



The Sanctuary Lesson 2 4Q 2013

“Heaven” on Earth

SUNDAY

This quarter we are studying The Sanctuary. Much confusion arises because the word can rightly refer to several things. What can the word “sanctuary” legitimately refer to?

- A retreat for rest and rejuvenation
- A safe haven
- A place of worship
- A place where God dwells
- Our bodies and minds
- The corporate church
- A tent built by Moses
- A building built by Solomon and Herod
- Jesus and His human body
- Something in heaven
- Others?

And has sanctuary ever been attributed to be something it was not legitimately intended to refer to? For instance, the earth in the early 19th century?

Can confusion arise if we read something about the sanctuary which refers to one meaning and we are thinking of the other?

Sunday’s lesson points out parallels between the Garden of Eden and the sanctuary suggesting that perhaps Eden was the first sanctuary on earth. Thoughts?

The lesson gives many examples of the similarities between Eden and the Sanctuary:

- A place where they communed with God and where God walked
- Adam and Eve were to tend and keep it as the Levites were the sanctuary
- Garden like imagery appears in the sanctuary
- Cherubim guarded the way to Eden after the fall and are on the lid to the ark
- Six days of Creation where God spoke followed by the Sabbath and the Sanctuary was given to Moses in six phases where God spoke followed by the instructions for the Sabbath

Thoughts?

Do you see any other lessons from Eden, the first sanctuary?

What was Eden constructed out of?



- Living organisms – any lessons in that regarding God’s Heavenly sanctuary?
- 1 Cor 4:9 says that we are a theater a spectacle to angels and men. Was that true in Eden? Were angelic beings watching what transpired in Eden?
- In whose image were Adam and Eve created? What role did they play in the theater of newly created earth? Who did Adam and Eve represent?
- And where did they dwell?
- They dwelt among the living organisms of earth, tending and keeping it, providing for the welfare, good, and growth of all the living creatures in the Garden. What do we learn about God and His heavenly sanctuary from this?
- God’s heavenly sanctuary is built out of living organisms and God dwells amongst His living beings constantly ministering to us for our good, our health, our eternal growth in love and grace.
- Adam named the animals – any lesson there in our relationship with God?
 - In the Bible name refers to character. In the microcosm of Eden, where Adam and Eve represent the Godhead, and the animals represent living beings beneath the Godhead, what is the significance of Adam naming the animals?
 - God knows our true characters, and calls us by our real names?
 - To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it. Rev 2:17
 - Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. Rev 3:12
 - Any significance? We will discuss the new Jerusalem later in the lesson, but be thinking how it connects to sanctuary themes.

In the sanctuary built by Moses the law was in the ark – where was the law in Eden?

- Written into every living thing, the entire ecosystem is an expression of God’s law of love as all nature is built to operate upon it.
- But the pinnacle, the showcase of God’s law, was the most holy place of Adam and Eve’s heart/mind, where God placed His law of love.
- The law of love is a living law, the template of life, and could only be understood written upon the tablets of the hearts of living beings.

And right in the middle of the Eden Sanctuary we find two trees the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, where Satan approached them with lies, and the Tree of Life. What does this tell us about the heavenly sanctuary?

- What symbolized by the Tree of Life?
- Adam and Eve could eat of it and sustain life – suggesting what?
- Who is the bread of life? In sanctuary they ate the sacrificed lamb. Jesus said unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you have no part with Him.



- Could the Tree of Life represent Jesus who is our sustainer and from whom we receive life? The sun represents the Father who lives in unapproachable light (1Tim 6:16) and Jesus receives from the Father and becomes the conduit through which God's life flows out to all?
- As long as they were filled with love and truth they had unhindered access to the Tree of Life. Symbolically, representing their unhindered relationship with God. I like how this is described in the book Desire of Ages:
 - But turning from all lesser representations, we behold God in Jesus. Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. "I do nothing of Myself," said Christ; "the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father." "I seek not Mine own glory," but the glory of Him that sent Me. John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18. In these words is set forth the great principle which is the law of life for the universe. All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life. {DA 21.2}
- And what of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, what does it represent?
- Where did lies begin in heaven? Right in the most holy place with Lucifer. Right in the middle of the heavenly sanctuary. Again, what kind of sanctuary? It is built out of what? Living organisms.
- I like this description in the RH January 5, 1886:
 - Eve believed the words of Satan, and the belief of that falsehood in regard to God's character, changed the condition and character of both herself and husband. They were changed from good and obedient children into transgressors, and it was only by repentance toward God and faith in the promised Messiah that they could hope ever to regain the lost image of God.
 - Lies believed break the circle of love and trust...
 - Only by changing their belief about God, i.e. repentance, change of thought, attitude etc., and being restored to trust in God, could they hope to be healed and restored to righteousness
- So, Adam and Eve had to choose between two "trees" which represented Jesus and Lucifer – the two methods in competition for the hearts of intelligent beings. God's methods of love as revealed in Jesus or Satan's methods of lies, selfishness, and fear as represented in the Tree of Knowledge.
 - And what did lies do to the sanctuary? It defiled it. The heart of man became corrupt, the sanctuary defiled and what was needed? The sanctuary needed to be cleansed? And this is what Christ came to do!

Does the sanctuary built by Moses contain imagery depicting Satan's lies which needed to be destroyed by the work of Christ?

The veil – consider the imagery of the sanctuary and what it symbolically is trying to teach.



- The priests in their white robes represent the converted. Those who have had rebellious hearts converted to trust God and now live to represent Him, thus wearing the righteousness of Christ in character depicted by the white robes.
- Only the priests could enter the Holy Place, where we find the Lampstand, filled with Oil and giving light – symbolic of the living and written Word of God, which is a light unto our path, enlightening our minds via the work of the Holy Spirit.
- The showbread which was eaten only by the priests on Sabbath, representing the bread of life, partaking the character of Christ and internalizing the truth about God into our minds, as we practice His methods of truth, love and freedom, all symbolized by the Sabbath, the day upon which they ate the bread.
- And the golden altar, upon which incense was burned, representing the prayers of the converted ascending to God from hearts purified by the righteousness of Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit.
- As the priests were in the Holy Place, longing to see God more fully, something prevented it, what? The veil, and what was sewn on the veil? Angels. Symbolically, what is being taught?
 - That angelic beings obstruct our clear view of God, which means what? Satan and his angels lie about God obstructing our clear understanding of God.
 - “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” 2Cor 4:3,4
- At the Cross, when Christ completed His mission of revealing fully the truth about God’s character of love, the lies were destroyed and the veil was torn open. The lies that obstruct our knowledge of God were destroyed.
 - Those who believe the lies about God and have the truth about God obstructed are perishing. Their minds are veiled to the gospel, the good news about God that Christ revealed. But to those who have seen the light, the truth about God, are being renewed and cleansed to be like Him.
- Additionally, Satan tempts us through our fallen natures and Christ destroyed the infection to our nature at the Cross and in His person renewed the human species back to God’s original design. Thus the two barriers to being united with God – lies we believe about Him, and our fallen natures which prefer selfishness to selfless love, were both destroyed at the Cross, thus the veil was torn open. Satan and his minions were defeated.

The Sanctuary in Eden, and the original in heaven, are made out of living organisms and there was no blood, no slaughtered animals, no death in those sanctuaries. But the one built by Moses was made out of non-living matter, dead material and it was filled with blood and had a constant stream of slaughtered animals. Why? What is being depicted?

Our terminal condition is being depicted!

The sanctuary God built was contaminated by sin, the design protocols for life were broken and thus the system, as it is, is dead. We are “dead in trespass and sin.” But, the blood, representative of Christ’s life, was spread throughout the system, symbolizing that Christ would come, take upon



Himself our terminal condition, develop a perfect human character, eliminate the infection of fear and selfishness, and cleanse the sanctuary, restoring it to God's original ideal and bringing humanity back from the dead.

Do you see how all of this can be understood without ever having to resort to payment, appeasement, punishment etc.? When we see God's law as the expression of His character, the design protocols of life, then we can discern the beauty of the symbols and realize He is working to heal and restore us back into perfection!

Thoughts?

MONDAY

The title of the lesson is quite right, "Copy of a Pattern." Read first paragraph, "The Scriptures clearly teach..." thoughts?

What does this mean when we consider any lessons we might draw regarding the earthly sanctuary?

When a tailor or seamstress get a "pattern" for a dress, do we, from viewing the pattern, get a clear understanding of what the dress will look like?

Moses was show the pattern, the blueprint, the outline, not the actual sanctuary. What is the implication?

Could it be that the real sanctuary is too complex for Moses to understand? It had to be put in a simplistic pattern?

And, what do we get when we build the sanctuary at Sinai? Do we get the reality? Do we actually get a miniature of what is in heaven?

- Do you think there is a slaughterhouse in heaven in which animals are being slain?
- Do you think Jesus is in heaven offering incense and smoke to His Father?
- Are they eating showbread or roasted lamb?
- Is there a lamp burning oil giving light so Jesus can see in the sanctuary in heaven?
- Is Jesus pleading His blood to the Father every time we seek His grace in our lives?

What is going on? What is this pattern to reveal? Read third paragraph, "The book of Hebrews explains..." thoughts?

Notice the lesson rightly points out that "As a shadow is always a mere representation of something real, and an imperfect and faint representation at that, the earthly sanctuary is a mere representation of the heavenly."



We make grave mistakes to extrapolate the shadow and blow it up in our imagination and plug Christ into a larger version in heaven.

The last paragraph the lesson states, “Because the correspondence runs from type (original) to antitype (copy), we can see in Hebrews that the heavenly model that Moses had seen is referred to as ‘type’ or ‘pattern’ (Heb 8:5) and the earthly sanctuary as ‘antitype’ or ‘copy’ (Heb 9:24).” Thoughts?

Any concerns with this? Was Moses shown the original? No, Moses was shown a pattern of the original. This is a big difference as we already discussed. We can use type and antitype language if we want, but we shouldn’t conclude that the type in this case was the original, it was the pattern of the original Moses saw.

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, “One of the themes in the Gospel...” thoughts?

Jesus declared Himself to be the temple, what should we conclude from Jesus words?

Was Jesus suggesting that the pattern shown Moses, from which the OT system was built, was in some way a pattern of God’s design for humanity? And Jesus, the second Adam, assumed upon Himself the sanctuary God created in Eden, but which had been defiled by Adam, and Jesus cleansed and rebuilt it back to God’s original intent?

Any passages that might inform us on this idea?

Tell him this is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the Lord. ¹³ It is **he who will build the temple of the Lord**, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. Zech 6:12,13

Why does He need to branch out and build the Temple if it already exists in heaven? Unless, it is speaking of the true Temple, where God’s law is to be written upon the heart, which was defiled by Adam and which Christ was to cleanse?

Other texts?

- 1cor3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, **God's building**.
- 1CO 3:16 Don't you know that **you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?**
- EPH 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the **whole building** is joined together and rises **to become a holy temple** in the Lord. ²² And in him **you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit**.



- 1PE 2:4 As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- 5 **you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood**, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- Heb 3:6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And **we are his house**, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

Can we make the case that God's sanctuary is built out of intelligent beings?

What then do you understand Heb 8:1,2 to mean?

- "The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, and who serves **in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.**"

Thoughts? It is saying the true sanctuary was not built by humans, right? Who built Adam and Eve? Who built the angels? Who built Eden? Is the true sanctuary intelligent living beings built by God? Consider this passage:

- 2CO 5:1 Now we know that if the **earthly tent** we live in is destroyed, we have **a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.**² Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our **heavenly dwelling**,³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be **clothed with our heavenly dwelling**, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

What does this mean? Is it saying that the sanctuary built by God, and not by humans, is the sanctuary of the human being? Where does God want to write His law?

- This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. **I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. (Heb 8:10:11)

Do we have any Biblical evidence that the Sanctuary God created, without the help of human hands, was His intelligent creatures. Adam defiled his sanctuary, we are born in defiled sanctuaries, Christ came and took up our infirmities, our iniquity, and as He told the Jews, will rebuild the Temple in 3 days after they destroyed it.

Did you notice how because of Jesus, God cleanses us by writing the law in our hearts and minds?

Consider this passage:

You were anointed as a guardian cherub,



- for so I ordained you.
You were on the holy mount of God;
you walked among the fiery stones.
15 You were blameless in your ways
from the day you were created
till wickedness was found in you.
16 Through your widespread trade
you were filled with violence,
and you sinned.
So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God,
and I expelled you, O guardian cherub,
from among the fiery stones.
17 Your heart became proud
on account of your beauty,
and you corrupted your wisdom
because of your splendor.
So I threw you to the earth;
I made a spectacle of you before kings.
18 **By your many sins and dishonest trade
you have desecrated your sanctuaries.**
So I made a fire come out from you,
and it consumed you,
and I reduced you to ashes on the ground
in the sight of all who were watching.
19 All the nations who knew you
are appalled at you;
you have come to a horrible end
and will be no more.” Ezek 28:14-19

Thoughts?

Read last paragraph, “All who did service...” thoughts?

What law is referred to in this passage? The law of love, the design template for life, or Imperial Roman rules imposed and policed by the ruling authority?

How do you see the law of love in the sanctuary?

The entire system is a mini-theater, a drama, designed to act out a simple teaching – we are separated from God, alienated, dying. But through Christ we are brought back into unity with our heavenly Father and healed from all defects.



WEDNESDAY

Read second paragraph, “Paul speaks in...” thoughts?

Is the church (people who are saved not the building) “real” or metaphor? If one believes the sanctuary is composed of the “church” is one believing in a real sanctuary or a metaphor? In other words, which is the real sanctuary, the one were God wants to dwell, a building made of inanimate material or the hearts and minds of living beings?

Where did Satan want to enthrone himself in a building made out of dead matter or in the hearts and minds of living beings as the one most loved and adored?

- You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. (Is 14:13)

Where did Satan want to be enthroned?

Any concerns if we move away from metaphor to reality and instead of talking of symbols we talk of the way things actually are? Or is it more comforting to discuss blood, altars, incense, and coverings?

Read first sentence bottom pink section, “Of course, we are saved by Christ’s righteousness, which covers us completely.”

Beautiful metaphor – what is the reality this metaphor attempts to communicate?

Here is one description which attempts to move away from metaphor to reality, see if this is the common view we hear in church:

When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah. {COL 311.4}

Thoughts? Is there a difference between covering over disease and actually curing it?

God, through Christ cures, heals, restores, recreates you and me back to His original design. This is God’s plan of salvation. It is real. It is described in many symbolic ways, including cleansing of the sanctuary, but the real cleansing is when the hearts and minds of His intelligent beings have been cleansed from fear, insecurity, shame, guilt, selfishness, lies, evil and renewed in purity, holiness, righteousness, love and unity with Him.



God longs for a people to think, to reason with Him, to move past the dark symbols and into the light of the reality of his universe.

THURSDAY

The lesson asks us to read Revelation 7:15-16:

“they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat.

Thoughts?

Is this literal or metaphorical? What does it mean? Does God put a tent over us? Are we trapped for eternity in a building in heaven? Are we thinking literal building, or interpreting the symbols to the reality of the temple being constructed out of living stones?

If we are the temple does it make any difference?

Read last paragraph, “John does not...” thoughts?

What else does the Bible say about the New Jerusalem?

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. Rev 21:2

Who is the bride of Christ? The church!

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. Rev 21:9,10

What is the bride of Christ? Is it inanimate material or is the Bride of Christ the church, composed of intelligent living beings?

The city has twelve gates with the names of the twelve tribes and twelve foundations with the names of the twelve apostles. What does this mean? Is it literal, or symbolic? And if symbolic, symbolic of what?

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. Rev 21:3



The dwelling of God is with who? And what is the dwelling of God also known as? The Temple or Sanctuary.

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph, "A fear of making..." thoughts?

If we consider the temple to be real, physical, built out of real flesh and blood living intelligent beings have we spiritualized it away?

Consider this quotation from one of the founders of our church:

The first tabernacle, built according to God's directions, was indeed blessed of Him. The people thus were preparing themselves to worship in the temple not made with hands--a temple in the heavens. The stones of the Temple built by Solomon were all prepared at the quarry and then brought to the Temple site. They came together without the sound of ax or hammer. The timbers were also fitted in the forest. The furniture was likewise brought to this house all prepared for use.

Even so, the mighty cleaver of truth has **taken out a people from the quarry of the world and is fitting this people, who profess to be the children of God, for a place in His heavenly temple.** We want the cleaver of truth to do its work for us. **We are taken from the quarry of the world. The material must not be a dead substance but living souls, and these souls must be brought out of the quarry of the world, where the hand of God can fit them for the temple in heaven.** We are here as probationers, and we must pass under the hand of God. All rough edges and rough surfaces must be removed and **we must be stones fitted for the building.** We are brought into church capacity with defects of character, but we must not retain them. **We must be fitted and squared for the building. We must be "laborers together with God," for we are "God's husbandry," we are "God's building."** In view of this we must see that our temple is not defiled with sin. We should be lively stones, not dead ones, but live ones that will reflect the image of Christ. We must be worshipers in spirit and in truth. {3MR 231.4}