

Sanctification of the Spiritual House and the Holy Priesthood

(1 Pet. 2:5; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Thess. 3:13; 5:23)

- I. We are the temple of God** (1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Tim. 3:15-16; Heb. 3:6)
 - A. The three parts of the tabernacle
 1. The outer court
 2. The holy place
 3. The Holy of Holies (Most Holy)
 - B. The tri-partite man – the spirit, soul and body – must be sanctified completely (1 Thess. 5:23)
 1. Our body (1 Cor. 6:15-20; 1 Tim. 3:16) — corresponds to the outer court: a clear indication that our body must also be holy (Rom. 6:19; 12:1; 1 Thess. 4:4; 2 Tim. 2:21)
 2. Our soul – corresponds to the holy place: Christ wants to dwell in our heart (John 14:23; Eph. 3:17; Isa. 57:15; Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27)
 3. Our spirit – corresponds to the Holy of Holies: the Holy Spirit dwells in our spirit (John 14:17; 1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 8:9-11)

- II. The outer court – corresponds to our body**
 - A. The enclosure – separation from the outside world (Exod. 27:9-19; 38:9-20)
 1. Outside are darkness and corruption (2 Pet. 1:4), the sway of the wicked one (1 John 5:19b; Acts 26:18), the hypocrisy and abomination of religion (Matt. 23:13), enmity with God (Rom. 8:7), and futility (Eph. 4:17-19)
 2. The church (Greek: ἐκκλησία) – the called-out ones separated unto the Lord (Col. 1:13; Gal. 1:4; John 18:36a; 1 Pet. 2:9; Tit. 2:14; Matt. 5:14; Heb. 12:22-23; Eph. 5:27)

3. Finely woven curtains of white linen – the perfect, pure, and righteous humanity of Jesus Christ (Rev. 19:8; 3:4-5, 18; 7:14; Ps. 132:9; Isa. 61:10)
 - a. An outward manifestation of the inner reality (Rev. 19:13-14; Matt. 5:13-16; 1 Cor. 6:20)
 - b. In our conduct clearly separating ourselves from religion and the world which are contrary to God’s nature (Lev. 10:9-10; 1 Sam. 8:20; 2 Kings 17:15; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; John 14:30; Heb. 7:26; Rom. 12:1-2; Tit. 2:12; 1 John 2:15-17; Rom. 6:19)
4. The 60 pillars (1 Tim. 3:15; Gal. 2:9; Rev. 3:12; Ps. 144:12)
 - a. Made of acacia wood – the incorruptible humanity of Jesus in resurrection (John 1:14; 2 Tim. 1:10; 1 Cor. 15:53-54; Rom. 2:7)
 - b. Set in bronze sockets, with bronze signifying judgment (Ps. 89:14; 97:2; Rev. 1:15; 2:18, 1 Pet. 4:17; 1 Cor. 11:31-32)
 - i. To condemn sin in the flesh (Rom. 8:3, 13; Matt. 5:27-30; Ps. 97:10; Heb. 12:4): the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21; Col. 3:5), the love of the world, of lawlessness and of lies (James 4:4; 2 Thess. 2:10-12), our religious flesh (Col. 2:20-23), in our thoughts, speech, and conduct (Rom. 8:5-7; Ps. 19:14; 2 Cor. 10:5)
 - ii. The ungodly do not have God’s judgment in view (Ps. 10:5)
 - iii. Zion rejoices in judgment because it brings about transformation (Ps. 19:9-11; 48:11; 97:8)
 - iv. The judgment seat of Christ – the judgment of what we have done in our body, whether good or bad (2 Cor. 5:10)
 - c. Silver hooks and rods (bands - NKJV), with their capitals overlaid with silver (Exod. 27:10; 38:17) – silver signifies salvation and redemption

- d. Bronze pegs to fasten the pillars
- 5. The dimensions of the enclosure: 100 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 5 cubits high – our responsibility
- B. The entrance – Jesus Christ (the door in John 10 & 14, the access in Eph. 2). The three entrances in the tabernacle are all made of the same material: linen, purple, blue and scarlet thread; only the inner veil has the cherubim.
- C. The burnt offering altar – made of acacia wood and overlaid with bronze, with all its utensils of bronze (Exod. 27:1-8)
 - 1. The whole world is under God’s judgment (Rom. 1:28-32; 3:9-19; Eph. 2:3)
 - 2. Christ bore our judgment on the cross (Isa. 53; Matt. 27:45-46; 1 Pet. 2:24; Heb. 9:14; 10:19)
 - a. Bronze signifies God’s judgment (Num. 16:38-40; 21:4-9; Job 11:13-15)
 - b. Floor plan: 5 x 5 cubits (approx. 5 m²) – the judgment of
 - i. Satan (John 12:31)
 - ii. The world (Gal. 6:14; James 4:4)
 - iii. Sin (Rom. 6:6-7, 23; 1 John 2:2)
 - iv. The flesh (Gal. 5:24)
 - v. The self (Gal. 2:19-20)
 - vi. The old man (Rom. 6:6)
 - vii. Religious concepts (Matt. 23:2-3; Luke 12:1-2)
 - c. 3 cubits high with a grate midway up the altar – the death and resurrection of Jesus
 - 3. Christ as the all-inclusive and perfect offering
 - a. He died to fulfill the will of the Father (Luke 22:42; John 18:11; 12:27-28) – the burnt offering
 - b. He was the only man without fault, without sin – the meal offering (Heb. 4:15; Mark 14:55; John 6:55-58)
 - c. He died to fully reconcile us to God – the peace offering (Col. 1:20-22)

- d. He judged sin in the flesh – the sin and trespass offering (Rom. 8:3-4; 7:24-25)
- e. He rose from the dead, ascended to the throne, and sat down at the right hand of God
- 4. Our experience of judgment
 - a. We must all give account to God for our lives (2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 4:13)
 - b. Judgment is necessary (Isa. 26:9-10; 1 Cor. 5:3-13; Mark 7:21-23; Tit. 2:12, 14)
 - c. Judge and resist sin – exercise our will (Heb. 12:4; Matt. 5:29-30; Rom. 6:11; 7:15; 1 Cor. 11:31-32)
- D. The bronze laver (Exod. 30:17-21; 38:8; 40:30-32)
 - 1. Made from the bronze mirrors of the serving women (Exod. 38:8) – a single large mirror
 - a. The need to recognize our true condition and how defiled we are (Isa. 64:6; Jer. 17:9)
 - b. Deal thoroughly with what the Lord shows us, being doers of the word (James 1:21-25)
 - c. Judge ourselves, thereby gaining the bronze (Job 11:13-15; Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5)
 - 2. Placed between the tabernacle and the altar so that the priests wash their hands and feet before serving (Exod. 30:18b-21; Heb. 10:19-22)
 - a. Hands and feet (John 13:8-10; Is. 59:1-3, 6-8; 1 Tim. 2:8) and the heart (Lam. 3:40-41; James 4:8-9)
 - b. Before they enter the holy place (Ps. 24:3-4)
 - c. Before they draw near to the burnt offering altar (Ps. 26:6-7)
 - d. So that they will not die (Isa. 1:11-16)
 - 3. Filled with living, pure water for washing – Christ cleanses and sanctifies the church through the washing of water by the word, to present her to Himself a glorious church (Eph. 5:26-27; John 15:3; 17:17; Isa. 4:2-6)
 - a. The word together with the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:6; John 6:63; Ezek. 36:25-26)

- b. Purifies from death and brings forth resurrection – the Feast of Firstfruits (Rom. 7:24; 8:11; cf. Lev. 14; Num. 19)
- 4. The dimensions and shape are not specified
 - a. Purification is something living, a matter of our personal relationship with the Lord (Ps. 139:23-24; Heb. 4:12)
 - b. Purification and sanctification are unlimited; we must be thoroughly sanctified until the Lord comes back (1 Thess. 5:23)
- 5. Requirements to enter the holy place
 - a. The blood from the burnt offering altar and the water from the bronze laver – a complete purification (John 19:34; Eph. 5:25-26; Heb. 9:14; 10:22; 1 John 5:6-8)
 - b. The holy priestly garments (Exod. 28:43)
- E. The outer court is the place where the holy feasts of the Lord are kept

III. The holy place – corresponds to our soul (Heb. 6:19)

- A. The enclosure of the holy place and the Holy of Holies
 - 1. The 4 layers of the coverings of the tabernacle (Exod. 26:1-14)
 - 2. 5 pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold, with hooks of gold and sockets of bronze for the hanging of the screen (covering) (Exod. 26:37)
 - 3. Acacia boards overlaid with gold (Exod. 26:15-30; Eph. 4:11-15)
 - a. Standing upright (Eph. 6:13), 10 cubits high; 1.5 cubits wide; with two tenons in two silver sockets
 - b. 20 boards with 40 silver sockets on the north side and the south side respectively
 - c. 6 boards at the back, on the west side
 - d. 2 boards for the corners at the back
 - 4. The bars of acacia wood, overlaid with gold, that join the boards together – the true fellowship and perfect

- unity of the Spirit (Exod. 26:26-29; John 17:20-23; Phil. 2:2; Col. 3:14; Eph. 4:3)
- B. The table, overlaid with pure gold, with its golden utensils (pitchers and bowls for pouring) and the showbread – pointing to the Lord’s table (Exod. 25:23-30; Lev. 24:5-9)
1. Set before the face of the Lord to be examined for seven days – freshly made every Sabbath – 7 stands for completion (James 1:2-4; John 12:20-25, 28; Heb. 4:15; 2:18)
 2. Food that is exclusively for the priests (Heb. 5:13-14)
- C. The golden lampstand with its utensils – the light of life (Exod. 25:31-40; Zech. 4:1-6)
1. Hammered from one talent of pure gold (1 Cor. 3:12; Rev. 3:18)
 2. The shaft at the center and the 6 branches – Christ, in whom we have been planted (John 15:5; Rom. 6:5)
 3. Adorned with bowls made like almonds, with knobs and blossoms – the full power of the resurrection life (Num. 17:1-9; Phil. 3:10-11)
 4. The lamps are arranged so that they give light in front of the lampstand (Exod. 25:37; Jer. 33:3; John 16:13)
 5. The lamps must burn continually (Exod. 27:20-21; Lev. 24:2-4)
 6. Freshly pressed olive oil flows through the pipes – the Holy Spirit (Zech. 4:2)
 7. The golden wick-trimmers to trim away the old and to hold fast to what is good (Rom. 12:9; 1 Thess. 5:21)
- D. The golden incense altar (Rev. 8:1-5)
1. The priestly prayer
 - a. Christ, our example (Matt. 6:9-10; Heb. 7:25; John 17)
 - b. Fully according to God’s purpose and will – Paul’s prayers (Eph. 1:16; 3:14-19; Col. 1:9; Phil. 1:3-4)
 - c. Before the throne of grace – the overcomers and the firstfruits

- d. Offered in golden bowls – the prayer of the saints (Ps. 2; Acts 4:23-31, Rev. 8:1-5; 5:8)
 - e. A continual offering up of incense that is pleasing to the Father (Exod. 30:8; Luke 21:36; Ps. 141:2; Rom. 8:26-27)
 - f. The prayer of the righteous (Prov. 15:29; Luke 1:6-11)
 - g. No strange fire or incense – the warning of Nadab and Abihu and of King Uzziah (Exod. 30:9; Lev. 10:1; 16:11-13; 2 Chron. 26:16-20)
2. The description of the incense altar (Exod. 30:1-10, 34-38)
- a. One cubit wide; one cubit long; two cubits high
 - b. Acacia wood overlaid with fine gold
 - c. The horns and the crown of gold of the altar – power and dominion
 - d. Composition of the incense: stacte, onycha, galbanum, sweet spices, frankincense (Exod. 30:34-35)
- E. The anchor of the soul, which extends into the Holy of Holies – inheriting the promises through faith and patience (Heb. 6:12-20; Rom. 4:20-21)

IV. The Holy of Holies (Most Holy) – corresponds to our spirit

A. The entrance

- 1. Woven linen and purple, blue, and scarlet thread with an artistic design of cherubim (Exod. 26:31)
- 2. Hanging on 4 pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold
- 3. Hooks of gold and sockets of silver
- 4. The way to enter into the Holy of Holies (Heb. 10:19-22)
 - a. Through the torn veil – the flesh of the Lord Jesus
 - b. By the precious blood of the Lamb as on the Day of Atonement
 - c. Having our heart sprinkled from an evil conscience

- d. Having our bodies washed with the pure water of life
- B. The ark of the Testimony
 - 1. Today, Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Rev. 11:19)
 - a. Administering the events of the whole universe through the scroll in His hand (Rev. 5)
 - b. The ruler over the kings of the earth
 - 2. To His people
 - a. He is the propitiatory cover – the mercy seat (Rom. 3:25; Heb. 9:5)
 - b. The throne of grace (Heb. 4:16)
 - c. Christ – the great heavenly High Priest
- V. The holy city – the heavenly Jerusalem – the consummation of the whole Bible (Rev. 21)**