

Big Picture Bible Study

Lesson 01: How the War Began

WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE IN GOD OR STUDY THE BIBLE?

There is nothing wrong with this question. The Christian faith is a logical faith; it is an intelligent faith. It must be, or I would not follow it. I do not want to be a Christian only because I was born into a Christian family in a Christian nation. By that logic, if I had been born in an Islamic country then I would be Muslim, or if I had been born in and Hindu country than I might be Hindu. Basically, it is not good enough for our beliefs to be a simple reflection of our inherited culture. I need something concrete, something founded on evidence in order to believe.

But how can I know which religion or which “god option” (if any) is the real deal?

God’s Challenge

Yahweh (YHWH), the name that He told to Moses, is the God of the Bible. He sets forth a direct challenge for anything or anyone who claims to be a god.

- **Isaiah 41:21-24** “²¹“Present your case,” says the Lord. “Bring forth your strong reasons,” says the King of Jacob. ²²“Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; let them show the former things, what they were, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare to us things to come. ²³Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; yes, do good or do evil, that we may be dismayed and see it together. ²⁴Indeed you are nothing, and your work is nothing; he who chooses you is an abomination.” ”

He says, *“If any other god can predict the future, then let him be God.”* Notice how intellectual the argument is. God uses evidence-based methods to assert His right to be God. Prophecy about the future is the test; this is the genuine-God’s challenge to any who claim His place or authority.

Jesus claims the same power

- **John 13:19** “¹⁹I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.”

Three times in the book of John (**13:19; 14:29; 16:4**), Jesus speaks about unexpected future events. Jesus rises to His own challenge the He had set when speaking to Isaiah many years before. So this is our answer: which god knows the future and is willing to prove it? That is the God that I want to believe in. In **Daniel 2**, for example, the prophecy found in King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream spans 2,500 years of human history and perfectly describes the details of the rise and fall of four empires!

- **Deuteronomy 4:33-35** “³³Did any people ever hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live? ³⁴Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? ³⁵To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord Himself is God; there is none other besides Him.”

The Bible is the only “holy book” with accurate and precise prophecy.

The Protagonist and the Antagonist

Michael the Archangel

The Bible does more than foretell the future of this sin-riddled planet; it gives insight into how the war between sin and love began. It was before our planet was created, before Jesus became flesh.

- **Daniel 8:11a, 25b** “¹¹He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host... ²⁵He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means.”
- **Daniel 9:25b** “²⁵from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;”

Who is the Prince of princes? Who is the Messiah the Prince? This seems to be referencing Jesus, but how can we know for sure. As always, we can find the answer by studying the Bible deeper. From these passages we can present an initial hypothesis: **Prince = Jesus**.

- **Daniel 12:1a** “At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people;”
- **Jude 1:9a** “⁹Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with...”

First we setup a hypothesis, but now that we have found more evidence elsewhere in the Bible, the identity of the Prince grows clearer: **Prince = Michael = Archangel**.

- **I Thessalonians 4:16** “¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”

Three passages of evidence:

Prince = Michael = Archangel = Jesus

“Archangel” is used twice in the Bible: referring to Michael (**Jud. 1:1**), and to describe Jesus in the Second Coming (**I The. 4**). Jesus is called “Archangel” only because angel means “messenger”; it does not imply that Jesus is a created being, just that He is in charge of all the angels of Heaven.

- **Isaiah 28:10** “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.” **THIS IS THE FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPT OF OUR STUDY**

Satan the Devil

- **Revelation 12:7-9** “⁷Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

Satan is the enemy of truth and love; he is the called “*the great dragon*” and the “*deceiver of the whole world*.” He is the angel who chose to rebel against God and His perfect government. He was cast out of Heaven and he came down to somewhere specific: the earth.

- **Revelation 12:12** “¹²Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

Our world is the battlefield. This war has been raging since before the creation of earth. The devil has already lost the war, but he is now trying to take us down with him. Our goal is to discover what the war is about, to see our role in it, and to be able to recognize the deceptions of the enemy.

What is the conflict of the war all about? How did it begin?

HOW REBELLION BEGAN IN A PERFECT PLACE

Understanding Heaven Through Biblical Patterns

All God's creations are created perfect and have the freedom of choice. Real love does not force, it allows; it must be from free will in order for it to be considered "love." So God necessarily knew that if He created angels, it was possible that one or more of them could choose to rebel.

The Earthly Sanctuary: a Model of the Heavenly Sanctuary

- **Psalm 102:19** "19For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; from heaven the Lord viewed the earth,"
- **Exodus 25:8** "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them."

The Sanctuary is not a concept designed for earth. There was already a Sanctuary in Heaven, and God told Moses very clearly what the reason was for building an earthly replica of a heavenly structure: so that God could safely be with His people, to dwell among us.

- **Hebrews 8:5** "5who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." "

Moses was shown a vision of the true Sanctuary in Heaven while on Mount Sinai. He was given very clear instructions to build the earthly Sanctuary modeled after the perfect Sanctuary in Heaven. It is impossible for the earthly to be exactly like the heavenly, but we are given glimpses into the nature of our relationship as sinners with a perfect God.

Just like a model plane, by studying the model we better understand the reality.

- **Exodus 25:18-22** "17You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. 18And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. 19Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. 20And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. 21You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. 22And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel."



These two covering cherubim were made of gold on earth to represent the literal angels that held the highest place of honor in Heaven. They had the awesome job of standing in the very presence of God's LOVE, respectfully shielding the law that rested beneath. Lucifer was one of these angels.

In the sanctuary is God's presence over the mercy seat that is set atop the commandments; this is where perfect mercy meets perfect justice.

Lucifer, the Covering Cherub

- **Ezekiel 28:12-15** “¹²Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, “Thus says the Lord God: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. ¹⁴You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. ¹⁵You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.” ’ ”



God’s message is for the King of Tyre, but He describes Lucifer to show how they are demonstrating the same spirit. Lucifer was one of the covering cherubs. The word “covering” in the Hebrew implies “to defend” or “to protect,” meaning it must have been Lucifer’s duty to humbly cover the foundation of God’s throne. But then iniquity

What is Iniquity?

- **Matthew 7:23 (KJV)** “²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (NKJV: “you who practice lawlessness”)
- **I John 3:4** “⁴Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”

Iniquity is the same word as lawlessness or sin, and I John gives us the definition of sin/iniquity: transgression of the law or lawlessness. The very first iniquity was found in Lucifer, so that means that the law existed before sin. This makes perfect sense because you must have a standard by which to judge is something is iniquity.

There must have been a LAW in Heaven before sin existed.

The Original Law Understood

What was the law that existed before sin? It was simple: LOVE. The Bible is full of places that talk about how love is the fulfillment of all that God has required of us—put others first.

- **Galatians 5:14** “¹⁴For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”
- **Romans 13:10** “¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

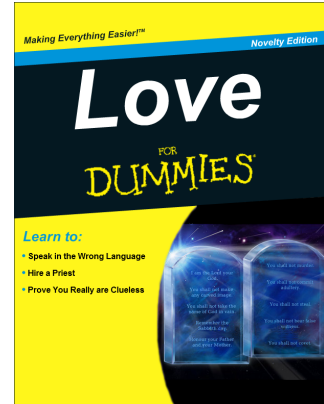
God created humanity with the freedom of choice knowing that if they rebelled, he himself would be willing to come and die for us. Heaven was built on the principle of self-sacrificing love.

The Law of Self-Sacrificing Love—this is God’s foundational law.

Moses placed the Ten Commandments (10C) inside the Ark of the Covenant. This shows us that, a) the law that was in the Heavenly Sanctuary (the Law of Self-Sacrificing Love) was the foundation of God’s seat of mercy and the foundation of order within His government; and b) the 10C is the Law of Self-Sacrificing Love. It was simply spelled out into ten details for sinful mankind to be able to understand and apply to his life. Just like the typical (symbolic) earthly Sanctuary was a pattern of the heavenly, the Ten Commandments are the pattern for the Law of Self-Sacrificing Love.

The structure of the 10C demonstrates how genuine Self-Sacrificing Love is supposed to work: commandments 1-4 describe how to love God and commandments 5-10 teach how to love your fellow man. It is as if God had to write a “Self-Sacrificing Love for Dummies” book for us to be able to truly see how to practice such a rare type of love in a sinful world.

The Ten Commandments are the same law that was in Heaven. It is the same law that Lucifer was meant to cover, protect and defend. It is the same law that supported the perfect mercy and justice of God, giving foundation to His government, and order to His Universe. This law has never been nor will ever be voided—it is the standard for judgment.



This is the law that will remain for all of time.

- **Matthew 5:17-18** “¹⁷Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

Lucifer rebels against the law

- **Ezekiel 28:16-19** “¹⁶By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. ¹⁷Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you. ¹⁸You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. ¹⁹All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and shall be no more forever.”

Lucifer did not wake up one day and say, “*I think I’m going to be evil.*” It was because he was so beautiful and resplendent; he was so good that he did not think a law was necessary. Lucifer began to traffic, or sell illegally, all of his deceptive thinking saying, “*God’s law says we must love; but we are free and holy—we already love one another! So why does the law exist? It makes us NOT free!*”

- **Isaiah 14:12-14** “¹²How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! ¹³For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ ¹⁵Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.”

What is the Most High like: loving, merciful, kind, eternal, everlasting, holy, etc. Lucifer was saying, “*I don’t need a LAW to be holy like God.*” He was trying to be holy and loving like God without God’s law of love telling him to be so. He thought his holiness came from himself instead of from God.

The idea that you can be holy without submission to God is straight from Lucifer.

Lucifer tried to exalt his throne above the angels. He wanted the glory, worship and descriptors attributable only to God. He was not saying, “*Let’s be evil!*” but rather that we could be free of the law and still be holy. “*Why does He have to tell us to love Him? Can’t we do that on our own?*” If God had destroyed Lucifer, then God would not have been following His own law; fear would have gripped every angel. God permitted Lucifer to speak and the angels to exercise their freewill.

Biblical Parallel: Korah's Rebellion & Lucifer's Rebellion

- **Numbers 16:1-3** “¹Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men; ²and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. ³They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?” ”

Korah did not think Moses had the right to be leader and that Aaron did not have the right to be high priest, even though God had told the children of Israel that they were. His argument was the same as Lucifer's: “*We don't need to follow God's commands to be Holy; we can be Holy on our own.*” The ground opened up and swallowed Korah and his followers (**Numbers 16:28-35**).

- **Genesis 46:11** “¹¹The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.”
- **Numbers 3:29, 31** “²⁹The clans of the sons of Kohath were to camp on the south side of the tabernacle, ³¹And their guard duty involved the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the vessels of the sanctuary with which the priests minister, and the screen; all the service connected with these.”

Kohath was the leader of one of the three tribes of Levites. Aaron and all of his children were the priests; the Gershonites were to transport the Sanctuary curtains, hangings and chords; the Merari were to take care of the frames of the Sanctuary, with its bars, pillars, and bases; the Kohathites were in charge of the most important things: the articles of furniture

- **Numbers 4:15** “¹⁵And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, as the camp sets out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry these, but they must not touch the holy things, lest they die. These are the things of the tent of meeting that the sons of Kohath are to carry.”

Kohath is a type for Lucifer. He was given the highest duty—covering and protecting the Ark of the Covenant that contained the holy law of God—but he only focused on himself, claiming that his elevated position and holy nature were intrinsic and not given to him by God.

War in Heaven

- **Revelation 12:7-8** “⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.”
- **Revelation 12:4a** “⁴His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.”

War in Heaven sounds strange. The word “war” has the undertone of “a debate of words” that spills over into physical confrontation. This is reality: the unseen war that is happening behind our visual world.



- **Ephesians 6:11-12** “¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

We are in the middle of a conflict—in the middle of a war!

THE REBELLION SPREADS TO EARTH

- **Genesis 2:7-9** “⁷And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. ⁸The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.”
- **Genesis 2:16-17** “¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’ ”

God created Adam and Eve in perfection and out of love; His instructions were clear—they knew the law of the word of God. He had given them both the freedom of choice to rebel against Him.

An Impartial Third Party

- **Deuteronomy 19:16-19** “¹⁶If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, ¹⁷then both men in the controversy shall stand before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. ¹⁸And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, ¹⁹then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you.”

God gave the Israelites the principle of fair trial: when a witness (Lucifer) accuses someone (God), then they are both to stand before a third-party (jury). The jury must then investigate and decide who is the false witness. You cannot have two parties in conflict and have one of them be the judge.

Heaven was polarized into two sides. Since God was part of the conflict, He would not execute judgment until the jury made inquisition.

Humanity is the jury

- **Genesis 1:27-28** “²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.””

God told Lucifer (turned Satan) that He would lay him before kings. Satan must have said, “*Who? It’s just You and me God! All the angels have taken sides—who could stand as judges?*” When Satan saw Adam and Eve created and that God had given them dominion over all the earth, he must have said to himself: “*These must be the kings that God was talking about. I am going to bribe the jury.*” Notice how Adam and Eve meet all the requirements for being a juror:

1. **Not present for the crime** (Humans were not created when Lucifer sinned)
2. **Law-abiding citizens** (We were perfect under the Law of Self-Sacrificing Love)
3. **Able to discern between right and wrong** (We knew to obey God)
4. **Not swayed by public opinion** (We had not been tempted yet)

God created us because He loves us and wants to be with us. But there is another reason, too: we were to serve as the jury and judge between God and Satan. We are to look at the conflict, consider the arguments and facts; we are to make diligent inquisition and vindicate the Accused.

- **I Corinthians 6:3** “³Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?”

You are of incredible worth! You are part of the jury of the universe!

Satan lies to and deceives Adam & Eve

- **Genesis 3:1-5** “¹Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’ ” ²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” ⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ”

Satan’s Argument was the same as in Heaven: “*Eve, you don’t need a law to know the difference between good and evil—you can be like your own judge. You don’t need to listen to God for He is afraid that you will no longer need him.*” Satan had exalted his throne over the stars of God. Now Satan exalted his throne over Adam and Eve and all their children.

Satan often uses good desires (to be like God) to lead us into sin.

Under A New Law

- **Isaiah 59:2** “²But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”

When we sin and break the law, we make the freewill decision to be separated from God. Since God is the Source of all life, and since His law is self-sacrificing love, it only makes sense that the end result of our decision places us under the governing law of Satan’s kingdom of sin.

- **Romans 8:2** “²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”
- **Romans 6:23** “²³For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

When Adam and Eve chose to sin, they extricated themselves from under the Law of Self-Sacrificing Love and placed themselves under **the law of sin and death** that says, “*Do as you please; you are a hopeless addict without any control over yourself.*” Death and disaster have been the only result.

LAW of SELF-SACRIFICING LOVE

God’s Government: self-sacrificing love
(humility and compassion)

LAW OF SIN AND DEATH

Satan’s Government: self-centered love
(selfishness and pride)

- **Revelation 22:14** “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”

Satan was cast out of Heaven because he disobeyed God’s law, sounding a discordant note in the once-perfect harmony of Heaven. We “*may have right*” to enter “*into the city*” if we do the opposite: accept forgiveness for having broken the law and then move forward and “*do His commandments.*” But remember: it is the “*gift of God*” that we do not deserve. Jesus’ sacrifice restores the connection to God that our sins once separated, but it is still our decision to accept grace and obey the 10C.

- **Romans 1:5 (ESV)** “⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,” (**Rom. 16:26**)

Obedience to the law is not legalism; it is the natural byproduct of genuine grace and authentic faith.

There will come a time when men of power will try to change the Ten Commandment law of God. They will say, "We do not have to keep the law exactly the way God gave it to us in order to be holy and to be considered a CHRISTian." This power is called the Little Horn in Daniel. Notice what it tries to do.

- **Daniel 7:25** "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

The Little Horn tries to do exactly the same thing that Lucifer did in Heaven! He lesson is that no matter what, we can know that the Commandments of God **cannot be changed**.

Following God's law must be of the utmost importance. Even when inconvenient, we cannot compromise God's standard for any reason.

GOD BLESSES MANKIND WITH ESSENTIAL GIFTS

Gift #1: *Enmity via the Prophetic Word*

- **Genesis 3:15** "15And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

To have "enmity" means to be "at war" with something; God put in in our hearts to know that sin is not our natural state. Without enmity, we would not have the conscience and the desire to be holy; we would only desire evil more and more with each passing generation.

God gave this promise of enmity through the first prophecy in the Bible. Boldly declaring the future, God speaks to fallen humanity and gives them hope. He promised that the coming messiah would be one of Eve's own descendants and will be personify the war that was placed between Him and Satan. Satan would be able to crush Jesus' heel, but Jesus would crush Satan's head.

Gift #2: *The Lamb – The Symbol of Christ to Come*

- **Genesis 3:21** "21Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them."

God had told them that they would die on the day that they ate from the tree, but instead, God (*likely*) killed the first lamb Himself, transferring their sins to the blood as a symbol of the future Lamb of God to be slain. This was the first of all the sacrifices that pointed forward to Jesus Christ.



- **John 1:29** "29The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" "

Our world would have been lost forever, left to implode through self-centeredness and sin. But thankfully, God had a plan for the salvation of the human race. He communicated it to us down through the ages in various ways: the Sanctuary, the Prophets and the Bible.

The plan of salvation rescued us from certain death, but will never be forced upon anyone. It may be rejected or sought after by anyone.

The entire plan of salvation hinges on this: the only possible way for an imperfect man of sin to be redeemed to eternal life is for a perfect man of love to take those sins upon himself and die in his stead.

Jesus paid it all

Every single lamb that was sacrificed, from that very first in Eden to those right before the death of Christ, all pointed forward to Jesus. Every sin confessed on an innocent lamb was transferred to the blood of the animal that represented the blood of our Savior.

Every single knee that bows and confesses, from those right after the death of Christ to the very last before the Second Coming of Christ, all point backward to Jesus. Every person that lays his or her burdens down at the cross may claim the blood of our Savior.

From the first sin of Eve to the last sin at the end of the world, every single sin down through the ages that has been or will be confessed by a humble and contrite heart was in that moment placed upon the shoulders of Jesus who had no sin. He died the death that was ours so that we might have the life that was His.



He paid the ultimate price by giving up His life so that we might have the ultimate gift of claiming His eternal life.

GIFT #3 – THE SANCTUARY: GOD’S BLUEPRINT FOR SALVATION

God’s Mission: Revealed in The Sanctuary

- **Exodus 25:8** “⁸And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.”
- **Psalms 77:13** “¹³Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; who is so great a God as our God?”

The way of God to bring deliverance to His people is demonstrated in the Sanctuary. This building was modeled after a heavenly structure so the level of symbolism therein is unparalleled. Within the ceremonies, furniture, and design of the Sanctuary we can extract amazing truths about God and the plan of salvation. The Sanctuary points out Jesus’ EARTHLY ministry for us: substitutionary Sacrifice. He died for us; through His blood we may enter the presence of God and dwell with Him.

- **Hebrews 8:1-2** “¹Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ^{2a}a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.”
- **Hebrews 9:11, 24** “¹¹But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation... ²⁴For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us”

The Sanctuary also points out Jesus’ HEAVENLY ministry for us: intercessory Priest. Both steps are vital for the plan of salvation. First He died to make a way, now He is Priest for us in Heaven.

Remember, the Sanctuary is a model on earth to help us understand (through symbolism) the actual work of Jesus Christ in Heaven.

Next Week: The Sanctuary Furniture Model

The Alter of Burnt Offering

The animals were slain for the sins of man; it is symbolic the substitutionary sacrifice of **THE CROSS OF CHRIST**.

- **Revelation 13:8** “⁸All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”
- **John 1:36** “³⁶And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” ”

The Laver or Washbasin

Priests would wash the animal’s blood off of their hands and feet; it is symbolic of the cleansing of **BAPTISM**.

- **Acts 22:16** “¹⁶And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
- **Mark 1:8** “⁸I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Table of Showbread

Holy food meant only for the Priests; it is symbolic of the sustenance found in **THE WORD OF GOD**.

- **Luke 4:4** “⁴But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’ ” ” (**Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4**)
- **Amos 8:11** “ ‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord God, ‘That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.’ ”

Alter of Incense

Priests lit incense as they prayed to God; it is symbolic of the light and connection of **OUR PRAYERS**.

- **Psalms 141:2** “²Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”
- **Revelation 8:4** “⁴And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand.” (**Revelation 8:3**)

7-Branch Candlestick or Menorah

Priests kept the candles alight always; it is symbolic of our testimony and **WITNESS TO THE WORLD**.

- **Matthew 5:16** “¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (**Matthew 5:15; Mark 4:21; Luke 11:33**)

Ark of the Covenant

Here was the Shekinah Glory – the very presence of God; it is symbolic of **GOD’S MERCY AND LAW**.

- **Exodus 25:22** “²²And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.”
- **Revelation 11:19** “¹⁹Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.”



You can trust this blueprint; it will not lie. It is the process through which God leads His people back into communion with Him.