

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

26



The Cleansing of the Temple



HIGHER LEVEL MINISTRIES

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus

Philippians Chapter 2 verse 5

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Jerusalem, the “City of Peace,” has a history like few other places on earth. Over thousands of years, many wars have been fought over this site. Today, Jerusalem is still one of the most volatile places in the world. The most prized possession in Jerusalem is the Temple Mount, considered holy by both Jews and Muslims. It was where Solomon built the first great Israelite temple, which Babylon’s king Nebuchadnezzar later destroyed. Herod’s temple, later built on the same spot, was eventually destroyed by the Romans in AD 70. Since that time, there has been talk about rebuilding this temple. But according to the Bible, should the temple be rebuilt?

What was the purpose of the ancient temple - also known as the tabernacle or sanctuary? What did all the symbols and ceremonies mean? And as the ancient high priest ministered in the temple on behalf of God’s people in times past, who represents us before God today?

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

Exodus 25:8-9 - _____

Note: Moses followed God’s “blueprint” to build the sanctuary. The sanctuary was designed by God, and every symbol and ceremony was significant.

2. What was the main purpose of the Jewish Sanctuary? **Exodus 25:8** - _____

Note: The sanctuary provided a means whereby God could again live with His people. His presence would reside permanently in the sanctuary. In this way, God went wherever His people went - guiding, providing for and protecting them. The sanctuary symbols and services taught the people to know and understand their loving God.

3. On what was the Hebrew sanctuary modeled? **Hebrews 8:1,2 & 5** - _____

Note: The earthly sanctuary was modelled after the sanctuary in heaven. The sanctuary that Moses built was a “shadow” representing the original temple that God built. (**Hebrews 8:5**).

4. What did God show His people through the sanctuary and it’s services?

Psalms 73:1-17, 77:13 - _____

Note: The sanctuary was a three-dimensional model given to show God’s way of salvation. The sanctuary is mentioned throughout the Bible, and involves a wide variety of symbols and ceremonies. The sanctuary outlines the complete gospel story in detail. It presents a God of judgement and mercy, and demonstrates how God will ultimately and eternally solve the sin problem.

5. What was the central teaching of the sanctuary? **Leviticus 4:32-35** and **Hebrews 9:22** - _____

Note: The sanctuary service was based on the sacrifice of animals. This heart-wrenching ceremony taught that the shedding of blood was required to obtain forgiveness (remission) and cleansing from sin.

6. How did the sinner receive forgiveness for sins? **Leviticus 4:33** - _____

Note: Read **Leviticus 4:29, 5:5-6** - The sinner would take a lamb to the sanctuary, and approach the altar of burnt offering. He would then place his hand on the head of the lamb and confess his specific sins onto that lamb. By doing this, the sinner symbolically transferred his sins onto the lamb, and the lamb would be killed and its blood would be transferred into the sanctuary.

7. Who did the Old Testament High Priest represent today? **Hebrews 4:14-16** - _____

8. What makes Jesus our perfect High Priest for today? **Hebrews 2:17** - _____

9. What does Jesus do as High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary? **Heb. 7:25** - _____

10. What was the Day of Atonement? **Leviticus 23:26-29** - _____

Note: The Day of Atonement was the removal of the record of sin for one Jewish year.

11. What was done on the Day of Atonement that symbolised the final removal of sin? **Leviticus 16:7-10, 29-31, 33-34** - _____

12. How many temples are there that need cleansing today?

- a. The heavenly sanctuary - **Hebrews 8:1-2** (compare **Hebrews 9:22-24**)
- b. The individual's body as a temple - **1 Corinthians 6:19,20**
- c. We the people as a temple body - **Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Peter 2:4, 5 & 9**

Note: Jesus resisted temptation. **1 John 3:5** says He was completely without sin. Jesus gained the victory over temptation in His personal experience, and is ready to give you help just when you need it most. This is why He is in the heavenly sanctuary now, ministering on our behalf as our High Priest to cleanse all three temples - **1. The sanctuary in heaven. 2. Our temple as individuals. 3. Believers as the body of Christ.**

13. Did Jesus ever cleanse the temple on Earth? **Matthew 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-17, Luke 19:45-48** - _____

14. How does the courtyard and furniture in the sanctuary represent Jesus?

1. Altar of Burnt Offering: Exodus 27:1-5	The sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary: John 1:29
2. The Laver: Exodus 30:18	Jesus as the Living Water: John 4:10, Titus 3:5
3. Seven Branch Candlestick: Exodus 25:31-32	Jesus as the Light of the World: John 1:9, John 8:12
4. The Showbread: Exodus 25:28-30	Jesus as the Bread of Life: John 6:48
5. The Alter of Incense: Exodus 30:1	The righteousness of Jesus mixed with the prayers of the faithful: Revelation 8:3
6. The Ark and the Mercy Seat: Exodus 25:17-22	The mercy of God offered to those who break His law: Psalms 85:10, Hebrews 9:1-15


Note: The courtyard = the World. The earthly sanctuary = the heavenly one.

Three points to remember:

1. The sanctuary demonstrates the plan of salvation.
2. The sanctuary outlines how God solves the problem of sin.
3. Jesus ministers now in the heavenly sanctuary to bring us salvation.

Would you like to accept the forgiveness offered to you by your High Priest, who is ministering now in the heavenly sanctuary?

HLM have produced and added this study to the original "The Bible Speaks"
 All Bible texts quoted are from the King James Bible



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