

“Day of Atonement— Tabernacle and Priesthood”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbig sandy.com). It was posted for the weekends of Oct. 4 and Oct. 11, 2025. (When this material was given at a Wednesday-night Bible study on Oct. 1, it had a different title at the presentation.)

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I completed a two-part series. The presentation was titled “Preparing for the Day of Atonement—Part 2.” That Wednesday night presentation began at 7:00 p.m. and the Day of Atonement started at 7:05 p.m.

At the beginning of the Bible study, I mentioned how the material would be viewed differently depending upon when people saw the presentation online.

- When people listened live to the presentation, the Bible study could still help them prepare for the continued observance of the Day of Atonement.
- When people listened later to the presentation, the material in the Bible study could serve to help them as a scriptural review.
- Likewise—when people read this article (however many days, weeks, months or years after the oral presentation), the material in the Bible study can serve to help them as a scriptural review.

The first presentation in the short series was about fasting.

The second presentation in the short series was about the tabernacle and the priesthood.

Tabernacle and priesthood often viewed together

It is my opinion that when people talk about the tabernacle, they often also talk about the priesthood.

It is my opinion that when people talk about the priesthood, they often also talk about the tabernacle.

In the book of Exodus, the tabernacle is discussed in chapters 25-27, and the priesthood is discussed in chapters 28-30.

In the book of Hebrews, the priesthood is discussed in chapters 2-7 and the tabernacle is discussed in chapter 9.

The tabernacle in Exodus 25-27

Following are scriptures about the tabernacle in Exodus 25-27.

- Exodus 25:2—The Lord told Moses to receive offerings from the children of Israel from people who were giving it “willingly with his heart”—sounding similar to what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 9:7.
- Exodus 25:8—The Lord said: “Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.”
- Exodus 25:9—The Lord gave the pattern of the tabernacle and all of its furnishings.
- Exodus 25:10-15—The Lord gave instructions about the making of the ark.
- Exodus 25:16—The Lord told them what to put into the ark.
- Exodus 25:17-21—The Lord told them how to make the mercy seat and to put it on top of the ark.
- Exodus 25:22—The Lord said: “And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat . . .”
- Exodus 26:33—The Lord said: “You shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy.”
- Exodus 26:34—The Lord said: “You shall put the mercy seat upon the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy.”

The priesthood in Exodus 28-30

Following are scriptures about the priesthood in Exodus 28-30.

- Exodus 28:1—The Lord told Moses select Aaron and four of his sons to serve as priests.
- Exodus 28:2-43—The Lord gave instructions about garments and other physical accessories (vest, breastplate and other clothes).
- Exodus 29:1-41—The Lord gave instructions about sacrifices.
- Exodus 29:42—The Lord told about burnt offerings at “the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet you to speak with you.”
- Exodus 29:43—The Lord said: “And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory.”
- Exodus 29:44—The Lord said: “So, I will consecrate the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. I will also consecrate both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me as priests.”
- Exodus 29:45—The Lord said: “I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God.”

The priesthood in Hebrews 2-7

■ Hebrews 2:17-18—The Son of God had to be made like His brethren in all things, “that He might be a mercifully and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God—to make propitiation for the sins of the people . . . He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

■ Hebrews 3:1—Attention all holy brethren. Attention all partakers of the heavenly calling.

Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus.

■ Hebrews 4:14—Since we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, let us hold fast to our confession.

■ Hebrews 4:15—Our High Priest can sympathize with our weakness, because He was tempted as we are, yet without sin.

■ Hebrews 4:16—Therefore, go boldly to the throne of grace and obtain mercy.

■ Hebrews 5:1—Every physical high priest offered both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

■ Hebrews 5:4—Physical priests were chosen by God, just as Aaron was.

■ Hebrews 7:1-18—This chapter has a great discussion about Melchizedek (king of Salem) the priest of the Most High God.

■ Hebrews 7:11—The author wrote: “If perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it, the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise (according to the order of Melchizedek, and not to be called according to the order of Aaron)?”

■ Hebrews 7:12—Since the priesthood changed, what law changed?

■ Hebrews 7:13-15—The Son of God came from a different tribe (the tribe of Judah) from Aaron (the tribe of Levi), which the Lord established in Exodus 28:1.

■ Hebrews 7:23—In Old Covenant history, there were many priests because people die.

■ Hebrews 7:24—The Son of God represents an “unchangeable priesthood.”

■ Hebrews 7:25—Since the Son of God always lives, He is able to save people by making intercession for them.

■ Hebrews 7:26—Our High Priest is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners and has become higher than the heavens.

■ Hebrews 7:27—Our High Priest does not need to make daily sacrifices—because He offered up Himself one time.

Priesthood and tabernacle in Hebrews 8:1-2

■ Hebrews 8:1-2—Here is the main point of the book of Hebrews: “We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens—a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle (which the Lord erected, and not man).”

The tabernacle in Hebrews 9

- Hebrews 9:1-2—The tabernacle had a first part.
- Hebrews 9:3-5—Behind the second veil was the Holiest of All—with the ark and the mercy seat.
- Hebrews 9:7—The high priest alone went into the second part once a year to present an offering.
- Hebrews 9:11—“Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands.”
- Hebrews 9:12— “With His own blood, He entered the Most Holy Place once for all.”
- Hebrews 9:13-14—If the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer sanctified people, how much more does the blood of Christ cleanse your conscience from dead works and enable you to serve the living God?
- Hebrews 9:23—The heavenly things are better sacrifices.
- Hebrews 9:24—Christ did not enter the holy place made with hands, but He appeared in heaven itself—in the presence of God for us.
- Hebrews 9:25—Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.

Consider the “therefore”

At the conclusion of that presentation, I listed scriptures under the term *therefore*— hoping that my friends would realize that reading more scriptures in the book of Hebrews about the priesthood and tabernacle is valuable for Christian living.

Following is the list.

- Hebrews 10:19-25
- Hebrews 10:35-38
- Hebrews 12:1-11
- Hebrews 12:12-17
- Hebrews 12:28-29
- Hebrews 13:12-14
- Hebrews 13:15-16