

January 28, 2023

This is in response to the “Rebuilding the Temple” pamphlet. Before going any further we need to note that the temple and sacrificial system concerned only the Jews since “the Gentiles, which [had] not the Law” having done “by nature the things contained in the Law” were “a law unto themselves” (*Rom 2:14*). This must be understood first and foremost. Also, it wasn’t because the Jews were more righteous than those who inhabited the land of Canaan before them but because of the wickedness of those nations that God was driving them out before Israel (*Deu 9:5*). Therefore, the Old Testament pattern for the tabernacle that Moses built (*Ex 25:9; Heb 8:5*) was only a shadow of “the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man” (*Heb 8:2*). The New Testament tabernacle concerns the church according to Dan 2:45 and what Jesus stated in Mat 16:18.

Also, I’ve always felt that if anyone made a statement of supposed fact concerning scripture they need to provide book, chapter and verse to substantiate said claim. I found in this pamphlet such statements and will point them out as necessary.

### Rebuilding the Temple: Lesson 16

1. What was the main purpose of the Jewish sanctuary?

True, Ex 25:8 does say that the “sanctuary” was the means by which God would dwell among Israel.

2. What did God show His people through the sanctuary and its services?

Not sure about the phrases “the sanctuary was a three-dimensional model given to show God’s way of salvation” or “the sanctuary outlines the complete gospel story in detail”. Without giving ‘book, chapter and verse’ the writer is making a statement out of thin air in order, I guess, to try to tie the New Testament into the Old as if the Old as a shadow is alluding to something in the New but way out of context. How does the “complete gospel story” (??) summarize “the sanctuary”? Not sure what that means.

3. What was the central teaching of the sanctuary?

True, “the sanctuary service was based on the sacrifice of animals”.

4. Where did Moses get the plans for the building of the sanctuary?

True, the plans of the pattern of the tabernacle and all the furnishings Moses received from God on Mt, Sinai.

5. How did the sinner receive forgiveness for sins?

Lev 4:33-35, 29; 5:5. **Each** sin required an atoning victim, but could “never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they have not ceased to be offered? Because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. For it [was] not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins” (*Heb 10:2-4*). That is why Jesus “taketh away the first [covenant], that He may establish the second [covenant]. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (*10:9-10*).

6. On what was the Hebrew sanctuary modeled?

True, Christ's authority over the "sanctuary" (*church*) originates from where He is seated "on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens (*denoting origin*)" (*Heb 8:1*). The Mosaic tabernacle had two rooms built within "after the pattern" that was shown to Moses on Mt. Sinai (*Ex 25:40*); the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. The Holy Places (*sanctuary, a.k.a., Holy of Holies; here spiritually referring to Heaven*) was the room where only the high priest entered on the Day of Atonement (*Lev 23:27*), while the Holy Place (*true tent, a.k.a., the church revealed*) was for the daily ministration of the priests (*Ex 29:44*). (*The O.T. is considered the N.T. concealed; the N.T. is considered the O.T. revealed.*) They were separate rooms but under the same tent, divided only by a curtain (*representing Christ as mediator between the two- 10:20*). Tent- Gk.4633-Thayer: "with a reference to this use of the word, it is declared that (,) when the kingdom of God [a.k.a., the church] is perfectly established". [mine]

Once Christ ascended back to Heaven to "prepare" (*Gk.2090- make ready*) the place (*Gk.38- spot*) He promised in Jn 14:2-3, that place (*a.k.a., the church glorified- Rev 21*) was perfectly established and will one day be sent "down out of Heaven from God (*thus her origin*)" (*Rev 21:2*) at the second and final coming of Christ. Christ told His disciples that He would return for them, those who made up His bride the church, but she first must be prepared for His return (*2 Cor 11:2; 1 Pet 2:11; Rev 12:14*). As Jesus said when He gave the Great Commission in Mat 28, "I am with you always, to the end of the age", He therefore continues His work as *functionary (interceding on our behalf)* from His position "at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities and powers having been subjected to Him" (*1 Pet 3:22*).

The Lord set up- Upon hearing Peter's confession that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God", he was told that Christ would build His church upon that confession (*Mat 16:16-18*). If Jesus wasn't the Christ, then there could be no "foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (*1 Cor 3:11*). Anything originating from uninspired man is denominational. See also Dan 2:45.

7. What did Jesus do in the "courtyard" of this earth?

True, "by His death, Jesus brought 'an end to sacrifice and offering' (*Dan 9:27*). Paul, when addressing the church at Corinth, stated "know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" Jesus, then, is the High Priest of the New Testament temple known as His church.

8. How does the furniture in the sanctuary represent Jesus?

Concerning the furniture in the tabernacle and what it represents:

- a. Altar of Burnt Offering: This represents being "planted together in the likeness of [Christ's] death" (*Rom 6:5*). It also represents a denial of self and living a daily separation from the world (*Lk 9:23*). For Christ it represents His sacrifice which we emulate in a daily separation from the world and our devotion to Him. (*1 Cor 15:31*)
- b. Laver: As this was the means by which the Levite was initiated into the Old Testament priesthood through the washing of his flesh through immersion in water, to us it is also what initiates us into the New Testament priesthood of believers by

- receiving a “good conscience toward God” (*1 Pet 3:21*). For the Levite it was a removal of the filth of the flesh before he was to don the priestly garment (*Lev 16:4*) but for us it represents putting Christ on as a garment (*Gal 3:27*).
- c. Lampstand: Represents the word of God as in Ps 119:105.
  - d. Shewbread: Represents communion. Only the priests (*of both Testaments*) were/are permitted to partake of the unleavened loaves (*bread*) within the tabernacle (*Holy Place which represents the church*). Lev 24:8-9; Act 20:7; 1 Cor 11:23-29
  - e. Altar of Incense: Under O.T. the priest offered a fragrant gum on the altar of burnt incense along with the coals that were carried in a censer from the altar of burnt sacrifice (*Lev 16:12*). The smoke went through the veil into the Most Holy place. The N.T. prayers of the saints go through Jesus as our Mediator- Heb 10:20.
  - f. Ark of the Covenant and Mercy Seat: Represent the “throne of grace” (*Heb 4:16*).

9. Who is our High Priest today?

True, Jesus is our only Mediator today.

10. What does Jesus do as High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary?

True, Jesus is currently making intercession for the saints on earth.

11. What was the Day of Atonement?

For the Jews under the Old Covenant it was a yearly sacrifice wherein atonement was made “on the tenth day of this seventh month” by the High Priest by his entering the Most Holy Place of the tabernacle as a “time of holy convocation” (*Lev 23:27*).

The prophesy of Daniel 8:14 concerned one Antiochus IV Epiphanes who blasphemed God continually as he caused the daily work in the temple to cease, desecrated the temple and persecuted the Jews. His success was in response to the wickedness of God’s people. The ‘sanctuary’ was restored though on Dec 25, 164 BC to its rightful state. This prophecy has nothing to do with some false doctrine of a future post-millennial era wherein “the sanctuary in heaven would be cleansed”. How can anything impure exist in the presence of God to begin with?

12. What was done on the Day of Atonement that symbolized the final removal of sin?

It is a stretch for the writer to make the claim that any blood that was “sprinkled on the Mercy Seat upon the Ark of the Covenant” “represented the blood of Jesus and the mercy of God to save us from our sins”. This cannot be substantiated with scripture. Yes, according to Lev 16:21, 22, the “scapegoat” was taken into the wilderness but to say it was “to die a lonely death, representing that at the end of the judgment, Satan will be punished for the sins of humanity”, is also imputing thoughts that can’t be shown through a good exegetical investigation. One might think certain scriptures mean something but if he can’t back them up with proof he would be adding to passages where he could be in danger of promoting something false.

13. What makes Jesus our perfect High Priest for today?

How can the “heavenly sanctuary” yet need to be cleansed (*according to point # 11*) where Jesus currently “ministers to bring you salvation” (*according to “Three points to*

*remember" under point #3)?* Simply stated, the sanctuary in question represents the church over which Jesus is the Head (*Eph 5:23*) making "intercession for us" (*Rom 8:34*). This "sanctuary" represents Christ's "kingdom" which "is not of this world" (*Jn 18:36*).

In Him,  
Charli