

1 -- THE HOUSE GOD BUILT

(The dramatic backdrop to the Sanctuary: The fall of man)

In the beginning God created a perfect world for a perfect couple (Genesis 1-3). God taught them that their happy estate was contingent on their loyalty and obedience to him. They were then given a simple test: all in the garden was theirs but one tree, "*but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*" (Gen 2:17) And we know what happened don't we? They did eat and they failed the test. The rest, as they say, is history. When sin entered our world the result was that mankind's relationship with God changed from a loving and trusting friendship into one of fear, and guilt. Mankind also lost its hold on life and was destined to die.

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, ...

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death,...

Romans 3:23 ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,...

Note: As a result mankind lost his Eden home and was faced with a hopeless future. Then our loving Creator stepped into the crisis and put into effect a plan by which to save fallen mankind.

God's answer to the sin problem

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.

Note: And with these words hope was given to fallen mankind. In these studies of the sanctuary we are going to look at God's plan to bring healing, hope, and restoration to lost and hurting humanity. A plan that leads back to God, a plan that reveals the science of salvation.

Psalms 77:13 Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary.

Note: The sanctuary was to be a mechanism of instruction to Israel which was to point them by faith to the Messiah (Jesus) as the Healer of broken hearts, the only Savior from the ravages of sin. God's way, or plan, of salvation is revealed in the earthly sanctuary. Everything in the sanctuary, or connected with its services, is a symbol of something Jesus has done, is doing, and will do in saving and restoring repentant sinners.

Through these sanctuary studies you will learn the following:

- You will come to understand, as you never have before, the plan of salvation, God's plan to bring deliverance and healing from the damaging affects of sin.
- You will look into the origin of sin, and of God's final solution to it.
- You will discover the amazing story of the cosmic drama unfolding between the forces of good and evil and the ultimate triumph of Jesus.
- You will discover that the sanctuary is the key to understanding the Bible because the Bible is saturated with sanctuary terms.
- You will better understand Bible prophecy when seen through the sanctuary.
- You will enhance your relationship with Jesus as you get better acquainted with the One who loves you and died to save you.
- You will discover how to be ready for Jesus' soon coming.

THE SANCTUARY

An Introduction

1. What does Jesus say concerning Himself in the Old Testament?

Luke 24:27, 44 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. ... Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

Note: Here we find that Jesus recognized the writings of Moses, or the Law of Moses as they are referred to, as concerning Himself.

2. What was one of the purposes of God in wanting the Israelites to build Him a sanctuary?

Exodus 25:8 And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.

Note: What a wonderful God! He wanted to live with His people and be the center of their life. He still desires to dwell with us today and be the center of our lives.

3. How was Moses to build the sanctuary?

Exodus 25:9 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.

Exodus 25:40 And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

Note: The sanctuary blueprints, with full specifications for its construction, were given to Moses by God on Mount Sinai. This was to be a miniature replica of God's real sanctuary in heaven (Hebrews 8:2, 5). By studying the one on earth we come to understand what is happening in the heavenly sanctuary. Please notice that the Bible writers in referring to the sanctuary also use the words, "tabernacle," "temple," "tent of meeting," as well as "sanctuary" interchangeably.

4. What was another purpose God had for having the sanctuary built in the wilderness?

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity [hatred] between you [Satan] and the woman [church], And between your seed and her seed. He [Jesus] shall bruise your head, and you [Satan] shall bruise His heel. (Words in brackets supplied.)

Note: This was the first promise of a Messiah. The promise of a Deliverer, a Savior from the destructive bondage of sin. It was passed down from generation to generation up until the Israelites' Egyptian captivity. There they had lost sight of many of God's plans and His commandments that were known before their sojourn in Egypt. When they were freed, God gave Moses plans to set up an object lesson in the wilderness to turn their hearts and minds back to Him. It was to show what the Messiah would do for His people.

5. What is a sanctuary?

A sanctuary is a haven; a place of safety. Webster's says, "A sanctuary is a sacred place of refuge and protection."

Psalms 91:4 He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge;...

Note: God invites us to make Him our Sanctuary, our place of refuge and protection, to where we may flee for quiet communion with Him.

6. What did God want His people to understand?

Psalm 48:9 We have thought, O God, on Your lovingkindness, In the midst of Your temple [sanctuary].

Note: God wanted His people to understand His unfailing love for them in the sanctuary service.

7. What did the Psalmist, learn in the temple service?

Psalm 73:1-3, & 17 Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.... Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.

Note: Have you ever wondered why good people suffer? Why the wicked seem to prosper? The sanctuary service helps us to understand the titanic struggle between good and evil, and gives us answers to these questions and many more.

8. Where can we find God?

Habakkuk 2:20 But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Note: This refers to His Temple in Heaven, but also on earth, because, as we learned God wants to dwell with His people. (Exodus 25:8) Not only with His people collectively, but in His children individually.

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

Exciting discoveries await us, so let us begin with the sanctuary's outer court.

THE SANCTUARY'S DIMENSIONS AND GATE

9. Describe the length of the south and north sides of the court.

Exodus 27:9-10 [The hangings or walls were] one hundred cubits long [on each side.] (Approximately 150 ft.)

10. Describe the width of the court on the west side.

Exodus 27:12 [It was] fifty cubits [wide]. (Approximately 75 ft.)

11. Describe the east side of the court.

Exodus 27:13-15 [It was] fifty cubits [wide]. (Approx. 75 ft). On each side of the gate (or "door") there were hangings of "fifteen cubits." (About 22 1/2 ft.)

Exodus 27:18 ... and the height five cubits ... (About 7 1/2 ft.)

Note: So the court had walls 5 cubits (7 1/2') high, and it was 100 cubits x 50 cubits (150' x 75'). The walls were all woven of fine linen thread, and the only entrance into the sanctuary was through the "gate" located on the east side.

12. Describe the gate or entrance to the court.

Exodus 27:16 [It had] a screen twenty cubits long, [30'] woven of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn; and fine linen thread, made by a weaver. [It was beautiful to behold!!]

Note: When an Israelite sinned, he was to bring his sacrifice to the gate of the sanctuary where he would behold the beautiful walls and hangings of the court and enter through the gate in faith to offer his sacrifice, looking forward to the Messiah who had been promised as a Deliverer from God. (Genesis 3:15)

13. How does the “gate” symbolize Jesus?

John 10:7, 9 I am the door [gate]. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Note: The gate points us to Jesus. As the gate was the way into the sanctuary on earth, so Jesus, through faith in Him, is the only way to heaven.

14. Does his invitation to come to Him include even me?

Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Note: Christ Jesus, the Messiah, Whose healing ways are symbolically revealed through the sanctuary, invites even you, my friend, to come to Him just as you are; and when you enter the gate through faith, you are on holy ground. Dear friend, Jesus is inviting you in to come to a saving knowledge of Him through His word.

Your Response to Jesus:

Recognizing that Jesus is the only hope for fallen humanity, are you willing to come to Him right now to be your Savior?

Answer: _____