

## **“A Change in Direction”**

**Text: Exodus 25:1-9 40:33-38, Leviticus 1:1-9, Revelation 3:20**

In preparing these Inspirational Messages for you each month, you will note that they go beyond the brevity that you may find in typical Daily Devotionals. My intention is to make these messages a month long study by providing you the context and interpretation of the passages selected. Consequently, on many occasions, it will be necessary that you read several passages, even chapters, beyond the actual lesson text selected. I pray that these messages will provide the spiritual food that will encourage you and reassure you that God knows and he cares for you deeply.

Over time God has changed the way he manages his relationship with mankind. These management systems are called dispensations and each purposed to communicate his love for his people; and to communicate to us not only that he is just, but merciful as well. C. I. Scofield, Bible scholar, in the early 1900s charted the different dispensational systems as follows, in chronological order: Innocence/Conscience, Human Government/Promise, Law, Grace, and lastly Kingdom.

Our message this month focuses on the Law and Grace Dispensational Periods. The first Illustration shows a drawing of the Tabernacle God directed Moses to erect in the Wilderness after their departure from Egypt. Exodus 25:1-9 records God’s instructions to Moses: vs., 1-3., it records his request that the children of Israel bring him an offering of the most exquisite materials, colorful skins, linens, jewels, silver & gold; vs. 8 - “And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.”

Exodus 40:33 records that the work was finished; vs. 34 records that God then inhabited his Tabernacle. Note in the Tabernacle Illustrations the specificity of God’s instructions; the Tabernacle must face the east, the furnishings requested, the Show Bread Table, the Candle Stick, Incense Alter, and behind the Veil, the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant (the chest containing the 10 commandments and the lid to the chest was the Mercy Seat, where God resides. Only Priests could enter the tabernacle and only Aaron, the High Priest could enter through the Veil into the Holy of Holies. Also note the Tabernacle Court Yard was surrounded with Linen Sheets.

**First Change** - God changed from a distant God to a God who was in close proximity with his people. Israel had been in bondage for 400 years and he desired to be in communion with him.

The main purpose of The Book of Leviticus was to keenly define that God is Holy, and because of man’s sinful nature, it was not possible for them to commune with him without the shedding of blood through animal sacrifice. I encourage you to read this book in its entirety. It shows the many aspects of man’s sin nature and how sacrifices had to be brought to the Tabernacle Door by men and women and burned on the Altar in the Courtland. Even the Priest made sacrifices for themselves and had to wash in the Laver (basin or bowl) in the Courtyard before entering the Tabernacle. Now envision in your mind the scene depicted in Leviticus 1:1-9; the Israelite approaches the Tabernacle Court Yard from the eastern entrance with his sacrifice, , places his hand on the head of the animal, indicating to God that he is the sinner and the animal is innocent and is standing in his stead (vs. 4). He then kills the animal before the Lord, God is watching the ceremony from within the Tabernacle (vs. 5); the priest then prepares the animal to be burned as a sacrifice on the Altar (vs. 6-9)<sup>1</sup> “...it is the blood that maketh an atonement for your soul--Leviticus 17:11). It is hard to conceive the magnitude of the number of animals sacrificed for the families of 603,000 Israelites while they were in the Wilderness. Additionally, animals were sacrificed during yearly sacrifices, i.e. Feast of Trumpets, Feast of Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, etc.

**Second Change.** We today are living under the Dispensation of Grace; depicted in the Second Illustration. “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with me”--Revelations 3:20. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”-John 3:16. So under grace, Jesus, the Lamb of God, was sacrificed once, thus extending eternal atonement, forgiveness for all who believe on the name of Jesus, and eternal life. Hebrew 9:22 – 10:39; no more animal sacrifices.

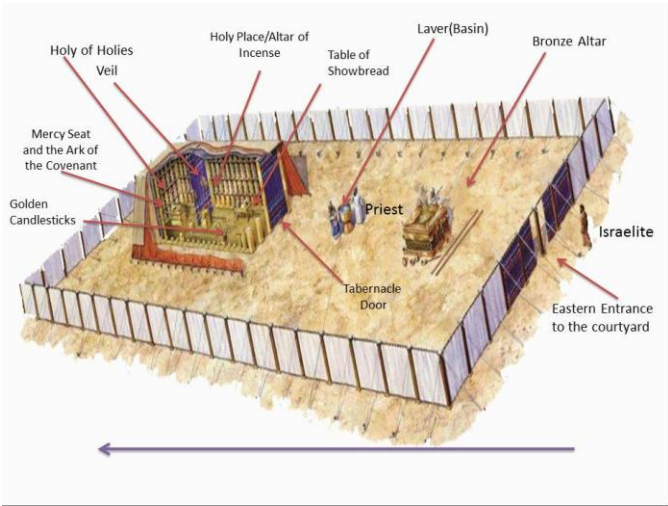
Now, I am going to take ministerial license and depict this change as a directional change. Under the Law Dispensation, man had to approach God from the **east to west** with the sacrifice, and he was not allowed to approach God directly in the Holy of Holies. Here is the spiritual embellishment, Jesus the sacrifice is moving **west to east** to meet you at the door of your heart, telling you, “I am the way the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”—John 14:6. What a miraculous change, instead of you bringing the sacrifice to God through the High Priest to gain access and communion with God, the Veil separating the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle was torn when Jesus died and rose for us, he sits on the right hand side of God. Because of this sacrifice we all have direct access to God. And Jesus is proactively making appeals to us; “If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it”—John 14:14; “.....I will never leave thee or forsake thee”—Hebrews 15:5. Isn’t God wonderful? Can you say THANK YOU JESUS? Is he alright with you? Can you say AMEN?

***“I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses; And the voice I hear falling on my ear, The Son of God discloses; And he walks with me, and he talks with me, And he tells me I am His own, And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever know”.***

Yours in Christ,

*Dempsey Scott Harrison, Jr.*

# Old Testament Dispensation



# New Testament Dispensation

