

Sanctuary

1. What does the idea of a sanctuary mean

- a. to many it means a place of safety and refuge
- b. buildings have an area where worship is conducted referred to as the sanctuary
- c. ideas about the sanctuary and what it means - distortions and misapplications
- d. where did this begin - must look at the scriptures to understand this - 2 meanings
- e. first is the physical sanctuary and secondly we will see there is a true sanctuary

2. The idea of sanctuary

- a. Ex - the sanctuary and the most holy place
- b. Acts 15.1 - problems understanding the relationship of the law and gospel
- c. Acts 15.5 - those who believed the law should be kept
- d. Acts 15.13-20 - the statement of James (Acts 15.6)
- e. Rom 10.1-4 - zeal toward God but not according to knowledge

3. The physical sanctuary what it represented & the idea of refuge

- a. Ex 25.8 - God commanded Moses to build a sanctuary to dwell among them
- b. Ex 25.1-7 - materials to be used in the building of the sanctuary
- c. Ex 25.40 - make all things after the pattern that was shown thee in the mount
- d. 1 Chron 22.9 - God had set Solomon as king
- e. 1 Kings 1.50-53 - Adonijah caught hold of the horns of the altar

4. Cleansing of the sanctuary for use

- a. Heb 9.19-21 - blood sprinkled to cleanse the tabernacle
- b. Ex 40.33-35 - glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle
- c. Heb 10.1 - law contained a shadow of good things to come
- d. Num 18.1 - Aaron and sons to bear the iniquity of the sanctuary
- e. Lev 26.2 - keep sabbaths and reverence the sanctuary

5. How the idea of sanctuary was lost

- a. Ex 25.1-7 - materials were of the finest
- b. 1 Chr 22.1-5 - David prepared abundantly before his death
- c. 1 Chr 28.11-18 - materials and plans that were prepared
- d. 1 Chr 28.19-20 - God inspired David to understand the making
- e. Matt 23.16-17 - which is greater the gold or the temple ?

Sanctuary

2. The idea of sanctuary

Ex - the sanctuary and the most holy place

Acts 15.1 - And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

Acts 15.5 - But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

Acts 15.13-20 - And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: 14: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. 15: And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, 16: After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: 17: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. 18: Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. 19: Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: 20: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.(Acts 15.6)

Rom 10.1-4 - Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2: For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3: For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4: For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

3. The physical sanctuary what it represented & the idea of refuge

Ex 25.8 - And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Ex 25.1-7 - And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2: Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. 3: And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass, 4: And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, 5: And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, 6: Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense, 7: Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate.

Ex 25.40 - make all things after the pattern that was shown thee in the mount

1 Chron 22.9 - Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give

4/30/06 a.m.

Sanctuary

him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.

1 Kings 1.50-53 - And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar. 51: And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah feareth king Solomon: for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, Let king Solomon swear unto me to day that he will not slay his servant with the sword. 52: And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die. 53: So king Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and bowed himself to king Solomon: and Solomon said unto him, Go to thine house.

4. Cleansing of the sanctuary for use

Heb 9.19-21 - For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, 20: Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. 21: Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

Ex 40.33-35 - And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. 34: Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35: And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Heb 10.1 - For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Num 18.1 - And the LORD said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy father's house with thee shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary: and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood.

Lev 26.2 - Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

5. How the idea of sanctuary was lost

Ex 25.1-7 - materials were of the finest (see the above)

1 Chr 22.1-5 - Then David said, This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of the burnt offering for Israel. 2: And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in

4/30/06 a.m.

Sanctuary

the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God. 3: And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joinings; and brass in abundance without weight; 4: Also cedar trees in abundance: for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David. 5: And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the LORD must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death.

1 Chr 28.11-18 - Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat, 12: And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things: 13: Also for the courses of the priests and the Levites, and for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the vessels of service in the house of the LORD. 14: He gave of gold by weight for things of gold, for all instruments of all manner of service; silver also for all instruments of silver by weight, for all instruments of every kind of service: 15: Even the weight for the candlesticks of gold, and for their lamps of gold, by weight for every candlestick, and for the lamps thereof: and for the candlesticks of silver by weight, both for the candlestick, and also for the lamps thereof, according to the use of every candlestick. 16: And by weight he gave gold for the tables of shewbread, for every table; and likewise silver for the tables of silver: 17: Also pure gold for the fleshhooks, and the bowls, and the cups: and for the golden basons he gave gold by weight for every bason; and likewise silver by weight for every bason of silver: 18: And for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the pattern of the chariot of the cherubims, that spread out their wings, and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

1 Chr 28.19-20 - All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern. 20: And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

Matt 23.16-17 - Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! 17: Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?

Sanctuary

Sometimes we hear religious folks refer to the sanctuary. When they do this they are speaking in terms of an area of the building where their religious group meets. The sanctuary is regarded as being holy and must not be desecrated. This is the reason why many religious organizations will not allow video cameras and other things in the sanctuary for weddings and other events. This is an idea that began many years ago and has its root in apostate teaching. During the time of the world in which the apostate church held much of the Western hemisphere in its power. It was during this power that many pagan ideas had been incorporated into the doctrine of the church. One of those was the idea that there was such a thing as Holy ground. The building therefore in which God was to be worshipped was considered holy and was not to be violated for any reason. There are many stories of those who wished to escape from other who were seeking their life or to bring them to justice who fled to the sanctuary of a church and as long as they remained in this place they were safe since no one could come in and desecrate the sanctuary. This idea has made its way into the mainstream of religious thinking and has even influenced horror writers. And others. Victor Hugo in his book the hunchback of Notre Dame describes how Quasimodo escaped with the gypsy Esmeralda and took sanctuary in the cathedral to avoid capture. Bram Stoker in his book Dracula describes many things that have to do with the supposed sanctity of holy ground and its mystical effect on those who were evil. This is one of the most profound examples of how a religious idea has been misused, or rather taken out of its context and misapplied to the extent that there are those who worship the material presence of the buildings etc. more than they worship God. Where did this idea come from.

What does sanctuary mean first of all. The basic meaning in our day and time implies a place of safety and protection. Specifically in a religious sense the sanctuary is a reference that goes back to the time of the tabernacle and later the temple in Jerusalem. It specifically refers to the **Holy of Holies** or the most holy place which was reserved and only the high priest was to enter once a year with the blood of atonement. This makes the Most holy place the most sacred place in regard to the practice of the religion of the time. It was a practice of the apostate church that beliefs and other things that existed in certain regions were somehow incorporated into the practice and eventually the doctrine of the church in order to make "Christianity" more appealing to the masses. We realize that the roots of the church are in the Jewish religion, and more specifically the Law as it embodied Christ. We find that in the first century one of the greatest problems that faced the church was that the Law had been taken out of the way and in that there were ideas and practices that were no longer valid. God had stated that there would be a time when the law was to be taken out of the way (**Jer 31**). Moses told the people that there would be a prophet like him that would arise from among their brethren and whoever would not hear the voice of this prophet would be cut off from among the people. (**Deut 18.18**). When we come down to the first century we find that there were many who could not accept that fact that this had happened. In **Acts 15** there was a meeting to discuss if the elements of the law were to be bound on the gentiles. In this discussion there was a restatement of some universal laws that had to be remembered but the Law in essence was done away with. However, as Paul states, the Jews continued to reject the new law that was being revealed and in their mistaken zeal for God they pursued their own righteousness instead of what God wanted them to believe and practice (**Rom 10.1-4**). These ideas eventually made their way into the teaching of the apostate church and we can find evidence for that today. One of those ideas being that of sanctuary. Looking at the

Sanctuary

scriptures we find that there is a need to understand this idea and what it really means to us as Christians and to the word which has not been believed as of this time.

God first of all commanded Moses to make a sanctuary that he may dwell among them (**Ex 25.8**) this referred to the making of the **Tabernacle** and the things that were contained in it. The significance of this is that God **would manifest his presence there as a sign that he was with the people**. For the Hebrews their life revolved around the “sanctuary” as this represented God and the things that he had done for them. There were **weights and measures that were based on a weight established as that of the sanctuary** and we find many references to this. This was to represent an **honest and consistent weight** among the people so that there would be no deviation. In this sense the sanctuary, representing the presence of God also represented a consistent and fair nature to all things including their spiritual and business transactions. So the idea of the sanctuary **did not represent just a place of refuge** but it represented the presence of God and therefore his approval and leadership of the people. We find that there were multiple warnings to Moses to **make all things after the pattern** that was shown to him in the mountain. The Sanctuary **represented the dwelling of god with the people and his leadership** through the law that had been given. The sanctuary was not therefore a mystical place of power but was a place that represented the presence and the Law of God. It was from this place that continued to issue laws and to indicate his acceptance or displeasure of the people for the things that they had done.

In the making of the sanctuary God commanded that the people were to bring silver, gold, brass and a variety of linens and other things. (**Ex 25.1-8**). The sanctuary - or tabernacle was a thing of splendor and opulence, it represented the finest elements on the face of the earth. This was done not to impress with riches and finery but to show and demonstrate the power and grandeur of God. Ordinary earthly materials could not demonstrate the majesty of God and so there is a statement to those who were human that God could not be approached with the common and the ordinary. This idea was misused and misinterpreted later on to justify the lavish expense of building great structures to represent God. This is something that we will deal with later. But the point that we need to understand at this time is that the sanctuary did not represent a place to go and escape but it was a place that represented the power and presence of God. Now it is true that the sanctuary was not to be a place where evil could be done nor was it a place where other matters could be pursued and there are some events that the scriptures record for us that might tell us where some of these things came from. (**Solomon & horns of the altar**)

It is true that in the tabernacle the sanctuary was indeed to be a holy place. We have to remember however that this holy place did not exist in heaven but was on earth and as such was separated from God just as humans are. As we look at the tabernacle and the way in which it was to be utilized we find that **the sanctuary itself and all things that were in it had to be cleansed and sanctified**. We need to remember that the Law **contained a shadow** of those things that were to come and so in and of itself was not perfect in the sense of being pure. To that end God commanded that there were things that had to be **done to purify and sanctify the sanctuary** or the tabernacle. We find that when this was dedicated to the Lord and his service that there were offerings that were to be made for it (**Ex**) we also see that when the tabernacle, or sanctuary was

Sanctuary

set up there was a cleansing that had to take place for all of the things that were contained therein. It was necessary that the priests had to make offering and atone for these things that were in the sanctuary as well as for themselves. There are numerous instances of this and we will only be able to look at a few of these.

Another thing that we need to know is that sanctuary, while representing the presence of God with the people, and while it was sanctified, that is set apart for the purpose of the service to the Lord, that it was still a place that **represented the iniquity of the people or the separation of man and God**. We find that there are offerings that are to be made for the sanctuary before it could be put into service and this had to be maintained over the course of the time that the Law was to be in place. Once this sanctification was complete **only the priests could enter** and no one who **was unclean under the law could enter**. We find that the sanctuary was to be revered as it was the place that represented the presence of God and there were penalties for failing to do this. (**Lev 26.2**) this command had the same significance as keeping the sabbaths.

While there was a physical representation of the sanctuary we find that there is in the language of the scriptures, even in the Old testament, that the idea of a sanctuary, or sanctuary conveys a spiritual idea more than a physical one. As David prepared his son Solomon to assume the duties of a king, he shared with him the plans for the building of the temple. The language of this is interesting in that there is a separation of the idea of the sanctuary from the building which housed it. In **1 Chron 28.5** we find that God had appointed Solomon to succeed David as the king. We find then that David prepares Solomon by telling him to **observe the commands** of God but also prepares him **to build a house for the worship of the Lord**. Note what is stated here in this passage and more importantly how it is stated. **“Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary:”** now someone might argue that the “house for the sanctuary” refers to the sanctuary as being only one part of the structure. However, it is also seen that there are many statements in the Old Testament that when looked at more closely point us in the direction of Christ and I believe that this is one of them.

We have seen that the word sanctuary in the purest sense refers to a place that is holy. In that sense we can see that the tabernacle, and later the temple were holy because they housed the sanctuary - that is **the place where God would manifest his presence**. We also need to realize that this representation was not so much just that God dwelt there in the tabernacle but that he was dwelling with and among his people. There were physical manifestations of this in the sense that God reserved some places that were “holy” but the question remains, are they holy now or what makes them holy. **Is it the physical location** or what this place represents. Here are some points that we have covered so far:

1. Sanctuary represented the presence of God with his people
2. God’ continual presence with his people depended on their keeping his laws.
3. The physical sanctuary had to be cleansed as did the people.
4. The idea of sanctuary has been confused over the years with the idea of refuge
5. The spiritual significance of the idea of a sanctuary points to the true greatness of God’s plan

Sanctuary

this leads to a discussion of the true sanctuary and the purpose for it.

The sanctuary was to represent the presence of God with the people. This is not to be misused to apply to making physical things holy. God had prohibited the people from making any graven image - this was the first commandment that had been given. Later God reminded that people that at no time had they **seen any similitude of God (Deut)** and therefore were not to make anything that would represent God. This did happen from time to time as during the days of **Hezekiah when he had to destroy the brasen serpent that Moses had made** in order to stop the people from worshipping it. Later we find that **Solomon in his prayer at the dedicatoin of the temple, stated that he knew that there was no structure that could house God but that it represented the presence and power of God in the Earth.** The apostle Paul also states that it is **not possible for God to dwell in manmade dwellings (Acts 17)** and so the idea that there is a place where God would be drawn and in which his presence would dwell is to miss the point. David stated that there is no place, **even in the depths of the grave, where God is not and where his spirit does not manifest itself.** God is in all and through all things and so the idea that there is a need for a place for God to dwell is one that has it's roots in mysticism. It is the focusing on the presence of God and his manifestation through the word that he has spoken that is to be revered.

God has chosen different places at various times to represent his presence and in a sense has manifested them as a "sanctuary" or holy place. **Moses was told to take his shoes off on the mountain because the ground where he stood was holy.** Why was it holy, is it holy today? The answer to that is it was holy because **chose to manifest himself there.** It was also the place that Moses was to bring the people when he led them out the bondage and it was from this place that **God would issue the commandment and laws that his people were to live by.** Later God indicates that he had chosen a **specific place to put his name.** There are many in the world today that believe that there is still a "holy land" and they are willing to fight and kill for it. This has been going on for centuries and is based on the misconception of God's laws. God was interested in his people keeping his laws in their heart, not their worship of the physical places that God has chosen. This was a problem during the time that Christ was on the earth in that there were those who were impressed with the splendor of the temple and who even **swore by the gold of the temple.** All of these things failed to understand that God had chosen those places to accomplish a purpose and that this purpose was to sacrifice his son.

Entry into the sanctuary was limited to those who were authorized to be there. God set apart the **household of Aaron and his sons as priests who would minister in the sanctuary.** They were **to be sanctified and cleansed for these duties** and they had to continually observe certain **cleansings throughout their generations.** The sanctuary thus represented a place of **service not a place to hide or take refuge.** Since the sanctuary was reserved and represented the presence of God it was **not be corrupted,** or polluted by the introduction of things that God had not ordained. **Nadab and Abihu had disobeyed** God and polluted the sanctuary with the strange fire and for this they were killed. The Hebrews were condemned years later for their **failure to adhere to these restrictions and they had polluted the sanctuary.** Ezekiel mentions this as does Daniel. All of this points to the fact that will only recognize who and what he has

Sanctuary

authorized. The same is true for us today as we shall see in a little while.

Finally we find that the earthly sanctuary, representing the presence of God was **not intended to be a permanent structure but was a shadow of other things that were to come**. The writer of Hebrews tells us that the structures and things that were constructed **were for that time and that these have passed away**. We find that this shadow was to pass for the **establishment of a better structure**. This permanent sanctuary was one that would not be built with physical materials. Speaking of the coming of this sanctuary Ezek describes the things that would happen there. He speaks of the sacrifices that would be offered. This sanctuary would issue water that would (**Ezek 47.12**). God indicates through Isaiah that he had rejected the prince of the sanctuary for their evil and would give them to desolations (**Isa 43.28**). The sanctuary of God was taken away because of the evil that man did in not keeping his laws. The scriptures, however, point to a **better sanctuary** as the writer of Hebrews speaks of.

This leads to a discussion of the true sanctuary. **Hebrews 9 speaks of the first tabernacle and things that it contained**. This first description speaks of the first tabernacle, which we know as the holy place, and the second, which we recognize as the most holy place. Into this went the **high priest once a year to offer for his sins and the sins of the people** so that they would not be destroyed. The writer of Hebrews refers to Christ as a minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle and that this was established by God and not man. (**Heb 8.2**). These things passed away as they were physical and now we have Christ, our high priest who has passed into the most holy place for us. We find that Christ became **a merciful and faithful high priest**. (**Heb 2.17**). Even Aaron sinned in the making of the golden calf and other things because he was only a man and therefore subject to weaknesses of the same. Christ however offered himself up as a sinless sacrifice (**Heb 4.15**) becoming **both priest and sacrifice at the same time**. As a high priest **Christ was ordained of God** (**Heb 5.1**) so that he could offer this sacrifice for the sins of the world and in doing this was **perfected as both priest and savior** (**Heb 5.9-10**). It was through this sacrifice that the way to the **true sanctuary** was opened to all of mankind. The writer of Hebrews tells us that Christ is sitting at the right hand of God (**Heb 8.1**). Since Christ has entered the sanctuary or the true tabernacle we know then that this is a reference to God and to his presence with us. The name of Christ **Immanuel even meant God with us** and that remains today. The true idea of sanctuary has to do with the presence of Christ in our lives. Let's take a look at the appointment of priests and how this translates into our lives as Christians.

Christ stated that **where there are two or three gathered in his name** he would be in the midst of them. We understand that **Peter refers to all Christians as priests** and since we are in the presence of Christ as we gather then we must understand that **we must be sanctified** through him in order to maintain that presence. In this sense the true sanctuary is the body of saved believers who **worship God in spirit and in truth** (**John 4.**). This also speaks of God's intent for the law, that it would no longer be one of simply going through the motions but the commandments of God would be **written on the heart**. This is a characteristic of the new law spoken of by Jeremiah and the other prophets.

Sanctuary

In our day and time, the way to this sanctuary has been opened for us by Christ who passed into the most Holy place (**Heb**) where he makes intercession for those who will obey Him. In order to enter this sanctuary we must obey and continue in faithfulness until death (**Rev 2.10**) at which time Christ will give us the crown of life. Are you prepared to enter that place and be in the presence of God. We are before him now and while separated we must prepare to enter that place, the place of rest that has been promised to all of God's children.