

The Sanctuary, Why?

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Sanctuary / Sanctuary / Exodus 25:8-9

What can we learn from the Old Testament Sanctuary. What does it represent and how does it apply to us today?

Burst through door.

Pillow Case

“Put it in!”

Library

A bank robber in Los Angeles told the clerk not to give him cash, but to deposit the money to his checking account.

- SDA's have 28 Fundamental Beliefs
- Among those
 - the doctrine that is
 - attacked most is

- Sanctuary.
- It is the only teaching
 - uniquely SDA.
- Many offshoot SDA Groups
 - because of Sanctuary.
- Most complex teaching.
- Important we understand it.

Great Controversy Chapter 24—In the Holy of Holies

The subject of the sanctuary was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844. It opened to view a complete system of truth, connected and harmonious, showing that God's hand had directed the great advent movement and revealing present duty as it brought to light the position and work of His people.

Great Controversy Chapter 28—Facing Life's Record

The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest.

Evangelism The Foundation of Our Faith

The correct understanding of the ministration in the heavenly sanctuary is the foundation of our faith.

- We need to study it.
 - This is the first installment
 - in a series.
- First sermon, obviously,
 - introductory...
- God brought people
 - out of Egypt.
- But was harder
 - to bring Egypt
 - out of the people.
- Many people follow God
 - because they saw his power.

- But they don't really
 - know how to worship him.

- So God has them stop
 - and live at Mount Sinai
 - for a year to educate them.

- Part of this was
 - the 10 Commandments.

- Be that was not all
 - that he received
 - at the top of mount Sinai.

- He also received
 - a lot of instructions
 - about how to build
 - the sanctuary.

- As part of the Israelites re-education
 - about what it means
 - to serve Him,
- He showed himself
 - through the sanctuary.

Exodus 25:8-9 ESV

And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

- Notice a few things
 - about this passage.
- Why does he want
 - a sanctuary built?
- So God can dwell
 - among His people.
- The sanctuary achieves that
 - in some way.

- He says to make it
 - according to the pattern.
- Now, if something has
 - a pattern,
- that must mean,
 - there is an original.

Hebrews 9:23–24 ESV

Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

- Rest of Exodus,
 - God gives instruction
 - about the sanctuary.
- They are very precise.

- Everything from
 - how to build the ark
 - to how to blend the anointing oil
 - for the High Priest.
- What was God trying
 - to teach through the sanctuary?

Psalm 77:13 ESV

Your way, O God, is holy.

What god is great like our God?

- The Bible says that God's way
 - is in the sanctuary.
- What does that mean?
- A way is a
 - path,
 - journey,
 - direction,
 - or plan.

- The sanctuary is
 - a series of symbols
 - that outlines God's
 - plan of Salvation.
- So let's take that journey
 - together to see
 - what we can learn
 - from the sanctuary.

Layout

Framework of Sanctuary.

- The sanctuary is broken up into 3 parts.
 - Courtyard
 - Holy Place
 - Most Holy Place

- In the courtyard is:
 - Altar of Burnt Offering
 - Laver
- In the Holy Place
 - Table of Show Bread
 - Seven Branch Candlestick
 - Altar of Incense
- In the Most Holy Place:
 - Ark of the Covenant

Salvation Part 1

- The Courtyard
 - first thing
 - Altar of Burnt Offering.

- Sinner comes with Sacrifice
 - Places hands on head
 - cuts throat
 - leaves.
- In the daily service,
 - that is all the sinner does.

› Most Christians stop here!

On his first assignment for a Chicago newspaper, a rookie reporter drove a company car to a car-crushing plant, parked in the wrong spot, and returned from interviewing the manager just in time to see the vehicle being compacted into scrap metal.

- Priest does everything else.
 - We are the sinner
 - Jesus is the priest
- Priest

- washes at laver
 - Takes bowl of blood
 - Puts on altar of burnt offering
 - Brings inside holy place
 - Puts on altar their
 - Throws at Curtain
-
- This all represents
 - what Jesus does
 - in the process of
 - cleansing us from sin.
-
- Most Christians
 - are only aware of,
 - what happens in courtyard.
-
- They don't know
 - what happens next.

- what Jesus does for us.

› Other Christians Stop Here.

Salvation Part 2

- What is Christ doing?
- Holy Place explains...
- Jesus doing a lot of work
 - in sanctuary each day.
- Forgiveness of sins is not just
 - an accomplished fact,
 - it is a continual present.
- Jesus is dealing
 - with sin every day

- in the heavenly sanctuary.
- Sanctuary teaches us
 - the plan of salvation.
- In the sanctuary,
 - we see a plan of salvation.
- First altar of burnt offering,
 - where we meet Jesus
 - desire forgiveness for sin.
- Leads us to laver
 - When we see
 - what Jesus has done,
 - we want to commit
 - to him.
- This is a symbol of baptism

- a cleansing.
- Next we enter the holy place
 - Greeted by Table of Show Bread
- Represents God's word
 - Jesus ministers to us
 - through Bible study.
- Then you see,
 - seven-branch candlestick.
- Powered by oil
 - = Holy Spirit
- Light shining forth
 - = truth of Jesus

- Next see,
 - Altar of Incense.
- Rev Says:

Revelation 5:8 ESV

And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

- Story does not end
 - in the courtyard.
- As we see what Jesus
 - has done for us.
- We say the sinners prayer,
 - we commit to Him.
- The Holy Place explains
 - how to do that.

- Through
 - Bible study
 - Prayer
 - indwelling of Holy Spirit

› Other Christians Stop here.

When a drum major tossed his baton in Ventura, California, it hit two 4000-volt power lines, blacking out a ten-block area and putting a radio station off the air. The baton melted.

- But even this
 - is not the end
 - of what it means
 - to be Christian
- We still have to talk
 - about one more room.
 - Most Holy Place.

- Here is where,
 - we find the pinnacle
 - of what it means
 - to be a Christian.
- But we will have to save that
 - for the next sermon.

While visiting in West Berlin I stopped at Kennedy Platz, the site of President John F. Kennedy's famous speech. The tour guide was recalling the climax of that impassioned address -- the part when the President paused and then cried, "Ich bin ein Berliner!" The crowd that day in 1963 was swept up in the emotion of his words and ignored their meaning until later.

Kennedy had wanted to say, "Ich bin Berliner!"

"I am a Berliner!"

But what he actually said was,

"Ich bin ein Berliner!"

"I am a jelly doughnut!"

Summary

- For today,
 - main points:
- Sanctuary explains
 - plan of salvation.
- It outlines complete
 - Christian Journey.
- Jesus is the lamb.
 - He died.
- Jesus is the Priest.
 - He intercedes.

The historian Xenophon states, that when Cyrus had taken captives including a young prince of Armenia with his young and beautiful wife, of whom he was remarkably fond, they were brought before the tribunal of Cyrus to receive their sentence. The warrior inquired of the prince what he would give to be reinstated in his kingdom; and he replied, that he valued his crown and his liberty at a very low rate, but that if the noble conqueror would restore his beloved wife to her former dignity and possessions, he would willingly pay his life for the purchase. The prisoners were dismissed, to enjoy their freedom and

former honors; and each was lavish in praises of the conqueror.

“And you,” said the prince, addressing his wife, “what did you think of Cyrus?”

“I did not observe him,” she replied.

“Not observe him!” exclaimed her husband, “upon whom, then, was your attention fixed?”

“Upon that dear and generous man,” she replied, “who declared his readiness to purchase my liberty at the expense of his life.”

- When you see
 - depth of sacrifice
 - other steps
 - are natural!
- You want
 - cleansing
 - study
 - prayer
 - indwelling
 - most holy place

Appeal

- Don't stop with the altar
 - experience cleansing
 - experience the word
 - experience indwelling
 - experience prayer
 - keep growing
 - relationship
- Experience Most Holy Place