

Last Week we started a study of the Tabernacle. We learned that while it was a real place made by the Israelites, it was picture of something greater. We learned that God commanded Moses to build it according to the pattern which was shown to him when he met with God on Mt. Sinai.

Exodus 25:8-9 NKJV And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. (9) According to all that I show you, *that is*, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, **just so** you shall make *it*.

Moses was not to deviate from the patterns at all. The earthly furnishing were to be exact copies of those in the heavenly tabernacle.

If you are interested, the entire construction of the Tabernacle is described in Exodus 25, 26, 27, (28,29), 30, 31:1-11;

After the second set of tablets were made in Chapter 34, the description of the tabernacle is once again described in chapters 35-40.

Being copies, and while they had earthly importance and meaning, each is a picture of Jesus, the Christ in Heaven.

Let's look at some Scriptures that reveal Jesus in the things of the earthly Tabernacle:

The Altar of Sacrifice:

- The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (**John 1:29 NKJV**)
- In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace (**Ephesians 1:7 NKJV**)
- **1 Corinthians 5:7b NKJV** (Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened.) **For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.**

JESUS ALONE PROVIDED HIMSELF AS THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB BY DYING ON THE CROSS; WE CAN NOT SAVE OURSELVES!

The Laver

- **You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.** (**John 15:3 NKJV**)
- **Acts 10:15 NKJV** And a voice *spoke* to him again the second time, "**What God has cleansed you must not call common.**"
- If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (**1 John 1:9 NKJV**)

JESUS ALONE CAUSES US TO BE CLEAN; WE CAN NOT REMOVE THE STAIN OF SIN BY ANYTHING WE DO. IRONICALLY, IT IS THE RED BLOOD OF JESUS THAT WASHES US WHITE AS SNOW.

The Eternal Lampstand:

- Jesus, as the **Word of God** is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (John 1:1; Psalm 119:105).
- Jesus is: "... the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. (John 1:9 NKJV)
- Jesus said, "... **"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life."** (John 8:12 NKJV)

JESUS ALONE IS THE ETERNAL LIGHT THAT DISPELS THE DARKNESS. WE ONCE WALKED IN DARKNESS, NOW WE WALK IN THE LIGHT OF HIS COUNTENANCE AND GLORY! WE ARE CALLED TO BE REFLECTIONS OF HIS LIGHT.

The Showbread:

- **the Bread of His Presence (literally)** Showbread in the Hebrew is "**Lechem Pawneem**". **Bread of the Face**. His presence was ever before the children of Israel, especially during their wilderness wanderings as the cloud by day and the fire by night.
- **And not just His Presence but it was also seen as a symbol and witness to His marvelous works of provision for the 12 tribes of Israel.**
- Exodus 33:14 NKJV And He said, "My **Presence** will go *with you*, and I will give you rest."
 - *paw-neem'* – plural but always used as a singular.
- Matthew 28:20b ... and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*" Amen.
- John 14:18-21 NKJV I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. (19) "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, **but you will see Me**. Because I live, you will live also. (20) At that day you will know that I *am in* My Father, and you *in* Me, and I *in* you.

JESUS ALONE IS THE BREAD OF HIS PRESENCE AND A CONSTANT WITNESS OF THE TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN. AS THE SONS OF KORAH DECLARED "**The LORD of hosts *is* with us; The God of Jacob *is* our refuge. Selah**" Psalms 46:11 NKJV

The Incense:

- Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one *we are* the aroma of death *leading* to death, and to the other the aroma of life *leading* to life. And who *is* sufficient for these things? (2 Corinthians 2:14-16 NKJV)
- Revelation 5:8 NKJV Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
- Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given

much incense, that he should offer *it with* the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, **with** the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. (Revelation 8:3-4 NKJV)

JESUS ALONE SPREADS HIS FRAGRANCE OF LIFE THROUGH US! OUR FAITH-FILLED PRAYERS ARE LIKE A SWEET AROMNA TO THE LORD.

The author now takes us into the Holy of Holies:

(Hebrews 9:3-4 NKJV) and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the **Holiest of All**, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which *were* the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant;

This "Holiest of All" was the place where God said He would appear. He told Moses:

Leviticus 16:2 NKJV [and the LORD said to Moses:] "Tell Aaron your brother **not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil**, before the mercy seat which *is* on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.

The cloud shrouded the presence of God. No one was allowed to see inside the second veil except the High Priest, just as no one was allowed to see into the first part of the Sanctuary except the priests. The veil and the elaborate rituals undertaken by the priest were a reminder that man could not carelessly or irreverently enter God's awesome presence. Before the high priest entered the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, he had to wash himself, put on special clothing, bring burning incense to let the smoke cover his eyes from a direct view of God, and bring sacrificial blood with him to make atonement for sins.

The Golden Censer:

The censer is not mentioned in the construction of the Holy of Holies. We read about it in Leviticus:

Leviticus 16:12 NKJV Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, with his hands full of sweet incense beaten fine, and bring *it inside the veil*.

It is said that the coals of the altar were put into a silver censer and then transferred to the golden censer inside the Holy Place. There the incense was added before taking it into the Holy of Holies.

Next, the Ark of the Covenant:

In the Holy of Holies was the most famous of the furnishings, the Ark of the Covenant. It was also known as the Ark of the Testimony (witness) or simply, the Testimony.

The author states that it contained 3 objects:

Again, the contents of the Ark were also pictures of Messiah:

1. Tablets of the covenant that Moses brought down from the mountain (Exodus 34)

“clearly *you are* an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, *that is*, of the heart.” (2 Corinthians 3:3 NKJV)

We have Jesus who has fulfilled the Law’s righteous requirements by His sacrificial death bringing us the New Covenant, not written on stones, but on our hearts!

2. Aaron’s rod that budded confirming him and his sons as priests to God (Numbers 17)

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. (Hebrews 7:26-27 NKJV)

We have Jesus who is the True and Eternal High Priest after the order of Melchisedec.

3. Golden pot of manna (Exodus 16)

Exodus 16:14-15 NKJV And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, *as* fine as frost on the ground. (15) So when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it *was*. And Moses said to them, "This *is* the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" Matthew 4:4 NKJV

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." (John 6:47-51 NKJV)

We have Jesus, who, as the Bread of Life, sustains us throughout our lives, not as the manna did which sustained the body, but our very souls are fed by Him, for now and

life-everlasting.

(Hebrews 9:5 NKJV) and above it were the cherubim of glory **overshadowing the mercy seat**. **Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.**

Exodus 25:21-22 NKJV You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. (22) **And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which *are* on the ark of the Testimony**, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

Mercy Seat:

kappôreth – a Hebrew word that means “lid”. It comes from another word “kâphar” that has the connotation of appeasing or to make an atonement or to be merciful.

In the Greek it is *hil-as-tay'-ree-on*, a *place of atonement or propitiation (fancy word meaning that God's wrath was appeased)* this word is used in **only one other place**:

Romans 3: 24-25 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (25) **whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,**

The mercy seat was not for the High Priest to sit upon, but rather upon which to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice.

Cherubim –these are angels but according to the ancient rabbi's, of a higher order. These creatures serve God at his Throne and are represented in the design of the Tabernacle. They are also mentioned as standing at the gate of the Garden Eden, barring entry to it. (Genesis 3:24); Ezekiel's visions shows them bearing the Throne of God! These are the 4 living creatures that are described in Revelation

(Revelation 7:11 NKJV All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God)

What were they like?

Ezekiel 1:5-8 NKJV Also from within it *came* the likeness of four living creatures. And this *was* their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. (6) Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings. (7) Their legs *were* straight, and the soles of their feet *were* like the soles of calves' feet. They sparkled like the color of burnished bronze. (8) The hands of a man *were* under their wings on their four sides; and each of the four had faces and wings.

The **Infamous** one:

Ezekiel 28:12 NKJV "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You *were* the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

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Ezekiel 28:14-15 NKJV "You *were* the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. **(15)** You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

The Cherubim on the mercy seat were to remind the High Priest that he has come to the Throne of God.

We have dutifully studied the Sanctuary of the earthly Tabernacle.

But while a physical thing, it is also wrapped up in symbols, shadows, types and pictures. The copies have an original in Heaven. Recall what was written in Chapter 8:

Hebrews 8:1-2 NKJV Now *this is* the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, **(2)** a **Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.**

(the word "erected" is only used once in the NT. It means to set up or pitch a tent).

In the heavenly tabernacle, there are lampstands, incense, censers, an altar, the ark and the mercy seat (which is the Throne of God surrounded by the Cherubim), but I could not find a reference to the veil, the showbread nor the laver. While I know that these things were there, for Moses copied them, when Jesus returned to Heaven, there was no need for a veil, showbread or a laver for each of these are certainly not needed since Jesus is there. And the others that are there will be there until the New Heaven and New Earth are created:

Revelation 21:22-23 NKJV **(22)** But I saw no temple in it, **for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.** **(23)** The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light.

Ultimately, there will be something so awesome, so indiscernible, a New Heaven where there is no need for symbols, pictures and types: there will only be the eternal Godhead, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

For now, we can consider the following verses:

John 1:14 TLV *And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. We looked upon His glory, the glory of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 2:19 NKJV Jesus answered and said to them, "*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*"