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The Earthly Tabernacle

Hebrews 9:1-10



I. Introduction

A. Tabernacle

1. Purpose---dwelling place of God (Exodus 25:8)
2. Construction---God's pattern (Exodus 25:40)

B. Fellowship with God

1. Garden of Eden
2. New heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1-3)

C. Tabernacle—symbol of heaven (Hebrews 8:5)

II. Tabernacle Courtyard

A. 150 feet long on the north and south sides

B. 75 feet long on the east and west sides

C. Entrance is on the east

III. Tabernacle (45 feet long, 15 feet wide, 15 feet high)

A. Most Holy Place (a cube of 15 feet)

1. The veil---blue, purple, and scarlet linen
2. Ark of the Covenant (3.75 feet long, 2.25 feet wide and high)
 - a. Made of acacia wood and overlaid inside and out with gold
 - b. Mercy Seat---lid of the ark, symbolic of the divine throne
 - c. Contents of the Ark
 - 1) Ten Commandments
 - 2) In or near the ark---jar of manna, Aaron's rod, copy of the Law (Deuteronomy 31:25-26)
 - d. Ark symbolized God's relationship with His people—a relationship based on a covenant
3. Importance of God's Word (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)
4. Day of Atonement
 - a. High Priest enters the Most Holy Place once a year
 - b. A time for sacrifice of any unacknowledged sin

- B. The Holy Place (30 feet by 15 feet)
 - 1. Bread of the Presence (3 feet long, 1.5 feet wide, 2.25 feet high)
 - a. The word presence refers to God's presence
 - b. Symbolic of Christ as the bread of life (John 6:35)
 - 2. Lampstand (5 feet high, 3.5 feet wide)
 - a. Purpose--- to provide light in the Holy Place
 - b. Symbolic of Christ as the light of the world (John 8:12)
 - 3. Altar of Incense (18 inches long, 18 inches wide, 3 feet high)
 - a. Gave a pleasant scent to the air
 - b. Symbolism
 - 1) Prayers of the godly
 - 2) Christ as our Intercessor through whom our prayers ascend to God

IV. Tabernacle Courtyard

- A. The Bronze Basin (or Laver)
 - 1. Where priests washed before entering the tabernacle
 - 2. Symbolic of Christ cleansing the believer from sin
- B. The Bronze Altar of Burnt Offering---(7.5 feet square, 4.5 feet high)
 - 1. Where animals were sacrificed for atonement of sins (Leviticus 1:1-4)
 - 2. Symbolizes the Cross where Christ offered Himself as a sacrificial offering without blemish to God

V. The Tabernacle Pointing to Christ

- A. The Bronze Altar
 - 1. Points to the Cross
 - 2. Jesus is the once-for-all sacrifice that God accepted for all of our sins.
- B. The Basin---Jesus' death cleanses those who have put their faith in Him.
- C. The Holy Place/Most Holy Place
 - 1. Jesus' work is finished. He is seated at the right hand of God.
 - 2. When Jesus died the curtain of the temple was torn in two (Matthew 27:51). Believers now have direct access to God.