



THE KING'S HOUSE

E. J. WAGGONER

THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL FOR CHILDREN – VOL. 9

Source:
Present Truth
1898 to 1901

Cover:
The Holy of Holies and Officiating High Priest
Dore Family Bible, 1883



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Contents

About This Series

1. God's Temple.....	1
2. The House of the Lord.....	3
3. A Living Temple.....	5
4. The Pattern.....	11
5. The Holy Place.....	17
6. The Throne.....	21
7. The Golden Candlestick.....	27
8. The Bread of the Presence.....	33
9. The Altar of Incense.....	37
10. The Laver.....	43
11. The Altar of Sacrifice.....	47
12. The Cleansing of the Tabernacle.....	51



About This Series

IN 1891, E. J. Waggoner was sent from America to England, and took over the publishing of the *Present Truth* periodical. Some time around the end of August 1892, we observe the transition from the previous editor, with a sudden increase in articles from the pen of Waggoner. In some issues, there are up to a dozen articles authored by him. This “stream opened up in the desert”¹ was not to stop until the end of 1903, when he returned to America.

Shortly after taking over the editorship of *Present Truth*, Waggoner introduced a column for children. His own three children would have been aged about 4, 7, and 10 at that time. The children’s column took on various names over the next ten years:

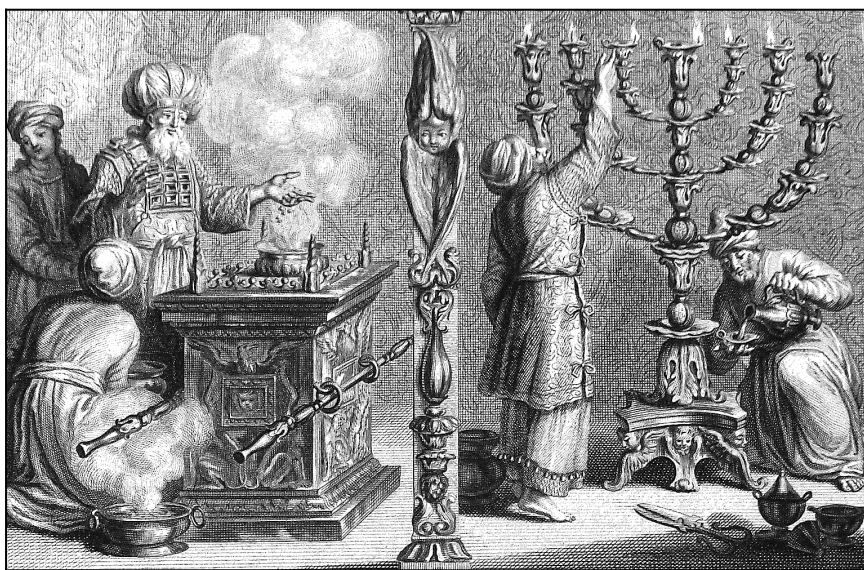
- Children’s Corner
- Children’s Page
- Easy Steps for Little Feet
- For Little Ones
- For the Children
- Gospel Primer
- Light for Little Ones
- Little Folks
- Little Ones
- Our Little Ones
- The Children
- The Home

Most of the articles collected for this set of children’s books, “The Everlasting Gospel for Children,” were originally published in the series that the individual volumes are named from. In the remaining few cases, I tried to organize the articles into a volume that fit with their theme, or in some cases, I placed some articles among pre-existing themes, even though they came from different years.

¹ *Isaiah* 35:6.

This particular series, “The King’s House,” was published from 1898 to 1901. The articles explain the Tabernacle and Sanctuary Service in words that children can understand.

Frank Zimmerman
practicaprophetica.com



The Candlesticks and Altar of Incense (Exodus 39:37-38)
(Histoire du Vieux et du Nouveau Testament, 1700)

1. God's Temple

Present Truth, November 24, 1898

WHEN God had given to King David the kingdom of Israel, he wanted to honor God and show his love for Him by building Him a house. He was so anxious about it that he said,

Psalms 132

⁴ I will not give sleep to my eyes, nor slumber to my eyelids,

⁵ Until I find out a place for the Lord, a habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.

Then the prophet of God came to him with this message from the Lord:

1 Chronicles 17

⁴ You shall not build me a house,

1 Chronicles 22

⁹ But a son shall be born to you;

2 Samuel 7

¹³ He shall build a house for my name.

But although David was not able to build the house, he was allowed to select all the materials for it, and he made the most careful preparation, for he said,

1 Chronicles 29

¹ ...the work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for the Lord God.

We have just been learning of how the Most High, who...

Acts 7

⁴⁸ ...dwells not in temples made with hands,

—is still making for himself living, moving, growing temples, where He may live and show forth His glory. He says,

1 Corinthians 6

¹⁹ Know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you?

The great work of building His own house can be done only by the Creator himself, but He lets us be co-workers with Him in this. I think you will see already what is your part of the work, for we have found that our bodies, which are His temple, are made up of the food that we eat.²

So the work that God gives to you is like that which David had, to select the materials out of which His house is to be built. God provides the very best, and He tells us just what is good, and what is harmful, and then He allows us to choose just what material we will for His house to be made up of.

If we love and honor Him as David did, shall we not be very careful only to furnish the very best material for His house, and not to take into our bodies anything that is not good, just to satisfy our own appetite, or please our taste? Shall we not find out from God's Word just what is the food that He has provided for us, and take that which will make good pure blood, strong muscles, and clear brains, so that our bodies may be in the best possible condition for His service?

1 Corinthians 3

¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy.

1 Corinthians 10

³¹ Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God.

² The article Waggoner is referring to is titled, "Our Food," and appeared in the same issue of *Present Truth* (November 24, 1898). It is included in the book, *The Everlasting Gospel*, in the third section which has the Children's Articles.

2. The House of the Lord

Present Truth, January 12, 1899

READ what King David, the “sweet singer of Israel,”³ said in one of his songs of praise to God:

Psalm 27

⁴ One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple.

“The house of the Lord” is the place where God dwells. But He tells us that...

Jeremiah 23

²⁴ He fills heaven and earth,

—and,

Isaiah 6

³ ...the whole earth is full of His glory.

So the whole world is “the house of the Lord,” and we can see His beauty everywhere for:

“The beauty of all created things is but a gleam from the shining of His glory.”⁴

And so since the whole earth is the temple of God, we may enquire of Him wherever we are. He dwells by His Holy Spirit in all the things that He has made, and so as we study His works we may “enquire in His temple.” He says,

Jeremiah 33

³ Ask of me, and I will show you great and mighty things that you know not.

How simple! How wonderful! May we really go to Jesus himself, and ask Him all we want to know about the works of His

³ 2 Samuel 23:1.

⁴ Ellen White, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 96.

hands? Yes; He delights to have us do this; He calls us to come; He says, “Ask of me, and I will show you.” What? even little children? Oh, yes; for He says that He has...

Matthew 11

²⁵ ...hid these things from the wise and prudent, and has revealed them unto babes.

Why is it that He has hid these things from “the wise and prudent”? It is not because He does not want them to know, for He invites them all to come to Him and learn.⁵ It is only because they will not come to ask of Him,⁶ and that is the only way that they can ever really learn anything.

They think they are so wise that they can find out for themselves all that they want to know, and they will not go to His Word and ask Him for His Holy Spirit to teach them. So they are...

2 Timothy 3

⁷ Ever learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth,

—while little children, and all those who are simple and child-like, will come to Jesus to learn and be taught of Him the truth that none of the wise men of this world can find out.

Do not forget this, dear children, but ask Jesus every day to give you His Holy Spirit to...

John 16

¹³ ...guide you into all truth.

Study His precious Word, and as you behold His works, “enquire in His temple” just what lesson He has for you in them all.

⁵ *Psalm 2:10.*

⁶ *John 5:40.*

3. A Living Temple

Present Truth, September 12, 1901

WE HAVE had many talks together about the journeyings of the Children of Israel in the wilderness, and the Object Lessons that God gave them there.⁷ All His wonderful works were to teach them to know Him, His love, His power, His wisdom, and His tender care for them.

But they were slow to learn the sweet lessons. In Egypt they had worshiped the false gods of the Egyptians, things they could use and handle. The Lord was teaching them to see Him everywhere, and in all things, working out His purposes of love for them; for He fills heaven and earth.

Through the pillar of cloud and fire, He would have them learn to see Him in the firmament and in the light. Through the manna He would have them see Him in the growing grain, and all things that He made to grow for their food. Through the fresh streams of water flowing from the smitten rock, He would teach them to see in every draught of pure water the stream of His own life poured out that they might live.

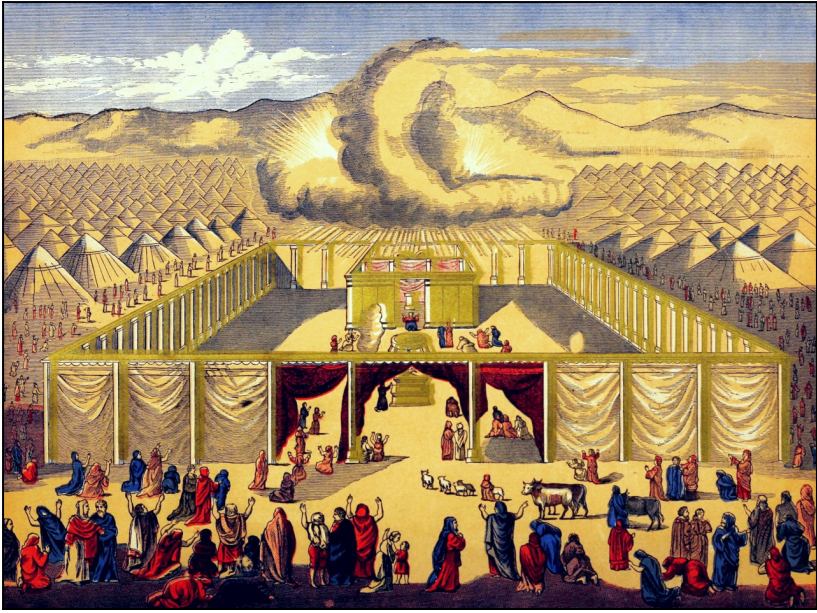
But though they saw His works, they did not learn His ways. The veil of unbelief was over their hearts, and hid His glory from them. At last God said to Moses,

Exodus 25

⁸ Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.

And in obedience to His Word, the Tabernacle was built. In our picture following, the coverings are removed from the top, so that we can see inside, but in reality the Tabernacle was a large tent. It was set up in the midst of the camp, with the family tents of the people round about it.

⁷ The articles Waggoner is referring to were published in late 1900 through the spring of 1901. They are included in Volume 2 of *The Everlasting Gospel for Children*, "Old Testament Stories for Little Ones."



The Tabernacle in the Wilderness and the Camp of Israel
(Hall Family Bible, 1883)

Do you think that this was the Lord's own choice—to dwell in a tent separate from the people, though among them? No, for He tells us plainly what the house is that He has chosen:

1 Corinthians 3

¹⁶ Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

For God is never so far off
As even to be near;
He is within, our Spirit is
The home He holds most dear.⁸

Yes, we are His dwelling place, for He fills all things.⁹ How large, then, is the House of God? It is as large as the universe,—a living, growing temple.

⁸ F. W. Faber.

⁹ *Jeremiah 23:24; Ephesians 4:10.*

Hundreds of years afterwards, when the martyr Stephen was speaking of this very Tabernacle that the Children of Israel built, he said:

Acts 7

⁴⁸ Howbeit the Most High dwells not in temples made with hands; as says the prophet,

⁴⁹ Heaven is my throne and earth is my footstool, says the Lord. What house will you build me?

Like the air, which is His breath, the life-giving Spirit of God fills all things. We are surrounded with it; we dwell in it; without it we could not live a single moment; and we are filled with it.

Thus we dwell in God, who is “our dwelling place,”¹⁰ in whom...

Acts 17

²⁸ ...we live, and move, and have our being,

—and He dwells in us, filling us with His universal Spirit of life.

To think of Him as by our side
Is almost as untrue
As to remove His throne beyond
Those skies of starry blue.¹¹

Why, then was this tabernacle built, that God might dwell among the people? Ah, it was for their sakes, that they might have an Object Lesson to teach them of God’s presence with them, and all that this would do for them.

The prophets who looked into heaven and saw “visions of God,”¹² have told us of His living temple which they have seen there. In this we see how the will of God is done in heaven, because every part of that temple is controlled and guided by the Spirit of life from God who dwells therein.

¹⁰ *Psalm* 90:1.

¹¹ F. W. Faber.

¹² *Ezekiel* 1:1.

This living temple is a sample, an example, of what God would have the whole universe. It shows us what this world of ours will be when our Lord's prayer is fully answered, and God's will is...

Matthew 6

¹⁰ ...done on earth, as it is in heaven.

And the Tabernacle built on earth was to be an Object Lesson to the people of this heavenly sanctuary. God let Moses see in the mount the pattern like which it was to be made. Everything in it had most precious lessons, and of these we shall talk together in the weeks to come.

But no man can really build a house for God. God alone builds His own house, and...

Acts 7

⁴⁸ [He] dwells not in temples made with hands.

His temple grows, built up and formed by the Spirit of His life who dwells within it. You are His dwelling place, and how is the temple of your body built? It grows, because you are alive, because you have life within you. Jesus Christ is "the Life,"¹³ and so it is He who by His life-giving Spirit is building up your body in strength and beauty, to be His dwelling place.

The noble trees and beautiful flowers, and all things in which is His life, grow into a holy temple. Every place whereon we tread is holy ground, for it is all the house of God.

God dwells in us because we dwell in Him, just as the air fills us because we dwell in the midst of it. We are always in the Father's house.

This is what He was teaching the Children of Israel in the wilderness. They thought they had no food, but He showed them that in the Father's house there is always an abundance, by preparing a table for them in the wilderness. They were thirsty and had no water, but:

¹³ *John* 11:25; 14:6.

Psalm 46

⁴ There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High,

—and of this He gave them to drink. In the darkness,

Revelation 21

²³ ...the glory of God did lighten them.

There is always food, and water, and light, and joy, in the Father's house. Blessed are they who dwell there.

Psalm 27

⁴ One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Though all are really living in the Father's house, so many, oh, so many, do not know it; so like the Israelites they are troubled, and sad, and anxious, and weary. They do not know that their heavenly Father knows what things they have need of. Can you not make some of them happy by telling them?

Here are the words of one man who had not known it, when he found out the joy that he had been missing:

So all the while I thought myself
Homeless, forlorn, and weary,
Missing my joy, I walked the earth
Myself God's sanctuary.¹⁴

¹⁴ F. W. Faber.



Jesus "tabernacled" among us.
(Hurlbut's Story of Jesus, 1915)

4. The Pattern

Present Truth, September 19, 1901

Exodus 25

⁸ Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.

THIS was the message that God gave to Moses for the children of Israel. We have already found what is the Lord's real sanctuary, and where He most delights to dwell.

1 Corinthians 3

¹⁶ You are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you.

The tabernacle in the wilderness was built to teach God's people what He would have them be.

God is very particular about His dwelling place. He did not leave it to the people to choose what kind of sanctuary to build, and to make what they thought best. He called Moses up into the mount, and there He showed him a pattern of all things that He wanted them to make. And He said,

Exodus 25 [RV]

⁴⁰ See that you make them after their pattern, which has been shown you in the mount.

It was very important that everything should be like the pattern God had shown to Moses. But it was not enough for the people to see and know all that God wanted them to do. It was not possible for them to do the work, and make everything as He would have it, without special help from Him. He chose the ones that were to do the work, and He said to Moses,

Exodus 31

² See, I have called by name Bezaleel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:

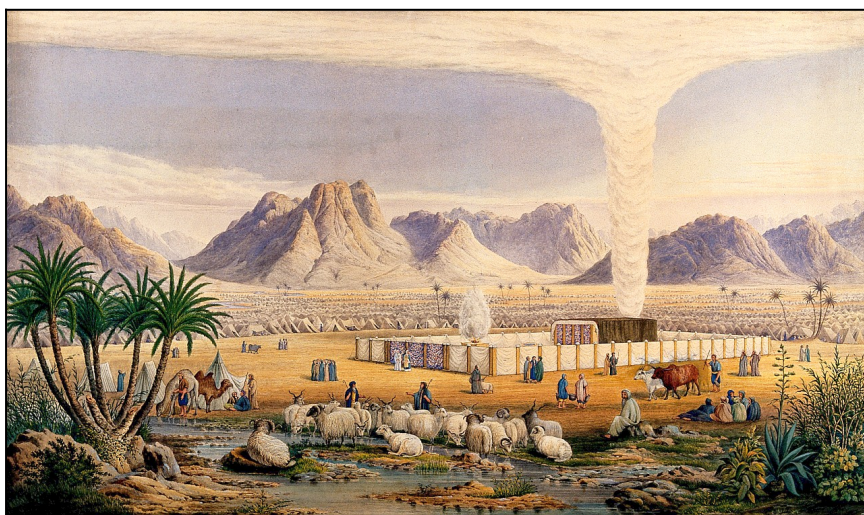
³ And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,

⁴ To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,

⁵ And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.

⁶ And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise-hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded you.

God filled the people with His Spirit, and this is what gave them wisdom and power to do the work, and to make everything just like the pattern.



The Tabernacle in the Wilderness and Pillar of Cloud

(J. J. Derghi, 1866 – Wellcome Collection)

Last week we learned that each one of you is a little sanctuary, a house not made with hands, but growing into a holy temple for God to dwell in. Now do you know that He has given you a pattern, to show you just how you are to grow? He sent His own Son from heaven, that we might have a perfect pattern of the dwelling place that He wants on this earth. Do you remember that Jesus said,

John 5

³⁰ I can of my own self do nothing.

John 14

¹⁰ The Father that dwells in me, He does the works.

And again:

John 5 [RV]

¹⁹ The Son can do nothing of himself, but what He sees the Father doing: for whatsoever things He does, these the Son also does in like manner.

God the Father is himself the perfect pattern, the true heavenly Sanctuary. He said,

Genesis 1

²⁶ Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness.

And so each member of the human family, made in His image and filled with His life, was to be a little sanctuary, a perfect copy of our Father who is in heaven. But you know how man through sin lost the beautiful image in which he was first made. Then Jesus, who is...

Colossians 1

¹⁵ ...the image of the invisible God,

—came down to earth to show us again the pattern like which God would have each of His human temples grow. All that the Father is, and all that He does, Jesus showed to men, that we might know what we may be and do, when God dwells in us. But this He could do only because He was the Son of God, and the Spirit of His Father dwelt in Him.

So God has shown us the pattern; He has shown us His own glory and beauty in the life of Jesus Christ His Son. Just what He would have each little child to be, was seen when Jesus was a little child. He left us an example—a pattern—

1 Peter 2

²¹ ...that we should follow His steps,

²² Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth.

In His Word He says to us,

Ephesians 5 [RV]

¹ Be imitators of God, as dear children.

The word here used is the Greek word *mimic*. You know what it is to imitate or mimic another,—it is to do just what you see him do. Have you not seen your little baby brother or sister imitate your mother or father, or try to do all that they see you do? All young animals learn by mimicry,—by imitating their parents. This is the way that the little birds learn to fly, and the baby ducks to swim. The old birds show them what they should do, and the young ones try to follow their parents' example.

But the reason why they can follow the example of their parents, and imitate them, is because they are their own young ones,—they have the same nature. The little chickens could never learn to swim, no matter how hard they might try to follow the example of the ducks and swans. And the young ducks could never mount up like the eaglets, no matter how much they might stretch and spread their little wings in imitation of the old eagles.

And so it is only the children of God, those who have His own nature, who can copy the Pattern, and be and do as He is and does.

John 5

¹⁹ What things soever He does, these the Son also does in like manner.

We are to be imitators of Him as His dear children. So it is not enough for us to see the Pattern, to learn what Jesus did when He was a little child, and then try to imitate Him. We must have His Divine nature before we can copy the Pattern and grow like Him. And we can get this only by the gift of His own Holy Spirit. Like His people of old, we can make all things like the pattern only by being filled with the Spirit of God, and this He has promised to give to all who ask Him.

Of the boy Jesus, we are told that:

Luke 2

⁴⁰ The child grew, and waxed strong in Spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon Him.

So may the grace of God be upon you, dear children, His Spirit filling you, and His hand over you, to form you into His perfect image, in all things like the Pattern He has shown you. The words of King David to his son Solomon who was about to build a magnificent temple for the Lord, are for each one of you also:

1 Chronicles 28

¹⁰ Take heed, now; for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.

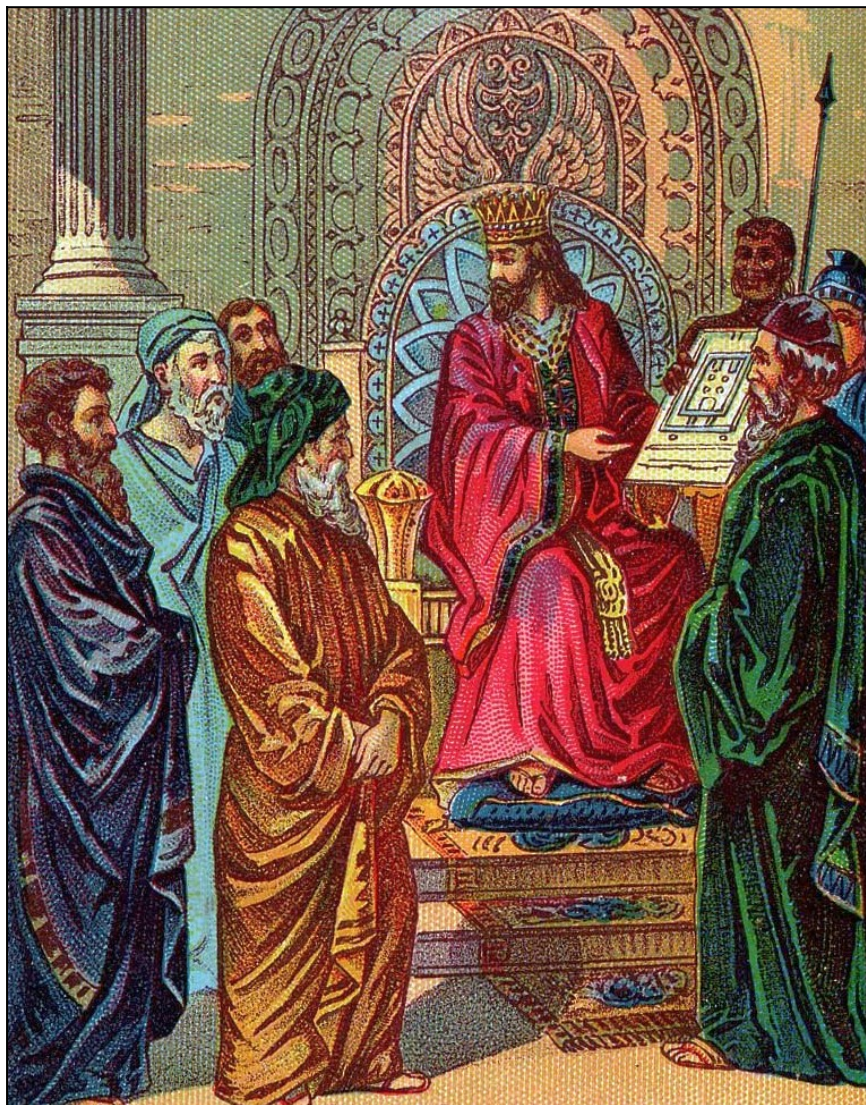
God has chosen you that you should grow into His own beautiful image to be “a house for the sanctuary.” He has shown you the pattern like which you are to grow, and has given you His Holy Spirit that you may “be strong, and do it.” Do not disappoint Him, but...

Ephesians 4

¹⁵ ...grow up unto Him in all things,

Ephesians 1

⁶ To the praise of the glory of His grace.



Solomon builds the Temple according to the God's Plans
(Vintage Bible Illustrations - thebiblerevival.com)

5. The Holy Place

Present Truth, September 26, 1901

Isaiah 57

¹⁵ I dwell in the high and holy place.

THIS is what God, the King of heaven and earth, says about His dwelling place. He is the “Most High,” so wherever He dwells is a high place. And He has chosen you to be His dwelling place, so you may be “a high and holy place,” made so by the presence of God.

In the tabernacle which God taught the Israelites to build in the wilderness, there were two apartments. The larger and outer one was called the Holy place, and the inner and smaller one was the “Most Holy.” The space for a certain distance round the tabernacle was railed off, and this was also holy.

What was it that made the tabernacle and its surroundings such a holy place? It was the presence of God there. He did not dwell in it because it was a holy place, but His dwelling there made it holy.

Do you remember His words to Moses at the bush?

Exodus 3

⁵ The place whereon you stand is holy ground.

It was God’s presence in the bush that made it a holy place.

1 Corinthians 3

¹⁷ The temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

So we have not to make ourselves holy for God to dwell in us; His dwelling in us is what makes us holy. Do you know that your body is a holy place, because God made it for His own dwelling place, and fills it with His own Spirit of life?

The Most Holy place, the innermost apartment, the secret chamber where none but God and one person ever met together,

teaches us what the heart should be, the center of God's dwelling place in the human body, where He is to be enthroned.

But not this place alone was holy. The other apartment, and the outer court, were made holy by that sacred Presence in the Most Holy place. So God dwelling in our hearts makes the whole being holy. The mind, all the thoughts, are to be His; and every member of the body is to be set apart for His service.

With what reverent care we should treat our bodies if we remembered always that they are God's holy dwelling place. We should be very careful to keep them clean and pure, and to do nothing that would harm them.

Just after telling us that our bodies are the holy temples of God, the Word of God says,

1 Corinthians 3

¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy.

1 Corinthians 10

³¹ Whether therefore you eat or drink, or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Long years afterwards, one of the kings of Israel set up an image, an idol, in the Lord's temple in Jerusalem,¹⁵ and others defiled the house by putting forbidden things into it.¹⁶ God was angry, and said that they had profaned His holy place, and so He allowed it to be destroyed by fire.¹⁷

Afterwards the temple was built up again; but when Jesus came to it, you remember that He found in the sacred court, merchants, and money-changers, making confusion. And He sent them all out, saying,

Matthew 21

¹³ My house shall be called a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of thieves.

¹⁵ *2 Kings* 21:7.

¹⁶ *2 Chronicles* 33:5; *Ezekiel* chapter 8.

¹⁷ *Jeremiah* 52:12-13.

Have we, any of us, an idol in the Lord's holy temple? Is self, or some other being, allowed to take His place upon the throne of the heart? If so we are defiling the temple of God.

Are thoughts and things of this world allowed to fill our minds, and take up our time and use the powers of mind and body that He has given us for His service? Is the thought of God shut out by other things, so that we have no time to worship, to praise, and to pray? If so, we are making God's temple a den of thieves,—of things that are robbing God, and profaning His holy place.

But, thank God, Jesus can cast them all out. No idol can stand in His holy presence, if only we will let Him in to rule His own house. All those things that are robbing Him of our love, our worship, our time, and our service, must go out from His presence as the money-changers of old fled from before His face.

So let us give ourselves to Him that He may fill our whole being, body, soul, and spirit, with His own sweet presence, that we may be holy and undefiled, and...

2 Timothy 2

²¹ ...meet for the Master's use.



The High Priest in the Holy Place
(Kollner, 1853 - Library of Congress)

6. The Throne

Present Truth, October 3, 1901

THERE was once a prophet who looked into the King's house in heaven, and saw "visions of God."¹⁸ He wrote out a description of some of the things that he saw; we may read it in the book of *Ezekiel*. In the 1st chapter he describes the living throne that he saw there.

In the sanctuary that was built on earth to teach the people about the Lord's true temple, there was a veil separating between the holy and the most holy places, of which we spoke last week. On this veil, figures of angels were worked in gold thread. This was to teach that the Lord's real temple is a living house.

God's throne in heaven, made of living creatures, is a pattern of what He means His whole universe to be; it shows that He is to be enthroned in every creature, ruling it by His Spirit.

Read in the 1st chapter of *Ezekiel* the description of the beings that form God's throne, and you will see how the will of God is done in heaven. This will teach you how He would have it done in you on earth; for Jesus taught us to pray,

Matthew 6

¹⁰ Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Ezekiel 1

²⁰ Wherever the Spirit was to go, they went, there was their spirit to go.

We are told what it was that made them always want to go the way of the Lord; it was because...

Ezekiel 10 [margin]

¹⁷ ...the Spirit of life was in them.

This same Spirit of life is in everything that God has made, and wherever He is allowed to have His way, the will of God is per-

¹⁸ *Ezekiel* 1:1.

fectly done. It is this that makes the flower grow in the way that God wants it, it is this that teaches the bird the way in the air. All nature is part of that great living temple where God is enthroned, and yet each living being is a complete separate little sanctuary.

But the place where God most desires to have His throne in this earth is in the heart of man. This He made to be the “Holy of Holies”¹⁹—His own secret dwelling place.

Luke 17

²¹ The kingdom of God is within you.

We have found that God rules by His Spirit of life, within the living beings that He has made. Let us see how this was represented in the worldly sanctuary.

Within the Most Holy place there was but one article of furniture—the Ark of the testimony, over which was the Mercy-seat, and Cherubim with outspread wings, figures of those of which you have read in *Ezekiel*. So it is clear that this was meant to represent God’s throne.²⁰

Within the sacred Ark were two tables of stone, upon which were written the ten commandments. Those commandments were to teach the people the way of the Lord. This shows that all our hearts are to be the throne of God, and His will is to be done in us; He must have His way within us. But there is only one thing that can put it there, and that is...

Romans 8

² ...the Spirit of life.

You will remember that when God spoke the law with His own voice from Mount Sinai, the people were afraid, and went and stood afar off, that they might not hear the voice of God. They said,

¹⁹ The term “Holy of Holies” is the literal Hebrew description of the innermost Sanctuary apartment. It is translated, in many English Bibles, as the “Most Holy Place.”

²⁰ *Psalms* 80:1; 11:4; *Isaiah* 6:1.

Exodus 20

¹⁹ Let not God speak with us lest we die.

But God does not speak His Word to kill us; it is to give us life. Moses said to them,

Isaiah 55

³ Hear, and your souls shall live.²¹

And Paul afterward said that we receive the Spirit that makes us able to do God's will, by hearing His Word in faith.²² This shows us that the Spirit of life is in the Word of God. The law, the Word of God, that was in the Ark, was to show that His law written in our hearts will make us His living throne, from which He will rule over our whole bodies. It will lead us...

Ezekiel 1

²⁰ ...wherever the Spirit is to go,²³

—and make us able to do His will on earth as it is done in heaven. But could the law as the Israelites had it, on tables of stone, do this wonderful work for them? No, for all things in that worldly tabernacle were only a shadow:

Hebrews 9

²⁴ ...figures of the true.

It could show the people what they ought to do, but it could not give them the power to do it. But,

James 4

¹⁷ To him that knows to do good, and does it not, to him it is sin,

—and sin brings death. So this was...

2 Corinthians 3

⁷ ...the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones.

²¹ PP Editor's Note: The exact text is from *Isaiah*. But Moses said essentially the same thing in *Deuteronomy* chapter 30; compare with *Romans* 10:6-17.

²² *Romans* 10:17.

²³ Also *John* 3:8.

It could condemn people to death, but it could not save them. God wrote His law on the tables of stone, and gave it to the people because of their ignorance of Him, and their unbelief, that it might be their schoolmaster to bring them to Christ. It was to show them that they were sinners, with no power in themselves to do the will of God, so that they might come to Jesus to be saved from sin, and receive from Him the “Spirit of life,” that would enable them to walk in the way of God. For when we come to Jesus, and listen to His Word in faith, it is...

2 Corinthians 3

³ ...written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

This will put the way of God within us, so that we shall always go in it.

When Moses brought down from the mountain the tables of stone that God had given him, his face shone so that the people could not look upon him.²⁴ And when the Ark containing the law was put in the tabernacle, a cloud of glory rested over it.²⁵ So glorious was God’s holy law, even when written upon tables of stone. But God says that...

⁷ If the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious,...

⁸ ...the ministration of the Spirit...

⁷ ...written and engraven...

³ ...on the living tables of the heart,

⁹ ...[shall] exceed in glory.

So, great as was that glory, it is much more glorious to have the law of God written in our hearts. When this is done, the Word is made flesh as it was in Jesus of Nazareth. Of Him John said,

John 1

¹⁴ The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory,...full of grace and truth!

²⁴ Exodus 34:29-30.

²⁵ Exodus 40:21, 34.

The grace and truth that come into your hearts when the Spirit of Jesus writes His law there, will be more glorious than the cloud that rested over the Ark, or the glory of Moses' face. The King's house is made for glory and for beauty. It is His presence within that makes it holy, and that also makes it...

Psalm 45

¹³ ...all glorious within.

When He takes up His abode there, the glory shining out in the life will bear witness to His presence within, for He cannot be hid.

Matthew 5

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

God says to each one of us:

Proverbs 4

²⁰ My son, attend to my words; incline your ear unto my sayings.

²¹ Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart.

²² For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.



Ezekiel's Vision of the Living Throne of God
(Taferelen der Voornaamste, 1728)

7. The Golden Candlestick

Present Truth, October 10, 1901

IN THE outer apartment of the sanctuary we have been learning about, there were seven golden candlesticks, or rather, one large candlestick with seven branches. At the end of each branch was a lamp, filled with oil, and this was kept always burning to light up the house.²⁶ The lights were many times reflected from the beautiful golden walls of the holy place, and made it most glorious within.

We know that everything in this tabernacle was to teach us something about ourselves; for we are the true temples of God, and this one was only a figure. What then may we learn from these candlesticks, with their golden lamps filled with oil, always burning?

Jesus told John what the candlesticks represent. John had a vision in which he saw Jesus standing in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks, and he was told,

Revelation 1

²⁰ The seven candlesticks which you saw are the seven churches.

The number seven in the Bible stands for completeness, fullness. So this shows us that God's candlestick on this earth is His whole church, and that Jesus,

John 8

¹² ...the Light of the world,

—is in the midst of His people. But you know that the church is made up of many members, and so each member is to be a candlestick in God's house, with Jesus in the midst, in the heart.

What is a candlestick for? It is not itself a light, but it is to be a light-bearer. Perhaps you remember Jesus said that when...

²⁶ *Exodus 25:31-40; 37:17-24; Leviticus 24:1-4; Numbers 8:2-4.*

Matthew 5

¹⁵ ...men light a candle they do not hide it under a bushel, but they put it on a candlestick, so that it may give light to all that are in the house.

A candlestick is to hold up the light so that it may be seen and give light all around. So every one of you, dear children, God wants to be His little light-bearers.

But a candlestick is no use without light. Where does the light come from that God's candlesticks are to hold up? This too we are very plainly told in God's Word. For John saw also...

Revelation 4

⁵ ...seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Think again what seven stands for, and you will see that God wants His Holy Spirit to be poured out in its fullness into His people on earth, and that is what will make them the light of the world. For the candlesticks were to hold up and show forth the lamps, and these lamps represent the Spirit of God. The lamps were filled with oil for the light, and oil is used in the Bible as the symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Do you want to be God's light-bearer? Then you must have His Holy Spirit in your heart to light the lamp, and a fresh supply of His holy oil to keep it ever burning. Do you remember the parable by which Jesus taught this?²⁷

There were five foolish virgins who took their lamps, but no oil with them when they went out to meet the Bridegroom. So their lamps went out, for they could not borrow the oil from any of the others, and they were shut out from the marriage feast. We must have oil if we are to be burning and shining lights, and this oil is the Holy Spirit of God.

And now, how are we to get a constant supply of the precious oil to keep our light burning clear? Have you read the *Pilgrim's*

²⁷ *Matthew* 25:1-13.

Progress? If so you have been with Christian to the house of Mr. Interpreter, and will remember the illustration that he used to teach him about this.

Then I saw in my dream that the Interpreter took Christian by the hand, and led him into a place where was a Fire burning against the wall, and one standing by it, always casting much water upon it to quench it; but did the Fire burn higher and hotter.

Then said Christian, “What means this?”

The Interpreter answered, “This Fire is the work of Grace which is wrought in the heart; he that casts water upon it, to extinguish and put it out, is the Devil; but in that you see the Fire notwithstanding burn higher and hotter, you shall also see the reason of that.”

So he had him about to the backside of the wall, where he saw a man with a Vessel of Oil in his hand, of the which he did also continually cast (but secretly) into the Fire.

Then said Christian, “What means this?”

The Interpreter answered, “This is Christ who continually, with the Oil of His Grace, maintains the work already begun in the heart; by the means of which, notwithstanding what the Devil can do, the souls of His people prove gracious still. And in that you saw that the man stood before the wall to maintain the Fire, that is to teach you that it is hard for the tempted to see how this work of Grace is maintained in the soul.”

Again we must go to God’s Word to see how He does this work of pouring the oil of His Spirit into His candlesticks to keep their light burning. For God showed it all to the prophet Zechariah by a beautiful figure, that he might write it out for us to read.

Zechariah 4

¹ And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep,

² And said unto me, What do you see? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:

³ And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl and the other upon the left side thereof.

¹² And I...said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?

¹⁴ Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

If you recall our last week's talk you will remember the ark covered with the mercy seat, which was a figure of the throne of God. On each end of the mercy seat was the figure of an angel, representing the two anointed ones that stand in the presence of God. From what was shown to Zechariah, we learn that it is through these heavenly beings that the golden oil of God's Holy Spirit is made to flow from Him to us.

God says of His angels that they are all...

Hebrews 1

¹⁴ ...ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.

Jacob in a dream saw the angels coming and going between heaven and earth. The way to the throne of God is ever open, and these heavenly messengers are the channel through which God pours the golden oil of love and grace into His people. It is through these that His precious Word has been given to man; for He sent them to reveal to the prophets the things that they wrote to enlighten the world.

This Holy Word is as the golden pipes through which the oil was emptied from these anointed ones into the candlesticks. So if we would have always a fresh supply of oil, if we would burn brightly for the glory of God and the good of others, we must study God's Holy Word, that through this channel His own Spirit may be poured into our hearts. Then we shall...

Philippians 2

¹⁵ ...shine as lights in the world, holding forth the Word of life.

God wants His people to be full of the wisdom of His Holy Spirit, so that they may teach and enlighten the whole world. This will be done when each little light burns bright and clear just where He has put it. He wants by His golden candlestick in this earth, to give light to all that are in His house. You know that the Father's house is a very large place,—much larger than this earth,—for it takes in the whole universe.

Does it seem to you that you are so hidden, and your light is so small that no one will get any good from it? Then here is something for you to think about:

1 Corinthians 4

⁹ We are made a spectacle unto the...angels,

Ephesians 3

¹⁰ To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.

That means that even the high and holy angels may learn more of the riches of God's grace, and of His wisdom and power, by seeing what He is able to do in the hearts and lives of His people in this world.

Is it not marvelous and inspiring to think that you are always being thus watched? So let nothing put out your light, for nothing can if the golden oil of the Spirit is allowed to flow freely into your heart. All the efforts of Satan to quench it will only make it "burn higher and hotter."

When he finds that he cannot quench the light that God's light-bearers are shedding over the world, Satan tries to get rid of the candlestick by persecuting and killing those who are holding up the light. But all that this does is to spread the light into the hearts of many more, who also become light-bearers.

You may have heard of the words of old Bishop Latimer to Ridley, when together they suffered death by burning for the sake of the Word of God.

“Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, for we shall this day light such a candle, by God’s grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out.”²⁸



Christ among the Candlesticks
(Heinrich Halmen - SRA Church)

²⁸ This historical account is related in *The Great Controversy*, p. 249.

8. The Bread of the Presence

Present Truth, October 17, 1901

BESIDES the golden candlestick that we learned of last week, there was in the holy place of the tabernacle, the table of show bread. This was a golden table on which twelve loaves of bread were kept always before the Lord. The bread was changed each week on the Sabbath day, so that it was kept always fresh.

If you remember our talks about the Manna, you know who is the true Bread of life. It is Jesus. Bethlehem, the town where He was born, means “the house of bread.” The Father’s house, which the tabernacle represented, is the house of bread; for Christ the Son is himself the Living Bread on which all may feed.

John 6

⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

When Joseph was made Lord over all the land of Egypt, to gather up a great store of grain to feed the people in time of famine, Pharaoh called him by a name which means, “Prince of the life of the world,” or, “Saviour of the world.”²⁹ This was because he was the keeper of all the bread, and everyone had to come to him for it. And Jesus is the “Saviour of the world” because He is...

⁵⁰ The Bread that comes down from heaven, that man may eat thereof, and not die.

Bread is of no use unless it is eaten; and before it is eaten it must be broken. At the last supper that Jesus ate with His disciples, He took bread and broke it and gave it to them, saying,

1 Corinthians 11

²⁴ This is my body, which is broken for you.

²⁹ Thus interpreted by Jerome, *Liber Hebraicarum Quaestionum in Genesim*, LXI:45.

The Bread of life was broken on the cruel cross, that we might feed upon Him and have life through His death. If Jesus had not died for us, we could have had no life at all.

And He is the One from whom our daily bread comes. His life is in it, and it is this that makes the bread food for us; for the power of Jesus which made the grain grow, changes it into the flesh and blood of which our bodies are made. So in every meal that we take to sustain our life, we are eating “the bread of the presence,”³⁰ and feeding on the broken body of Christ, whose life-giving presence is in it. Our daily bread is a token of the presence of Christ; and it is to remind us that He died to give us life.

When we feed by faith upon Jesus, the Bread of life, we become like Him,—sharers of His own nature;

Ephesians 5

³⁰ For we are members of His body.

His Word says of all who do this that:

1 Corinthians 10

¹⁷ We being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one Bread.

Do you understand the meaning of this—that if we partake of that Bread, we shall ourselves, by His life in us, become bread to feed others and give them life? It means that our lives will, like His, be given up for the service of others. If the Bread of the Presence is in our hearts, as it should be in every house of God, then wherever we go we shall carry Jesus with us, to make us a blessing, to feed and give life and help to others.

This was the meaning of the twelve separate cakes of bread. It was all “one bread,” representing Jesus the true Bread, yet it was in twelve cakes, one for each tribe, to show the children of Israel that they were meant, by the Lord, to be the bearers of that bread of life to the world.

³⁰ This is the Hebrew meaning of the word “shewbread” or “showbread” in *Exodus* 25:30, and is rendered as “bread of the Presence” in some translations.

The bread was always in the presence of the Lord, always before His face, always offered to Him. This shows us the Spirit of Jesus, ever present with the Father ready to do His will.

We are told what was the language of His heart when He gave His body to be broken, that God might feed the world with living bread,

Hebrews 10

⁹ Lo, I come to do your will, O God.³¹

And this will be the language of all who eat of that living Bread, for they will become like Him. We are told to...

Romans 12

¹ ...present our bodies a living sacrifice.

This means that we are to be ever in the presence of the Lord, ready for His service, ready for sacrifice, ready to suffer, if thereby others may be fed and blessed and saved. If we are thus ever ready before His face, when there is need of the service that we can do, we shall say,

Isaiah 6

⁸ Here am I; send me.

But can even little children carry the living Bread, and help to feed the world's starving multitudes? Yes; if Jesus is in your heart, it cannot be otherwise, though you may never know of the hungry souls whom He is feeding through you.

Think of the lad who carried the few loaves, and how many people were fed with them when Jesus blessed and greatly multiplied them. And He is the same today; He can still multiply the bread. So let us present our bodies, our little influence, our one small talent, whatever He has given us. Let us lay before Him saying with Jesus,

Hebrews 10

⁹ Lo, I come to do your will, O God.

³¹ Paul was quoting *Psalms* 40:7-8.

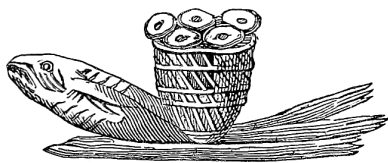
He will accept the offering, and in His hands it may, by His blessing, give life to a multitude.

Remember that the bread had to be changed so that it was kept fresh. So if we would be ever ready to feed others with the Bread of life we must have constantly a fresh supply of that ourselves.

2 Corinthians 4

¹⁶ The inward man, [Christ Jesus, must be] renewed day by day.

And the Sabbath especially is the day when we may receive a fresh supply of life and blessing, that shall serve as a blessing to others through the week.



9. The Altar of Incense

Present Truth, October 24, 1901

THERE was one thing inside the tabernacle, of which we have not yet spoken—the Altar of Incense. This was a small golden altar that stood in the outer apartment, before the Ark, from which it was separated by the veil. The sacred fire burning on this altar, lit by God himself, and never allowed to go out,³² was fed morning and evening with fresh incense, which ascended in fragrant clouds, an offering to the Lord.³³

When the priests came into the tabernacle, they brought censers with them, in which they placed some of the same kind of incense, and lighted it with the holy fire. Two of the sons of Aaron once, through drinking of wine, forgot the importance of doing as God had told them, and they took “strange fire,” instead of the holy fire from the altar, and offered this in their censers. Because of this they died before the Lord.³⁴

Every morning and evening, at the time of incense, the people gathered outside the tabernacle and waited in silent prayer before the Lord while the cloud of incense offered by the priests inside the tabernacle, arose with their prayers.

You will remember, perhaps, that when Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, was offering incense in the temple, and the Angel Gabriel appeared to him,

Luke 1

¹⁰ ...the people were praying without.

This reminds us of the words of David in one of his psalms,

³² PP Editor's note: It was the Altar of Sacrifice, or brazen altar, which was lit by God (*Leviticus* 9:24; *1 Chronicles* 21:26; *2 Chronicles* 7:1). This fire was to be continually kept burning (*Leviticus* 6:12-13). Coals were taken from this fire and used in the Altar of Incense (*Leviticus* 16:12).

³³ *Exodus* 30:7-8.

³⁴ *Leviticus* 10:1-2.

Psalm 141

² Let my prayer come before You as incense.

John saw in a vision heavenly beings,

Revelation 5

⁸ ...having...golden vials full of odors [incense], which are the prayers of saints.

And he also saw an angel...

Revelation 8

³ ...having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

When Noah, after the flood, offered a sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise to God, for His goodness in sparing the lives of his family,

Genesis 8

²¹ The Lord smelled a sweet savor.

All these things show us that the incense represented the true worship of God, which comes up before Him as...

Philippians 4

¹⁸ ...an odor of a sweet smell.

The incense went up in a cloud that could be seen, and its fragrance also made it known. So it is with the true worship of a loving heart that pours itself out in prayer and praise to God. Such worship is not empty words, but it comes up before God as something sweet that can be seen and felt. Its fragrance makes it known to Him, giving Him pleasure, and bringing down His blessing upon the worshipper.

But when the love of the heart is not in the prayer, and it is only a form, there is then no incense and the prayer cannot rise to God.

We have nothing of our own to bring to God. We cannot offer anything to Him except that which He first gives to us. God must provide himself a sacrifice;³⁵ He must supply the incense, and light in our hearts the holy fire that will enable us to offer to Him an acceptable sacrifice.³⁶ This God has done in giving us Jesus,

2 Corinthians 2

¹⁵ For we are unto God a sweet savor of Christ,

Ephesians 5

² ...[who] has given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

He is the true incense, and it is only when we have Jesus in the heart that we can have anything to offer to God.

All true worship, every good thought, every feeling of love to God, every desire to come to Him, comes from Jesus. It is His Spirit that kindles the sacred flame of love in our hearts. If we come to God without this, and with only a form of words, we are like those who offered “strange fire” before Him.

John 4

²⁴ They that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

²³ ...for the Father seeks such to worship Him.

Not our prayers only, but everything that the love of Jesus in the heart prompts us to do, comes as incense before God. The angel that God sent from heaven to the house of Cornelius, said to him,

Acts 10

⁴ Your prayers and your alms are come up before God.

And Paul said that the gift some of his brethren sent to him was...

³⁵ *Genesis 22:8.*

³⁶ *Isaiah 54:17* (last part).

Philippians 4

¹⁸ ...an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God.

The fragrance of the incense upon the altar in the tabernacle spread itself out for miles around in the wilderness. Thus anyone coming there might be led to the house of God to find out what it was, and so would have an opportunity to learn the way of life.

And so in every little earthly tabernacle where Jesus dwells, His sweet presence will shed its perfume all around, to draw people to Him.

As some rare perfume in a vase of clay
Pervades it with a fragrance not its own,
So when You dwell in a mortal soul,
All heaven's own sweetness seems around it thrown.³⁷

Where Jesus dwells, gentle, loving words, and thoughtful, unselfish actions, kind looks and ways, will go forth as sweet incense telling that He is there, that people may be drawn to learn of Him.

The altar of incense is always to be found in the house of the Lord. And the whole universe is His temple; so all the world is an altar, and the fragrant incense of praise is being offered continually from all His works. For,

Psalm 29 [RV]

⁹ ...in His temple every thing says, Glory.

But, like ourselves, nothing in nature has anything of its own to offer to God. All the glory, all the strength, all the beauty, all the sweetness of nature, come from Christ. It is...

2 Corinthians 2

¹⁵ ...a sweet savor of Christ,

—that all nature offers as a sacrifice of praise to God. It is the life of Christ poured out freely into all things,

³⁷ Harriet Beecher Stowe, Hymn: *Abide in Me, O Lord*.

- that gives strength to the mighty oak, whose leaves, moved by His breath, clap their hands in His praise;
- that gives beauty to the pure lily and the blushing rose, and makes of them censers in which fragrant incense is offered to the Lord;
- that gives its airy lightness and its dainty plumage to the bird that sings, among the branches, thanksgivings to its Maker.

God's life and love poured out upon all His works, comes back to Him in the glad worship that nature thus renders to Him.

And prayer is made, and praise is giv'n,
By all things, near and far;
The ocean looks straight up to heav'n,
And mirrors every star.

The green earth sends her incense up
From many a mountain shrine
From folded leaf, and dewy cup,
She pours her sacred wine.

The mists above the morning rills
Rise white as wings of prayer,
The altar-curtains of the hills
Are sunset's purple air.

So Nature keeps the reverent frame
With which her years began;
And all her signs and voices, shame
The prayerless heart of man.³⁸

³⁸ John Greenleaf Whittier, Poem: *The Worship of Nature*.



High Priest offering Incense
(Captivating Bible Stories, 1913)

10. The Laver

Present Truth, October 31, 1901

OUTSIDE the tabernacle, in what was called the outer court, was the Laver—a large basin made of brass. This was kept filled with water, and the priests were obliged to wash their hands and feet in it before they went into the tabernacle. They had to be quite clean for the service of God, to handle the holy things in His house.

Afterwards, when Solomon built the temple, he made “a molten sea”³⁹ in the place of the laver. This was a huge basin made of brass highly polished so that it shone like glass. It was large enough to hold sixteen thousand gallons of water. It was held up by twelve oxen made of brass. Besides this there were ten lavers, each of which held two hundred gallons of water.

What did the laver represent? for we have found that everything connected with the tabernacle was a pattern of things in the heavens, by which God shows us what He wants His sanctuary everywhere to be. John said,

Revelation 22

¹ And He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

From the throne of God in heaven, which the ark with the mercy-seat represented, flows a sacred stream of pure, living water. God’s own life is in it, and in it carries life wherever it goes.

You know that water is the life-blood of our world. Ever moving, in the springs, rivers, seas, oceans, and clouds, it circulates through the world as the blood does in our bodies, washing away impurity, and carrying life. All this water comes from God,

Jeremiah 2

¹³ ...the Fountain of living waters.

³⁹ 1 Kings 7:23; 2 Chronicles 4:2.

Psalm 65

⁹ He visits the earth, and waters it: and greatly enriches it with the river of God, which is full of water.

So the life-giving water which quenches our thirst and cleanses our bodies, comes to us from the throne of God, and through it He is giving us His own life to strengthen and purify us.

Do you know the cleansing power of running water? Think of the rivers that flow through our large cities. The refuse and impurity of the city finds its way to the river. It is swallowed up in its waters, and what becomes of it? It is lost and disappears for ever, while the water flows on, purifying itself by its own movement, until, when but a few miles from the city, it is as fresh and sweet as ever.

This shows us how the pure life of God can wash away all our sins, everything that defiles us and brings death. It is a picture of how death is swallowed up of life. It shows how we may be washed from our sins in the life-blood of Jesus, so that we may...

Psalm 23

⁶ ...dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The prophet Ezekiel saw the temple of God, in a vision, and flowing out from it was the clear river of life. God told him that the waters would bring healing everywhere they went, and...

Ezekiel 47 [RV]

⁹ ...every thing shall live whithersoever the river comes.

Do you remember the words of Jesus to the woman of Samaria?

John 4

¹⁴ Whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water, springing up into everlasting life.

This well of water in our hearts is not to be for our own refreshment only, but for the blessing of others also, that they may drink with us of the water of life. For Jesus said,

John 7

³⁸ He that believes on me,...out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

³⁹ But this He spoke of the Spirit which they that believe on Him should receive.

The Holy Spirit of Jesus, in the heart of each of His little living temples on earth, will be as a river of life flowing out from them to give life to others. Then they too may be washed from their sins, and quench their thirst from this sacred stream.

But before we can be used of God to serve others, we must ourselves be pure and clean. Like the priests we must be washed from every stain, that like them we may be ready to bring help and blessing to others.

Jesus gave himself for us that He might cleanse us...

Ephesians 5 [margin]

²⁶ ...by a water-bath in the Word.

He said to His disciples,

John 15

³ Now you are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.

John 6

⁶³ The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

The living Spirit of Jesus comes to us in His Word, and if we receive it into our hearts by faith, it will not only make us clean, but it will also make us...

Isaiah 58

¹¹ ...like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.



Priests washing in the Laver
(La Sainte Bible 1789)

11. The Altar of Sacrifice

Present Truth, November 7, 1901

THERE was another altar belonging to the tabernacle, besides the altar of incense, of which we have lately learned. This was a large altar made of brass, that was not kept in the Holy Place, but outside in the Court, opposite to the entrance of the tabernacle. Every morning and evening, a lamb without spot or blemish was slain, and offered up as a burnt offering upon this altar.

Long before the tabernacle was built, in fact, ever since the days of Adam, God's people had offered sacrifices. Abel, you remember, brought one of the firstlings of his flock to offer to God.⁴⁰ Do you not think he must have been sorry to take the life of the lamb? But this showed the suffering that sin has brought, and taught of One who has given His life to save the sinner from death.

The first thing that Noah did when he left the Ark, after the flood, was to build an altar of stones and offer as a sacrifice to God some of the animals that had been on with him in the Ark.⁴¹

Abraham built an altar wherever he pitched his tent, and offered sacrifices. To try his faith, God told him to offer up his own son Isaac. He bound Isaac upon the altar, and would have slain him, if the angel of the Lord had not stayed his hand.⁴²

Do you remember Abraham's words to Isaac when the boy asked him,

Genesis 22

⁷ Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

He said,

⁴⁰ *Genesis 4:4.*

⁴¹ *Genesis 8:20.*

⁴² *Genesis 22:1-14.*

Genesis 22

⁸ God will provide himself a lamb.

And when God had told him not to kill Isaac, he saw a ram caught in the thicket, and he offered this instead of Isaac, who went joyfully home again with his father. Jesus is the sacrifice that God has provided. For when He was on earth, John the Baptist said of Him to the people,

John 1

²⁹ Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.

God has given His own Son to take our place, and taste death for every one,⁴³ so that we may all go free.

Isaiah 53

⁷ [Jesus] was brought as a lamb to the slaughter.

Why did He thus suffer death? The innocent little lambs that were offered upon the Jewish altars had done no wrong. They were not slain for their own misdeeds. Their lives were taken because of the sins of the people. But could the blood of these animals take away their sins? Oh, no; but they were to teach them about the true Lamb of God, who suffered death that they might live.

Besides the morning and evening sacrifice, when any one of the people had sinned, he brought a sacrifice to be offered on the altar. Before the lamb was, killed, he put his hands upon its head and confessed his sin. This was to teach him that:

Isaiah 53

⁶ ...the Lord has laid upon Him the iniquity of us all.

I lay my sins on Jesus,
The spotless Lamb of God;

⁴³ *Hebrews 2:9.*

He bears these all and frees us
From the accursed load.⁴⁴

When we confess our sins to Jesus, He takes them right away from us, and bears them himself. They are washed away in the blood that He shed for us, and they will never be found any more.

When the lamb had been killed and offered, the blood was taken inside the tabernacle, and sprinkled in the holy place and before the Ark.⁴⁵

Deuteronomy 12

²³ The blood is the life.

When Jesus shed His blood, He gave His life for us. But this will not save us unless we receive the life that He has given. The life of Jesus must come right into the inner apartment—into the heart—to make us clean, and to keep us from sin.

Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain,
Could give the guilty conscience peace,
Or take away the stain.

But Christ the heavenly Lamb
Takes all my sin away,
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.

My faith would lay her hand
On that meek head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand,
And here confess my sin.

Believing we rejoice
To feel the curse remove;
We praise the Lamb with cheerful voice,
And trust His bleeding love.⁴⁶

⁴⁴ Horatius Bonar, Hymn: *I Lay My Sins on Jesus*, 1843.

⁴⁵ *Leviticus* 4:6, 17.

⁴⁶ Isaac Watts, *Hymns and Spiritual Songs* (1709), “Faith in Christ Our Sacrifice.”



Aaron offering the Sacrifices that represented Christ.
(La Sainte Bible, 1789)

12. The Cleansing of the Tabernacle

Present Truth, November 14, 1901

WE HAVE spoken of the daily service of the priests in the tabernacle—the offering of the incense and the lamb morning and evening. But besides these daily sacrifices there was the yearly service on what was called “The Day of Atonement.”⁴⁷

This was the time when the tabernacle was cleansed; the time for the remission—the sending away—of sins. So the people spent that day in seeking the Lord, and confessing their sins, so that He might take them away, and blot them out.

All through the year the people had offered sacrifices, showing in a figure their faith in the Lamb of God whose blood alone could wash away their sins. And in closing the yearly round of service the Lord showed them in a figure how all the sin that had been confessed and put away, was to be blotted out.

The High Priest took two goats, and cast lots upon them, one lot for the Lord, and the other lot for Azazel, or the scapegoat. Azazel was a Hebrew poetical name for Satan. So these two goats were meant to represent Christ and Satan.

Do you think it strange that Christ, the Lamb of God, should then be typified by a goat? Perhaps you remember the parable of Jesus in which He shows how God will divide between His own people: His sheep; and the wicked: the goats; and will put the sheep on His right hand and the goats on the left. Those at His right hand will be saved, and those on His left will perish. But do you remember that the Bible says of Jesus that when the Lord laid upon Him the iniquity of us all,

Isaiah 53

¹² He was numbered with the transgressors.

Though...

⁴⁷ *Leviticus 16.*

2 Corinthians 5

²¹ He knew no sin, He was made to be sin for us,

—that we might be made pure. So the goat upon whom the Lord's lot fell, became the type of Jesus Christ. This goat was slain, and its blood was taken into the tabernacle to make an atonement for the people. It was sprinkled upon the articles of furniture in the Holy Place, and was then taken into the Most Holy place, and sprinkled before the Ark, and upon the Mercy-seat.

This was the only day in the year that anyone was allowed to enter this Most Holy Place. None but the High Priest ever set foot within that sacred inner apartment where the cloud of God's glory hovered over the Mercy-seat.

And when on this one day in the year he went in to make an atonement for the people, he carried with him much incense, so that the smoke rising from it might shelter him from the glorious brightness, and keep him from being destroyed.

All the while the High Priest was within the tabernacle, the people waited without in solemn silence. He had little bells on the hem of his garment, and as he moved from place to place, the people could tell by the tinkling of the bells where he was and what he was doing.

When the High Priest came out, he raised his hands and blessed the people, and they knew that God had accepted the offering, and cleansed them from their sins.

Then the priest laid his hands upon the head of the scape-goat, and in a figure, all the sins of Israel, for which the Lord's goat had been slain, were laid upon him. For this goat was a type of Satan, the cause of all their sins.

The blood of the goat that was slain cleansed the tabernacle in a figure and took all the sin away from the people and put it upon the head of the scape-goat. Then this goat was taken away into

the wilderness, to wander alone, and it never came back to the camp of Israel.

We have in all our talks about the tabernacle found that it is to teach us of the work of God in our own bodies, to take away our sins, and to make us His own dwelling-place. His promise is that...

Psalm 103

¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

This He has done through the death of Jesus upon the cross, for He took all our sins upon himself. He came to...

Daniel 9

²⁴ ...make an end of sin,

–to blot it out forever from His universe, and to cleanse every part of it.

All through the year the people were taught that Jesus had taken their place, and died instead of them because of their sins. But on this day they were taught what His death would do for them and in them.

As the blood of the goat, in a figure, cleansed the tabernacle from sin; so, in reality, the blood of Jesus cleanses our hearts, and blots out all sin from us. His life in us will make an end of sin in us, and make us pure and holy, so that we shall not go on sinning.

Do you remember that the last work of Jesus before His death, was to cleanse the temple, driving out all those things that were defiling it? So His last work before His coming, which is now very near, is the cleansing away of sin from us who are His living temples. Before He comes, His people must be perfect,

Ephesians 5

²⁷ ...without spot, or wrinkle; or any such thing.

All their sins must be blotted out. So we are living in the great Day of Atonement—the time for the remission and blotting out of

sins. This is a very solemn time, when we should seek the Lord, and confess our sins. God said that if anyone should be careless, and take no notice of the Day of Atonement,

Leviticus 23

²⁹ ...that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Then is it not very important that we should come to Jesus now,

Isaiah 55

⁶ Seek Him while He may be found, and call upon Him while He is near,

—that all our sins may be blotted out when He comes?

The sprinkled blood is speaking
Forgiveness full and free;
Its wondrous power is breaking
Each bond of guilt for me.⁴⁸



⁴⁸ Frederick Whitfield (1829-1904), Hymn: *The Sprinkled Blood*.

