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Sanctuary

Key Verse: "Then have them make a **sanctuary** for Me and I will dwell among them."
Exodus 25:8

UNDERSTANDING

The word sanctuary comes from the Hebrew term miqdash (mik-dawsh), meaning consecrated (place).

Psalm 33:13-15, 1 Kings 8:30, Deuteronomy 26:15

God resides in heaven. However, after God rescued the Israelites from Egypt, He decided to live with them as they journeyed to the Promised Land. Since the Israelites were living in tents, God, too, would live in a tent. God gave specific instructions to the Israelites on how to construct His sanctuary on earth.

Exodus 36:3

How did the materials and construction of this sanctuary come together?

Were the materials and labor a burden or a joy? _____

Exodus 36:6-7

Was there any shortage of materials? _____

What did Moses have to do about the offerings? _____

Numbers 3:6-10

Who was allowed in the sanctuary? _____

Numbers 18:7

How did the Israelites view being chosen to serve as a priest?

APPLYING

Leviticus 19:30

What attitudes should you bring into the sanctuary?

1 Chronicles 22:19

What were the people supposed to do before they built God's sanctuary?

Psalm 15:1-5

Write in your own words the answer to this question, "Who will be allowed to live with God in His tent?"

Psalm 20:2

What can we expect from the sanctuary? _____

What attributes of God are seen during worship?

Psalm 63:2 _____

Psalm 68:35 _____

How should you worship?

Psalm 150:1 _____

Psalm 134:2 _____

How should you worship according to Psalm 34:1-3? _____

God's plan has never been to stay inside any tent or even a building. How does *Ezekiel 11:16* reflect this idea? _____

EXPLORING

The Old Testament's view of sanctuary was a foreshadowing of what God intended for future generations. How did the idea of sanctuary change in the New Testament?

Hebrews 9:1 _____

Hebrews 8:2 _____

Hebrews 9:24 _____

What benefits do we attain from the New Testament expression of the sanctuary found in *Hebrews 6:19*? _____

God dwelt in the Tabernacle. The Word of God is an expression of Him we find in *Colossians 3:16*. Where does the Word of God find sanctuary? _____

How could we drive God from His sanctuary? (see *Ezekiel 8:6, 23:39* and *Zephaniah 3:4*)

MEDITATING

Read *Luke 11:49-52*

What things will God hold *this* generation responsible for?

What things would the Spirit tell you to change?

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

The sanctuary of God is a very special place. In this holy and hushed environment we can seek an audience with the one who created us -- the God who has been leading His people since the creation of Adam. God still desires to lead us and to speak to us in a very personal way. This can happen when we come into the sanctuary.

The location of the sanctuary has changed over the millennia that God has been reaching out to man. The physical church building or temple is not nearly as important as the sanctuary we create in our heart. God has chosen to become more personal because He wants a relationship with us.

Think about the element of sanctuary. Challenge your views of where God is and how He works. By limiting your view of God, you limit your ability to understand God. Consequently, if your understanding is limited, then the reality of God in your life will be equally as limited.

Allow God to speak for Himself. Seek God for the sake of who He is.

Covenant

Key Verse: Then he took the Book of the **Covenant** and read it to the people.
They responded, "We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey."

Exodus 24:7

UNDERSTANDING

Inside the Holy of Holies was one piece of furniture, the Ark of the Covenant. We will focus here on the covenant, since the ark, while revered and admired throughout the ages, was not meant to draw great attention. It is merely a house for the important document inside - the covenant between God and man.

A covenant is typically used to describe a contract between two parties, with each contributor to hold up his side of the agreement. However, in the case of the covenant God made with mankind, it has nothing to do with man's ability to verify his side. God is the guarantor and upholds the entire covenant Himself.

Exodus 34:28 - What is referred to as the Covenant in this passage? _____

Exodus 24:3-8 - What is the covenant called here? _____

How were the people responsive to the Covenant? _____

Perhaps the best known Covenant is called the Abrahamic Covenant found in Genesis 12:1-3. Read this passage and answer the following:

God was going to develop Abraham into a _____.

How would God treat those who dealt with Abraham? _____

Who would be affected by this Covenant with Abraham? _____

APPLYING

Examine Deuteronomy 29:1, 9-15, then answer the following:

Who is the covenant between? (v. 1) _____

What are the people to do? (v. 9) _____

What did God seal the covenant with? (v. 12) _____

What did God promise to do? (v. 13) _____

Who else is this covenant for? (vs. 14-15) _____

What would break this covenant? (v. 9) _____

Deuteronomy 29:19 - How can a person think they are safe under the covenant when they really are not? _____

Deuteronomy 29:24-25 - When people ask why God has allowed bad things to happen, what is the explanation? _____

Hosea 6:7 - How have these people broken the covenant with God? _____

Malachi 2:8-10 - What else can we do that breaks the covenant? _____

EXPLORING

Read Matthew 26:28 - Who confirmed the covenant and how did he do it?

Acts 3:25 - Does the covenant with Abraham extend to us today? _____

Galatians 3:17 - What does the Law do for the covenant? _____

MEDITATING

Hebrews 8:6-10

Why is Jesus' covenant better? _____

What will God do with this new covenant? _____

Matthew 26:28

What is it that makes Jesus' covenant better? _____

Hebrews 10:29-31

What awaits the person who takes the covenant too lightly and does not obey it?

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

God's covenant with man is something that we cannot fully appreciate until we realize how far short we fall from even coming close to meeting *any* of God's standards. If it were not for His incredible grace, we could not ever hope to apply His promises to our lives and receive any of His blessings. Thankfully, God is true to His Word and His character. He is loving and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in grace.

Even in modern times, the strength of a contract is only as good as the one guaranteeing it. Fortunately, the Covenant of God with man is backed by God Himself. The Scriptures also tell us that no covenant is confirmed without blood and we see once again God's provision for this in the death He allowed His Son Jesus to endure. Everything pertaining to the success of this covenant came from God.

The only thing man had to do at all was to obey His commands. It should be an easy thing. Especially for those of us who have lived since the time that Jesus walked the earth. All those who lived before Jesus had to believe and have a certain hope that God would indeed confirm His promise with something more than the blood of bulls and goats. All those who have lived since that time can see what God did to confirm His promises. We should actually have an easier time believing and therefore hold to our faith much more strongly. However, one issue is the same for everyone that has ever lived.

Will we believe that God's Word is true?

Will we believe what Jesus said and did while here on earth?

Will we believe that it is something more than just religious stories?

The promise is good.

The One who promised is good.

The evidence and the list of those who have believed before us is good.

Each of us should ask - what will I do with it?

Quick Reference Guide

KEYWORD	SYMBOLIZES	APPLICATION	PRAYER POINT
Sanctuary	Safe & sacred place	Know that you are safe when you're with God	"Thank You, God, for being my shelter and show me how to be pure before you."
Dwell	Live with, share space	Know that He makes it sacred or holy	"Thank You, God, that of all the places You could live, You choose to live in me."
Entrance	The way in, gate, door	Realize that God is approachable	"Thank You, God, that You do not shut Yourself off as a mystery no one can solve."
Altar	Place of sacrificial giving	Realize that our relationship with God will cost us something	"Lord, help me give and serve sacrificially, not just from convenience."
Wash	Cleanness, purity	Know that it is God's desire for us to be clean in His eyes	"Father, thank You, for choosing to see me as a clean and acceptable child of God."
Sacrifice / Offering	Act of sacrificial giving	Consider your motives for giving to or serving God	"Lord, purify my motives so I will give and serve wholeheartedly."
Blood	Attonement, forgiveness	Realize and appreciate that each blood sacrifice means that a living being gave up its life	"Father, thank You for allowing Your Son to give such a great gift for me."
Holy Place	Set apart, distinctly pure	Realize that the closer you draw to God the more purity is demanded	"Holy Lord, search my heart and purify me. Keep me from giving in to temptation."
Lampstand	The place our light shines	Realize our responsibility as bearers of the light and witnesses	"Show me, God, how to help others to see You in my life."
Light	The Truth, Jesus	Actively show how the Truth of Jesus affects our lives	"Lord, help me live outwardly the way Your truth teaches us inwardly."
Bread	God's provision	Acknowledge that everything you have comes from God	"Father, thank You, for being so generous, gracious and giving to me and my family."
Incense	Prayer	Realize the need for continually bringing everything to God in prayer	"Lord, teach me to pray, to speak, and to listen."
Veil/Curtain	Secret Place of God	Realize that you can always go farther and deeper in your relationship with God	"Holy God, let me not esteem you lightly. Cause me to hunger for a deeper and more mature spiritual fruit in my life."
Most Holy Place	Intimacy with God	Realize that God wishes to speak to me personally	"Sovereign Lord, speak now, for your servant is listening."
High Priest	Jesus	Acknowledge Jesus as God's chosen High Priest who intercedes for me	"Thank You, Father, for providing me with Your Son, who not only brings me to You, but also pleads for me."
Covenant	God's Promise	Realize that once God has spoken it, I need only to believe it.	"Lord, help me find and believe the promises in Your Word that are for me."
Presence	Being with God	Realize that as much as we know of God, it is still incomplete until I am with God in heaven	"Eternal Father, give me the hunger to long for the things of heaven."