

The Most Holy Place: Supremacy of Christ (Exodus and Hebrews)

Brothers, last time we saw how Jesus fulfilled the outer court and the Holy Place. Through His sacrificial death, He tore down the dividing wall of hostility that kept the Gentiles as strangers and foreigners to the covenants of promise. He atoned for our sins by His blood, sanctified and cleansed us by the washing of water through His Word, and became the door through whom we enter into the Holy Place.

Today, we will focus on the Most Holy Place and how it is fulfilled in Christ.

Beyond the veil was the Most Holy Place, the innermost and most sacred part of the Tabernacle.

Access to the Most Holy Place was strictly limited. Only the high priest could enter, and only once each year, never without blood. **Hebrews 9:7**

The Most Holy Place and Its Fulfilment in Christ

(1) The Veil

The veil once barred access to God's presence because of sin. Through the offering of His flesh, Christ inaugurated for us a new and living way through the veil—that is, His flesh—granting believers boldness to enter the heavenly sanctuary. **Hebrews 10:19–20**

The danger of returning to the ministry of condemnation.

“But if the ministry of death, written *and* engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation *had* glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.... But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the *veil* is taken away in Christ. ¹⁵ But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. ¹⁶ Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. **2 Corinthians 3:7–16**

I thank God that the men of MAGH have come to Christ, and as we continue beholding Him, the veil is removed and we see His glory more clearly. Like Saul on the road to Damascus, God has opened our eyes to behold the glory of Christ. With the veil removed, we now proclaim the ministry of reconciliation, righteousness, and life in the Spirit.

(2) The Mercy Seat

The Mercy Seat was the place where the high priest sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance.

The Law prescribed sacrifices for sins committed in ignorance, but it offered no sacrificial provision for high-handed or defiant rebellion. **Numbers 15:30–31**.

Think about David, or symbolically, any of us, since we were once dead in sin. After adultery and murder, David prayed:

"Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God..." **Psalms 51:14**

"You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it... The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit." **Psalms 51:16–17**

David understood that the sacrifices prescribed under the Law provided no atonement for the deliberate sins he had committed.

What the Law could never accomplish through repeated sacrifices, God accomplished once for all through His Son.

"For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh." **Romans 8:3**

"...and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." **1 John 1:7**

When you and I were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for the ungodly.

(3) The Ark of the Covenant

The Ark was covered by the Mercy Seat and the cherubim stretched out their wings above it. It was here that God promised to meet with His people.

Under the New Covenant, God no longer dwells in a tabernacle made with hands but in His people through the Holy Spirit.

Through Christ, MAGH, together with other believers have become God's holy temple, the dwelling place of God by the Spirit. The glory that once filled the earthly Tabernacle now dwells among and within God's people through the Holy Spirit.

"Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..." **Acts 2:3–4**

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

"In whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." **Ephesians 2:21–22**

Brothers, looking back at our 4 years anniversary and celebration, it is evident that God is intertwining and fitting us into each other. Each one of us is a living stone, and together MAGH forms one part of God's growing spiritual house. Here, we are nourished from the root, Jesus Christ, and together we edify one another through the working of the Holy Spirit.

The Contents of the Ark

(a) The Golden Pot of Manna

"I am the bread of life. 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." **John 6:48–51**

How beautiful it is when we come together each morning. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion. Together we are nourished by Christ, our true Bread from heaven, and the blessing of our Great High Priest overflows into our families, our workplaces, and everyone around us.

(b) Aaron's Rod That Budded

Under the Old Covenant, the Levitical priesthood was passed down by genealogy. A man became a priest because he was descended from Aaron of the tribe of Levi.

Aaron's rod that budded testified that true priesthood is established by God's sovereign appointment. It pointed forward to a greater priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek—a priesthood founded not upon genealogy, but upon the power of an indestructible life.

Christ is the true High Priest to whom Aaron's rod ultimately pointed. He is our eternal High Priest, ministering in the true heavenly sanctuary.

"And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life." **Hebrews 7:15–16**

(c) The Stone Tablets of the Covenant

The Law served God's redemptive purpose until Christ came. It was never intended to be the means of salvation but to prepare the way for the promised Messiah.

- "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill." **Matthew 5:17**
- "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us." **Galatians 3:13**
- "What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator." **Galatians 3:19**

The Law was holy, just, and good, but it could expose sin without removing it. It prepared the way for Christ, who fulfilled its righteous requirements and established the New Covenant through His own blood.

Unlike the Mosaic Covenant, which was mediated through angels by the hand of a mediator, the New Covenant was inaugurated by Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, through His own blood.

- "You received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it." **Acts 7:53**
- "For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him...?" **Hebrews 2:2–3**

Dear brothers, see how Christ established a better covenant for us!

Hebrews therefore declares the absolute supremacy of Christ over the angels.

"After He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels... But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: 'Let all the angels of God worship Him.'" **Hebrews 1:3–6**

Brothers, let us hold fast to the gospel once delivered to the saints. No vision, tradition, experience, or even an angelic messenger may replace the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed." **Galatians 1:8**

Conclusion: Christ Is Supreme

Everything within the Most Holy Place found its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ. He is our perfect sacrifice, our eternal High Priest, the mediator of a better covenant, and the One who has opened the way into the very presence of God. To reject Him is to reject God's final and complete provision for salvation. There is no greater sacrifice, no greater High Priest, and no greater covenant than the one established through Jesus Christ.

"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins... Of how much worse punishment... will he be thought worthy who has trampled* the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?" **Hebrews 10:26–29**

* A footnote, to trample the Son of God underfoot is to knowingly reject His finished work and to treat His blood as a common thing. Such rejection reflects the spirit of antichrist, which exalts itself against the knowledge of God and refuses God's only provision for salvation.