to be selfish. We can be loving. We do not have to be perverted. We can be Holy. We do not have to be deceived. We can know the truth. God is available to personally talk with us every day, every moment of every day. All we must do is turn to Him and say I need you.

You can tell Him about your problems and He will help you solve them. You can tell Him about your feelings and He will help you change how you feel. You can have the assurance that while other relationships will change in your life, your relationship with Him will never change. Because of Jesus, God is there in a personal way to provide the personal companionship that you so desperately need.

Now that we have this promise, what is our part?

Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

NKJV

Our part is to come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

When is our time of need?

The real question is, “when is there a time that is not our time of need?”

The word “help” comes from word that means a rope or chain for securing a boat.

One of the purposes of the book of Hebrews is to help believers avoid drifting away from God.

The word “come” means to approach; come near; visit; worship.

“Boldly” means out spoken; bluntness; frankly; freely; openly; with confidence.

If we are in Christ, we have nothing to fear in approaching God. His throne is the throne of grace. The apostle said we are not approaching a mountain that cannot be touched. We can speak to God as a friend speaks to a friend like Moses did.

Knowing that we are saved from divine judgment is an incredible promise. But it is critical that we understand that we are in constant need of God’s presence and His mercy and grace. We can only live victoriously over sin and over the devil when do our part and we practice living in His presence. Otherwise we will drift away.

God should be the very first person you speak to every morning. He should be the one you turn to throughout your day. He should be the last one you speak to at night before you sleep.

If you are not doing your part, it may be because you have not known this promise. Or it may be because you are very proud. Or you may have already drifted away and now you have a form of religion that has no power.

God’s power is only found in God’s presence!

Will you receive Jesus?

If you have received Jesus, will you repent and do your part?