

# Intimations of Hope: The Sanctuary

Principal Contributor: David Ezra

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**Psalm 77:13** "Thy way O God is in the sanctuary"

"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. Otherwise, it will be IMPOSSIBLE for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time, or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose." **Evangelism 221.3**

"By prayer and confession of sin we must clear the King's highway." **Testimonies to the Church, Vol 8. 297 (1904)**

**Unhindered communion broken –**

In the Garden of Eden, sin had broken the face-to-face relationship between God and humanity. Sin forfeited our first parents' unhindered communion with God. However, the Creator still desired to draw us to Himself and to enjoy a deep covenant relationship with fallen humanity, and He began this process right there in Eden. **Genesis 3:15**

Centuries later, in saving Israel out of Egypt and establishing the sanctuary and the sacrificial system, God again took the initiative in bringing humanity back into His presence.

The sanctuary thus testifies of God's unceasing desire to dwell among His people. This is God's idea **Ps. 132:13-14**. His ultimate goal is relationship, and the sanctuary was His chosen means to do it. The sanctuary is the tangible evidence of God's presence with His people on earth.

**The necessity of study –**

"The correct understanding of the ministration in the heavenly sanctuary is the foundation of our faith."— **Evangelism, 221**.

The central theme of the Bible, the theme about which every other in the whole book clusters, is the redemption plan, the restoration in the human soul of the image of God. From the first intimation of hope in the sentence pronounced in Eden (**Genesis 3:15**) to that last glorious promise of the Revelation, "They shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads" (**Revelation 22:4**), the burden of every book and every passage of the Bible is the unfolding of this wondrous theme,—man's uplifting,—the power of God, "which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." **1 Corinthians 15:57. Education 125.2**

He who grasps this thought has before him an infinite field for study. He has the key that will unlock to him the whole treasure house of God's word. **Education 126.1**

All who have received the light upon these subjects are to bear testimony of the great truths which God has committed to them. The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ's work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin. It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects and be able to give an answer to everyone that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them. **Great Controversy 488.3**

As a people, we should be earnest students of prophecy; we should not rest until we become intelligent in regard to the subject of the sanctuary, which is brought out in the visions of Daniel and John. This subject sheds great light on our present position and

work, and gives us unmistakable proof that God has led us in our past experience. It explains our disappointment in 1844, showing us that the sanctuary to be cleansed was not the earth, as we had supposed, but that Christ then entered into the most holy apartment of the heavenly sanctuary, and is there performing the closing work of His priestly office, in fulfillment of the words of the angel to the prophet Daniel, "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." ***Evangelism 222.3***

God chose Israel to reveal His character to men. He desired them to be as wells of salvation in the world. To them were committed the oracles of heaven, the revelation of God's will. In the early days of Israel the nations of the world, through corrupt practices, had lost the knowledge of God. They had once known Him; but because "*they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, . . . their foolish heart was darkened.*" ***Romans 1:21***. Yet in His mercy God did not blot them out of existence. He purposed to give them an opportunity of again becoming acquainted with Him through His chosen people. Through the teachings of the sacrificial service, Christ was to be uplifted before all nations, and all who would look to Him should live. Christ was the foundation of the Jewish economy. The whole system of types and symbols was a compacted prophecy of the gospel, a presentation in which were bound up the promises of redemption. ***Acts of the Apostles 14.1***

#### **A perfect creation**

***Genesis 1:27*** "So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

***Genesis 2:24-25*** "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."

#### **The entrance of sin**

***Genesis 3:8-10*** "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where [art] thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I [was] naked; and I hid myself."

#### **A walk through the sanctuary**

##### **Hebrews 9**

***Daniel 8:14*** "And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

***2 Corinthians 7:1*** "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

***Exodus 25:8*** "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them."

***Psalms 77:13*** "Thy way O God is in the sanctuary."

Christ is the way, the truth and the life. Therefore, Christ is the centre of the Sanctuary message.

#### **In the courtyard**

The courtyard represents the work of Christ on earth.

As you enter the gate to the sanctuary you must first believe.

***Ephesians 2:8-9*** "For by grace are ye saved and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: own works but it is the gift of God"

#### **The bronze altar**

Animal sacrifices were offered at this article of furniture.

In **Genesis 3:21**, a lamb was slain, and Adam and Eve were clothed with its skin after sin. The lamb represented Christ who was to come and give Himself as a sacrifice. Christ came and died as a sacrifice for our sins.

The bronze altar was made of wood and covered by bronze. It takes the grace of God for us to be saved; even our sacrifices are accepted by God by His grace.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** *"For by grace are ye saved and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: own works but it is the gift of God"*

Christ came and died for our sins as a lamb without blemish that our sins be forgiven. He was a perfect sacrifice. It now takes faith for us to be saved. Just believe in Christ and you will be saved.

**Ephesians 5:2** *"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."*

Every morning and evening a lamb of a year old was burned upon the altar, with its appropriate meat offering, thus symbolizing the daily consecration of the nation to Jehovah, and their constant dependence upon the atoning blood of Christ. God expressly directed that every offering presented for the service of the sanctuary should be *"without blemish."* **Exodus 12:5**. The priests were to examine all animals brought as a sacrifice, and were to reject every one in which a defect was discovered. Only an offering *"without blemish"* could be a symbol of His perfect purity who was to offer Himself as *"a lamb without blemish and without spot."*

### **The bronze laver**

**Exodus 30:17-21** *"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Thou shalt also make a laver [of] brass, and his foot [also of] brass, to wash [withal]: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD: So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, [even] to him and to his seed throughout their generations."*

**Exodus 40:7** *"And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein."*

### **Exodus 40:31-32**

For one to be baptized they must first believe. Acceptance

The bronze laver and the washing represent baptism by immersion. Baptism is a Greek word meaning immersion. Christ, while on earth was baptized by John the Baptist at River Jordan. Baptism is a physical sign of our acceptance to God as our redeemer.

### **The golden lampstand**

It provided light in the sanctuary.

**Matthew 5:13-14** *"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."*

As Christians after believing and being baptized we must be witnesses to the world.

**Exodus 25:31-37** *"And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the same. And six branches shall come out of the sides of it; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side: Three bowls made like unto almonds, with a knop and a flower in one branch; and three*

*bowls made like almonds in the other branch, with a knop and a flower: so in the six branches that come out of the candlestick. And in the candlestick shall be four bowls made like unto almonds, with their knops and their flowers. And there shall be a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, according to the six branches that proceed out of the candlestick. Their knops and their branches shall be of the same: all it shall be one beaten work of pure gold. And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it."*

Christ says, *"I am the light of the world"* **John 8:12**

### **The table of shewbread**

Exodus 25:23-30

Hebrews 9:2

The bread was made every sabbath and remained in the temple for the whole week. How important then is it to have rest of the sabbath and to have fellowship in the house of worship.

We should have daily devotions so as to grow and prepare for salvation. To sustain our Christianity, we must study the word of God daily. Have time for Bible study.

Christ is the bread of life. I am the bread of Life ...

***Psalms 119:11*** *"Thy word have I hid in my heart that I may not sin against thee"*

***Psalms 119:105*** *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"*

Psalms 119:130

John 5:39

***Hebrews 4:12*** *"The word of God is sharper than any two edged sword."*

As we read the word of God

The showbread was kept ever before the Lord as a perpetual offering. Thus it was a part of the daily sacrifice. It was called showbread, or "bread of the presence," because it was ever before the face of the Lord. It was an acknowledgment of man's dependence upon God for both temporal and spiritual food, and that it is received only through the mediation of Christ. God had fed Israel in the wilderness with bread from heaven, and they were still dependent upon His bounty, both for temporal food and spiritual blessings. Both the manna and the showbread pointed to Christ, the living Bread, who is ever in the presence of God for us. He Himself said,

Christ...

*"I am the living Bread which came down from heaven."* **John 6:48-51.**

Frankincense was placed upon the loaves. When the bread was removed every Sabbath, to be replaced by fresh loaves, the frankincense was burned upon the altar as a memorial before God.

### **The golden altar of incense**

Prayers

***Ephesians 5:2*** *"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."*

Every morning and evening a lamb of a year old was burned upon the altar, with its appropriate meat offering, thus symbolizing the daily consecration of the nation to Jehovah, and their constant dependence upon the atoning blood of Christ. God expressly directed that every offering presented for the service of the sanctuary should be *"without blemish."* **Exodus 12:5.** The priests were to examine all animals brought as a sacrifice, and were to reject every one in which a defect was discovered. Only an offering "without blemish" could be a symbol of His perfect purity who was to offer Himself as *"a lamb*

*without blemish and without spot.” 1 Peter 1:19.* The apostle Paul points to these sacrifices as an illustration of what the followers of Christ are to become. He says, *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1.*

As a living sacrifice...

We are to give ourselves to the service of God, and we should seek to make the offering as nearly perfect as possible. God will not be pleased with anything less than the best we can offer. Those who love Him with all the heart, will desire to give Him the best service of the life, and they will be constantly seeking to bring every power of their being into harmony with the laws that will promote their ability to do His will.

CHRIST...

The incense, ascending with the prayers of Israel, represents the merits and intercession of Christ, His perfect righteousness, which through faith is imputed to His people, and which can alone make the worship of sinful beings acceptable to God. Before the veil of the most holy place was an altar of perpetual intercession, before the holy, an altar of continual atonement.

By blood and by incense God was to be approached – symbols pointing to the great Mediator, through whom sinners may approach Jehovah, and through whom alone mercy and salvation can be granted to the repentant, believing soul.

Daily devotions

As the priests morning and evening entered the holy place at the time of incense, the daily sacrifice was ready to be offered upon the altar in the court without. This was a time of intense interest to the worshipers who assembled at the tabernacle. Before entering into the presence of God through the ministration of the priest, they were to engage in earnest searching of heart and confession of sin. They united in silent prayer, with their faces toward the holy place. Thus their petitions ascended with the cloud of incense, while faith laid hold upon the merits of the promised Saviour prefigured by the atoning sacrifice. The hours appointed for the morning and the evening sacrifice were regarded as sacred, and they came to be observed as the set time for worship throughout the Jewish nation. And when in later times the Jews were scattered as captives in distant lands, they still at the appointed hour turned their faces toward Jerusalem and offered up their petitions to the God of Israel. In this custom Christians have an example for morning and evening prayer. While God condemns a mere round of ceremonies, without the spirit of worship, He looks with great pleasure upon those who love Him, bowing morning and evening to seek pardon for sins committed and to present their requests for needed blessings.

**The veil**

Exodus 26:31-33

The most important part of the daily ministration was the service performed in behalf of individuals. The repentant sinner brought his offering to the door of the tabernacle, and, placing his hand upon the victim's head, confessed his sins, thus in figure transferring them from himself to the innocent sacrifice. By his own hand the animal was then slain, and the blood was carried by the priest into the holy place and sprinkled before the veil, behind which was the ark containing the law that the sinner had transgressed. By this ceremony the sin was, through the blood, transferred in figure to the sanctuary. In some cases the blood was not taken into the holy place; but the flesh was then to be eaten by the priest, as Moses directed the sons of Aaron, saying, *“God hath given it you to bear the*

*iniquity of the congregation.” Leviticus 10:17.* Both ceremonies alike symbolized the transfer of the sin from the penitent to the sanctuary.  
CHRIST...

Such was the work that went on day by day throughout the year. The sins of Israel being thus transferred to the sanctuary, the holy places were defiled, and a special work became necessary for the removal of the sins. God commanded that an atonement be made for each of the sacred apartments, as for the altar, to “cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.” **Leviticus 16:19. CIHS 51.1**

Both ceremonies alike symbolized the transfer of the sin from the penitent to the sanctuary.

### **In the most holy place**

**Exodus 25:10-16** *“And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them. The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it. And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.”*

Within the Most Holy place was found the Ark of the Covenant which contained Aaron’s rod that budded, a golden pot of manna and the stone tablets.

### **The construction of the Ark**

**Exodus 25:17-21** *“And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.”*

### **The purpose of the law**

**1 John 3:4, 8** *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law... He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”*

**Romans 7:7** *“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”*

**Romans 3:20** *“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”*

### **The Sabbath and the sanctuary**

“In the holiest I saw an ark; on the top and sides of it was purest gold. On each end of the ark was a lovely cherub, with its wings spread out over it. Their faces were turned toward each other, and they looked downward. Between the angels was a golden censer. Above the ark, where the angels stood, was an exceeding bright glory, that appeared like a throne where God dwelt. Jesus stood by the ark, and as the saints’ prayers came up to Him, the

incense in the censer would smoke, and He would offer up their prayers with the smoke of the incense to His Father. In the ark was the golden pot of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of stone which folded together like a book. Jesus opened them, and I saw the Ten Commandments written on them with the finger of God. On one table were four, and on the other six. The four on the first table shone brighter than the other six. But the fourth, the Sabbath commandment, shone above them all; for the Sabbath was set apart to be kept in honor of God's holy name. The holy Sabbath looked glorious—a halo of glory was all around it. I saw that the Sabbath commandment was not nailed to the cross. If it was, the other nine commandments were; and we are at liberty to break them all, as well as to break the fourth. I saw that God had not changed the Sabbath, for He never changes.”—***Early Writings 32, 33.***

***Ezekiel 20:8*** “*But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.*”

I warn you, Do not place your influence against God's commandments. That law is just as Jehovah wrote it in the temple of heaven. Man may trample upon its copy here below, but the original is kept in the ark of God in heaven; and on the cover of this ark, right above that law, is the mercy seat. Jesus stands right there before that ark to mediate for man.”—***Ellen G. White Comments, The S.D.A. Bible Commentary 1:1109.***