

The Tent of Worship

Chapter 1

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson 15



Objective: to introduce the purpose and main points of the book of Leviticus to teach God's people to worship.



“You must not do as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Do not follow their practices. You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees. I am the LORD your God. Keep my decrees and laws, for the man who obeys them will live by them. I am the LORD.”

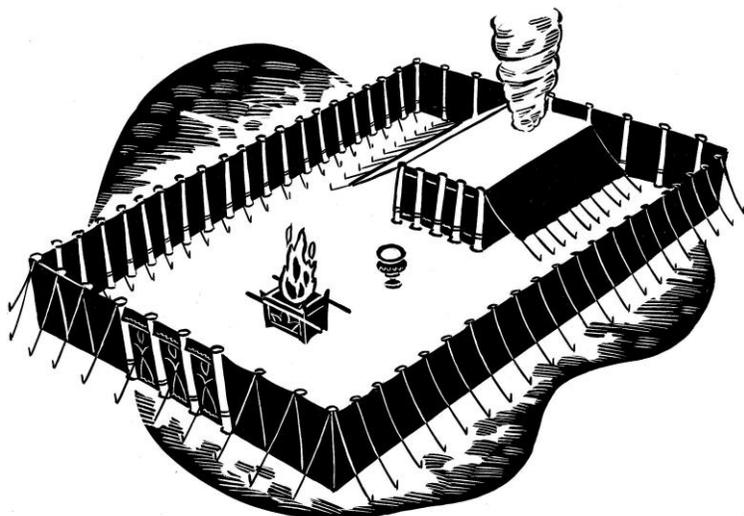
—Leviticus 18:3-5

The book of Leviticus is a difficult book for many people to understand. It explains in many details how the Levites were to minister as the priests of Israel. In order to understand the book of Leviticus, it is essential to understand the tabernacle in the wilderness, where these priests were in charge of the presentation of sacrifices, offerings and other liturgies.

The tent of worship included a courtyard and the tabernacle, which was divided into two compartments separated by a thick veil. The outer compartment of the tabernacle was called “the Holy Place,” and the inner compartment was called the “Holy of Holies,” where God dwelt.

There were some very significant articles of furniture in the tent of worship. The brazen altar, where sinners sought forgiveness, was just inside the gate of the courtyard. Also in the courtyard was the laver, where the priest would cleanse himself on behalf of the sinner. When the priest entered the Holy Place (the outer compartment of the covered tent), a candlestick would be on his left, the table of showbread would be on his right, an altar of incense in front of him. Inside the Holy of Holies was the Ark of the Covenant, which held the presence of God. Once a year, the high priest would go into the Holy of Holies and offer a sacrifice for the sins of all the people.

Every part of the tent of worship was very symbolic and pointed to the promised Redeemer – Jesus the Christ. The gospels tell us that at the moment Jesus died on the cross, the veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Holy Place in the temple was miraculously torn from top to bottom, signifying that Jesus' sacrifice made it possible for us to enter God's presence.



Tabernacle in the Wilderness

1. True or false? The tent of worship was just a symbol of God, and His presence wasn't actually there.
2. True or false? The Ark of the Covenant was very precious and holy and the Israelites worshiped it once a year.
3. True or false? The water in the laver pictures for us Jesus - the Word of God - that can cleanse us from sin.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. What was the tabernacle?
 - a. Moses' house
 - b. The priests' house
 - c. A tent of worship
 - d. A building in Egypt
5. Which of the following is one of the main purposes of our salvation?
 - a. To escape from our enemies
 - b. To prosper in business
 - c. To live a long and blessed life
 - d. To worship God
6. The cloud by day and pillar of fire by night over the tabernacle represented the presence of the Spirit of God. Which of the following describes the Holy Spirit's relationship to us? (choose all that apply)
 - a. He is in us.
 - b. He comes upon us.
 - c. He watches us from a distance.
 - d. He takes over and completely controls us.

7. Why was it important for the tabernacle to be located at the center of the camp?
 - a. So it would be easy to get to
 - b. To remind people that God is the center of everything we do
 - c. To keep people from fighting about where to put it
 - d. So no one would be jealous of the people closest to it

8. Why would someone go to the tabernacle? (circle all that apply)
 - a. To be forgiven
 - b. To impress Moses
 - c. To worship God
 - d. To earn good points with God

9. When someone went to the tabernacle to be forgiven for sin, who made the sacrifice?
 - a. The sinner
 - b. The sinner's father
 - c. A priest
 - d. Moses

10. How often would the high priest go into the Holy of Holies to sacrifice for all the people?
 - a. Every morning
 - b. Every night
 - c. Once a month
 - d. Once a year

11. In what shape were the articles of furniture placed in the tent of worship?
 - a. In a straight line
 - b. In a cross
 - c. In a circle
 - d. In four corners of the tent

12. What did the animals sacrificed on the brazen altar represent?
 - a. The Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world
 - b. The mortality of human beings
 - c. The souls of sinners
 - d. False idols

13. What did the cleansing ritual at the laver mean?
 - a. That God expects us to be clean
 - b. That people should wash hands before they eat
 - c. That only those who have been cleansed of sin can approach God
 - d. That only priests can be forgiven of sin

14. What did the candlestick represent?
 - a. The fire of burnt offerings
 - b. The light of God's Word that leads us to life
 - c. Angels
 - d. The wisdom of priests

15. What did the table of showbread symbolize?
 - a. How God meets our daily needs
 - b. The harvest feast
 - c. A sin offering
 - d. Nothing—it was there for priests to eat

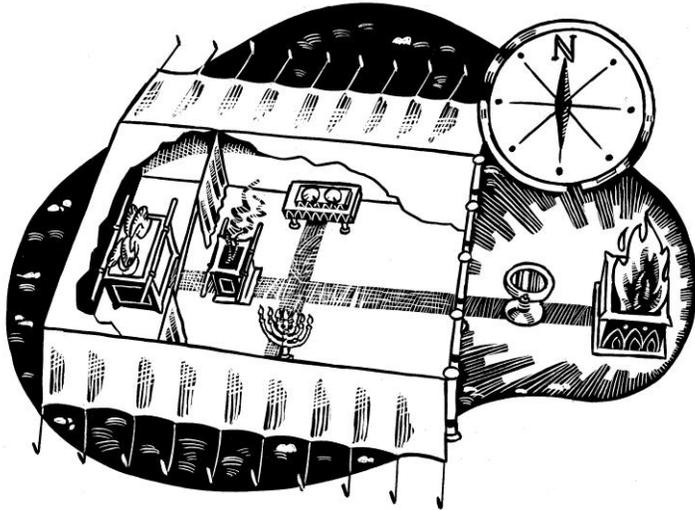
16. What did the altar of incense represent?
 - a. Bible study
 - b. Good deeds
 - c. The Law
 - d. Prayer

17. Why was the veil between the presence of God and the people?
 - a. To symbolize the divorce and separation between a Holy God and sinful humanity
 - b. So people wouldn't be able to see what God looked like
 - c. So the high priest could worship without anyone looking
 - d. To remind people that God is a mystery

18. How does the veil express the theme of the Old Testament?
 - a. Only priests can know the secrets of God.
 - b. God will always be hidden from people.
 - c. The separation between God and humanity is why we need a Savior.
 - d. God punishes sinners by keeping them out of temples.

19. Who is our Great High Priest?
 - a. The oldest person in the family
 - b. The oldest person at the temple
 - c. Moses
 - d. Jesus

20. What is the meaning of the tent of worship (circle all that apply)?
 - a. To teach God's people how to be forgiven and to worship.
 - b. It is a symbolical picture of Jesus Christ.
 - c. We need to go to a tent of worship and ask a priest to pray for us.
 - d. Once delivered from the bondage of sin, we are to know and worship our deliverer.



“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20)

As a Christian, today you are God’s temple and presence in the Holy of Holies. How does that make you feel? Does that change the way you pray? Is there anything in your life that needs to change because of the holiness of His presence?



Thank your heavenly Father for providing all that He has provided. If there is anything you need to confess to God in His presence, do so now. Ask Him to help you experience His presence in new and deeper ways.



Going Deeper

1. What was God teaching His people through the tent of worship? _____

2. Explain how each article of furniture pictured what God had to do so that a sinner could be forgiven and stay in fellowship with a holy God. _____

3. How does the role of the priest fit into that scenario? _____

4. What was represented by the holy of holies and the thick veil that separated those two compartments of the tent? _____

5. Explain how the large veil in the Temple of Solomon tore from top to bottom when Jesus died on the cross and the significance of that miracle. _____

6. Explain how each article of furniture in the tent of worship is a picture of Christ. _____

7. By devotional application, explain how you can worship your way through these articles of furniture in the tent of worship today without a priest, except for our great High Priest Jesus Christ. _____
