

Christ in The Camp of Israel

"Let Them Make Me a Sanctuary"

Introduction:

After the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt, the Lord instructed them to make a mobile Sanctuary where He might dwell with them and instruct them in the way of salvation.

Exodus 25:8 And let them make me a Sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

The Sanctuary and its services would be the center of their lives for centuries. They were instructed to pitch their tents on each side of the court of the Tabernacle. There were twelve tribes of Israel, three tribes would camp on each of the four directions of the compass. In the middle of the court was the Tabernacle or Sanctuary.

Numbers 1:52 And the children of Israel shall pitch their tents, every man by his own camp, and every man by his own standard, throughout their hosts.

The Lord designed that Israel would understand the plan of salvation through the services of the Sanctuary. The sacrificial services would reveal that Christ would give His life for their redemption. They would reveal the inevitable effect of sin is death, and therefore willful transgression of God's law is not optional for eternal life.

We will begin to examine Christ's steps of salvation for us as depicted in the Sanctuary and its services. We also are going to discover what our part is in following Christ's steps of salvation through the Sanctuary. We will also discover Satan's mastermind deceptions in each step. It has always been Satan's agenda to counterfeit or corrupt the doctrinal truths found in each of the steps of Christ in the plan of salvation. Wherever Christ is in His steps is where Satan focuses his attacks, sometimes literally and sometimes doctrinally.

The Sanctuary Truth:

Christ's first step in the plan of salvation—His birth.

What does the camp of Israel have to do with Christ's steps of salvation? As had been predicted, Christ was born in the camp of Israel of the tribe of Judah.

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

The time for Christ's birth was foreknown and foretold. Christ was subject to the same natural and moral laws as we are.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law.

Christ was conceived of the Holy Ghost. Christ was holy at birth being filled with the Holy Ghost, yet subject to the same natural and moral laws as we are, yet without sin.

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. ... 22) Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Christ was made in the likeness of our flesh.

If Christ was only God, He could not be tempted to sin, for the Scripture plainly teaches us that God cannot be tempted with evil.

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man:

The Scriptures clearly teach that Christ took on humanity in the "likeness of sinful flesh."

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7) But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; ... 16) For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham.

Romans 1:3 Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

What is the salvational significance of Christ being "made in the likeness of sinful flesh?"

Since God is immortal and cannot die, Christ had to partake of mortal man that He might "taste death for every man."

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Not only did Christ "taste death for every man," He made a way for us to escape the bondage of sin that brought fear of death from the inevitable consequence of sin,

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15) And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

He was willing to give His life to free us from bondage to sin and deliver us from evil.

Galatians 1:4 Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

Christ came "in the likeness of sinful flesh," subject to the same laws as we are that we may "receive the adoption of sons" by being redeemed.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5) To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name:

To receive Christ is to be led by the Spirit of God, this is how we may become the sons of God.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Through the sacrifice of Christ, He not only saved us the inevitable consequence of sin, but "He appeared to put away sin."

Hebrews 9:26 For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Sin, being the transgression of the law, and the inevitable consequence of sin death, and Christ saving us from the inevitable consequence, must not Christ also save us from sin?

2Corinthians 5:21 For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Sin is of such power that in our sinful carnal nature, we have no ability in ourselves to keep the law.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8) So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

The Father knowing this, provided a way that "the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us." He would send "His own Son in the likeness of our sinful flesh."

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

How would "the righteousness of the law" "be fulfilled in us?" By being born again, born of the Spirit and allowing the Spirit to dwell in us as it did in Christ, guiding and directing our every motive, thought, word and action, "the righteousness of the law" will "be fulfilled in us."

He became one with us that He might be the "captain" of our salvation showing us how to abide in the Spirit "in the likeness of our sinful flesh," sanctifying us and making us sons.

Hebrews 2:10 For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11) For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Here are a few more verses that reveal why Christ came into this world.

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

1John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. 5) And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.

Romans 11:27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Christ "condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

What does it mean, Christ "condemned sin in the flesh?" Hebrews tells us that Christ was tempted as we are yet without sin, proving that temptation does not have to lead to sin. God has made a way to resist. It also tells us that because He was tempted as we are, He can relate to us.

Hebrews 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18) For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted

1Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

For our sake, Christ resisted unto blood. We must also follow His example and resist sin.

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

How do we resist temptation?

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

How was it that Christ was able to resist the temptation to save Himself and let humanity suffer their own consequences?

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

It was by "grace" that Christ overcame all temptation, and it is by the same "grace" that we too can overcome temptation.

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Our Response to The Sanctuary Truth:

Our part in the plan of salvation is to follow Christ, our Captain.

1Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: 22) Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth:

Christ explained to Nicodemus that in order to enter the kingdom of God, we must be born of the Spirit, born again, and become the sons of God.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4) Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

We must confess our sins, our need of a Saviour and believe that He is merciful to forgive us and powerful to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness.

1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

This is just the beginning of our salvation, we must continue to walk in the light of the gospel if we are to be cleansed of all sin.

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Matthew 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Revelation 2:25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

Revelation 23:1 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne.

It is by beholding the goodness of God, and by the Spirit of the Lord, that we shall overcome and be changed from glory to glory into the same image of God.

2Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Christ partook of our human nature that we might be partakers of His nature escaping the corruption of lust.

1Peter 1:3 According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Satan's literal attack on Christ's life.

Matthew 2:13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and His mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy Him.

Matthew 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

Revelation gives a symbolic narrative of the historical account of this event.

Revelation 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in Heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: 2) And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. 3) And there appeared another wonder in Heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4) And his tail drew the third part of the stars of Heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

The Sanctuary Truth Corrupted:

The Scriptures call those who deny that Christ came in the flesh, antichrist. "Anti" means not only against God, but desiring to take the place of God.

1John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2) Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3) And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 4) Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5) They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6) We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

2John 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

1John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19) They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. ... 22) Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. ... 26) These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

Christ warned His disciples that there would be false Christs and false prophecies regarding the manner in which He would come. There will be deceptions, but we do not have to be deceived for Christ has told us beforehand.

Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25) Behold, I have told you before.

Obviously the world recognizes that Christ has come in flesh, after all the year 2026 is reckoned from Christ's birth. So there must be a deeper meaning to "come in the flesh," and it must have something to do with salvation. If we believe that Christ overcame by His divine power and not by the grace of God, or worse yet, that He could not be tempted or to sin, what would that do to our faith? We have no better example of what we too can do if we are born of the Spirit. We can also come "unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Who would want to deceive us regarding who is the true Christ but the antichrist. Who would want to corrupt the Sanctuary truth that we too can overcome by the blood of Christ? Who would want to corrupt the truth that we can "follow His steps who did no sin," and "become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

We know that the ultimate antichrist is Satan who revealed his self-exalting agenda while in Heaven before this world was created.

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

There is also a church with the same agenda, who teaches that Christ has not "come in the likeness of sinful flesh." It would be the antichrist who desires to sit in the temple of God taking His place. The apostle Paul knew and wrote of these things.

2Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4) Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 5) Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

There is a teaching that Mary, the mother of Jesus was holy and without sin. It is known as "the immaculate conception." Is this the truth or is it, "the immaculate deception?" Is that teaching in harmony with the Scriptures?

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 3:9 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

Galatians 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

1John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

In addition to the above-quoted verses, before the Immaculate Conception of Mary was formally adopted even respected, Catholic theologians like Saint Bonaventure in his "Commentary on the Sentences, Book III, Distinction 3" stated the common position of his time clearly,

“None was free from the guilt of original sin, except the son of the virgin alone.”

Similarly Thomas Aquinas raised the key logical difficulty that if Mary were preserved from original sin at conception she would not need Christ's redemption.

Aquinas wrote this in *Summa Theologica*, Third Part, Question 27, Article 2, Reply to Objection 2:

“If the soul of the Blessed Virgin had never incurred the stain of original sin, this would be derogatory to the dignity of Christ, by reason of His being the universal Saviour of all.

The clearest official description comes straight from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 491. It quotes the 1854 dogmatic definition:

“The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.”

In plain terms, Mary was conceived normally by her parents, but God preserved her from original sin right from the very first instant of her conception—through the grace of her Son's future redemption.

It is not for us to judge any man, but we are to expose the lies that corrupt biblically affirmed truth, for the truth shall set you free from the "sin that so easily besets us."

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,