

# CHAPTER 8

## Do You Know You Are a Ministering Priest?

### Foundational Review

Read again Ephesians 3:14-19. Never forget – this is the Gospel, the full three part Gospel. This is how it actually works. These are the underlying concepts to all else that will be discussed in the study guide. Also remember, this middle section is not just for SDAs. It is for all Christians who want an intense relationship with God.

In our last session we began the middle section of the book with “keep” the Commandments. This session introduces a new direction and a specific concept. To do this, let’s use what God used to teach this same concept to the children of Israel. Listen to the Scriptures; let the Scriptures teach us.

### Introduction to Wilderness Sanctuary

Describe, explain the use of, and what took place at each of the articles and furniture found in the Old Testament wilderness Sanctuary.

a. Altar of Burnt Offering (Exodus 29:38-39 – Use Exodus 27:1 and on to help)

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b. The Laver (Exodus 30:18-19)

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c. The Lampstand (Exodus 27:20-21 – Use Exodus 25:31 and on to help)

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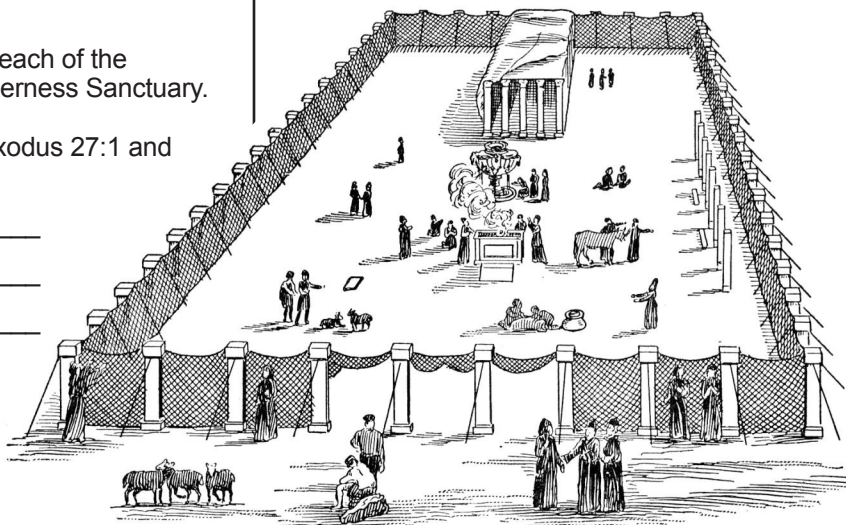
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### You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian/the 5 C’s (Acts 11:26)
- In a Covenant Grace/Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)
- Accepting/Received From/ Faith/Son (1 John 4:7)
- Abiding/Growing In/Hope/Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)
- Acting/Becoming Like/Love/ Father (2 Peter 1:4)
- Required to choose (Romans 12:1)
- Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)
- Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6)
- Gifts of Holy Spirit-internal/external change (Romans 12:2)
- Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)

***This is basic Christianity.***



d. The Table of Showbread (Exodus 25:23, 29-30)

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## Chapter 8: Do You Know You Are a Ministering Priest?

e. The Altar of Incense (Exodus 30:1-5,6-7)

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f. The Ark of the Covenant (Ex. 25:10-22)

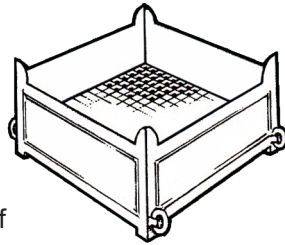
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Now let's begin to draw our lessons for today from the Wilderness Sanctuary.

### Altar of Burnt Offering



#### QUESTION #1:

READ Leviticus 1:3; 4:20. Who brought an offering to the Altar of Burnt Offering? Why?

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a. READ Exodus 29:38-39. How often was this done?

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b. Through the death of Jesus, is this sacrifice still available today to those who need it? (Be careful what we say about the Sanctuary.)

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**Purpose:** Accept sacrifice/transfer of sin

**Lesson:** Always available, may revisit

#### THINK IT THROUGH:

Is this all there is to the Plan of Salvation?

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What is your opinion: Why do so many people think that this is all there is to the Gospel?

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### Called to be Priests

#### QUESTION #1:

READ Exodus 19:4-6. What did God promise to do with His people where the other people in the world could see?

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#### QUESTION #2:

READ 1 Peter 2:9. What does God ask of His People today?

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Are you sure? (check Revelation 5:9-10)

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One of the reasons we encourage people to study Revelation is that it puts emphasis on the critical. Why study the Sanctuary? Because we, who are Christians, have been called to be priests, let's find out what it is that we are called to do as priests.

### Laver

#### QUESTION #1:

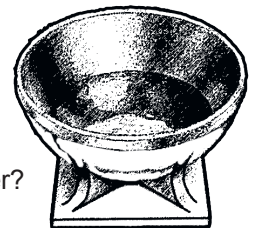
READ Exodus 30:18-19. Why did the priests stop to wash at the Laver?

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**QUESTION #2:**

READ Exodus 30:20-21. What was the danger if they did not wash?

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**QUESTION #3:**

Why would they die? (Compare Hebrews 12:29 and Isaiah 33:14 with Psalms 24:3, 4)

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**QUESTION #4:**

READ and compare John 13:10 and Matthew 15:18-20. In the Ordinance of Humility, what is symbolically being washed clean again?

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**THINK IT THROUGH:**

Is this about cleaning ourselves up before we minister? Is this about being afraid God will strike us down if we are dirty? What is this about?

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**QUESTION #1:**

What part of us needs daily cleansing (clue: Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 2:29)?

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**QUESTION #2:**

READ John 13:12-15. Why do we do this before we minister? (Compare Exodus 30:18-20 with Hebrews 12:28b-29.)

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**QUESTION #3:**

What stories do you know from the Bible about people who tried to minister before making sure that they were prepared, were rededicated, were in the relationship, were abiding?

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**QUESTION #4:**

As Priests, what's the lesson for us at the Laver?

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**Purpose: *Cleanse the heart***

**Lesson: *Prepare the heart to minister***

Now let's move through the first veil into the first apartment of the Wilderness Sanctuary.

■ **Lampstand**

READ John 1:5. With four layers of skins and cloth over the Tent of Meeting, what was the purpose of the Lampstand in the First Apartment?



- a. READ Psalms 119:105; cf. John 1:9-14. Who/What does the Lampstand represent?
- b. READ 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does the Light do for us?

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**THINK IT THROUGH:**

As priests, what's the lesson for us from the Lampstand? As priests what are we to do with the Light we have received from the Word?

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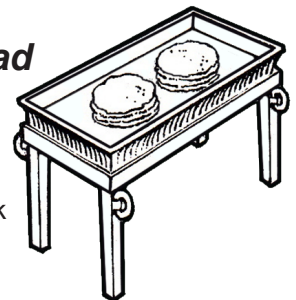
**Purpose: *To learn in order to teach***

**Lesson: *Be enlightened by the Word***

■ **Table of Showbread**

(Literally "the Bread of the Face")

Quick Reminder: LOOK AT Exodus 25:23, 29. There is drink as well as bread on the table.



**QUESTION #1:**

The symbolism of the showbread.

- a. READ Leviticus 24:9. What did the priests do with the showbread?

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b. READ John 4:34. What did Jesus say was His bread, His food?

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c. READ John 6:53-57 with John 14:12. What is to be our bread and our drink?

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d. READ Galatians 6:2; cf. Leviticus 18:1. As priests, what burdens do we bear?

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**QUESTION #2:**

How intimately are we connected to the ministry of Christ at the Table of the Bread of the Face?

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**QUESTION #3:**

We have to ask this question because so many people use this as an excuse to not come to Communion. READ I Corinthians 11:17-30. In the context of the Sanctuary service of priests, what is the significance of agreeing to partake in Communion?

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Are you "worthy" to serve?

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**QUESTION #4:**

READ Jer. 23:6. What makes you "worthy?" What did you gain at the Altar of Burnt Offering and at the Laver that makes you "worthy" to serve?

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**QUESTION #5:**

READ John 14:16-17. What Gift did you receive that makes your service possible? How do you receive that Gift?

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**THINK IT THROUGH:**

As priests, what's the lesson for us at the Table of Showbread?

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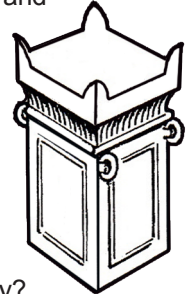
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**Purpose:** *To participate in the ministry of Jesus*

**Lesson:** *Ministry is practical*

Do you see how important it was to understand the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship? This makes the concept of being a Priest much clearer and easier to grasp.



**Altar of Incense**

**QUESTION #1:**

READ Exodus 30:6 (compare with Hebrews 9:3-4). Where and how is the Altar of Incense placed in the Sanctuary?

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**QUESTION #2:**

READ Revelation 8:3-4. What activity takes place here just across "the Veil" from God?

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**QUESTION #3:**

With Whom are you most closely aligned physically and spiritually when interceding on behalf of others?

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**THINK IT THROUGH:**

As priests, what's the lesson for us at the Altar of Incense?

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**Purpose:** *To intercede for others*

**Lesson:** *Learn to pray like Jesus*

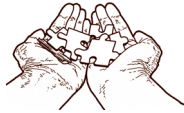
**SPECIAL QUESTION:**

READ John 16:13; 1 Cor. 12:7, 11; Romans 8:26-27. Which member of the Godhead has primary responsibility for the activities of the priests in the first apartment?

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## Take Home

### Thought Questions

Think about each piece of furniture in the Sanctuary as you answer each question.

1. Can you wash your own feet? (Romans 12:2)

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*How desperately we need the Holy Spirit to function as Christians!!*

2. Who especially needs the Light? (Isaiah 60:1-2; Matthew 15:14)

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When you see the Light, what are you to do with it? (Matthew 5:16)

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3. What are we promising to do when we partake of Communion? (John 13:15; 14:12)

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*We are promising to make Jesus' food, our food.*

4. What does it mean to partake of Communion unworthily? (Compare 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 with John 13:18)

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*When we no longer abide, such that we can no longer minister, our light has gone out.*

5. How close to God are you when you are praying for others? (Exodus 30:6; Hebrews 9:3-5)

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6. Why did we need to establish the abiding of the Holy Spirit in us before embarking on this assignment as priests? (Ephesians 3:16)

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7. What do you think the people of the world would do if they found some group of Christians who were actually doing what is outlined here? How do you think they would respond? What would they do? What would they say? (See Colossians 3:12-17)

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