

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

## "SANCTUS SANCTORUM" | EXODUS 25-27, 30 | PASTOR BRIAN

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

Name a feature of a church building or church service that is unique or even weird.

### *"Why a Sanctuary" - (Exodus 25: 1-9)*

God orders and guides the creation of the tabernacle for His people so He can "dwell in their midst" or live with them. What does that say about God and His character?

### *"Layout of the Old Earthly Sanctuary" - (Exodus 25-27, 30)*

The design of the tabernacle created a visible experience of how God provides a way for His people to approach Him because there is mercy to cover His judgement. What are ways today we can visibly show our experience of God's grace and love?

### *"Comparison Of the New Heavenly Sanctuary" - (Hebrews 9: 1-15)*

The author of Hebrews says that all these things in the Tabernacle were copies of heavenly things, a tool to point people towards a more perfect sacrifice and high priest found in Jesus that covers our guilt for all time. What are ways Jesus' once and for all sacrifice is more comforting than the yearly sacrifices in the tabernacle?

### REFLECTION QUESTION:

In the tabernacle, the sacrifices only covered people's sins for one year, never permanently. But with Jesus' sacrifice, there is perfect forgiveness forever which gives His people perfect peace and relationship with Him. Have you experienced that freedom from guilt and shame? Ask God to remove that guilt and truly accept His forgiveness and draw close to Him.

## Sanctus Sanctorum Holy Sanctuary

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-7 Lar: Parenting. Play. Baptism. Women's Xmas Cel. Crusade. C@R.
- B. Access to God was seen as the *highest good*. Access presupposes a *right relationship*. Access would mean *acceptance* before God, & the *forgiveness* of sin. Access would also involve an *exposure* to the *glory of His Holiness*.
1. During the **Civil War**, there was a **young Union soldier** who had lost his father and older brother in the war. He went to Washington DC, to see if he could get an **exemption from military service** so that he could go back home and help his mother and sister with the spring planting. When he approached the White House and asked to see the president, he was turned away. **Totally disheartened**, the soldier sat down on a park bench nearby. **A little boy approached him** and said, "*You look unhappy, soldier. What's wrong?*" After the soldier shared his story, the little boy **took him by the hand**. He led him through the back door of the White House, past the guards, and into the president's office itself. President **Lincoln** looked up and asked, "*What can I do for you, Tad?*" Tad said, *Daddy, this soldier needs to talk to you*, & the soldier was not turned away.<sup>1</sup>
    - a) Each time we pray, picture **Jesus** saying, *Father, this is someone who needs to talk to You*. Prayer ... *ty for our access*.

### II. Slide8 **Intro:** Sanctus Sanctorum Holy Sanctuary

- A. We now come to the **Tabernacle** (*aka*, tent of meeting, Holy of Holies, the Most Holy Place. The Sanctuary. This *semi-nomadic people* (the Hebrews) haven't settled down yet, so it must be *portable*.
1. Since the children of Israel wouldn't **come up** to His presence (Sinai). He basically says, *I will **come down** and meet you in a **Tabernacle***.

<sup>1</sup> Progress Magazine, December 12/13, 1992

2. This also shows while God is **invisible**, He is not **remote** (far away).

B. God is going to show us how **a holy God** can live in the midst of **sinful man**.

1. He's showing us **How to Approach Him**, because if He didn't ... **we** would try it on **our own** terms. (i.e. **golden calf**, eg. Tower of Babel, eg. Rom.1:23 **instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people & birds/animals & reptiles**)

2. We often approach God like **a salad bar**. We take what we want, leave the rest on the side. I leave most of the vegetables and grab a few **hard boiled eggs, tiny corn-on-cob's, cheese, and a cup of ranch, ha!**

C. To cover these **4 chapters** I will not be able to **read** them all. *This is a fly over.*

1. I obviously encourage you to do so. **But** what I think would be **most helpful** to us, is **instead of how many cubits the ark of the covenant was**, is to understand **why** God made this **old earthly sanctuary** and **how** we relate it to **the new heavenly sanctuary** that we have today in **Jesus**.

D. **Outline: 2 Parts: Layout of the Old Earthly Sanctuary** (Ex.25-27,30).

**Comparison to the New Heavenly Sanctuary** (Heb.9:1-15).

### III. Slide9 **LAYOUT OF THE OLD EARTHLY SANCTUARY (25:1-9)** *Read*

A.(1) **A contribution** - Giving, because He is worth it.

1. Remember whatever they **gave**, really came from **Him** (from Egypt). **Like** our giving today.

B. **This is a decisive moment of OT religion**. Prior to the **tabernacle** there was no firmly established **central sanctuary**.

C. **Slide10 What size was the Tabernacle?** (compared to Football field)

D. **Slide11** We say this **life size Tab** in the Timna Valley at the south end of Israel once.

E. **Slide12a** We are going to start on the outside and work our way in.

1. **The Gold box**: represents the children of Israel's **camp** which was wherever the **Cloud by day** stopped in the wilderness.

a) Everything **outside** it is *unclean*. **It's the place of the Gentiles.** *Outer darkness.*

2. **Slide12b** The people, by **Tribes** (12), were set up around the perimeter.

3. **12c** The Levites around the **Tabernacle** in the center of all life, facing East.

a) Actually, all other semite groups, when they traveled did this. **The King was in the central tent!**

F. **Slide13** Here is a good **rendering** of the Tabernacle.

G. **Slide14** **More details** of the Tabernacle. This was portable enough to be transported by a subdivision of the Levites, called the clan of the Kohathites.

1. The Kohathites had **special charge** of the ark of the covenant, the table, the candlestick, the altars, the vessels of the sanctuary, and the veil.

2. They train their whole lives to follow all the proper procedures ***in moving it, tearing it down, setting it up.***

H. **Slide15a** Let's talk about the furniture:

1. **Outside the Court of the Tabernacle:**

a) **Altar of Burnt offering** (portable bbq for all the sacrifices).

b) **Bronze Basin** (laver for priests to wash).

2. **Slide15b** **Inside Holy Place** (1 room divided by a curtain):

a) **Table of The Bread of Presence** (carried w/poles *not touched*, like Ark. **Even God loves the smell of fresh bread.** They were a reminder that the tribes were *constantly in the presence of God*). 12 loaves/12 tribes.

b) **Slide15c** **Altar of Incense** (it illustrated the work of *prayer*. As it burned it gave a *pleasant aroma* to the environment. *think of the smell of blood everywhere.*

(1) Later we hear, ***our prayers are like incense*** to God. **But** also **conversely** when His people were *corrupt* He said, ***you are a stench to My nostrils.***

c) **Slide15d Golden Lampstand** (menorah. where light *from oil* is perpetually burning / symbolically, *the eternal presence of God*. As we have the *JFK Eternal Flame* in Arlington National Cemetery).

3. **Inside Holy of Holies (*Sanctus Sanctorum* - the innermost & most sacred chamber of the Jewish tabernacle). *Where Heaven & earth come together***

a) **Slide15e Ark of the Covenant** (acacia wood chest, overlaid **pure gold**). *It contained:*

(1) **Pot of manna:** God's miraculous loving care to **feed** them in the wilderness for many years. **Represented God's Love.**

(2) **Aaron's staff that budded:** priesthood. **Represented God's Redemption**

(3) **The 2 tablets of stone:** The actual 10 commandments, written by the finger of God. **Represented God's Holiness.**

b) **Slide16 2 Cherubim** on the lid similar to the 2 in Eden w/flaming swords *protecting, guarding*. The lid/mercy seat, a symbol of God's throne on earth: *a throne of authority & a seat of judgment*).

(1) **The high priest**, & only he, & only once a year (**Yom Kippur**/<sub>just Thurs</sub>) would pass through the veil, into the holy of holies, to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice, on the mercy seat. **In that action, the *blood of the sacrifice* became a **covering** of the judgment seat of God, that protects us from his judgment.**

c) So the whole work of **God's redemption**, it's judgment and it's mercy, is found in the *living symbolism* of the Tent of Mtg, **that God visits with His people.**

I. R.C. Sproul, *As you go **closer to the sanctuary** there is a progressive level of **sacredness**, indicated by a progressive level of the preciousness of the materials that are used. (i.e. badger skin to **gold** on ark of cov)*

#### IV. **Slide17a COMPARISON OF THE NEW HEAVENLY SANCTUARY** (Heb.9:1-15)

A. **A SYMBOLIC EARTHLY TABERNACLE** (1-5) **READ 1-5**

B. At the Tabernacle, everything points to the **holiness of God & the sinfulness of man**. **In that**, *no one could enter God's presence w/o the shedding of blood.*

C. **Everything** about the building & its furniture was meant as a teaching tool.

**Every point** had *a typological value*, which pointed to **Jesus**.

1. **Slide17b Tabernacle** (*And the Word became flesh and dwelt/pitched a tent/tabernacled among us*). **Lampstand** (**Jesus** is the *light of the world*). **Showbread** (I am the bread of life). **Veil** (*which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh*). **Mercy seat** (*redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation*) [Mercy seat meant **covering**. It was a place where *God's holy love covered* the sinner]. **Manna** (*I am the bread of life*). **Aaron's staff** (*Jesus, the High Priest*). **Tablets/stone** (He perfectly fulfilled the Law).

D. **AN INADEQUATE TABERNACLE** (6-10) *READ 6-10*

E. **What an endless repetition of sacrifices & ritual**. *Every day. Year by year ...* which meant *nothing permanent* was ever accomplished.

1. We see **limited access, & limited efficacy** (effectiveness).

F. **What was the Holy Spirit** trying to say to us here?

1. This **restricted access** (7) clearly demonstrated that *a true entrance* into God's presence *had not yet* been disclosed. Conveying to us the idea that ***the true way to God did not lie in them.***

G. (9) **Their consciences** would know no relief.

1. *Many people have only their bad memory to thank for their clear conscience.*
2. **Slide18** (Charles Colson, *Who Speaks for God*, pg.76,77) **Albert Speer** was once interviewed about his book on ABC's "Good Morning America". **Speer** was Hitler's **chief architect**, whose technological genius was credited w/keeping Nazi factories humming throughout WWII. He was only 1 of 24 war criminals tried in *Nuremburg* who **admitted his guilt**. Speer spent 20 years in **S<sub>n</sub>pandau prison**. The interviewer referred to a passage in one of Speer's earlier writings: "*You have said the guilt can never be forgiven, or shouldn't be. Do you still feel that way?*" The look of pathos on Speer's face was *wrenching* as he responded, "*I served a*

sentence of 20 yrs, & I could say, 'I'm a free man, my conscience has been cleared by serving the whole time as punishment.' **But I can't do that.** I still carry the burden of what happened to millions of people during Hitler's lifetime, & I can't get rid of it. This new book is part of my **atonement, of clearing my conscience.**" The interviewer pressed the point. "You really **don't think you'll be able to clear it totally?**" Speer shook his head. "I don't think it will be possible." For 35 yrs Speer had accepted complete responsibility for his crime. His writings were filled w/contrition & warnings to others to avoid his moral sin. He desperately sought **expiation.** All to no avail! [How sad] *Their conscience knew no relief.*

- a) Oh, how many have their **bodies** temporarily clean before God in ways they design, **but** their **consciences** remained defiled.
  - b) Do you struggle with **sins** of your past, that just continue to **gnaw & chew** with the voracious appetite of a **1000 termites**? *HS can purify your conscience*
3. **Don't ask someone what do you do with your sin? Ask, what do you do with your guilt?** [most can rationalize their sin...**but not** their nagging guilt]
4. **Slide19** Mark Twain once said, **Man is the only animal that blushes, and the only animal that needs to.**
- a) **Instead of** being able to look God in the face or to look one-another in the face, we want to **run away** and **hide** when our **conscience** troubles us.
  - b) *Nobody is free who is unforgiven.* John Stott

## H. THE REAL HEAVENLY TABERNACLE (11-15)

- I. **The Good News** the need for pictures/copies/shadows/imitations/substitutes are **over!**
  1. He says, go on to the **reality** the **HS** is pointing to. The **full** forgiveness of sins of this New Covenant. The result? ... *Intimacy w/God.*
- J. What was the **contrast** between **Jesus & the old system**?
  1. What He offered was His own blood (12). Where He offered it was in Heavens Tabernacle (11,12). How often? **once & for all** (12).

2. W/what Results? Eternal **Redemption** (12) & Eternal **Spirit** (14) & Eternal **Inheritance** (15). [as opposed to *temporary*]

**K. Keywords:** Tabernacle, sanctuary, sanctus sanctorum, Holy of Holies, access, ark of the covenant, menorah, altar, incense, bread, lampstand, conscience,