

# The Sanctuary

## 1. What did God ask Moses to build, and why?

### Exodus 25:8

And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

## 2. What did God expect His people to learn from the sanctuary and its services?

### Psalm 77:13

Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary;

**NOTE:** God's way, or plan, of salvation was revealed in the earthly sanctuary. Everything in the sanctuary, or connected with its services, was a symbol of something Jesus would do in saving us. We cannot fully comprehend the plan of salvation until we understand the sanctuary and its services. It was a model explaining the process of salvation.

## 3. Where did Moses obtain the blueprints for the sanctuary?

### Exodus 25:40

And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.

**NOTE:** The sanctuary blueprints, with full specifications for its construction, were given to Moses by God on Mount Sinai (Hebrews 8:5). This was to be a representation of God's genuine sanctuary in heaven.

## 4. What furniture was in the courtyard?

### Exodus 29:18

And thou shalt burn the whole ram upon the altar: it is a burnt offering unto the Lord: it is a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the Lord.

### Exodus 30:18

Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein.

**NOTE:** The **altar of burnt offerings** (Exodus 27:1-8) is where animals were sacrificed. It was located in the courtyard just outside the entrance of the sanctuary. This altar represented the cross of Christ. The sacrificial animal represented Jesus, the ultimate sacrifice (John 1:29). The **laver** (Exodus 30:17-21; 38:8) was a large wash basin of brass located between the entrance of the sanctuary and the altar of burnt offerings. There priests washed their hands and feet before entering the

sanctuary or offering a sacrifice. The water represented baptism, cleansing from sin, and the new birth.

## 5. What three items of furniture were in the holy place?

### Numbers 4:7

And upon the table of shewbread they shall spread a cloth of blue, and put thereon the dishes, and the spoons, and the bowls, and covers to cover withal: and the continual bread shall be thereon:

### Numbers 8:2

Speak unto Aaron and say unto him, When thou lightest the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light over against the candlestick.

### Exodus 30:1

And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it.

**NOTE:** The **table of shewbread** (Exodus 25:23-30) represented Jesus, the living bread (John 6:51). The **seven-branch candlestick** (Exodus 25:31-40) represented Jesus, the light of the world (John 9:5; 1:9). The lamps of oil symbolized the Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:1-6; Revelation 4:5). The **altar of incense** (Exodus 30:1-8) represented the prayers of God's people (Hebrews 5:7).

## 6. What special article was in the most holy place?

### Exodus 26:34

And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place.

**NOTE:** The only object in the most holy place (Exodus 25:10-22) was the **ark of the testimony**, a chest of acacia wood overlaid with gold. On either side of the cover were two angels made of solid gold. The cover of the ark was called the mercy seat (Exodus 25:17-22), where God's presence dwelt. This spot symbolized God's throne in heaven, which is likewise located between two angels (Psalms 80:1, Isaiah 6:1, 2).

## 7. What was inside the ark?

### Exodus 25:21

And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.

### Deuteronomy 10:4

And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the Lord spake

unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly; and the Lord gave them unto me.

**NOTE:** God wrote His covenant with His own finger on two **tables of stone**, and they were placed inside the ark. The mercy seat was above them, which signified that as long as God's people confessed and forsook their sins (Proverbs 28:13), mercy would be extended to them through the blood that was sprinkled on the mercy seat by the priest (Leviticus 16:15, 16). That blood represented the blood shed by Jesus to bring all people forgiveness and cleansing (Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 9:22).

### **8. Why did animals need to be sacrificed in the Old Testament sanctuary services?**

#### **Hebrews 9:22**

...without shedding of blood is no remission [forgiveness].

#### **Matthew 26:28**

For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

**NOTE:** Sacrificing animals was necessary to help people understand that without the blood of the Son of God shed on the cross, there could be no forgiveness of sin. By sacrificing animals, they looked forward to the cross for salvation, while we look back to the cross for salvation. There is no other source of salvation.

### **9. When animals were sacrificed for sin, what happened to the sin?**

#### **Leviticus 1:4**

And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

**NOTE:** When the sinner placed his hands on the head of the animal and confessed his sins, the sins were symbolically transferred from the sinner to it. Thus, the animal became guilty and had to pay the death penalty. This represented Jesus bearing our sins.

### **10. When a sacrificial animal was offered for the entire congregation, what happened to the sin?**

#### **Leviticus 4:17**

And the priest shall dip his finger in some of the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before the Lord, even before the vail.

**NOTE:** The priest sprinkled some of the blood before the veil inside the sanctuary, thus symbolically transferring the sin from the people to the sanctuary. When

Jesus ascended to heaven after His death, He offered His blood (as did the high priest of old) to show that our sins are forgiven when confessed in Jesus' name (1 John 1:9).

### **11. What two sanctuary symbols does Jesus fulfill for us?**

#### **1 Corinthians 5:7**

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

This is a complete life change called the new birth, with all the sins of the past forgiven.

#### **Hebrews 4:14**

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

This gives us power to live right by keeping God's law in the present and future.

### **12. What happened on the day of atonement?**

#### **Leviticus 16:30**

For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the Lord.

### **13. Did the old day of atonement foreshadow a cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary?**

#### **Hebrews 9:23**

It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

**NOTE:** That day's services pointed to the blotting out of sin by Jesus, our high priest in the heavenly sanctuary. He is there to mediate for His people and stands ready to blot out the sins of all who will exercise faith in His shed blood. The ancient day of atonement foreshadowed the final atonement to be made for planet Earth. The final atonement leads to the final judgment, which will forever settle the sin question in the life of every individual.



### The Outer Court / Becoming a Christian

**John 1:29**  
The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.



**1 John 1:9**  
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Acts 2:38**  
Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.



### The Holy Place / The Life of a Christian



**Matthew 4:4**  
It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.



**John 5:39**  
Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me [Jesus].

**Matthew 5:14, 16**  
Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

**Revelation 8:4**  
And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.



**1 Thessalonians 5:17**  
Pray without ceasing.

### The Most Holy Place / The Presence of God

**Matthew 7:21**  
Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

**Hebrews 10:16**  
This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.



**Psalms 40:8**  
I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

**1 John 5:3**  
For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:

**John 12:26**  
If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

**John 14:3**  
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

**Titus 3:7**  
That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Matthew 5:8**  
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.