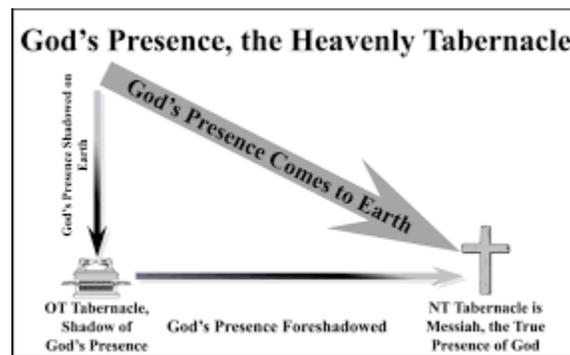


BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

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

Text: Hebrews 9:11-15



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 -
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 $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$. John 1:14; Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 10:5 – He was GOD in the flesh!

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

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 were 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**

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.

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

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

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 represent the Lord Jesus:

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.

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

- 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
 - 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.”
- 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

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.

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;

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

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.