

Coming Forward into the Most Holy Place and Perfecting Holiness

“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” (Eph. 1:4)

I. Pursuing holiness (Heb. 12:14)

- A. Jesus Christ’s second coming is near (1 Thess. 5:1-5)
 - 1. The feasts of the Lord
 - 2. The Feast of Tabernacles in October 2020 and the possible start of the last 7 years in Daniel 9:27
- B. So that we can see the Lord (Heb. 12:14; 2 Pet. 3:11)
 - 1. Our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19) – we are God’s holy temple (1 Cor. 3:17; Eph. 2:21)
 - 2. God wants to sanctify our body, soul, and spirit (1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Cor. 7:1), so that we can serve Him as holy priests (1 Pet. 2:5)
 - a. Body to do God’s will (Rom. 8:11-13; 12:1; 1 Cor. 6:15; Heb. 10:5-7)
 - b. Soul (2 Tim. 1:7; Rom. 12:2; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 John 2:15-17; Col. 3:1-3)
 - c. Spirit (Rom. 9:1; Acts 23:1; 24:16; Heb. 9:14)
 - 3. The practical way to be sanctified – to experience Christ as the reality of all the feasts and offerings (1 Pet. 2:5; Col. 2:16-17)
- C. To be useful for the Lord in these last days
 - 1. Examples: Abraham (Gen. 12:1; 13:9-17; Acts 7:3), Moses (Heb. 11:24-26), Joshua (Exod. 33:11), Joseph (Gen. 39:7-23), Daniel (Dan. 1:8-9), Job (Job 31:1-2)

2. God does not need our capability but our sanctification (2 Tim. 2:21-22)

II. The holy nature of God's dwelling place – built up in love

(Exod. 26:29-30; 36:34; Col. 2:2)

- A. The sanctuary – a picture of our soul (2 Tim. 1:7)
 1. Will (Phil. 2:12-13; Ps. 51:12)
 2. Emotion (1 John 2:15-17; Eph. 6:24; 1 Cor. 16:22)
 3. Mind (Eph. 4:17-24)
- B. The sanctuary is overlaid with gold – God's love is the expression of the maturity in life (2 Pet. 1:5-7)
 1. Acacia wood overlaid with gold: The perfect love of God manifested in the Man Jesus Christ (John 10:11-13; 13:1-17; 15:12-13; Rom. 5:8; 1 Cor. 13; Ps. 109:4-5; Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:12-14)
 2. The expression of God's love (1 John 3:16-18; 1 Pet. 3:8-9; 4:8; Phil. 2:2-4; Rom. 12:9-21)
 3. Paul's example (Acts 20:18-35; 1 Cor. 10:32-33; 2 Cor. 6:3-12; 11:2; 1 Thess. 2:5-12; John 10:12-13)
 4. The testimony of the church (John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:12; Rev. 2:4; 3:7)
- C. To pursue the reality in Christ to be perfected (2 Pet. 1:5-11; Eph. 5:1-2; Ps. 122:9; 133)
 1. We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19; Rom. 5:5; John 15:9)
 2. In shepherding and bearing with one another (John 21:15-17; Eph. 4:2, 16; Gal. 6:2; 1 Cor. 8:1; Heb. 10:24)
 3. Always progressing and not growing weary (2 Pet. 1:8, 10; 1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 6:10-12; Gal. 6:9-10)

III. The golden incense altar (Exod. 30:1-10, 34-38; Ps. 141:2; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5)

- A. The link between the Holy Place and Most Holy Place (Exod. 30:6, 36; Heb. 9:3-4)
- B. The place of God's speaking (Exod. 25:22; 1 Kings 6:22; Ezek. 41:22; Luke 1:8-22)
- C. Made of acacia wood overlaid with gold (Exod. 30:1-5) – what manner of people we ought to be (Col. 3:12-14)
 - 1. Righteous (Luke 18:9-14; Prov. 15:29; James 5:16; Phil. 3:9)
 - 2. Cleansed and sanctified (Isa. 1:15-18; Matt. 5:8; 1 Tim. 2:8; 2 Tim. 2:20-21 => Rev. 5:8)
 - 3. Gentle and lowly in heart (Matt. 11:29), full of love and mercy (Heb. 2:17; Rom. 15:1)
 - 4. Enduring (Exod. 30:7+; Isa. 62:6+; Luke 18:1; Col. 4:2)
- D. The ministry of reconciliation (Exod. 30:10; 2 Cor. 5:18; Heb. 7:25; Num. 17:6-13; Dan. 9:3-19)
- E. Examples for the service at the incense altar
 - 1. The Lord's prayer in the constitution of the heavenly kingdom (Matt. 6:5-15)
 - 2. The prayer of the church (Acts 4:23-31; Rev. 8:3-5)
 - 3. Paul's prayers (Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Phil. 1:3-11; Col. 1:3, 9-13; 2:1-3; 4:2-4)

IV. The Day of Atonement in the new covenant – coming forward with boldness into the Most Holy Place (Lev. 16; Heb. 10:19-25)

- A. In the old covenant, the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place only once a year (Lev. 16:2, 34; Exod. 30:10; Heb. 9:7-8)

- B. In the new covenant, we can enter at any time (Heb. 4:16; 7:25; 10:19-22; 11:6; Eph. 2:18; Matt. 22:1-8) based on Christ's work
1. The veil has been torn (Matt. 27:51; Mark 15:38; Gen. 3:8-9, 24; Luke 12:49-50)
 2. With His own blood Christ entered the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary once for all (Heb. 9:11-12, 14, 24, 26; 10:10, 12)
 3. Christ as the High Priest is our Advocate with God the Father (Exod. 16:12-13; 1 John 2:1; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 12:24)
- C. Coming forward into the the Most Holy Place with boldness and in faith (Heb. 4:14-16; 10:22, 35-39; 11:6)
1. Humbling ourselves (Lev. 16:29-31; James 4:4-8; Prov. 16:18; Joel 2:13; Rev. 2:4-5; 3:20; Matt. 15:7-9) and turning our whole heart to the Lord (2 Cor. 3:15-17; 2 Chr. 16:9; Jer. 29:13; 1 Cor. 12:3)
 2. Applying the blood to be forgiven and cleansed (1 John 1:7, 9; Mic. 7:19; Ps. 103:12; Heb. 8:12; Col. 3:13) and the Spirit to be washed from all death (Eph. 5:26-27; Ezek. 36:25)
 3. Putting off the old man and putting on Christ (Col. 3:9-12)
 4. Coming forward together (Eph. 2:18)
- D. The blessing of coming forward and remaining in the Most Holy Place (Exod. 33:11; Ps. 139:18)
1. Saved from the deceitfulness of the world (Ps. 73:17) to behold the beauty of the Lord (Ps. 27:4-5)
 2. Being saved to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25)
 3. Having peace with God and with one another (Col. 3:15; Matt. 5:9)

4. Beholding and reflecting the glory of the Lord and being transformed into His image (2 Cor. 3:18; Exod. 34:29-35)
5. Hearing God's voice and entering into an intimate relationship with Him (Exod. 25:22; 29:42-43; 33:9, 11; Heb. 8:11; Num. 12:8; Amos. 3:7; Gen. 18:17; James 2:23; Ps. 25:14; Song of Songs 1:4)

V. The mercy seat (propitiatory cover)

(Exod. 25:17-22; 37:6-9)

A. To make atonement

1. Our problem (Rom. 3:23)
 - a. We have sinned
 - b. We fall short of God's glory
2. God's requirements
 - a. The righteous requirements of the law (Rom. 8:4)
 - b. The expression of His glory (Rom. 9:23; Eph. 1:12; 2 Thess. 2:14; Heb. 2:7, 10)
3. Christ, our propitiation (Rom. 3:25)
 - a. By His blood, through faith (1 John 1:7-9; Exod. 12:13; Lev. 16:15-16)
 - b. Propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:2; 4:10)
 - c. The place where God meets us (Eph. 2:18)

B. The throne of grace (Heb. 4:16)

1. Its foundation is righteousness and justice (Ps. 89:14; 97:2)
2. God's footstool (1 Chr. 28:2; Ps. 132:7)
3. God's dwelling place and the place where He speaks above the cherubim of glory (Exod. 25:22; 1 Sam. 4:4; 2 Sam. 6:2; Ps. 80:1; Ezek. 1:22-26; 9:3; Heb. 9:5)
4. To obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need – while it is called “Today” (Heb. 3:7, 13; 4:7)
5. To behold and reflect the glory of the Lord and to be transformed (2 Cor. 3:18)

VI. The tablets of the Testimony

(Exod. 24:12; 25:21; 31:18; Deut. 5:1-22; 10:1-5; 2 Chr. 5:10)

- A. The law displays God's nature, holiness and glory (Exod. 20-23)
 - 1. It is perfect, sure, right und pure; holy, righteous und good (Ps. 12:6; 19:7-8; Rom. 7:12)
 - 2. God's testimony (Deut. 4:8; Rom. 3:20)
 - 3. Became flesh in Jesus Christ (John 1:14, 18; 14:7-9; Heb. 1:3; Ps. 40:7-8)
- B. God wants to put His law in our minds and write it on our hearts (Jer. 31:31-34; 2 Cor. 3:3; Ezek. 36:26-27; 1 Tim. 1:5; Rom. 3:31; Rev. 3:12; 1 Pet. 2:5)
 - 1. **Love the LORD your God with all your heart** (Deut. 6:5; Mark 12:30; Luke 7:44-47; Ps. 97:10; 1 John 2:3-6; 5:3)
 - 2. **Love your neighbor as yourself** (Lev. 19 [v. 18]; Mark 12:31; Rom. 13:8-10; John 21:15-17; 1 John 2:7-11; 3:11-18; 4:7-5:2)
- C. In the law, we behold the glory of the Lord as in a mirror and are being transformed (2 Cor. 3:18; James 1:21-25)

VII. Aaron's rod that budded

(Num. 17:1-10; Heb. 9:4)

- A. Background – God's answer to the rebellion of Korah and all his company and the complaints of the children of Israel (Num. 16:1-50)
- B. The rod (vv. 2-3) – a sign of God's authority (see Exod. 4:17; 7:9-12, 19-20; 8:5-6, 16-17)

- C. The man whom God has chosen (v. 5) – Christ, appointed by God as the King and the High Priest in Zion (Heb. 5:4-6; Ps. 2:6; 110:1-4; 1 Pet. 2:6-8)
- D. Aaron’s rod that budded (v. 8) – Christ, whose name is the “Branch” (Zech. 6:12-15; Isa. 4:2; 11:1-4; 53:2; Jer. 23:5; 33:15-18)
 - 1. He reigns with resurrection power and the fullness of life (Acts 17:31; Rom. 1:4; 14:9; Heb. 7:16)
 - 2. He is the Good Shepherd to His sheep (Ps. 23; John 10; Heb. 13:20-21; 1 Pet. 2:25; 5:2-4; Rev. 7:17)
 - 3. He will bring all who obey Him to maturity quickly <v. 8: “ripe almonds”> (Heb. 5:9)
 - 4. He will do a new thing (Isa. 43:18-19)
 - 5. All the glory of the church shall hang on Him (Isa. 22:24)
- E. As a sign against the rebels – to put their complaints away from the Lord, lest they die (v. 10; 1 Cor. 10:10-11; John 6:43; Phil. 2:14; James 5:9; 1 Pet. 4:9)

VIII. The hidden manna (Rev. 2:17; Exod. 16; John 6:31-58)

- A. Manna, the bread from heaven in the wilderness (Exod. 16; Num. 11:4-9)
 - 1. Comes in the morning with the dew and melts when the sun becomes hot
 - 2. Small and round, white and fine as frost, like coriander seed, like the color of bdellium, tasting like wafers made with honey
 - 3. Used by the Lord to test His people
- B. Christ, the true manna (John 6:58)
 - 1. He who eats this bread will live forever
 - 2. God’s word as our food (Deut. 8:3; Jer. 15:16)

3. A sign of maturity: exercised senses to discern the taste of the Lord (1 Pet. 2:3; Heb. 5:14)
- C. The hidden manna, a reward for the overcomers (Rev. 2:17)
 1. Hidden 5-fold (in the outer court, sanctuary, Most Holy Place, ark, and the golden pot)
 2. Special food for the priests in the presence of God

IX. The history of the ark and the tabernacle

- A. Wandering in the wilderness for 40 years
- B. Entering the good land (Josh. 3:6, 11, 17)
- C. The tabernacle and the ark at Shiloh (Josh. 18:1)
- D. The ark is separated from the tabernacle and is captured by the Philistines (1 Sam. 4; Ps. 78:58-61)
- E. The Philistines are struck with plagues because of the ark (1 Sam. 5)
- F. The ark is returned to Israel (1 Sam. 6)
 1. To Beth Shemesh
 2. In Kirjath Jearim (1 Sam. 7:1-2)
 3. David retrieves the ark from the house of Abinadab (2 Sam. 6:1-8)
 4. In the house of Obed-Edom (2 Sam. 6:9-11)
 5. David brings the ark to the City of David (2 Sam. 6:12-17; 1 Chr. 15)
 6. The tabernacle remains in Gibeon (1 Chr. 16:39)
 7. David's desire to build the temple (2 Sam. 7:2; Ps. 132)
- G. Bringing the ark into the temple (1 Kings 8; 2 Chr. 5)
- H. The temple in Ezekiel

1. The glory of the Lord departs from the temple
(Ezek. 10:18-19)
2. The glory of the Lord comes into the new temple
(Ezek. 43:2-5)