

The Tabernacle

A Day In The Tabernacle

Introductory Notes

- In this lesson, every effort has been made to show the activities as they would have been in the Tabernacle and not the Temple.
- There are many ceremonies and customs that were added throughout the centuries that we know were present in the Temple but may not have been in the Tabernacle
 - Example A: The organization of the Levites into twenty-four “courses” by David in I Chronicles 24:1-19. This was done in expediency as the growth in the number of priests necessitated further order in their service.
 - Example B: The addition of choirs and musicians to Temple service through their organization by David in I Chronicles 25. There is no evidence of music of any kind in the Tabernacle, but it was highly integrated into the services of the Temple.
- Perhaps at another time we can examine the changes that came with the construction of the Temple. Maybe... Sometime...

Daily Activities

- Preparations for the day
 - In the courtyard, the Laver is filled and the Brazen Altar prepared.
 - In the Tabernacle, the Golden Lampstand is filled, worn wicks are replaced, and the Altar of Incense is cleaned and prepped.
- Morning Sacrifice
 - Took place at about 9:00 a.m. (“third hour”)
 - A lamb is offered as a Burnt Offering along with $\frac{1}{10}$ *ephah* of flour mixed with $\frac{1}{4}$ *hin* of oil and a drink offering of $\frac{1}{4}$ *hin* of wine – Numbers 28:3-7
 - 1 *hin* = ~1½ gallons
 - This is the first sacrifice of the day.
 - Afterward, a priest burns incense on the Altar of Incense in the Holy Place using coals from the Brazen Altar.
- Evening Sacrifice
 - This was offered between dusk and dark, on average 6:00 p.m. (“twelfth hour”)
 - There is evidence that it may have been offered at 3:00 p.m. (“ninth hour”) in the Temple – Acts 3:1, also Josephus’s *Antiquities of the Jews*.
 - A lamb is offered as a Burnt Offering along with $\frac{1}{10}$ *ephah* of flour mixed with $\frac{1}{4}$ *hin* of oil and a drink offering of $\frac{1}{4}$ *hin* of wine – Numbers 28:3-7
 - Afterward, a priest burns incense on the Altar of Incense in the Holy Place using coals from the Brazen Altar.

Sabbath Activities

- Sabbaths, whether weekly or special feast days, would still carry on the usual daily course of activities with any additional activities added to them.
- At the beginning of the weekly Sabbath (Friday evening), new loaves of shewbread were placed in the Tabernacle and the old one eaten by the priests.
- An additional two lambs were offered as a burnt offering (sometimes referred to as the “sabbath offering”) – Numbers 28:9

Monthly Activities

- Additional sacrifices were made on the first day of the new month.
 - Remember, the Jewish month is a lunar month. The first day of the month was marked by the first appearance of a crescent on the new moon.
- Silver trumpets were blown to signal the month – Numbers 10:10
- Additional burnt offerings are offered on this day with their corresponding meal and drink offerings – Numbers 28:11-14
 - These consisted of two young bulls, one ram, seven lambs.
- One goat is also offered as a sin offering – Numbers 28:15

Truths from the Tabernacle

- Note the two constant elements in the daily services: offerings/sacrifices and prayer. Are we offering these up daily to God?
- Not even the Sabbath stopped the activities the Tabernacle. Service to God is the one exception to the Sabbath rest.