



## Lesson 33 – The Tabernacle and it's Services

based on Exodus 25 to 40; Leviticus 4 and 16.

- 1) After God spoke the Ten Commandments and before they danced around the golden calf, what was God revealing to Moses while he was on the Mountain for forty days?  
**Exodus 25:8-9** And let them make me a \_\_\_\_\_; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the \_\_\_\_\_ of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

By their apostasy the Israelites forfeited the blessing of the divine Presence, and for the time rendered impossible the erection of a sanctuary for God among them. But after they were again taken into favor with Heaven, the great leader proceeded to execute the divine command.

- 2) What did this meeting place represent?  
**Hebrews 9:23-24** It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the \_\_\_\_\_ things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into \_\_\_\_\_, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

This was a miniature representation of the heavenly temple where Christ, our great High Priest, after offering His life as a sacrifice, was to minister in the sinner's behalf. God presented before Moses in the mount a view of the heavenly sanctuary and commanded him to make all things according to the pattern shown him. All these directions were carefully recorded by Moses, who communicated them to the leaders of the people.

- 3) Where did the building materials come from?  
**Exodus 35:21** And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his \_\_\_\_\_ made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments.  
**Exodus 35:22** And they came, both men and women, as many as were \_\_\_\_\_ hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered offered an offering of gold unto the LORD.

This same pattern of generosity was found in every needed item for the Tabernacle.

- 4) They had so much, what did they have to say to the people?  
**Exodus 36:6-7** And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were \_\_\_\_\_ from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.

The tabernacle was so constructed that it could be taken apart and borne with the Israelites in all their journeyings. It was therefore small, being not more than fifty-five feet in length, and eighteen in breadth and height. Yet it was a magnificent structure. The wood employed for the building and its furniture was that of the acacia tree, which was less subject to decay than any other to be obtained at Sinai. The walls consisted of upright boards, set in silver sockets, and held firm by pillars and connecting bars; and all were overlaid with gold, giving to the building the appearance of solid gold. The roof was formed of four sets of curtains, the innermost of "***fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubim of cunning work;***" the other three respectively were of goats' hair, rams' skins dyed red, and sealskins, so arranged as to afford complete protection.



No language can describe the glory of the scene presented within the sanctuary, the gold-plated walls reflecting the light from the golden candlestick, the brilliant hues of the richly embroidered curtains with their shining angels, the table, and the altar of incense, glittering with gold; beyond the second veil the sacred ark, with its mystic cherubim, and above it the holy Shekinah, the visible manifestation of Jehovah's presence; all but a dim reflection of the glories of the temple of God in heaven, the great center of the work for man's redemption.

5) What did God do to show His approval?

**Exodus 40:34-35** Then a \_\_\_\_\_ covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

There was a revealing of the divine majesty, and for a time even Moses could not enter. With deep emotion the people beheld the token that the work of their hands was accepted. There were no loud demonstrations of rejoicing. A solemn awe rested upon all. But the gladness of their hearts welled up in tears of joy, and they murmured low, earnest words of gratitude that God had condescended to abide with them.

6) What were the Priests to wear?

**Exodus 28:2** And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for \_\_\_\_\_.

The robe of the common priest was of white linen and woven in one piece. It extended nearly to the feet and was confined about the waist by a white linen girdle embroidered in blue, purple, and red. A linen turban, or miter, completed his outer costume. Moses at the burning bush was directed to put off his sandals, for the ground whereon he stood was holy. So, the priests were not to enter the sanctuary with shoes upon their feet. Particles of dust cleaving to them would desecrate the holy place. They were to leave their shoes in the court before entering the sanctuary, and also to wash both their hands and their feet before ministering in the tabernacle or at the altar of burnt offering. Thus, was constantly taught the lesson that all defilement must be put away from those who would approach into the presence of God.

The garments of the high priest were of costly material and beautiful workmanship, befitting his exalted station. In addition to the linen dress of the common priest, he wore a robe of blue, also woven in one piece. Around the skirt it was ornamented with golden bells, and pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet. Outside of this was the ephod, a shorter garment of gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and white. It was confined by a girdle of the same colors, beautifully wrought. The ephod was sleeveless, and on its gold-embroidered shoulder pieces were set two onyx stones, bearing the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.

7) What did the High Priest wear?

**Exodus 28:29** And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his \_\_\_\_\_, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually.

Christ, the great High Priest, pleading His blood before the Father in the sinner's behalf, bears upon His heart the name of every repentant, believing soul.

8) What did the Psalmist say?

**Psalms 40:17** But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.



9) What sacrifice was made every day?

**Exodus 29:38-39** Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually. The one lamb thou shalt offer in the \_\_\_\_\_; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at \_\_\_\_\_:

These were symbolizing the daily consecration of the nation to Jehovah, and their constant dependence upon the atoning blood of Christ. God expressly directed that every offering presented for the service of the sanctuary should be **“without blemish.”**

10) What do we offer to God every morning and evening?

**Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your \_\_\_\_\_ service.

God will not be pleased with anything less than the best we can offer. Those who love Him with all the heart, will desire to give Him the best service of the life, and they will be constantly seeking to bring every power of their being into harmony with the laws that will promote their ability to do His will.

11) What else was offered every day in the Tabernacle?

**Exodus 30:7-8** And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet \_\_\_\_\_ every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. And when Aaron lighteth the \_\_\_\_\_ at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.

In the offering of incense, the priest was brought more directly into the presence of God than in any other act of the daily ministration. As the inner veil of the sanctuary did not extend to the top of the building, the glory of God, which was manifested above the mercy seat, was partially visible from the first apartment. When the priest offered incense before the Lord, he looked toward the ark; and as the cloud of incense arose, the divine glory descended upon the mercy seat and filled the most holy place, and often so filled both apartments that the priest was obliged to retire to the door of the tabernacle. As in that typical service the priest looked by faith to the mercy seat which he could not see, so the people of God are now to direct their prayers to Christ, their great High Priest, who, unseen by human vision, is pleading in their behalf in the sanctuary above.

By blood and by incense God was to be approached, symbols pointing to the great Mediator, through whom sinners may approach Jehovah, and through whom alone mercy and salvation can be granted to the repentant, believing soul.

12) What did the people do before the Priest entered the temple to perform these sacrifices?

**Psalms 141:2** Let my \_\_\_\_\_ be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

This was a time of intense interest to the worshipers who assembled at the tabernacle. Before entering into the presence of God through the ministration of the priest, they were to engage in earnest searching of heart and confession of sin. They united in silent prayer, with their faces toward the holy place. Thus their petitions ascended with the cloud of incense, while faith laid hold upon the merits of the promised Saviour prefigured by the atoning sacrifice.

13) What was on the table in the Tabernacle?

**Exodus 24:5-6** And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve \_\_\_\_\_ thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the \_\_\_\_\_ table before the LORD.



The showbread was kept ever before the Lord as a perpetual offering. Thus it was a part of the daily sacrifice. It was called showbread, or “**bread of the presence**,” because it was ever before the face of the Lord. It was an acknowledgment of man’s dependence upon God for both temporal and spiritual food, and that it is received only through the mediation of Christ.

14) What did Jesus declare about Himself?

**John 6:48** \_\_\_\_\_ that bread of life.

Frankincense was placed upon the loaves. When the bread was removed every Sabbath, to be replaced by fresh loaves, the frankincense was burned upon the altar as a memorial before God.

15) What were your instructions should you sin?

**Exodus 4:29-31** And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and \_\_\_\_\_ the sin offering in the place of the burnt offering. And the priest shall take of the blood thereof with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the \_\_\_\_\_ of burnt offering, and shall pour out all the blood thereof at the bottom of the altar. And he shall take away all the \_\_\_\_\_ thereof, as the fat is taken away from off the sacrifice of peace offerings; and the priest shall burn it upon the altar for a sweet savour unto the LORD; and the priest shall make an atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him.

By his own hand the animal was then slain, and the blood was carried by the priest into the holy place and sprinkled before the veil, behind which was the ark containing the law that the sinner had transgressed. By this ceremony the sin was, through the blood, transferred in figure to the sanctuary.

16) What happened once a year on the Day of Atonement?

**Leviticus 16:5** And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel \_\_\_\_\_ kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

17) Why?

**Leviticus 16:16** And he shall make an atonement for the \_\_\_\_\_, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

18) What did the priest do with the blood of the first goat?

**Leviticus 16:15** Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the \_\_\_\_\_, and before the mercy seat:

19) After the Sanctuary was cleansed, what happened to the live goat?

**Leviticus 16:21** And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the \_\_\_\_\_:

Every man was to afflict his soul while the work of atonement was going forward. All business was laid aside, and the whole congregation of Israel spent the day in solemn humiliation before God, with prayer, fasting, and deep searching of heart.

On the Day of Atonement the high priest, having taken an offering for the congregation, went into the most holy place with the blood and sprinkled it upon the mercy seat, above the tables of the law. Thus, the claims of the law, which demanded the life of the sinner, were satisfied. Then in his character of mediator the priest took the sins upon himself, and, leaving the sanctuary, he bore with him the burden of Israel’s guilt. At the door of the tabernacle, he laid his hands upon the head of the scapegoat and confessed over him “**all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their**



**transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat.”** And as the goat bearing these sins was sent away, they were, with him, regarded as forever separated from the people. The goat led into the wilderness carried the sins of all confessed sin to his destruction; it represents the final end of Satan.

20) What did John see in the Book of Revelation?

**Revelation 4:5** And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven \_\_\_\_\_ of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

**Revelation 8:3** And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden \_\_\_\_\_ which was before the throne.

**Revelation 11:19** And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the \_\_\_\_\_ of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

21) Where is Jesus?

**Hebrews 8:2** A minister of the sanctuary, and of the \_\_\_\_\_ tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

**Hebrews 9:24** For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for us:

As Christ at His ascension appeared in the presence of God to plead His blood in behalf of penitent believers, so the priest in the daily ministration sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice in the holy place in the sinner's behalf.

The blood of Christ, while it was to release the repentant sinner from the condemnation of the law, was not to cancel the sin; it would stand on record in the sanctuary until the final atonement; so, in the type, the blood of the sin offering removed the sin from the penitent, but it rested in the sanctuary until the Day of Atonement.

22) What is yet to be finished?

**Revelation 20:12** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were \_\_\_\_\_ out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Then by virtue of the atoning blood of Christ, the sins of all the truly penitent will be blotted from the books of heaven. Thus, the sanctuary will be freed, or cleansed, from the record of sin. In the type, this great work of atonement, or blotting out of sins, was represented by the services of the Day of Atonement, the cleansing of the earthly sanctuary, which was accomplished by the removal, by virtue of the blood of the sin offering, of the sins by which it had been polluted.

Thus, in the ministration of the tabernacle, and of the temple that afterward took its place, the people were taught each day the great truths relative to Christ's death and ministration, and once each year their minds were carried forward to the closing events of the great controversy between Christ and Satan, the final purification of the universe from sin and sinners.

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**Would you like your sins forever gone?**

**When is it time to pray?**