

Study 9: The Godhead & the Holy Place

In this study we will look at the holy place of the sanctuary. Are all Three Persons of the Godhead involved in the salvation of man through the sanctuary?

How many ornaments are there in the holy place? The answer is **THREE**, so therefore we can already see a hint that all Three Persons are involved. Let's look at each ornament:

- **The showbread**

- Jesus said that He is the bread of life, which refers to the showbread.
- **John 6:35** And Jesus said to them, "I am the **bread of life**. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Israel's sanctuary experience at the showbread happened in Exodus 16 when God gave them the manna. Moses, when preaching about this manna experience, said:

- **Deuteronomy 8:3** So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and **fed you with manna** which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by **bread alone; but man lives by every word** that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

This verse Jesus quoted in Matthew 4:

- **Matthew 4:3, 4** Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones **become bread**." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, **but by every word** that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

The Bible in these verses compares bread or the manna with the Word of God. John said:

- **John 1:1** In the beginning **was the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Here Jesus is called the Word. Jesus also said that He is the manna:

- **John 6:49-51** Your fathers ate the **manna in the wilderness**, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. **I am the living bread which came down from heaven**. ...

Therefore the Bible states that **Christ is the key figure** when it comes to the showbread of the sanctuary.

- **The Candlestick**

- Revelation gives us a clue to which Person the candlestick refers:
 - **Revelation 4:5** And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. **Seven lamps of fire** were burning before the throne, which are the **seven Spirits of God**.

Zechariah also tells us which Person of the Godhead is the key to the candlestick:

- **Zechariah 4:2-6** And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a **lampstand of solid gold** with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand **seven lamps** with seven pipes to the seven lamps. Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left. So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?" Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said,

"No, my lord." So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, **but by My Spirit,**' Says the LORD of hosts.

Listen to this verse in Samuel:

- **1 Samuel 16:13** Then Samuel took the **horn of oil** and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the **Spirit of the LORD came upon David** from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

In these verses we can see that the oil represents the Holy Spirit. The lamps in the candlestick had to have oil, just as in the parable of the 10 virgins in Matthew 25. So the **Holy Spirit is the key figure** when it comes to the candlestick. In Israel's candlestick experience in Exodus 17 we see something very interesting. In both stories in that one chapter, the water coming from the rock and Israel fighting against the Amalekites, Moses had to use the **ROD** as a medium for success. In our previous study we saw that the rod referred to the Holy Spirit.

When we look at Israel's experience more carefully we will find that the water coming from the rock also represented the Holy Spirit. In Exodus 17 Israel is thirsty. Spirit of Prophecy says that there were 3 main areas in which Israel were prepared and these three areas point to the three ornaments in the holy place:

- "The history of the **wilderness life of Israel** was chronicled for the benefit of the Israel of God to the **close of time**. The record of God's dealings with the wanderers of the desert in all their marchings to and fro, in their exposure to **hunger, thirst, and weariness**, and in the striking manifestations of His power for their relief, is fraught with warning and instruction for His people in all ages. The varied experience of the Hebrews was a **school of preparation for their promised home in Canaan**. God would have His people in these days review with a humble heart and teachable spirit the trials through which ancient Israel passed, that they may be instructed in their preparation for the heavenly Canaan." **Patriarchs and Prophets pg. 293**

Those three areas were hunger, thirst, and weariness.

- Hunger = showbread
- Thirst = candlestick
- Weariness = altar of incense

Why does thirsting and water represent the Holy Spirit?

- **Isaiah 44:3** For I will pour **water on him who is thirsty**, And floods on the dry ground; I will **pour My Spirit** on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring
- **John 7:37-39** On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone **thirsts**, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow **rivers of living water**." But this He spoke concerning **the Spirit**, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
- **The Altar of incense**
 - The incense represents the merits of Christ and our prayers ascend with that incense into the presence of the Father into the most holy place.
 - **Psalm 141:2** Let my **prayer be set before You as incense**, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
 - "The incense, ascending with the **prayers of Israel**, represents the **merits and intercession of Christ**, His perfect righteousness, which through faith is imputed to His people, and which can alone make the worship of sinful beings **acceptable to God**. Before the veil of the most holy place, was an altar of perpetual intercession, before the holy, an altar of continual atonement. By blood and by incense, **God was to be approached**--symbols pointing to the great Mediator, through whom sinners may approach Jehovah, and through whom alone mercy and salvation can be granted to the repentant, believing soul." **The Faith I Live By pg. 197.4**

Jesus said that when we pray then we must pray to the Father:

- **Matthew 6:9** In this manner, therefore, pray: **Our Father in heaven**, Hallowed be Your name.

So the focus at the altar of incense is the Father.

But there is something very important to understand. Christ is key in ALL the ornaments and even the Holy Spirit plays a vital role in all three ornaments.

- **Christ and the three ornaments**
 - Showbread – Christ is the Word
 - Candlestick – When we receive the Holy Spirit then we receive Christ. Christ walks among the lampstands in Revelation 1. Christ stood upon the rock when Moses struck it in Exodus 17.
 - **Exodus 17:6** Behold, **I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb**; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink."
 - Altar of incense – He is the Mediator between God and man
 - **1 Timothy 2:5** For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, **the Man Christ Jesus**
- **The Holy Spirit in all three ornaments**
 - Showbread – We need to ask for the Holy Spirit to help us before opening the word
 - **1 Corinthians 2:10, 13** But God has revealed them to us **through His Spirit**. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the **deep things of God**. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the **Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**
 - Candlestick – The rod and oil points to the Holy Spirit
 - Altar of incense – The Holy Spirit inspires our prayers
 - **Romans 8:26** Likewise the **Spirit also helps in our weaknesses**. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the **Spirit Himself makes intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered.
 - "We must not only pray in Christ's name, but by the **inspiration of the Holy Spirit**. This explains **what is meant** when it is said that the Spirit "maketh intercession for us, with groanings which cannot be uttered." Romans 8:26." **Christ's Object Lessons pg. 147**

Some may ask: "Doesn't the Father play a role at the showbread and candlestick?"

Here is one statement that summarizes the question:

"It was to manifest this glory that He came to our world. To this sin-darkened earth He came to reveal **the light of God's love**,--to be **"God with us."** Therefore it was prophesied of Him, "His name shall be called Immanuel." By coming to dwell with us, Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels. He was the Word of God,--**God's thought made audible.**" **Desire of Ages pg. 19**

The candlestick teaches God among us and the showbread the word of God. Through Christ God came to be among us and Christ made God's thought audible. So God's will is expressed via Christ at the candlestick and the showbread.

In summary: All Three Persons of the Godhead play a vital role in the holy place as each ornament points to a Person, but both Christ and the Holy Spirit play a role in each ornament.

In our next study we will look at the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary...Do we find once more all Three Persons?

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