

THE SANCTUARY

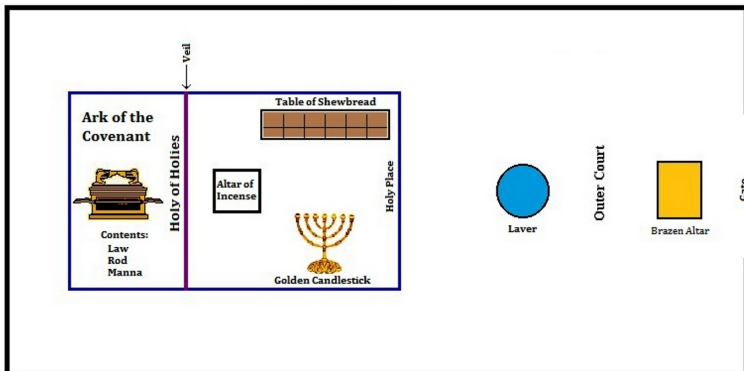
After the death of the apostles, the leadership of the church fell into the hands of Gentile believers, commonly referred to as the Church Fathers. These men saw very little value in the sanctuary doctrine. To



them this was something that belonged to Judaism and had no relevance to New Testament Christianity. Consequently, the “sanctuary truth” became somewhat obsolete until the midnineteenth century (1844 and on), when it was resurrected back to life. Today there is renewed interest in the sanctuary message.

When we examine the teachings of the New Testament, we find that much of the truth it presents is expressed in sanctuary language. The simple reason for this is because the sanctuary was given by God as a visual aid of the whole plan of redemption. It is His master model plan of salvation. Through it, God reveals to mankind the various stages of our redemption in Christ – His earthly mission as well as His heavenly ministry. The sanctuary, therefore, is God’s “Show and Tell”.

God’s primary purpose in giving the sanctuary was to reveal through symbols, Jesus Christ and His saving grace. Everything about the sanctuary, it’s buildings, it’s furniture, as well as it’s rituals, all point to Christ as the Saviour of mankind. Since the sanctuary reveals the full plan of salvation from beginning to end, its study becomes very meaningful to us as Christians. Through the sanctuary message, we get a bird’s eye view of the whole plan of salvation. This, in turn, will strengthen our faith in the eternal hope we have in Christ.



WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.” Luke 24:44

As you study, be thinking about the Life Quest questions.

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

HIS WORD SAYS

1. Why did God instruct Moses to build a sanctuary? Exodus 25:8

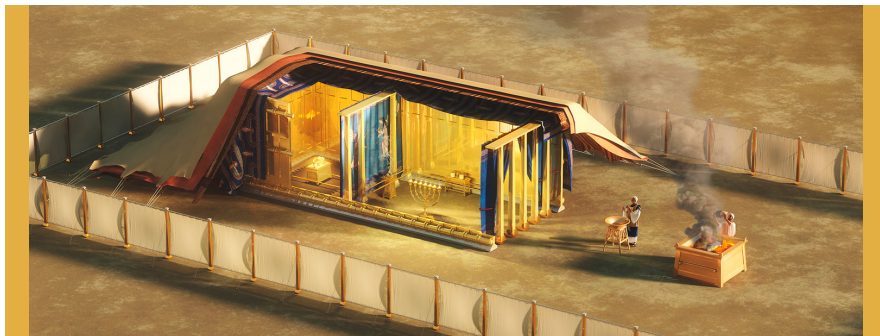
Sin had separated a holy God from sinful man (see Isaiah 59:2). What God was revealing through the sanctuary was the plan of redemption that would bridge that gulf so that God and mankind may once again be “reunited.”

2. In whom was this plan of redemption fulfilled? John 1:14

Everything about the sanctuary pointed to Christ and salvation through Him. That is why David in Psalm 77: 13 declared, “Thy way [of salvation] O God, is in the sanctuary.....” After Jesus life, death, and resurrection, it was no longer necessary for us to approach God through the sanctuary service. Now we have the one that the sanctuary pointed to as our direct link with the Father.

3. To what was Jesus referring when He made this statement in John 2:19-21?

This is where the ancient Israelites went wrong. They put the emphasis of the sanctuary on their temple building and its rituals, rather than on what it pointed to – salvation through Jesus Christ



4. When did Jesus' disciples discover the true meaning of the temple? John 2:22

The disciples were also victims of Judaism and it was not until the resurrection that they realized the whole of the sanctuary message of the Old Testament given to point them to Christ, the promised Messiah.

5. What did God prepare through Christ instead of the sacrificial system of the sanctuary? Hebrews 10:5

The only value the sacrifice of animals had in the Old Testament was to point God's people to the coming Messiah. In and of themselves, the sacrifice of animals had no merits and that is why God had no pleasure in them. (Heb.10:6, 1 Sam. 15:22)

6. Why did God prepare a body for Christ? Hebrews 10:7

It was through the human body of Christ that the world was redeemed. This was the will of God (see John 3:17). That is why the humanity of Christ is everything to us. In it God has obtained salvation full and complete for the entire human race.

7. What did the coming of Christ replace? Hebrews 10:9-10

The coming of Christ replaced the type with reality. This is the difference between the Old and the New Covenants. The Old Covenant was never given by God as a means of salvation but pointed to Christ, the promised Saviour. The New Covenant is the fulfillment of that promise, God's plan of salvation in Christ.



8. What did the sacrificed lamb of the sanctuary ritual point to? John 1:29

9. The candle lamps in the sanctuary pointed to Christ as what? John 8:12, 1:9

10. How did Christ describe Himself in this passage? John 6: 48-51

In the Holy Place of the earthly sanctuary, the two main pieces of furniture were the seven-branch candlestick and the table of shew bread. The candlestick pointed to Christ as the light of the world, while the table of shew bread pointed to Christ as the living bread of life. A third, the alter of incense, represented the righteousness of Jesus, mingled with the prayers of His children. (Revelation 8:3)

11. What has God made Christ to be for us through faith? Romans 3:24-26

The word “propitiation” (KJV) or the phrase “sacrifice of atonement” (NIV) is translated from the same word used in the Greek Old Testament for the mercy seat that rested on the top of the Ark of the Covenant in the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary. This mercy seat covered the law of God which is the law of liberty.

12. What did Christ obtain for mankind in His earthly mission? Hebrews 9:12

Jesus gave His life as the perfect sacrifice. The wages of sin is death, a penalty which He paid in our behalf. Having been the perfect sacrifice He has obtained eternal salvation to those who by faith lay hold upon this promise.

13. What is Christ the end of, to all who believe in Him? Romans 10:4, 5

In His earthly mission, Christ satisfied the full demands of the law on behalf of fallen humanity. All who have accepted Him as their personal Saviour are looked upon by God as meeting all the requirements of the law for righteousness. This is the good news of the gospel! It is important to note that although Jesus' righteousness is imputed to us, this does not make it okay for us to continue to break the law and sin (see Romans 6:1-2).

14. Having redeemed humanity, what is Christ now doing in the heavenly sanctuary?
Romans 8:34



15. To what extent can Christ save those who put their full trust in Him? Hebrews 7:25

In His earthly mission, represented by the sanctuary courtyard, Christ obtained salvation full and complete for the entire human race. The western square (Holy and Most Holy place) reveals Christ's priestly ministry in the heavenly sanctuary. Thus, through the sanctuary and its services God has revealed the whole plan of redemption from the beginning to the end.

Psalms 77:13

Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary:
who is so great a God as our God?



LIFE QUEST:

Have you thoughtfully reviewed these Questions?

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

YOUR TURN

Check the statements that most closely reflect your response to this study.

I now understand that the sanctuary on earth told of Christ's mission here on earth and in Heaven.

I thank Jesus for the sacrifice He made for me.

I believe that by coming to Christ and repenting I will be saved.

Other _____