

SECRETS OF PROPHECY

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE



it is written
OCEANIA





Jerusalem, the “city of peace”, has a history of bloodshed and destruction. For thousands of years, armies from all over the world have fought over this city and today Jerusalem is still one of the most volatile places in the world. The most prized possession in Jerusalem is the Temple Mount. This small area of the planet is a sacred site to three major world religions. Conflict over this location has the potential to divide the world or even start a global war.

The Temple Mount is currently under Muslim control. This sacred site is recognised as the departure point for the prophet Mohammed, bound for paradise. If you visit the Temple Mount you will notice two beautiful Muslim shrines – the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.



To the Jew this is the holiest site in the world. It is the home of their two most famous temples: Solomon’s temple (destroyed by the Babylonians) and Herod’s temple which was burnt to the ground by the Romans. This location is the spiritual soul to the Jew. They are determined to reclaim the site and build a new Jewish temple. Many Christians, who also see this as a sacred site, are sympathetic to the Jews and support the building of the temple.

Some years ago an Australian religious enthusiast, Michael Rohan, entered the Temple Mount and set fire to the Al-Aqsa mosque. Having read an article in a religious paper, he was attempting to help the Jews rebuild their temple. The attempt failed and only stirred up greater hostility.

In recent years the Jews have begun their planning in earnest. The Temple Institute, situated in the Jewish quarter of the old city, has already made 60 sacred temple vessels including the Menorah (seven-branched candlestick) and the precious stones for the breastplate of the High Priest. They also have highly advanced architectural drawings for the new temple itself. There is no compromise. This temple must be built on the original site of the Temple Mount.



Two Talmudic schools, located near the Western Wall, are now teaching hundreds of students the finer details of the ancient sanctuary symbols and services. There are also plans to reintroduce animal sacrifices once the temple has been restored; with a new breed of red heifers currently being raised in southern Israel.

What will eventuate from this sensitive situation remains to be seen. But according to the Bible, should the temple be rebuilt? What was the purpose of the ancient temple (also known as the tabernacle or sanctuary)? What did all the symbols and ceremonies represent? And do we need a high priest or animal sacrifices today?

According to the Bible, should the temple be rebuilt?

Q1 WHAT WAS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JEWISH SANCTUARY?

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



God created humans for love and companionship. He even made us in His “own image” so we could understand Him better and learn to love Him more. When our original parents sinned, an intimate friendship with God was made more difficult. Instead of talking “face to face”, sin automatically raised a barrier between mankind and our pure and holy God (Isaiah 59:2).



The sanctuary provided a means where God could live with His people. His presence (the “Shekinah glory”) would permanently stay in the sanctuary. In this way, God went wherever His people went. God guided, provided and protected His people. The sanctuary symbols and services taught the people to know and understand their loving God.

Q2 WHAT DID GOD SHOW HIS PEOPLE THROUGH THE SANCTUARY AND ITS SERVICES?

Psalms 77:13 *Your _____, O God, is in the sanctuary*

The sanctuary was a three-dimensional model given to the Jews to show them God’s way. In particular, His way to salvation. The subject of the sanctuary covers nearly half the Bible, and involves a wide variety of symbols and ceremonies.

The sanctuary is a prophecy outlining the complete gospel story in detail. It introduces the God of judgment and demonstrates how God will ultimately and eternally solve the problem of sin.

Many other prophetic books, including Daniel and Revelation, base their prophecies on the subject of the sanctuary. In fact, the sanctuary

and its services are mentioned over 90 times in Revelation alone. There are few, if any, more important Bible topics for us to understand than the sanctuary.

Q3 WHAT WAS THE CENTRAL TEACHING OF THE SANCTUARY?

Hebrews 9:22 ... *and without shedding of _____ there is no remission*

The sanctuary service was based on the sacrifice of animals. This heart-wrenching ceremony taught that the shedding of blood was required to obtain forgiveness (remission) and cleansing from sins.

Blood is a symbol of life (Leviticus 17:11). Only the blood from the life of the One who was sinned against (God and His law), could provide forgiveness for the sinner. Jesus was the Lamb of God who gave His blood to take away the sins of the world. Through the sanctuary, God demonstrated the great cost of sin. Through the blood of animals, God pointed towards the promised Saviour and substitute, Jesus Christ.

Jesus was the Lamb of God who gave His blood to take away the sins of the world.



Sacrificial Lamb

Q4 WHERE DID MOSES GET THE PLANS TO HELP HIM BUILD THE SANCTUARY?

Exodus 25:9 *According to all that I show you, that is, the _____ of the tabernacle and the _____ of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it*



When Moses built the sanctuary (also known as the tabernacle), he didn't need his best architects to help him. God gave him the blueprints from Mt Sinai. The sanctuary was meticulously designed by God, and every symbol and ceremony was significant.

The original sanctuary was not a giant temple located on the Temple Mount. It was a tent in the desert (see Exodus 25-40 for the detail). It was portable, and the Jews would transport the sanctuary as they travelled through the wilderness. A life-sized replica of the Jewish sanctuary was built a few years ago by a kibbutz in the Judean desert. Thousands of tourists visit this tabernacle each year.

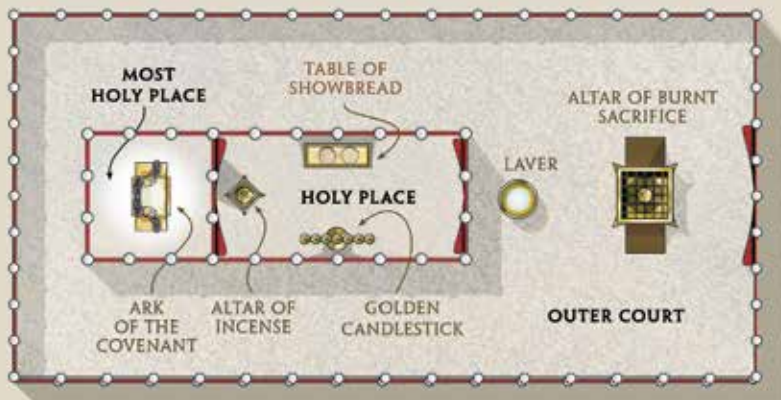
The desert sanctuary was made of a variety of materials including acacia wood, goat's hair, ram's skin dyed red, badger's skin, along with silver and gold. The sanctuary consisted of three aspects:

The courtyard set a boundary around the sanctuary. There was only one entrance – through the front curtain (or veil). It was through this veil, the sinner would come with a lamb. Within the courtyard precinct was the altar of burnt offerings (Exodus 40:6) where the animals were sacrificed. There was also a laver (Exodus 40:7) where the priests washed their hands and feet prior to entering the sanctuary.

The Courtyard (about 45 metres long and 22 metres wide)

The Holy Place (about 9 metres long and 4.5 metres wide)

The Most Holy Place (about 4.5 metres long and 4.5 metres wide)



In the Holy Place was a seven-branched candlestick (Menorah) (Exodus 25:31-40), continually kept alight with oil. There was the altar of incense (Exodus 30:7,8) where incense burnt continually. There was the table of showbread (Exodus 25:23-30) that held 12 loaves of flat bread.

It was in the Most Holy Place that the presence of God lived. This was the home of the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 40:3). On the Ark stood two angels made of pure gold, watching over the mercy seat of the Ark (Exodus 25:17-22). Inside the Ark was the most awesome part of the sanctuary – the law of God – the Ten Commandments, written personally by the finger of God (Deuteronomy 10:4,5).

The sinner would take a lamb (possibly a much loved personal pet of the family) and move towards the sanctuary.



Q5

HOW DID THE SINNER RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FOR SINS?

Leviticus 4:33 *Then he shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering, and _____ it as a sin offering at the place where they kill the burnt offering*

When a person sinned there were awful and bloody consequences. The sinner would take a lamb (possibly a much-loved personal pet of the family) and move towards the sanctuary. You can just imagine the gossip and rumours as that person passed his friends along the way. The sinner took the lamb, and as he walked through the veil, he approached the altar of burnt offering. He then placed his hand on the head of the lamb and confessed his specific sins onto that lamb (Leviticus



5:5). The sinner had symbolically transferred his sins onto that lamb and that lamb must now die. In what must have been a most difficult process, the sinner now killed the lamb himself.



Depending on the sacrifice, the priest either ate part of the animal or took its blood and sprinkled it inside the sanctuary. Thus the sin was transferred from the sinner, to the lamb, to the priest and into the sanctuary. The sinner could then walk away free from the penalty of sin.

Q6

ON WHICH PATTERN WAS THE JEWISH SANCTUARY MODELLED?

Hebrews 8:1-5 *Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the _____ tabernacle which the _____ erected, and not man (v1,2)*

The earthly sanctuary was a pattern (or copy) of the sanctuary in heaven. The sanctuary that Moses built was a “shadow” reflecting the true and majestic temple that God built. The writer of Hebrews told the Jews the main point was this: there is a High Priest providing salvation in the sanctuary of heaven. To this day, it is pointless building a new temple in Jerusalem. The true sanctuary has already been built. It is in heaven. That should be our focus. It is no wonder that all end time prophecies describe the temple in heaven, not earth.

Q7 WHAT DID JESUS DO IN THE “COURTYARD” OF THIS EARTH?

John 1:29 ... *Behold! The _____ of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

God also made a sacrifice to provide forgiveness. Much more precious than a pet animal, Jesus, the Lamb of God, was God's Son. It was in the courtyard of the earthly sanctuary that the animal was sacrificed, and it was on this earth that Jesus died. The death of Jesus was a perfect sacrifice that, unlike the animal sacrifice, was only required once. The veil in the earthly sanctuary ripped from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51) as Jesus brought an “end to sacrifice and offering” (Daniel 9:27).



Q8 HOW DOES THE FURNITURE IN THE SANCTUARY REPRESENT JESUS?

Each article of furniture in the sanctuary represents an aspect of Jesus in His work to save us from sin.

To illustrate:

Altar of burnt offering = *Sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary (John 1:29)*

Laver = *Jesus the living water (John 4:10, Titus 3:5)*

Candlestick = *Jesus the light of the world (John 1:9)*

Showbread = *Jesus the bread of life (John 6:48)*

The veil in the earthly sanctuary ripped from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51) as Jesus brought an “end to sacrifice and offering” (Daniel 9: 27).



Altar of incense = *Righteousness of Jesus mixed with our prayers (Revelation 8:3)*

Ark of the covenant = *Mercy of Jesus for those who break His law (1 John 2:1)*



Q9 WHO IS YOUR HIGH PRIEST TODAY?

Hebrews 4:14-16 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, _____ the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession (v14)*

You still need a priest for salvation today, but not a priest on earth. When Jesus was on earth He became your sacrifice. When Jesus returned to heaven He became your High Priest. Many people today pray to God through earthly priests or saints. The Bible says there is “One mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus is our only mediator today – we need no other.

Q10 WHAT DOES JESUS DO AS HIGH PRIEST IN THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY?

Hebrews 7:25 *Therefore He is also able to _____ to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make _____ for them*

The major role of the High Priest is to bring the benefit of the sacrifice (salvation) into a reality in our life. Salvation was not finished at the cross – in fact the sanctuary model demonstrates that the sacrifice was just the start of the gospel story! Jesus the Lamb who died for us became the Priest who now lives for us.

In the Old Testament, the priest stood before the Holiness of God (albeit with a veil in between) and became the mediator between God and the sinner. In this way, the sinner had constant access to God, and God had constant access to His people.

When Jesus returned to heaven, He personally took on the role of working with the Father to bring salvation to us. Jesus is the link between human frailty and Divine immortality. Jesus provides forgiveness through offering His blood and righteousness in the place of our sins. Jesus restores our relationship with God and Jesus gives us spiritual power to live a victorious Christian life.

When Jesus was on earth He became your sacrifice. When Jesus returned to heaven He became your High Priest.



Q11 WHAT WAS THE DAY OF ATONEMENT?

Leviticus 23:27 *Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of _____. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the Lord*

The Day of Atonement (or Yom Kippur) occurred just once every year. This was the only day the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place. This was a day of judgment. God's people



“afflicted their souls”. In other words, it was a solemn time of repentance. This was the day to ensure there was complete harmony between God and His people. Those who refused to participate were cut off from God’s people (Leviticus 23:29).

Every day the High Priest would offer sacrifices and transfer the record of sin (symbolised by eating the flesh or sprinkling the blood) into the Holy Place of the sanctuary. The Day of Atonement was a day to cleanse the sanctuary from sin. The prophet Daniel predicts a time when the sanctuary in heaven will also be cleansed (Daniel 8:14). There will be a judgment prior to the Second Coming of Christ when we also need to ensure our life is in harmony with Jesus (this will be covered in detail in the study guide “The Judgment”)

Q12 WHAT WAS DONE ON THE DAY OF ATONEMENT THAT SYMBOLISED THE FINAL REMOVAL OF SIN?

Leviticus 16:7-10 Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two _____: one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat (v8)

On the Day of Atonement two goats were chosen; one for the Lord and the other was called the scapegoat (also known as Azazel or the “devil’s goat”). The Lord’s goat was killed as a sacrifice for God’s people. The blood was taken by the High Priest into the Most Holy Place and sprinkled on the mercy seat of the Ark. This represented the blood of Jesus and the mercy of God to save us from our sins.



Following this, the sins from the sanctuary were symbolically transferred to the scapegoat. The scapegoat was taken out into the wilderness (Leviticus 16:21,22) to die a lonely death. This represents Satan who, at the end of the judgment, will finally bear the consequences of all the sins of humanity.

During the millennium, the devil will be thrown into the wilderness of this earth for 1,000 years. He will finally perish in the lake of fire (Revelation 20). This final act demonstrates that the devil is the one responsible for all the sin, pain and suffering throughout history.

Jesus understands what it is like to feel the pull of temptation.



Q13

WHAT MAKES JESUS OUR PERFECT HIGH PRIEST FOR TODAY?

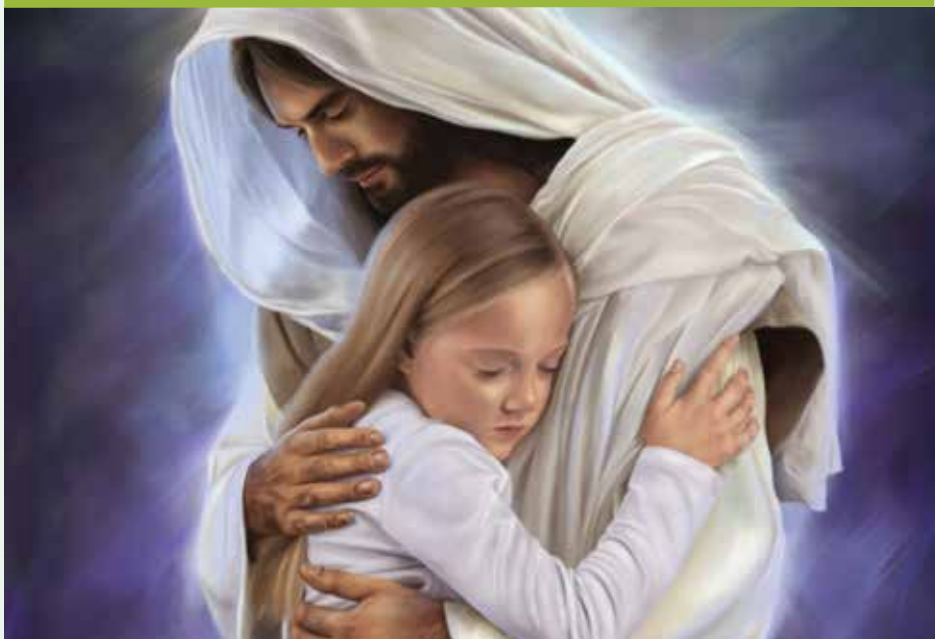
Hebrews 2:17 *Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His _____, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people*

Hebrews 4:15 *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points _____ as we are, yet without sin*

Jesus is our brother. He was made in human flesh and was tempted to sin by the devil, just like we are. Jesus understands what it is like to feel the pull of temptation. He understands we are human and how easy it is to spiritually fall. As a result, He is full of mercy and sympathy when we confess our sins.



Jesus resisted temptation. He was totally perfect, “without sin” (see also Hebrews 7:26). Jesus gained the victory over temptation through personal experience. He is ready to give you help just when you need it the most. Because Jesus fulfilled the perfect requirements of the law, He can substitute His perfect life for our sinful life. As a result, we can go “boldly to the throne of grace, that we may find mercy and grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).



Three Points to Remember:

- The sanctuary demonstrates the plan of salvation
- The sanctuary outlines how God solves the problem of sin
- The heavenly sanctuary is where Jesus now ministers to bring you salvation

The Story:

An archaeologist visited a pottery store in Egypt. This man had seen thousands of pots so he was doubtful anything would interest him. Then he

fixed his eyes on a pot that was absolutely exquisite. The colours were just outstanding – all shades of crimson and red swirling around the perimeter of this pot. The man asked the potter how much it was, because he wanted to buy it.

“Oh, no, I could never sell that pot.” “But why not, what is so special about it?” said the man. And so the potter began to tell the story. The story of how he was on the potter’s wheel one day and as he got a new piece of clay he threw it on the wheel and started to try and mould it. The trouble was, this clay was so tough it wouldn’t mould. It just stayed in one hard lump. After about 15 minutes of trying, the potter got so exasperated he threw the piece of clay on the ground and tried another bit. After a while, the potter picked back up that stubborn clay and tried again. This process continued over many hours.

On the eighth try something remarkable happened. The potter put so much effort into it, that as the clay moved around the wheel one of the sharp stones in the clay slashed the palm of his hand. And as

We can go “boldly to the throne of grace, that we may find mercy and grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).



that blood worked its way into the clay, the potter found that the clay began to go soft. He found he could mould it and he ended up making the most beautiful pot with all those wonderful colours.

“I couldn’t sell that pot to you,” he said. “That pot has my blood in it. To me it is priceless.”

What does this story tell you about your value to Jesus and His commitment to saving you?



Relational questions:

1. Why do you think God made the sanctuary and its services so detailed?
2. Why do you think the sanctuary is an important teaching for today?
3. What does the sanctuary tell you about God?

Your response:

Would you like to accept the full plan of salvation and over time learn more about Jesus in the sanctuary? _____



ST. MATTHEW
Son of God, command
stones be made bread.
4 But he answered and said
It is written, *Man shall not live
by bread alone, but by every
word that proceedeth out of the
mouth of God.*
Then the devil taketh him up
into the holy city, and setteth
him on the pinnacle of the temple,
saying to him, If thou wilt
thou shalt be able to command
these stones to be made bread.

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Images: Phil McKay, Istockphoto.com

Production: AMN Design

Printed by: Signs Publishing Company

Scripture taken from the New King James

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