

Daily Tabernacle

This is one of two papers on the subject of the 'tamid,' about which Jesus told us to understand. Please look at [Daily Sacrifice](#) to consider the definition from the perspective of Daniel who wrote about the continual תָּמִיד - tamid - ha-taw-meed.

This paper looks at the tamid from the illustrations given to us by God from the perspective of the tabernacle/sanctuary/temple. We will reach the same conclusion as to the definition of what the tamid is from both the perspective of Daniel and from the tabernacle. The conclusion is that the tamid is our continual relationship with God.

The word תָּמִיד - tamid is used frequently in reference to several different elements of the tabernacle system.

Specifically, each of the following was to be continual:

- The sacrifice on the altar of burnt offering.
- The bread on the table of Presence.
- The light from the lampstand.
- Incense from the altar of incense.
- The garments, breastplate, and turban worn by the high priest to continually keep in heart and mind certain things before Yahweh.

Burnt offering

Numbers 28:6 LEB – It is a continual burnt offering that was ordained on Mount Sinai as a fragrance of appeasement, an offering made by fire for Yahweh.

Table of Presence

Exodus 25:30 LEB – And you will put on the table the bread of presence to be before me continually.

Lampstand

Exodus 27:20 LEB – And you will command the Israelites, and they will bring to you pure, beaten olive oil for the light, to cause a lamp to burn continually.

Altar of Incense

Exodus 30:7-8 LEB – And on it Aaron will turn fragrant incense into smoke; each morning when he tends the lamps, he will turn it into smoke. (8) And when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he will turn it into smoke—incense of continuity—before Yahweh throughout your generations.

Garments

Breast piece

Exodus 28:29-30 LEB – And Aaron will bear the names of the Israelites in the breast piece of judgment [decision or verdict] on his heart, when he comes to the sanctuary, for a remembrance before Yahweh continually. (30) And you will put the Urim and the Thummim on the breast piece of judgment [decision or verdict], and they will be on the heart of Aaron when he comes before Yahweh, and Aaron will bear the judgment of the Israelites on his heart before Yahweh continually.

Gold Ornament

Exodus 28:36-38 LEB – And you will make a pure gold rosette [flower, plate, ornament, wing], and you will engrave on it with seal engravings: "A holy object for Yahweh." (37) And you will place it on a blue cord, and it will be on the turban, at the front of the turban it will be. (38) And it will be on the forehead of Aaron, and Aaron will bear the guilt of the holy objects [In Bible usage, the phrase holy objects - הַקֹּדֶשִׁים - refers to the food used as an offering in the tabernacle. In modern Hebrew the phrase means "the holidays"] that the Israelites will consecrate for all their holy gifts, and it will be on his forehead continually for acceptance for them before Yahweh.

Each of these elements of the tabernacle/sanctuary/temple were to be continual. Each is tamid. Each is an illustration of what God uses to explain humanity's role in salvation.

The Example

Jesus identified Himself with every element of the tabernacle illustration. Anyone who looks at the tabernacle/sanctuary/temple will recognize that everything is associated with Jesus. He is the sacrifice, the priest, the altar of burnt offering, the table of Presence, the lampstand, the altar of incense, and every other element – from the fabric of the tent covering to the pegs that secure it.

Moses described the model and rituals that illustrate the process. Jesus came to provide the example of how the illustration works. Jesus is the Master who takes us in as His apprentices and asks us to follow His example.

John 13:13-16 – You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.

1 Corinthians 11:1 – Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

Ephesians 5:1-2 – Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Colossians 3:13 – bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

1 Peter 2:20-22 – For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth;

1 John 2:6 – the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

The Demonstration

We are the apprentices. We are the disciples. We are to follow the Master's example. We have the illustration. We have God who, in the form of a man, Jesus, showed how to live the illustration.

We are to be the:

Living Sacrifice - a burnt offering

We are to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice continuously in the service of God. He wants our contrite heart.

Psalms 51:16-17 LEB – For you do not delight in sacrifice or I would give it. With a burnt offering you are not pleased. (17) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Romans 12:1 LEB – Therefore I exhort you, brothers, through the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

Hebrews 13:16 LEB – And do not neglect doing good and generosity, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.

The offerings at the tabernacle were always for illustrative purposes. The required sacrifices never saved.

Hebrews 10:4 LEB – For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

The Table of Presence

The bread of life is illustrated by the table of showbread. Jesus is the bread. The bread is to be renewed weekly. It is to be consumed continuously.

John 6:33-35 LEB – For the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." (34) So they said to him, "Sir, always give us this bread!" (35) Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. The one who comes to me will never be hungry, and the one who believes in me will never be thirsty again.

John 6:51-58 LEB – I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats from this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." (52) So the Jews began to quarrel among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (53) Then Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves! (54) The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (55) For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. (56) The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood resides in me and I in him. (57) Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so also the one who eats me—that one will live because of me. (58) This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever."

We are invited to continuously allow the bread of life to be integrated into our nature. We do that by continuously partaking of the bread of the Presence.

2 Peter 1:4 LEB – through which things he has bestowed on us his precious and very great promises, so that through these you may become sharers of the divine nature after escaping from the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire,

Ezekiel 36:25-27 LEB – And I will sprinkle on you pure water, and you will be clean from all of your uncleanness, and I will cleanse you from all of your idols. (26) And I will give a new heart to you, and a new spirit I will give into your inner parts, and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh, and I will give to you a heart of flesh. (27) And I will give my spirit into your inner parts, and I will make it so that you will go in my rules, and my regulations you will remember, and you will do them.

The Lampstand

The Spirit of God is portrayed as the tongues of flame at Pentecost¹ and as the seven spirits before the throne of God.² We are promised that, as we accept the Spirit of God into our lives, we will shine as the stars.³ And, while Jesus was on Earth, He described Himself as the Light.

Matthew 5:14-16 LEB – You are the light of the world. A city located on top of a hill cannot be hidden, (15) nor do they light a lamp and place it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it shines on all those in the house. (16) In the same way let your light shine before people, so that they can see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

John 12:36 LEB – While you have the light, believe in the light, in order that you may become sons of light." Jesus said these things, and then he went away and was hidden from them.

Incense

The Scriptures describe our prayers as incense. It is through prayer that we allow ourselves to hear God.

Psalms 141:2 LEB – Let my prayer be set before you as incense, the lifting up of my palms as the evening offering.

Revelation 5:8 LEB – And when he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one of whom had a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Revelation 8:3-4 LEB – And another angel who had a golden censer came and stood at the altar, and a large amount of incense was given to him, in order that he could offer the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar that is before the throne. (4) And the smoke of the incense went up before God with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel.

¹ Acts 2

² Revelation 1:4

³ Daniel 12:3; Philippians 2:15

Luke 18:1 LEB – And he told them a parable to show that they must always pray and not be discouraged,

Luke 21:36 LEB – But be alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to happen, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Ephesians 6:18 LEB – with all prayer and supplication praying at all times in the Spirit, and to this end being alert with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints,

The Garments

The garments worn by the high priest were also to be continuously before God. The high priest approached God but once a year, on the Day of Atonement. On the Day of Atonement, the high priest did not wear the fancy dress that is to be continuously before God.⁴ Instead, the high priest changed into simple linen garments. The breast piece of verdict [or decision] was not worn on the day that the high priest approached the throne of God. It was prior to the day of judgment that the wearer was to always wear the breast piece of decision, continuously choosing God, and to wear the golden ornament on the forehead, representing the commitment to God and God's assurance of acceptance. Think of the seal of God from Revelation 7 and 14. Think of the mark of the scribe from Ezekiel 9.

As we follow the example of Jesus, we are given righteous garments that replace our sinful rags. These holy garments of righteousness are illustrated by the priest in the tabernacle. We are to become priests wearing a golden headband.

Ezekiel 9:4 LEB – And Yahweh said to him, "Go through in the midst of the city, in the midst of Jerusalem, and you must place a mark on the foreheads of the men who are groaning and lamenting about all of the detestable things that are being done in the midst of her."

Revelation 7:2 LEB – And I saw another angel ascending from the east, holding the seal of the living God, and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels who were given permission to damage the earth and the sea,

Revelation 14:1 LEB – And I looked, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him one hundred forty-four thousand who had his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads.

Revelation 19:7-8 LEB – Let us rejoice and be glad and give him the glory, because the wedding celebration of the Lamb has come, and his bride has prepared herself. (8) And it has been granted to her that she be dressed in bright, clean fine linen (for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints).

⁴ Leviticus 16:4

Zechariah 3:3-5 LEB – And Joshua was clothed in filthy garments and was standing before the angel. (4) And he answered and said to the ones standing before him, saying, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And he said to him, "See, I have taken away your guilt from you, and will clothe you with rich garments." (5) And I said, "Let them put a clean headband on his head." And they put a clean headband on his head, and they clothed him with garments. And the angel of Yahweh was standing by.

Deuteronomy 11:18-19 LEB – "And you shall put these, my words, on your heart and on your inner self, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be as an emblem between your eyes. (19) And you shall teach them to your children by talking about them when you sit in your house and when you travel on the road and when you lie down and when you get up.

1 Peter 2:9 LEB – But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's possession, so that you may proclaim the virtues of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light,

Job 29:14 LEB – I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a headband.

Isaiah 62:3 LEB – And you shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of Yahweh, and a headband of royalty in the hand of your God.

Conclusion

The tabernacle/sanctuary/temple is the illustration.

Jesus is the example.

We are to be the demonstration.

We are to emulate the Example. Jesus came to Earth to show us what He wants us to be. God has used illustrated pictures. He showed us, in person, how to follow the illustration. He invites us to demonstrate that we are willing to follow Him in His service to God.

The whole purpose of the illustration and Example was so that we could know what it is that God wants us to be and how we can participate in glorifying God and leading others into His Kingdom. We are invited to continually abide in God, and God offers to continually make His home in us. This is the tamid. This is the daily that Daniel wrote about. This is what Jesus told readers to understand in Matthew 24:15.



The Golden Lampstand

The golden lampstand (Ex. 25:31–40) was made of pure gold, hammered out of one solid piece. Resting on a base, the central stem had six branches, three on either side, together carrying seven lamps. The lampstand with its branches was modeled on a flowering almond tree.



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