

**STORY**

8/21/04

Worship in the Temple - Exodus 35-40; Lev. 24; Num. 6, 15

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I pray that You lovingly keep and protect our pastors, teachers, fellow members and the whole Christian Church on earth. Keep all of us from false teaching and a careless attitude toward Your holy Word. Lead us week after week to Your house of worship for the strengthening of our souls. May Your blessing of peace fill my soul with comfort and confidence to do my best in teaching this precious Word to Your children. Keep me and all of Your children in Your care until we stand before You face-to-face and praise You forevermore in our heavenly home. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Tabernacle - a portable tent used by the Israelites as their worship place of the LORD Jehovah.

Bezaleel and Aholiab - the head artisans(craftsmen) that directed the building of the Tabernacle.

Laver - large basin used by the priests to wash in.

OUTER AIM

God established an orderly series of sacrifices and services for the spiritual welfare of His people and to the glory of His name.

INNER AIM

Every Christian is called upon by God to publicly worship Him by hearing His Word, repenting of his sins and receiving the Good News of forgiveness through Jesus.

BACKGROUND

God described in minute detail the way in which the Israelites were to worship Him. He prescribed every feature of their worship: the place, the building, the time, the priesthood, the services and sacrifices. As long as they were in the wilderness, their place of worship would be a tent, which could easily be taken down, carried and put up again. The LORD Himself gave to Moses a pattern which the builders strictly followed in the building of the Tabernacle. Everything associated with the worship of God was to point to the coming Messiah.

Ex. 35:4-9

The LORD instructs Moses to tell the Israelites to bring Him an offering. This offering will be from "whoever is of a willing heart," prompted by God's love for him. This offering should consist of gold; silver; bronze; blue, purple and scarlet yarn; fine linen thread and goat's hair; ram's skins dyed red; badger skins; acacia wood; oil for the light; spices; onyx stones.

Ex. 36:2-7

The leaders of the building project were chosen by God (cf. Ex. 35:30-35). When they received the gifts of the people from Moses they found that there was "much more than enough for the service of the work which the LORD commanded us to do."

See Rupprecht Vol. 1, pgs. 192-210 for specific details and pictures of the various furnishings built and placed into the temple and the clothing worn by the priests.

Tabernacle measured: 45l 15w 15h and was erected in the west end of a courtyard. The Tabernacle consisted of two parts: The holy place and the holy of holies.

The holy of holies was separated from the rest of the Tabernacle by a heavy four-inch thick curtain and was kept completely dark. In it stood the ark of the covenant. This was a chest covered inside and out with gold. The cover of the ark was called the mercy seat made of gold. On the ends of the cover were the figures of two cherubim (angels). They faced each other with their wings outspread. Inside of the ark of the covenant were the two stone tablets of the Law; a jar of manna; and Aaron's rod. Only the High Priest could enter the holy of holies and this only once a year on the Day of Atonement, when he sprinkled the blood of the sacrificial lamb on the mercy seat as a picture of Christ's shed blood atoning for (covering) our sins before God.

The holy place was the rest of the Tabernacle which contained the altar of incense on which the priests burned incense every morning and evening; the table of showbread, on which 12 loaves of bread were placed every Sabbath and left there for a week; and the seven-branched golden lampstand. These candles were lit every night and were the only source of light in the holy place. Only Priests were allowed in this part of the tabernacle.

The courtyard measured 150 x 75 feet and was surrounded by a canvas screen about eight feet high. The courtyard contained the altar of burnt offering on which two lambs were offered every day, one in the morning and one in the evening. The fire on the altar was kept burning constantly. In the courtyard was the bronze laver (basin) in which the priests washed their hands and feet before performing their priestly duties. All the Israelites were allowed to gather in the courtyard of the tabernacle.

The priesthood was ordained by God. Aaron was the first high priest chosen by God and the LORD commanded that his sons serve as priests. Special garments were to be worn by the priests when they performed their many duties. The high priest was to wear two onyx stones and a breastplate, inscribed with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. . .six on each of the stones. He also wore a gold plate on his forehead with the inscription: "Holiness to the LORD."

The sacrifices were of two kinds: bloody sacrifices and bloodless sacrifices. Cattle, sheep, goats, turtledoves and pigeons were offered as bloody sacrifices. The bloodless sacrifices consisted of offerings of meal, cakes, grain, salt, oil and wine.

Exodus 40:34-38

God's appearance was in the cloud by day and in the fire by night. If the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, the children of Israel could go on in their journeys, if the cloud remained over the tabernacle, the people remained where they were.

Numbers 6:22-27

The same blessing given by the LORD to His people over 3,000 years ago is still bestowed upon each of us at the close of our worship services. The LORD assures us that HE will keep and protect us from all harm (safe in His arms); the LORD smiles upon us with His undeserved love in Christ Jesus washing away our sins; the LORD lifts up His countenance (face) to look at us and give us His peace which passes all understanding. We are at one with God. Note the threefold blessing which definitely reminds us of the Trinity and of the threefold work of God's goodness and mercy toward us. God the Father planned our Salvation and sent His Son; God the Son came into this world to take our place and live a perfect life of obedient love, (satisfying God's justice) and die upon the cross (paying our punishment); God the Holy Spirit takes the powerful Gospel and creates faith in

our hearts to believe this message. He also strengthens and preserves us in that faith through the Gospel.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I thank You that You have made me, redeemed me and brought me to saving faith. Your work alone has saved me. I thank You for my church and Sunday School, for my pastor and teachers who faithfully bring me Your holy Word. Keep them in Your care so that they always teach what is true and right to the glory of Your name. Help me to always love to come into Your house to worship You and hear Your Word. May Your Word be my constant guide day and night. Strengthen me in all areas of my life, especially in my worship of You and my praise of Your glorious salvation given to me. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRESENTATION

APPLICATION

1. God prepared a place for His Old Testament people to worship Him: the Tabernacle. The ark of the covenant in the holy of holies was the sign of His presence. He has given us houses of worship today also. He is present in His house in His Word.
2. The heavy, thick curtain separated the people from the holy of holies. Only the high priest could go in with the blood of the lamb and sprinkle it on the mercy seat. Jesus is our high priest and sacrificial lamb who had His shed blood spread on the cross for us. There is now nothing that separates us from our loving Heavenly Father. Hebrews 7:26-27
3. All the daily sacrifices for the sins of the people pointed ahead to the one sacrifice that would obtain forgiveness for the whole world; Jesus' blood. "... without shedding of blood there is no remission." Hebrews 9:22 "...the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." I John 1:7
4. What a privilege to hear the same message of God's grace and peace as the Old Testament believers. When we come to church we hear the Good News of a Savior who has come to suffer and die for us. As we leave God's House we hear Him pronounce the same blessing of grace and peace upon us that He announced through Aaron over 3,000 years ago. The unchanging God has unchanging grace and mercy for us which give peace to our hearts and lives.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

I John 1:7 - "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Middle

Hebrews 10:14 - "For by one offering He(Jesus) has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."

Upper

Psalms 27:4 - "One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD."

Numbers 6:24-26 - "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

HYMN CHOICES

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing - TLH #50

To Thy Temple I Repair - TLH #2

For Many Years, O God of Grace - TLH #639