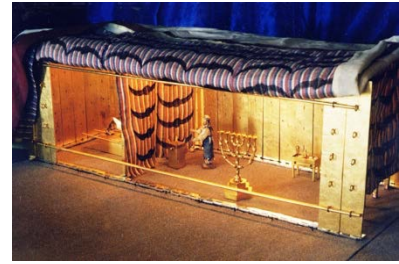


Looking at New Church Sanctuaries



The Lord told Moses to make a sanctuary—the Tabernacle—so that He could dwell with the children of Israel. The Tabernacle had an inner room called the Holy of Holies where the Ten Commandments were kept in the Ark with the cherubim above. The Holy Place held the altar of incense, the lampstand and the table of showbread. The Outer Court had a laver for ceremonial washing and the altar of burnt sacrifice. Every part of the Tabernacle (and how it was used) has a special symbolism. If we compare our church buildings and worship services to the design of the Tabernacle, we may find some interesting similarities and differences.



Here are some pictures showing the interior of several church buildings. The front part of the church is the chancel which includes the pulpit, the lectern, and the altar. The sanctuary refers to the area closest to the altar. The “nave” is the area between the entrance and the chancel. It is where the congregation sits looking toward the Word. How do these parts of a church compare to the areas of the Tabernacle—the Holy of Holies, the Holy Place, and the Outer Court?

As you look at the pictures on the following pages, see if you can find aspects of these chancels that are similar to parts of the Tabernacle.

- What is the most important focal point of the chancel?
- Where is the Word of the Lord kept?
- Is there any sort of curtain or other covering that separates or protects the Word when the church is not being used for worship?
- Is there anything comparable to the lampstand?
- Is there anything comparable to the table of shewbread?
- Is there anything comparable to the altar of incense?

Do you notice any additional decorative elements (of nature or art)? If so, think about the symbolism of the additional elements. Why do you think these were chosen for the chancel of that church?

Looking at New Church Sanctuaries



The New Church Society in Stockholm
(Stockholm, Sweden)

Looking at New Church Sanctuaries



The Fatima New Church in Brazil
(Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

Looking at New Church Sanctuaries



The New Church Buccleuch
(Buccleuch, South Africa)

Looking at New Church Sanctuaries



Carmel New Church
(Caryndale, Canada)

Looking at New Church Sanctuaries



Washington New Church
(Mitchellville, Maryland, USA)

Looking at New Church Sanctuaries



Hurstville New Church
(Hurstville, Australia)

Looking at New Church Sanctuaries



New Church Etora
(Etora, Kenya)