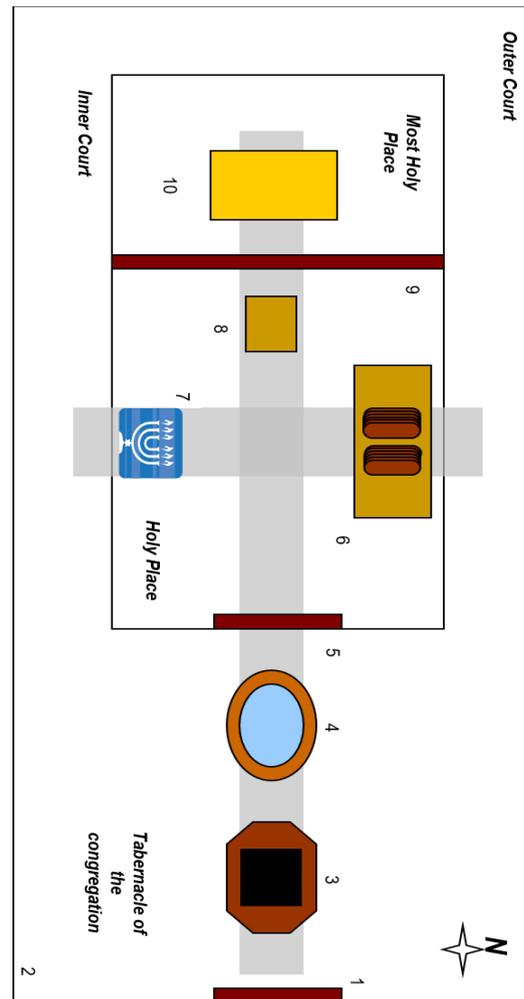


The message of the sanctuary is that of God's great plan for redeeming humanity, and finally eradicating sin from the universe. The articles within the earthly sanctuary and the [various services](#) all served as a shadow, a **type**, of the actual heavenly sanctuary (**anti-type** - Heb 8:1-5) as they foreshow the works of Jesus in showing mercy, purging us of sin, and re-establishing for eternity a personal relationship for us with the Father through Himself (2 Cor 5:17-21; Jer 23:5, 6).

In truth, God hates sin, yet loves every sinner, thus, He sent His only Son to be the payment for our sins (John 3:16, 17). The full penalty for sin, the **Second Death**, would result in man's eternal separation from God, the Life Giver. This debt owed to God's perfect law, remained unpaid from Adam's fall until Jesus' death, which paid the ransom for all humanity. The significance of this truth was such that



God, through the sanctuary and its services, gave men a daily reminder of our debt, the cost of sin, and God's gracious works on our behalf. The sanctuary services were to be an *enactment* of God's righteous Plan which justifies the ungodly by grace, rewards the wicked for their rebellion, and ultimately dispossess the universe of sin. The sanctuary and its services are a revelation of Jesus Christ; giving all a glimpse of God's unfathomable love for us (Psalm 68:24; Eze 43:10-12). In this lesson, we will gain an understanding of the sanctuary structure, its contents, and their symbolism.



Let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them. (Exodus 25:8)

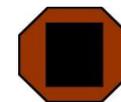
(1) **The Sheep's Gate** was a narrow door that was used as the sole entrance to the Sanctuary's Outer Court. All sheep, literal and figurative (Isaiah 53:6; John 1:29), were to enter through this single gate. The gate was made from finely woven material and embroidered with the colors blue, red, white, and purple. These colors symbolized:

- Red – Blood (life) which cleanses us of sin (Hebrews 9:22)
- Blue – The law and obedience (Num 15:38-41; Ex 24:9, 10)
- White – Righteousness, purity and holiness (Revelation 19:8)
- Purple – Royalty (Judges 8:26; Esther 8:15; Mark 15:16-18)

Jesus counsels us to *“enter through the strait 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). Jesus alone is that gate that leads to our salvation (John 10:7-9; 14:6).

(2) **The Outer Court** represented the earth and all of its hosts. It was constructed of white woven linen and supported by brass pillars (Exodus 38:9-20). The white linen was a symbol of Christ's *purity and holiness* that surrounds the entire sanctuary and tabernacle and thus, enshrouds the earth with His purity by His grace. The Outer Court was to be set-up and oriented so that all who loved the Lord God, should worship Him facing *westward* with their backs toward the rising sun. This practice was in contrast to the abomination of pagans who worshipped the rising sun towards the east (Deuteronomy 17:2-5; Ezekiel 8:15-17).

(3) **Altar of Burnt Offering** is where the remains of sacrificed animals were burned once killed by a priest or an individual who committed sin. Every animal sacrificed symbolized Jesus Christ and His death on behalf of humankind.



Only clean animals without blemish were permitted to be sacrificed, symbolic of the pure and sinless Son of God. Once the animal's blood had been shed for the sins of the penitent sinner, the person stood **justified** by grace through faith, surrounded by Christ's righteousness in the Outer Court, and trusting in what Christ would ultimately **do** as symbolized by the death of the animal (Romans 3:23-26). The blood of the animal was poured upon the ground, symbolizing the shedding of innocent blood [as with the innocent blood of both Abel and Jesus] while a portion was collected to be applied in the sanctuary (Genesis 4:10; Luke 23:14, 15, 21, 22; Matthew 23:34, 35; 27:24, 25; Heb 12:24).

(4) **Laver** was a brass basin covered with mirrors (Exodus 38:8), placed before the entrance of the door of the tabernacle. The priest was to examine himself, washing his hands and feet before entering the hallowed tabernacle. The washing was symbolic of **sanctification** through *baptism*, which itself symbolically cleanses us of past sin and prepares us for ministry (Romans 6:1-14). Washing and purification of one's life were required of priests, both then and now, before service in the tabernacle. We are all called to be God's royal priesthood (Exodus 30:17-21; 2 Cor. 13:5; John 3:5; 1 Peter 2:9, 10).



(5) The Door of the Tabernacle was made from the same woven material as the *Sheep's Gate*. This door granted access to the *Inner Court*, representing the heavenly courts. Jesus is the Door to our salvation that He alone can open, and no man shut, and shut, and no man open. (Rev 3:8, 22:14; Gen 7:16).

(6) Table of Showbread was made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold that bore twelve loaves of bread, "*the bread of the presence [of God]*", symbolizing the Father and Son and their daily provision for the needs of mankind (Exodus 25:23-30). Jesus declared: "*I am the bread of life...*". The placement of the table towards the *north* end of the tabernacle and the two columns of six loaves of showbread symbolize the placement of the seat of God's authority, the one throne upon which both the Father and Son sit together (Lev 24:5-9; John 6:25-40, 48-51; Isa 14:13, 14, 41:25; Ps 48:1, 2; Heb 8:1; Rev 3:21).

(7) Gold Lampstand was an ornamental lamp stand made of hammered gold (Ex 25:31-40). The light from the lampstand 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.*" (Joh 8:12; Ps 36:9). The light from the lamp, fueled by pure olive oil, was to be kept burning continually through the ministrations of the High Priest. Similarly, Christians, who are a royal priesthood, are to keep their focus upon Christ, letting their lights shine by the pure oil of the indwelling Holy Spirit so that their good works may glorify the Father in heaven (1 Peter 2:9; Matthew 6:22, 23, 25:1-13, 5:14-16).

(8) Altar of Incense was a wooden table 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 before the presence of the Lord. The smell and smoke from the incense represented the continual prayers of the saints, a sweet aroma to God, masking the stench of defiling blood in the Holy Place, shed twice daily for the people's sins (Rev 8:3, 4). A censer was 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, would veil the Mercy Seat and the glory of the Lord, lest the priest die from the radiance of God's glory (Leviticus 16:12, 13; Exodus 30:1-8, 33:20; Psalm 104:1, 2; John 1:18).

(9) The Veil of finely woven linen with blue, purple, and scarlet thread, separated the two compartments of the Inner Court, the *Holy Place* and the *Most Holy Place* (Ex 26:31-33). The veil typified Jesus, Who veiled His divinity with sinful humanity in order to reveal the Father. Daily, the veil was defiled with a record of the people's sins through the sprinkling of blood, shed for sin. The rending of the veil of the earthly sanctuary at Jesus' death signified the completion of the **Ceremonial System** under the **Law of Moses**. The torn veil reflected Christ's body that was broken for our sins, abolishing the *enmity* of sin, and making a way for the **types** of the earthly sanctuary to be superseded by their **antitype**, Christ's ministry as our eternal *High Priest* in the heavenly sanctuary (Heb 9:1-15, 10:9, 20; Eph 2:14-16).

(10) The Ark of the Covenant: A wooden chest overlaid and inlaid with gold that bore within the 10 Commandments, a golden pot of manna, and Aaron's rod that budded (Hebrews 9:4). On the side of the ark, in a pouch, was placed the Law of Moses and above the ark was placed a cover called the **Mercy Seat** (Deuteronomy 31:26; Ex 25:10-22). The Mercy Seat, made completely of fine gold, bore the image of two cherub angels, representing the host of heavenly angels standing in awe, witnessing the unfolding of God's **Plan of Redemption** (Luke 1:19; Ex 37:9; 1 Pet 1:10-12; Heb 1:14). The height of the ark and mercy seat were 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 sat atop the Ark of the Covenant bearing the 10 Commandments shows that God's mercy is preferred above His judgment (James 2:13; Micah 7:18-20; Jeremiah 10:24; Revelation 14:7). Once a year, on the **Day of Atonement**, God appeared between the cherubim on the Mercy Seat (Numbers 7:89) to judge the Nation of Israel. The High Priest of Israel, prefiguring Jesus Christ, our High Priest, would appear before the Lord, taking the sins of the people upon himself and making intercession for himself and the Nation of Israel. On that day, a miraculous **cleansing of the sanctuary** occurred. All records of the people's confessed sins were instantly removed [*blotted-out*] by the blood of the Lord's goat, prefiguring the atonement through the shed blood of Jesus.

"Thy way, oh God, is in the sanctuary..." (Psalm 77:13)

Supplemental Study 2

[Based on Exodus 25:1-40, 35-39]



Lesson 15