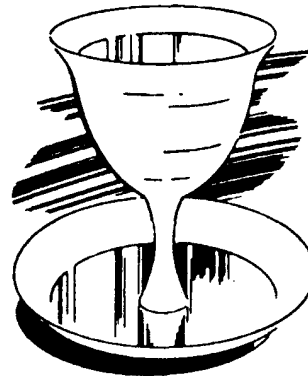
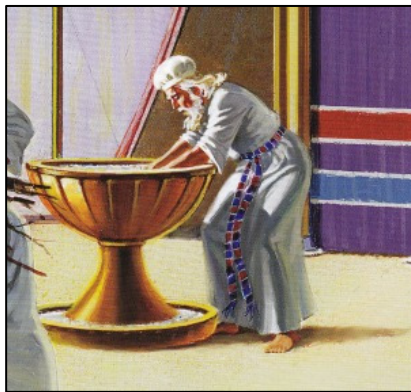
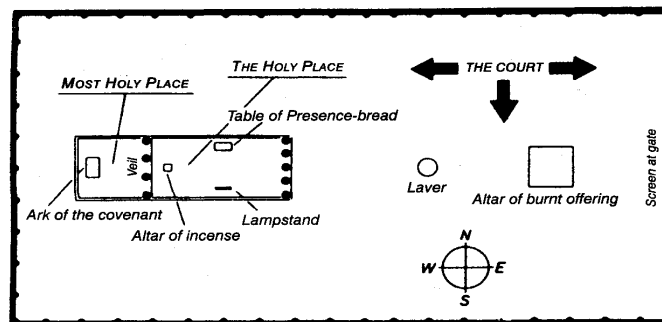


## B) The Laver and Base (Ex 30:17-21)

We are engaged in a series on the Levitical Sacrificial System. There are many insights which can be gained through the study of the “copies and shadows” of the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). The term *copies and shadows* comes from the Book of Hebrews.

- Hebrews 8:5, “...a copy and shadow of the heavenly things...”
- Hebrews 9:24, “...a mere copy of the true one...”
- Hebrews 10:1, “...a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things...”

In the same way the shadow or silhouette of an object can reveal information on the object, a copy and shadow from the Sacrificial System reveals more about God, our Christ, the church and the workings thereof. Hopefully by the end of the series, we will have a deeper appreciation of our relationship with Jesus Christ. Let us examine the laver and its base.



The Laver....

- was made of bronze.
- had a base under it.
- was placed between the altar of burnt offering and tent of meeting.
- was for the cleansing of the priests before going to the tent of meeting.

When Solomon’s Temple was built, the size of the laver increased, along with some of the other items from the tabernacle. The Temple version of the laver was called the “Bronze Sea” or “metal sea” because of the size. It was 45 feet in circumference, 15 feet wide and 7.5 feet deep. It rested on twelve bronze oxen, all facing out. It held 17,245 gallons of water to always make sure there was enough for the purpose of consecration. It remained until the Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 2 Kings 25:13.

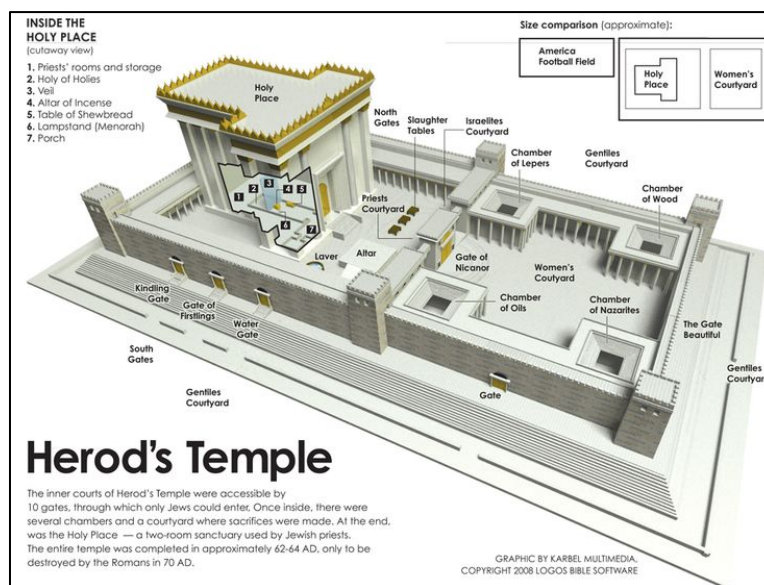
- 1 Chronicles 18:8, “...Solomon made the bronze sea and the pillars and the bronze utensils.” The dimensions are mentioned in 1 Kings 7:2-5, “Also he made the cast metal sea, ten cubits from brim to brim, circular in form, and its height was five cubits and its circumference thirty cubits. <sup>3</sup> Now figures like oxen were under it and all around it, ten cubits, entirely encircling the sea. The oxen were in two

rows, cast in one piece.<sup>4</sup> It stood on twelve oxen, three facing the north, three facing west, three facing south and three facing east; and the sea was set on top of them and all their hindquarters turned inwards.”



THE MOLTEN SEA  
The Bronze Sea of Solomon's Temple.

By the time of Jesus, Herod rebuilt the Temple and made it even more spectacular. The Laver was located on the southwest side of the Temple courtyard. It remained there until AD 70 when General Titus laid siege and destroyed Jerusalem.



The Brazen Laver played a very important part in every stage of Jewish worship. Without the laver, they could not carry out their responsibility to God.

### **The Laver was a copy and shadow of baptism.**

The Copy and Shadow: The cleansing was commanded with the threat of death.

- Exodus 30:20-21, “when they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, that they may not die; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire sacrifice to the LORD. So they shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they will not die; and it shall be a perpetual statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations.”

The Reality: Baptism is commanded with the promise of life.

- Matthew 28:18-20, And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- Mark 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.
- Romans 6:3, “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?”



The Copy and Shadow: The priests were consecrated through it.

- Exodus 40:12, “Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doorway of the tent of meeting and wash them with water.”

The Reality: God’s people are consecrated through baptism

- Acts 22:16, “And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.”
- Ephesians 5:26, “that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word”
- Titus 3:5, “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit”



The Copy and Shadow: Nobody could sacrifice without first cleansing themselves.

- Exodus 40:32, When they entered the tent of meeting, and when they approached the altar, they washed, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Reality: One cannot go into the presence of God unless they are baptized

- John 3:5, “Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.’”
- Colossians 2:12, “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”
- Revelation 4:6, “and before the throne there was, as it were, a sea of glass like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.”



The Copy and Shadow: It was made from the donated mirrors of the women.

- Exodus 38:8, “Moreover, he made the laver of bronze with its base of bronze, from the mirrors of the serving women who served at the doorway of the tent of meeting.”



Reality: We are to shed the old view of ourselves when being baptized.

- Galatians 3:27, “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”
- 1 Peter 3:21, “And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”



### #902 Nothing But the Blood

What can wash away my sin? What can make me whole again?

For my pardon this I see- For my cleansing this my plea-

Nothing can for sin atone- Naught of good that I have done-

Oh precious is the flow that makes me white as snow.

No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

### Closing Story: “The Pardon”

During the American Civil War, there was a certain man tried and convicted of treason. He was to be executed for his crime, but he was really innocent. His brother could prove he was innocent and traveled to Washington D.C. to attempt to lobby the President for a pardon. The man tried for many days to meet the President to no avail. Finally, the guards told him to not come back or he would be arrested and thrown into jail. The man was completely distraught.

He was sitting on a Washington park bench, crying greatly over the fate of his brother. He thought, “If I could only see the President, my brother would get a pardon and not be executed.” A few moments later, a young boy walked up to the man and asked him what was wrong. The man explained the situation and began to weep again. The young boy held out his hand and said, “Walk with me.” Not wanting to upset the lad, the man took the boy’s hand and walked with him. The young boy walked toward the White House and the man’s heart began to race while he remembered the words of the guards. The young boy walked right by the guards out front and they did not say a word. Then he walked the man into the White House and still nobody said a peep. They walked by all the workers and staff, down the hall and into the office of President Abraham Lincoln.



*Tad Lincoln*

Lincoln stood up and looked at the boy, then the man, and then back to the boy. Stroking his chin, Lincoln asked the boy, “Son, who did you bring with you?” The boy was Tad Lincoln and he had access to the father. The man finally had a meeting with the President because the son arranged it.

### Conclusion:

Ever since the Garden of Eden, mankind has had the goal to come back into the presence of God the Father. Genesis 3:24, God “drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.” We can try as much as we wish, but cannot access God without help. We do not wait on a Washington park bench, but meet the Son, Jesus Christ, in the waters of baptism. 1 Timothy 2:5, “For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” When we take faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus into the waters of baptism,



the Son takes us by the hand and walks us past the principalities and powers of this world and into the presence of God's glory. That is the promise from God, paid for by Jesus and backed up with the Holy Spirit.

- Romans 8:11, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."
- 2 Corinthians 4:14, "He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you."
- 1 Thessalonians 4:14, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus."
- Romans 14:9, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus."