

GREAT HIGH PRIEST

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Genesis 3:23-24 ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

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Genesis 4:3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground

Genesis 8:20-21 ²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma

Job 1:5 when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly.

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- Also called priest: Jethro
- **Exodus 3:1** Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian.
- **Numbers 10:29** Now Moses said to Hobab the son of Reuel the Midianite, Moses' father-in-law...

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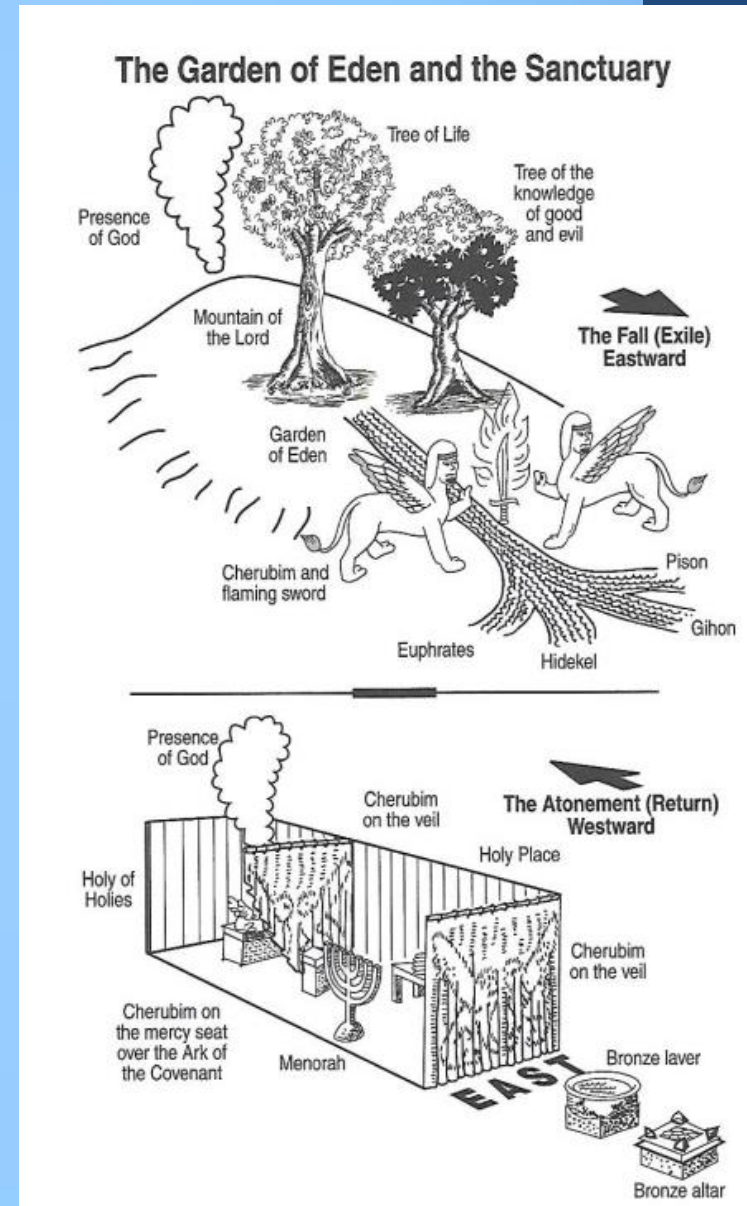
- Awareness of need:
- Job 16:21: I need someone to mediate between God and me, as a person mediates between friends.

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- Before time began:
- **1 Peter 1:19** with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

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- “The arrangement of the Garden of Eden’s landscape corresponds to that of the Tabernacle and Temple with its furniture. Eastward movement out of the garden is away from God’s presence; westward movement through the sanctuary is a return toward God. On the day of atonement the high priest reverses the people’s spiritual exile from God and restores them to a relationship with God through a blood sacrifice for sin.”
R. Price, Temple and Prophecy



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- **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.

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 - Emphasizes the immeasurable superiority of Jesus' priesthood.
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 - **Hebrews 7:25** Therefore He is always able to save those who come to God through Him

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- Jesus has: **PASSED THROUGH THE HEAVENS**

Just as the Aaronic high priest went through the veil into the earthly Most Holy Place, so Christ has entered into the very presence of God in heaven itself. 'Who has gone through' translates a Greek perfect participle and signifies the continuing validity of Christ's having entered God's presence. The access to the Father that He has obtained is a present and a continuing reality for His people. Cockerill, NICOT Commentary on Hebrews

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- **Matthew 27:50-51** And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.
- **Mark 15:37-38** And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.
- **Luke 23:45-46** Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.' " Having said this, He breathed His last.

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- Jesus: SYMPATHIZES WITH OUR WEAKNESS
 - He has been tempted in every way
 - He alone is without sin.
 - He actively gives us assistance in our time of need.

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Jesus: GIVES ACCESS TO THRONE OF GRACE

- Under the Old Covenant none could approach God's "throne," the Ark of the Covenant in the Most Holy Place, except for the high priest, and he but one day in the year. This annual approach was with great fear because God's throne was the place of judgment against sin.
- Now, however, God's people are urged to draw near to the true heavenly "throne" of God with confidence because their High Priest has made that throne a throne of grace, a true mercy seat, for those who approach God through Him.

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Hebrews 4:14:

Because we have a Great High Priest

(therefore) let us hold fast our confession.

Hebrews 4:15-16:

Because we also have a fully sympathetic High Priest...

therefore let us come with confidence to find help
in time of need.