

Stark Road Assembly Summer Series
The Tabernacle, Priesthood, and Offerings - #4
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The Most Holy Place

Its Physical Appearance

Golden boards on three sides - north, west, and south
Ceiling was the curtain of fine twined linen, blue, purple, and scarlet
Veil was the opening to the east.

Its Contents

The Ark - containing the Testimony
The Mercy Seat - covering the Ark

The Veil

It was the only available access into the Holiest of all.
It also was a wall of separation preventing unauthorized entry. (Heb 9:8)
It was a type of the incarnation and life of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Heb 10:20)
It was a predominantly blue woven curtain suspended from 4 pillars.

It contained the colors of the curtain on the ceiling, but the order is significantly changed: blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen. (white)
it contained uniquely embroidered designs of cherubim. (cunning work)

Since the veil speaks of the incarnation and manhood of the Lord Jesus, the Spirit of God would teach us, in emphasizing the color blue and the integrated cherubim, that he was the second man, the Lord from heaven, and that he was intrinsically holy. No one can enter the Holiest of All without having an appreciation of the person and work of Christ.

1 Cor 15:47

47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

Luke 1:35

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Four pillars supported the veil depicting the perfect humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Spirit of God used four men to write the gospels where we learn of the fourfold features of the Lord seen in the four colors, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen.

The Ark

Description

It was a chest designed to contain the Testimony, and to be the base upon which the Mercy Seat would rest. It was 2.5 cubits long, 1.5 cubits deep, and 1.5 cubits high.
It was made of acacia wood, a durable wood which was impervious to corruption and decay.
It was overlaid completely, inside and outside with pure gold,
It had a crown of gold around the upper edge where the Mercy Seat was secured.
It had four cast rings of gold on its sides for the staves to be inserted permanently for transportation.
It contained the golden pot of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant. (Heb 9:4)

Significance

The acacia wood, known as an incorruptible wood, is a fitting symbol of the real yet incorruptible manhood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not only was he holy from his birth, but nothing could defile him. He touched the leper, and instead of him contracting the disease, the influence went in the other direction, and the leper was cleansed.

The wooden vessel was overlaid with gold, which speaks of his deity, both inside and outside, so that no part of it was isolated. These materials were bonded together, and so become a beautiful symbol of the two natures of Christ forever united in one person.

The crown of gold around the top is perhaps an indication that God has purposes in the world to come for Christ as a glorified man in heaven.

Contents

The tables of the covenant. (The law)

It was a glorious instrument that brought condemnation and death to us, 2 Cor 3:7-9, but to the Lord Jesus, it simply was the definition of all that was in his heart. (Psa 40:8) He fulfilled it, (Mat 5:17,18), and magnified it. (Isa 42::21)

The golden pot of manna.

God sustained Israel with a fresh supply of manna throughout all their traveling days in the wilderness, but it ceased the day after they entered into the land. (Josh 5:12) Moses, however, told Aaron to lay up this golden pot of manna before the Lord, (Ex 16:33), and may indicate that God delighted in the lowliness and sweetness of the life of Christ in his manhood.

Aaron's rod that budded.

God's choice of his servants, Moses and Aaron, was challenged, (Num 16) and after God had put down the rebellion of Korah, he vindicated Aaron as high priest by causing his rod to bud, blossom, and yield almonds. (Num 17:8) The priesthood of Christ in resurrection will never be challenged, and he lives in the power of an endless life.

Transportation

The staves and covers

Aaron and his sons were to take down the veil and cover the ark and mercy seat, and then cover that with badger skins, and finally with a blue cloth. (Num 4:5,6) The sons of Kohath, Levites, were responsible for carrying the ark with the staves upon their shoulders. (Num 10:21)

The Mercy Seat

Description

The basic seat of pure gold was 2.5 x1.5 cubits and exactly covered the ark.

Two cherubim were constructed from each end, and were to be of 'beaten work' so that the cherubim were integral with the mercy seat.

The cherubim had no dimensions, but their orientation was to face one another, and toward the mercy seat, and that their wings should stretch 'forth on high'

It was to be placed upon the ark, and would be the meeting place where God would meet with, and commune with Moses. God would dwell above the mercy seat, and between the cherubim.

Significance

The word *kapporeth* simply means a cover, but it is a cover connected with the covering and removal of sin by means of expiatory sacrifice. (W E Vine)

The crown around the top edge of the ark retained the mercy seat securely, and would remind us that the Lord Jesus 'entered into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us' (Heb 9:12)

The passive attitude of the cherubim also indicate that all the holy, righteous claims of God had been satisfied by blood.

God's throne was above the Mercy Seat, and between the cherubim, and was established as a meeting place where God and man could meet. (Ex 25:22)

New Testament references

God meets the sinner. Rom 3:25

example: Luke 18:13 'God be merciful (propitious) to me the sinner'.

The publican looked at the sacrifice and blood which had made propitiation, claimed no merit of his own, and simply looked to God for forgiveness, and the Lord Jesus said that he went down to his house justified.

God meets the worshipping believer. Heb 10:19-21

Again the worshipper appreciates the blood shed, and now has freedom of conscience in God's presence as he worships God in the "Holiest". This is the place where we worship God today - not a place upon earth, but in the very presence of God.

God meets the needy believer. Heb 4:16

We are exhorted to come confidently to the throne of grace to obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Our great high priest understands fully, and sympathizes with us in every distress, We can obtain relief, comfort, and healing, and also strength for the 'precise time we need it'.

Example: Luke 10:33-37

When the Lord asked the lawyer which man was the neighbor, he answered, 'He that shewed mercy on him.