

The Clearest Type of Christ

Of all the types or pictures of Christ in the Old Testament, the Tabernacle of Moses may be the most vivid and clear. The life and ministry of Jesus are evident in nearly every feature of this symbolic place. Though God was providing Israel a way to approach Him and remove their sins (temporarily), He was foreshadowing a permanent way that man would be freed from sin — by the death of His Son.

Here are a few of the symbolic elements of this wonderful picture of Christ.

Courtyard & East Gate

While the courtyard curtains were made of fine white linen (holiness), the East Gate had three colors (trinity) — blue (heaven), purple (royalty), and red (blood). The gate was the only entrance into God's presence, whereas Christ is the only way to God (*John 14:6*). The courtyard is representative of the Law Age, in which animal blood was shed to remove sin temporarily.

Brass Altar of Offering (or Sacrifice)

The altar is a picture of the cross; there a spotless lamb was slain for the sins of all, and its blood was the key that allowed the High Priest to enter into God's presence in the Holy of Holies. The horns on the altar foreshadowed a name for Jesus — the Horn of our Salvation (*Psalms 18:2; Luke 1:69*).



Brass Wash Basin (or Water Laver)

The laver was fashioned from the women's mirrors. Priests washed in the water to cleanse themselves before entering into

God's presence; we too are forgiven by the blood and washed by the "Water of the Word" (*Eph. 5:25, 26*). When the priests washed, they demonstrated externally what had been done internally.

Tent of Meeting

The Tent hung on a framework of boards set in sockets of silver (ransom money from Egypt). The boards represent believers who are all equal in Christ, who alone has ransomed us with His blood. The entrance to the Tent was barred by five pillars (books of the Law) and an outer veil, which again had three colors (blue, purple, and red). The Tent was covered with four symbolic materials, and the first room was called the Holy Place.

Holy Place

This room is representative of the New Testament Church Age in which we live. No sacrifices were allowed here, and, priests had to be completely clean to enter. The articles in this room symbolized a believer's relationship to God — fellowship at the table (reconciliation), light from the lamp stand (God's Word), and prayer at the altar of incense (communication with God).

Golden Lamp Stand

The first article that one saw in the Holy Place was the lamp stand; it gave light to the rest of the room. This lamp stand was beautifully designed with 66 ornaments, symbolic of the 66 books of the Bible, which is a "lamp to our feet and a light to our path." The lamp was made of gold, a symbol of perfection.

Christ in the Tabernacle

Continued...

Golden Table of Bread

The Table is a symbol of our communion and fellowship with God after our acceptance of Christ. Because of Him, we are reconciled to God, and through His power, we are able to endure by the "Bread of Life." Notice that the table held unleavened bread, another picture of Christ's holiness, as leaven represented sin. Gold is used again, a reflection of our new status — able to meet with God again.

Golden Altar of Incense

This altar demonstrated the importance of prayer. The Israelites believed that whatever was prayed at this altar was carried to the Lord through the smoke and smell of burning incense. The altar was the tallest of the articles and it was nearest to the Ark. Because of the blood of Christ, we are able to appeal to God through prayer.

Holy of Holies

This room was the most sacred, for it was the earthly throne room of God, His dwelling place. It was barred by four pillars, symbolic of the gospels, which, of course, tell us of the only way to God's presence — Christ. The Holy of Holies is also symbolic of heaven. It was a perfect cube in measurement and it is the place where God dwelt. No man, other than the High Priest, and once a year, could enter this room without the blood of the lamb.

Ark of the Covenant

The word "ark" literally means "treasure chest," which was appropriate, because it held the Ten Commandments (Christ ful-

filled the Law), a jar of manna (Christ is the Bread of Life), and the budding rod of Aaron (symbol of resurrection). The Ark was representative of God's presence to the Israelites, the Shekinah Glory. Christ is the Shekinah Glory, God's presence, in the flesh. On the Ark was written "YHWH" (in Hebrew) meaning "I Am."



Mercy Seat

The Ark was a box; the Mercy Seat was the lid. The Ark was also a picture of the judgment seat of God. Before Him, all sinners are guilty and deserve to die. However, because of the blood of the Lamb, and the

Great High Priest (Jesus), we are able to stand before God's judgment and receive mercy. Because of Christ, we are holy and blameless in the eyes of God.

High Priest

The High Priest and his staff were never done with their work. They were always sacrificing animals because their offerings were only temporary. However, Christ, our Great High Priest, died once for all and finished the sacrifices. Then, He sat down at the right hand of God in heaven.

Hebrews 9:11, 12

"When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation, and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered into that holy place, once for all, having obtained eternal redemption."