

# STORACLES OF PROPHECY

## A Heavenly Model

**Exodus 24:1-25**

**N**ever before had the Lord manifested such mighty signs and wonders as when He delivered the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt. Plague after plague fell upon the Pharaoh's kingdom until he was forced to release his captives. Then the Lord parted the Red Sea and led the young nation to freedom, while drowning their pursuing enemies behind them.



After entering the wilderness, God surprised many of His people by leading them south—in the opposite direction of the Promised Land. The Lord knew that before they would be prepared to receive their inheritance, they must be organized and taught to trust Him. As they journeyed to Mount Sinai, God supplied their every need. When they became hungry, God fed them with bread from heaven. When they became thirsty, the Lord brought water cascading from a boulder. When suddenly attacked from behind by an enemy, they were given a miraculous victory.

Finally, the Israelites camped at the base of the holy mountain. There God did something He has not done before or since. He spoke—in the hearing of a whole nation—His covenant, the Ten Commandments. After the Lord audibly spoke His law, He called Moses up Mount Sinai to receive a transcript written in stone. But God also gave him something else. While on the mountain with the Lord for 40 days and 40 nights, Moses received detailed instructions to build a beautiful, portable temple for God. It would be a small model of His actual dwelling place in heaven. This unique structure was to serve as a three-dimensional object lesson to the whole world of God's plan to save us from sin.

*Fill in the blanks after reading each Bible text.*

### 1. What did God ask Moses to build, and why?

**Exodus 25:8** *And let them make me a \_\_\_\_\_; that I may \_\_\_\_\_ among them.*

### 2. What did God expect His people to learn from the sanctuary and its services?

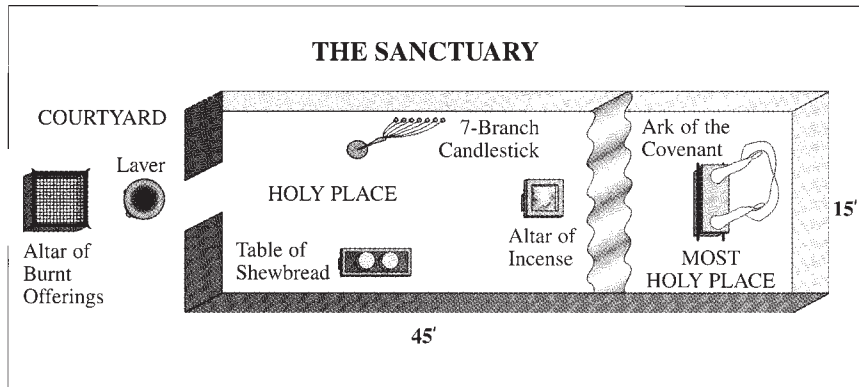
**Psalm 77:13** *Thy \_\_\_\_\_, O God, is in the sanctuary.*

NOTE: God's way, or plan, of salvation was revealed in the earthly sanctuary. Everything in the sanctuary, or connected with its services, was a symbol of something Jesus would do in saving us. We cannot fully comprehend the plan of salvation until we understand the sanctuary and its services. It was a huge, 3-D object lesson explaining the process of salvation.

### 3. Where did Moses obtain the blueprints for the sanctuary?

**Exodus 25:40** *And look that thou make them after their \_\_\_\_\_, which was shewed thee in the \_\_\_\_\_.*

NOTE: The sanctuary blueprints, with full specifications for its construction, were given to Moses by God on Mount Sinai (Hebrews 8:5). This was to be a microcosm of God's genuine sanctuary in heaven.



The first sanctuary, or tabernacle, was an elegant, tent-type structure (15 feet by 45 feet, based on an 18-inch cubit). There the supernatural presence of God dwelt and special services were conducted. The walls were made of upright acacia wood boards set in silver sockets and overlaid with gold (Exodus 26:15-19, 29). The roof was made of four layers of coverings—linen, goats' hair, rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins (verses 1, 7, 14). It had two rooms: the holy place (15 feet by 30 feet), and the most holy place (15 feet by 15 feet). Refer often to the above diagram as you review this lesson.

### 4. What furniture was in the courtyard?

**A. Exodus 29:18** *And thou shalt burn the whole ram upon the \_\_\_\_\_: it is a \_\_\_\_\_ offering unto the Lord.*

**B. Exodus 30:18** *Thou shalt also make a \_\_\_\_\_ of brass, ... and thou shalt put water therein.*

NOTE: The altar of burnt offerings (Exodus 27:1-8) is where animals were sacrificed. It was located in the courtyard just outside the entrance of the sanctuary. This altar represented the cross of Christ. The sacrificial animal represented Jesus, the ultimate sacrifice (John 1:29). The laver (Exodus 30:17-21; 38:8) was a large wash basin of brass located between the entrance of the sanctuary and the altar of burnt offerings. There priests washed their hands and feet before entering the sanctuary or offering a sacrifice. The water represented baptism, cleansing from sin, and the new birth.

### 5. What three items of furniture were in the holy place?

**A. Numbers 4:7** *And upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ they shall spread a cloth of blue, ... and the continual bread shall be thereon.*

**B. Numbers 8:2** *When thou lightest the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light over against the \_\_\_\_\_.*

**C. Exodus 30:1** *And thou shalt make an \_\_\_\_\_ to burn \_\_\_\_\_ upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it.*

NOTE: The table of showbread (Exodus 25:23-30) represented Jesus, the living bread (John 6:51). The seven-branch candlestick (Exodus 25:31-40) represented Jesus, the light of the world (John 9:5; 1:9). The lamps of oil symbolized the Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:1-6; Revelation 4:5). The altar of incense (Exodus 30:1-8) represented the prayers of God's people (Hebrews 5:7).

## 6. What special article was in the most holy place?

**Exodus 26:34** *And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of the testimony in the most holy place.*

NOTE: The only object in the most holy place (Exodus 25:10-22) was the ark of the testimony, a chest of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Atop the chest were two angels made of solid gold. The cover of the ark was called the mercy seat (Exodus 25:17-22), where God's presence dwelt. This spot symbolized God's throne in heaven, which is likewise located between two angels (Psalm 80:1; Isaiah 6:1, 2).

## 7. What was inside the ark?

**Exodus 25:21** *And thou shalt put the mercy seat above the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the \_\_\_\_\_ that I shall give thee.*

**Deuteronomy 10:4, 5** *And he [God] wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten \_\_\_\_\_. ... And I turned myself and came down from the mount, and put the tables \_\_\_\_\_ the ark which I had made; and there they be, as the Lord commanded me.*

NOTE: God wrote His covenant with His own finger on two tables of stone, and they were placed inside the ark. The mercy seat was above them, which signified that as long as God's people confessed and forsook their sins (Proverbs 28:13), mercy would be extended to them through the blood that was sprinkled on the mercy seat by the priest (Leviticus 16:15, 16). That blood represented the blood shed by Jesus to bring all people forgiveness and cleansing (Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 9:22).

## 8. Why did animals need to be sacrificed in the Old Testament sanctuary services?

**Hebrews 9:22** *Without shedding of \_\_\_\_\_ is no remission [forgiveness].*

**Matthew 26:28** *For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.*

NOTE: Sacrificing animals was necessary to help people understand that without the blood of Jesus shed on the cross, there could be no forgiveness of sin. The shocking truth is that the punishment for sin is death. Since all of us have sinned, we should all die—and we would have died, except that Jesus gave His perfect life by dying in our behalf to pay for our sins. The sinner brought his own sacrificial animal and slew it with his own hand (Leviticus 1:4, 5). It was bloody and shocking, impressing people with the solemn truth that sin caused Jesus' death. Thus, they looked forward to the cross for salvation, while we look back to the cross for salvation. There is no other source of salvation.

## 9. When animals were sacrificed for sin, what happened to the sin?

**Leviticus 1:4, 5** *And he shall put his \_\_\_\_\_ upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make \_\_\_\_\_ for him. And he shall kill the bullock before the Lord.*

NOTE: When the sinner placed his hands on the head of the animal and confessed his sins, the sins were symbolically transferred from the sinner to it. Thus, the animal became guilty and had to pay the death penalty. This represented Jesus bearing our sins.

## 10. When a sacrificial animal was offered for the entire congregation, what happened to the sin?

**Leviticus 4:17** *The priest shall dip his finger in some of the blood, and \_\_\_\_\_ it seven times before the Lord, even before the \_\_\_\_\_.*

NOTE: The priest sprinkled some of the blood before the veil inside the sanctuary, thus symbolically transferring the sin from the people to the sanctuary. When Jesus ascended to heaven after His death, He offered His blood (as did the high priest of old) to show that our sins are forgiven when confessed in Jesus' name (1 John 1:9).

## 11. What two sanctuary symbols does Jesus fulfill for us?

**1 Corinthians 5:7** *Christ our \_\_\_\_\_ is sacrificed for us. Hebrews 4:14* *We have a great \_\_\_\_\_, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God.*

NOTE: Jesus serves as the sacrifice for our sins and as our heavenly high priest, thus accomplishing two miraculous things for us. The first is a complete life change called the new birth, with all the sins of the past forgiven (John 3:3-6; Romans 3:25). The second is power to live right in the present and future (Titus 2:14; Philippians 2:13). These two things make a person righteous, which means a right relationship exists between that person and God. There is no way for a person to become righteous by works (his own efforts), because righteousness comes from grace that only Jesus can supply (Acts 4:12). This is righteousness by faith, which is the only true form of righteousness.

## 12. What six wonderful promises does the Bible give us about the righteousness offered us by Jesus?

- A. *He will cover our past sins and count us guiltless (Isaiah 44:22; 1 John 1:9).*
- B. *Jesus promises to restore us to God's image (Romans 8:29).*
- C. *Jesus gives us the desire and power to do God's will. (Philippians 2:13).*
- D. *Jesus will help us to do only the things that please God (Hebrews 13:20, 21; 1 John 3:22).*
- E. *He removes our death sentence by giving us credit for His sinless life and atoning death (2 Corinthians 5:21).*
- F. *Jesus assumes responsibility for helping to keep us faithful until He returns (Philippians 1:6; Jude 24).*

NOTE: Jesus is ready to fulfill all of these glorious promises in your life. Are you ready? Kneel down now and ask Him to take control of your life. He will not fail you.

## 13. Does a person have any role to play in becoming righteous?

**Matthew 7:21** *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of my Father which is in heaven.*

NOTE: Yes, our role is to turn our hearts and will over to Jesus and permit Him to rule. We must trust Him with full control of our lives. Many believe that Jesus will take all who merely profess His name to heaven, regardless of their conduct. But this deadly belief is not true (Matthew 7:14).

## 14. What happened on the day of atonement?

**Leviticus 16:30** *For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to \_\_\_\_\_ you, that ye may be clean from all your \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord.*

NOTE: The day of atonement was a solemn day of judgment that took place in Israel once each year (Leviticus 23:27). Every sin had to be confessed and forsaken. Those who refused were on that very day cut off forever from the camp of Israel (verse 29). On that day, two goats were selected. One was the Lord's goat and the other was the scapegoat, which represented Satan (Leviticus 16:7, 8). The Lord's goat was slain and offered for the sins of the people (verse 9). Its blood was taken into the most holy place and sprinkled upon and before the mercy seat (verse 14). Only on this special judgment day did the high priest enter the most holy place. The sprinkled blood (representing Jesus' sacrifice) was accepted by God, and the confessed sins of the people were transferred from the sanctuary to the high priest. He then transferred these confessed sins to the scapegoat, which was led into the wilderness and abandoned (verses 16, 20, 22). In this manner, the sanctuary was symbolically cleansed from the sins of the people, which had been transferred there by the sprinkled blood all throughout the previous year.

## 15. Did the old day of atonement foreshadow a cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary?

**Hebrews 9:23** *It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the \_\_\_\_\_ things themselves with \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifices than these.*

NOTE: Yes! That day's services pointed to the blotting out of sin by Jesus, our high priest in the heavenly sanctuary. He is there to mediate for His people and stands ready to blot out the sins of all who will exercise faith in His shed blood. The ancient day of atonement, like modern Israel's Yom Kippur, foreshadowed the final atonement to be made for planet Earth. The final atonement leads to the final judgment, which will forever settle the sin question in the life of every individual. Our next lesson shows how God set the date for the heavenly judgment to begin. Exciting!

## Your Response

*Are you willing to place your life fully in Jesus' hands so He can work the miracles needed to make you righteous?*

**ANSWER:** \_\_\_\_\_