



# THE DARKEST DAY



Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying,





“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” 47 And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said,





“This man is calling Elijah.” 48 And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink.





49 But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” 50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.





51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two,  
from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks  
were split.





52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised,





53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they  
went into the holy city and appeared to many. 54 When  
the centurion and those who were with him,





keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!” Matthew 27:45-54





...It was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to  
suffer... Isaiah 53:10





“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Matthew  
27:46





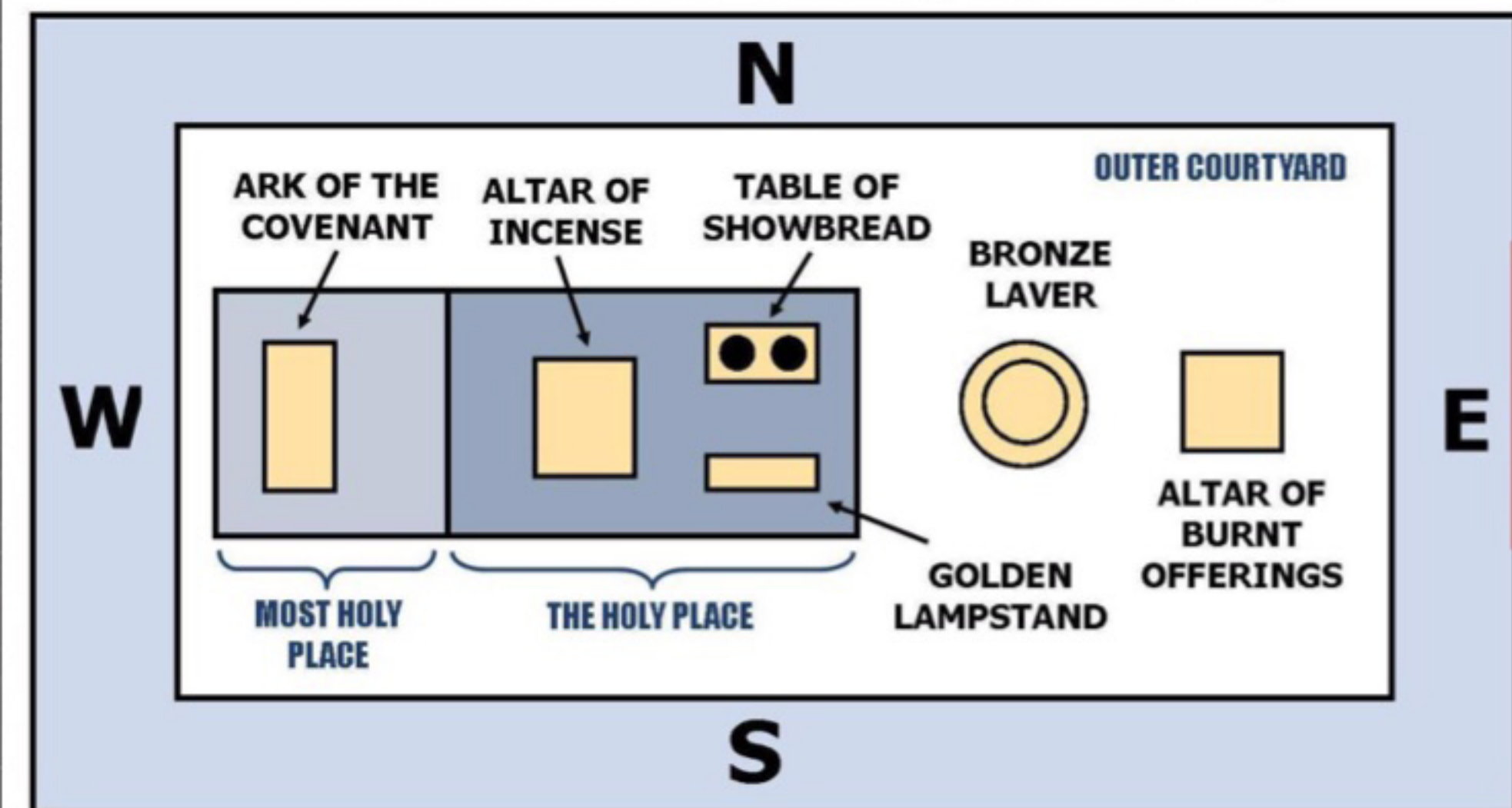
And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two,  
from top to bottom. Matthew 27:51







THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES (EXODUS 35-40)





Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain,





that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great  
priest over the house of God... Hebrews 10:19-21





...Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of  
faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil  
conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.





23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without  
wavering, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews  
10:22,23







# THE DARKEST DAY



- Dig a hole in your backyard while it is raining.
- Sit in the hole while the water climbs up around your ankles.





- Pour cold mud down your shirt collar.





- Sit there for 48 hours.
- Imagine that a guy is sneaking around waiting for a chance to club you on the head.





- Get out of the hole, fill a suitcase full of rocks and pick it up.





- Put a shotgun in your other hand and walk on the muddiest road you can find.





- Fall flat on your face every few minutes, as you imagine meteors streaking down beside you.





- Repeat every three days, for several months.





If you do this... “You may begin to understand why an infantryman gets out of breath. But you still won't understand how he feels when things get tough.”







# THE DARKEST DAY



Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Matthew 16:24





1) Deny ourselves.





2) Take up our cross.





...Husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ  
loved the church. He gave up his life for her... Ephesians  
5:25





3) Follow Him.





“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” Matthew 16:25







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