



**Bible Training Center**

# **The Sanctuary**

## **A Simple Overview**

**This incomplete copy is provided for evaluation.**

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## God With Us

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them. He also created human beings. Humans were not just like any animal or other creature, but like God. He made them like Himself, in His own image.

*Genesis 1:27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

Why did God create Adam and Eve? (Following thoughts gleaned from *Education Chapter 1 “The Source and Aim of True Education”*)

God’s purpose for Adam and for all people was that they would become more and more like God the longer time went on. With time he would perfectly reveal this image of God and reflect God’s glory or character on a continually deepening level.

God made man good and perfect, but He made him with the capability to grow and expand. He had the opportunity to study God’s creation face to face with the Creator. He could talk to God heart to heart with nothing separating them. Year after year, millennium after millennium, people would continually grow and learn and become wiser and happier, and understand and experience God’s love for them on deeper levels.

But through man’s disobedience, God’s plan was greatly disrupted. Man became much less like God. Man became weaker physically, less capable of thinking, and his spiritual thinking was fogged. Humans could now die. Instead of becoming more like God, man now became more and more degraded and less like God. He was becoming less like the image of his Creator instead of more.

This was not God’s plan. But God would not leave His people hopeless like that. He had already made a backup plan. God had made a plan to redeem or save people from the degradation that sin had caused. God wants to bring us back to the perfect state that He planned for us originally. He wants our bodies to be strong, our brains to be sharp, and our spiritual thinking abilities to be clear.

*Isaiah 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I*

*have formed him, yes, I have made him.*

From the beginning God has loved the people He has created in His image. He desires to be with them and to love them and to be close to them.

God must have enjoyed evening walks with Adam and Eve before their fall. It appears that they were used to these walks because they recognized the sound of God walking in the garden the very day that they had sinned. This time, instead of excited anticipation, they felt fear and tried to hide themselves from God. (Genesis 3:8)

Do we sometimes hide from what is good for us? When we travel down the wrong path and God pursues us, do we selfishly try to hide from Him?

*Psalm 139:7-10 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.*

Sin lowers our intelligence. Adam and Eve knew that God could find them behind the tree or wherever they hid.

Enoch loved to walk with God (Genesis 5:24) and the Bible says that he pleased God (Hebrews 11:5). Why do you think that he pleased God? Enoch accepted God's backup plan – the plan to restore people back to the image of God. Enoch became so Christ-like that he was translated directly to heaven! God was such good friends with him that He just took him before he died.

Noah walked with God (Genesis 6:9). Abraham was God's friend (James 2:23).

As time went by, people became more and more distant from God and He found it harder and harder to communicate to them. They were selfishly interested in their own lives and ignored the voice of the Holy Spirit more and more. The Israelites spent about 400 years in a foreign country and nearly completely forgot about God. They forgot that they were made in God's image and that He wanted them to be like Him. They preferred to become like those who did not know God.

God saw that enough time had passed and He delivered them out of Egypt and led them toward Canaan, the land He promised to them should they follow His plan. To teach them this plan, He decided to let them build a place for Him to stay. He would use the sanctuary as an object lesson to teach them about His work for them and how they could learn to grow more and more into the image of God. God said, *Exodus 25:8 And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.*

That is what we will be studying in this brief course. But let us continue with some history before we begin a more in-depth study of the Sanctuary.

God not only wanted to live with His people in the tent sanctuary, He wanted to continue living with them when they built the permanent temple sanctuary (1 Kings 6:12-13).

Later in history, God saw that people needed an even more clear perspective on God. Jesus came personally as Immanuel, "God with us," (Matthew 1:23) to show us not just an object lesson but the real thing.

*John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

What is the difference between God living with the Israelites in the wilderness and Jesus, Immanuel? [The second time was more personal; Jesus came as a human being.]

When Jesus left back to heaven, He went to prepare a place for us so that we may be with Him forever (John 14:1-3).

All through time God has been working toward one goal: to restore His created humans back to the image of God. We are stubborn. We like to conform ourselves to the image of the world or the image of self or the image of our friends. We do not naturally desire to live our lives becoming more like Jesus. But this makes God sad. Restoring us to His image is His one desire. This is His one goal. He desires to be with us and to talk with us.

*Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble*

*spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

God wants to live in us today, as we are His temple (2 Corinthians 6:16).

God gave the example of the Sanctuary to study so that we would understand His plan better.

*Psalms 77:13 Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God?*

In heaven, God will be in His temple and He will be living with His people (Revelation 7:15).

## **Sin Separates**

...to further develop

Sin separates us from God. God does not want separation. He wants to be with us. The sanctuary and its services demonstrate to us the system God has put in place for taking care of the sin problem. Sin, which separates us from God, must be gotten rid of before we can be forever reunited with God.

## **Three Sanctuaries**

...to further develop

### **Earthly**

God gave Moses the plans for this sanctuary. It was built based on the pattern of the heavenly sanctuary.

Give overview of layout with the model sanctuary. The details of how the tabernacle was to be built can be found in Exodus 25-30.

### **Heavenly**

There is a sanctuary in heaven. The sanctuary on earth helps us understand this sanctuary in heaven. As we understand the meaning of the earthly sanctuary, we begin to understand the significance of the heavenly sanctuary and the work that Jesus is doing for us there now.

Exodus 25:9 The tabernacle was built according to a pattern.

Hebrews 8:1-2 God built the true tabernacle.

Hebrews 8:5 The earthly tabernacle was a shadow, or pattern, of the

heavenly sanctuary.

Hebrews 9:11 The greater, more perfect tabernacle was not made with human hands.

### **Our bodies**

Our bodies are compared to a sanctuary.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

1 Corinthians 6:19

2 Corinthians 6:16

## **Overview and Courtyard**

[*The Great Controversy* chapter 23 “What is the Sanctuary?” and chapter 24 “In the Holy of Holies”]

### **Construction of the Sanctuary**

Bezalel was chosen and blessed by God as chief builder of the sanctuary. Read about this in Exodus 31:1-11

The materials came from free-will offerings. God wanted offerings that came from the heart. Exodus 25:1-7

### **Courtyard**

Exodus 27:9-18; Exodus 40:8 The courtyard surrounded the tabernacle. Long linen sheets were hung by hooks of silver on pillars of bronze. The gate was made of woven linen with blue, purple, and scarlet thread. The tabernacle in the court could be seen from outside the court because the court was only half as high as the tabernacle.

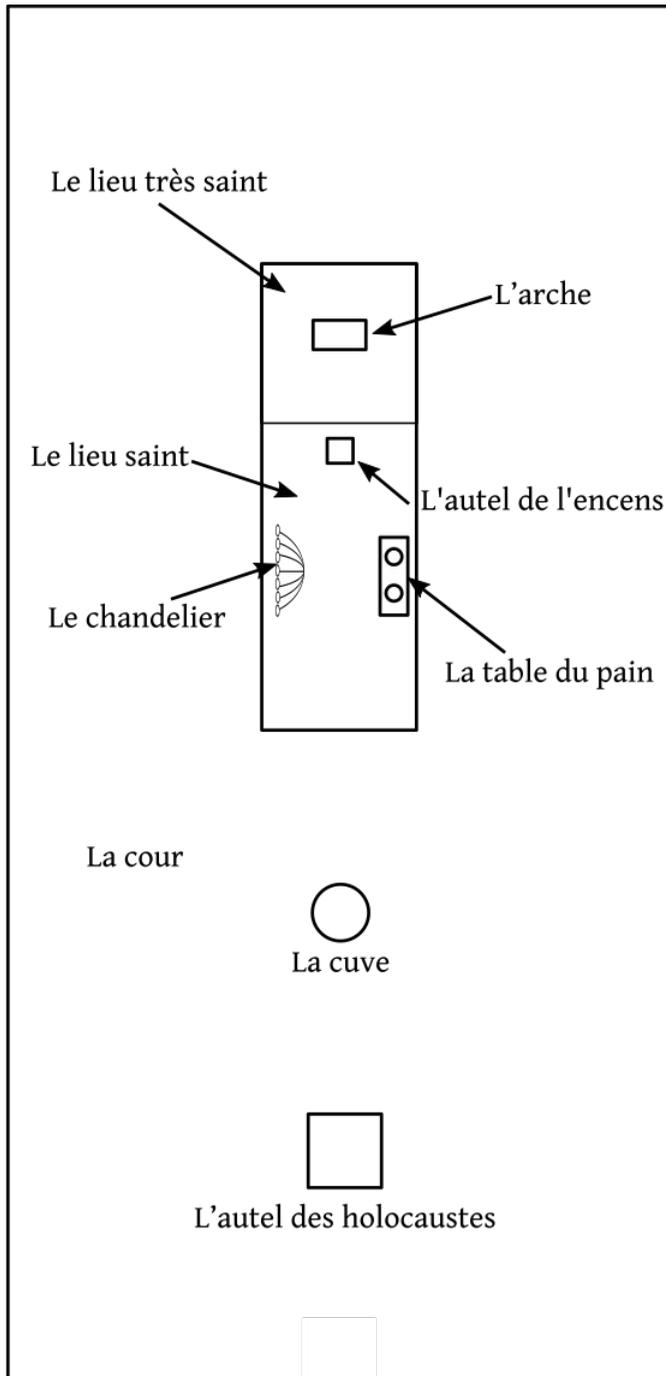
By faith, we can look above the things of this earth and behold heavenly things.

### **Altar of Burnt Offering**

Exodus 27:1-2; Exodus 40:6; Leviticus 9:24; 6:13 (6 in French) The altar was made from acacia wood and was overlaid in bronze. This was placed inside the court, near the entrance to the court. God set the fire on the altar, and this fire was never to go out. This fire consumed the various sacrifices brought to the sanctuary.

Revelation 20:9 The fire that ultimately consumes all sin from the

# Le tabernacle



earth will not be quenched as long as there is any sin remaining.

Isaiah 59:2 Sin separates us from God and must be done away with before a sinner can be at-one-ment with God.

### **Laver**

Exodus 30:18; Exodus 40:7 The laver was made from bronze and held water for washing. It was placed between the altar of burnt offering and the tabernacle.

Exodus 30:20 The priests were to wash in this laver before performing service within the tabernacle. Death was the penalty for not washing.

John 3:5 Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Titus 3:5 Our own righteousness is not what saves us. God's mercy saves us through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

## **Holy Place**

### **Table of Bread**

Exodus 25:23-30 The table was made from acacia wood and covered with gold. Around the top was gold molding.

Leviticus 24:5,9; 1 Chronicles 9:32 Twelve pieces of fresh bread were made every Sabbath. Each Sabbath, the priests ate the bread from the previous week. The bread was a continual offering before the Lord. Man has a continual dependence on the Lord not only for physical food, but for spiritual food.

We can hear God speaking to us through His Word, but if we do not incorporate changes into our lives, we do not find lasting strength.

John 6:51 Jesus is the living bread.

Hebrews 7:25 Jesus always lives to make intercession for us. He is the living bread.

John 6:63 His words are life. We must read His Word, Scripture, every day. But Sabbath is a special time that we are to set aside our work and our regular activities and spend time studying Gods Word. Sabbath is a day to gain fresh blessing not available on the other six work days.

## **Candlestick**

Exodus 25:31-37; Numbers 8:2-4 The lampstand was hammered into flower shapes from solid gold. Altogether, seven lamps were made.

Revelation 1:12, 20 John saw seven golden lampstands in heaven, each one representing God's church.

Ephesians 2:10 As the earthly tabernacle's lampstand was hammered, so we are God's workmanship and are given trials to endure to better fit us for citizenship in heaven.

John 9:5; 1:9 Jesus is the light of the world.

Psalms 121:3-4 God never sleeps

Zechariah 4:1-6; Revelation 4:5 Oil represents the Holy Spirit.

Exodus 30:7-8 The lamps were tended every morning and every night. As Christians, we must spend regular time every day paying attention to the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to direct us.

Matthew 5:14; Leviticus 24:4 We as Christians are the light of the world. Just as the lamps were never to go out in the earthly sanctuary, so we should allow the Holy Spirit to continually control us so that we can share light (truth, Jesus) with others.

## **Altar of Incense**

Exodus 30:1-6 The Altar of Incense was made from acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold. Around the top was gold molding.

Exodus 30:7-8 The fire on this altar was never to be extinguished; it was to be perpetual. Every morning and evening incense was offered up.

Revelation 8:3-4 John got to see some activity in the heavenly sanctuary through vision. He saw the smoke of incense rising with the prayers of the saints toward God on His throne. Jesus offers our prayers up to God. No matter how feeble or weak we may be, our prayers are pleasing to God.

Psalms 141:2 David wanted his prayer to be to God as incense.

1 Peter 3:12 God is attentive to our prayers.

Leviticus 16:13; Isaiah 61:10 Christ and His righteousness is the only reason we have for eternal life. Every morning we should commit our lives to Him and pray that He will help and guide us through the activities of that day. Every evening we have an opportunity to review the day and confess sins to God.

Exodus 30:9; Leviticus 10:1-2; Isaiah 64:6 If a person burned incense with unholy fire, that person was to be destroyed. So we will be destroyed if we retain our own righteousness and do not accept Jesus' offer to cover us with His righteousness.

## **Most Holy Place**

### **Ark**

Exodus 25:10, 21 The ark is was the center and focus of the sanctuary. It contained the law of God. Breaking this law was the reason for the various sanctuary services. God's law was covered by the mercy seat.

Romans 3:20-22 The law shows us what sin is. To the righteous, the law is not condemnation but a witness to their faith in Jesus and His righteousness.

Exodus 37:9; Ezekiel 28:14; Revelation 7:11 Cherubim (angels) covered the mercy seat with their wings. Cherubim cover and surround God's throne in heaven.

Psalms 119:172; Psalm 97:2 All God's commandments are righteous, and righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

Exodus 34:6-7; 1 John 1:9 Is God a merciful God? Yes. Because of His mercy, anybody who comes to Him confessing his sins is forgiven.

## **Daily Service**

Leviticus 4 The sin offering made at the tabernacle was symbolic of confessing sins, transferring them to an innocent sacrifice, and leaving them with Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary. The priest met the sinner at the entrance to the court where the sinner placed his hands on the animal and confessed his sins. After the animal was killed, the priest usually carried the blood from there into the holy place (Leviticus 4:17). The blood symbolized the forfeited life of the sinner (Leviticus 17:11), whose guilt the victim bore. Through the blood, the

sin was symbolically transferred to the sanctuary.

There were morning and evening services as well. Occasionally, special services were held on feast days or other special days. Below are a few highlights from the daily services.

Exodus 30:6-8 Lamps were tended to and incense was burned at the golden altar each morning and evening. This was done by the high priest.

Exodus 29:38-42; Leviticus 4:29-30 Each day two lambs were sacrificed by the priests on the bronze altar of sacrifice. One was offered in the morning and the other was offered at evening along with other sacrifices as a sweet aroma to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:2 Christ gave Himself as a sacrifice for sin, as a sweet aroma.

John 1:29 Jesus is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.

Hebrews 9:12 By His own blood, Jesus obtained eternal redemption for us.

Leviticus 1:9, 13; Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 15:31 Just as the entire body was consumed on the altar, we are to surrender our lives completely to God as a sacrifice that is acceptable to Him. My “old man,” my selfish nature must die daily to sin.

### **Yearly Service**

Leviticus 16 The earthly sanctuary collected the blood and symbolic sins of Israel throughout the year. A special service was given by God to remove the sin and make atonement for the holy place. Leviticus 16:16,19. Two goats were selected and lots were cast on them: one for the Lord's goat, and the other for Azazel or the scapegoat. The Lord's goat was offered as a sin offering for the people, and its blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat. The high priest was the only person who entered the most holy place once during the year. The other goat symbolically received all the sins of Israel, and he was sent into the wilderness after the high priest confessed all the sins of Israel on his

head. (Leviticus 16:21)

Jesus will not always bear the sins of the world. At some point, all sin will be destroyed from the universe. The sins of the righteous will be laid on Satan, the originator of sin. He and all sin and all sinners will ultimately be consumed.

Romans 6:23 God's law demands death for every person who sins.

Leviticus 16:15-16 Blood from the sin offering was sprinkled on the mercy seat showing faith in the blood of Jesus – faith in Jesus their Redeemer.

Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law.





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