

# JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

## Lesson 21: The TABERNACLE

&

## The PRIESTHOOD – Part 1

Aim: Following Israel's salvation and their exodus from Egypt on the night of Passover, they were to remove the sin from their lives, as was typified in the Feast of Unleavened Bread that lasted 7 days. At Mt Sinai, God established a priesthood and Tabernacle ministry for the purpose of ongoing cleansing of Israel's sins.

Key Scriptures: Exodus 12:8, 14-19, 23; 13:21; 19:1-6; 25:8-10. Hebrews 8:5.

In our last lesson, we learnt how the whole of the nation of Israel had been saved by the blood of the Passover lambs that was shed for them. In accordance with the instructions God gave to Moses, they placed the blood of the lambs on the doorposts and lintel of the houses where they ate the Passover meal. *Exodus 12:23 "For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you."*

The Children of Israel were to eat the Passover meal in haste, ready to leave at a moment's notice.

*Exodus 12:8 'Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.'*

Unleavened bread needs no time to rise, so it can be prepared quickly. However, there is also another reason why they were to eat unleavened bread as part of the Passover meal.

*Exodus 12:14 'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.*

*15 'Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.*

**Q:** What was the outcome for eating leavened bread between the first and the seventh day?

**A:**

Moses instructing the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation:

*Deuteronomy 16:3 "You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.*

**Q:** How is unleavened bread referred to here?

**A:**

**Q:** As well as eating the roasted flesh of the lamb along with unleavened bread, what else were they to eat, and what might that signify (*Ex.12:8*)?

**A:**

*Exodus 12:14 'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.*

Notes:
--------

*15 'Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.*

*16 'On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat-that only may be prepared by you.*

*17 'So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance.*

*18 'In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.*

*19 'For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land.*

**Q:** Why do you think they were not to work on the first day and on the seventh day?

**A:**

**Q:** What day was the Feast of Unleavened Bread to begin, and how long was it to last?

**A:**

**Q:** Which day of the month was the Passover lamb to be killed?

**A:**

**Q:** Again, what would happen if anyone ate anything leavened or had leaven in their houses for those 7 days? And why is leaven seen as a negative? Do you have any NT Scripture references for this?

**A:**

**Q:** If leaven is such a bad thing why would the LORD only want them to remove leaven from their diet and houses for 7 days?

**A:**

Having been spiritually saved on the night of Passover, Israel was then to remove sin from their lives for the rest of their lives, pictured through removing leaven for 7 days. This is why the lamb was to be killed at the beginning of Passover – as a picture of spiritual salvation. Then, the Israelites would abstain from eating anything leavened, and they would physically remove the leaven from their homes for **7 days**. This would point to their intention to continually remove the sin from their lives from that time forward. Not only were these two feasts a picture of salvation followed by a life free from sin for Israel, but for us as well.

### **Salvation followed by Obedience**

But God knew how difficult it would be for them to lead a life free from sin once they were saved by the blood of the lambs, so He established a priesthood whereby sins committed after salvation could be dealt with. If Israel was to receive her inheritance in the Promised Land, then she needed to be cleansed from sin on a regular basis, (just as we need to be).

After leaving Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on dry ground, Israel began their journey towards their inheritance in the Promised Land. God was leading them by day and by night.

*Exodus 13:21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.*

**Q:** What does this demonstrate?

A:

Eventually, God led them to His Holy Mountain, Sinai.

*Exodus 19:1 In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai.*

*2 For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain.*

*3 And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:*

*4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.*

*5 'Now therefore, **if** you will indeed obey My voice **and** keep My covenant, **then** you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.*

*6 '**And** you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."*

**Q:** What did God say in v.4 that He had done for Israel, and what do you think that means?

A:

**Q:** In v.5, what 2 things does the LORD say Israel should do?

A:

Notes:
--------

**Q:** If they did this, what would they be?

**A:**

**Q:** Explain how in the NT we also see a reference to Israel referred to as being a treasure?

**Q:** What else were they to be according to v.6?

**A:**

### **The Tabernacle**

Whilst at Sinai God gave Moses and the people, the Law, and the commandments that they were to live by. They were to **obey** them as part of **the covenant** He made with them. A covenant is an agreement between 2 parties, which in this case was God's agreement with Israel. From the Scripture we read in Exodus 19:5 we can see that this was a conditional covenant **"If you will obey....then you shall be..."**. *(Unlike the Abrahamic covenant which was unconditional. The Abrahamic covenant defines Israel as God's people based on the 3 promises God gave to Abraham in Gen.12:1-3, which God then confirmed when He cut the covenant in Gen.15. That covenant was subsequently repeated to Isaac and Jacob. The conditional Mosaic covenant was subsequently broken by Israel but was always temporary until Messiah should come. It is good to keep in mind that God only makes covenant with Israel. He does not make a covenant with the Church.)*

Moses was also given specific instructions to build a Tabernacle and establish a priesthood to minister to the people before God, and to deal with their sins. God's desire was to dwell with His chosen people - His firstborn son, Israel. God would dwell in the Tabernacle within the midst of the camp of Israel.

*Exodus 25:8 "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.*

Notes:
--------

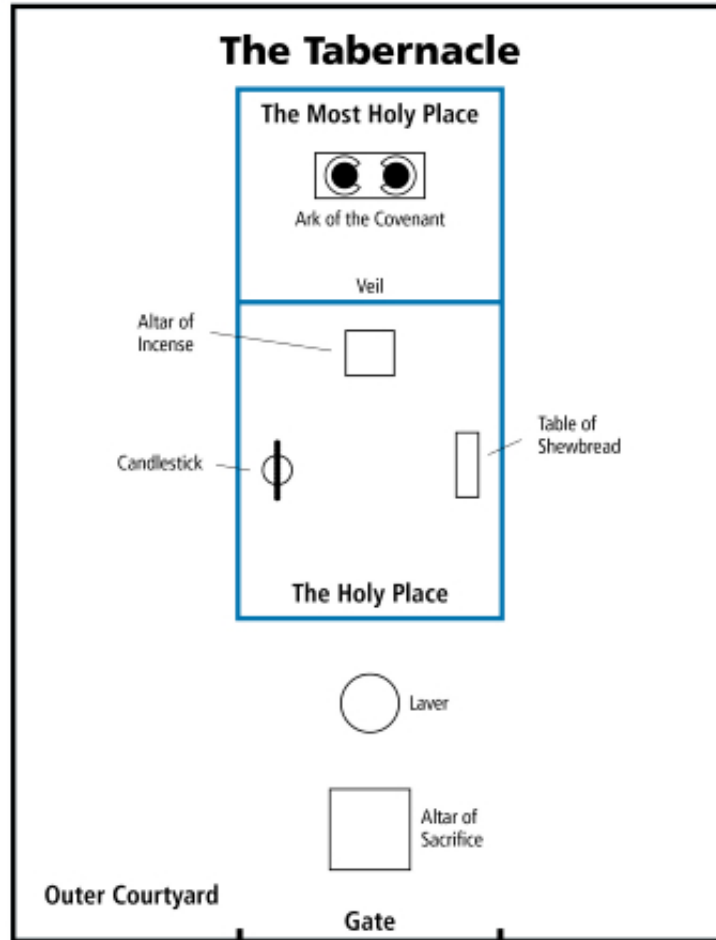
*9 "According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.*

*10 "And they shall make an ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits shall be its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height....*

When Moses was on the mountain with God, he was shown exactly what the Tabernacle and the furnishings associated with it should look like and how they were to be made. *"See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." (Heb.8:5)*

God also told them where each of the 12 tribes were to camp in relation to the Tabernacle once it was constructed (*Numbers chapter 2*).

Study the plan below of the Tabernacle Israel built in the wilderness according to the pattern God showed Moses on Mt. Sinai.



Firstly, let's notice that the Tabernacle was made up of 3 areas. List them below:

- 1).
- 2).
- 3).

Surrounding the outer courtyard were curtains made of woven linen. Surrounding the inner area there were also curtains, and a roof made of goatskins, ram skins and badger skins, to make a **tent** over the top. The two areas inside were separated with a **veil**.

**Q:** Now list what furniture was to be found in each of the 3 areas:



1). Outer Courtyard:

2). The Holy Place:

3) The Most Holy Place:

The various pieces of furniture, from the outer courtyard to the Holy Place, to the Most Holy Place (also known as the Holy of Holies), were all used for particular parts of the ministry of the priests and the high priest.

In the outer courtyard surrounding the inner building of the Tabernacle were to be found the **altar of sacrifice** and the **laver** for the washing of the priests' hands and feet. Both items were **made of bronze** whereas all the other pieces inside were **made of gold**, or acacia wood overlaid with gold.

The reason we are looking at the Tabernacle and the Priesthood is because a number of things within it point to the work of Jesus Christ. They also illustrate Christ's current position in the heavens as our Great High Priest, along with His future role as the Great King-Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. *(You might recall we learnt about Melchizedek in lesson 6.)*

In our next lesson, we will look more closely at the purpose for the various pieces of furniture and how they revealed aspects of the work and person of Jesus Christ. This is yet another area of the OT Scriptures that Jesus could have used to show the 2 Disciples on the road to Emmaus why He had 'to suffer before entering into His glory' (*Lk.24:26*).

Let's pray...