

Exodus 27-28

Atonement for the Soul

“THE HIGH KING OF HEAVENS came down to earth to live with his people. This was the meaning of the tabernacle in the wilderness—the tent that Moses built. The tabernacle was a place to worship God, to enter his presence, and to behold his glory. It was a place for the sons and daughters of earth to meet the Lord of Heaven.

To accomplish this purpose, the tabernacle was carefully constructed. God designed it in such a way as to reveal deep spiritual truths about his divine character. He made the tabernacle to communicate his supreme holiness, as well as his covenant love for his people.”
Ryken

- I. The extent God is willing to go to help believers through living life with its many ups and downs should amaze us. The one and only true God who went to great measures to show the Israelites his faithfulness, grace, kindness and mercy in honoring the unconditional unilateral covenant he made with Abraham, is the same God who fiercely honors the unconditional unilateral covenant commitment he made with born again believers upon salvation. We know from our study thus far, that he wanted to give the Israelites the ability to draw near to him as their God, advocate, fierce protector and Savior. But as the Israelites soon found out, to be in a relationship with the triune God meant that they were to live as a holy people through obedience to his moral, civil, and ceremonial laws. We too have been given moral, social and spiritual guidelines to live by according to the truth of the Scriptures. It's God's way of helping us stay true to him through obedience to the precepts of his Word, not in a legalistic way, but in a way that truly shows him that we love him. The advantage, based on grace, that we have over the Israelites of old is that we have free access to God through His Son. We don't need to shed the blood of innocent animals for the forgiveness of our sins and we don't need a fallible priest to represent us. All we need is Jesus. *“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross” (Col. 1:19-20).*

Matt. 27:50-51

Heb. 8:1-7

Lev. 17:11

Hebrews 9:22 *Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.*

II. The tabernacle with its elaborate curtains, symbolism, altars and fine furnishings was God's house. There was one entrance, one outer court, one brazen altar, one washstand, one inner Holy Place, One Table of the Bread of the Presence, one Golden Lampstand, one Golden Altar of Incense and one Most Holy Place which housed the Ark of the Covenant. Entrance into the Tabernacle demanded sacrifice for the atonement of sins, to proceed into the Holy Place required the priests to be cleansed and consecrated, and to enter the Most Holy Place was only allowed once a year by the high priest who sprinkled blood on God's mercy seat to atone for the sins of the Israelites. The first thing the Israelites saw upon entering the outer court of the tabernacle was the brazen altar. *"The altar's placement revealed that coming to God or receiving the benefits of His presence requires dealing with the problem of our sin first. Later, Jesus would say, "No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6; cf. 10:9). This ancient altar spoke unmistakably of Calvary, underscoring the meaning of Christ's death on the cross, which was the ultimate substitutionary sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10:1–18). Access to God is ours only when we come to Him through the perfect, atoning sacrifice of the shed blood of Jesus Christ."* gotquestions.org

Ex. 27:1-21

Ps. 18:1-2

Heb. 9:19-28

John 8:12

Ps. 121:4-5 *indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand;*

III. *"The garments visually demonstrated that the priests were set apart for service to God, representing purity, holiness, and dedication. They reminded the priests and the people of God's holiness and the need for sanctification. While most Christians today do not wear special garments, they are still called to be holy. Peter reminds believers, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). Just as the priestly garments symbolized holiness and devotion, believers today are called to live with similar attention to spiritual purity and dedication."* Rice

Ex. 28:1-43

1 Sam. 2:28

Rev. 5:10

1 Peter 2:5 *you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*