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their sins and how to maintain holy lives. The key motivating force for this transformation was how much God loved them and wanted to be with them. But God couldn't dwell with His people without first cleansing them from their sins.

To illustrate these powerful principles of salvation, God had the children of Israel build a three-dimensional structure that they would carry with them through the wilderness and into the Promised Land, a structure that still has so much to teach us today ...



When you see a blank, use your Bible to look up the missing word and fill it in.

| What did God ask Moses to build, and why? | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| Exodus 25:8 Let them make Me a | a, that I may | |
| among them. | | |
| Psalm 77:13 Your, 0 Go | d, is in the sanctuary. | |
| NOTE: God's way, or plan, of salvation was revealed in the earthly sanctuary. Everything in the temple and its services was a symbol of something Jesus would do | | |

Everything in the temple and its services was a symbol of something Jesus would do to save humanity. It is difficult to fully comprehend the plan of salvation until we understand the sanctuary. It was a huge, 3D object lesson!

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| Exodus 25:40 | See to it that you make them according to the | | |
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| which was shown you on the | | | |



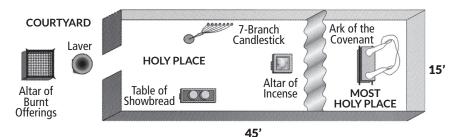
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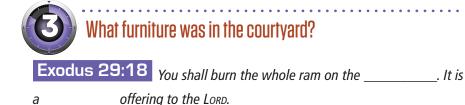
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NOTE: God gave the sanctuary blueprints to Moses on Mount Sinai (Hebrews 8:5). It was a microcosm of God's genuine sanctuary in heaven. The first sanctuary, or tabernacle, was a tent-type structure, 15 feet by 45 feet. There, the supernatural presence of God dwelt as special services were conducted. The walls were made of acacia wood boards set in silver sockets and overlaid with gold (Exodus 26:15–19, 29). The roof was made of four layers of coverings: linen, goat hair, ram skins dyed red, and badger skins (vv. 1, 7, 14). It had two rooms: the holy place (15 feet by 30 feet) and the most holy place (15 feet by 15 feet). Refer to the diagram below as you review this lesson.

THE SANCTUARY





Exodus 30:18 You shall also make a ______ of bronze, with its

base also of bronze. ... And you shall put water in it.

NOTE: The **altar of burnt offerings** (Exodus 27:1–8) was where animals were sacrificed. It was located just outside the entrance of the sanctuary. This altar represented the cross of Christ. The sacrificial animal represented Jesus, the ultimate sacrifice (John 1:29). The **laver** (Exodus 30:17–21; 38:8) was a large wash basin of brass located between the altar and the entrance of the sanctuary. There, priests washed their hands and feet before entering the sanctuary or offering a sacrifice. The water represented baptism, cleansing from sin, and the new birth.

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| (2) |
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| |

What three items of furniture were in the holy place?

| Numbers 4:7 | On the | of | | _ they shall |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| spread a blue cloth, | and the showb | read shall be | e on it. | |
| Numbers 8:2 | When you arrang | e the lamps | , the seven lan | nps shall |
| give light in front of the | | | | |
| Exodus 30:1 | You shall make an | | to burn | |
| | on; you shall make | | | |

NOTE: The **table of showbread** (Exodus 25:23–30) represented Jesus, the living bread (John 6:51). The **seven-branch candlestick** (Exodus 25:31–40) represented Jesus, the light of the world (John 9:5; 1:9). The lamps of oil symbolized the Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:1–6; Revelation 4:5). And the **altar of incense** (Exodus 30:1–8) represented the prayers of God's people (Revelation 5:8).



What special article was in the most holy place?

| Deuteronomy 10:4, 5 | He wrote on the tablets according to the | |
|--|--|--|
| first writing, the Ten | Then I turned and came down | |
| from the mountain, and put the | tablets the ark which I had made; | |
| and there they are, just as the Lord commanded me. | | |
| | | |

Exodus 26:34 You shall put the mercy seat upon the _____ of the Testimony in the Most Holy.

NOTE: The only object in the most holy place was the **ark of the testimony**, a chest of acacia wood overlaid with gold (Exodus 25:10, 11); it contained the Ten Commandments (v. 21). Atop the chest was the mercy seat, a covering on which two angels faced each other from opposite ends, all made of pure gold (vv. 17–21). This spot symbolized God's throne in heaven (Psalm 80:1; Isaiah 6:1, 2). It was here, above the mercy seat in the inner sanctum, where God spoke to Moses (Exodus 25:22).

4





The Bible says God's sanctuary was holy (Leviticus 16:33),

| and so was Jesus' life—now snould his followers live? |
|--|
| 1 Peter 1:15, 16 As He who called you is, you also be |
| holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be, for I am holy." |
| 1 Peter 2:9 You are a chosen generation, a royal |
| NOTE: As a member of God's holy nation, every believer is called to be holy—to be set apart from the world. God calls His people to turn toward Him and away from sin. Though we might fail at times to meet this lofty ideal, believers should always aim to be like Jesus as they cooperate with His enabling grace. |
| What was to be a guiding principle for the clothing God's priests would wear? |
| Exodus 28:42 You shall make for them linen trousers to cover their; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs. |
| Exodus 20:26 Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be on it. |
| NOTE: A guiding principle for followers of Jesus should be cleanliness and modesty in their choice of clothing. Today's sexually suggestive fashions encourage much temptation and debt. While God does not intend for His people to wear burlap, unduly expensive and flamboyant clothing should not be part of a Christian's wardrobe. |
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Does the Bible discourage believers from wearing jewelry and fancy clothing?

| 1 Timothy 2:9 | In like manner also, that | t the women [and men] |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | rel, not with braided hair or |
| or pearl | s or costly clothing. | |
| 1 Peter 3:3, 4 | Dolet your ac | dornment be merely |
| | -arranging the hair, | gold, or putting |
| on fine apparel—rath | er let it be the hidden pe | rson of the heart, with the |
| incorruptible beauty of | of a gentle and quiet spiri | it, which is very precious in the |
| sight of God. | | |
| Isaiah 3:18-2 | 1 In that day the Lord | will take away the finery: |
| | , the pend | |
| and the veils; the hea | addresses, the leg ornam | ents, and the headbands; the |
| perfume boxes, the _ | , and th | e; |
| the nose iewels | | |

NOTE: Yes! God teaches that modest clothing is the pattern for Christians to follow. Although the wearing of jewelry is widely accepted in the world, it has a negative image in Scripture. You may not recognize all the items mentioned in Isaiah 3:18–23, but people in other parts of the world do. Many of these pagan ornaments are now appearing in Western culture. Remember, it was from their jewelry that the children of Israel forged a golden calf that they then worshiped (Exodus 32:2–4).

6





What commonsense rule did God have for priests, kings, and prophets to maintain holy conduct?

| and propriets to maintain noty conduct: | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Leviticus 10:9 Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations. | | | |
| Proverbs 31:4, 5 It is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink; lest they drink and forget the, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted. Luke 1:15 For he [John the Baptist] shall drink neither wine nor | | | |
| strong drink. He will also be filled with the | | | |
| NOTE: Christians should abstain from all alcoholic/fermented beverages in order to keep their minds clear and to hear God's Spirit (Proverbs 23:31, 32; 1 Peter 5:8). The word "wine" in the Bible can mean either fermented or unfermented grape juice. The same is true of the word "cider" today. Proverbs 23:29–32 gives the Bible's description of fermented wine, and God says that we should not even look at it! The only wine Christians should use is "new wine," which is unfermented grape juice. "New wine is found in the cluster" (Isaiah 65:8). This is the wine that Jesus made for the wedding feast (John 2:1–11). | | | |
| • | | | |
| Did God make a distinction regarding which animals His people could sacrifice and eat? | | | |
| Genesis 8:20 Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every | | | |
| animal and of every bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. | | | |
| Leviticus 11:3 Whatever divides the, having cloven | | | |

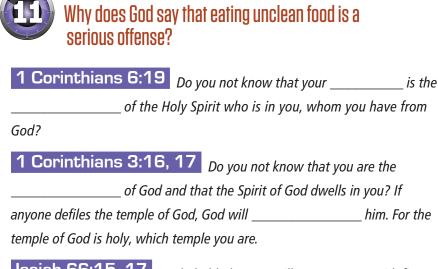
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hooves and chewing the _____.



| Leviticus 11:9 | Whatever in the water has | and |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-----|
| , that you may eat. | | |

NOTE: To make things simple for us, God has placed all creatures into one of two categories: clean and unclean. He permits us to eat those that are clean but has declared the unclean creatures unfit for food. All mammals declared clean share two characteristics: (1) cloven hooves and (2) chew the cud. For example, a pig has cloven hooves but does not chew its cud, so it is unclean. Clean water creatures have both fins and scales—meaning eels, shellfish, frogs, turtles, shrimp, and sharks are unfit as food. With birds, the rule is that all raptors and birds of carrion are unclean. Foraging birds that scratch and peck (chickens, quail, pheasants, turkeys) can be eaten. Notice here that God's categories of clean and unclean beasts have existed since Creation. We are all related to Noah, who lived long before the Jews.



Isaiah 66:15, 17

For behold, the Lord will _____ with fire and with His chariots, like a whirlwind. ... "Those who sanctify themselves, ... eating _____ flesh and the abomination and the mouse, shall be _____ together," says the Lord.

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NOTE: In the first chapter of Daniel, the Hebrew prophet and his friends refused to defile themselves by eating Babylonian food. As a result of their courage, God greatly blessed and honored them. There is a direct connection between what we eat and drink and our mental clarity, ability to resist temptation, and capacity to distinguish between right and wrong. Everything a Christian does—including eating and drinking—should be done to God's glory (1 Corinthians 10:31). Any substance or unhealthy practice that damages the body must be laid aside. This includes harmful drugs (such as tobacco in all its forms) and the many drinks that contain the highly addictive drug caffeine.

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What should a Christian choose to think about?

| À | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Philippians 4:8 | Whatever things are | , whatever things | |
| | ings are just, whatever thing | | |
| whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is | | | |
| any | _ and if there is anything p | raiseworthy—meditate on | |
| these things. | | | |
| Psalm 101:3 | will set | wicked before | |
| my | | | |
| Colossians 3:2 | Set your mind on things _ | , not on things | |
| on the | | | |
| | | | |

NOTE: Christians should avoid watching sex and violence as a form of entertainment. Jesus taught that sin originates in our thoughts and attitudes (Matthew 5:28). In the days of Noah, the world was destroyed because a whole generation was obsessed with evil thoughts and violence (Genesis 6:5, 11). Therefore, a Christian should avoid programs, videos, or reading material that would encourage impure thoughts.

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| What does the Bible say about worldly behavior? |
|--|
| James 4:4 Whoever therefore wants to be a of the |
| world makes himself an of God. |
| 2 Corinthians 6:17 Come out from among them and be |
| , says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will |
| receive you. |
| 1 John 2:15 If anyone loves the, the love of the |
| Father is in him. |
| Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this, but be |
| transformed by the of your mind, that you may prove |
| what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. |
| NOTE: God is calling His people today to model the holy life of Jesus in this fallen world to help others prepare for His soon return. |
| >> YOUR RESPONSE Jesus warns that without holiness, we cannot be with Him in His kingdom |

Jesus warns that without holiness, we cannot be with Him in His kingdom (Matthew 5:8; Hebrews 12:14). At the same time, He offers to wash away our sins and cover us with His holy life if we trust Him. Will you choose now to come to Him as a living sacrifice, to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Him? You will find "joy inexpressible and full of glory"! (1 Peter 1:8).

ANSWER:



Many have tried to use Peter's vision of a great sheet full of animals (Acts 10:9–28) to justify eating unclean food. They say it proves that Jesus taught His disciples it was acceptable to eat any living creature.

However, each time the sheet came down and Peter was asked to "kill and eat," he responded, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean" (Acts 10:14). Notice that even after three and a half years of listening to Jesus' teachings, Peter had not received the slightest hint or impression that eating unclean food was permissible. It is also interesting that in his vision, Peter never ate anything from the sheet.

Peter's vision was not intended to sanctify unclean animals. The fact that he wondered what the vision meant (v. 17) indicates a symbolic meaning, which he himself explained in verse 28: "God has shown me that I should not call any *man* common or unclean" (emphasis added). And in verse 34, the apostle summarized the point of the vision when he said, "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality."

God's message to Peter had to do with cleansing people, not animals. This vision was given to impress the Jewish disciples that they should not call the Gentiles unclean and that the gospel was to be freely proclaimed to all peoples.

