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THE TEMPLE OF GOD

STUDY GUIDE



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SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 25:8-9

And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

I Corinthians 3:16-17

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

I Corinthians 6:19-20

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

II Corinthians 6:16

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

I Thessalonians 5:23

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

THEME

The Old Testament Tabernacle reveals man from both the two-part and three-part concept. By understanding this revelation, we can gain new insight into our relationship with God so that we can become more committed to the will and purpose of God.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The Old Testament Tabernacle reveals to us the three-part being of man: spirit, soul, and body.
- B. The structure of the tabernacle also illustrates the reason that some people see man as only a two-part being.
- C. The layout of the Old Testament Tabernacle is illustrated on pages 11-14 of this Study Guide. It may be helpful to refer to these illustrations for further explanation.
- D. A clear understanding of who we are in relationship to the Tabernacle should enhance our relationship with God.
- E. Just as the Old Testament Tabernacle had to be built according to the pattern, we, too, must follow God's pattern for our lives.
- F. Hopefully, by looking at the Old Testament Tabernacle, we will get a better understanding of the New Testament Temple and God's intent for our lives.

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT TABERNACLE

- A. The Old Testament Tabernacle was designed to be mobile. (Numbers 9:15-23)
 - 1. When the cloud moved, the Tabernacle was disassembled and moved; when the cloud stopped, the Tabernacle was erected.
 - 2. The cloud and the mobility of the Tabernacle represent the Spirit of God leading and guiding the New Testament Temple, which consists of those who have been born again.
- B. The "outer court" was enclosed by a fence with a framework of wood covered with specified materials. (Exodus 38:9-20 - refer to page 11)

1. The outer court represents the body of man; it is the portion of the tabernacle which is visible to everyone.
 2. The heart of man is located within the body of man, just as the Tabernacle was located within the outer court.
- C. The Tabernacle (tent) is seen as one structure, but it is actually divided into two compartments. It was set up inside the outer court. (Refer to page 11)
1. The Tabernacle (tent) represents the heart of man.
 2. The division in the Tabernacle (tent) known as the Holy Place represents the soul of man.
 3. The division in the Tabernacle (tent) known as the Holy of Holies, or Holiest of All, represents the spirit of man.
- D. The only entrance to the Tabernacle (tent) was an opening or door located at the front, which was always toward the east. (Exodus 27:13-17; Exodus 38:13-19; Numbers 3:23 & 38)
1. Appeal to the physical man appears to be the legal entry to the door of one's heart.
 2. The senses act as the gate which allows or disallows entry.
- E. The only access to the Holy of Holies was through the Holy Place.
1. The door of man's heart opens into the soul of man, which consists of mind, will, and emotions. (Revelation 3:20)
 2. Appeal to the soul appears to be the legal entry to the door of the spirit.

III. THE TABERNACLE FURNITURE OF THE OUTER COURT

- A. The brazen altar was located in the outer court on the east side. (Exodus 40:6 - refer to page 13)
1. Offerings and sacrifices were offered upon this altar.
 2. The sacrifices offered upon this altar are a type and shadow of the sacrifices made with the body of man. (Romans 12:1)

- B. The laver was also located in the outer court between the brazen altar and the Holy Place. (Exodus 40:7 - refer to page 13)
 - 1. The priests were required to use the laver to wash their hands and feet before offering sacrifices. (Ephesians 5:26; Hebrews 10:22)
 - 2. The washing in the laver is a type and shadow of the body being cleansed by the Word of God.
- C. Many Christians today spend all their time in the outer court doing nothing more than sacrificing and cleansing.

IV. THE FURNITURE OF THE HOLY PLACE

- A. The table of showbread was located inside the Holy Place on the north side. (Exodus 26:35 - refer to page 13)
 - 1. The table of showbread is symbolic of man's will.
 - a. The word showbread comes from two Hebrew words, *paniym* (paw-neem') and *lechem* (lekh'-em).
 - b. *Paniym* means the face; *lechem* means food, especially bread.
 - c. Bread is symbolic of life. The soul represents the self-life of man. The self-life is displayed through the will of man.
 - 2. The will of man is constantly displayed, just as the showbread was displayed in the Holy Place.
 - 3. Man constantly shows God and others what he wants to do.
 - 4. Man's will determines his destiny.
 - 5. Man's will provides for him, just as the showbread provided for the priest.
- B. The candlestick was also located inside the Holy Place on the south side opposite the table of showbread. (Exodus 26:35 - refer to page 13)
 - 1. The purpose of the candlestick was to produce light.

2. The candlestick is symbolic of the mind of man.
 3. The knowledge in the mind of man is light to him.
 4. The oil of the lampstand is symbolic of the Holy Spirit revealing the Word.
 - a. The Holy Spirit reveals or illuminates Jesus unto us.
 - b. It is the Holy Spirit Who reveals and teaches God's Word unto us.
 - c. Our only hope of enlightenment in God's Word is the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:17-18)
 5. The candlestick dimensions are not given, thus signifying that revelation of the Word of God is unlimited.
 6. The Old Testament priests were responsible for keeping the candlestick burning; we, as individuals, are responsible for keeping our minds illuminated.
 7. Illumination in the mind dispels darkness in the soul of man.
 8. Jesus is the light which illuminates the candlestick. One who does not know Jesus walks in darkness. (Psalm 18:28; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 119:130; John 1:1-9; John 8:12; Matthew 5:14-16)
- C. The altar of incense was located inside the Holy Place next to the veil centered on the west side. (Exodus 40:5 & 24-26; refer to page 13)
1. The altar of incense was overlaid with gold, suggesting that it was of great value.
 2. The altar of incense is symbolic of the emotions of man.
 3. The altar of incense was positioned directly in front of the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies.
 4. Only incense of pleasant fragrance was offered on this altar. This practice signifies that our emotions should be pleasing to God.

5. Our emotions should be stimulated by the Spirit of God rather than circumstances.
6. The Old Testament priests were responsible for offering incense; we, as individuals, have the responsibility of displaying right emotions before God.
7. Incense was to be offered every morning and every evening, suggesting that our day should begin and end with our emotions directed toward God.
8. Praise and worship should be offered unto God perpetually.

V. THE FURNITURE OF THE HOLY OF HOLIES

- A. The ark of the covenant was located inside the Holy of Holies directly behind the golden altar of incense. (refer to page 13)
 1. The Holy of Holies is symbolic of man's spirit.
 2. The ark of the covenant symbolizes the presence of God.
 3. The ark of the covenant in the Holy of Holies symbolizes God's Spirit inside man's spirit.
- B. The contents of the ark of the covenant are very significant. (Hebrews 9:4)
 1. Aaron's rod that budded is symbolic of the authority or dominion of man; it also represents the power or ability to produce fruit. (Numbers 17:1-10; John 15:16)
 2. The manna is symbolic of life--**zoe**--God's life. (Matthew 4:4; John 6:31-35 & 51)
 3. The commandments are symbolic of God's covenant, which is His Word or His revealed will.
- C. The mercy seat covered the articles in the ark of the covenant, suggesting that dominion, life, and God's covenant are the result of God's mercy.
- D. The location of the ark of the covenant and its contents makes us aware of the fact that God's Spirit in our spirit gives unto us life, dominion, and revelation of His covenant.

VI. THE VEIL OF THE TABERNACLE

- A. A veil covers or hides; the veil in the tabernacle kept the ark of the covenant hidden. (Refer to page 13)
 - 1. The Holy of Holies was hidden from the Holy Place.
 - 2. Each division was isolated from the other.
- B. The divisions in the Holy Place reveal unto us the soul and spirit, which make up the heart of man.
- C. The veil that divided the Holy Place is symbolic of the blindness that separates the soul and spirit.
 - 1. Those who are born again have the veil removed or, as Paul would say, their heart has been circumcised. (Romans 2:29)
 - 2. An unregenerate man still has the veil of blindness between the soul and spirit. (II Corinthians 3:15)
 - 3. Jesus is the only One who can remove that veil. (Matthew 27:51)

VII. REVELATION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT TABERNACLE

- A. The tabernacle furniture was laid out in the form of a cross.
- B. The arrangement of the furniture is very significant. (Refer to page 14)
 - 1. The brazen altar symbolizes the born-again experience, for the one who is born again sacrifices himself for God.
 - 2. The laver symbolizes the washing of water by the Word.
 - 3. The table of showbread symbolizes the will of man, man thus becoming the product of that upon which he feeds.
 - 4. The candlestick symbolizes the mind of man, illumination through knowledge of the Word.
 - 5. The altar of incense symbolizes the emotions of man, a means to express thanks and praise to God.

- 6. The ark of the covenant symbolizes God's Spirit in man's spirit. It suggests life, dominion, and revelation--in essence, intimacy with God.
- C. The distance from the brazen altar to the ark of the covenant demonstrates spiritual growth.
- D. The outer court, which represents the body of man, illustrates seeing things physically, or by the senses.
- E. The Holy Place, which represents the soul of man, illustrates seeing things through the eyes of intellect, reason, or emotion.
- F. The Holy of Holies, which represents the spirit of man, illustrates seeing things spiritually, or being led by the spirit.
- G. God speaks in the Holy of Holies to the spirit of man.
- H. God will reveal Himself in the Holy Place to the soul of man.
- I. God manifests Himself in the outer court in the body of man.
- J. Man's approach to God is from the outside in; God's approach to man is from the inside out.
- K. Sacrifices were offered in the outer court; incense was burned in the Holy Place; atonement was made in the Holy of Holies.

VIII. THE TEMPLE OF GOD (I Corinthians 3:16-17)

- A. The Temple of God, under the New Covenant, is not a physical structure.
- B. The New Testament Temple is made up of people, the born-again believers. (Ephesians 2:19-22)
- C. God's Temple should be treated as a holy and sacred thing.
- D. It is not by chance that we are called the Temple of God; it is by divine ordination.
- E. The Old Testament Tabernacle is a type and shadow of the New Testament Temple.
- F. We are the Temple of God; therefore, we must always conduct ourselves in a way that brings honor and glory to God.

- G. We must not allow this Temple to become desecrated.
- H. All of the activity of the Old Testament Tabernacle revolved around worshipping God.
- I. The whole purpose of the Old Testament Tabernacle was to develop and keep a relationship between God and man.
- J. The New Testament Temple must meet and exceed the Old Testament Tabernacle. Our whole lives must focus upon and revolve around God.
- K. We are God's handiwork! We are created for His good pleasure! We must allow God, Who created the Temple, to occupy and control the Temple.

IX. SUMMARY

- A. The Old Testament Tabernacle is truly a revelation of the whole man: spirit, soul, and body.
- B. The Old Testament Tabernacle is not only a type and symbol of man as God's Temple, but it is also a revelation unto us of what is to take place in the New Testament Temple -- worship and service.
- C. We must make God our priority! We must allow the Builder of the Temple to control the activity of the Temple.
- D. Jesus has removed the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. We now have the privilege of being led by the Spirit of God.
- E. We must not deviate from the pattern! Let's be certain that each part of man (spirit, soul, and body) does exactly what it is designed to do.
- F. We are the Temple of God--a holy, dedicated, consecrated, and anointed Temple--a temple designed for the good pleasure of God.

X. CONCLUSION

- A. A house divided cannot stand.
 - 1. We have separated the Tabernacle, as it relates to man, for clarification.

2. We must now unite the Tabernacle of man so that the spirit, soul, and body are in harmony.
 3. We must constantly keep the total man in harmony. How can two walk together except they agree? (Amos 3:3)
- B. Satan will try to attack the Tabernacle at any part or division that will give him an opening.
 - C. We must allow the spirit to govern our lives; therefore, we must be led by the Spirit of God.
 - D. Many people are content to live in the outer court, led by the senses.
 - E. Some people put forth the effort and enter into the Holy Place; these are led by their intellect or reasoning.
 - F. God wants us to totally commit ourselves to Him and enter into the Holy of Holies so that we can be led by the spirit.
 - G. If your attention is on the outer court, God, Who dwells in the Holy of Holies, will always seem far away.
 - H. There is an inward man and there is an outward man.
 1. The inward man is the heart.
 2. The heart is made up of the soul and spirit.
 3. The outward man is the physical body.
 - I. The spirit of man is recreated.
 - J. The soul of man is renovated or renewed.
 - K. The body of man is cleansed.
 - L. The spirit, soul, and body are to be preserved blameless, for we are the Temple of God.
 - M. The tabernacle or temple analogy should assist us in pleasing God and fulfilling our purpose.







