

Coming into His Presence in the Holiest Place

“... Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.” (Mark 15:38)

I. The Holy of Holies – Our Goal

- A. The best and most important part of the tabernacle – the innermost chamber
 - 1. Separated by thick veil embroidered with the cherubim (Ex. 26:1, Gen. 3:24)
 - 2. In the old covenant, only the high priest can enter once a year (Lev. 16:2, 34, Heb. 9:7-8)
 - 3. On the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:29-30) – the most important day in Jewish calendar
 - 4. Not without the blood of bulls and goats (Lev. 16)
- B. Today, in the new covenant, the way to the Holy of Holies is open to all of God’s people
 - 1. The veil is torn from top to bottom immediately when Christ died on the cross (Matt. 27:51, Mark 15:38)
 - 2. Christ Himself as our Great High Priest has entered the most Holy Place once and for all
 - a. With His own blood – which speaks better than Abel’s blood (Heb. 9:11-12, 14, 24, 26, Heb. 12:24)
 - b. As our Advocate before the Father (1 Joh. 2:1)
 - c. Always making intercession for us (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25)
 - 3. We now have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ and have access into the Holy of Holiest (Rom. 5:1-2, Eph. 2:16-18)
 - 4. We can now enter all the time into the Holy of Holies (Heb. 10:19-22)

- a. In a new and living way
 - b. With boldness by the blood of Jesus
 - c. With the full assurance of faith
 - d. Our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience
- C. Coming to the throne of grace (Heb. 4:15-16)
- 1. To behold the beauty and glory of the Lord and to inquire of Him (Ps. 27:4, 2 Cor. 3:18)
 - 2. There the Lord will speak to us (Ex. 30:6)
 - 3. To be richly fed (Rev. 2:7, 17)
 - 4. To enter the Sabbath rest (Heb. 4:9-11)
 - 5. To be saved to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25)
 - 6. Find mercy and grace in time of need (Heb. 4:16)
- D. The way to the Holy of Holies – by pursuing holiness (Heb. 12:14, 2 Cor. 7:1)
- 1. Through the outer court and the Holy Place
 - 2. By the holy priesthood – only the priests can enter the sanctuary
 - 3. By prayer before the golden incense altar
 - 4. Living and walking in the spirit

II. Day of Atonement enabling us to come forward with boldness to the Most Holy Place (Lev. 16; Heb. 10:19-25)

- A. Christ, as the High Priest according the order of Melchizedek, opened the way, once and for all, to enter into the Most Holy Place at any time (Heb. 9:11-12, 24; 4:14-16; Eph. 2:18)
- 1. Christ dealt with our sins (Heb. 10:12; John 1:29)
 - 2. Reconciled us to God (Rom. 5:10-11)
 - 3. Peace with God (Eph. 2:14-18)
 - 4. He is our Advocate and Mediator (1 John 2:1; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 12:24)

- B. We still need to be reconciled to God, and to afflict and deny our soul life (2 Cor. 5:18-21; Lev. 23:27; Matt. 16:24)
- C. The goal is to enter in to fellowship with God (1 John 1:3, 6-7; 1 Cor. 1:9)
 - 1. Throne of grace and mercy (Heb. 4:16)
 - 2. Behold the glory of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:18)
 - 3. To hear the speaking of the Lord (Ex. 25:22; 33:9)
 - a. Speaks to a friend (James 2:23)
 - b. Speaks to the prophets (Amos 3:7; Gen. 18:17)
 - c. Reveals secrets to those who fear Him (Ps. 25:14)
 - d. Draw near to the Lord (Song of Songs 1:4)

III. Our service at the Golden Incense Altar

- A. Golden bowls full of incense are the prayers of the saints (Rev. 5:7-8; 8:3-5)
- B. Golden bowls – what manner of person we are when we serve (2 Tim. 2:20-21)
 - 1. Cleansed and sanctified (Isa. 1:15-18; James 4:3)
 - 2. Having the best love for the Lord and the love for His people (Matt. 22:37-39; Col. 3:12-14; 1 Cor. 13:4-8; 2 Pet. 1:4-8)
 - 3. One with and obedient to the Father's will (Rev. 14:1; Matt. 6:33-34)
 - 4. Praying always (1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Sam 12:23; Luke 18:1; Col. 4:2)
 - 5. Praying with His word (Eph. 6:17-18)
 - 6. Walk worthy of the Lord (James 5:16; Prov. 15:29; Eph. 4:1-3; Col. 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 2:12)
- C. Christ is the incense as the sweet aroma to God the Father
 - 1. Prayer for the Father's will and kingdom (Matt. 6:9-15)
 - 2. He always did the will of the Father (Luke 2:49; John 4:34; 5:19; 6:38; 8:28-29; Matt. 26:39, 42)

3. Prayer for the people (Luke 23:34)
4. Sweet aroma satisfying to God (Matt. 3:17)
- D. Resulting in accomplishing God's purpose (James 5:16; Prov. 15:29)
 1. Daniel's prayer (Dan. 9:4-19; Col. 3:12-13)
 2. Prayer of the church (Acts 4:23-31; Rev. 8:3-5)
 3. Paul's prayers (Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Phil. 1:3-11; Col. 1:3, 9-13; 2:1-3; 4:2-4)

IV. The Ark of the Testimony

- A. The ark <chest> (Ex. 25:10-11)
 1. Made of acacia wood
 - a. Jesus Christ as the perfect man (Heb. 2:10; 5:9)
 - b. His perfect humanity – without sin, incorruptible (1 John 3:5; 1 Pet. 2:22; 1:23; Heb. 4:15; 7:25-26)
 2. 2.5 cubits its length, 1.5 cubits its width and height
 - a. Jesus Christ lowered himself (Phil. 2:5-8; Is. 53:2)
 - b. As a man, He is able to help and bring us to glory (Heb. 2:10-11, 17-18; 7:25)
 - c. Bringing forth the church, His body, the bride (Gen. 2:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25, 32; Rev. 21:2)
 3. Overlaid with pure gold inside and outside
 - a. Jesus, as a man expressing and glorifying God, the Father (John 1:18; 14:9; 17:4)
 - b. In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col. 2:9)
 - c. In Him, we are complete and lack nothing (Col. 2:10)
 - d. We as members of His body, being filled unto all the fullness of God (Eph. 3:19)
 - e. His church, His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all (Eph. 1:23)

- B. The mercy seat <propitiation cover> (Ex. 25:17-22; 37:6-9)
 - 1. We have sinned and fall short of God's glory (Rom. 3:23)
 - 2. Jesus Christ, the righteous, is the propitiation for our sins and for the whole world (1 John 2:1-2)
 - 3. God set forth Christ as a propitiation by His blood (Rom. 3:25)
 - 4. Fulfilling every righteous requirement of God (Rom. 8:4)
 - 5. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace (Heb. 4:16; Eph. 3:12)
 - 6. To obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16)
- C. The cherubim of glory (Ex. 25:22; Heb. 9:5; Num. 7:89)
 - 1. Representing the glory of the Lord
 - 2. In the Most Holy Place, the cherubim facing the mercy seat and not us
 - 3. God's dwelling place and the place where He speaks above the cherubim of glory (1 Sam. 4:4; 2 Sam. 6:2; Ezek. 1:22-26; 9:3)

V. The Hidden Manna

- A. Manna – the bread from heaven in the wilderness (Ex. 16)
- B. Christ – our true Manna today
 - 1. Christ is the bread of life (John 6:48-58)
 - 2. The Word as our Food (Deut. 8:3; Jer. 15:16)
 - 3. More satisfying than the best in the world (Dan. 1:8-17)
- C. The hidden Manna hidden five-fold for the overcomers – outer court, sanctuary, Most Holy Place, ark, and the golden pot (Rev. 2:17)

1. Located in the presence of God
2. Available for all the priests (Matt. 27:51; Heb. 10:19)
3. Of deeper nourishment (Heb. 6:1; 5:14)
4. For each of us to strive for (Ex. 16:33; Gen. 32:22-32)

VI. Aaron's Budding Rod (Num. 17:3-5, 8-11)

- A. Christ is given all authority (Eph. 1:20-23; Matt. 28:18)
- B. Christ is the reality of Aaron's budding rod (Ps. 23:4-5; 110:1-4; Heb. 5:4-6)
- C. The blossoms and ripe almonds signify Christ reigning with resurrection power and the fullness of life (Rom. 1:3-4; 1 Cor. 15:20-28; Eph. 1:19-21)
- D. Christ is the good shepherd of the flock (John 10:11, 14-16; 1 Pet. 2:25; 5:2-4)
- E. The apostles all followed the example of the Lord in caring for the churches (1 Cor. 3:5-7; 2 Cor. 10:17-18; 1 Thess. 2:4-12; 1 Pet. 5:2-4)

VII. The Tablets of the Covenant

- A. The law of God inside the ark (Ex. 31:18; 25:16, 21; 20:1-21)
 1. We cannot keep God's law (Ex. 20:18-20; 32:15-19; Rom. 3:19-20; Matt. 22:34-40; John 7:19)
 2. It requires full and complete observance – no one can (James 2:8-11; Matt. 5:48)
 3. To be kept in the ark – the giving and the keeping of the law to a natural person is impossible because the law is holy – no one can come to the Most Holy Place except for the High Priest and once a year (Ex. 20:18-21)

- B. The law must be fulfilled (Matt. 5:17-20; Luke 24:44-45; Matt. 22:37-40; Acts 28:23-27)
 - 1. God's law is perfect (Ps. 19:7-11)
 - 2. Christ fulfilled the law (Rom. 10:1-4; Matt. 5:17)
- C. Can we keep the covenant (law) today? (Heb. 8:7-12; John 14:25-26; Heb. 10:19-22; Col. 1:19-23; Ezek. 11:19-20; 36:25-27)
 - 1. Because we could not come to God, we were dead (2 Cor. 3:4-15; Col.2:13-15; James 2:26)
 - 2. The new covenant is written in our hearts so we can keep it (Heb. 8:10-12; Jer. 31:31-34)
 - 3. Daily come to the Holiest – our spirit (Heb. 10:19-22)
 - 4. Continually lay aside all the weight and those things that hinder us (Heb. 4:2-3; 11:6)
 - 5. Enjoy Christ as the complete offerings – by living in the Holy Spirit daily (Gal. 5:16)

VIII. The history and chronology of the ark

- A. History
 - 1. Wandering in the wilderness for 40 years
 - 2. Entering the good land (Josh. 3:6, 11, 17)
 - 3. The tabernacle and the ark at Shiloh (Josh. 18:1)
 - 4. The ark is separated from the tabernacle and is captured by the Philistines (1 Sam. 4; Ps. 78:58-61)
 - 5. The Philistines are struck with plagues because of the ark (1 Sam. 5)
 - 6. The ark is returned to Israel (1 Sam. 6)
 - a. To Beth Shemesh
 - b. In Kirjath Jearim (1 Sam. 7:1-2)
 - c. David retrieves the ark from the house of Abinadab (2 Sam. 6:1-8)
 - d. In the house of Obed-Edom (2 Sam. 6:9-11)

- e. David brings the ark to the City of David (2 Sam. 6:12-17; 1 Chr. 15)
- f. The tabernacle remains in Gibeon (1 Chr. 16:39)
- g. David's desire to build the temple (2 Sam. 7:2; Ps. 132)
- 7. The ark placed in the temple (1 Kings 8; 2 Chr. 5)
- B. God's desire to dwell with man
 - 1. God is with us
 - a. God fights for Israel (Ex. 14:13-14, 25; 17:8-16; Josh. 10)
 - b. Cloud filling the tabernacle (Ex. 40:34-38)
 - c. Caleb and Joshua – "The LORD is with us. Do not fear them." (Num. 14:9)
 - d. Jericho conquered (Josh. 6)
 - e. David defeating Goliath (1 Sam. 17:45-47)
 - 2. God has departed
 - a. Eli's sons kill and Israel defeated (1 Sam. 4:10-11)
 - b. Captivity of Israel and Judah; the Lord removed them from His sight (2 Kings 17:5-23; 25:8-10)
 - c. Dead (Rev. 3:1)
 - d. Lampstand removed (Rev. 2:5)
 - e. Vomited out (Rev. 3:16)

IX. Upcoming peace covenant

- A. The 70th week prophecy (Dan. 9:27)
- B. Treaties with Arabs – Egypt (1979), Jordan (1994), UAE (2020)
 - 1. "Circle of peace" with potential future partners: Bahrain, Oman, Sudan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia
 - 2. Animal offerings already possible today with "green light" from Israeli government (Temple Institute: August 30, 2020)