

FORESHADOWINGS 4 – Law & Ceremony

THE LAW

1. MORAL = The STANDARDS demanded by a holy God.
2. CEREMONIAL = How God wanted His Old Covenant people to WORSHIP.
3. CIVIL = Way God called His people to GOVERN themselves.

NOTE: All 3 were in PREPARATION for MESSIAH COMING

+ Jesus would FULFIL every DETAIL (Matt 5:17-18).

→ *What does it mean to say that Jesus fulfilled the Law? How did Jesus fulfil the Law? Can you think of any of the details that He satisfied?*

CEREMONIAL LAW (Heb 10:1)

- a) SACRIFICIAL system
- b) FEASTS / FESTIVALS
- c) Establishment of the PRIESTHOOD
- d) TABERNACLE / TEMPLE

→ *What must it have been like to have lived under the Old Covenant? How would you have felt about making all those sacrifices? Do you think you would have been prepared for the Messiah?*

A. SACRIFICE (Leviticus 1-7)

- * 5 basic Old Covenant sacrifices: SIN & TRESPASS offerings were MANDATORY offerings associated with the sins of the nation.
 - * BURNT, PEACE & GRAIN offerings were VOLUNTARY acts of thanksgiving & worship.
 - * Each one, TAUGHT something about JESUS.
- *Read Leviticus 4 & 6:24-30 & note how the detail applied specifically to Jesus.*

e.g. SIN OFFERING

Identification = Your GUILT is symbolically TRANSMITTED onto the animal & it DIES in your PLACE.

Substitutionary Atonement: Except for the GRACE of God, it would be YOU on that altar.

- * This offering pointed you TO the REAL THING: Jesus.

Jesus is our sin offering & satisfies every requirement

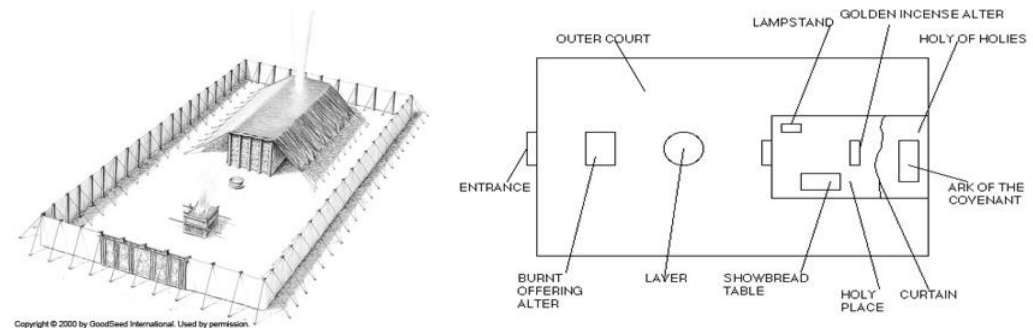
- a) He was the SPOTLESS, SINLESS sacrifice.
- b) He became our SUBSTITUTE.
- c) His BLOOD was SPRINKLED on the altar & POURED OUT at the foot of the altar.
- d) He was killed OUTSIDE THE CITY, far away from the temple at Calvary (2 Cor 5:21, Heb 13:11-13).

→ *Read Heb 13:11-13, Isa 53:10, 2 Cor 5:21 with Heb 10:17, Psalm 103:12, Rom 8:1 & note the benefits of the fact that Jesus became our sin offering.*

B. TABERNACLE (Exodus 25;27, 35-38)

The tabernacle was to be the place God would DWELL & therefore MEET with His covenant people ... And where the Israelites would bring their OFFERINGS for sin & SACRIFICES of praise.

- * They couldn't just worship ANY WAY they wanted or make sacrifices ANYWHERE they chose. They had to come to the TABERNACLE to get to God (John 14:6).



→ *Pick one of the objects / pieces of furniture in Exodus 25-27 & discuss how it related to Jesus. What do the various colours & precious metals depict? (If in doubt, look up the Golden Lampstand / Candlestick in Ex 25:31-40 + 37:17-24)*

→ *What would it have felt like to have been a priest working a shift in the tabernacle?*

What would a day have looked like?

What would your relationship with God have been like?

What about the High Priest's job on the Day of Atonement?

OUTER COURT

- a) Bronze ALTAR: No-one can APPROACH God without BLOOD on that altar.
- b) Bronze LAVER: Points to SIN being WASHED AWAY by Jesus & given new BIRTH & new LIFE by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:4,5).

INNER COURT / HOLY PLACE

- a) Golden LAMPSTAND (1 John 1:5, John 8:12).
- b) SHOWBREAD Table (John 6:51).
- c) Altar of INCENSE (Psalm 141:2, Rev 5:8).

HOLY OF HOLIES

VEIL: A stark reminder of human SINFULNESS & SEPARATION from God (Heb 10:19-22).

→ *What would it have felt like staring at that veil day after day? How would you have felt once it had come tumbling down? How did the religious Jews not get it?*

ARK of the COVENANT: Small wooden chest, CHERUBIM at either end, illuminated by the SHEKINAH glory.

On top was a lid called the MERCY SEAT.

The Ark contained:

- i) 2 TABLETS OF STONE
- ii) AARON'S ROD
- iii) JAR of MANNA

→ *What sin did the various contents of the Ark represent (Heb 9:4)?*

The Day of Atonement

- * High Priest SPRINKLED the BLOOD over the Mercy Seat.
- * God no longer saw evidence of man's SIN; all He saw was the BLOOD.
- * It's Jesus' blood that changes God's throne from throne of JUDGMENT to seat of MERCY.

→ *It's blood (Jesus' blood) that changes God's throne from place of judgment to a seat of mercy. Discuss!*

FINAL THOUGHT: Can we relate anything from the layout & function of the tabernacle to aid us in our corporate worship or personal devotion?