

# **2** Session Two

## **The Law and the Priesthood**

## **Priest in Training**

### **Read the 10 Commandments - Exodus 20:1-17**

<sup>1</sup> And God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup> “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

<sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup> “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> “You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

God gave the 10 Commandments and the precepts of the legalistic code to Moses for the following reasons:

1. They declared the highest levels of human behaviors based upon the values of God Himself.
2. They set the bar as to the Holiness of God
3. They were the foundation upon which the **LAW** was built later on.
4. They were the Master Architects “owners manual” for quality human living
  - a. Moral individual and corporate living
  - b. A functional family
  - c. Functional government (Theocracy)
  - d. God’s people – their distinctives, versus the Gentiles
  - e. Physical health practices (diet, washings, etc.) including hygiene and longevity
  - f. Servant leadership/Blessing to all the earth and its peoples

### **A. Moses**

**1. Mediator- BLEW** his first opportunity as a 40 year-old man when he killed the Egyptian guard - Exodus 2:11

1. 40 years of seasoning and testing after his call was awakened
2. The Burning Bush – for deliverance of others - Exodus 3:1  
5 times Moses argued with God - Exodus 3:4-8a; 3-11, 3-13, 4:1; 4-10; 4-13
4. Aaron was God’s **SECOND** choice:
4. **Battle-Priest** - He interceded for **VICTORY** in prayer with his hands lifted up.  
Exodus 17:8-18

### **2 Key Principles of Warfare:**

#1 - It begins and ends with total **RELIANCE** upon God’s power and intervention.

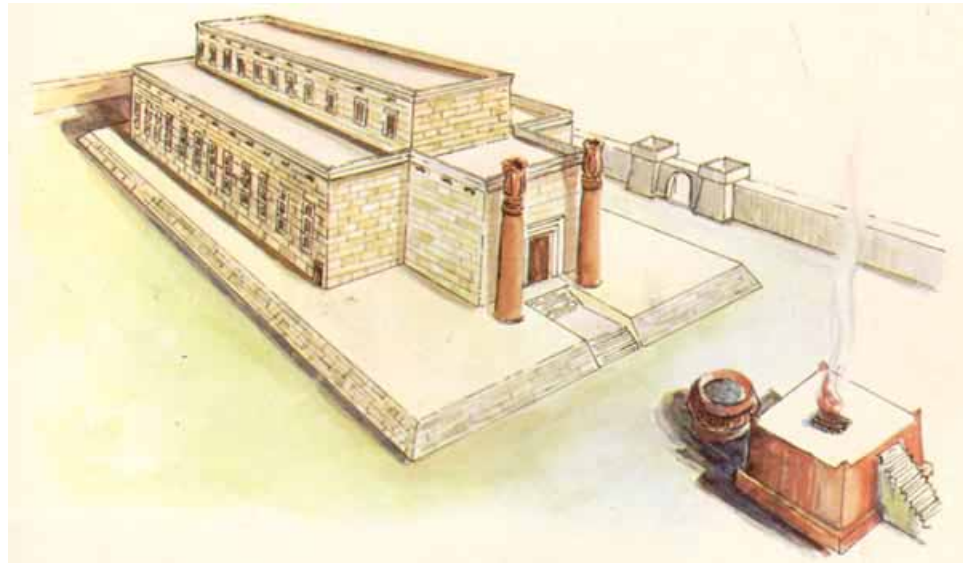
**Illustration – Strategic Air Command.** In WWI, Desert Storm, etc. the infantry has to get into battle strike position and then *wait* to attack after (or in coordination with) the air strikes are made to disorient the enemy and destroy key strongholds.

Without the AIR COVER the battle is lost soon after it begins.

#2 – God requires that Joshua part of us to **FIGHT** with all of our courage and  
all of our strength.

## **B. The Tabernacle and Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem**

Jewish tradition is that the Temple was God’s EMBASSY on earth



The Temple as an OT analogy to the Church – 1 Peter 2:5

“you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Three rooms in the Temple: COURT of the Gentiles (outer Court),  
COURT of the

PRIESTS and the Holy of Holies.

## 1. Court of the Gentiles/Outer Court

Court of the Gentiles = Mercy with **OPEN ACCESS** to all

**House of Prayer** - The place where Jesus cleaned the Temple twice:

1<sup>st</sup> time John 2:13-19 was earlier in His ministry at Passover

*“Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!”*

2<sup>nd</sup> time again at the celebration of Passover (Mark 11:15-18; Matthew 21:12-13; was after the Triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. “It is written my house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations, but you have made it a den of thieves! **And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them”**”

“The Court of the Gentiles was not a place of organized, official, programmed activity - other than the selling of sacrificial animals and the changing of money for the purpose of paying the temple tax, of which Jesus appears to have disapproved. We might think of it as essentially a place of presence, being, community, communion, congress, **prayer**, meditation, a place of proximity to God. The Court of the Gentiles is where the temple overlaps with the world. It is a place where (*all*) people may safely approach the presence of God.”<sup>1</sup>

This is:

- ✓ Where the invisible meets the visible.
- ✓ Where the world peers in and comes close to finding God
- ✓ Where we serve with loving service, hospitality, medical help, food, etc.
- ✓ Where healings, signs and wonders flow.

**“And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them”**

Healing and miracles *immediately* followed the cleansing of the Temple. The same is true of us and for the church.

Today whenever the church is seen as self serving by the world, or manipulative or commercial, the world is blocked from entering in

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<sup>1</sup> Open Source Theology, September 3, 2003, [www.opensourcetheology.net/node/76](http://www.opensourcetheology.net/node/76)

because of our hypocrisy. Only our unity and love for one another and clarity of motives allows for other to see and come.

### **Table Talk**

1. Are there earmarks of commercialism in the church you go to or others in your community? How is this received by unbelievers? How do think Jesus feels about this today?

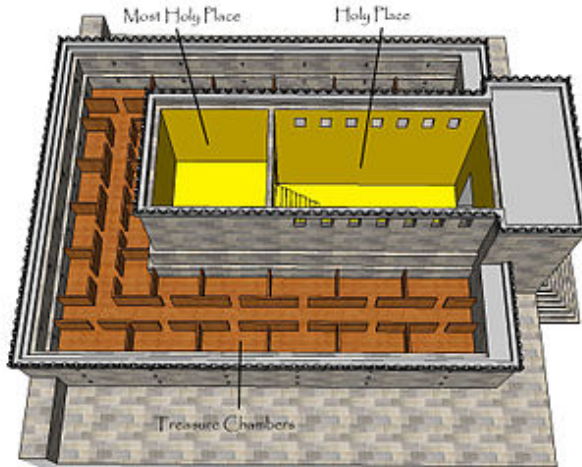
### **2. Court of the Priests/Inner Court/The Holy Place**

Dimensions: 30 high x 20 wide x 40 long, in cubits, or  
In feet, 48 high x 64 long x 32 wide

Separated from the Court of the Gentiles by a large curtain called the  
“Door of the Tabernacle”

Contained:

1. Golden Altar of Incense
2. The Golden Table for the Shewbread
3. The Golden Candlesticks - Menorah – 7 lamps with the center one never extinguished and representing the Shekinah or Glorious Presence of God. Fueled by special Olive Oil



Outer Gray Area is the Court of the Gentiles

## The Temple of Solomon

### 3. Holy of Holies/the Most Holy Place

Entered once per year on the Day of Atonement, or **YOM KIPPUR** (most solemn and important holy day of the Jewish calendar) by the purified and sanctified High Priest where he carried the sacrificed blood of offering fresh from the Brazen altar (in the Courts of the Gentiles).

*“Aaron is to offer the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household.” - Leviticus 16:6*

Atonement - **AT-ONE-MENT** = Syn - alignment, to be one with another or whole; at peace with.

*“I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one always.”*

*- I Samuel 2:35-36*

1. A Bull or Ram was sacrificed for the sins of the High Priest (Aaron) and his household first.
2. Two goats were then selected:
  - a. One was sacrificed with the blood taken into the Holy of Holies by the Priest and sprinkled on the Mercy Seat which was above the Ark of the Covenant.

b. The other head was called the SCAPEGOAT, and upon its head was cast all of the sins of Israel for the last year by the laying on of hands of the High Priest. The “Cursed” goat was then set free to wander into the wilderness on its own.

**Holy of Holies** = Oneness/Communion. Only accessed **ONCE** per year by the High Priest  
Dimensions 20 h x 20 l x 20 w Cubits or 32 h x 32 l x 32 w feet

Ark of the Covenant

Manna – Sweetness, nourishment, the Living Word, the Bread of Life

Aarons budded Rod - Resurrection power from a dead stick to living, fruitful thing

10 commandments

**The Shekinah** – the glory or visible presence of the Lord dwelling between the Cherubims and filling the Holy of Holies

Shekinah is used interchangeable with Meshkah, which was the source of **LIGHT** in the Holy of Holies

Back to when Jesus Cleansed the Temple, the leaders wanted a sign for Jesus to *prove* His authority

John 2:19-21 “Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple (**Meshkah-Arabic**), and in three days I will raise it up." Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body.”

They were looking at the physical structure (Heb. Midas, Embassy) of the temple but He said, "Destroy this temple" He used the word in Hebrew for the very Presence that lit the holy of holies on Yom Kippur in the tabernacle or temple. Jesus said I am the temple (Mishkan) of God.

Originally – Moses’ Burning Bush; The Pillar of Fire by night in the desert wanderings

When the glory (Heb. *Sh'chinah*) would come down funnel right through the roof of the holy of holies and the Presence would manifest on the mercy seat between the cherubim after the blood was sprinkled, that was



the *mishkan*. Also used of the portable Tabernacle in the desert wanderings.

That Presence was what Jesus said dwelt within Him. And in fact Paul said about the church, "*Know ye not that you are the temple (Mishkan) of God?*"

**C. Aaronic Priesthood** Exodus 28-29 **INFERIOR** to all other kinds of priests

Prescriptive and Symbolic

- ✓ Janitorial/Task oriented
- ✓ Elaborate, detailed and costly ordination
- ✓ Highly Ritualistic ordinances of behavior/operations
- ✓ Impersonal - Blood sacrifice based vs. relationship based
- ✓ Impoverished-never allowed to own property-the Levites belonged to God
- ✓ Temporary sacrifices
- ✓ Self Serving – Israel focus

Specialized garments for:

- Consecration for purity, dignity, authority and honor
- Intercession-12 Tribal stones
- **Urim** and **Thummim** for Decision-making – over his heart
- Breastplate for bringing God's people before the Lord
- Robe w/gold pomegranate bells on the hem

Turbans gold plate "Holy to the Lord" bring the sins and offerings of the people to God



### **Table Talk**

1. Read Job 1:4-5 How does Job's sacrifice relate to the breastplate of the High Priest? How does it relate to you as the future or current priest-leader of your family?
2. Discuss the Urim and Thummim - How can we come before God for guidance? How do *you* determine the will of God for your life? What is your process?

### **Core Conditioning**

1. Read "Destined for the Throne," Chapter 2, and
2. Read Chapter 4-5 of "Prayer is Invading the Impossible."