

"The Better Sanctuary"

Part 6

Hebrews 9:1-12

Introduction: Tonight as we have come back to our study of the Tabernacle furniture we have finally made our way into the Holy of Holies. Now so far in this study we have looked at 5 of the articles of furniture.

1. The Brazen Altar.
2. The Brazen Laver.
3. The Golden Lampstand.
4. The Table of Shewbread.
5. The Altar of Incense.

In every one of these we have seen how they are pictures of Jesus Christ. The article of furniture which we shall look at tonight is also a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ.

Tonight in our study we have come to the 6th article of furniture.

I. The Furnishings of the Earthly Sanctuary

Part 6

6. The Ark of the Covenant

The instructions given for the ark are located in Exodus 25 and we will look at a few of those verses as we look at our study tonight. The Ark of the Covenant sat inside the Holy of Holies. Tonight we have the special privilege of seeing the ark in a way that only Moses and the high priest of Israel could see it. Moses could approach God at all times and the high priest could come in once a year. The common people could never enter into the presence of God. Notice what God said to Moses in Exodus 25.

Exodus 25:22

²² And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

The ark was where the high priest would meet with God once a year to make atonement for the sins of the nation and for his sins. You and I who know Jesus Christ have been invited to enter anytime.

Hebrews 4:16

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Now the ark was a picture of Jesus Christ in many different ways. Jesus can be seen in the materials used for the construction of the ark.

Exodus 25:10-11

¹⁰ And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof.

¹¹ And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about.

The ark was made from acacia wood and it was overlaid with gold. This was a picture of the humanity and the deity of Jesus Christ. The ark also pictures the ministry of Jesus Christ in 2 ways:

1. Because the ark was on the earth it is a picture of Jesus Christ and His coming to this earth as the Lamb of God and living among sinful man.
2. Because the ark was in the Holy of Holies it is a picture of His present ministry as our Great High Priest seated at the right hand of the Father.

Let us now consider some details of the ark to get into some interesting spiritual Truth.

A. The Contents of the Ark.

There were 3 contents within the ark which the writer of Hebrews mentions:

Hebrews 9:4

⁴ Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

Here are the 3 items which were in the ark:

1. The golden pot of manna.
2. Aaron's rod that budded.
3. The tables of the covenant/Stone Tablets containing the Ten Commandments.

We can see in each of these a picture of what Jesus provides to each one who comes to Him for salvation. These items were located in the ark and they are a picture of what the believer has IN Jesus Christ.

1. **The golden pot of manna.** - The manna was the bread from heaven which God gave to Israel in the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.

Exodus 16:14-22

¹⁴ *And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.*

¹⁵ *And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.*

¹⁶ *This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents.*

¹⁷ *And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.*

¹⁸ *And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.*

¹⁹ *And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning.*

²⁰ *Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.*

²¹ *And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.*

²² *And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.*

Aaron was then commanded to gather some of the manna and lay it up before the Lord as a reminder to the generations to come.

Exodus 16:33

³³ *And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.*

This bread was to sustain God's people from day to day. It was to be gathered every morning and only enough for that day. On the day before the Sabbath they were to gather enough for 2 days. After the manna was gathered it was then ground and baked in pans.

Numbers 11:7-8

⁷ *And the manna was as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium.*

⁸ *And the people went about, and gathered it, and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.*

Application:

This manna is a picture of Jesus Christ as the Bread of Life.

John 6:29-35

²⁹ *Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*

³⁰ *They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?*

³¹ *Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*

³² *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.*

³³ *For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*

³⁴ *Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.*

³⁵ *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

Here we see that Jesus made it clear that He is the True Bread sent from heaven and so the manna was a picture of Jesus Christ. So Jesus is the spiritual Bread which we are to feed upon daily.

The preparation of the manna was also a picture of our Lord. They would gather the manna and they would grind it and then they would bake it. This was a picture of the suffering which our Lord went through in order to provide for the spiritual needs of you and me.

John 6:51

⁵¹ *I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*

2. **Aaron's rod that budded** - In Numbers 16 there was a rebellion against Moses and Aaron.

Numbers 16:1-3

Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men:

² *And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:*

³ *And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?*

There were 253 men who stood against Moses and Aaron because they desired to serve in the priesthood. That day God allowed many to be swallowed by the earth and then over 14,000 to die by the plague. Then in chapter 17 God made a way to show that He had chosen Aaron and his family to serve in the office of the priest.

Numbers 17:1-10

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

² *Speak unto the children of Israel, and take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod.*

³ *And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be for the head of the house of their fathers.*

⁴ *And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you.*

⁵ *And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you.*

⁶ *And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods.*

⁷ *And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness.*

⁸ *And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.*

⁹ *And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod.*

¹⁰ *And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not.*

Aaron's rod budded and also produced fruit but the other rods remained lifeless.

Application:

This rod that Aaron had his name on was a dead stick. But God allowed that which was dead to produce life again which separated Aaron's rod from all others.

Jesus Christ was nailed to a cross 2000 years ago and He was then buried in a tomb. But on the 3rd day He rose from the dead. So Aaron's rod is a picture of the LIFE which is in Jesus Christ. Just as the rod was dead so was Jesus and just as God performed a miracle with Aaron's rod so He did also when He rose from the dead.

This rod was placed in the ark as a picture of how there is life in Jesus Christ. The fruit which grew on Aaron's rod is a picture of the fruit which comes from the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

²⁰ *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

²¹ *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.*

²² *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

²³ *But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

The fruit which comes from Jesus Christ is seen in our lives. The Bible refers to it as "The Fruit of the Spirit". When we accepted Christ we were given eternal life because in Him is life. We are now guaranteed that one day we will be resurrected. Because He lives we shall live also. But before that resurrection day we will bear the Fruit of the Spirit.

John 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Conclusion:

In 2 weeks we will look at this ark one more time and then get back to Hebrews. But as we close tonight let me remind you that in Christ we have the spiritual food to sustain us day after day but we need to gather it daily just as Israel gathered manna daily. In Christ we also have life and because we have life there will be fruit that is seen within our lives. Let us go forth from here and abide in the Vine so that the world we see the Fruit of the Spirit.