



*Let Them Make Me A Sanctuary  
That I May Dwell Among Them (Exodus 25:8)*

1. **The Sheep's Gate:** A narrow door that was used as the sole entrance to the Outer Court of the Sanctuary. The Gate was made from finely woven material and embroidered with the colors Blue, Red, White, and Purple. These colors were symbolic of the following:
  - a. Red – Blood (life/sacrifice) which cleanses us of sin (Hebrews 9:22)
  - b. Blue – Obedience
  - c. White – Righteousness, Purity & Holiness (Revelation 19:8)
  - d. Purple – Royalty (Judges 8:26; Esther 8:15; Mark 15:16-18)

Christ counsels us to “enter through the straight gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matt 7:13, 14; Luke 13:24). Therefore Jesus alone is the straight gate unto salvation (John 14:6).

2. **The Outer Court:** also called the tabernacle of the congregation, it represents the earth [and all of its hosts] and was constructed of white woven linen supported by pillars (Exodus 38:9-20). The white linen symbolized Christ's purity/holiness surrounding the entire sanctuary and tabernacle. The Outer Court was to be erected and oriented so that all who loved the Lord God of heaven, Creator of heaven and earth should worship facing westward, as opposed to the abominations of the pagans who worship [the sun] towards the east (Ezekiel 8:15-17).
3. **Altar of Burnt Offering:** was the first structure encountered when entering the sanctuary from the Sheep's Gate (Exodus 27:1-8; 38:1-7). It is upon this altar that the remains of the sacrificial animal were burned once killed by the priest. (Leviticus 1:17) Every animal sacrificed symbolized Jesus Christ and His substitutionary death on behalf of mankind. Only clean animals without spot or blemish were permitted to be used in symbolizing the holy, pure, and sinless Son of God. Further, the priests ate a portion of the sacrificed and roasted animals, symbolizing their bearing/internalizing the sins of the people corporately. Once the animal's blood had been shed for the sins of the penitent sinner, the person stood justified by faith through grace (Romans 3:23-26), surrounded by Christ's righteousness in the Outer Court. The blood of the animal was poured upon the ground, symbolizing the shedding of innocent blood, just as with the innocent blood shed of Abel and Jesus (Genesis 4:10; Luke 23:14, 15, 21, 22; Matthew 23:35, 27:11-25; John 18:28-19:16; Heb 12:24; Rev 6:9-11); while a small portion was collected to be applied in the sanctuary. The blood on the ground defiles the ground (Numbers 35:33, 34), and cries out for “justice” for which Jesus, the Lamb of God, would be the propitiation.
4. **Lavar:** Latin for “to wash” the lavar was a brass basin (Exodus 38:8) placed before the entrance of the door of the tabernacle for the priest to wash his hands and feet before entering the hollowed tabernacle. The washing was symbolic of sanctification through baptism, which itself symbolically cleanses us of past sin and prepares us for ministry (Matthew 3:13-17; Romans 6:1-14). Washing and purification was required of the priests both then and now (we are God's Royal Priesthood) before service in the tabernacle (Exodus 30:17-21; John 3:5).
5. **The Door of the Tabernacle:** The door of the tabernacle was made from the same material as the Sheep's Gate. Jesus is the Door to our salvation which He alone can open and no man can shut, and close and no man can open (Genesis 7:16; Revelation 3:8)
6. **Table of Showbread:** A table made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold that bore twelve loaves of “*the bread of the presence*” of God, sprinkled with frankincense, symbolizing the Father and Son (Exodus 25:23-30; 37:10-16). The placement of the table towards the north and the two columns of 6 loaves of bread symbolize the seat of God's authority, the two thrones where the Father and Son, Jesus Christ, who declares: “I am the bread of life...” sit together (John 6:25-40; Isaiah 14:13, 14, 41:25; Psalm 48:2; Hebrews 8:1)

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7. **Gold Lampstand** (Menorah): Ornamental lamp stand made of hammered gold (Exodus 25:31-40). The light from the lamp stand represented Jesus Christ, the Light of the World: “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12) as well as the Holy Spirit (Revelation 4:5). The light from the lamp, fuelled by pure olive oil, was to be kept burning continually through the services of the priests. Similarly, we Christians, who are a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9) are to let our lights shine by the pure oil of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 25:1-13) so that others may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (Matt 5:14-16).
8. **Altar of Incense**: a table made from acacia wood and overlaid with gold that contained a receptacle for burning incense of sweet spices (Exodus 30:1-10; 37:25-29). The High Priest was to burn the incense daily and the smell and smoke from the incense represented the prayers of the saints, a sweet smelling aroma to God, masking the stench of sin born in the blood which daily defiled the Holy Place, the altar, and the tabernacle of the congregation (Revelation 8:3, 4). A censer is used to transport the burning coals from the altar to within the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement, so that a cloud of smoke emanating from the burning incense may veil the Mercy Seat of the Lord, lest the priest die from the presence of God’s glory (Leviticus 16:12, 13). The incense and its formulation were sacred to God and the ministry in the sanctuary and were not to be replicated in all of Israel (Exodus 30:34-38).
9. **The Veil**: The thick veil of finely woven linen with blue, purple, and scarlet thread separated the two compartments of the Tabernacle, the Holy and Most Holy Place (Exodus 26:31-33). The veil protected the High Priest from instant death because it concealed the holiness and presence of God. Daily, the veil would be “contaminated” with the sins of the people by the sprinkling of blood, shed for sin. Christ in a literal sense, veiled His own divinity with humanity (Philippians 2:5-11) in order to become the atonement and High Priest of the human race. Christ bore our sins to the cross where he was rent for the entire human race. The rending of the veil of the earthly sanctuary at Christ’s death on the cross was symbolic of the consummation of the ceremonial system under the Law of Moses. The shadows and types of the earthly sanctuary were to be shortly replaced with Christ’s ministry as High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary, not made with man’s hands (Hebrews 9:1-15)
10. **The Ark of the Covenant**: A golden chest made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold. The ark bore the tablets of the covenant (10 Commandments), a golden pot of manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded (Hebrews 9:4). Above the Ark of the Covenant was placed a cover called the **Mercy Seat** (Exodus 25:10-22). Made completely of fine gold, the mercy seat bore the image of two cherub angels representing two Covering Cherubs and the host of angels that stand in the presence of God (Ezekiel 28:12-14; Isaiah 14:12-15; Luke 1:19), bearing witness to God’s Plan of Redemption. The height of the ark and mercy seat were exactly the same height as the Altar of Burnt Offering in the Outer Court, signifying God’s justice being on par with His mercy. However, that the Mercy Seat sits atop of the Ark of the Covenant which bears the commandments, reveals that God’s mercy triumphs over judgment (James 2:13; Micah 7:18-20). Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, God would appear between the Cherubim on the Mercy Seat (Numbers 7:89) to judge the Nation of Israel. The High Priest, prefiguring Jesus Christ as our High Priest, would bear the sins of the people upon himself and make intercession for himself and the Nation of Israel. The miraculous cleansing of the sanctuary occurred when all traces of the sins of the people were blotted away by the blood of the Lord’s goat and bull, prefiguring the atonement through the shed blood of Christ. Jesus Christ, the true Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world fulfilled the shedding of the Lord’s goat’s blood on the cross of Calvary. Jesus began His work as High Priest, ministering daily in the first apartment of the tabernacle in heaven with His own blood after His ascension. The antitypical Day of Atonement, however, commenced in 1844 when the sanctuary in heaven was opened to reveal the Ark of the Covenant in the Holiest of Holies (Revelation 11:19) and Christ began His work in the 2<sup>nd</sup> apartment of the tabernacle made without man’s hands (Hebrews 9:6-15; Revelation 11:19). Christ’s final work being done today as High Priest is the blotting out of sins (cleansing of the sanctuary) for the redeemed in the books of record, while judging the fate of the wicked.



## Life More Abundant Bible Study

# Bible Prophecy: the Earthly Sanctuary – a Shadow of things to Come

*“Thy way, O God, [is] in the sanctuary: who [is so] great a God as [our] God? (Psalm 77:13)*

*Lesson Theme: God chose the former earthly sanctuary, a symbol and replica of the heavenly sanctuary, to dwell among us. The earthly sanctuary and its services were types and symbols of the things done in heaven on behalf of mankind. Christ now “sits” as our High Priest, performing all the duties of the anointed office by virtue of His own blood sacrifice. The heavenly sanctuary serves as the control center for the Plan of Redemption and is therefore doctrinally a crucial point of attack for the enemy who seeks to becloud it with mystery and misunderstanding (Hebrews 7, 8).*

How do we know that the earthly sanctuary is a shadow of that which is in heaven, created by God?

- God spoke to Moses and told him to make the tabernacle and its contents according to the visions given him of the heavenly sanctuary. (Exodus 25:8, 9; Heb 8:5)
- God erected the heavenly sanctuary, and not man (Heb 8:2)

Consider a shadow is created from the lights reflection upon an actual object. Therefore, what was significant of the earthly sanctuary as a place for God to dwell, relative to the actual heavenly sanctuary?

- The earthly sanctuary foreshadowed the presence of God in our midst continually
- Christ intends for us all to dwell in His presence eternally as he has promised. (John 14:1-3)

Since there no longer remains an earthly sanctuary structure for the presence of God to dwell, where does God choose to abide? In truth, this is where God sought to abide before the building of the now defunct sanctuary.

- The bible states: “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” 1 Corinthians 3:16
- God seeks to take up residence in our hearts and mind

Of what were the daily and yearly ceremonies of the earthly sanctuary symbolic? Why were they performed so frequently? What did they accomplish?

- The sacrifices merely pointed to that which Christ would do for mankind. They were acts of faithful worship that were counted as righteousness by grace (if performed in sincerity) until the anti-type was fulfilled in Christ. (Heb 10:5-7)
- They needed to be performed daily/monthly/annually as a reminder of the heinousness of sin. (Heb 10:3)
- The sacrifices of animals were not sufficient to take away sin from mankind. Only the death of the human race would satisfy the requirements of the Law. Therefore, Christ who was fully God and also fully man fulfilled the righteous requirements of the law. As the Second Adam, Christ paid the penalty for sin on behalf of the human race. All who choose to align themselves with Christ, the Second Adam, will receive

the benefits of His works of Atonement credited to them. (Romans 5:15-19; 1 Cor 15:45; Heb 10:4)

What did Christ accomplish at the cross?

- Vindication of God's character and the eternal law of God. God was shown to be the God of love He truly is (John 3:16; 1 John 3:1; 2 Cor 5:19). Jesus proved that God's law was holy, just, and good (Romans 7:12), and could be kept by men. In contrast, Satan's character was fully revealed and his fate was sealed. (John 8:44; Rev 12:9; 1 Peter 5:8)
- Justice and mercy kissed at the Cross (Psalm 85:10). The death of humanity as required by the law was satisfied and provision for man's salvation was completed. (Romans 8:1; 1 Cor 15:22; Galatians 3:13)
- Mankind was redeemed from the curse of the Law and offered the gift of salvation. (Rom 5:6, 8:1-3, 6:23; 2 Cor 9:15)
- Reconciliation of heaven & earth in Himself. (Eph 1:10, 2 Cor 5:19)

What aspects of Christ's Ministry still remained to be completed *immediately after* the cross?

- Christ purifying and dedicating the heavenly sanctuary with His own blood (Heb 9:16-23) for His own ministerial role as our High Priest.
- Christ entering the Holy Place with His own blood to make intercession for mankind. (Heb 9:11-13)
- Christ's work as our High Priest during the anti-typical Day of Atonement, to stand in our place in judgment; imparting his righteousness on us and blotting out our sins permanently. (Zech 3:1-5; Heb 7:25-27)

What were some of the tasks of the High Priest in Ancient Israel and that Christ now performs on our behalf?

- The High Priest was the only one able to stand before the presence of God in the Most Holy Place
- The High Priest represented the entire nation of Israel and officiated over the nation's offerings and gifts, presented for the atonement of sin.
- The High Priest made intercession for the people's sins and stood as Mediator
- The High Priest bore upon himself the sins of the people that have contaminated the sanctuary (Exodus 32:31, 32), and made reconciliation for the sanctuary, the tabernacle of meeting, and the people.
- The High Priest pronounces sins upon the scapegoat (Satan) and banishes the scapegoat to the wilderness to die. (Rev 20:1-3)

What is the danger in thinking that God's plan of redemption was *fully completed* at the Cross?

- Does not address God's plan for cleansing, purifying, and eradicating sin from our earthly temples, namely, our bodies.
- Does not address God's plan for cleansing, purifying, and eradicating sin from the universe.
- Omits the need for an intercessor (High Priest) for pleading our case in judgment.

Why has the enemy waged an attack on Christ's ministry in the sanctuary? What truths has he attempted to thwart, conceal or pervert?

- Christ as our Mediator, and Reconciler before God. Christ pleads for our sins so that we can approach His throne with boldness (Hebrews 10:19-22). Many wrongly feel they must "become right" on their own before they can ever seek God's presence.

***Life More Abundant*** - Daniel Chapter 7C Study

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- The enemy rejoices with man’s perception of God as a harsh and exacting God. The ministry of the sanctuary shows God’s desire to *save* rather than punish all of mankind.
- The sanctuary ministry is a cornerstone for identifying with other fundamental bible beliefs including but not limited to:
  1. The unconscious state of the dead (what happens after one dies if the cross was the end of the plan of redemption for Christ)
  2. The Sabbath (ten commandments secured in the Ark of the Covenant); the Seal of God.
  3. The Trinity and the Divinity of Christ
  4. The universal judgment of God
  5. The immutability of God’s Law (the curse of the Law needed to be fulfilled and God was willing to die so that the requirements of the Law would be fulfilled)
  6. The fruit of the Spirit
  7. The Atonement
  8. The unity of the Church
  9. Righteousness by faith – the redeemed victory over sin through Christ
  10. Dress Reform (must bear Christ’s righteousness and have His garments)
  11. Health Reform (eat nothing that defiles - only clean meats were permitted in the service)

Who today abides within the heavenly sanctuary/temple? What visions of inhabitants are seen in the end-time prophecies of Revelations?

- The God Head (Father – Isaiah 6:1; Son/Lamb – Rev 5:6; Holy Spirit – Rev 1:4; 3:1)
- Four Living Creatures & Elders (those redeemed of men)
- The ministering angels that fly before Him singing Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts (Isaiah 6:3)

What will be the fate of the heavenly sanctuary/temple after mankind’s complete redemption and the restoration of all things?

- “And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.” (Revelation 21:5-7)
- “And the twelve gates [were] twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city [was] pure gold, as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb [is] the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.” (Revelation 21:21-24)