

"The Better Sanctuary"

Part 7

Hebrews 9:1-12

Introduction: Tonight as we have come back to our study of the Tabernacle furniture we are going to once again enter into the Holy of Holies where only the high priest was permitted to enter once a year. The last time we were together we started to look at the Ark of the Covenant and its contents.

Notice Hebrews 9:1-4

In verse 4 we see the contents of the ark. There was the golden pot of manna, Aaron's rod which budded, and the stone tablets which contained the Ten Commandments. The ark is a picture of Jesus Christ in several ways. We see Jesus in the materials which were used to build the ark. It was made from Acacia wood which would never decay and this wood speaks of the eternity of our Lord Jesus Christ. The ark was also to be overlaid with gold and in the gold we see the deity of Jesus Christ. The wood and the gold together picture both the humanity and the deity together in the Son of God. The placement of the ark was also a [picture of the twofold ministry of Jesus Christ. The ark was in the earthly Tabernacle and so it was a picture of the earthly ministry of our Lord as He dwelt among sinful men. The ark in the Holy of Holies was a picture of the present ministry of our Lord before the Father as our Intercessor.

We also looked at the contents of the ark and we able to see that the contents of the ark are a picture of the BLESSINGS which each believer has in Jesus Christ while at the same time the contents picture what Jesus is to each believer.

1. The Golden Pot of Manna

The manna was a picture of Jesus Christ as the Bread of Life and to each believer it is a picture of the spiritual sustenance which He gives to us as we feed upon the Word daily.

2. Aaron's Rod that Budded

Aaron's rod was a picture of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Aaron's rod was a "limb" that had been taken from a tree and it was dead. But from that which was dead came back to life and it produced fruit. Jesus died upon the cross and was buried in a tomb. Three

days later He rose from the grave and has become the firstfruits of all who have trusted in Him as Savior. The power and the life which brought Jesus back from the dead now are in every one of us who know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

This now brings us to where we are tonight.

I. The Furnishings of the Earthly Sanctuary

Part 7

The Ark of the Covenant

Part 2

There is one more of the contents which we need to see.

3. The Stone Tablets which contained the Ten Commandments.

Now before we look at the Stone Tablets let me first of all touch upon a disagreement among Bible scholars. Some teach that the Tablets were BESIDE the ark and not in the ark. This is based upon several verses in the Old Testament.

Deuteronomy 31:24-26

²⁴ *And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished,*

²⁵ *That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying,*

²⁶ *Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.*

These are the verses which some people use to teach that the Law was placed BESIDE the ark and not in the ark. But these verses are not talking about the Stone Tablets but about a copy of the Law which MOSES had written down. The Stone Tablets were written by God. Moses broke the first Tablets and then God commanded him to hew out another set and then God wrote on the second set.

Exodus 34:1

And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.

So the point is the Stone Tablets were placed inside the ark and the "Book of the Law" which Moses recorded was placed beside the ark. So in the ark there were the Stone Tablets which contained the Ten Commandments.

So the question then is this: *"How do the Tablets pertain to Jesus and how does this apply to you and me?"*

The picture here is absolutely beautiful!!

The first set of Stone Tablets which contained the Law were broken by Moses and this was a picture of how man CANNOT keep any of the Commandments but instead is guilty of breaking each and every one.

Romans 3:19-20

¹⁹ *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*

²⁰ *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

James 2:10

¹⁰ *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

So as Moses broke the first set so that is a picture of how man is unable to keep the Law.

But the second set of Stone Tablets was placed in the ark and they were not broken. Now let us remember that the ark is a type of Jesus Christ. So the picture here is that in Christ the Law was "kept perfectly". Notice the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 5:17

¹⁷ *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*

Jesus Christ kept the Law perfectly while He walked here on this earth. So the Stone Tablets INSIDE the ark were a picture of how Jesus kept the Law and never broke one of God's Commandments.

Now because we are IN CHRIST we are now covered in the righteous of Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:20-22

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

We cannot keep the Law but now that we are saved and we are in Christ, God sees us clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. So in Jesus Christ we are perfect and complete.

Colossians 2:9-10

⁹ For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

¹⁰ And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

So as we look at the ark we see a picture of Jesus Christ and we see a picture of the blessings which the believer has IN him. We are spiritually sustained for He is the Bread of Life. In Him we have eternal life for He is the one who died and 3 days later rose from the grave and is alive forever more. In Him we are clothed in His righteousness so just as He was sinless so we are sinless in our POSITION in Christ.

How before we get back to the book of Hebrews there is one more point which we need to consider concerning the Old Covenant and that is the Day of Atonement. An understanding of this will be a great benefit to us as we continue our way through the book of Hebrews. The Day of Atonement was the one day out of the year when the high priest would enter into the Holy of Holies and he would make atonement for the sins of the people. I want to take some time and look at what was involved for the high priest on this very special day.

The Day of Atonement

The high priest started this day with a ceremonial cleansing of himself before he would intercede on behalf of the people.

Leviticus 16:6, 11

⁶ And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house.

¹¹ And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself:

The high priest would enter into the Tabernacle and he would approach the brazen altar where he would kill the bullock and when he did he would fill a basin full of the blood from the sacrifice. This was an offering for himself and his house. The high priest would then proceed to the altar of incense where he would fill his censer full of burning coals. He would then put sweet incense into a golden bowl and he would move on into the Holy of Holies.

Leviticus 16:12-13

¹² And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil:

¹³ And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not:

After the incense was burned the high priest then returned to the brazen altar. He would take the basin of blood from the bullock and he would then go back into the Holy of Holies. He would sprinkle the blood of the bullock upon the Mercy Seat 7 times.

Leviticus 16:14

¹⁴ And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.

Seven is the number of completion or perfection and so the blood sprinkled 7 times was a picture of the complete atonement.

Now while this was taking place there were two goats that were standing at the door of the Tabernacle which the high priest had separated before he had started his purification ceremony.

Leviticus 16:5a, 7-10

⁵ And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering,

⁷ And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

⁸ And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

⁹ *And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD's lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering.*

¹⁰ *But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.*

The high priest would choose 2 goats of equal size, color and value from the congregation of Israel. He would bring them to the door of the Tabernacle and there he would cast lots to separate the 2 goats. One goat would be for the Lord and the other would be the scape goat. Dr. Edersheim says the high priest would cut 2 pieces of scarlet cloth and he would tie one to the horn of the scape goat and the other he would tie around the throat of the Lord's goat. The scape goat was left outside the door facing the people and the sacrificial goat was taken inside the door of the Tabernacle.

Now let me now get you back to the ceremony. The blood of the bullock has been sprinkled on the Mercy Seat 7 times and now the high priest comes back out to the brazen altar. It is at the brazen altar that he kills the goat with the cloth tied around its neck which is the Lord's goat. He then will sprinkle the blood of this goat several times within the Tabernacle. We need to pay very close attention to what the high priest does here. First he sprinkles the blood upon the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies.

Leviticus 16:15

¹⁵ *Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:*

The high priest then went from Holy of Holies into the Holy Place. It was there that he sprinkled the blood of the goat on the horns of the Altar of Incense. Let me show you what is said in Exodus about the Altar of Incense.

Exodus 30:9-10

⁹ *Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon.*

¹⁰ *And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD.*

The high priest then left the Holy Place and he made his way back to the brazen altar. Here he mixed the blood of the bullock with the blood of the goat. He was then to take the combined blood and sprinkle the horns of the brazen altar 7 times.

Leviticus 16:18-19

¹⁸ And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about.

¹⁹ And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.

[Now, let me point out something very interesting here. If we notice the high priest took the blood of the sacrificial goat and he started in the Holy of Holies and he then worked his way out. This is a picture of what happens in the believer's life. God starts His work within our heart and it is the inward change that will work its way to the outside where the fruit will begin to show as God continues to cleanse our lives. Salvation is a work from the inside out.]

The high priest then made his way outside the Tabernacle where the people of Israel patiently waited and as he exited through the door he lifted his blood soaked hands to signify God had accepted the sacrifice. He then placed his bloodied hands on the head of the scape goat and confessed the sins of the nation.

Leviticus 16:20-22

²⁰ And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat:

²¹ And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness:

²² And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.

According to tradition, during the days of Jesus the goat was led by a priest out of Jerusalem about 12 miles. He then removed the scarlet cloth from his horns and he tore it in half. He then tied one half back on the goat's horns and he kept the other half. The goat was then pushed backward over a steep precipice to his death. According to tradition the cloth which the priest kept would turn snow white if God accepted the sacrifice. But Edersheim states that according to tradition this miracle ceased 40 years before the

destruction of the Temple which was the same time that Jesus died for the sins of the world. Back at the Tabernacle the high priest still had more to do;

Leviticus 16:23, 27

²³ And Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall put off the linen garments, which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there:

²⁷ And the bullock for the sin offering, and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall one carry forth without the camp; and they shall burn in the fire their skins, and their flesh, and their dung.

Conclusion: I give you all of this because as we move on in the book of Hebrews it will help us to better understand what the writer is referring to. It is also important to know that this entire ceremony is a shadow of our Lord Jesus Christ.