

THE STUDY OF WORSHIP II

III. Let's look at the specifics of this old covenant worship experience and do like the writer of Hebrews as he makes application to N.T. believers!

A. The Tabernacle's description started with "the gate!"

1. There was only one gate for all the people to enter.
2. Jesus had much to say about this and we should not think it a coincidence the terminology He chose!

John 10:9 (NIV)

9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

B. Upon entering the gate into the Tabernacle, one immediately encountered what is known as the "brazen altar!"

1. This is where the animal sacrifice took place for the atonement of the "sins of Israel."
2. This is the place all the scripture references of Christ's sacrifice points to! Except Jesus' took place in "the heavenly place" as Hebrews describes!

Mark 14:24 (NIV)

24 "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them.

1 Peter 1:18-19 (NIV)

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

3. Then Paul, as he told the Corinthian Church, says that we are to identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ!

Romans 12:1 (NLT)

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

- C. As you passed the “brazen altar” you would encounter the “laver.”
 - 1. This was the basin where the washing or cleansing took place after the sacrifice was offered!
 - 2. It was practical for obvious reasons but also symbolic in that it stood as a reminder of cleansing and separation from sin!

Titus 3:5 (NIV)

5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

- 3. There is a cleansing that must take place in order for us to experience God’s presence! Sin separated us, Jesus place us back in right standing with God!
- D. The Lampstand known to Jews as the Menorah was the only light source in the Tabernacle!
 - 1. It was made of solid gold and had seven branches filled with olive oil and kept burning 24/7!

Leviticus 24:1-3 (NIV)

1 The Lord said to Moses, 2 “Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning continually. 3 Outside the curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law in the tent of meeting, Aaron is to tend the lamps before the Lord from evening till morning, continually. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come.

- 2. There are enormous analogies of Jesus Christ within this!!!

John 1:9 (NIV)

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

John 8:12 (NIV)

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 12:46 (NIV)

46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

- E. Next is the Table of Show Bread.

1. This was a small table about 3 by 2 feet that stood directly across from the lamp stand in the Holy Place.
2. It had twelve loaves of bread which represented the 12 tribes of Israel.
3. They were baked by the priest and left on the table for a week. Every Sabbath the priest would remove them and eat them in the Holy Place and replace them with new bread.
4. The loaves were called “The Bread of the Presence” because they were always in the presence of the Lord.

John 6:35 (NIV)

35 Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

5. This is exactly what happens each time we take communion!

F. The Altar of Incense sat in front of the Holy of Holies also called “the Holiest of All!”

1. The priest would burn incense day and night before the Lord as an act of worship!

Psalm 141:2 (NIV)

2 May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

2. My life is to be one of expressed worship to the Lord.

Revelation 5:8 (NIV)

8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.

IV. The Veil was what was encountered next in the Tabernacle!

A. It was what separated our Holy God from our unholiness!

1. It was 60 feet high, 30 feet wide and 4 inches thick! Substantial!
2. The sin of our separation was also substantial! It took the Perfect Lamb of God to provide the way to be rejoined to our God!

Hebrews 6:19-20 (NIV)

19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, 20 where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

3. Then the writer of Hebrews tells us this!

Hebrews 10:19-22 (NIV)

19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

B. Finally,...The Ark of God!

1. The top cover was called The Mercy Seat where the priest sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice.
2. This is where the Christ's blood was sprinkled upon the heavenly reality of the Ark of God!!!

C. Since we walked through the gate of the Tabernacle...this is where we were heading...to the place of God's full presence.

1. This is why we say that our salvation is so much more than "a ticket to heaven!"
2. The story of our redemption is the story of humanity regaining God's presence after being banished from the Garden of Eden.
3. Through the Blood of the Perfect Lamb of God, we once again can walk with God "in the cool of the day!"