



Lesson 39

Lesson 39: A Copied Tabernacle

Scripture: Hebrews 9:1-5

Discovering Reality (Romans 15:4)

- God moved different writers to communicate reality to us. Truth is reality. God's word is truth. (John 17:17; Psalm 119:160)
- When each writer wrote he wrote to communicate God's truth to us.
- Each writer wrote with words and each word had its meaning - the meaning *the writer intended*.
- When each writer wrote down his words they became fixed.
- The words and intention of the writer became FINAL and could not be changed! Even the author could not/cannot change his mind.
- Bible study is to discover what the author intended to communicate.
- Whatever was written was written for our learning. Whatever was written was FIXED with no possibility to be changed in time.
- No one has any authority to change the intention of the original author.

Obsolete (Hebrews 8:13)

- Since Christ had come, the *first* covenant (with its earthly tabernacle, priesthood, and ordinances) were now **obsolete**. (Hebrews 8:13)
 - "obsolete" - "to grow old"; "out of date"; "no longer needed"; "something that had served its purpose but now is no longer needed"
 - Examples: The scaffolding of a building; toys in a nursery; winter coats in the summer; etc.
- God had a **purpose** for the earthly tabernacle - to point to something (Someone) GREATER - our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **NOTE: God designed His Tabernacle.** How important was it? Consider that God created the heavens and the earth in six days, but forty days in instructing Moses how to build the Tabernacle.

- ★ MEDITATE: The work of REDEMPTION is more glorious than even creation!
- Shadows disappear when the “Sun” (Malachi 4:2; Galatians 4:4) is at its “highest”. (Hebrews 8:5; Colossians 2:16-17)
- God had revealed, through Jeremiah, that HE would establish a “new” covenant! (Jeremiah 31, 33) – NOT “another”; NOT “second” but a “NEW”! == Making the OLD obsolete. The NEW covenant was not ADDED to the OLD but replaced it completely.
- A NEW covenant meant that the tabernacle and everything related to it (services, offerings, priests, etc.) was to be REPLACED.
- The NEW covenant was much more glorious than the OLD.

Divine Services (Hebrews 9:1)

- The Holy Spirit moves the author of Hebrews to **continue** to show that Christ is superior to the ceremonies, sacrifices, and High Priest of Judaism. Why? Because religious customs are HARD to set aside. It must be demonstrated that something (Someone) GREATER and MORE GLORIOUS can and must replace these “customs”.
- The writer affirms that the first *covenant* (8:7, 13) **had** ordinances (ceremonies; ritual) of *divine service*.
 - **GOD** had set down the RULES of worship and approaching.
 - God could and can **only** be worshiped and approached **as He determines!** NO OTHER WAY is or will be acceptable.
- The first *covenant* **had** the *worldly* or *earthly* tabernacle.
 - *Earthly* or *Worldly* as compared to the **heavenly** one in which “the Lord erected” (Hebrews 8:2; 9:11)
 - This is the one that Moses built at the direction of God. (See Exodus 25:8)
 - **GOD** designed HIS Tabernacle. (Exodus 25:9, 40; 26:30; 27:8; Numbers 8:4; Hebrews 8:5; Acts 7:44)
- The Tabernacle was the **only** place where God would meet man. (Specifically at the Ark, Exodus 25:22; 30:6, 36; Numbers 17:4)
- The Tabernacle, the priesthood, and the services related to both were all **shadows** of Christ. Christ is the **ONLY** place where God will meet man. (John 14:6)

The Tabernacle or Tent of Meeting (Hebrews 9:2; Exodus 25-40)

- “Tabernacle” is mentioned 10 times in Hebrews, but “temple” only once!
 - ★ The Tabernacle pointed to Christ’s first coming while the Temple foreshadowed Christ’s resurrection and second coming.

- ★ The author of Hebrews is highlighting the superiority of Christ in His first coming to replace the divine services of the “old”.
- The writer speaks of the Tabernacle proper which was a “tent” with two compartments. NOTE: A tent is temporary while a building is more permanent.
- **NOTICE: No mention** is made of the **outer court!**
 - The **outer court** was accessible to all the people.
 - The **outer court** was unroofed – open before men.
 - The **brazen altar** spoke of the **cross** – the place of propitiation and sacrifice – God publicly dealing with man’s sin before all men.
 - The **fine linen** that surrounded the court spoke of Christ meeting the claims of God’s righteousness and holiness.
 - The **laver** foreshadowed Christ cleansing His Church with the washing of the water by the Word (John 13; Ephesians 5:25-27).
 - The **outer court** spoke of Christ’s **earthly** ministry.
- The “**tent of meeting**” or “tabernacle” proper was a place of **communion (fellowship, relationship)** with GOD.
 - It could only be entered by those of the “**chosen**” **priestly** family.
 - The LORD declared (chose) that the Levitical family **belonged** to Him! (See Numbers 8:14; **18:6**; Deuteronomy 10:8)
 - See John 6:37, 39; 17:2, 6, 9, 11, 24; 10:28-29
 - **New Testament saints are PRIESTS.** (1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:6; 5:10) God only allows His saints/priests into fellowship with Him!
 - **As God’s ELECT and PRIESTS** we are obligated “to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5) - Some of these mandatory sacrifices include:
 - ① We offer up our **bodies** as living sacrifices. (Romans 12:1; 6:13, 16, 19)
 - ② We offer up the “sacrifice of **praise**”. (Hebrews 13:15)
 - ③ We offer up our “good **works**”. (Hebrews 13:16; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14; Colossians 1:10)
 - ④ We offer up our **financial** offerings. (Philippians 4:18)
 - ⑤ We offer up our **prayers** (thanksgiving, praise, supplication, intercession) as sweet incense. (Psalm 141:2; Revelation 5:8) In order for our prayers to be “sweet incense” they must be in accordance to God’s will. (1 John 5:14-15)

• **THE PLACE: “THE HOLIES” or “THE HOLY PLACE (v. 2)**

• **THE LAMPSTAND**

- There were NO WINDOWS in the Tent of Meeting.
- “Nature light” cannot illuminate spiritual things.
- See 2 Peter 1:19; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6
- There can be NO FELLOWSHIP without walking “in the light.”
(Proverbs 2:13; 1 John 1:6-7; 2:8-10)
- “PRIESTS” - God’s ELECT come to the light while worldly people do not come to the light because they love darkness (their ways) more than God’s ways. (John 3:19-20)
 - God’s elect were *once* DARKNESS - children of the darkness!
(**Ephesians 5:8-11**, Colossians 1:13) BUT now we are “sons of light” (1 Thessalonians 5:4-5)
- Construction: **BEATEN Gold and decorated with almonds** – a picture of the suffering and resurrected Christ.
- Use: “from evening to morning” (Exodus 27:21) – during the NIGHT.
- Picture: The Spirit flowing out of Christ to give light. (2 Cor. 4:4-6)
- Significance:

① The Lamps were to show the workmanship of the Lampstand. (Exodus 25:37) – the Spirit glorifies the LORD! (John 16:14)

② The Lampstand was placed opposite the Table of Shewbread. The priest would be unable to “eat in the Holy Place” without “the Light”.

③ The Lampstand is mentioned in connection with the Altar of Incense – Exodus 30:7-8 – without the “the Light” or “the Spirit” there can be know worship or prayer.

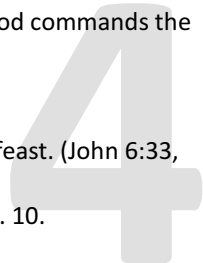
- **MEDITATE:** The world is now in DARKNESS - Proverbs 4:19; Ecclesiastes 2:13-14; **Isaiah 5:20 with John 3:19-20; Isaiah 50:10-11.**

★ BUT God called His saints OUT of DARKNESS into His marvelous light - WHY? - To sing His praises! (1 Peter 2:9)

☆ **BE WARNED!** - Jeremiah 13:15-16 - God commands the Light and the Darkness.

• **THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD**

- The bread is the *substance* of our fellowship.
- Jesus is the “Bread from heaven” on whom we feast. (John 6:33, 41, **50-58**)
- See the picture of a TABLE in 2 Samuel 9 – see v. 10.
- See 1 Corinthians 10:20-21



- There can be NO FELLOWSHIP with God apart from the “Food” He has sent. Man can only fellowship with God because of Christ.

- **THE HOLIEST OF ALL or THE HOLY OF HOLIES** (Hebrews 9:3-5)
 - **THE SECOND VEIL** – separating the “Holy Place” from the “Holy of Holies” - Matthew 27:51; Hebrews 6:19; 9:3; 10:20
 - **THE GOLDEN ALTAR OF INCENSE – OR GOLDEN CENSER** (see Leviticus 16:12-13 used on the Day of Atonement)
 - This speaks of Christ’s intercession before the Father – see Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34.
 - It also speaks that Christ’s sacrifice was a “sweetsmelling” sacrifice unto God. Ephesians 5:2
- **THE ARK**
 - The WHOLE TABERNACLE was built around this piece of furniture.
 - The WHOLE TABERNACLE was set up around this piece of furniture when the Cloud and Pillar of Fire came to rest.
 - The WHOLE CAMP was arranged around this one piece of furniture.
 - The Ark was the FIRST thing made. (Exodus 25:10, 11)
 - The PRE-EMINENCE was shown when it was the only piece of furniture brought to the Temple from the Tabernacle.
 - It was made of “shittim” wood or as the Septuagint translated it – “incorruptible wood.”
 - It was wood overlaid with gold. A perfect picture of Christ’s humanity and deity as ONE. Christ was “God manifest in the flesh” – 1 Timothy 3:16; John 1:14.
 - The ARK was the place where man and God met!
 - The contains of the Ark:
 - ① Golden pot of manna – “the bread from heaven” – another symbol of Christ – John 6.
 - ② Aaron’s rod that budded – (see Numbers 17) – the rod with its miraculous buds symbolized God’s vindication His Son’s rejection by raising Him from the dead.
 - ③ The tables of the covenant – see Deuteronomy 10:1-5 – The LAW was PRESERVED and MAGNIFIED by Christ (see Isaiah 42:21)
 - Christ came to fulfill the LAW to meet God’s requirement for US! – See Romans 8:3; 5:19.
 - The Cherubim Shadowing the Mercy Seat.
 - In the construction of the Mercy Seat cherubim are mentioned seven times in Exodus 25:17-22!

- Here they are called “**cherubim of glory**” because the Shekinah dwelt between them. (1 Samuel 4:4; 2 Kings 19:15; Psalm 80:1; **Isaiah 37:16; Psalm 99:1**)
 - ✓ See also Ezekiel 1;
 - ✗ See also Ezekiel 9:3; 10:4-20.
- They are first mentioned in Genesis 3:24.
- “mercy seat” or better “**propitiation**”
 - Propitiation did not happen at the mercy seat. **BUT** mercy was the results of the propitiation blood of the sacrifice at the brazen altar.
 - See Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.
 - **GOD’S MERCY IS NOT FREE! BEFORE GOD BESTOWS HIS MERCY ON ANYONE HIS JUSTICE MUST BE SATISFIED!**

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