

# Chapter 30

## V. BLUEPRINT and CONSTRUCTION of tabernacle, Chapters 25 — 40 (*a pattern and picture of Christ*)

### A. Blueprint for tabernacle, 25 - 30

#### Summary of Priestly Service...

The last piece of tabernacle furniture in the Holy Place

#### Verses 1 - 10...

The altar of incense is constructed in a similar fashion as the other items in the Holy Place.

1. It's word overlaid with gold.
  - It was 3 ft high and 18 inches square carried by poles.
  - It was positioned in the Holy Place immediately outside the Holy of Holies, next to the veil
  - Like the altar, it had horns protruding from its corners.
2. There was a set of coals ever burning in this altar, which were taken from the altar outside.
  - The coals were used to burn incense, fragrant substances.
  - Once a year, the coals were taken into the Holy of Holies to burn incense in that place.
    - This piece of furniture is one of the clearest illustrations of Christ in the whole tabernacle.
3. It relates directly to the priests duty to serve the people
  - The High Priest would burn incense in this altar twice every day.
  - The smoke would find it's way into the Holy of Holies where the glory of God resided.
  - The point was that the High Priest brought the needs of the people of Israel into the Holy Place.
    - Then when he lit the incense, the smoke took those needs into the Holy of Holies before the Lord.
    - The High Priest was seen as representing the people to God in a daily way.

#### Application for Today...

1. Since Jesus is our High Priest, we can see the picture easily.
  - a. Jesus has taken His place in the tabernacle in Heaven.
    - He lives to bring intercession for all God's people.
    - This intercession is made possible by the work of Christ on the altar.
      - Just as the fire of the altar of incense couldn't have been lit without the fire of the sacrifice on the brass altar.
      - Likewise, Jesus could never have acted as our intercessor before the Father were it not for His atoning work on the cross.
  - And the position of the altar nearest the ark reflects Jesus' unique position near the Father.
  - In fact, when Jesus ascended the veil was removed altogether

2. Finally, notice that this altar will never have other types of offerings made upon it.
  - No meat sacrifices, no drink offerings, nothing except incense.
  - Further proof that once Jesus had died and then ascended into the Holy Place of Heaven, no more sacrifice or offering is needed.
  - Christ's sacrifice was sufficient.
  - And so now the only thing at the altar is incense, which symbolize the prayer of the saints according to Revelation.

### **Verses 11 - 16...**

God's instructions on the construction of the tabernacle began with a collection from the people, and now it comes to an end with a maintenance tax.

1. Anytime the people of Israel were counted in a census, then a tax would be collected at the same time for the maintenance of the temple.
  - God didn't stipulate how often to collect it, but in time it became a yearly "temple tax"
  - The amount was very modest amount of money, something anyone could afford.

1 New Israeli Sheqel =  
**0.29 US Dollar**

2. The collection is called atonement money, because it went to the upkeep of the tabernacle.
  - And the whole purpose of the tabernacle was to make restitution for the sins of the people.
  - So they were giving to make possible their own atonement.
2. The giving was connected to a census to make clear that God's people are counted by way of atonement.
  - We are not counted among God's people unless we have a personal stake in the atonement God made available in Christ, Who is our Tabernacle!
  - The picture is not one of participating in our own atonement.
  - Instead, it is one of each person identifying themselves with the people of God through a token.

### **Application for Today...**

1. Today we have a token we offer the Lord as well.
  - We make out confession of faith to be counted among God's people.
  - We are not creating our atonement through our confession.
  - But we are counted among the people because of that token or gesture.

• Finally, the last piece of tabernacle furniture

### **Verses 17 - 21...**

The seventh and final furniture item is the bronze laver

1. Once again, this item is connected to the priestly service
  - The basin was brass or bronze, and had a base to raise the basin above the ground
  - It was placed between the altar and the entrance to the tent of meeting
  - The overall design of the laver wasn't provided in the scripture, but Moses must have seen the pattern on the mountain.

2. The priests wash at this laver before they serve in the various stations of their ministry.
  - Vs.19...we see that they washed from the water in the basin, but they didn't place their body in the laver.
  - The water is removed somehow and then they wash.
3. The washing was a requirement before service or else they would be penalized with their life.
  - The high standard helps cement the picture created by the laver
  - It is a picture of sanctification.
    - As we've seen clearly, the priesthood of Israel is actually a picture of the New Testament believer.
4. And the laver completes that picture
  - The washing of the water is the means of cleansing the priests ritually of sin.
  - And that ritual pictures the literal washing of our bodies from sin through the sanctification made possible by the Spirit.
5. And the Spirit accomplishes this work by means of God's word, Who is Christ.
  - So once again this item of furniture is picturing the work of Christ.
  - As Paul taught...Eph. 5:25-27

### **Application for Today...**

Question... How does sanctification happen in the believer's life?

**Sanctification** is the act or process of being set apart by God as holy.

- Sanctification is God's will for us ([1 Thessalonians 4:3](#)).
  - The word *sanctification* is related to the word *saint*; both words have to do with holiness.
  - To "sanctify" something is to set it apart for special use; to "sanctify" a person is to make him holy.
  - The principle method of sanctifying the believer is through service.
  - Just as the priests washed regularly as a part of their service in the tabernacle, so do believers "wash" regularly in the Spirit when they serve in God's house.
  - The believer can't mature if we "outsource sanctification" by allowing others outside the church to perform the services we are supposed to perform as priests.
6. As we conclude our look at the tabernacle, we find an interesting visual pattern created by the placement of the furniture.

### **The physical placement of the furniture points to Christ**

- The altar and the laver and the ark of the covenant are all in perfect alignment East to West.
- While about one third of the way from one end of this line, we find the lamp stand and table of shewbread standing opposite one another in a line running North to South.
- If we connect all seven pieces of furniture with lines, the result is a cross.
  - The furniture items themselves are arranged to prefigure the cross of Christ.
  - Further evidence that the tabernacle is a picture of Christ's sacrifice.

## **We've studied the design of the tabernacle and it's furnishings...**

1. We took time to note many ways in which God carefully designed these things to reflect the person and the work of Jesus.
  - The tabernacle came as part of the Law which was given to Israel by the covenant.
  - After finding so many pictures of Christ in the tabernacle confirms for us that the tabernacle like the rest of the Law and the covenant that brought them were intended to point to Christ.
  - While they serve other purposes within the nation of Israel, their ultimate purpose was to bring men to Christ.
2. The Law and the sacrificial system conducted in the tabernacle were parts of a temporary dispensation, one that acted as a custodian Paul says...
  - The Law gave opportunity for men to have a relationship with the Lord while they awaited for grace to be available.
  - Once grace was available through Christ's atoning work, then the Law and the sacrificial system no longer provided for that relationship.
  - The Father would only be found through the Son...
    - He was no longer to be found through the pictures or shadows of His Son that He provided in the Law or elsewhere.... **Hebrews 10:1**
    - But each time the Lord brings a new dispensation (a change in the way God regulates His relationship with man), He follows that change with clear evidence that the new dispensation wasn't the solution to our sin.
3. Each dispensation is accompanied by a failure of sin that demonstrates the dispensation is sufficient to address the problem of sin.
  - The first sin was the beginning of the pattern.
    - God created Adam in perfection, but Adam fell .
  - Then God set men outside the Garden under new conditions, but then Cain killed Abel.
  - Then God flooded the world and saved Noah to repopulate the world, but then Noah got drunk in his tent.
  - Then God called Abraham and promised him a son, but then Abraham sinned with Hagar.
4. After each new dispensation, sin raises its ugly head again, proving that the hero of the story wasn't the solution God had promised.
  - And now we're focused on Moses and the nation of Israel.
  - God has delivered a new dispensation in His Law and the formation of the nation of Israel.
  - Is the Law and Israel the solution to sin?
    - Will this dispensation finally resolve the problem of sin? **No**
  - And so we await the fall of our heroes, as God's pattern requires.

## **Verses 22 - 33...**

The final instructions the Lord gives Moses concerning the design of the tabernacle are for the anointing oil used to consecrate the tabernacle and the incense burned on the altar of incense.

1. There were five ingredients for the anointing oil or perfume.
  - Four spices and fine olive oil.
  - The spices mentioned largely originate from Arabia and lands in the east.

- So how did Israel get their hands on these things while in the desert?
  - They would have brought these things from Egypt.
  - Egypt was a world power and conducted trade with many other nations.
  - The goods Israel plundered from Egypt included these items.
- 2. The perfume was mixed by the hands of a skilled apothecary
  - And then this oil was used to anoint the sanctuary, all the items in it and the priests themselves
    - But this exact recipe for the perfume couldn't be used for any other purpose.
    - Nor could a lay person create this recipe for themselves.
    - This particular oil could only be used according to the Lord's instructions and for the holy purposes God had determined.
    - Anointing oil is a picture of the Spirit working to designate something or someone for the work of the Lord.

### **Application for Today...**

- 1<sup>st</sup>... When the Spirit anoints someone or something for service to God, it is holy or consecrated.
- Holy means set aside from sin
  - For example, each believer is anointed by the Spirit with a spiritual gift.
  - This gift is an ability reserved for use in service to God.
    - That ability is holy, or set apart to glorify God.
    - As we use that gift in service to the Body, God is glorified by it.
  - a. But God alone brings an anointing by His Spirit.
    - God controls who, when and how an anointing takes place
    - In this case, the Lord designated that the oil, which pictures His Spirit, would only be used to anoint the priests, tabernacle and its furnishings.
    - Collectively, these three things represent the many aspects of Christ's ministry, as we've already seen.
      - And so we see the Holy Spirit pictured by the oil anointing Christ as pictured in these items.
      - In fact, the word Messiah means Anointed One.
    - Jesus was the One selected by the Father to be the solution to sin.
      - Only Christ would once and forever solve the problem of man's sin.
      - He would withstand its temptations in life.
      - And He would conquer its power by His death.
  - b. Even the prohibition against counterfeiting the oil or misusing it teaches us concerning Christ.
    - The Father alone will designate the Messiah.
    - Anyone may claim to be the Messiah, but only Jesus had the Father's anointing...[Luke 3:21- 22](#)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>... Just as Israel was not permitted to counterfeit their own version of the anointing oil, men cannot take God's place in anointing God's work.
- God anointed His Son as Messiah, and He is still at working anointing men and women for ministry in the church.
  - We can't counterfeit the Holy Spirit and bring an anointing to someone outside God's will.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> ... But many men have tried and are trying to do this very thing.
- False teachers and charlatans use the power of persuasion, convincing displays or supernatural power, and other techniques to mimic the Spirit.
  - And they do so to gain followers, fame, money or whatever they want.
    - Turn on your television and you can see them at work most any night.
  - We can also see one of them at work in the Book of Acts...Acts 8:18-21
- 4<sup>th</sup> ... So the perfume oil is a picture of the Holy Spirit anointing Christ as the one and only Way and of the anointing of God's people according to God's will.

Then the Lord directed Moses to use additional spices to create the incense to burn upon the altar

### **Verses 34 - 38...**

Each of these spices are similar to the ones used for the perfume in that they originate from Arabia and India and were rare

1. Once again, Israel brought them up from Egypt.
  - The incense was also to be mixed by an skilled apothecary.
  - These ingredients were beaten into a "ne powder.
  - Several of them were made from plant resin, so they had volatile oils that burned easily
  - Salt was added, as a preservative and as a symbol of holiness.
2. The incense was to be burned twice each day in the altar of incense we learned about last time.
  - The burning incense was the means by which the priest of Israel made intercession for the nation of Israel according to the Law.
  - The rising smoke was a pleasing odor which represented how the prayers of the saints please the Lord.

### **Application for Today...**

- a. Three time we read in Revelation that the prayers of the saints are like incense Rev. 5:8
  - Like the perfume, the incense may not be used anywhere else nor may it Be made for personal use.
- b. The picture is of Christ again, our intercessor representing us to the Father.
  - Because Jesus speaks for us and represents us to the Father, the Lord consider our requests.
  - But if we seek the Father in any other way, our prayers are not heard.
  - The Father only hears what His Son represents to Him and unless the Son knows us, the Father never hears us.
- b. This is why Hebrews says that without faith (in Jesus) it is impossible for us to please God.
  - And even more, the Bible teaches that the prayers of those without the righteousness of Christ are futile...Psa. 34:15 – 17; Prov. 15:29; John 9:31
  - While any man can mix incense, only the method God prescribed will please Him.
  - And many men can pray, but only those who pray to Jesus in faith will please the Father and be heard.