

- in the last chapter we've seen the contrast of the 2 covenants

(This chapter reveals the differences of the ministries within the 2 covenants)

vs.1- the writer does not speak negatively of the ministry of the old covenant here as it

had been ordained of God (it was a foreshadowing of the heavenly tabernacle)

- "ordinances of divine service" - this means that it's the way God wanted it, constructed it, and the way worship and service would be (Ex.25-40)

- "worldly" - meaning that it was built with the hands of men and would be a temporal thing

(Anything built by men is temporal- only God makes things permanent)

vs.2- "tabernacle" - (skene) a tent or movable dwelling

- now the writer describes the contents of the Holy Place

\*the Holy Place was the inner section where the priests entered daily to minister unto the Lord

(The door or "veil" to the Holy Place was always fixed to the east)

- "candlestick" - (Ex.25:31-39) made from 1 talent (approx. 75 lbs.) of pure gold that had three branches extended on each side of the main shaft (7 total)

(The candlestick was situated on the south side of the tabernacle)

\*the only source of light within the Holy Place and signified divine guidance and the Holy Spirit

- the wicks were trimmed each morning and it was lit every evening

- "table of showbread" - 12 loaves of bread that sit across from the candlestick (north side)

(These loaves had to be replaced every Sabbath)

- the old loaves were eaten by the priests in the Holy Place to symbolize communion with God

(The loaves were a reminder to Israel of God's provisional care- daily bread)

vs.3- "Holiest of all" - known also as the Holy of Holies

(Only one person was allowed to enter this place)

vs.4- the other piece of furniture is mentioned here- golden censor or altar of incense

\*this is where priests burned incense twice a day symbolizing prayers rising to Heaven

(Incense was also burned just before the high priest would enter on the Day of Atonement)

- the altar actually stood just before the veil in the Holy Place and linked earthly worship to the presence of God

(The writer includes it with the Holy of Holies though it was not physically inside that veil)

\*Ex.30:6 stresses the close relation of the altar to the Holy of Holies

\*Think about this- all these items are symbolic and all together, they symbolize the Lord Jesus

1- candlestick- He is the Light of the world 2- showbread- He is the Bread of Life

3- altar of incense- He is our Mediator in prayer

- "ark" - the only piece of furniture within the Holy of Holies

(Only the Levites were allowed to touch it- I Chr.15:2)

- "golden pot of manna" - reminded them of their physical need and of God's provisions

- "Aaron's rod" - reminded them of their spiritual need (a dead stick that bloomed showed God's power) \* Where else do we see a death and God bringing life out of it?

- "tables" - the 10 Commandments - for their moral needs (showed God's perfection)

vs.5- "cherubims" - golden figures of creatures with wings

- they were fastened on the lid of the Ark and faced each other with their heads pointed down toward the lid- their wings were extended toward each other

Truth- Ps.80:1 and 99:1 states that the Lord dwelled between the cherubims

- "mercyseat" - this is where the blood was sprinkled on the Day of Atonement for sins

- "cannot now speak" - meaning that he can't go into specific detail on it at that time

vs.6- "first tabernacle" - Holy Place- their service included changing the showbread, trimming and lighting the candlestick, burning incense, and even handling any disputes among people

vs.7- this is reference to the Day of Atonement as he was the only person allowed inside

(This part of the tabernacle had no candle- it was lit only by the presence of God- Shekhinah)