

I. Introduction and review. v. 1

- A. Why is it important that we understand tabernacle worship?
- B. God established regulations for Old Covenant worship. v. 1 8:5 Ex. 25-31,36-40
 - 1. The Old Covenant established an *earthly* sanctuary, in contrast to the heavenly tabernacle of the New Covenant. 8:2 9:11f
 - 2. The great contrast between the Covenants is in the way men approach God.

II. The earthly sanctuary (tabernacle) consisted of two parts. v. 2-5

- A. The tabernacle proper was 45 feet long and 15 feet wide. v. 2a (See diagram below).
- B. The outer chamber of the tabernacle was called the holy place. v. 2
 - 1. The golden lampstand (menorah) consisted of seven branches which were lit day and night. Ex. 25:31f 37:17f Isa. 42:6 John 8:12 3:19 Rev. 1:12
 - 2. The table of the showbread always had twelve loaves on it. Ex. 25:23f 37:10f Lev. 24:5-9 John 6:35
- C. The inner chamber of the tabernacles was called the holy of holies. v. 3-5
 - 1. There was a curtain which separated the holiest place from the holy place. 6:19 Ex. 26:31f 36:35f Lev. 16:2 Mt. 27:51
 - 2. The golden incense altar was located just outside the veil. Ex. 30:1-6 Le. 16:12-14 Rev. 5:8 8:3-4 Ps. 141:2 Heb. 7:12
- D. The most important object in the tabernacle was the Ark of the Covenant. Ex. 25:10f
 - 1. It contained a golden jar holding manna. Ex. 16:32-34 John 6:31f Rev. 2:17
 - 2. Aaron's rod which budded was also placed in the ark. Nu. 17:10
 - 3. The stone tablets, which contained the Covenant terms, were inside it. Ex. 25:16 34:29 Dt. 10:1-5 II Ki. 8:9
 - 4. The mercy seat was the place of propitiation. Ex.25:17,21-22 Ro. 3:25 Lev. 16:2 Rom. 3:25 I Jo. 2:2
 - 5. The cherubim above the mercy seat portray how access to God is restricted. Gen. 3:24 Ex. 25:18-20 37:6-9 I Ki. 6:23-28 I Sam. 4:4 Ps. 18:10
 - 6. While the earthly ark appears to have been lost after the destruction of Solomon's temple in 587 BC, the heavenly ark remains. Rev. 11:19
- E. Our author does not give us a comprehensive description of the tabernacle. v. 5b

III. Worship under the Old Covenant was carried on by the priests. v. 6-10

- A. The priests continually ministered in the holy place (outer chamber). v. 6 10:11
 - 1. Only priests could enter the Holy Place.
 - 2. Their duties included keeping the lamps lit, burning incense on the altar, and replacing the showbread. Ex. 27:20 30:7 Luke 1:9-10 Lev. 24:8f I Chron. 23:24f
- B. Access to the holy of holies was severely restricted. v. 7 Lev. 16:1f
 - 1. Only once a year, on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). Lev. 16:2,29-34
 - 2. Only the high priest could enter. Lev. 16:32-33

3. Only by sacrificial blood. Lev. 16:11f
 - a. Blood from a bullock would be sprinkled on the mercy seat to atone for the sins of the High Priest. 5:2-3 7:26-27 Lev. 16:6,11-14
 - b. Then blood from the Lord's chosen goat would be sprinkled on the mercy seat to atone for the sins of the people of Israel. Lev. 16:5,7-10,15-19
 - c. Then the sins of the people would be confessed over the scapegoat who would be released into the wilderness. Lev. 16:20-22

C. The Holy Spirit explains the significance of these things. v. 8-10 John 15:26 14:26

1. While the Old Covenant was in force, access to God was severely limited. v. 8-9a
2. Old Covenant sacrifices could not truly cleanse the conscience. v. 9b-10 10:2-3

D. Old Covenant worship is a type (*parable*) of the work of Christ who has entered the heavenly tabernacle and achieved what the Old Covenant could not. v. 9a, 10b 8:5

1. The Yom Kippur sacrifices point to the perfect cleansing power of Christ's blood.
 - a. He satisfies just demands of God's wrath against sin. 1:3 2:17 7:27 9:11f I John 2:2 Rom. 3:25 I Pe. 3:18
 - b. He cleanses your conscience. 8:10b,12 9:14 10:22 12:23
2. Through Jesus' priestly work we all gain access into the Holiest Place. v. 8 4:16 6:19f 10:19-23 I Pe. 2:5 Mt. 25:41
3. The time of reformation has come! The old order is obsolete. v. 10b

IV. Concluding applications: Draw near to God with a clean conscience.

A. Draw near to God.

1. God desires people to approach Him.
2. God is very particular about how people approach Him. 9:7 Lev. 10:1-2 Jo. 14:6
3. Human sin must be dealt with before men can approach a holy God.
4. Through Christ we have full access to God. 10:19f

B. Has your conscience been cleansed?

Discussion questions.

1. Who was the designer of the tabernacle?
2. Describe the two sections of the tabernacle and their significance.
3. What is the significance of the furniture in the tabernacle?
4. What happened on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)?
5. Why is it important for us to understand the tabernacle worship?
6. What was inadequate about the tabernacle worship?
7. How does the tabernacle worship point to Christ?
8. How does Christ give us access into God's presence? Why is that such a big deal?
9. How does our passage refute the errors of pluralism?

10. How passage life?

should this change your



