



Bible History

Tabernacle, Priesthood, and Offerings

I. THE TABERNACLE

A. The Temples; Note: In a generic sense, a temple is an edifice (either physical or spiritual) used for worship and is the place chosen of God to meet with His people. From that standpoint, the tabernacle served as the second temple, chronologically.

1. The heavenly temple (Exodus 25:8-9; Hebrews 8:1-2; Hebrews 9:24-25; Revelation 11:19; Revelation 15:5-8)
2. The portable temple; the tabernacle (Exodus 39:32; 1 Samuel 1:9; 1 Samuel 3:3)
3. Solomon's temple (1 Kings 6:1, 37-38; 2 Chronicles 3:1-2)
4. Zerubbabel's temple (Ezra 3:8-13; Ezra 6:14-15; Zechariah 4:6-10; Haggai 1:14-15; Haggai 2:1-4)
5. Herod's temple (Matthew 24:1-2; John 2:20)
6. *The Saviour's body (John 2:19, 21)
7. *The New Testament saint's body (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
8. *The collective body of Christ (Ephesians 2:19-22)
9. The tribulation temple (Daniel 9:27; Daniel 11:31; Daniel 12:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)
10. The millennial temple (Ezekiel 40:1-2; Ezekiel 41:1; Ezekiel 43:1-5)

B. The Plan of the Tabernacle

1. The court of the tabernacle
 - a. 100 by 50 cubits (Exodus 27:9-19)
 - b. Contained
 - (1) The brasen altar
 - (2) The laver



2. The holy place
 - a. Separated from the most holy place by the veil (Exodus 26:33; see Matthew 27:50-51)
 - b. Place of priestly service (Exodus 35:19; Exodus 38:24; Exodus 39:1, 41)
 - c. Contained the candlestick, the table of shewbread, and the altar of incense



3. The most holy place (Exodus 26:33-34)
 - a. Entered only by the high priest once a year (Leviticus 16:1-2, 11-16, 34)
 - b. Sometimes just called the holy place (Exodus 28:33-35)
 - c. Called the holiest of all (Hebrews 9:3, 8)
 - d. Contained the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat



C. The Structure of the Tabernacle

1. The materials (Exodus 25:1-7)
2. The framework (Exodus 26:15-30)
3. The covering (Exodus 26:1-14)
4. The veil (Exodus 26:31-33)
5. The court (Exodus 27:9-15)
6. The gate of the court (Exodus 27:16)
7. The colors (Exodus 25:1, 31; Exodus 27:16; Exodus 28:5-6)
 - a. Blue
 - b. Purple
 - c. Scarlet
 - d. Gold
 - e. White

D. The Furniture of the Tabernacle

1. Brasen altar (Exodus 38:1-7)
 - a. Five by five cubits
 - b. Picture of *judgment and sacrifice*
2. Laver (Exodus 30:17-21)
 - a. Made of mirrors (Exodus 38:8)
 - b. Picture of *cleansing*
3. Table of shewbread (Exodus 37:10-16)
 - a. On the north or right side on entering (Exodus 40:22)
 - b. Contained twelve loaves (Exodus 40:23; Leviticus 24:5-8)
 - c. Picture of *the word of God* as the bread of life (Deuteronomy 8:3)
4. Candlestick (Exodus 25:31-40)
 - a. On south or left side



- b. Seven lamps and twenty-two almond-shaped bowls
- c. To burn continually (Exodus 27:20-21; Leviticus 24:1-4)
- d. Picture of *illumination of God* through the word and the Spirit
5. Altar of incense (Exodus 30:1-8)
 - a. Before the veil
 - b. Two by two cubits
 - c. Pictures *prayers of the saints* (Revelation 8:4)
6. Ark of the covenant (Exodus 25:10-16; Exodus 37:1-5)
 - a. In the most holy place
 - b. Two-and-one-half by one-and-one-half by one-and-one-half cubits
 - c. Contents (Hebrews 9:3-4)
 - (1) Pot of manna
 - (2) Aaron's rod
 - (3) Ten Commandments
 - d. Picture of *the presence of God*
7. Mercy Seat (Exodus 25:17-22; Exodus 37:6-9)
 - a. Sat on top of the ark
 - b. With two cherubim
 - c. Picture of *God's mercy*

II. THE PRIESTHOOD

A. The Qualification of a Priest

1. Born to Aaron's line (Exodus 28:1; 1 Chronicles 6:49-53)
2. Blameless in person (Leviticus 21:16-24)
3. Holy in life (Leviticus 21:1-15)
4. Mature in years (Numbers 4:3, 23, 30, 35, 47)
5. Consecrated for service (Exodus 29:1-9; Exodus 40:15)

B. The Work of a Priest

1. Generally, to approach God on the behalf of man (Hebrews 5:1)
2. To service the tabernacle
 - a. Burn incense
 - b. Trim the candlestick
 - c. Change the shewbread
 - d. Keep the altar fire burning (Leviticus 6:9, 13)
 - e. Remove the ashes
3. To offer sacrifices to God (Exodus 29:38-44)
4. To deal with people concerning their cleanness: lepers, purification of women, etc.
5. To judge causes (Deuteronomy 17:9; Deuteronomy 19:17-19; Deuteronomy 21:5)
6. To teach the law (Leviticus 10:8, 11; 2 Chronicles 15:3; Malachi 2:7)
7. To make atonement for the people (Leviticus 4:20; Leviticus 5:6; Leviticus 16:6-7, 15-19)

C. The Garments of the Priest (Exodus 29:5-6)

1. Coat (Exodus 28:39)
2. Robe (Exodus 28:31-35)
3. Ephod (Exodus 28:6-14)
4. Breastplate (Exodus 28:15-29)
5. Girdle (Exodus 39:29)
6. Mitre (Exodus 28:39; Exodus 39:28)
7. Crown (Exodus 28:36-38)



III. THE OFFERINGS

A. Burnt Offering (Leviticus 1)

1. General offering for sin indicating complete dedication
2. Entire offering to be burnt (Leviticus 1:8-9)
3. Must be given voluntarily (Leviticus 1:3)
4. Pictures *Christ's entire sacrifice of Himself*

B. Meat Offering (Leviticus 2)

1. A memorial offering of thanksgiving (Leviticus 2:2, 12)
2. A portion burnt; the remainder eaten by the priests (Leviticus 2:9-10)
3. The only bloodless sacrifice
4. Offered without leaven (Leviticus 2:11)
5. Offered with salt (Leviticus 2:13) and oil (Leviticus 2:1)
6. Pictures *the living consecration of Christ* (John 4:34; John 5:30; John 6:38; see Romans 12:1)

C. Peace Offering (Leviticus 3)

1. Made for special thanksgiving
2. Fat portions burnt; remainder eaten (Leviticus 22:29-30)
3. Pictures *Christ's work of reconciliation* (2 Corinthians 5:21)

D. Sin Offering (Leviticus 4)

1. For discovered sins of ignorance (Leviticus 4:1-2)
2. Fat portions burnt; remainder eaten
3. Pictures *the redemption of Christ for our sin guilt*

E. Trespass Offering (Leviticus 5)

1. For committed sins (Leviticus 5:1-6)
2. Fat portions burnt; remainder eaten
3. Pictures *the redemption of Christ for our practice of sin*