

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

March 01, 2026 - Lesson # 1.3 – The Illumination of the Tabernacle – Part # 4

Text: Hebrews 9:11-15



Hebrews 9:11-15

¹¹ But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

¹² Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

¹³ For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

¹⁵ And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Introduction: The "Divine Portraits of the Tabernacle" – Last week we covered:

1. Seeing Christ in the Outer Court
 - a. Christ in the structure – the curtains and rods
 - b. Christ in the settings

- i. The Brazen Altar
- ii. The Brazen Laver
- 2. Seeing Christ in the Structure of the Tabernacle
 - a. Christ in the structure – the tent
 - b. Christ in the settings
 - i. The Table of Showbread
 - ii. The Lampstand
 - iii. The Altar of Incense
 - iv. The Veil

Now today, we are going to see Christ in the sanctuary.

- c. Christ in the sanctuary – Now this is the most Holy of Holies! Why? This is where the presence of God was established in the Tabernacle.
 - i. The Ark of the Covenant – Exodus 25:10-16; 37:1-5 – it is two-fold
 - 1. The Mercy Seat of God – Exodus 25:17-22; 37:6-9
 - 2. The Matters Sealed Inside

Exodus 25:10-16; 37:1-5

¹⁰ And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof.

¹¹ And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about.

¹² And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it.

¹³ And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold.

¹⁴ And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them.

¹⁵ The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it.

¹⁶ And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.

³⁷ 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.

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.

Exodus 25:17-22; 37:6-9

¹⁷ And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof.

¹⁸ And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat.

¹⁹ And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof.

²⁰ And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.

²¹ And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.

²² And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

37:6-9

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.

1. -

3. **The Ark of the Covenant** -- there are several pictures of Christ:

- a. **He is pictured as the The Ark of the Covenant overlaid in gold** – it was made of wood which was within and without covered in gold – which represents the total Deity of the Lord Jesus as He was in the flesh (His humanity) – The humanity of Christ is described as his full adoption of human nature – body, soul, and mind—**without inheriting a sinful nature.**

He experienced physical limitations (hunger, weariness, death), emotional range (joy, grief, compassion), and temptation, yet remained sinless, acting as a relatable, representative high priest.

The humanity of Jesus is just as important as His Divine Deity!! Yes, He was God in the flesh. He was much as God as He was man- He was not ½ and 1/2 . John 1:14; Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 10:5 – He was GOD in the flesh!

John 1:14:

¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Philippians 2:6-8:

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Hebrews 10:5

⁵ *Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me:*

Remember the physical body of Jesus had to die, just as God told mankind, if they sin, then they will die also – Genesis 2:17; Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 5:12; 6:23

Genesis 2:17;

¹⁷ *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

Ezekiel 18:4;

⁴ Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

Romans 5:12; 6:23

¹² *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

6:23

²³ *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

b. The Ark of the Covenant had the Mercy Seat on it – we notice that the Ark of the Covenant had the Mercy Seat of God on it – WHY?

The Mercy Seat (or Atonement Cover) was placed on the Ark of the Covenant to serve as the lid, acting as the specific location for God's presence (Shekinah glory) to dwell, bridge the gap between a holy God and sinful humanity, and provide a place for annual atonement via sacrificial blood. You see the 10 Commandments where inside of the Ark of the Covenant- which represents the condemnation of humanity, but the Mercy Seat rested on top, allowing God's mercy to cover the demands of the Law.

i. The Mercy Seat was the gold lid of the Ark of the Covenant with two cherubim, wings spread out and their faces looking down at the Mercy Seat –

***Exodus 25:20-22

²⁰ And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.

²¹ And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.

²² And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

1. Just like Jesus - The term “mercy seat” in Hebrews 9:5 is a word which means propitiation. It was the High Priest that went before the Mercy Seat of God for the sins of the people one time a year.

Hebrews 9:5

⁵ And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

2. In the New Testament, propitiation has the idea of satisfying the demands of a Holy God, making it possible for the removal of sin that stands between God and mankind. Although the sins of the people were removed, they were not taken away and destroyed until Christ came and shed His precious blood. I John 2:2

I John 2:2

² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

- a. That was accomplished by Christ’s death on the cross – Hebrews 9:26; 10:4; Hebrews 4:14-16; 12:2 - The Mercy Seat was where God dwelt among the Israelites. Because of Christ, God now extends His mercy and His grace so as to enable us to stand before Him in Heaven spotless – Jude 24

Hebrews 9:26; 10:4:

²⁶ For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

10:4:

⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Hebrews 4:14-16; 12:2

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

12:2

² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

ii. The Matters Seal Inside – Hebrews 9:4; Exodus 16:33,34; Numbers 17:10, I Kings 8:9 – There were three things inside the Ark of the Covenant that represents the Lord Jesus:

Hebrews 9:4:

⁴ Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

Exodus 16:33,34:

³³ And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.

³⁴ As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.

Numbers 17:10,

¹⁰ And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not.

I Kings 8:9

⁹ There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

1. The Ten Commandments – God engraved the moral law (Exodus 20:1-7) on two stones. Although the two tablets of stone had been broken, a second set was made, and it was this second set that was placed in the Ark of the Covenant.

Exodus 20:1-7

20 And God spake all these words, saying,

² I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

³ Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

⁴ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁵ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

⁶ And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

- a. **Just like Jesus** - The new law (the gospel of Christ) is not written on stones, but in our hearts. Jeremiah 31:31-36; Matthew 5:17-20

Jeremiah 31:31-36:

31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

35 Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

Matthew 5:17-20

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

- i. The internalization law of God – vrs. 33d - God promises to write His law not on stone but on the minds / hearts of His people. I Corinthians 2:16; II Corinthians 1:22

I Corinthians 2:16;

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.

II Corinthians 1:22

22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

- ii. The intimate knowledge of God – vrs. 33e - He will give a deep and personal relationship to all those that know Him. John 15:4; Philippians 3:10

John 15:4;

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Philippians 3:10

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

- iii. The improved complete forgiveness of God – vrs. 34e - Because of Jesus, He has promised to forgive me and remember my sins no more.
 - 1. Something unique – Psalms 103:12 – you see east of the Mercy Seat of God was the brazen altar where the actual sin offering was made. You see God has forgiven and forgotten our sins “as far as the east is from the west”. Our sins were nailed to Jesus and He took His blood and applied it to the “Mercy Seat of God” for the final atonement for sin!!! Hebrews 10:9-13

Psalms 103:12

¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Hebrews 10:9-13

⁹ Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

¹⁰ By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹ And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

¹² But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

¹³ From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

- iv. The immediate restoration relationship of God – vrs. 36 - I will be their God and they shall be My people. Romans 5:1

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2. **The Pot of Manna** – Manna means “What is it?” It was bread from heaven that fed the Israelites in the wilderness. Aaron was commanded to collect an omer of manna in a golden bowl and place it inside the Ark of the Covenant. Exodus 16:33

Exodus 16:33

³³ And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.

a. **Just like Jesus** –

- i. # 1 - Paul called it “spiritual food” 1 Corinthians 10:3 because of its supernatural origin.
- ii. #2 - In John 6:32, Jesus referred to Himself as “the true bread from Heaven.”

1 Corinthians 10:3

³ And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

John 6:32

³² Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

3. **The Budded Rod of Aaron** – ***Numbers 16; 17 - Aaron’s rod that budded. The story of the budding rod is recorded in ***Numbers 16-17. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram had gathered 250 leaders from the 12 tribes of Israel to challenge Moses and Aaron’s right to lead the people. Moses accepted the challenge, and God vindicated his leadership by opening the ground, which swallowed up Korah and all those who stood with him - Numbers 16:32, the 250 who had rebelled against Moses’ leadership were destroyed by fire from God out of heaven - Numbers 26:35

*****Numbers 16; 17**

¹⁷ And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the LORD every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each of you his censer.

Numbers 16:32

³² And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.

Numbers 26:35

³⁵ These are the sons of Ephraim after their families: of Shuthelah, the family of the Shuthalhites: of Becher, the family of the Bachrites: of Tahan, the family of the Tahanites.

The next day the congregation of Israel accused Moses of killing the people of God. To provide further proof of Aaron's right to be the High Priest, God instructed Moses to select a representative from each tribe to bring an almond rod with the name of the tribe engraved on it. Aaron's name was on the rod of the tribe of Levi and the rod of the man God had chosen to be High Priest would blossom. All twelve rods were put in the Tabernacle over-night. The next morning Aaron's rod had budded, blossomed, and yielded almonds - Numbers 17:8.

Numbers 17:8.

⁸ And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.

God commanded that Aaron's rod be placed in the Ark for a sign against the rebels, proving that he alone had the right to be High Priest.

- i. Just like Jesus – the validation of Aaron being the High Priest, is just like Jesus validated His own self as the Great High Priest. How?
 - a. By His Death and Resurrection – I Corinthians 15:1-4
 - b. By His Witness among men – I Corinthians 15:5-8
 - c. By His Accession – Acts 1:7-11

Yes, Jesus is that Great High Priest – Hebrews 9:11; I Corinthians 15:23;

I Corinthians 15:1-4

***15** Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;*

***2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*

***3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

***4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

I Corinthians 15:5-8

***5** And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:*

***6** After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.*

***7** After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.*

***8** And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.*

Acts 1:7-11

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

¹⁰ And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

¹¹ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Hebrews 9:11;

¹¹ But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

I Corinthians 15:23;

²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming

Conclusion: Two extremely important passages to remember regarding the Tabernacle: Exodus 25:9; Exodus 25:40 - The blood of Christ must be applied to your soul in order for your sins to be forgiven. Just remember: God's Plan for Man's Salvation

Exodus 25:9;

⁹ 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.

Exodus 25:40

⁴⁰ And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.

1. Sin's power has been banished.
2. Complete cleansing from your past sins is available.
3. There is no longer the God's mercy seat open only once a year.
4. No longer do we need an earthly high priest to intercede on our behalf. God bids us come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace in any time of need.