
The Sanctuary

The apostle Paul says Jesus is High Priest and minister of the sanctuary in heaven. He suggested the existence of a second, or new-covenant sanctuary. “The first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.” The use of the word *also* suggests that Paul has mentioned this sanctuary before.

Turning back to the beginning of the previous chapter, we read: “Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a Minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord erected, and not man.” Hebrews 8:1, 2, NKJV. Man built the copy, the earthly sanctuary, and God built the heavenly sanctuary.

When you see somebody’s shadow move, you know that the actual person moved. You can tell what they are doing by what their shadow is doing. Jesus has given us a shadow so that we can know what He is doing in heaven. You may see Christ’s shadow in the work that took place in the earthly sanctuary.

The earthly sanctuary was a pattern (or copy) “of things in the heavens.” It was “the example and shadow of heavenly things.” “Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true;

but He has entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.” Hebrews 9:9, 23; 8:5; 9:24, NKJV.

Tabernacle and Sanctuary: Two Words for the Same Thing

“Make the tabernacle and its instruments according to the pattern I showed you.” Again God gave the command, “Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.” Exodus 25:9, 40. The sanctuary in heaven, in which Jesus ministers for us, is the great original, of which the sanctuary built by Moses was a copy.

The two apartments in the sanctuary on earth represent the two holy places in the sanctuary in heaven. John, the writer of Revelation, saw into the first apartment in heaven and saw the “seven lamps before the throne” and a golden censer. Revelation 4:5; 8:3. The golden candlestick and the altar of incense in the sanctuary on earth represent the “seven lamps of fire” and “the golden altar” that John saw in heaven.

“The temple of God was opened in heaven.” Revelation 11:19. John, the writer of Revelation, looked into the second apartment of the sanctuary in heaven. He saw “the ark of his covenant” containing the Ten Commandments, fifty years after the death of Christ on the cross. This, then, is proof that the death of Christ on the cross did not “do away” with God’s law. It has always been there, and always will be.

Is There Bible Proof of the Existence of a Sanctuary in Heaven?

1. **Moses** made a copy of it. Exodus 35-40.
2. **Paul** tells us about both the original (in heaven) and the copy (on earth) in the book of Hebrews, chapter 9.
3. **John** saw the great original sanctuary, the temple in heaven. He looked inside the sanctuary and saw the ark of His testament (containing the Ten Commandments). Revelation 11:19.

When He died, Jesus went to God’s throne as a priest, and not as a king. When His work as priest is over, God the Father will crown Him “King of kings and Lord of lords.” Then He will return, not as the suffering Saviour, but as “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

He “will sit and rule upon His throne; and He will be a priest upon His throne.”

As a priest, Christ is now sitting with the Father in His throne. Revelation 3:21. Soon He will sit upon the throne of His glory;" God the Father will "give Him the throne of His father David," and "His kingdom will never end." Luke 1:32, 33.

