

THE HOLY OF HOLIES : BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST

BIBLE TEXT: Exodus 26:31-35; 37:1-9; 40:20, 21, 34-38; Leviticus 16:2;

Acts 2:1-4; Hebrews 9:6-8; 10:19-22

LESSON 74 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever" (John 14:16).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Exodus 26:31-35

³¹ And thou shalt make a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made:

³² And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold: their hooks shall be of gold, upon the four sockets of silver.

³³ And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.

³⁴ And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place.

³⁵ And thou shalt set the table without the vail, and the candlestick over against the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south: and thou shalt put the table on the north side.

Exodus 37:1-9

¹ And Bezaleel made the ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half was the length of it, and a cubit and a half the breadth of it, and a cubit and a half the height of it:

² And he overlaid it with pure gold within and without, and made a crown of gold to it round about.

³ And he cast for it four rings of gold, to be set by the four corners of it; even two rings upon the one side of it, and two rings upon the other side of it.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

Through the Holy Place

We have not yet considered the room in the Tabernacle known as the Holy of Holies, or the Holiest of All. This room was fifteen feet square and fifteen feet high, separated from the Holy Place by a heavy linen curtain of blue, red, purple, and gold. We want to note particularly that there was no way into this room except through the Holy Place. No one could enter except the high priest, and he only once a year, on the Day of Atonement. We know he had to be holy and sanctified with blood before he could enter the Holy Place; and on the Day of Atonement he put on special linen clothes to be sure they were clean before he entered the Holiest of All.

There was nothing in the room except the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the tables of stone, the Ten Commandments, the visible will of God. The Ark was in the form of a chest overlaid on the outside and the inside with pure gold. The cover was of solid gold, and was called the mercy seat. Cherubims of solid gold were placed at both ends of the mercy seat, facing each other and looking down upon the mercy seat. Here in a cloud dwelt God's holy Presence, between the cherubims (**Psalms 80:1** ¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth. **Psalms 99:1** ¹ The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved).

There was no light in the Holiest of All. But did they need a light when God was there? In Revelation we read of the New Jerusalem: "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Revelation 21:23).

Day of Atonement

On the Day of Atonement when the high priest entered the Holy of Holies he must take with him some of the blood from the sin offering, (some of which had been put upon the golden altar) and some holy fire and incense from the golden altar. He bowed low to pass under the veil as he reverently and fearfully entered into the presence of God. The smoke of the incense, rising as continual prayer and praise, was a protection between him and God's awe-inspiring presence: "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" (Leviticus 16:13).

We have seen that we must be holy, sanctified, the Blood upon our hearts, before we can enter into the Holy Place. Our prayers are rising continually in praise and consecration as incense burning upon the altar. We continue to plead the Blood over our lives to keep us clean. But there is still more for us.

Power in Latter Days

The high priest entered the Holiest of All once a year, but he always had to come out again because "the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first

⁴ And he made staves *of* shittim wood, and overlaid them with gold.

⁵ And he put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, to bear the ark.

⁶ And he made the mercy seat *of* pure gold: two cubits and a half *was* the length thereof, and one cubit and a half the breadth thereof.

⁷ And he made two cherubims *of* gold, beaten out of one piece made he them, on the two ends of the mercy seat;

⁸ One cherub on the end on this side, and another cherub on the *other* end on that side: out of the mercy seat made he the cherubims on the two ends thereof.

⁹ And the cherubims spread out *their* wings on high, *and* covered with their wings over the mercy seat, with their faces one to another; *even* to the mercy seatward were the faces of the cherubims.

Exodus 40:20-21

²⁰ And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy seat above upon the ark:

²¹ And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up the vail of the covering, and covered the ark of the testimony; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Exodus 40:34-38

³⁴ Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁶ And when the cloud was taken

tabernacle was yet standing" (Hebrews 9:8). The Holy Spirit had come upon holy people under the Law, anointing them for special purposes, but the anointing only continued for the time being. The general outpouring of the Holy Ghost that would bring power for service was reserved for the latter days of which Joel spoke: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh" (Joel 2:28). Peter verified that on the Day of Pentecost when he proclaimed to the people, "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel" (Acts 2:16). The Spirit had come upon all the people in the upper room who were gathered in one accord to await the promised Comforter and they spoke in other tongues as a witness that the Holy Ghost had baptized them. This caused great excitement among those who heard them but Peter assured them it was the fulfillment of prophecy, the power for service upon men and women, old and young, Jew and Gentile_ "whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord"

The Vail Rent

Something happened between the dispensation in which the high priest went into the Holiest of All once a year, and the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost fell on the people in the upper room. After the Children of Israel were settled in the Promised Land a Temple was built upon the same general plan as the Tabernacle, which contained the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. There the Ark of God rested beyond the vail with all the sacredness it had commanded in the Tabernacle. The same rituals were performed by the priests as in the wilderness.

Then Jesus came to fulfill the Law. There was no more need for the sacrifice of lambs, because Jesus was the Lamb of God; no more need of the scapegoat on the Day of Atonement, because Jesus became our scapegoat. Jesus suffered without the gate to sanctify His people with His own Blood, so there was no more need of the sin offering. And the instant He died on the cross, that heavy vail, woven of red and blue and purple and gold threads, was rent from the top to the bottom, opening the way into that sacred interior where God's Presence dwelt. Paul tells us that the vail typified the flesh of Jesus, and when His body was broken for *us* we could enter into a new and living way, something greater than any of the Old Testament saints had been able to enjoy.

The Better Dispensation

The high priest took the blood of the sin offering and entered into the Holy of Holies fearfully; but we can now take the Blood of Jesus which has saved and sanctified us, and enter into the Holiest with boldness (**Hebrews 10:19-20** ¹⁹ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh). All through the book of Hebrews Paul tells us that the new dispensation is greater than the old. The Tabernacle was a picture of God's plan of redemption, and Jesus came to fulfill it. Today we have a better priesthood (**Hebrews 7:20-28** ²⁰ And inasmuch as not without an oath *he was made priest*: ²¹ (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:) ²² By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. ²³ And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: ²⁴ But this *man*, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. ²⁶ For such an high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; ²⁷ Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he

up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys:

³⁷ But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up.

³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD *was* upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

Leviticus 16:2

² And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy *place* within the vail before the mercy seat, which *is* upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

Acts 2:1-4

¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Hebrews 9:6-8

⁶ Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service *of God*.

⁷ But into the second *went* the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and *for* the errors of the people:

⁸ The Holy Ghost this signifying,

offered up himself. ²⁸ For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, *maketh* the Son, who is consecrated for evermore), a better covenant (**Hebrews 8:6** ⁶ But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises), and a better sacrifice than that of animals (**Hebrews 9:23** ²³ *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these).

To All Men

The Israelites were God's chosen people, and they were entrusted with the oracles of God. Through them His Word was given to the world. But when Jesus through His death opened the way into the Holiest of All, everyone was free to enter into the fullness of salvation. (Full salvation includes the baptism of the Holy Ghost, as well as justification and sanctification.) "All flesh," of which both Joel and Peter spoke, is now at liberty to come and enjoy holy communion with God, and have His abiding presence in their lives every day.

When Jesus was saying Good-bye to His disciples He promised them the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. The Lord said that the Spirit was abiding with them then, but after He had gone away the Spirit would come upon them and would abide in them (**John 14:17** ¹⁷ *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you*). We know that the baptism of the Holy Ghost had not been given to the disciples before Jesus died, because He said, "It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" (John 16:7). And of the Comforter He spoke: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16: 13). May every sanctified heart pray earnestly to receive that abiding Presence of the Holy Ghost which will make him a shining light in this world and give him power for effectual service.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Where was the Holiest of All?
- 2 How could one enter? (Who, when, and under what conditions?)
- 3 What happened to the vail when Jesus died? How did that affect us?
- 4 When did the outpouring of the baptism of the Holy Ghost begin?
- 5 Why do we need the baptism of the Holy Ghost? Who can receive it?

that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

Hebrews 10:19-22 ¹⁹

Having therefore, brethren,
boldness to enter into the holiest
by the blood of Jesus,

²⁰ By a new and living way, which
he hath consecrated for us,
through the veil, that is to say, his
flesh;

²¹ And *having* an high priest over
the house of God;

²² Let us draw near with a true
heart in full assurance of faith,
having our hearts sprinkled from
an evil conscience, and our bodies
washed with pure water.