

PICTURES OF CHRIST



William A. Deans

PICTURES OF CHRIST

WA.Deans

Everyday Publications Inc.

310 Killaly Street West

Port Colborne ON L3K 6A6 CANADA

PICTURES OF CHRIST
Copyright © 1976 by Everyday Publications
Inc. ISBN 0-919586- 22-8

Cover design by J. B. Nicholson Jr.

Printed in Canada 05/2006

Pictures of Christ

| | <i>page</i> |
|--|-------------|
| Introduction | 5 |
| 1. Adam, a Picture of Christ | 7 |
| 2. Blood Was Shed in the Garden of Eden | 10 |
| 3. Abel's Lamb | 12 |
| 4. Noah's Ark | 15 |
| 5. Melchizedek | 18 |
| 6. Isaac and the Lamb | 21 |
| 7. Joseph | 24 |
| 8. The Passover Lamb | 27 |
| 9. Manna, the Bread from Heaven | 30 |
| 10. Water from the Rock | 33 |
| 11. The Bronze Snake | 37 |
| 12. The Tabernacle | 40 |
| 13. One Door | 42 |
| 14. The Bronze Altar | 44 |
| 15. The Bronze Basin | 47 |
| 16. The Gold Lampstand | 50 |
| 17. The Table for the Bread | 53 |
| 18. The Altar of Incense | 55 |
| 19. The Veil, the Ark, and the Mercy Seat | 58 |
| 20. The High Priest, and the Clothes of the Priests | 61 |
| 21. David and Christ | 65 |
| 22. Still More Pictures | 68 |

Introduction

The Bible is God's message to men. Its 66 books are divided into two main parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Each part of the Bible helps us to understand the other part.

The Old Testament was written many years ago, before the Lord Jesus Christ was born, but it is valuable to us today because the Holy Spirit led holy men of God to write the things God wanted men to know.

Parts of the Old Testament tell what would happen later, but some of these prophecies have not yet been fulfilled. Some of the writers of the Old Testament prophesied about Christ.

There are many wonderful pictures of Christ in the Old Testament even though it was written before He was born. These pictures make us think of His life, His death, His resurrection, the work He is doing at the present time, and the glory that will be His in the future. We can see these pictures in the lives of people who lived in Old Testament times and in the things which happened to the people of Israel. Also the furniture in the Tabernacle teaches us wonderful lessons about the beauties of Christ and about His perfect work.

Some of the events which happened long ago are very clearly pictures of Christ. Then there are other pictures of our Lord which are not as clear. They are like the shadow of a man which can be seen before the man himself appears. These things are pictures of Christ, but only in part and not very plainly.

We must read the New Testament if we want to understand these things. In it we will find verses which explain very clearly the meaning of these pictures. We shall there-

fore look for pictures of Christ in the Old Testament and then go to the New Testament to understand their meaning.

We shall use the whole Bible as we read this book, in order to learn about our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Ask God to reveal Christ to you in these pictures. You will be surprised and filled with wonder as you see how the Old Testament and the New Testament together reveal to us the beauty of the Lord Jesus Christ and His wonderful works.

The following verses show that it was God who gave us the Holy Scriptures through the apostles. They also show that the Old Testament prophets prophesied about the Lord Jesus Christ. Be sure to read these verses: 2 Timothy 3.16; 2 Peter 1.20,21; John 8.56; 5.39,46; Hebrews 10.7; Matthew 22.45.

1

Adam, a Picture of Christ

Genesis 1.26-28; 2.7,8,15

We read about Adam in the Old Testament, but the New Testament tells us that Adam was a picture of Christ, Romans 5.14. He was like Christ in some things but he was also very different from Christ.

First read Genesis 1.26-28; 2.7,8,15. In these verses we see that Adam was the first man. God formed him from the dust of the ground, breathed into him the breath of life, and Adam became a living being.

Now read 1 Corinthians 15.45. This verse also tells us that Adam was created a living being, the first man. He is the head of the **first** creation.

This same verse calls Christ the last Adam, and verse 47 of the same chapter calls Him the second Man. He is the Head of the **new** creation.

The first man (Adam) was made of earth. The last Adam is the life-giving Spirit and came from heaven, 1 Corinthians 15.47,48.

We see therefore that Adam resembles Christ, but that he is also different from Christ. Adam was made in the image of God, Genesis 1.26. Christ is the exact likeness of the invisible God, 2 Corinthians 4.4; Colossians 1.15; He is God in human form, 1 Timothy 3.16.

Adam is called the first Adam. Christ is the last Adam. We were born into this world with a human body and a nature

like that of the first Adam, but we will wear the likeness of the last Adam if we are born through the Spirit, by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. Now we wear the likeness of the man made of earth, but in Christ we shall wear the likeness of the Man from heaven, 1 Corinthians 15.45-49. Read also 1 John 3.2; Philippians 3.20,21.

The Lord Jesus said to Nicodemus that no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again, John 3.3. He also said that flesh gives birth to flesh and Spirit gives birth to spirit, and that we should not be surprised to hear that we must be born again, John 3.6,7.

In Adam we inherit 'the judgment of death, but those who believe in Christ inherit eternal life.

Now let us read Romans 5.15-19. In these verses we see five things. We receive the following:

1. Through one man (Adam) SIN and DEATH, v.15
Through one Man (Christ) GRACE and a FREE GIFT
2. Through one man (Adam) JUDGMENT (guilty), v.16 Through one Man (Christ) UNDESERVED GIFT (not guilty)
3. Through one man (Adam) DEATH, verse 17. Through one Man (Christ) LIFE
4. By the one sin of one man (Adam) all were condemned verse 18
By the one righteous act of one Man (Christ) all receive righteousness and life
5. Because one man (Adam) disobeyed many were made sinners verse 19
6. Because of the obedience of one Man (Christ) many will be put right with God

Adam Received a Bride

We will now go on to show in what ways Adam was like Christ. God gave Adam a wife; and God gave Christ the Church to be His bride.

Adam was alone in the garden of Eden. There were birds and animals there, but there was no one to help Adam.

God said it was not good for a man to be alone, so He made Adam sleep and removed a bone from his side. From

this bone He made a wife for Adam and gave her to him. Read Genesis 2.20-22. Adam called his wife **woman** because she was made of his bone and flesh, Genesis 2.23.

Much the same happened with regard to the Church, the Bride of Christ. Christ got His Bride through deep sleep, that is, through death. God gave Him the Church to be His Bride because He suffered and died for sinners.

In John 12.24 we read that a seed is a picture of Christ's death. A seed remains alone if it stays outside of the ground. It dies when it is put into the ground, but it produces a harvest of many seeds through dying. This is a picture of the death and resurrection of Christ which produced the Church.

The Church is the Body of Christ - His bones, His hands. Christ is our Head and we are part or members of His body, Ephesians 1.22,23; 1 Corinthians 12.27. Christ loved the Church and gave His life for it, Ephesians 5.23-27. So the Church is the Bride of Christ, made up of people whom the Father gave to Him, John 17.24.

Adam Ruled Over All Living Creatures

God told Adam and his wife to rule over all living creatures, Genesis 1.26-28.

Christ has been given all authority, Matthew 28.18. He will rule as King of kings. His enemies will become the footstool under His feet. Read Revelation 11.15; Psalm 72.8; Zechariah 9.10; Psalm 110.1.

Christ will have authority over the whole earth and will rule it with an iron rod. His Bride, the Church, will rule with Him, Revelation 2.26,27; 3.21; 20.6. Every creature will be subject to **Him**, Hebrews 2.6-8. Every tongue **will** confess that Jesus is Lord for the glory of God the Father, Philippians 2.9-11.

Adam's rule in the garden of Eden is a picture of the rule of Christ over the whole world.

2

Blood was Shed in the Garden of Eden

Genesis 3

God allowed Adam to eat of all the different kinds of fruit in the garden of Eden except that of one special tree. This tree was called **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**. God said Adam and his wife would die if they disobeyed His command and ate the fruit of this tree.

Satan approached Eve, Adam's wife, in order to tempt her. He came in the body of a snake and spoke to her in man's language. He made fun of what God had said and tried to persuade Eve to eat the fruit.

Eve had understood God's command and she told the snake that God had forbidden them to eat the fruit or even to touch it; if they did they would die, Genesis 3.3. But Satan deceived Eve. The woman looked at the fruit of that tree and wanted very much to eat some. So she took the fruit and gave some to her husband also, Genesis 3.6. So they both sinned. Eve had been deceived, but Adam knew what he was doing when he ate some of the fruit, 1 Timothy 2.14.

God had said that they would die if they ate the fruit. Now Adam and Eve realized that they were naked and they sewed some leaves together to try to cover themselves. They were sinners now and hid themselves from God.

But God started to look for them and found them hiding among the trees of the garden. Adam accused his wife and Eve accused the snake. They knew that they would be judged.

But God in His grace provided a way for them to be saved. They deserved to die, but God killed an animal and dressed Adam and Eve in clothes made from the skin of the dead animal. The animal died in the place of Adam and Eve, and blood was shed in the garden of Eden! So God in His mercy made it possible for them to be saved.

Here we see another picture of Christ. The animal had to die and shed its blood in order that Adam and Eve could have its skin. The leaves they had sewn together were not good enough. They had to wear the clothes made of the skin which God had provided for them. Then God could see on Adam and Eve something to show that they had been redeemed, something to remind Him that blood had been shed.

Adam and Eve did not die right away even though God judged them by putting them out of the garden of Eden. He made the man work very hard in the field and caused the woman to have great pain when she gave birth to children. Adam and Eve were able to live for a while before they died, but God did not allow them to enter the garden of Eden again. He did not want them to eat the fruit of the tree of life and they did not deserve to be in the garden anymore, Genesis 3.24.

Today sinners try to please God with their good works and think they can be saved in this way. These good works are like the leaves which Adam and Eve used to cover themselves before God. But *the wages of sin is death*, Romans 6.23, and *the soul that sins shall die*, Ezekiel 18.20.

But God has prepared a way of salvation! His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, died in the place of sinners, as the animal died in the place of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. The Lord shed His blood to pay the debt of sin. Now a person needs only to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour in order to have peace with God.

3

Abel's Lamb

Genesis 4.1-15

The first person born in this world was a murderer. Cain, the first-born son of Adam and Eve, killed his younger brother Abel.

Adam and Eve had sinned in the garden of Eden. They tried to hide their naked bodies with leaves which they had sewn together. But God did not accept the work they had done to cover up their sin. He wanted blood to be shed. So they were covered with the skin of an animal who died in their place.

Adam and Eve's children, Cain and Abel, knew that blood must be shed so that they might have peace with God. We must not think that Cain was a greater sinner than Abel. They were both sinners and they both needed to have their sins forgiven.

Why then did God receive the sacrifice one of them brought, but not that of the other? Because their sacrifices were different. God looked at each sacrifice, and He accepted one and rejected the other.

Cain brought a sacrifice to God of what he had grown in his field. But God had cursed the ground, Genesis 3.17, so it could not produce a sacrifice which God would accept. Cain's sacrifice was like the leaves which Adam and Eve had sewn together to hide their naked bodies in the garden of Eden. It was not **the right kind** of sacrifice because no blood had been shed.

Cain was wrong when he thought that vegetables, fruit, and beautiful flowers would please God. It was also wrong for him to think that God would be happy to receive some of the fruit of his work as a farmer. Men can come to God in only one way, only if someone else dies and sheds his blood for them.

Abel was a shepherd. He took a little lamb of the flock, killed it and offered it as a sacrifice to God together with the fat.

God did not look at either Cain or Abel: He saw only their sacrifices. He accepted Abel's blood sacrifice, but refused Cain's sacrifice which had no blood, Genesis 4.4,5. Cain had no faith, but tried to come to God in the way **he** thought was best. Abel was accepted because his sacrifice pleased God: He brought a blood sacrifice, in faith, Hebrews 11.4.

God rebuked Cain and showed him that he too would be accepted and forgiven if he brought the right kind of sacrifice, Genesis 4.7. But Cain did not want to do this; instead he attacked and murdered his brother. God put a mark on Cain and he went away to wander around in the world. Every-where he went people knew he was a sinner.

Abel's lamb is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is the perfect Lamb of God. John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and called Him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, John 1.29,30. The Lord Jesus did not defend Himself when the soldiers arrested Him, John 18.7-12. He was like a lamb which does not resist those who cut off its wool, and as a sheep that is led out to be killed, Isaiah 53.7.

Today a sinner must have faith in the sacrifice of Christ on the cross if he wants to be accepted by God. His sins can be forgiven only through the blood of the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God. 1 Peter 1.18,19 tell us that we are not set free by something that loses its value (like Cain's sacrifice), but by the precious blood of Christ who was like a perfect lamb, without any defect or spot.

God did not look at Cain and Abel but at their sacrifices. He does not look at us either, but at the sacrifice with which

we approach Him, the sacrifice of Christ or our own good works.

It is useless for us to try and please God with our good works. We can receive forgiveness only when we believe in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who offered Himself to die on the cross for our sins. When we do this, God accepts us for ever.

4

Noah's Ark

Genesis 6 • 9

The people who lived at the time of Noah were very wicked and had only evil thoughts. God saw that the whole world had become unclean and He said that His Spirit would not remain in man forever. He decided to destroy men through a flood: all men and animals and birds would die in the water, Genesis 6.17.

Today the world is just as wicked as it was then. Men are not afraid of God's judgment on their sins.

But God showed mercy to Noah, a righteous man. Noah walked with God, as Enoch had done, Genesis 5.24; 6.8,9, and God prepared a way for him to be saved. He commanded Noah to make a ship or ark and told him just how long and wide and high this ship should be. He told Noah to put one window at the top and one door in the side. Then Noah had to cover the whole ark, inside and outside, with pitch, which would keep the water out. Noah obeyed and did everything that God had told him to do, Genesis 6.19-22.

God in His grace has also prepared a way of salvation for the people of today who only deserve to be judged by Him. The ark is a picture of Christ in whom the believer can hide from the coming storm of judgment.

Noah told the people of his day that they were in danger of being judged by God. He preached about righteousness, 2 Peter 2.4,5, and about judgment and salvation.

Noah and his sons (Shem, Ham and Japheth) kept on

building the large ship as God had told them to do. The people may have laughed, but Noah continued to preach and build, and finally the work was finished.

Then Noah entered into the ark with his family, eight people in all, by faith, Hebrews 11.7. Animals and birds of every kind entered as well. God Himself closed the door after them, Genesis 7.16.

At the present time God's servants preach that God will judge men for their sin. They tell men that the Son of God will come again.. But today also men keep on sinning just as they did in the time of Noah. They do not want to receive God's gift of salvation, Romans 6.23, and enter into Christ, our Ark, by believing in Him, 2 Peter 2.5.

Finally the rain began to fall when Noah entered the ark. _ More water came up out of the ground. There was a great storm and water began to cover the earth.

What about those people who had made fun of Noah and who had not believed his words? They remained outside of the ark in the pouring rain and started to climb the hills in order to get away from the water that was rising higher and higher in the valleys. Perhaps some knocked on the door of the ark and asked Noah to allow them to come in. But the time had passed when they could enter the ark and be saved. All the people, animals and birds died, all except those who had gone into the ark. Only these escaped.

Noah's ark is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. All the people **in the ark** were safe when God sent the flood to judge the men of the earth. There was only one way to be saved from the flood and that was to enter into the ark through its only door, Genesis 6.16; John 10.9.

The storm did not damage the ark and all those inside it were safe. In the same way the Lord Jesus received the storm of God's judgment which we should have received. God's anger was poured out on Him. He took our place, He died for us, and we have eternal life by believing in Him.

Finally the rain stopped falling, the waters began to decrease on the earth and the ark came down on a mountain in the district called Ararat. All those inside the ark stepped out

on the ground which was no longer covered with water. Noah built an altar, 8.14-20, and offered sacrifices to the Lord, 8.20-22.

God placed His bow, a rainbow, in the clouds as a sign of the covenant He had made with men. In this covenant He promised that He would not destroy the earth again through water, Genesis 9.8-17. In the future God will judge the earth again and destroy it, but He will do it with fire, not with water, 2 Peter 3.4-14.

Read Luke 17.24,26,27 and see what the Lord Jesus said about Noah and the flood and ask yourself if you are ready for His coming.

Pictures of Christ – TEST 1 – Chapters 1-4

(Write down your answers then enter them into the **EXAM FORM** on the website menu)

Indicate the letter of the correct answer

1. Adam was like Christ
 - (a) in no way.
 - (b) in some ways.
 - (c) in every way.

2. By the sin of one man (Adam)
 - (a) all were condemned.
 - (b) some were condemned.
 - (c) many were condemned.

3. Abel brought a lamb because
 - (a) he was a shepherd.
 - (b) he knew that blood must be shed.
 - (c) he did not have anything else to bring.

4. Cain
 - (a) was a greater sinner than Abel.
 - (b) brought a sacrifice that was pleasing to God.
 - (c) did not bring the right kind of sacrifice to God.

5. Which of the following tells us that Enoch was a prophet?
 - (a) Genesis 5:24
 - (b) Hebrews 11:5
 - (c) Jude 1:14

Write **TRUE** or **FALSE** after each statement

6. Adam was deceived by Satan.
7. The first person born in this world was a murderer.
8. Abel's lamb is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
9. Noah's ark is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
10. In the future God will destroy the earth with a flood.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

ADAM, ABEL, CAIN, NOAH – who can you identify with and why?

5

Melchizedek

Genesis 14.17-24

Melchizedek is a picture of Christ as King and Great High Priest. This man lived during the time of Abraham. He was king of Salem (later called Jerusalem) and he was also a priest of God Most High, Genesis 14.18.

Melchizedek was a man, but the Bible does not tell us anything about his parents. God purposely hid this information so that Melchizedek might be a picture of Christ who was born here on earth in a miraculous way but had always been in Heaven before that.

Read about Melchizedek in Genesis 14. Four kings were fighting against five kings and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah were defeated, v.10. The victorious kings carried away all the valuable things of Sodom and Gomorrah, all the food and all the people. They also took Lot, the son of Abraham's brother, who was living in Sodom, vs.11,12.

Abraham heard about this and gathered all his servants together, 318 men. He followed the enemy, caught up with them, fought with them and defeated them. Abraham took from them all the animals they had taken from the other kings and brought back Lot and the other prisoners, vs.13-16.

Melchizedek met Abraham when he returned from the battle. He brought Abraham food and wine and blessed him in the name of God Most High. Abraham gave Melchizedek one tenth of all he had taken from the other kings, v.20.

The king of Sodom also came to meet Abraham. He asked

Abraham to give him back his people and told him to keep the cattle. But Abraham refused to take anything from the king of Sodom because he did not want this king to be able to say that he had made Abraham rich, v 23.

So Abraham chose between these two kings: Melchizedek, the king of Salem and priest of God Most High, and the king of Sodom. He chose Melchizedek and received his gift and his blessing. Abraham gave him one tenth of all he had taken from the other kings in the battle, but he refused to receive the gifts of the king of that wicked city, Sodom.

Hebrews 6.20 and 7.1-28 show that Melchizedek is a picture of Christ. Notice the ways in which the Lord Jesus Christ is like Melchizedek:

1. **Jesus was born in a miraculous way.** We do not know anything about the birth of Melchizedek nor about his parents. The Bible tells us nothing about the beginning or end of his life. In this way he resembles the Lord Jesus who was born into this world in a miraculous way, but had always existed as God the Son, Hebrews 7.3.

2. **Christ is King.** Melchizedek's name means **king of righteousness**; he was also king of Salem (which means **peace**), Hebrews 7.2. Christ also is a King:

- The Old Testament prophets called Him King, Matthew 21.4,5; Psalm 2:8; Daniel 7.13,14.
- After the Lord Jesus was born Herod called **Him King of the Jews**, Matthew 2.2.
- Pilate asked Him if He was a king, John 18.37; 19.14,15.
- The New Testament calls **Him King of kings**, Revelation 17.14; 19.16.

3. **Christ is our Great High Priest**, Hebrews 7.1-28. Christ was born in the tribe of Judah, not in the tribe of Levi to whom God had given the work of the priesthood, Hebrews 7.5,14. Aaron, the first high priest, was a Levite, and all the priests after him were Levites.

But Melchizedek, priest of God Most High, lived before Levi was born. Abraham honoured Melchizedek by giving

him a title of what he had received. As he did this he was taking Levi's place who was a descendant of Abraham. When Abraham fell down before Melchizedek, it was as if Levi fell down before him. This shows plainly that Melchizedek was greater than Levi. Read Hebrews 7.2.

God called Jesus Christ a high priest forever, in the priestly order of Melchizedek, Psalm 110.4; Hebrews 6.20; 7.17,21. All other priests died, but He lives forever to pray for His people, Hebrews 7.15,16,25.

4. The covenant of Christ, our Great High Priest, is better than that of the priests of the family of Levi, Hebrews 7.22.

- Christ has arranged a better covenant between God and men, because it is based on promises of better things, Hebrews 8.6.
- It is a new covenant, Hebrews 8.7,8.

All the priests of the tribe of Levi had to offer sacrifices for their own sins first before they offered any for the people, but our Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, has no sin. He offered Himself once as a sacrifice for sinners in order that we might receive eternal salvation, Hebrews 7.23-28.

- God will never remember our sins again, Hebrews 8.12,13; 10.17,18.

Read also Hebrews 10.9-18. You will be filled with joy as you think about the perfect work of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Sacrifice, our Great High Priest, and our King.

6

Isaac and the Lamb

Genesis 22.1-14

These beautiful verses show us that Abraham was willing to offer Isaac as a sacrifice to God. In this Abraham is a picture of God Himself who was willing to offer His only Son as a sacrifice for sin. In this chapter we also read of a lamb who died in the place of Isaac. This lamb is a picture of the Lamb of God who died for us. So there are two pictures of Christ in this chapter.

Let us think first about Isaac, Abraham's beloved son. In verse 2 we read that he was Abraham's *only* son and that Abraham loved him. God did not count Ishmael, Hagar's son, because Hagar was not Abraham's real wife. Sarah was Abraham's wife and God's promises were for Isaac, Sarah's son. But now God told Abraham to take this son through whom His promises were to be fulfilled and offer him as a burnt offering.

In these verses Abraham speaks to us of God, and Isaac of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's beloved Son. See Mark 1.11. Abraham did not refuse to offer his son as a sacrifice. God also did not keep back His own Son, but offered Him for us all, Romans 8.32.

Isaac was the son whom God had promised to give Abraham, and he is a picture of Christ whom God promised to send into the world. Read Genesis 17.16; 3.15; Isaiah 7.14.

Isaac's birth had been a miracle because both his parents were too old to have children, Genesis 18.11. The birth of the

Lord Jesus Christ here on earth was also a miracle because He did not have a human father. God Himself was His Father. The Holy Spirit came on Mary when she was a virgin and she gave birth to the Lord Jesus without having been with a man. Both Isaac and Christ were born as God had prophesied before. See Genesis 21.2; Galatians 4.4.

God told Abraham what his son's name should be before Isaac was born, Genesis 17.19. He also told Joseph what name they should give to Mary's Son before He was born, Matthew 1.21.

Abraham loved Isaac very much and Isaac obeyed his father. He and Abraham were happy as they went together to Mount Moriah where Abraham was going to offer him to God, Genesis 22.3-6. The Lord Jesus was also obedient to His Father. He could say that He always did the things that pleased His Father, John 8.29.

Abraham believed God and He knew that God would fulfil His promise even if Isaac died. So he said to the servants that he and Isaac would go to worship and that they both would come back to them, v.5.

Abraham and Isaac climbed the mountain together to prepare for the sacrifice. Abraham built the altar, arranged the wood, tied his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham took his knife and raised his hand ready to kill his son.

These things are certainly a picture of the cross where God the Father offered His beloved and only Son. Jesus' blood was shed as He died to become the sacrifice for our sins.

The voice of the Angel kept Abraham from killing Isaac, but God remained silent when men crucified His Son. He did not save His beloved Son but gave Him for us all.

In Genesis 22 we see that Isaac was taken out of the place of death and so he was a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ when He was raised from death.

Now let us consider the second picture of Christ in this chapter. Isaac asked his father where the animal was for the

burnt offering, v.7. Abraham answered that God would provide it Himself, v.8.

Now, after the angel had spoken, here was the animal, caught by its horns in the bushes, v.13. God had provided it to die in the place of Isaac. Abraham untied Isaac and he was free!

Then Abraham took the animal and offered it as a burnt offering in the place of his son, v.13.

This animal is also a picture of Christ. Christ's blood was shed to redeem sinners. Peter tells us that we were set free by the precious blood of Christ who was like a lamb without defect or spot, 1 Peter 1.18,19.

Pictures of Christ – TEST 2 – Chapters 5-6

(Write down your answers then enter them into the **EXAM FORM** on the website menu)

Indicate the letter of the correct answer

1. Melchizedek lived during the time of
 - (a) Noah.
 - (b) Jacob.
 - (c) Abraham.
2. Melchizedek was the king of
 - (a) Sodom.
 - (b) Salem.
 - (c) Gomorrah.
3. We read that Melchizedek is a picture of Christ in
 - (a) Hebrews.
 - (b) Romans.
 - (c) Revelation.
4. God called Jesus a high priest in the order of
 - (a) Levi.
 - (b) Abraham.
 - (c) Melchizedek.
5. Abraham was willing to offer his son as a sacrifice to God.
This son was
 - (a) Ishmael.
 - (b) Isaac.
 - (c) Levi.

Write TRUE or FALSE after each statement

6. In Genesis 22 there are two pictures of Christ.
7. The birth of Isaac was a miracle.
8. Both Isaac and Christ were born as God had prophesied.
9. Abraham was a picture of the Lord Jesus when He was raised from the dead.
10. Peter tells us that we were set free by the precious blood of Christ.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

What are the two pictures of Christ in Genesis 22?

Have you been set free by the precious blood of Christ?

7

Joseph

Genesis 37 - 50

The story of Joseph fills nearly fifteen chapters of the Bible. You will receive great profit from these chapters and will find in them many precious pictures of Christ. Let us consider a few of them.

Jacob loved his son Joseph very much, Genesis 37.3; God the Father called the Lord Jesus Christ His **beloved** Son, Matthew 3.17; 17.5; John 10.17.

Joseph took care of his father's sheep and is a picture of the Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who gave His life for the sheep, Genesis 37.2; John 10.11.

Joseph hated the evil deeds of his brothers and told his father about them, Genesis 37.2. The Lord Jesus Christ hated sin; however He did not come into this world to accuse sinners but to save them, 1 Timothy 1.15.

Joseph's brothers hated him, Genesis 37.4,5,8. The Lord Jesus was born a Jew and the Jews were His brothers. The Jews hated Christ, John 15.25. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him, and the Jews were jealous of the Lord Jesus, Genesis 37.11; Matthew 27.17,18; Mark 12.6,7. God the Father sent His Son to the people of Israel and Joseph's father sent him to his brothers. Neither of them were well received, Genesis 37.13,14,18; John 1.11.

Joseph's brothers made plans to kill him and the Jews made plans to kill the Lord Jesus, Genesis 37.18; Matthew 12.14; Luke 4.28,29; John 8.40. Joseph's brothers made fun

of him and took his clothes, Genesis 37.23. The Jews did the same to the Lord Jesus Christ, Matthew 27.27,28; John 19.23.

Joseph's brothers sold him to the Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver. The priests paid 30 pieces of silver for the Lord Jesus, which was the price of a slave in Israel, Exodus 21.32; Zechariah 11.12; Matthew 26.14,15; 27.3,9.

Joseph's brothers dipped his coat in the blood of an animal, Genesis 37.31, so that their father would think a wild animal had killed him. But the Jews really did kill the Lord Jesus Christ. He shed His blood in order to save sinners from the judgment of God, Acts 2.22,23; Hebrews 9.14,15; Romans 5.8,9.

Joseph's brothers put him into a well without water and later pulled him out again, Genesis 37.24,28. This makes us think of Christ's death and resurrection, 1 Corinthians 15.3,4.

Joseph was also a picture of Christ when he was working for Potiphar in Egypt. He was a good and obedient servant, Genesis 39.1-6; Isaiah 52.13; Philippians 2.5-8. Potiphar's wife tempted Joseph to sin but Joseph refused, Genesis 39.7-20. The Lord Jesus was completely without sin, 1 Peter 2.22; 2 Corinthians 5.21.

Before this God had shown Joseph's family that Joseph would some day rule over them, Genesis 37.7,9,10. Joseph first passed through a time of trouble, Genesis 39.20, but then he was permitted to leave the prison. He received great honour and became an important leader in Egypt, Genesis 41.38-44.

These things are a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ in the future, for the prophet said about Him that He would rule as King, Isaiah 9.6,7. His name is greater than any other name, Philippians 2.9-11; 1 Corinthians 15.25.

Joseph helped his brothers during the time when there was very little food. He graciously forgave them and fed them even though they had treated him badly. Read Genesis 45. The Lord Jesus Christ came to His own people, the Jews, but they did not receive Him. Even so a few received Him and He gave them the right to become children of God, John 1.12.

Joseph's brothers told their father that Joseph was alive and that he was ruler over all Egypt, Genesis 45.26. We believe in the Lord Jesus and we also have a message for the people around us. We should tell them that Christ is alive, that He has been given great glory and that they should come, to Him and be saved. We should tell them that Christ is **King of kings and Lord of lords**, Revelation 19.16;

8

The Passover Lamb

Exodus 12

The Passover Lamb is the most wonderful picture of Christ in the Old Testament. It shows us the meaning of the death of the Lord Jesus on the cross of Calvary and it does so more clearly than all other pictures.

God planned to judge the people of Egypt and some of them would die, but He told His people, the Israelites, to kill a lamb. This lamb would die in their place, and God would not punish them when He saw the blood of the lamb, Exodus 12.13. Thousands of people were saved, but there were also thousands who died.

These things happened after Joseph had died. The Israelites lived in peace while he was still alive, because Pharaoh loved Joseph and his family and gave them the land of Goshen in which to live. There the Israelites cared for their flocks and had plenty of food.

But Joseph and Pharaoh died and another Pharaoh ruled over Egypt. This king had not known Joseph and he was jealous of the Israelites. The Israelites became slaves of the Egyptians and had to make bricks and work very hard without any salary. Pharaoh was afraid of them and commanded them to kill all their little boys at the time they were born. Only the girls were allowed to live.

God in His mercy raised up Moses to lead His people Israel. Read about the first part of Moses' life in Exodus chapters 2 and 3. Moses was in the desert caring for the

sheep when God talked to him out of the burning bush and told him to go and bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

Moses went to Pharaoh and asked him to free the Israelites, but Pharaoh refused. God punished Pharaoh by sending plagues on the land of Egypt and on Pharaoh himself, but Pharaoh's heart remained as hard as a stone.

These are the plagues which God sent: first He caused the water in the river to become blood. Then He sent frogs, lice, flies, hail, locusts and darkness and also a disease on the cattle. Pharaoh's heart remained as hard as before and he refused to set the people of Israel free. God therefore decided to send the tenth and last plague, the plague of death.

God told Moses and Aaron about His plans to punish the Egyptians, Exodus 12.12,23. He said He would pass through the land of Egypt and kill every first-born of men and animals.

God also graciously told them how the Israelites could be saved through the death of a lamb. He commanded every man to take a lamb for his family. This lamb had to be a male, a perfect animal, one year old. They had to keep it for two weeks in order to be sure that it was really perfect, then they had to kill it when the sun was setting, Exodus 12.3-6.

This lamb is a beautiful picture of Christ. Today all people everywhere are sinners and deserve to be punished by God with death. But God has prepared a way of salvation. The Lord Jesus Christ is called the Lamb of God, John 1.29, and He died in our place. The lambs which died in Egypt are a picture of the Lord Jesus who died on the cross for us.

The lambs in Egypt had to be perfect; the Lord Jesus Christ is perfect, without defect or spot, 1 Peter 1.19; 2.22. He did not deserve to die, but He did die for us sinners in order to lead us to God, 1 Peter 3.18.

A lamb was killed in the home of every family of Israel, but God did not really notice all these many different lambs; He saw them all as one Lamb, Exodus 12.3-5. They were all a picture of the one and only Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ.

God commanded the Israelites to catch the blood of the

dead lamb in a basin and to put it on the posts beside the door and above the door, Exodus 12.7. He said the blood would show in which houses the Israelites lived. He would pass over those houses and not destroy the oldest son in them when He came to judge the land of Egypt, v.13.

The Israelites believed God's words. They killed the lamb and put the blood on the door. They remained in their houses to eat the roasted meat of the lamb as God had commanded them to do. They ate in a hurry, all dressed and ready to start the journey out of Egypt.

At midnight God killed all the first-born in the houses of Egypt which had no blood on the door, Exodus 12.29. Even Pharaoh's oldest son died. But God passed over every house with blood on its door and did not destroy the first-born inside. He received the blood of the lamb as payment for the sins of the people inside the house, and they lived because of the lamb which died in their place.

The Lord Jesus Christ died in our place. We are saved and receive eternal life when we believe that He died and shed His blood for us. We are set free by the costly sacrifice of Christ, 1 Peter 1.18,19.

9

Manna, the Bread from Heaven

Exodus 16

God had now brought the Israelites out of Egypt and for a while they were very happy. He made a dry path through the Red Sea and led them across to the other side. He went before them in the form of a pillar or column of cloud in the day time and a pillar of fire at night, Exodus 13.21. The pillar of cloud also stood between them and their enemies.

The Egyptian army tried to follow the Israelites and to make them slaves again. They used the dry path which God had made through the Red Sea, but God caused the waters to flow over it again before the Egyptians got across and they all drowned, Exodus 14.26-31. Then God continued to go in front of the Israelites to lead them to the land of Canaan.

But the people soon began to grumble. They said wicked things about Moses after they had been in the desert for only a little while. The journey was difficult and they no longer rejoiced in the fact that they were free. They remembered the good food they ate in Egypt and said Moses had brought them into the desert so that they would all die of hunger, Exodus 16.3.

God told Moses and Aaron that He would cause bread to come down from heaven like rain. for the Israelites, Exodus 16.4. He wanted to test them to see if they would obey His commands, and He wanted them to know that He was truly their Lord, Exodus 16.12.

God promised to give them bread from heaven in the morning and enough meat in the evening to satisfy their hun-

ger, 16.6-8,11. They had to gather the bread every morning except on the seventh day which was their day of rest. On the sixth day they had to gather twice as much as on the other days so that they would have enough for the seventh day as well.

God fulfilled His promise. In the evening a flock of quails covered the camp of Israel and the people caught a great number of these birds, 16.13.

In the morning they saw little white round things all over the ground, which tasted like honey, 16.31. The people wondered what they were and called them **manna** which means **What** is it? 16.13-15.

Moses told them that this was the bread the Lord was giving them to eat, 16.15. They received bread from heaven to save them from hunger. Can you see how the manna is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Every person had to gather each day enough **manna** for himself and his family for that day, 16.16. However some people were afraid that the manna would not come the next day, so they saved some of it. But when they wanted to eat it the next day they found it had spoiled and they could not use it. Some others said it was useless to gather double the usual amount on the sixth day because it would be spoiled on the seventh day, so they did not gather a double amount on the sixth day as God had told them to do. But there was no manna on the ground on the seventh day and they went hungry. Those who obeyed the Lord gathered twice as much on the sixth day and found that it had not spoiled on the seventh day.

The Israelites had manna to eat every day for 40 years while they journeyed through the desert. The manna stopped falling when they crossed the Jordan river and entered into Canaan, the land of promise. At that time they began to eat the old corn of that land.

Now let us compare the manna with Christ, the Bread from heaven. This is explained in John 6. At the beginning of the chapter we see a boy giving the disciples five loaves of bread and two small fish. The Lord Jesus fed 5000 men as

well as women and children with this food, vs.1-13. Later in the chapter there is much teaching about the Christ, the Bread from heaven.

The people said to the Lord in verse 31 that their fathers ate manna in the desert, for it had been written that He gave them bread from heaven to eat. The Lord Jesus answered them in the next verse and said that it was not Moses but God His Father who gave them bread from heaven. He continued to say in verse 33 that the Bread of God is He who came down from heaven and gave life to the world. Then in verse 35 He added that He Himself is the Bread of life and that those who come to Him will never be hungry, and those who believe in Him will never thirst.

So we see plainly that the manna is a picture of Christ. God the Father sent Christ from heaven to earth to give life to people. The people grumbled when Christ said He, was the bread that came down from heaven, v.41. They knew Jesus and His mother Mary and Joseph. How then could He say He came down from heaven? They did not recognize that He was God's Son; they thought He was the son of Joseph. They did not understand that He had always been the Son of God. They did not know how He came from heaven, took on the form of a servant, became like men, humbled Himself and walked the path of obedience even to His death on the cross, *Philippians 2.7,8*.

Patently and lovingly the Lord Jesus explained to them in verses 47-51 the secret of the Bread from heaven. He told them that those who believe in Him receive eternal life and that He Himself is the Bread of life. Their fathers ate the manna in the desert, but they died. But the Bread which came from heaven stood among them that day and those who ate would not die. He Himself was that bread and those who ate it would live forever. This bread was His flesh which He would soon give so that the world might have life.

10

Water from the Rock

Exodus 17.1-7

The people of Israel did not have any water in the desert and they became very thirsty. They are a picture of people in the world today who are spiritually thirsty and who have no hope that their thirst will ever be satisfied. God saved the Israelites by giving them water and today He wants to give the water of life to all who need it.

The Israelites got water out of the rock. Today the water of life is ready to save thirsty sinners because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was nailed to the cross. We can be saved because He bore God's judgment in our place, Isaiah 53.5.

God told Moses to strike the rock so that water might come out of it, enough to satisfy all the people. This is a picture of Christ on the cross when God judged Him for our sins. Christ suffered only once for our sins. Because of His death we can receive the water of life freely as a gift, Revelation 22.17.

Let us think first about the rock which Moses struck. In Exodus 17 we see the Israelites travelling in the desert. They came to Rephidim and put up their tents but found no water to drink. The people began to grumble and told Moses to give them water, vs.1,2. They were very thirsty and asked why Moses had led them out of Egypt so that they and their

children and their flocks would die of thirst in the desert, v.3. They had no hope and did not know what to do and so they argued and quarreled with Moses.

The people were ready to throw stones at Moses and kill him, v.4. Moses prayed to God and asked Him what he should do. God answered Moses' prayer. He said He would be waiting for Moses by a rock in Horeb. He told Moses to strike this rock; water would come out and the people would be able to drink, v.6.

Yes, God knew that the people were suffering and prepared a way to save them. To do so He chose a picture of Christ, and of the water of salvation. Moses struck the rock in front of the elders of Israel, v.6, water came out and the people drank and lived. Christ bore God's anger because of our sins. Moses struck the rock only once at this time.

After many years the Israelites came back to this rock and again they were thirsty. This time God commanded Moses just to **speak** to the rock (NOT to strike it). But Moses was angry with the people because they did not trust God and were always disobeying His commands, and so he struck the rock again with his rod. He disobeyed God when he struck the rock a second time, because God had told him just to **speak** to the rock.

Moses struck the rock a second time and so spoiled the picture of Christ who suffered only once for our sins. God punished Moses and told him he would not be able to enter the land of promise. Read Numbers 20.7-12. The Israelites wandered in the desert for many years. Finally God took Moses to the top of Mount Pisgah and showed him the land of Canaan in the distance, but He did not allow him to enter it. Moses died there in the desert and God Himself buried him, Deuteronomy 34.1-8.

The rock was a picture of Christ our Rock when it was struck the first time, 1 Corinthians 10.4. It should not have been struck the second time because Christ suffered only

once on the cross and at that time He bore all God's anger against sinners. By His wounds those who believe receive forgiveness for their sins forever, 1 Peter 2.24.

Christ was offered in sacrifice **once** to take away the sins of many, Hebrews 9.26,28. He offered **one** sacrifice for sin and that one sacrifice is good for ever, Hebrews 10.12. With **one** sacrifice He has made perfect for ever those who are clean from sin, Hebrews 10.14. Therefore an offering to take away sin is no longer needed, Hebrews 10.18.

The water came out of the rock in the desert because it was God's will that it should be struck. It was also God's will for Christ to die on the cross. The living water is a result of Christ's death.

The water from the rock is a picture of the Holy Spirit who is given to all those who believe in Christ.

The Lord Jesus said to the woman of Samaria that she would have asked Him for living water if she had known what God gives and who was asking her for a drink, John 4.10. He also told her that those who drink this living water will never be thirsty again but that it would become in them a spring of water which will give them eternal life, John 4.13,14.

In the seventh chapter of John the Lord Jesus told those who are thirsty to come to Him and drink. If they believe in Him, streams of living water will flow out of them. The Lord Jesus said these things about the Holy Spirit who would soon be given to those who had believed, John 7.37-39.

The Lord Jesus endured God's wrath on the cross so that we might receive the living water as a free gift. He saved us from the thirst of hell and the lake of fire. On the cross He said, *I thirst*, John 19.28, but now we never have to thirst again.

The prophet Isaiah called all who were thirsty to come and get water freely without paying for it. He also called those who had no food to come and get corn in the same way, Isaiah 55.1.

At the end of the New Testament there is a call for all who are thirsty to come and accept the water of life as a gift, Revelation 22.17. The Lord Jesus Himself said that He would give the water of life freely to anyone who is thirsty, Revelation 21.6. Have you received the water of life, God's wonderful salvation?

Pictures of Christ – TEST 3 – Chapters 7-10

(Write down your answers then enter them into the **EXAM FORM** on the website menu)

Indicate the letter of the correct answer

1. Joseph's brothers
 - (a) loved him.
 - (b) hated him.
 - (b) admired him.

2. Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave for
 - (a) 20 pieces of silver.
 - (b) 30 pieces of silver.
 - (c) 40 pieces of silver.

3. Joseph became a ruler over the land of
 - (a) Egypt.
 - (b) Syria.
 - (c) Babylon.

4. The new Pharaoh who had not known Joseph
 - (a) loved the Israelites.
 - (b) treated the Israelites well.
 - (c) was jealous of the Israelites.

5. The tenth plague that God sent to Egypt was
 - (a) the plague of frogs.
 - (b) the plague of darkness.
 - (c) the plague of death of the firstborn.

Write **TRUE** or **FALSE** after each statement

6. In the desert the people of Israel never grumbled.
7. The people of Israel gathered the manna from heaven every day
8. The Lord Jesus said that He Himself is the Bread of Life.
9. God told Moses to strike a rock to supply water for the people.
10. God commanded Moses to strike the rock a second time.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Which of the pictures of Christ in these chapters is the most meaningful to you – and why?

11

The Bronze Snake

Numbers 21.4-9

God wonderfully delivered the Israelites from being slaves in Egypt. He gave them Moses to be their leader, but they grumbled against Moses again and again.

They spoke against Moses when they did not have any food. God heard Moses' prayer and gave them manna to eat. Later they were thirsty and grumbled again against Moses. God provided water for them from the rock. They spoke against Moses but they were really speaking against God Himself!

In Numbers 21 they grumbled again. They were tired of travelling, and tired of the food God was giving them from heaven each day, vs.4,5. This time God punished them. He sent poisonous snakes among them and many people were bitten and died.

There was no hope for the Israelites. They were all in danger of death because of their sin of grumbling against God and Moses, and because they despised the manna God gave them. The snakes went all over the camp and bit the people.

Then the people came to Moses and repented. They admitted that they had sinned when they grumbled against the Lord and against Moses, and they asked Moses to pray to God to take the snakes away.

Moses prayed for the people. The people had understood that they had sinned and they had confessed their sin to God

and Moses. Therefore God graciously provided a way for them to be saved.

God commanded Moses to make a bronze snake and to put it on a pole in the desert. He promised that every person who looked at that bronze snake on the pole would live, v.8.

Moses obeyed God's command, made the bronze snake and put it on a pole. Then he told the people the good news that everyone who looked at this snake on the pole would live even if he had been bitten by one of the poisonous snakes. The people rejoiced and many looked in faith at the bronze snake. God fulfilled His promise and they lived, vs.8,9!

We know that this bronze snake is a picture of Christ on the cross. The Lord Jesus said so Himself, in John 3.14,15.

We all have been hurt by the poison of the snake (that is, Satan). We all face death - not only physical death but the second death which is to be separated from God for ever; This death is the wages of sin, but God wants us to receive the gift of life, eternal life, Romans 6.23.

Look at the Lord Jesus on the cross. He was there, like the bronze snake, to save us. He is our Saviour. Christ was without sin, but God made Him to be sin for us so that we might have God's righteousness, 2 Corinthians 5.21.

The Lord Jesus never told a lie or committed any sin. He carried our sins on His own body on the cross, so that we might die o sin and live for righteousness. We have been healed by His wounds, 1 Peter 2.22-24. Christ became a curse for us and He has set us free from the curse that the law brings, Galatians 3.13.

The Lord Jesus bore all our wickedness when He was lifted up on the cross, like the snake, and God judged us in Christ, Romans 8.3,4.

The Lord Jesus warned the people and told them that they would die in their sins if they did not believe in Him, John 8.24. They would understand who He was when they lifted Him up on the cross, John 8.28. He also told them in John 12.32,33 that He would draw all men to Himself when He was

lifted up from the earth. In saying this He showed how He was going to die.

Moses preached good news to the people who had been bitten by the poisonous snakes. He told them to look at the bronze snake and believe God's promise. They obeyed and were healed.

Today God's servants show people the Lord Jesus Christ dying on the cross for their sins. They preach the Good News and tell people to repent and look by faith at the Saviour on the cross. Those who do so will no longer be under the judgment of God for their sins, but will receive eternal life instead of death.

Have you done so yourself? If so, are you telling the Good News to others?

12

The Tabernacle

Exodus 25.1-9

Many things in the Tabernacle are a picture of Christ. God told Moses on Mount Sinai how this tent should be made and how large it should be and what things were to be used to make it. Then He told Moses to go back to the people and tell them to make the Tabernacle the way He had commanded, Exodus 25.8,9,40; 27.8.

The Tabernacle and the things in it teach us many things about the life of the Lord Jesus Christ, His death and His work in heaven as our Great High Priest. We can understand some difficult verses in the book of Hebrews if we understand these pictures of Christ in the Tabernacle. The things in the Tabernacle were copies of things in heaven, Hebrews 9.23. May God help us to study the meaning of these things, so that we might grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Peter 3.18!

The Tabernacle was a tent made of cloth and skins of animals. Around it there was a court where the Israelites approached God. The glory of God could be seen in the cloud which was above the Tabernacle.

The people came to the Tabernacle with their sacrifices so that they might receive forgiveness for their sins. God chose men to be priests and to serve Him daily in the Tabernacle all the years the Israelites journeyed in the desert.

The cloud of glory led the Israelites every time they journeyed, and the Levites carried the various pieces of the Tabernacle. They put it together again when they came to a place where they would stay for a while.

The Israelites did not meet together in the Tabernacle the way people gather in church buildings today. They came one by one to the entrance of the court to bring their offerings to God.

13

One Door

Exodus 27.9-18

The Israelites were still traveling in the desert when they willingly gave some of the things they had to make the Tabernacle, such things as gold, silver, bronze, linen and the skins of animals.

Some men cut up trees, others made things of metal. Women made cloth and sewed pictures on them with threads of different colours as God had commanded. Finally everything was ready and they set up the Tabernacle, Exodus 40.

The court of the Tabernacle was 100 cubits long and 50 cubits wide, which is 150 feet by 75 feet. (A cubit is almost as long as $\frac{1}{2}$ meter). Curtains made of fine linen cloth surrounded the court on four sides. Sixty poles stood in bronze bases and held up these cloth walls.

The court had only one door. A person could not get through the white linen walls at any other place, only through this one door.

The pure white linen cloth kept the people out of the court and is a picture of the righteousness and holiness of God. No man could get past it. They could enter the court only through the door.

What does the door speak of to us? The Lord Jesus said that He is the Door and that whoever comes in by Him will be saved, John 10.9.

Men can approach a holy God only through the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other way. The Lord Jesus said that He is the way, the truth and the life, and that no one can come to the Father except by Him, John 14.6.

So we see that the door to the court is a picture of the Lord Jesus. It was a curtain of beautiful linen cloth woven with different colours, red and blue and purple. The blue reminds us that the Lord Jesus came from heaven, and the purple that He is a King. The red colour speaks of His blood and the white linen of His holiness. Read Exodus 27.16,17 again, also Exodus 38.9-20.

14

The Bronze Altar

Exodus 27.1-8; 38.1-7

The bronze altar stood inside the court near the door. It stood there like a watchman, because blood must first be shed for anyone who wanted to approach God.

The four sides of this altar were all the same length, 7½ feet each, and it was 4½ feet high. It was made of acacia wood which does not decay, and was covered with bronze, a metal that does not melt in the fire.

The altar was square which shows that people from all parts of the world can approach God in the same way and benefit from the sacrifice offered on the altar. The acacia wood is a picture of the earthly, sinless body of the Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 2.22; Acts 13.35.

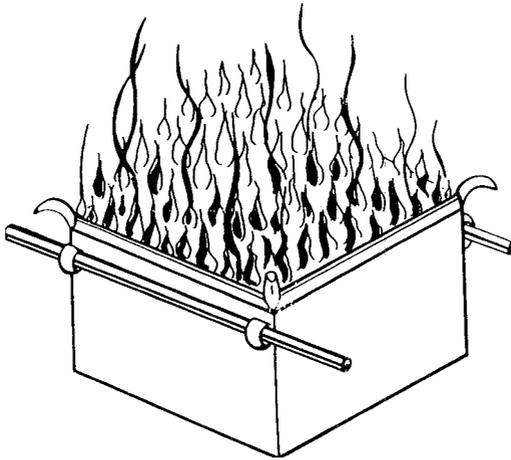
In the Bible bronze speaks of the judgment of God. In this altar the bronze speaks of Christ as God and the acacia wood speaks of Him as Man. The altar itself is a picture of Christ who bore the judgment and anger of God in our place. The Lord Jesus is the altar, Hebrews 13.10, and He is also the sacrifice on the altar. Therefore we see here two pictures of our Saviour. Christ Himself made holy the sacrifice that was offered on the altar. In Matthew 23.19 we read that the altar makes the gift holy.

The sinner could bring a clean animal (a bull, a sheep, or a goat, or even a dove). He placed his hand on the head of

the animal to show that the animal was taking his place. The animal was killed and its blood poured out beside the altar. The priest put pieces of the animal on the altar to be burned. The man was then accepted by God and his sins were covered.

Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice, and this sacrifice of Christ Himself pleased God much more than the animal sacrifices. By offering Himself, Christ obtained forgiveness of sin and peace with God for every person who believes.

The Lord Jesus did the will of God His Father when He offered Himself to take our place. He has appeared once and for all, when all ages of time are nearing the end, to remove sin through the sacrifice of Himself, Hebrews 9.26; John 10.17,18.



Various kinds of sacrifices were offered on the bronze altar. The book of Leviticus gives instructions concerning the different sacrifices. Read chapters 1-5 and you will be surprised at the precious things these sacrifices teach about Christ.

Let us think about two of the sacrifices. In Leviticus 4.1-12 we read about the offering for sin. Compare this offering with the Lord Jesus Christ who bore the judgment of our sins in our place. He was without sin, but God made Him

to be sin for us so that we might share God's righteousness, 2 Corinthians 5.21. Christ became our sin offering.

Let us also look at Leviticus 1 and read verses 3 to 13 about the burnt offering. This was one of the sweet-smelling offerings that pleased the Lord, vs.9,12. It was burned completely and is a picture of Christ who offered Himself completely as a sweet-smelling sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

Through Christ as the sin **offering** we are set free from the judgment of God and receive forgiveness for our sins, Ephesians 1.7.

Through Christ as the **burnt offering** we are accepted by God because Christ obeyed God and died for us. The animal of the burnt offering was accepted instead of the person who offered it, Leviticus 1.4. In the same way we are accepted by God because the Lord Jesus Christ died in our place.

Pictures of Christ – TEST 4 – Chapters 11-14

(Write down your answers then enter them into the **EXAM FORM** on the website menu)

Indicate the letter of the correct answer

1. The people of Israel grumbled about Moses
 - (a) only once.
 - (b) a few times.
 - (c) many times.
2. The Lord sent poisonous snakes among the people
 - (a) and many died.
 - (b) but no one died.
 - (c) and a few died.
3. We read that the bronze snake is a picture of Christ in
 - (a) Matthew.
 - (b) Romans.
 - (c) John.
4. The Lord Jesus warned the people that they would die in their sins if they did not
 - (a) believe in Him.
 - (b) do good works.
 - (c) give money to the church.
5. The pictures of Christ in the Tabernacle help us to understand difficult verses in the book of
 - (a) 2 Peter.
 - (b) Hebrews.
 - (c) Romans.

Write TRUE or FALSE after each statement

6. The court of the Tabernacle had many doors.
7. The pure white linen cloth is a picture of the holiness of God.
8. The blue in the curtain reminds us that the Lord Jesus came from heaven.
9. The altar was made of acacia wood covered with bronze.
10. Only one kind of sacrifice was offered on the altar.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

What are the different aspects of Christ as the **sin offering** and Christ as the **burnt offering**?

15

The Bronze Basin

Exodus 30.17-21

The bronze altar stood inside the court of the Tabernacle. There the blood of the sacrifices was poured out and the priest burned the bodies of the animals.

The bronze basin was full of water and stood in the court between the bronze altar and the Tabernacle. The priests used it to wash their hands and feet before they went into the Tabernacle to serve God, Exodus 30.17-21.

So we see that there were only two things in the court of the Tabernacle, both made of bronze, Exodus 40.30-32. The altar was made of both bronze and acacia wood. The bronze is a picture of the righteousness of God, and the acacia wood reminds us that Christ became a **Man**.

A priest could enter the court only through the door. He came first to the bronze altar and then to the bronze basin on his way to the Tabernacle. Before entering the Tabernacle he had to wash the dust and dirt off his feet and hands.

Aaron and his sons began their work as priests on the same day. Moses brought them to the door of the Tabernacle and washed their whole bodies with clean water. After that they did not have to bathe in this way again. The law required them to do it only once. (Of course in their tents they bathed as other people did, but this had nothing to do with the commands of the law.) After this they had to wash only their hands and feet at the bronze basin before they entered the Tabernacle.

These things are true also of those who are priests today. All believers enjoy the privilege of being priests, 1 Peter 2.5,9, and can approach God. We have been saved because of Christ's sacrifice for us, and through that one sacrifice we are dedicated completely to Him. We are made clean from sin by the offering of His own body, once and for all, Hebrews 10.14. We have received forgiveness and so do not need any other sacrifice to take away our sins, Hebrews 10.18.

One day the Lord Jesus was washing His disciples' feet. He wanted to wash Peter's feet too, but Peter refused.. The Lord told Peter that he would no longer be His disciple if He did not wash his feet, John 13.8. When Peter heard this, he asked the Lord to bathe his whole body, but the Lord told him that a clean person needs to wash only his feet, John 13.10.

A person is made clean before God by the blood of Christ on the day he or she believes in the Lord Jesus Christ. From then on he is a priest and should offer spiritual and acceptable sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 2.5; Hebrews 13.15. But if he has sinned he must first be made clean again before he can come to offer his sacrifices to God.

The priest who served God in the Tabernacle went to the bronze basin to wash himself before he entered the Tabernacle. The bronze basin is like Christ. We, the priests of today, should come to Him every day to confess our sins and be made clean again.

Christ is the **WORD**, John 1.1. We come to Him so that He may cleanse us with His Word, the Holy Scriptures. The water in the bronze basin is a picture of the Word of God. The Lord Jesus asked His Father to set the believers apart for Himself by means of the truth, that is, by means of His Word, John 17.17. We need to be made clean every day through the Word of God. Read Ephesians 5.25,26.

Every person is made clean from his sins when he believes in the Lord Jesus. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that they had been cleansed from sin and had been set apart for God. They had been put right with God through the name of

the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit, 1 Corinthians 6.11.

Later on Paul wrote them about being cleansed **every day**. He said that we should purify ourselves from everything that makes the body or the soul unclean, and that we should seek to be completely holy, by living in the fear of God, 2 Corinthians 7.1.

A Christian may become unclean because of sin; then he must come to the Lord Jesus to repent and confess his sin. *If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and there is no truth in us. But if we confess our sins to God, He will forgive them and make us clean from all wrongdoing,* 1 John 1.8,9.

A priest might be punished by God if he approached God to praise Him without having been cleansed from his sins. Remember what happened to Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu. They were both priests, but they came before God to offer something different from what God had told them to offer. Fire came out from before the Lord and destroyed them, Leviticus 10.1,2.

Let each one of us therefore examine himself for if we would examine ourselves first we would not come under God's judgment, 1 Corinthians 11.28,30-32.



16

The Gold Lampstand

Exodus 25.31-40

There were two rooms in the Tabernacle, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. The cloud of God's glory rested on the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place.

There were three things in the Holy Place. They were the gold lampstand, the table for the bread, and the altar of incense. The table and the altar were made of acacia wood covered with gold, but the lampstand was made completely of gold. The person who made the lampstand did not melt the gold but beat it into the right shape. So it was made of one solid piece of gold.

Let us think a little about this gold lampstand. We do not know how long it was, but it was very precious and beautiful. It had a central stem with three branches on each side. The ends of the stems and branches were shaped like almond flowers. The stem and each branch had a lamp made of gold making a total of seven lamps. The number seven in Scripture speaks of that **which** is perfect.

The priest came every day to look after these lamps, to clean them and trim them and fill them with olive oil, because God wanted the lamps to burn continually, Leviticus 24.2-4.

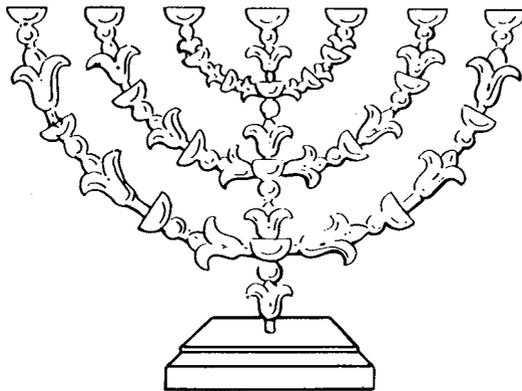
No light came into the Holy Place from the outside. The seven lamps of the gold lampstand gave light to show the beauty of the lampstand, Exodus 25.37.

What do the lampstand and its lamps speak of? The lampstand is a picture of Christ. The gold reminds us that

He is God. The gold of the lampstand was **pure** gold, reminding us that the Lord Jesus Christ is without sin. Christ was beaten as the gold of the lampstand was beaten when it was made. See Isaiah 53.5. Christ is the Light of the world. He came so that men might have light in this dark world, John 1.4,5; 8.12; 9.5; 12.46.

The seven lamps are a picture of the oneness of the churches here on earth. The purpose of the churches today is to give light, the light of the Gospel. See Revelation 1.20; Ephesians 5.8. The light of the lamps showed the beauty of the lampstand. In the same way the churches bear witness to the beauty and grace of Christ. Peter tells us that we were chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God who has called us from darkness into His own marvellous light, 1 Peter 2.9.

The lamps of the lampstand gave light because of the oil inside them. This oil is a picture of the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit within us we can bear witness to Christ and His glory. Read John 16.13,14; Acts 1.8.



We saw already that the number seven in the Bible speaks of that which is perfect. This number is seen in Revelation 4.5 which speaks of the Holy Spirit and His perfect witness. In Revelation 1.10-13 we see the Lord Jesus Christ among the seven churches. These seven churches are parts of the one true Church which is Christ's body, Ephesians 1.23.

The almond flowers in the lampstand speak of the fruit which the Lord Jesus bore through His life and death, John 12.24.

Do we want to bear fruit for the Lord Jesus Christ? Let us give ourselves completely to Him so that His life can be seen in us. Read John 15 about the Vine and its branches. We are part of Christ's body and will bear spiritual fruit if we remain or abide in Him.

The Holy Spirit in the Christian is like the oil which causes the lamp to give out light. Sometimes dirt prevents the lamp from giving much light. This speaks of sin in the Christian's life which keeps him from shining for the Lord Jesus as he should. As the lamp has to be cleaned so the Christian must be purified from his sin and be filled with the Holy Spirit so that he will have a bright testimony for the Lord.

17

The Table for the Bread

Exodus 25.23-30; Leviticus 24.5-9

This table speaks of Christ with His people. It was 36 inches long, 18 inches wide and 27 inches high. It was made of acacia wood and covered completely with gold. The table had a band of gold all around it near the top, like a border. There were rings of gold at the four corners of the table near the gold band. These rings were for the gold covered poles which the Levites used to carry the table.

The table stood in the Holy Place. Twelve loaves of bread were set on it in two rows. Every sabbath day the priest would place twelve fresh loaves on the table and the priests would eat the old loaves. The priest put pure frankincense on the fresh bread and it remained there on the table for a whole week as a sweet smell before the Lord.

God saw in these twelve loaves a picture of the twelve tribes of Israel. They also remind us of the high priest who carried the names of the twelve tribes of Israel on his breast before the Lord, Exodus 28.15,21, and on his shoulders in the ephod, Exodus 28.6,12. The high priest carried the names of the tribes of Israel with him when he entered the Most Holy Place.

Many years later the nation of Israel was divided into two parts. One part was made up of two tribes and the other of ten, but there were always twelve loaves of bread on the table in the Holy Place. God ordered this because He saw His people as one nation. The twelve loaves are a picture of all

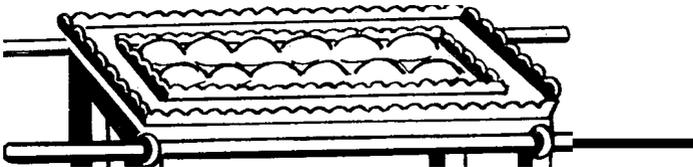
the people of God and the loaves and the gold table teach us precious lessons.

For example, the gold table is like the Lord Jesus who upholds His people before God for ever because He died for them on the cross, Hebrews 7.24-25. He is also able to keep them by His power and no one can snatch them away from Him, John 10.28; Jude 24. This is like the gold band around the table which kept the bread from falling off when the priests moved the table to take down the tabernacle.

The table was made of wood which is a picture of Christ as a Man. The gold speaks of His glory as God.

The bread on the table speaks of the people of God and the table together with the bread speak of the fellowship which the Lord Jesus has with His people. He carries them before God the Father in prayer as the table carried the bread many years before, Romans 8.34.

We can also compare the bread with the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the bread which came from Heaven to give people life, John 6.51. He died like a grain of wheat that is dropped into the ground, John 12.24. The flour is put into the hot oven, and the Lord Jesus endured the fire of the wrath of God so that He might present us to the Father as precious fruit of His suffering and death.



18

The Altar of Incense

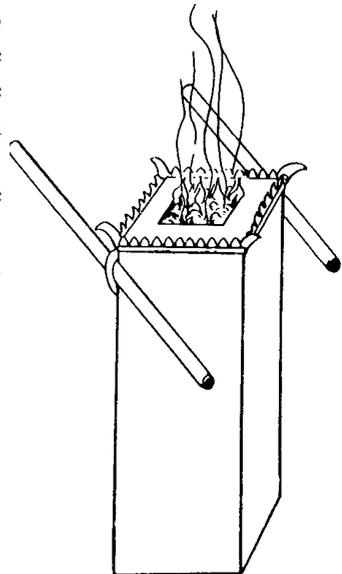
Exodus 30.1-10

The Holy Place in the Tabernacle was divided from the Most Holy Place by a veil, a beautiful linen curtain.

We have already read about two things which were in the Holy Place, the gold lampstand and the gold table for the bread. The third piece of furniture in the Holy Place was the altar of incense. The priest used this altar to burn incense which went up to God as a sweet smell. It was not used to burn animal sacrifices.

The altar of incense was made of acacia wood and covered completely with gold. It was 18 inches long and 18 inches wide and three feet (about one meter) high. There were four horns at the four corners and a band of gold around it.

The altar of incense stood in front of the veil which divided the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Every morning and evening the priest took care



of the lamps of the lampstand and at the same time he took hot coals from the bronze altar in the courtyard and put them on the altar of incense. So there was always a fire and sweet incense burning on this gold altar.

Once every year, on the day of atonement, the high priest took some blood of a sacrifice from the bronze altar in the court, brought it into the Holy Place and put it on the horns of the altar of incense to make atonement for it. We too must be made clean by blood, the blood of Christ, before God is willing to accept our worship.

The altar of incense makes us think of Christ's work in heaven for His people at the present time. He appears in the presence of God on our behalf and pleads for us, Hebrews 7.25; 9.24.

We can offer praise to God only through Christ, Hebrews 13.15. He is like an altar of incense for us. We have already seen that acacia wood speaks of Christ as a Man and the gold shows that He is God. He is the Son of Man and the Son of God. It is the Man Christ Jesus who prays for us in heaven, Hebrews 7.25.

In Revelation 8.3,4 we read about the Angel who stood before the altar of incense. This Angel is the Lord Jesus. Read these two verses slowly and carefully. Today the Lord Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest, adds His sweet incense to our prayers and praises and together they rise through the fire of the Holy Spirit as a sweet smell which brings pleasure to God.

All Christians have the privilege of worshipping God as priests. Peter wrote that we are like living stones which are used in building the spiritual temple where we serve as holy priests. Our service is to offer spiritual and acceptable sacrifices to God through the Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 2.5. We offer sacrifices of praise to God through Christ, our Great High Priest.

We already read about the hot coals which the priests took from the bronze altar in order to burn the incense on the altar

of incense. No other coals could be used. These coals from the altar of sacrifice make us think of the blood of our Sacrifice, the Lord Jesus Christ, and of the fire of the Holy Spirit. We too can bring our offerings of praise only because of the death of Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Let no one bring any other fire, unholy fire, and try to worship God in a way which is not according to His will. Remember Nadab and Abihu, Leviticus 10.1,2.

Pictures of Christ – TEST 5 – Chapters 15-18

(Write down your answers then enter them into the **EXAM FORM** on the website menu)

Indicate the letter of the correct answer

1. In the court of the Tabernacle there were
 - (a) two things.
 - (b) three things.
 - (c) four things.

2. We need to be made clean through the Word of God
 - (a) once a week.
 - (b) once a year.
 - (c) every day.

3. If we say we have no sin we
 - (a) deceive others.
 - (b) deceive ourselves.
 - (c) speak the truth.

4. In the Tabernacle
 - (a) there was one room.
 - (b) there were two rooms.
 - (c) there were three rooms.

5. In the Holy Place there were
 - (a) three things.
 - (b) four things.
 - (c) seven things.

Write **TRUE** or **FALSE** after each statement

6. The table for the bread speaks of Christ with His people.
7. God saw in the twelve loaves a picture of the Church.
8. The Holy Place was divided from the Most Holy Place by a wooden door.
9. There was always a fire and incense burning on the gold altar
10. Only some Christians can worship God as priests.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

In what ways can we shine as lights in this dark world?

See 1 Peter 2:9 and Matthew 5:16.

19

The Veil, the Ark, and the Mercy Seat

Exodus 26.31,32; 25.10-22; 37.1-9

A veil divided the two parts of the Tabernacle. It was made of fine woven linen and had pictures of angels on it, made with blue, purple and scarlet threads, Exodus 26.31,32.

Only the high priest was allowed to go into the Most Holy Place, and even he could go in only once a year, on the day of atonement. At that time he had to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat; this blood was for himself and for the sins of all the people of Israel, Hebrews 9.6,7.

Many years later the Israelites lived in the land of Canaan and built the Temple to take the place of the Tabernacle. By that time they were no longer travelling from place to place in the desert and did not have to carry the Tabernacle anymore. The veil divided the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place in the Temple just as it had done in the Tabernacle. No one could enter the Most Holy Place in the Temple except the high priest.

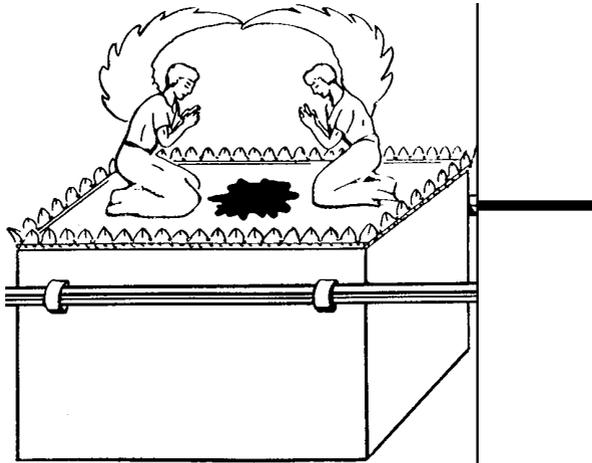
But when the Lord Jesus died on the cross, the veil in the Temple was tom into two pieces from top to bottom. Now the way is open for believers to approach God. Since Christ died there is nothing to prevent them from coming. Today we have complete freedom to go into the Most Holy Place by means of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. He has opened for us a new way, a living way, through the veil, that is, through His own body. The veil was torn and His body was

put to death. He is the Great High Priest in charge of the house of God. We should therefore come near to God with sincere hearts and a sure faith and with hearts that have been made clean from a guilty conscience, Hebrews 10.19-22.

Let us go back now and think about the Tabernacle in the desert. The ark was in the Most Holy Place and on top of the ark was the mercy seat, Exodus 25.10-22.

The ark was made of acacia wood and covered with gold on the inside and outside. It was 27 inches high and had four rings, one on each corner. The priests put two gold-covered poles through these rings and carried the ark when the people moved from one place to another.

The cover of the ark was made of pure gold. From the same piece of gold the workmen made the shape of two angels or cherubim which faced each other on top of the cover. Between them the high priest placed the blood of the sacrifice from the bronze altar. This cover was called the **mercy seat**.



There were three things inside the ark. Verses 3 and 4 of Hebrews 9 tell us that it contained:

- (1) the gold jar with the manna in it
- (2) Aaron's rod that sprouted leaves, and
- (3) the two stone tablets with the words of the covenant written on them.

The gold jar contained some of the manna which the Israelites ate in the desert. This manna did not go bad. It reminded Israel that God faithfully fed His people in the desert. To us the manna is a picture of Christ, the Bread from heaven, John 6.31-35,50,51.

Aaron's rod which started to grow, Numbers 17.5-11, was in the ark to remind Israel of the sin of the people, Numbers 16. God punished the rebels who had tried to make themselves priests. He told Moses to put twelve dry rods, one from the leader of each tribe, into the Tabernacle in the evening so that God might show whom He had chosen to be His priest. In the morning only Aaron's rod had any signs of life; it had started to grow. We can see in this rod a picture of Christ who died and received life again and brought forth fruit when He was raised from death, John 12.24.

The stone tablets were in the ark both in the Tabernacle and in the Temple, but the manna and the rod were only in the Tabernacle. The stone tablets remained to show that the law of God will never pass away. The Lord Jesus Christ did not come to destroy the law but to fulfil it, Matthew 5.17.

The mercy seat of pure gold shows how a man can meet with God. The blood of the sacrifice was put on the mercy seat. God can have fellowship with men because the Lord Jesus bore God's wrath and poured out His blood for us.

The gold angels on the mercy seat did not have swords of judgment like those who guarded the garden of Eden after Adam and Eve had sinned and had to leave the garden. These angels quietly looked at the blood on the mercy seat. Men had broken God's law, but now this law has been put under the blood of redemption, the blood of the sacrifice, and sinful men can obtain peace with God.

The High Priest, and the Clothes of the Priests

Exodus 28.1-43; 39.1-31

Aaron was the first high priest of the people of Israel. He was a man of the tribe of Levi and Moses' brother. His sons were also priests.

The high priest in the Old Testament is a picture of Christ and the work which He carries on at the present time. In the Old Testament no one continued very long as a priest. When a priest died, another would carry on his work. The Lord Jesus Christ is a greater Priest than those in the Old Testament because He lives on forever and no one will ever have to take His place. He lives forever to plead with God for His people, Hebrews 7.21-27.

The Lord Jesus Christ is a greater Priest than Aaron or his sons. Christ came from the tribe of Judah, the tribe of the kings, and He Himself is a King. How then could He be a Priest when He did not belong to the tribe of Levi? He is a Priest like Melchizedek who was a priest of God Most High, and the king of Salem, Genesis 14.18-20.

Abraham was Isaac's father and Isaac was the grandfather of Levi. Abraham met the priest Melchizedek and gave him a tenth of all he had taken from his enemies in the war. Therefore Melchizedek was greater than Abraham. He is also greater than Levi who was a descendant of Abraham. So the priests of the tribe of Levi (Aaron and his sons) were not as great as Melchizedek. But Christ is greater as a priest than Melchizedek. Read Hebrews 6.20; 7.1-28.

Once every year the high priest of the tribe of Levi entered through the veil into the Most Holy Place. He brought with him blood from the sacrifice offered on the bronze altar and put it on the mercy seat.

Jesus, our Great High Priest, lives forever. He entered once into the Most Holy Place with His own blood. Read Hebrews 9.11-15. He does not need to offer Himself many times as the high priest in the Old Testament offered many sacrifices. He offered Himself only once, and with that one sacrifice He has made His people perfect for ever, Hebrews 9.23-28; 10.14.

You should read Hebrews 4.14-16 and chapters 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the same book. These chapters will show you how some of the pictures of the Old Testament were fulfilled: the Tabernacle in the desert, the offerings and the work of the high priest. You will understand Christ and His work better as you think about these pictures in the Old Testament and read about their meaning in the New Testament.

The Old Testament priests served in the earthly Tabernacle, but our Great High Priest serves in Heaven itself. The earthly Tabernacle contains pictures of real things in Heaven. The Israelites offered many sacrifices, but these sacrifices could not make those who offered them perfect before God nor did they please God. But Christ's sacrifice is sufficient. Read Hebrews 10.14, 19-22.

The clothes of the high priest speak of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ as priest. What did the high priest wear when he approached God?

All the clothes of the high priest were made of fine linen. First he put on a white robe with sleeves, Exodus 28.4. White reminds us of Christ's sinless life while here on earth. On top of this white robe he wore a blue coat without sleeves which was made all in one piece. Blue makes us think of heaven and our Lord Jesus Christ is the Lord of heaven. There were pictures of pomegranate fruit in the bottom of the robe in blue, purple and red. There was a bell between each two pomegranates. These pomegranates speak of the

fruit which the Lord Jesus bore when He rose from death. The bell gives out a clear sound and so it speaks of the value of His witness.

The high priest wore the **ephod** on top of the blue robe. This ephod was a piece of clothing, really two pieces which were joined at the shoulders and held around the middle by a belt. A precious onyx stone was on each shoulder. These two stones were set in gold and the names of six of the tribes of Israel were written on each of them.

Therefore Aaron carried the names of the people every time he came before God. In the same way our Great High Priest carries our names on His powerful shoulders before a holy God. We remember that the Good Shepherd carried the lost sheep on His shoulders, the place of peace and safety.

On his breast the high priest carried twelve precious stones set in gold. There was a precious stone for each tribe in Israel, each stone with its name. This makes us think of the Lord Jesus, our High Priest who carries the names of His people, **our** names, on His heart, the place of love.

Then there was the **turban** made of fine linen which the high priest wore on his head, and a plate of pure gold which he wore on his forehead. The words HOLY TO THE LORD were written like a seal on this plate. Aaron stood for the righteousness of Israel before God. Christ stands for the righteousness of His Church, 2 Corinthians 5.21.

Many years ago God saw the Israelites represented in Aaron, their high priest, dressed in his holy and beautiful clothes. In the same way He looks at us in Christ our Great High Priest.

The way is open for believers to enter the Holy Place through the blood of Jesus. God wants us to approach Him without fear as His priests who have been made clean with the blood of that perfect Sacrifice that was accepted by God. We have complete freedom to go into the Most Holy Place because by His death the Lord Jesus opened a new way for us, a living way through His own body. We have a Great Priest in charge of the house of God. Let us therefore come

near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith, and with hearts that have been made clean from a guilty conscience, Hebrews 10.19-22. Let us approach the throne of God without fear so that we might receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it, Hebrews 4.16.

21

David and Christ

God sent the prophet Samuel to show who would become king of Israel. Samuel came to Bethlehem and asked to see all the sons of Jesse one by one.

All the boys appeared before Samuel except David, the youngest one, who was looking after the sheep. Samuel wanted to choose Eliab, the oldest son, but God told him not to judge Eliab by his face or by his strong body because the Lord did not want him to become king. The Lord does not look at people the way we do. We judge a person by what we can see of him on the outside, but God judges him by what He sees in his heart. Read 1 Samuel 16.1-13.

Finally David was called to appear before Samuel. God told Samuel to anoint him with oil because this was the one who would be king of Israel. So Samuel anointed David in front of all his brothers and the Spirit of the Lord came on David with power from that day onward. So God chose David to be His servant and took him from the place where he had been caring for the sheep, Psalm 78.70.

Christ was a Descendant of David through His mother, Luke 1.31,32. He is the Son of God, God's chosen one, 1 Peter 2.6.

The name **Christ** means **anointed**. The Lord Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan. The Holy Spirit came on Him like a dove as He was coming out of the water and God spoke from heaven saying that this was His own dear Son with whom He was well pleased, Mark 1.10,11.

David was anointed with oil (a picture of the Holy Spirit)

to show that he was the king of the Israelites, God's people on earth. In the same way the Lord Jesus, a Descendant of King David, was shown to be the Christ, the Anointed One. He is the Head of the people of God, the citizens of heaven.

David was chosen to be king of an earthly nation. He was anointed with oil to show that he was king and the Spirit of God taught him how he should rule, 2 Samuel 23.2,3. The Spirit of God descended on Christ who was chosen by God to be King of kings and Lord of lords, Acts 4.26-28; Revelation 19.11-16. His kingdom will never end.

David's brother despised him, 1 Samuel 17.28. In the same way the other sons of the mother of the Lord Jesus did not believe in Him, John 7.5; Mark 6.2-6; and His own nation rejected Him, John 1.11; Luke 9.22.

David called on the name of the Lord and fought with Goliath, the enemy of the people of Israel. He defeated Goliath with a small stone, 1 Samuel 17.49,50.

The Lord Jesus Christ overcame Satan, God's enemy, by doing something that seemed weak and useless, by dying on the cross. We read that through His death the Lord Jesus Christ destroyed the Devil who has the power over death, and so set free those who were slaves all their lives because they were afraid to die, Hebrews 2.14,15.

David left the city and hid in the cave of Adullam when he was rejected and despised. A few other people also left the city and stayed with him in the cave, 1 Samuel 22.1,2.

In the same way Christ is now separate from this world, He died outside the camp, Hebrews 13.11-13. At this time it is the work of the Holy Spirit to call people out of this evil world so that they might be separated from it and become one flock in Christ's Name. This flock is the Church and is made up of people who have gone to join the Lord Jesus outside the camp of the world, Acts 15.14.

Read John 17.14-17 and John 15.19. The people of the world hated the Lord Jesus. They will hate us too. *Let us then, go to Him outside the camp and share His shame*, Hebrews 13.13.

David is a picture of Christ because he was a shepherd, 1 Samuel 16.11; 17.15. He fought for his sheep to save them from their enemies, the lion and the bear, 1 Samuel 17.34-36.

The Lord Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd. He gave Himself for His sheep, that is, for His people, John 10.11,14, and by His death He made it possible for His sheep to have eternal life.

In Luke 15.4-7 we read about the shepherd who went to look for his sheep that had wandered away and got lost. This shepherd was very happy when he found his sheep. There is also great joy in heaven when a sinner repents and is saved through Christ the Good Shepherd. We were like the sheep that was lost, but now we have been brought back to follow the Shepherd and Keeper of our souls, the Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 2.25.

Let us love the Lord Jesus very much during this time when people have rejected Him, as Jonathan loved David. Jonathan had made an agreement with David because he loved David as much as he loved himself. Jonathan took off his coat and gave it to David, also his sword, his bow and his belt, 1 Samuel 18.3,4. Jonathan was a true friend of David, 1 Samuel 19.2. He praised David, 1 Samuel 19.4, and told him that he would do anything David wanted, 1 Samuel 20.4.

May God help us to be like Jonathan and love the Lord Jesus Christ as Jonathan loved David! May we be ready to give Him all that we have and tell Him that we will do anything He wants us to do! Then we will do the things that please Him and will have sweet fellowship with Him.

Still More Pictures

We have reached the end of this book and have seen many pictures of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. The New Testament shows us in what way these pictures speak of our Saviour. This helps us to learn more about the Lord Jesus Christ, His life and His death.

Let us not only think about these pictures of Christ, but let us go on to think about the truths they teach us about our Lord. Hebrews 10.1 tells us that the Jewish Law was not a full and faithful model of the real things. Let us go on then to understand the meaning of the Law and other Old Testament pictures and learn the truths they teach us about the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember, He came to earth to fulfil the Law, not to destroy it, Matthew 5.17.

There are many more pictures of the Lord Jesus in the Old Testament:

Jonah in the stomach of the fish for three days and nights makes us think of the Lord Jesus Christ in the grave, Matthew 12.40.

Boaz was a relation of Ruth's first husband. He redeemed Ruth and so he was like the Lord Jesus who became a man in order to redeem the Church and make it His Bride, Ruth 4.1,6,9,10.

Rahab fastened a piece of **red rope** to her window on the wall of Jericho in order to save herself and her family. This red rope reminds us of the blood of the Lord Jesus through which we receive salvation and peace, Joshua 2.21; 6.17,25.

Twelve stones were put into the Jordan river when the Israelites crossed the river walking on dry ground. Later the water of the river covered these stones. They are a picture of the Lord Jesus bearing God's wrath for us. Read Psalm 42.7. The Israelites took twelve other stones out of the river and piled them up on the shore of the Jordan in the land of Canaan. The twelve stones in the river took the place of those which were brought out of the river and into Canaan. These things make us think of the Lord Jesus redeeming His people from the wrath of God.

Earlier in their journey through the desert the Israelites came to Mara, a place where the water was bitter, see Exodus 15.22-25. They were thirsty but they could not drink the water, so they grumbled against Moses. Moses prayed and God showed him a **tree**. Moses cut down this tree and threw it into the bitter water and the water became sweet. The people drank and lived. What a picture of the cross of Christ through which we receive life, eternal life!

The Bible is full of wonderful truths, precious treasures. Let us continue to search in it for spiritual riches which will fill our own souls and those of others with joy, to the glory of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Pictures of Christ – TEST 6 – Chapters 19-22

(Write down your answers then enter them into the **EXAM FORM** on the website menu)

Indicate the letter of the correct answer

1. Only the High Priest could go into the Most Holy Place
 - (a) once a year.
 - (b) twice a year.
 - (c) twelve times a year.
2. The cover of the ark was made of
 - (a) bronze.
 - (b) pure gold.
 - (c) acacia wood.
3. The first High Priest of Israel was
 - (a) Moses.
 - (b) Levi.
 - (c) Aaron.
4. Jesus entered into the Most Holy Place
 - (a) once.
 - (b) twice.
 - (c) many times.
5. We read that we may approach the throne of God in
 - (a) Romans.
 - (b) Corinthians.
 - (c) Hebrews.

Write TRUE or FALSE after each statement

6. The name Christ means *beloved*.
7. The Lord Jesus overcame Satan by dying on the cross.
8. Jonathan was not a true friend of David.
9. The Jewish Law was a full and faithful model of real things.
10. Moses threw a tree into the bitter water of Mara.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Which of the wonderful **pictures of Christ**, revealed to us in the Tabernacle, have been the most blessing to you.