



 **LifeGroups**
REACH • LEARN • LOVE

Four Offices: Priest

Priests are Servants of God

- Priests are servants of God and His people
- 1 Samuel 2:12–17, 22, 27–36; Leviticus 3:16; and Deuteronomy 18:1–5
- One of the first things God did after He rescued His people from Egypt was establish the priesthood (Exodus 28:1).
- He gave them sacred garments to wear, including a breastplate bearing stones engraved with the names of the 12 tribes, so the high priest bore the names of Israel before the Lord when he went into the Holy Place as a representative of the people (Exodus 28:12,29).

THE Anatomy of

JEWISH HIGH PRIEST

ISRAEL, 605 BCE – 70 CE



THE GOLDEN CROWN

Placed over the high priest's fine linen mitre and extending towards both ears, the priestly crown was a pure golden head plate engraved with the words "Holiness to the Lord", held in place by two tied blue straps. By wearing it, the high priest would atone for the sin of arrogance on behalf of the children of Israel and show his intellectual devotion to God.

PRIESTLY BREASTPLATE

A rectangular breastplate containing 12 precious stones across four rows was worn across the heart. The fabric itself was made from gold, fine twisted linen and yarns dyed tekhelet, purple and scarlet. There was a fold within which the Urim and Thummim (literally translated as "lights and perfections") were placed. It's not known exactly what these two objects were but they were a way of receiving revelation from God.

IMPORTANT GEMSTONES

The stones on the breastplate were a ruby, emerald and topaz on the top row; a carbuncle, sapphire and quartz crystal on the second; a jacinth, agate and amethyst on the third; and a chrysolite, onyx and opal on the bottom. Each represented one of the 12 tribes of Israel, with their names engraved on the stones.

FINE LINEN TUNIC

The garment that would touch the high-priest's body was known as the priestly tunic and was made of pure linen. The white material would reach the neck and it would be visible under the robe of the ephod as sleeves and a section at the feet. Priests would also wear the tunic but only the high priest's version would be embroidered - except on the Day of Atonement, when it would be plain.

THE EPHOD

The breastplate would sit upon an equally elaborate apron-like garment called an ephod. There is an ongoing debate about what exactly it was but *The Bible* describes it as being made of the same material as the breastplate. It had two shoulder pieces containing golden rings that would affix to the breastplate, with the ephod held together by a girdle fastened at the front.

ROBE OF THE EPHOD

The high priest would wear a robe underneath the ephod - it was sky-blue in colour in reference to heaven. As well a woven collar, the bottom of the garment had tiny bells made of pure gold and pomegranate-shaped tassels in blue, purple and scarlet. The bells would be heard when the high priest was ministering.

BARE FEET

The entire ensemble symbolises atonement for the sin of bloodshed on the part of the children of Israel, except for the underwear, which was purely for modesty and contained no openings. A high priest's feet would be bare, however, allowing them to touch the ground of God. Claims that a rope would be tied to the high priest's ankle so that his body could be pulled out should he be killed by God in the Holy of Holies are not thought to be true.

Priests are Servants of God

- The ephod also included the Urim and Thummim, stones the high priest could use to inquire of the Lord for the people (28:30).
- Priests were consecrated with a unique recipe of anointing oil and sprinkled with sacrificial blood and set apart as sacred to the Lord to minister in the tabernacle (Exodus 29:1–21; 30:22–38).
- The priests did all the work related to the sacrifices in the tabernacle.
- The Levites performed other non-priestly duties and assisted with the burnt offering on special occasions (1 Chronicles 23:28–32).

Priests are Servants of God

- The Gibeonites collected water and cut wood for the altar but did not actually serve in the tabernacle (Joshua 9:27).
- The people slaughtered the sacrificial animals they brought, but the priests drained the blood and sprinkled the blood on the altar and / or the curtain.
- Afterward, the person making the offering cut the animal into pieces, and the priests arranged the pieces on the altar and burned the offering (Leviticus 1:1–9).

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- They also burned the incense and kept the candles burning in the Holy Place.
- The high priest performed the ritual of the Day of Atonement once a year, offering a sacrifice and making atonement with blood in the Most Holy Place and releasing the scapegoat into the wilderness (Leviticus 16).
- The priests were also charged with distinguishing between what was clean and unclean and what was holy and common (Leviticus 10:10).
- They examined skin diseases to determine whether they were leprosy, quarantined the person, and then checked again.

Priests are Servants of God

- If a leprous person claimed to have been healed, the priests examined the person to verify (Leviticus 13–14).
- They also examined mold in houses to determine if it was “leprous” or “unclean” and needed to be destroyed (Leviticus 14:33–56).
- The priests were also responsible for teaching the people the Law (Leviticus 10:11).
- For doing all of this, the priests received a portion of the sacrifices that were not completely burned up to the Lord.

Priests are Servants of God

- This portion of the sacrifices (grain, wine, oil, meat) was God's provision for the priests and Levites, who did not have their own land on which to grow crops or keep flocks (Deuteronomy 18:1–5).
- In 1 Samuel, Eli's sons weren't wrong to expect a portion of the offerings, but only specific portions – the shoulder, cheeks and stomach – were allotted for the priests to share among themselves.
- But Eli's sons were just taking what they wanted out of the pot.

Priests are Servants of God

- And they were demanding meat before it was boiled, before the fat had even been burned.
- This was especially egregious because all fat belonged to the Lord and was to be burned completely on the altar (Leviticus 3:14–16).
- They were taking God's portion.
- It was against God's law for any Israelite to eat the fat or blood of an animal because fat belonged to the Lord, and the blood was the "life" of an animal (Leviticus 7:25; 17:11–14).

Priests are Servants of God

- Through an unnamed prophet, God told Eli He would cut off his family from the priesthood and raise up a faithful priest who would do what was in God's heart.
- This promise was both about Samuel being a faithful priest in the immediate future and Jesus' being the ultimate High Priest eternally (Hebrews 7:23–25).
- Unlike Eli's sons, Jesus was a true servant of God the Father and people. He is called the Suffering Servant who came not to be served but to serve, even to give His life for us (Isaiah 53; Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2:1–8).

Jesus is the Eternal High Priest

- Jesus is both the eternal High Priest and the once-for-all sacrifice
- Hebrews 9:1–28 and 1 Peter 1:13–19 and Leviticus 17:11
- In every animal sacrifice in the Old Testament, the priest drained the blood out of the animal first. What they did with the blood varied depending on the type of sacrifice.
- For the peace offering and burnt offering, they threw some of the blood against the sides of the altar at the entrance of the tabernacle (Leviticus 1:5; 3:2). Neither of these offerings was for atonement of sin.

Jesus is the Eternal High Priest

- Two offerings made atonement for sin, the guilt (or reparation) offering and the sin (or purification) offering.
- The guilt offering involved making reparation by full repayment plus one fifth (Leviticus 6:5).
- The priest threw the blood of the animal against the sides of the altar (Leviticus 7:2).
- For the sin offering, the priest sprinkled the blood in different places, depending on who committed the sin.

Jesus is the Eternal High Priest

- If it were a common person or a leader of the people, some blood was put on the horns of the altar at the entrance to the tabernacle and the rest was poured out at the base (4:25, 30).
- If it were the sin of the whole congregation or the high priest, some blood was sprinkled seven times before the curtain of the Holy of Holies, some on the horns of the incense altar inside the tabernacle, then on the horns of the altar, and the rest poured out at the base (Leviticus 4:5–7,16–18).

Jesus is the Eternal High Priest

- Once a year, on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) the high priest entered the Holy of Holies and sprinkled the blood of his sin offering on the mercy seat upon the Ark of the Covenant seven times and the blood of the people's sin offering over all the horns of the altar and sprinkled on it seven times (Leviticus 16:14–19).
- This was to purify the tabernacle and the altar from the uncleanness their sins brought upon it (Leviticus 16:15-20).

Jesus is the Eternal High Priest

- When a person had been healed from leprosy, he was to offer both a sin offering and a guilt offering.
- The priest took some of the blood of the guilt offering and put it on the person who has been healed – on their right earlobe, right thumb and right big toe (Leviticus 14:14).
- Moses did the same with the blood from the ram of ordination for Aaron and his sons when he anointed them as priests, but it wasn't a guilt offering; it was a special offering just for ordination (Leviticus 8:24).



Show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded.

Jesus is the Eternal High Priest

- Why blood rather than water?
- It is all about purifying and making atonement for sin (Leviticus 16:33).
- The word “make atonement” literally means “to cover.”
- Sin can't just be washed away as dirt is; it must be atoned for.
- Leviticus tells us that atonement for sin requires blood because the “life” of an animal is in its blood (Leviticus 17:11).

Jesus is the Eternal High Priest

- Hebrew word is more literally “soul” or “self” or “living being.”
- It’s a different word than “inner person,” which is usually translated to “heart” in English.
- It’s the word used at creation when God breathed into the dust and “the man became a living creature” (Genesis 2:7).
- It’s about life and death. Because the wages of sin is death, sin requires life to atone for it (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:22).

Jesus is the Eternal High Priest

- Hebrews tells us that the priests had to keep making offerings over and over, day after day, year after year.
- The blood of animals wasn't sufficient to cover sin permanently.
- But the precious blood of Christ was able to cover all the sin of all people in every time and place once for all (Hebrews 9:12).
- The Holy Place Jesus entered wasn't the earthly tabernacle; it was heaven itself (Hebrews 9:12,23).

Jesus is the Eternal High Priest

- He was both the High Priest who came into the heavenly tabernacle to spread the blood and the sacrifice that was made – He used His own blood (Hebrews 9:26).
- Because He is the only perfect human to have ever lived, spotless, just as sacrificial animals had to be, and because He willingly offered Himself instead of an animal that had no choice in the matter.
- His blood is priceless and sufficient to cover all sin for all people forever (Hebrews 9:25–28).

Jesus is the Priest of a Better Covenant

- Jesus is the mediator / priest of a better covenant
- Hebrews 4:14–16; 7:11–28; and Genesis 14:17–24
- Hebrews describes Jesus as our permanent High Priest, the ultimate mediator between us and God, who can save all those who draw near to God through Him (Hebrew 7:25).
- Yet Jesus was not a “priest” in the traditional sense, according to the law. He was not from the tribe of Levi; He was from the tribe of Judah, a descendent of David, the kingly tribe, not the priestly tribe.

Jesus is the Priest of a Better Covenant

- God promised Eli that He would take the priesthood away from Eli's family and give it eternally to another faithful priest (1 Samuel 2:35).
- Also, the writer of Hebrews called Jesus a priest "according to the order of Melchizedek" instead of the order of Levi.
- Melchizedek is a fascinating, somewhat mysterious character in the book of Genesis.
- He was the king of Salem, which would later become Jeru-salem, the city of David.

Jesus is the Priest of a Better Covenant

- But he was also a “priest of God Most High,” Abraham’s God (Genesis 14:18). He was outside of the covenant family of Abraham.
- Melchizedek acted as both a priest and a king, filling at least two of the four leadership roles we are studying
- What is significant about Melchizedek is that he gave the writer of Hebrews an Old Testament model to connect to Jesus as priest.
- Jesus’ priesthood is both eternal and superior to that of the Levitical priesthood.

Jesus is the Priest of a Better Covenant

- Jesus can continually intercede for us before the Father because He lives forever (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25).
- As the only perfect person who has ever lived – “holy, innocent and unstained” – Jesus is our ultimate eternal High Priest.
- The Levitical high priests all had to offer sacrifices for their own sin too, but Jesus was sinless.
- Jesus is the perfect High Priest.

Jesus is the Priest of a Better Covenant

- But Christ's being mediator for us isn't just about that one-time sacrifice of His life.
- Hebrews says He continually intercedes for us before the Father.
- Because He knows what it is like to be human, to be us, we can draw near to the throne of grace with confidence.
- We can come before Him with all our worries, doubts and struggles and receive mercy and grace and help in time of need (Hebrews 4:14–16).

Jesus is the Priest of a Better Covenant

- We do not have a God who is far away, but one who is near to the brokenhearted and longs for us to come to Him (Psalm 34:18; Isaiah 30:18).
- He cares deeply for us and cares about even the little things we bring to Him (Matthew 7:7–11; 10:29–31).
- Because of Jesus, the veil was torn and access to the Father was blown wide open (Hebrews 10:19-22).
- As sinful people cleansed by His blood, we can approach God's holy presence with confidence (Psalm 24:3–4).

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תערוכת המקדש החדשה



תערוכת כלי המקדש
החדשה
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החדשה











Incense Chalice הבזיק לקטורת



The *Golden Incense Chalice* is filled each morning and afternoon with half a portion of the prescribed incense components, after which it is brought by the *kohen* into the *Kodesh Sanctuary* where he pours the contents into his hands and then pours from his hands onto the *Golden Incense Altar*, which stands directly in front of the *Parochet*, which separates the *Kodesh* from the *Kodesh HaKodeshim* - the *Holy of Holies*.



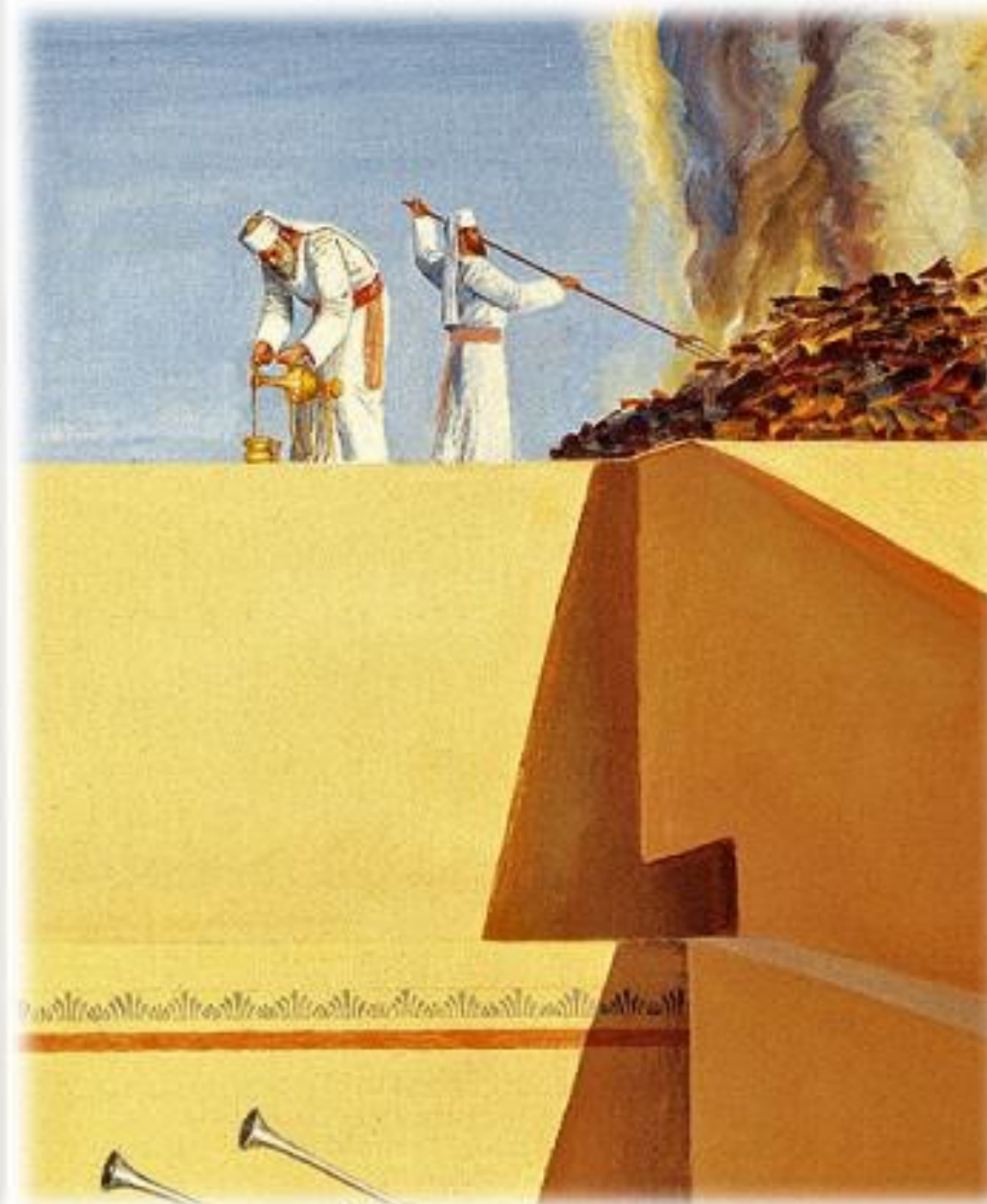
Each Temple vessel restored by the Temple Institute is kosher for use in the soon to be rebuilt Third Temple, made according to the exact requirements and specifications of Biblical law. Please donate generously to help the sacred work of the Temple Institute! Every contribution helps to rebuild the Holy Temple in our Time!

Wine Libation Cup

ספל לניסוך היין



The wine libation cup, (ספל לניסוך היין), is placed at the southwestern corner of the altar. This vessel receives the wine being poured from the wine libation flask. It contains a small spout through which the wine trickles down the side of the altar. In the illustration a *kohen* can be seen offering the wine libation while a second *kohen* is tending to the altar fire.



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Golden Table
of the Showbread
שולחן לחם הפנים



The **Golden Showbread Table** stands along the northern wall of the **Kodesh Sanctuary**. The table contains twelve shelves which hold twelve loaves of bread. Once a week, on *Shabbat*, two *kohanim* enter the **Kodesh** and replace the twelve loaves of **Showbread** with twelve new loaves. At the same time two other *kohanim* enter carrying two censors of frankincense to replace the two censors currently resting of the **Showbread Table**. As the Torah instructs in Exodus 25:23-30, the table is made of wood, covered with gold.



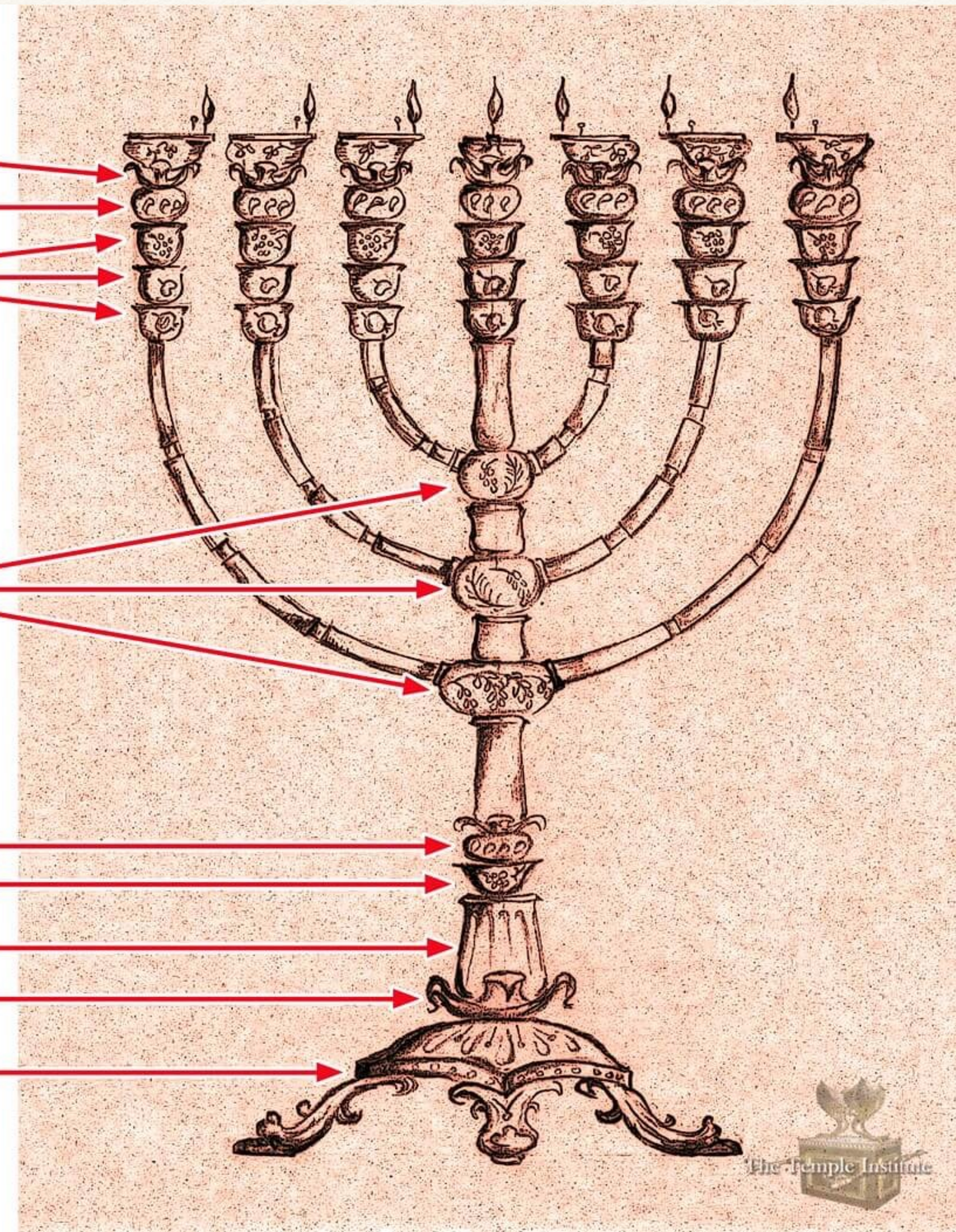
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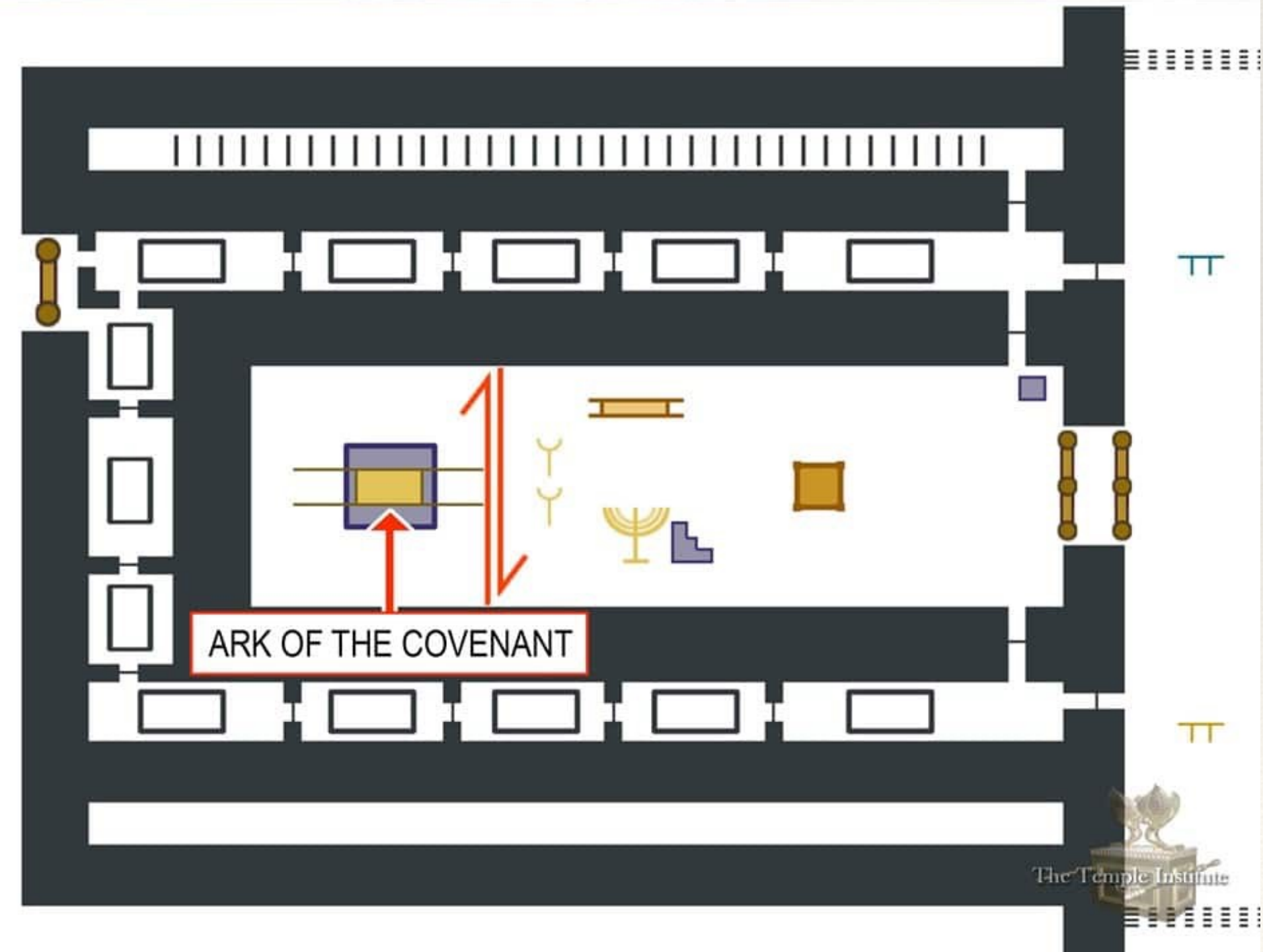


FLOWER
KNOB
3 CUPS

3 KNOBS

FLOWER
KNOB
CUP
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THE TEMPLE INSTITUTE

BRINGING THE HOLY TEMPLE TO LIFE EVERY DAY!



Matt on Instagram asked,

"Will we see the
rebuilding of the
temple before
the Rapture?"



Q&A