

An illustration of the Tabernacle, the portable sanctuary of the Israelites. The structure is shown with a cutaway view, revealing the interior. The roof is covered in gold, silver, and blue, with a red and white inner lining. Inside, there is a large golden candelabrum with seven branches, a table of showbread, and a golden altar of incense. A bright light emanates from the golden altar of burnt offerings, which is covered in gold and silver. The entire structure is surrounded by a blue and white striped curtain. The background shows a desert landscape with other tents and a cloudy sky.

PROPHETIC STUDY SERIES

THE TEMPLE OF GOD

WAKE UP AMERICA SEMINARS
Proclaiming Revelation's Story

To The Reader:

This study guide is based on material published on our website. To study further, please visit our website at *wake-up.org/studies* to read other booklets in this series and browse through the many topics available. If you read something in this booklet which is new to you, support material which may answer your questions is also available at the link.

If this booklet is helpful and you would like to share it, we will be pleased to send free copies of this booklet while supplies last provided you pay shipping and handling (limits and intervals also apply).

On occasion, I have inserted italics and brackets in Scripture quotations to enhance understanding, not to change the meaning.

There are fourteen questions in this booklet which I hope you will answer. The author's answers are listed at the end. May God bless you as you study this fascinating topic!

Larry Wilson

Copyright © 2019
Wake Up America Seminars, Inc.
P.O. Box 273
Bellbrook, OH 45305

A Model of Heaven's Temple

Of all the concepts taught in the Bible, the services in God's temple are among the most profound, intricate, and beautiful. A proper understanding of these services ties all Bible themes together and provides a backdrop against which all conclusions about God's will and ways can be tested and verified. This is a crucial point.

The truth about God's ways about the temple may seem unknowable, but this is not the case. God remedied this problem long ago by commanding Moses to carefully set up a parallel of Heaven's processes so that human beings could study, test, and validate their understanding of His marvelous ways. Moses was warned to follow the pattern that God gave him. The Lord said **“See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”** (Hebrews 8:5) This makes perfect sense because if the model is flawed, our understanding of Heaven's temple will also be flawed.

The Temple Balances Church and State

God's ways are revealed in the ceremonies that occur in His temples. Because we cannot attend the Heavenly temple services, God commanded Moses

to create a parallel temple system on Earth. Think of God's temple in Heaven as a dual purpose palace, something like a courthouse and a church. On Earth, church is a place where God's will is studied and examined; a courthouse is a place where social needs are codified and implemented through the force of law. To a great extent, the balance of power between the church and the courthouse defines the unique culture of every nation. The same is true in Heaven.

In Jesus, there is a perfect balance of church and state; He is King of kings and Lord of lords, the Revealer of God's will, and the Executor of God's justice. God has unilaterally imposed the rule of His law throughout the universe. If there was no law, chaos would rule. The decisions and declarations of Jesus in Heaven's temple are subject to His own laws. God's kingdom is not a republic nor a democracy, it is a monarchy. He is not arbitrary. His rule of law does not have a political bias, nor is it temperamental in nature like man's laws.

Question #1: The Temple is something like a _____ and a _____.

Question #2: Jesus is the perfect balance of _____ and _____.

Earthly Rituals Were Shadows

Few people know much about the temple services God gave to Moses, because I suspect people dismissed them due to their Jewish origin, or they were nailed to the cross. Both reasons have contributed to the hopelessly confused state of Christianity today. Just because the *Mosaic covenant* with its shadows and parallels were nailed to the cross does not mean their *significance* became useless after the cross. The first five books of the Bible are valuable in helping us understand Jesus because He never changes. The temple services occurring right now in Heaven's true tabernacle are still parallels of temple services that took place 3,000 years ago on Earth.

Contrary to what many religions teach, rituals do not have value in themselves. God wants man to understand the object lessons that are illustrated through the temple processes. The rituals which God commanded the children of Israel to observe were shadows of actual processes that occur in Heaven's Temple.

Consider this illustration. A \$5.00 bill (U.S. Federal Reserve Note) has no value within itself. It is merely a small piece of paper with writing on both sides. However, it is a *symbol* of value and most people think of it, use it, and treat it as though it has actual value; and as long as the United States government says it has value, it will have a perceived value. The \$5.00 bill is a *symbol* of value even though it is only a piece of cheap paper. However, if the U.S. government ever decides to terminate their \$5.00 bill, then all U.S. \$5.00 bills worldwide will be worthless... “Not worth the paper it’s printed on.”

In like manner, temple rituals have no value within themselves; instead, they are symbolic of the real things that God has done, is doing, and will do to save the human race. In terms of a working model on Earth, God required the Old Testament rituals to function until the reality appeared. So, when Jesus came to Earth and died on the cross, the rituals ended even though the processes they represent are still ongoing; they contain the keys explaining God’s ways in Heaven’s temple.

Before examining the contents of the Earthly tabernacle, it is important to remember that a Heav-

only / Earthly Temple parallel is necessary because sin entered into and affected both realms: Heaven and Earth. Rebellion in Heaven resulted in Lucifer and his angels being cast out. Rebellion in Eden resulted in Adam and Eve being expelled from the Garden.

 Question #3: Sin affected (infected) both
 _____ and _____.

John Saw Heaven's Temple

In Relation 4, the prophet John was zoomed forward in time to view the “campsite” as it would appear around 1798. John saw the brilliant glory of God’s throne and the same four living creatures Ezekiel saw. John saw 24 elders, each sitting on a throne arranged around God’s throne, and mentions several pieces of furniture. This is important because descriptions of the Earthly tabernacle include similar furniture!

If we understand the function of the Earthly furniture, we should be able to learn the purpose of the Heavenly furniture. John saw seven golden Lampstands (Revelation 1:12-20; Exodus 25:31-37), the

Altar of Incense (Revelation 8:3; Exodus 30:16), the Altar of Burnt Offering (Revelation 6:9; Exodus 29:12) and the Ark of the Covenant (Revelation 11:19). He does not directly mention the Table of the Presence (Shewbread) or the Laver.

Even though there are many similarities, there are also important differences between the Earthly and the Heavenly tabernacles (a direct parallel does not exist for every aspect). For example, animal blood was routinely placed on the horns of Earthly altars. Obviously, this does not occur in Heaven.

The annual feasts associated with the Earthly tabernacle services have never been celebrated in Heaven. Rather, annual feasts and the animal sacrifices that accompany them reveal elements about God's process to save man. Obviously, the scale and structure of the Earthly temple is different from the Heavenly one.

Moses did not build a tabernacle in the likeness of Heaven's Temple. Rather, Moses followed the pattern God gave him, and the resulting construction reflects the details of the pattern Moses saw. (Exodus 25:9) The Earthly tabernacle was a temporary teaching device, a shadow of reality.

Contrary to what many people believe, the Earthly temple and its services held no efficacy either then or now. The sacrifices of animals or accompanying rituals could not / cannot provide atonement for sin. (Hebrews 10:4) Instead, these services reveal the properties of law, sin, penalty, grace, and the orderly process God follows to restore man.

The Tabernacle

The earthly temple built by Moses primarily consisted of seven items: Ark of the Covenant, Table of the Presence, Altar of Incense, Altar of Burnt Offering, Lampstand, Laver, and Tent of Meeting. God designed each piece of furniture and gave the pattern to Moses.

The purpose and function of each piece offers insight into God's ways. For example, even though God forgives sinners, He does not blot out the sin. Instead, He transfers the guilt of the sinner to the Altar of Burnt Offering. This may sound confusing at first, but here is how it works: The penalty for sin is death by execution and there are no exceptions. However, within the Plan of Salvation, God allows the penalty for sin to be transferred away from the sinner through the death of a perfect substitute.

This transfer occurs under specific conditions (faith is one condition). So, sinners who put their faith in Jesus can be set free from the condemnation of death even though their specific sins are never forgiven; (Romans 8:1-5) they remain a matter of record – for a time.

To understand this point better, consider the sin offering ceremony that took place in the earthly temple. Sinners were required to bring a perfect lamb to the Altar of Burnt Offering at appointed times. The innocent lamb served as a perfect substitute for the penalty of sin. When the sinner presented his lamb at the Altar of Burnt Offering, he placed his hands on the head of the lamb and stated his sin. Then, using a knife, the sinner executed the lamb by cutting its jugular vein.

As blood spilled from the throat of the dying lamb, an attending priest captured some blood in a small bowl, then dipped a small branch of hyssop into the bowl and applied the warm blood to a horn on each corner of the altar. This ritual confirms a truth that most Christians do not understand: sin is not forgiven. Instead, the sinner's guilt is transferred, by the death and blood of the lamb, to the horns of the altar.

This transfer made the Altar of Burnt Offering unclean, and it remained defiled all year long until the Day of Atonement. On that day, the altar was restored to a pure state by the shedding of blood from the Lord's goat. Thus, the guilt that had accumulated upon the horns of the altar all year long, was transferred once again, this time to the head of the scapegoat, which was then taken out into the desert to die a very slow and painful death.

The stain of animal blood on the horns of the Altar of Burnt Offering confirms that sin is not forgiven, but instead is transferred. This is very good news! God allows the penalty for my sins to be transferred from me to the horns of the Altar of Burnt Offering through the death of Jesus, the flawless Lamb of God.

The blood of animals symbolizes the actual price of God's grace: the blood of His own Son. Keep in mind, the blood of animals did not provide salvation. The execution and blood of animals did not actually transfer the guilt of sin. The sin offering is a parallel of how God deals with sin.

Two Altars

The Altar of Burnt Offering was located in the courtyard that surrounded the Tent of Meeting; the

Altar of Incense was located in the front room of the tent, or the Holy Place. There are two altars because God is concerned with two levels of sin: individual sin and corporate sin.

The Altar of Burnt Offering was covered with bronze and the Altar of Incense was covered with gold. This difference in metals indicates there is a difference in processing these two types of sin.

Sinners are Forgiven

Many Bible writers speak about our sins being forgiven (Leviticus 5:13; Romans 4:7), but it is the sinner who is forgiven, not the sin. This distinction is so important! We must understand that God has a process to deal with the disposal of sin because sin is not forgiven. The disposal of sin involves a legal concept called vengeance.

God's vengeance is a twofold process that will culminate at the end of the 1,000 years of Revelation 20. First, it involves the extraction of restitution from people unwilling to provide appropriate restitution to those they have wronged, and second, it involves destroying everyone who refused the indwelling authority of the Holy Spirit.

Judicial equilibrium is the balance between our behavior toward others and our accountability for the welfare of others. This equilibrium is found in the golden rule: **“As you do unto others, the same shall be done unto you”** and **“For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged.”** (Matthew 7:2,12)

 Question #4: The two altars correspond to two levels of sin: _____ and _____.

Sin Is Not Forgiven

Sinners can be freed from the penalty of their sins even though their sins are not forgotten. At first, this statement may appear contradictory. Many Christians believe that Jesus died for us and somehow, all our sins have been forgiven, but there is far more involved in the removal and disposal of sin than is commonly understood. Sin is much more toxic than most people imagine.

All sinners are under the curse of eternal death unless our guilt is removed because the wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23) Sin is the transgression of God’s law. (Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28; 1 John 3:4) When

a person commits any sin, he or she violates the whole law. (James 2:10) Sinful acts cannot be recalled or erased because they are a matter of record. However, if a person is ignorant of a specific sin, God does not hold the sinner accountable for that sin until the sinner becomes aware of it. (Leviticus 4; 1 Timothy 1:13; James 4:17)

The consequences for violating God's moral law occur whether we are knowledgeable or ignorant of the offense. This is why the Bible says, **“Be sure your sin will find you out.”** (Numbers 32:23) Do not let this discourage you because the Plan of Salvation offers a way out of sin's condemnation.

The Father has provided a perfect substitute to receive the guilt of our sins and through the blood of Jesus, our guilt can be transferred to the horns of Heaven's Altar of Burnt Offering! So, repentant believers who put their faith in Jesus are no longer under sin's condemnation. (Romans 5 and 8:1-12.)

Question #5: Sinners can be forgiven but _____ itself is never forgiven

The Sin Offering

When God gave Moses the earthly temple pattern, He defined categories of offerings for the various categories of sins. Different offenses required different methods for atonement, and each offering helps us understand how God deals with the various categories of sin.

Although every temple service is not explained in the Old Testament, we can be sure that God has preserved what was essential. (John 21:25.) Do not become overwhelmed by the sheer number of rules and offerings used in the earthly temple services. Concentrate instead on God's orderly and consistent ways in dealing with sin. I have found that diligent study on this topic brings great rewards. As you study the system surrounding the earthly temple, you will begin to see the beauty of the Plan of Salvation unfold.

Unintentional Sin

The sin offering covers two types of personal sin: unintentional and willful. If a person is aware he had committed an unintentional sin, he had to appear at the Altar of Burnt Offering with the required sacrifice. If he could not afford the required animal,

items of lesser value such as birds or even flour were acceptable to the Lord. (Leviticus 5:7)

A priest, ever present and willing to serve, received the sinner's substitute. He examined the sacrificial animal very closely because he was concerned about the condition of the animal as well as the sinner's restitution and heartfelt confession. The sacrificial offering had to be perfect, without defect or blemish, for it represented God's Son.

After the sinner killed the animal, the priest placed the animal's blood on the horns of the altar as a record of sin. (Leviticus 4:7) Although the sinner could not escape the guilt of sin, he was at least free of condemnation until he sinned again. (Leviticus 4:26)

Willful Sin

The process of atonement for willful sin is more serious than that of unintentional sin. Before an individual could seek atonement at the tabernacle, he or she had to make generous restitution to the victim. (Numbers 5:6-8)

Question #6: A sin offering covered two types of sins: _____ and _____.

Defiance is Not Tolerated

Obviously, a person cannot continue for long in a pattern of willful sin and also meet the financial demands for restitution required by law. This is why Paul wrote: **“If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left.”** (Hebrews 10:26)

God does not see willful sin in the same light as defiant sin, although the penalty is the same for both. Notice that defiant sin demands immediate action. **“But anyone who sins defiantly, whether native-born or alien, blasphemes the Lord, and that person must be cut off from his people.”** (Numbers 15:30)

The term “cut off” meant exile; total banishment from the camp. In the wilderness, banishment meant starvation. So, it is important to understand the meaning of defiant sin. According to Webster, defiance means open and bold rebellion. God did not offer a plan of salvation for Lucifer and his angels because of their defiance.

Penalty and Restitution

Temple services reveal one sin can contain two violations. When a person sins against his neigh-

bor, he or she sins against God as well! Therefore, the sanctuary service demonstrates God requires a two-step process when we sin against a neighbor.

First, the Lord required that a sinner make restitution to the victim, and then the sinner could make atonement for the sin committed against God at the tabernacle. The amount of restitution varied. In minor cases, restitution was 20%. (Numbers 5:6-8.) In more severe cases, the amount of restitution could be as high as 500%. (Exodus 22.)

When Zacchaeus became a “born again” believer he gave 50% of his wealth to the poor, and then he restored 400% to anyone he had wronged! (Luke 19:8) The purpose of restitution is very important in God’s government. In fact, the earthly tabernacle teaches that at a future appointed time, God will ensure that every wicked person suffers appropriately for every wrongful deed, plus an added penalty. The golden rule is an iron clad rule of God’s kingdom and universe. At the end, God will ensure that everyone is treated just like they treated others. (Matthew 7:12) This is the larger meaning of vengeance.

The basic idea of punitive law in the Old Testament is judicial equilibrium. In other words, if someone

plans to maliciously harm another person, the law demands complete restitution before he or she can make atonement to God. For personal injury, the offender must experience the same pain he or she willfully inflicted!

Restitution retards the growth of sin, so God placed man under the operation of the golden rule. The rule states: *It will be done to you as you intentionally did to your victim, plus interest and penalty.* When Jesus was on Earth, the Jews had twisted the golden rule for self-serving purposes. They used it as legal justification for personal revenge, especially against their hated enemy, the Romans.

Sin Cannot Be Forgiven, Sinners Can

There may be some confusion regarding my statement concerning sinners. Let me clarify the issue... I never wrote that sinners cannot be forgiven. I said that sin cannot be forgiven. At first, this statement seems contradictory. The death of Jesus, as man's perfect substitute, proves that sin cannot be forgiven. Instead, the guilt of man is transferred to Jesus Christ and His death paid the sinner's penalty so we are no longer under sin's condemnation.

Services on the Altar of Incense

The evening and morning services presented on the Altar of Incense were called the “daily” or the “continual” because they were administered evening and morning, each day of the year, continually. The services included the sacrifice of a perfect one-year-old lamb each evening at twilight and each morning just after sunrise. After the priest killed the “daily” lamb on the Altar of Burnt Offering, he carried some of its blood to the Altar of Incense and applied it to the horns and sides of the altar.

Then the priest placed a scoop of the special incense on the glowing coals of the altar so that its sweet fragrance wafted freely throughout the tabernacle. In addition to the blood and incense, priests also placed small servings of wheat or barley flour, oil, and wine before the Lord as offerings. (Exodus 29:40, 41; 30:9)

The reality in Heaven, which is represented by the daily services at the golden altar on Earth, is very meaningful. Whereas the sin offering on the Altar of Burnt Offering pointed forward to the death of Jesus as the Lamb of God at Calvary, the service on the Altar of Incense pointed backwards to the day sin began.

On that day, the Father and Son established a mutual covenant to save the whole world! (Psalms 2)

Corporate Atonement

The idea of corporate atonement is new to many Christians. Two points regarding corporate sacrifice stand out in Leviticus 4:13-18. First, it was possible for the whole community to sin against God unintentionally! Again, ignorance does not mean innocence. God's universal laws have no boundaries. When the community became aware of its sin, God required the whole community to make atonement, and this atonement was presented at the corporate Altar of Incense, not the Altar of Burnt Offering. Second, a sacrificial bull was required as a corporate atonement for the sins of the entire community. A bull was the most valuable animal in the herd because its genes kept a closed herd healthy.

Sacrificing a most valuable possession alludes to the fact that the Father gave His most valuable gift, the blood of His only Son, to redeem the whole world! The Bible says: **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”** (John 3:16)

This text is actually a *corporate* text. “For God so loved *the world*.” To appreciate the entire scope of the Plan of Salvation, we must understand that it is much larger than an individual matter. The plan involves all of the descendants of Adam and Eve, and to include all the nations of the world the plan has to include the entire human race over a period of 6,000 years.

When the community sinned, the bull’s blood was sprinkled on the front of the temple curtain that separated the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place. This action signified that, as a community, Israel had violated the law which was written on tablets that were behind the veil in the Ark of the Covenant.

In order to provide atonement for the community, the priest sprinkled the blood as close to the law as possible. Then, he placed blood on the four horns of the Altar of Incense. This record of sin defiled the Altar of Incense until the cleansing on the Day of Atonement. (Leviticus 4:7, 18)

Incense Pleasing to God

The Altar of Incense derives its name from its most obvious function; namely, the continual burning of incense. The object lesson of burning incense before God is this: Approach God with reverence. The

sweet smell of incense predisposed God for grace and favor. The fragrance of incense invites Him to hear our prayers and petitions. Of course, the need for incense says much about man's true condition as a sinner. In our cleanest state, we still stink! I am not talking about body odor, but rather the stench of sin.

In other words, God uses the burning of incense as an object lesson to demonstrate our degenerate and offensive condition before Him. We are sinners and we live in sin's pig sty. Therefore, it is not possible for us to comprehend our degenerate state as God sees us.

The ever-burning Altar of Incense confirms man's hopeless condition before God, but it also confirms God's faithful promise. He masks our offensiveness daily with the fragrance of our prayers so that we can draw near Him with our requests.

The burning of incense on this altar is directly associated with the prayers of the saints. (Revelation 8:4) Few things move the arm of Almighty God like the sweet prayers of humble and contrite believers. (Luke 18:10-14; Hebrews 11:6)

Question #7: Incense is mixed with prayer to mask _____.

The Ark of the Covenant

The Ark was located in the back room of the earthly tabernacle, inside the Most Holy Place. God designed the Ark and hid it from everyone's view but the high priest.

Physically, the Ark of the Covenant was a small box of acacia wood, overlaid with gold, about 3 feet wide by 5 feet long and 3 feet tall. (Exodus 25:10) It had two rings on each side through which poles could be inserted, (Exodus 25:12) this enabled priests to carry the Ark from place to place without touching it. The lid or top of the Ark was called the atonement cover or "mercy seat." (Compare KJV Exodus 25:17; 26:34; 30:6 with later translations.) Two golden angel figures (cherubim) stood on top of the box. (Exodus 25:20) The Israelites considered the Ark to be the most holy piece of furniture in the earthly temple because the Shekinah glory hovered between the two cherubim on the Ark. (Exodus 25:22)

We know a few items were kept inside the Ark: the Ten Commandments, a bowl of manna, and Aaron's rod that budded. (Exodus 31:18, 40:20; Exodus 16:33; Numbers 17:10) The ceremonial

laws which God dictated to Moses were kept in a “pocket” attached to the outside of the Ark. (Deuteronomy 31:26)

The hidden Ark reveals a profound truth about God and sin. Before sin defiled the human race, God’s law was written in the hearts of Adam and Eve. They instinctively knew the Ten Commandments and Jesus often communed with Adam and Eve face-to-face in the Garden. (Genesis 3:8) However, when sin separated man from God, the presence of God’s law evaporated from their heart. The nature of man changed.

Instead of having a proclivity for righteousness, man had a propensity toward rebellion. Furthermore, sinners could not survive the glorious presence of God. (Exodus 19:21) So, God hid Himself from man because He desires to be close to man.

The Ark of the Covenant was hidden from view in the earthly tabernacle because God understood the tendency of fallen man to make an icon out of religious things, and He did not want His people worshipping the Ten Commandments or the Ark. Instead, He wanted His people to understand and absorb the intent of His law through love, and worship Him with thanksgiving and obedience.

The Mercy Seat

The golden lid on the Ark was also called the atonement cover or mercy seat. When the high priest entered the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement, he sprinkled blood on this part of the Ark to illustrate atonement for a broken law. (Leviticus 16:14) “The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23) Paul also wrote: ***“In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”*** (Hebrews 9:22) So, blood was sprinkled on the broken law because the law had been defiled by sin. (*Romans 3:23*)

The Laver

The bronze basin (NIV) or laver (KJV) has practical and spiritual lessons associated with it. In practice, the previous text reveals that God required a state of physical purity, orderliness, and cleanliness among those who served in the temple.

The ever-present “desert dust” soiled the hands and feet of the priests, who served in the temple, and God required them to wash before entering the tabernacle (tent of meeting) so they were clean. The application of water on the hands and feet reveal

man's perpetual need to be "made clean" of sin, spiritually speaking, from time to time. Sin (like desert dust) defiles our hands and feet and we, like the priests in the desert, need to be made clean!

Notice the words of Jesus to Nicodemus, "**Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.'**" (*John 3:5*) Some people misinterpret this verse to make it say that a person must be baptized to be saved. The thief on the cross was not baptized, nor does salvation come through rites, rituals, sacraments, or works. (*Ephesians 2:8, 9*)

Instead, a willing baptism confirms submission to the purifying experience of God's sanctification. Christians need to be "cleansed" from time to time as they travel the road of life. Baptism marks the beginning of a purifying experience. At the Jordan River, John baptized people into the kingdom of Heaven after they repented from their sins. (*Acts 19:4*)

Washing one another's feet as our Lord commanded serves as a "miniature baptism," representing the fact that we need our sins to be washed away from time to time. The ordinance of foot-washing reminds us who we are – servants, not masters.

(John 13:6-8.) It is so easy to forget that in God's sight, our righteousness is as "filthy rags," (Isaiah 64:6) and He requires physical and spiritual cleanliness. The laver teaches God does accept sinners for what we are, but requires, as a minimum, we clean up before we approach Him. If this is true in the physical realm, what can be said of the spiritual?

The Golden Lampstand

The golden lampstand was made of one talent of pure gold (66 pounds) and it had seven lamps on top of it. It was placed next to the south wall of the Holy Place directly across the room from the Table of the Presence. (Exodus 25:37,39; 26:35) The golden lampstand represents God's agent of truth on Earth.

Jesus reminded the Jews, "**You are the light of the world.**" (Matthew 5:14; Acts 13:47) God wanted a special relationship with the trustees of His covenant (Exodus 19:1-6) and the golden lampstand represented the union of the human with the divine.

Gold is often used to represent faith after it has been purified by trial and tribulation. (Revelation 3:18) The purpose of a lampstand is light and this was the spiritual purpose for Israel. Israel was chosen

to be a “light to the world,” to represent God’s love for man. God required the priests to refuel the seven lamps daily with pure olive oil so the lampstand would burn continually through the night. (Leviticus 24:3)

The oil represents the power of the Holy Spirit which enables the light of God’s truth to burn continually until the darkness of sin has been finally removed. The priests had the responsibility for keeping the lights burning. If they became negligent or careless, darkness would overtake God’s people.

Just as God held the priests accountable for keeping the “lights on” in the temple, they were also responsible for carrying the “light of truth” to His people. The priests were the “keepers of the flame.” Unfortunately, Israel’s priests failed and Israel apostatized many times. History also confirms that, “As priests go, so go the people.” In fact, much of today’s social rot continues to escalate because of the poor leadership of pastors, priests, and rabbis.

The Table of the Presence

This table represents the throne of God. All blessings flow from His throne. This idea may surprise

you since, in the earthly tabernacle, the focus is always directed toward the “hidden” Ark of the Covenant located in the Most Holy Place.

The Shekinah glory lived within the Most Holy Place, so the second room in the Earthly tabernacle was holier than the first room. The veil obscured the Most Holy Place from the view of everyone but the high priest, indicating its extreme sacredness. These physical facts have led many people to conclude that the Ark of the Covenant must represent the throne of God.

Question #8: The table of presence represents the _____.

Parallel Temple Services

“If he [Jesus] were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: ‘See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.’” (Hebrews 8:4,5, insertion mine)

Shortly after the Exodus, God commanded Israel to observe six religious services each year which are parallels of six processes within the Plan of Salvation. After the time of King David, males were required to attend three of these religious services in Jerusalem associated with three crop harvests. (Exodus 23:14-17) God designed these earthly events so participants would consider the real events that would take place in Heaven.

The six services were:

The Feast of Passover*

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

The Feast of Weeks or “Pentecost”*

The Feast of Trumpets

The Day of Atonement

The Feast of Ingathering or “Tabernacles”*

(*) Attendance required.

The first three services took place in the spring and the last three occurred in the fall. The timing of these services was very specific.

Passover End Time Parallels

As we examine these six services, we will focus on how they shadow key events that transpire within

the Plan of Salvation. When God implemented these six services, He already knew how He was going to bring the drama of sin to an end. So, the story of Israel's miraculous deliverance from slavery in Egypt contains several important parallels about the saints being delivered from the bondage of sin. God knows the end from the beginning. He did marvelous things long ago that prove to be awesome parallels of coming events!

The Passover described in Exodus 12 occurred in 1437 B.C. For centuries, the Jews have observed the Feast of Passover to commemorate their deliverance from Egypt. However, the Feast of Passover is more inclusive than that. It is a parallel of what God plans to do at the end of time. Consider these seven parallels:

1. First Passover – God's people were miraculously delivered from slavery.

ETP – (End-time Parallel) God's people will be sealed and then physically delivered from the bondage of mortality.

2. First Passover – Everyone in Egypt was notified that the firstborn (man and beast) had been placed under the curse of death. This announcement pro-

duced two groups of people: believers and unbelievers. Believers put blood on their doorposts.

ETP – The inhabitants of the world will be notified they are under the curse of death. There will be two groups of people: believers and unbelievers. The believers accept Christ's atonement and will obey the message which the 144,000 will proclaim.

3. First Passover – God kept His covenant with Abraham and took Abraham's descendants to the "Promised Land."

ETP – Jesus will keep His promise and return to Earth at the appointed time. He will take the saints to the "Promised Land," that is, the Earth made new.

4. First Passover – There was a Sabbath rest test in Egypt and persecution before the Exodus.

ETP – There will be a Sabbath rest test and persecution for the inhabitants of Earth before the great Exodus of the saints at the Second Coming.

5. First Passover – God "passed over" every house in Egypt and He checked the door posts of every house to see who believed His word.

ETP – God will “pass over” every human being and save each person who believes His word.

6. First Passover – God sent ten plagues upon a defiant Egypt.

ETP – God will send 14 plagues upon a defiant Earth during the Great Tribulation (seven first plagues called seven trumpets and seven last plagues called seven bowls).

7. First Passover – God destroyed Pharaoh and his army with water.

ETP – God will destroy the Antichrist and his armies with fire.

The Passover is an end time parallel of God’s judgment of man. The judgment of mankind is a topic of utmost importance, and yet, few people know anything about it. The Bible says, **“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”** (2 Corinthians 5:10)

For now, simply remember that observing a Passover feast was far more significant than merely celebrating an escape from Pharaoh and Egypt. God

not only sees the past, but also knows where He is going and wants His children to know His plans!

Question #9: The Passover is a parallel of God's _____.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

The observance of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are inseparably joined. The Passover was celebrated on the 15th day of the first month and the Feast of Unleavened Bread began on the same day. The term “feast” may be misleading since God required Israel to search their homes for yeast and dispose of it. They were to eat yeast-free bread for seven days. The Hebrews understood that yeast produces fermentation. Consequently, a little bit of yeast will “infect” the dough. (1 Corinthians 5:6-8)

On the other hand, unleavened bread has no yeast. God aligned the Feast of Passover with the Feast of Unleavened Bread because He wanted Israel to see the connection between deliverance and purity of heart. God’s goodness and grace do not lessen His demands for a pure heart. (Revelation 21:27; 22:15) This is why sinners need the sealing so des-

perately! The Hebrews were to thoroughly search their homes for yeast and remove any trace of it before Passover began. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was to remind them that they needed to be constantly on guard against the yeast of sin in their homes and lives.

We still need to guard against the yeast of sin, especially as we wait for the final “pass over” and appearing of our Lord. We must search our heart often and remove any known sin. The devil is a master at gradualism and sin creeps in slowly but steadily. It will overtake an individual as well as a whole nation if it is not firmly resisted. The history of Israel (indeed, all nations) confirms this point.

In the Scriptures, the figurative use of yeast represents the fermenting process of sin. It proves to be vain, foolish, even intoxicating to the ideas of man. (Mark 8:15; Luke 12:1; Revelation 18:3) Men and women may try to excuse sin, justify it, defend it, rename it, promote it, exalt it, and even extol the benefits of it, but make no mistake – sin is deadly!

God hates sin, and forbade the Jews from presenting any offerings to Him that contained yeast! (Exodus 23:18)

There are seven religious systems in the world today. Each one is full of yeast. The doctrines of the world's religious systems have fermented and are unacceptable to God. In the last days, the servants of God, the 144,000, will present the unleavened bread of Life to the world and each person on Earth will have an opportunity to embrace or reject the truth. Revelation's story indicates that many, if not the majority, will reject the bread of Heaven because they prefer soft bread: doctrines fermented with the yeast of sin.

Three Presentations of First-fruits

Passover always occurs in the spring, between April 3 and May 2. On the Sunday following Passover, the high priest presented the "firstfruits" of the winter harvest before the Lord. (Leviticus 23:11) This presentation of firstfruits (wheat, barley, oil, and wine) was a shadow of a resurrected Jesus presenting Himself before the Father.

Jesus is the Firstborn of the dead, the preeminent One risen from the tomb. (Revelation 1:5) The firstfruits at Passover were always presented on Sunday, so Jesus presented Himself to the Father on Sunday morning as the Firstfruits of the dead. (John 20:17)

Consider the elements of the Passover feast: The Passover Lamb represents Jesus, the Lamb of God. The yeast-free bread eaten at Passover represents a sinless Jesus, the unleavened Bread of Life that came down from Heaven. (John 6:35) The life and teachings of Jesus have no impurity or fermentation in them. The unfermented wine used at Passover represents the pure blood of Jesus that was shed for our sins. (Luke 22:20) Jesus could not be a perfect substitute for us if there had been any sin in His life.

The first harvest of the year occurred at Passover. As a winter harvest, it was also the smallest harvest. This harvest foreshadows the ascension of Jesus with a small, but triumphant group of people who were resurrected from the cold winter of death. This group of people includes the 24 elders mentioned in Revelation. (Matthew 27:52,53; Ephesians 4:8; Revelation 4:4; 1 Corinthians 15:20) The 24 elders, two witnesses from each of the twelve tribes, are representatives of the human race. These 24 elders were taken to Heaven in A.D. 30 to serve as human observers in Heaven's court. They will testify to all the saints in days to come about the courtroom process when Jesus "passed-over" the records of every person to determine their eternal destiny.

The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)

The Feast of Weeks was celebrated at the time of the spring harvest. The spring harvest was larger than the winter harvest at Passover. This one-day feast occurred in late spring or early summer (June/July). In Christ's day, this feast was called "Pentecost" because the Greek word for Pentecost means "fiftieth day."

The count of fifty days began with the waving of firstfruits on Sunday after Passover. The count of fifty days included seven seventh day Sabbaths (or seven full weeks). Then, on the 50th day (always on a Sunday), the Feast of [seven] Weeks was celebrated with a presentation of firstfruits from the spring harvest.

Farmers understand that when there is zero rainfall there is no harvest. This feast illustrates the essential work of the Holy Spirit which is to soften and influence the human heart toward spiritual matters. (1 Corinthians 2:14) Unless a person is born of the Spirit, he or she cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5)

This feast demonstrates that God is able to bring life, even a bountiful harvest, from the cold soil of a carnal heart if individuals will open up and

receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. God wanted the Jews to understand that men may work the soil of the heart and plant seeds of truth, but it is only through the power of the Spirit of God that spiritual life and growth occurs.

The beauty of the shadow of this feast is that even though the human heart may be cold or even dead to spiritual things, God can produce a wonderful transformation through the power of the Spirit!

Acts 2 records a wonderful event that illustrates the symbolism of this feast. Ten days after Jesus ascended, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples at Pentecost and 3,000 people became baptized believers in Christ that day! (Acts 2:41) This harvest of souls came from the toil of Christ Himself.

He had traveled from village to village, healing the sick, lame, and blind. He had preached freedom to people ensnared by twisted religion and superstition and He removed the yeast of foolish dogma with pure words of life. The disciples and these baptized believers were the firstfruits from the gospel of Christ. (Matthew 7:28,29)

Their conversion was the result of the work of the Holy Spirit! God's timing is always perfect and the

event described in Acts 2 was no exception! Attendance at Pentecost was required so Jewish males came to Jerusalem from many nations. (Acts 2:9-11) The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was verified by signs and wonders and Peter boldly took advantage of the occasion.

What a tremendous opportunity to tell of a risen Jesus to those Jews who had gathered from every corner of the world! As a result of that Pentecostal event, Israel was widely and powerfully informed about the appearing of Messiah, its corporate guilt for rejecting and killing Him, and the ascension of the risen Savior!

Through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, 3,000 Jews became convinced that Jesus was the Messianic fulfillment of Scripture! (Acts 2:22; Acts 13:48) I also suspect that the testimony of those resurrected with Jesus 50 days earlier gave incontrovertible proof that Jesus was indeed risen from the dead. (Matthew 27:52,53)

Passover, Pentecost, and Ingathering

Consider the three presentations of firstfruits. The first presentation of firstfruits was at Passover and represents a risen Jesus. He is the firstborn among

those who have died. (Revelation 1:5) The small winter harvest at Passover represents a small group of people, including the 24 elders, Jesus took to Heaven at the time of His ascension.

The second presentation of firstfruits occurred at Pentecost, and these firstfruits from the spring harvest foreshadowed the disciples and the 3,000 people who were baptized at Pentecost in Acts 2. These were the first Christians. The Pentecost, recorded in Acts 2, is the only Pentecost that stands out in the history of Israel since the initial Exodus. This Pentecost is widely known because in A.D. 30, the Holy Spirit rained on those who gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate. The outpouring of Holy Spirit power changed hearts and produced “born again” people. (Romans 8:5; 1 Peter 4:3-6) Since that day, the gospel continues to spread throughout the world (Colossians 1:6) and the reverberations of that Pentecost continue. The gospel of the kingdom is still alive and the early rain of the Holy Spirit is still producing a harvest. It has not stopped! The time has almost come for Earth’s final harvest represented by the Feast of Ingathering. There is going to be a powerful outpouring of Holy Spirit power upon the whole world. (Joel 2:27, 28) The fall har-

vest is the largest harvest, and the book of Revelation says the 144,000 servants of God will be the firstfruits of the final harvest. (Revelation 14:4)

John also says this harvest will be so great that no one can count the number of those who come out of the Great Tribulation! (Revelation 7:9-14) God designed these feasts thousands of years ago because He wants us to understand His plan to save us!

 Question #10: The three presentations of firstfruits are: _____ / _____ / _____.

The Feast of Trumpets

The Feast of Trumpets was the first of three convocations held in the seventh month of the year. According to Jewish history, the seventh new moon of the year (Tishri 1) was marked by a very noisy feast. Priests were arranged into groups and took turns throughout the day sounding their trumpets! The effect would have been much like sounding a siren today. (Joel 2:1) Even after the feast was over, trumpet blasts could be heard evening and morning for eight more days. The Bible simply says, “**On**

the first day of the seventh month hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. It is a day for you to sound the trumpets.” (Numbers 29:1)

The Old Testament has few specifics about the Feast of Trumpets but it does shed enough light to determine its purpose, which was a warning to every man, woman, and child the ultra-serious Day of Atonement was about to arrive. God's love for humanity moves Him to notify people when the time of judgment arrives. The ancient Day of Atonement was regarded as an extremely solemn event because that day marked the end of mercy. God required all known sins be transferred to the sanctuary before sundown on the tenth day of the seventh month. (Leviticus 16; 23:27-32) Remember, in ancient Israel, a new day began at evening, so the evening of the tenth day is followed by the morning of the tenth day.

To show the children of Israel just how serious He was about the end of mercy, God told Moses if any household was found guilty of unconfessed sin on the Day of Atonement, that household was to be cut off from the camp. In other words, the heritage of each Jewish family was at stake on the Day of

Atonement. So, the Feast of Trumpets served as an impressive announcement that something very serious was about to occur. According to Jewish literature, the priests warned Israel of the approaching Day of Atonement for nine days as they sounded their trumpets throughout the nation.

Although no work was allowed on the Day of Atonement, it was unlike the other annual feasts because it was truly a day of fasting and supplication. The Feast of Trumpets notified the nation of Israel that only a few days remained to make sure everyone was fully reconciled with each other as well as with God. The first nine days of Tishri were dedicated to soul searching and reflection. Each person within the household was to be sure their sins had been transferred to the Altar of Burnt Offering. According to Jewish rabbis, the phrase, "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel" was often spoken during the first nine days of the seventh month. Meeting with God was not a casual matter.

The Hebrews understood that God's displeasure could be aroused and fire from God could consume thousands in a matter of seconds. (Numbers 16, Psalm 78:21) They also knew, however, that God was a God

of love who does not want one person to be destroyed. (Deuteronomy 7:9; Isaiah 55:6-7; Matthew 18:14)

End Time Trumpet Parallel

The seven trumpets of Revelation are linked with seven terrible judgments that will fall on Earth which cause the Great Tribulation. The Bible predicts four global earthquakes, meteoric showers of burning hail which burn up large portions of Earth, two asteroid impacts, great darkness covering one-third of the Earth perhaps caused by many volcano eruptions, and more.

The parallel between the Feast of Trumpets and the Seven Trumpets described in Revelation is obvious and important. The sounding of trumpets at the Feast of Trumpets is a shadow of the sounding of seven trumpets during the Great Tribulation. Consider this parallel: In ancient Israel, God terminated the offer of salvation at sundown on the 10th day of the seventh month (Day of Atonement). In our time, God will terminate the offer of salvation when the seventh trumpet sounds. (Revelation 10:7; 11:15-19)

God's love for humanity moves Him to notify people when the time of judgment arrives. Conse-

quently, when the seven trumpets begin to sound in Heaven, there will be corresponding events on Earth. As the trumpet judgments fall on Earth, 144,000 servants of God will proclaim to the world, **“Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”** (Revelation 14:7)

When the seventh trumpet sounds, God’s generous offer of salvation to mankind will be finished. Everyone will have made a decision for or against the gospel by that time. Those refusing to accept the generous offer of salvation offered through faith in Christ will be “cut off” from eternal life.

Jesus said, **“For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now – and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”** (Matthew 24:21,22)

Terrible events and overwhelming suffering will cause everyone to consider or reconsider reconciling with their neighbors and with God. People who love God and His truth will repent of wrong do-

ing. They will accept the terms and conditions for salvation which the 144,000 proclaim. The seventh day Sabbath will become, as in the days just before the Exodus, a great test of faith. People with hearts like Pharaoh will take their stand on the side of rebellion against God.

Even though God's mercy is great and His salvation is free, there is a limit to His patience. His willingness to forgive sinners is beyond comprehension; however, His patience with sinners does not last forever. (See Genesis 6:5-7; Romans 2:5-8; Revelation 14:9-10; and Revelation 18:4-5.)

Those who love the Lord will come to see that His holy law declares the seventh day of the week to be holy and will obediently submit to the requirements of the Almighty. Just as standing for God's Sabbath was seen as an act of rebellion against the authority of Pharaoh, in like manner, the saints will be tested.

God has promised to seal all people who pass the test of faith and deliver them from sin's destruction! The duration of the seven trumpets and the time allocated for sealing the saints will be 1,260 days. The 144,000 are sealed first (Revelation 7:1-4)

and others will be sealed as time passes. (Revelation 10:7)

Question #11: The seven trumpets are linked with seven _____.

The Day of Atonement / Reconciliation

The Day of Atonement occurred on the 10th day of the 7th month. This service was the most solemn of the six annual services. The Day of Atonement service involves three vital issues: The reconciliation of man with man, the reconciliation of man with God, and the removal of sin from the temple.

The Day of Atonement indicates there is a terminus, a point in time when God's offer of mercy is terminated. The Hebrew word for atonement, kaphar (Strong's H3722) means to placate, cancel, reconcile, pacify, etc. Atonement is sometimes described as a state of atone-ment. The basic idea behind the word atonement is reconciliation, being restored to a state of oneness.

If a person sinned against his neighbor, God required atonement between the two parties before He would allow the guilt of that sin to be transferred to the temple. Jesus underscored the necessity for atonement with a brother when He said, **“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.”** (Matthew 5:23, 24)

Consider the concept of judicial equilibrium as it relates to atonement. Atonement for sin is required in God’s universe because its presence is not justifiable. If sin could be justified, then God should be held responsible for it! Since God has done nothing that would make Him responsible, sin’s presence cannot be justified. Therefore, God requires atonement or appeasement for its presence.

God maintains a state of judicial equilibrium throughout His vast kingdom. God is the Guardian, the Executor, and the Supreme Court of the universe and He insures that judicial equilibrium is ever present. There is no separation of powers

in God's government. Instead, there is a separation of entities, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are united in purpose, plan, and action. Together, they uphold and honor a rule of law based upon equal justice. Judicial equilibrium is defined as the perfect balance between the demands of God's law and His offer of grace. The Ark of the Covenant represents this balance between justice and mercy.

Judicial equilibrium does not lessen the demands of God's law nor does it elevate the provisions of grace above the demands of law. The justice side is illustrated by an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a bruise for bruise, and most of all, a life for a life. (Exodus 21) The opposite side is called mercy. Mercy is extended through a process called reconciliation or atonement. The golden rule spoken from the judicial perspective is, "It will be done to you as you did to others." (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 7:12) The first step toward atonement for wrong doing is restitution. God requires human beings to make restitution for any sin committed against another (Matthew 5:23, 24), and He also requires that we accept atonement for any sin committed against us.

This requirement is summarized in the Lord's Prayer, **"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."** (Matthew 6:12) We noticed previously in Leviticus 6 that God required two atonements for sin committed against a neighbor. First, God expected the sinner to voluntarily make atonement with his offended neighbor by offering suitable restitution. Then, He required atonement at the Altar of Burnt offering by offering an acceptable sacrifice. As far as the sinner was concerned, this was the end of the matter. Still, a wrong had been committed and even though atonement had been made, the guilt of sin remained upon the horns of the altar. This guilt was removed from the temple on the Day of Atonement and placed on the head of a scapegoat.

God Has Set a Day to Judge the World

If a person neglected to transfer his sins to the altar before the Day of Atonement began, those sins could not be forgiven, and the sinner received the penalty of his sins upon his own head. However, all who transferred their sins to the temple prior to that day were set free of sin's penalty. This service illustrates the fact that God has set a day when there

will be no further atonement for sin. God's offer of mercy to mankind will end during the Great Tribulation at the seventh trumpet.

Question #12: God's mercy will end during
the _____ .

The Day of Atonement Process

Early in the morning on the tenth day of the seventh month, the Day of Atonement service began with a close investigation of the life of the high priest. Before the high priest could officiate on behalf of the nation of Israel, God examined him to determine if he was worthy to conduct the service.

Imagine how sobering it must have been for the high priest to realize that he must stand in God's presence and be examined before he was allowed to officiate for the children of Israel as their intercessor. The examination of the life of the high priest foreshadowed the investigation which Jesus underwent before He could serve as man's judge. (Daniel 7:9,10, 13, 14; Revelation 4 and 5.)

To illustrate how serious the worthiness issue was, the high priest had to slaughter a ram as a sin offering for his family and a bull for himself. Then, with a censer and some of the atonement blood from the bull in his hands, the trembling high priest went behind the veil to stand in the glory of Almighty God. There, surrounded by smoke and the sweet fragrance of incense, the high priest sprinkled some of the blood on the lid of the Ark of the Covenant. Then, he communed with God.

If God considered the high priest's life and his offering acceptable, the high priest would be allowed to continue with the higher service, the cleansing of the temple. As the high priest left the Most Holy Place, he set the bull's blood aside. (Leviticus 16, 21 and 22.)

The Cleansing of the Temple

The second phase, the cleansing of the temple from the guilt of sin, involved several steps. First, two perfect goats were presented to the high priest in the courtyard. Lots were cast to determine which goat would die for the penalty of sin. Then, the high priest killed the Lord's goat on the Altar of Burnt Offering.

With a censer and some of the goat's blood in a cup, the high priest entered behind the veil a second time to stand in God's presence. He then sprinkled the goat's blood on the atonement cover of the Ark and again communed with God. If God was pleased with the sincerity and faithfulness of the people, the high priest was permitted to continue with the final phase of cleansing the temple.

After leaving the Most Holy Place, the high priest retrieved the bull's blood from his personal sacrifice and mixed it with the blood from the Lord's goat and put some of the mixed blood on the Altar of Incense. This action removed the defilement of the Altar of Incense.

Then, he went out of the temple into the courtyard to the Altar of Burnt Offering and cleansed that altar by sprinkling mixed blood on it. After this was done, the high priest approached the remaining goat, the scapegoat, and placed his hands on its head.

This final action of placing his hands on the goat's head transferred all of Israel's guilt which had accumulated in the temple to the scapegoat. Then,

a very capable man (“a fit man,” [KJV]) led the scapegoat far into the desert to die of starvation. The lengthy starvation represents the necessity in God’s government for full and complete restitution for sin itself. Even though the penalty for sin is death by execution, sin is never forgiven. Someone must make atonement for it.

Since the creator of sin is Lucifer, he must bear the responsibility for sin upon his own head. As the father and perpetrator of sin upon angels and the human race, Lucifer has to make restitution. God’s vengeance demands it. The scapegoat received all of the guilt that had been stored in the temple because this goat foreshadows the one who is responsible for the presence of sin. Death for Lucifer, as represented by the scapegoat, will be slow and painful because justice demands it. The father of sin must bear the penalty for creating sin. Furthermore, the creator of sin must also bear the guilt of sin which was transferred away from sinners to the temple.

Here we see the perfect balance between justice and mercy. The Lord’s goat represents the mercy that God has extended to sinners: Jesus, the Lamb

of God. The scapegoat represents the justice that God demands of sinners: restitution and death.

Confirmations of Truth

The Old Testament tabernacle service confirms that the demands of God's law do not eclipse the offer of God's grace nor does the operation of God's grace make the law void. Clearly, law and grace work together harmoniously within the tabernacle parallels. The law condemns a sinner to death, but grace provides a way for the guilt of the sinner to be transferred so that the sinner may go free. Jesus had to die to save man because God's law could not be changed.

God did not have the option of just "forgetting" that Adam and Eve had sinned. Once Adam and Eve committed sin, a series of immutable events began. For example, man became carnal by nature. Also, death came upon all men through Adam. Therefore, Jesus was required to live a perfect life before He could die as our perfect substitute. This may sound like a broken record, but it is a critical point. The tabernacle service confirms that sin is neither forgiven nor forgotten until the scapegoat is led away to die. It also

confirms that Jesus does not bear the responsibility for sin.

The life of every sinner will be examined. Solomon wrote, **“For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”** (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

Two Goats

Two goats were required to cleanse the temple on the Day of Atonement. Some Christians think that both goats used on the Day of Atonement represent Jesus since both are used for the purpose of atonement. Although both goats were used to provide atonement, the atonement they provide is not identical. If it was identical, one goat would have sufficed. The scapegoat is presented before the Lord while it is alive, whereas the Lord's goat was slain on that day. (Leviticus 16:10)

The Lord's goat provides atonement because the penalty for sin is death by execution; the other goat provides atonement through starvation and dehydration because restitution for sin must be made. Even though the Bible does not explicitly say the scapegoat dies after it is taken into the desert, the implication is that the scapegoat disappears forever

and it is never seen or heard from again. This suggests that once sin is removed from God's temple in Heaven, it will never occur again because the creator of sin will be no more!

Who Does the Scapegoat Represent?

Remember, the Hebrew word for atonement is *kaphar*, meaning to reconcile, restore, or rebuild as one, hence the English word, "at-one-ment." A thief who steals a cow can make atonement for his sin by restoring the cow or a substitute cow to its owner, and by transferring his guilt to the temple through the blood of a perfect lamb.

We know God cleansed the temple Moses built annually on the Day of Atonement by removing all of the guilt that had accumulated through the year. We know God provided His "chosen goat" to transfer the guilt from the temple to the scapegoat. We know that the penalty for sin is death; however, the scapegoat was not slain on the Day of Atonement. The suffering caused by sin was transferred to the scapegoat and the scapegoat fulfilled the demands of justice by suffering for an extended period of time.

God's goat was executed and with its sinless blood, the sins of Israel were transferred to the head of

the scapegoat. Once the sins of Israel were placed on the scapegoat, they were never removed. The scapegoat was condemned to protracted suffering and death. This is why a capable man led the scapegoat into the desert where it would starve to death. God's goat represents Jesus (the Savior from sin) and the scapegoat represents Lucifer (the predator, the creator of sin).

The scapegoat bore in its flesh the responsibility for sin, not the penalty for sin. The protracted death of the scapegoat represents the lingering death that Lucifer will suffer at the end of time. As a predator, he has caused an incalculable amount of sorrow, suffering, pain, and death and he must pay for his actions.

All of the suffering associated with the sins that were transferred to the temple will end up on Lucifer's head! When Lucifer's suffering finally ends in the lake of fire, God's justice will be satisfied and atonement for what he has done will be complete!

Question #13: The scapegoat represents

_____.

The Saints Review the Wicked

The scapegoat did not die on the Day of Atonement, so the atonement it offered did not occur that day. The end time parallel reveals that Lucifer is not destroyed until the end of the 1,000 years. (Revelation 20) In fact, the scapegoat does not provide atonement through its death, it provides atonement as restitution through suffering. God will inflict suffering on the wicked before the penalty for sin is executed.

During the 1,000 years, the saints will review the records of the wicked and determine the appropriate amount of suffering necessary for restitution. Notice what Paul says, **“Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge [the evil] angels? How much more the things of this life!”** (1 Corinthians 6:2, 3, insertion mine.)

Keep in mind that the saints do not determine whether a person receives eternal life or eternal death. Jesus alone is Creator and Judge of mankind, and by the time of the Second Coming will have made an eternal decision about each person. However, the judgment which the saints conduct

concerns the issue of restitution. Judicial equilibrium requires full restitution. For example, Hitler not only deserves to die for his sins and outrageous conduct, but he also owes restitution to millions of people for the suffering he inflicted.

After a lengthy period of indescribable suffering by fire, Hitler will eventually be burned up in the fire because the penalty for sin is death by execution. The saints, complying with the requirements of God's law, will determine the amount of suffering that Hitler must endure proportional to the suffering he caused. If more people understood God's requirement for restitution, the world would be a much different place! Paul wrote, **"It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."** (Hebrews 10:31)

God ensures this process and calls it His vengeance. Paul wrote, **"Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord."** (Romans 12:19) Notice the golden rule at work: "As you do unto others, it will be done unto you – eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, bruise for a bruise, etc."

The Scapegoat is a “Fall Guy”

The term “scapegoat” is used when pinning responsibility on someone for something that goes dreadfully wrong. The same is true in sanctuary terms. The scapegoat represents Lucifer, because he is the one responsible for sin! Lucifer’s guilt cannot be atoned for. He is the father of sin and must suffer the torment he caused the saints. The wicked will suffer for their own sins, but Lucifer must suffer restitution for the sins of the redeemed.

Some may wonder why the scapegoat provides restitution for the sins of the righteous when the saints are required to make restitution for their sins before they go to the altar. Even though full restitution for sin is made between people, the guilt for sin remains to be dealt with, and many sins go beyond the possibility of restitution. What restitution can be made for malicious slander, adultery, rape, sexual abuse, breaking up a marriage, or driving under the influence of alcohol and killing twenty children?

If a person commits an evil deed and makes a gallant effort to restore whatever he or she can, truly repenting of the sin and seeking God’s mercy, God will

make Lucifer, the originator of sin, provide restitution for the wrong that goes beyond what man can offer.

Why Two Goats?

It may be that God used goats on the Day of Atonement instead of lambs because of a goat's inherent independence. Shepherds know sheep are followers and goats are leaders. This point illuminates some interesting thoughts. First, Michael (Christ) and Lucifer were once the closest of friends. Lucifer was the first angel created. In form, he looked very similar to Michael. Both were angels, but Michael was the Archangel; He was God in the form of an angel. Lucifer, on the other hand, was the highest of created beings.

Michael and Lucifer held the highest offices in Heaven and had great latitude in which to exercise their prerogatives. Over time, Lucifer became filled with envy and jealousy and eventually coveted Michael's position. When the Father rebuffed Lucifer, he chose to rebel against God, and became the self-appointed leader of sympathetic angels who also came to believe that God was unfair.

When open rebellion broke out in Heaven, these two angels became great foes. Perhaps God used

two goats on the Day of Atonement because a wild goat can lead an entire herd of sheep astray. Casting lots to determine which goat was the Lord's goat on the Day of Atonement suggests that Michael was the Chosen One to lead the angelic host.

The Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles)

The last feast of the religious year was the Feast of Ingathering. This feast began on the 15th day of the seventh month and lasted for seven days. The Jews presented their last and largest collection of firstfruits to the high priest five days after the Day of Atonement service.

This feast took place at the end of the summer harvest and, as the name reflects, was a time for rejoicing over the bountiful harvest that had been "gathered in." The feast was also called the Feast of Tabernacles because each Jewish male was required to go to Jerusalem and participate. Because there was a shortage of housing in Jerusalem, the Jews erected temporary tents (or tabernacles) for this joyous occasion.

The Feast of Tabernacles parallels an interesting process that occurs at the end of the world. The 144,000 are taken to Heaven before the Second Coming,

about the time of the seventh trumpet. (Revelation 11:12, See *wake-up.org/studies* for further information.) At the Second Coming, Jesus will approach Earth with all His angels and the 144,000 attending, and He will call the righteous dead to life. The righteous living will join with the resurrected dead to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17) A triumphant Jesus with all His saints will return to the holy city, New Jerusalem.

The saints will temporarily reside in the city for 1,000 years. At the end of the 1,000 years, the holy city will descend from Heaven. (Revelation 21:2) Jesus will resurrect the wicked and notify them of their sentence. Then, He will call fire down out of Heaven and purify the Earth. After He purifies the Earth, He will create a new Heaven and Earth, which will become the primary home of the saints.

Question #14: The righteous living and resurrected dead meet the Lord in the _____.

144,000 Will Belong to Jesus

When Passover and Pentecost (the earlier harvests of the year) arrived, the firstfruits were presented to

the high priest and they became his personal property. The parallel is true of the final harvest. The firstfruits of the final harvest will be 144,000 men and women who serve of God during the Great Tribulation. (Revelation 7:1-4; 14:4) As a reward for their dedication and suffering for the cause of Christ, the 144,000 will become special administrative assistants who accompany Jesus throughout eternity and serve Him wherever He goes.

The 144,000 will be the first to experience God's gift of a new nature. They will receive the imparted "gift" of a sinless nature first because they are sealed first. (Revelation 7:1-4) The 144,000 will have the Spirit of prophecy resting on them and they will prophesy just like the prophets of old. Those who heed their message and chose to live by faith will be sealed in the same way the 144,000 are sealed.

The Bible indicates the 144,000 will wear the name of the Father and Jesus on their foreheads. (Revelation 14:1; 22:4) This will be a beautiful sign revealing their rank and position in God's government. I am not sure how this will be done, but we can be certain it will be beautiful and glorious. The names

of the Father and Jesus placed upon the foreheads of the 144,000 will stand in stark contrast to the tattoo or brand Satan puts on the foreheads of his servants. (Revelation 13:16)

We have a friend in Jesus. Not only does He understand our needs, He also understands our limitations, weaknesses, and foolishness. He is willing to be our High Priest and present us before God without a blemish. He is willing to save us and grant us power to overcome the ravages of sin. He is willing to release us from anxiety, doubts, bad habits, and so much more! Are you ready and willing? Why not surrender your life to Him right now? Just say, "Lord, I am willing to go, be and do all that you ask." If you are willing to say this to Him, He will enable you to succeed in everything He wants you to do!

The good news is that we have a friend in Heaven's temple who loves us so much that He was willing to die the second death for us. We cannot easily comprehend such love. That is why we sometimes find it difficult to call on Him to help us with our problems, but be sure of this: He is qualified to deal with any problem we face. We may not like His

answers on every occasion, but what child loves every answer a parent gives? Jesus knows what is best and responds accordingly. So, go ahead, ask Him to help you. Give Him your life and He will. He is the Alpha and the Omega!

— — — — —

Answers to Questions:

1. Courthouse / Church
2. Church / State
3. Heaven and Earth
4. Individual and Corporate
5. Sin
6. Unintentional and Willful
7. Offensiveness
8. Throne of God
9. Judgment
10. Passover / Pentecost / Ingathering
11. Judgements
12. Great Tribulation
13. Lucifer
14. Air

For Related Study Topics:

Please visit the following
web page:
wake-up.org/studies



You will find an online copy of this booklet as well as copies of other available booklets. Also, you will find links to many articles which provide additional material for in-depth study. This is booklet #8.

Obtain Free Copies of this Booklet:

If you find this study guide is helpful and you would like to share this message, please contact us to order free copies of this booklet as long as supplies last. You only pay for shipping and handling (limits and intervals also apply).

Visit our website at *wake-up.org/studies* or call us at 800-475-0876 to obtain booklets to share.



Wake Up America Seminars has been proclaiming Revelation's story since 1988. We are a non-profit organization, not affiliated with or sponsored by any church group.



PROPHETIC STUDY SERIES



THE TEMPLE OF GOD



To order additional copies of this booklet,
call (800) 475-0876.

BOOKLET #8