

EPIC – Week 7

November 30, 2009 Teaching Outline
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EPIC SERIES RECAP:

The Bible as an epic story involving the whole world...

- It's real, it is happening still, it involves you, and it changes who we are

God has an intended design for life – we see it in the Garden of Eden

- Creation and the Garden of Eden - not a little tiny backyard garden
- Beautiful in its truest form.
- Completely innocent – no sin, no pain, no knowledge of evil
- Peace – on the seventh day God rested – nothing left to improve

A design for relationships:

- Fellowship with God – complete access
- Fellowship with each other – Adam and Eve
- Total peace, total joy – no sin like selfishness, jealousy, shame, etc.

This was God's intended design and it was AMAZING.

But something happened...

Satan, God's enemy, creates MISTRUST of God

- Satan twists God's words & lies to Adam and Eve
- Satan convinced them they couldn't TRUST God

The choice of Sin – Adam and Eve eat from the tree

- Refuse GOD'S RULE & decide for THEMSELVES what was good or evil

At that moment, everything changed. For then on... Sin ruins everything.

The consequences of sin...then and still today

- Pain, hard labor, struggle against creation, death
- Broken Relationship: Man and Woman
- **Banished from the Garden / Banished from God's presence**

The story could have just ended here, but God had a plan to rescue mankind.

God makes an UNBREAKABLE promise to Abram:

- To be his God & make him into a great nation and bless all peoples through him

Through Israel, God promises to rescue mankind from the curse of sin.

- God promises rescue to restore life to how it was intended to be
- When God promises, it's so certain that we can bet our life on it.

LAST EPIC TEACHING: The LAW Part 1 (Nov 11th)

Fast forward to Moses...

- Abraham's descendents become a great nation, but they are enslaved in Egypt
- God sends Moses to RESCUE them
- The exodus...through the desert to Mt. Siani
- God gives Moses the Law

What kind of "laws" did Moses receive from God?

- *Civil law* – property, treatment of servants, lawsuits
- *Moral law* – justice, mercy, and the 10 commandments (defining right and wrong)
- *Ceremonial (Religious) law* – Sabbath laws, annual feasts, instructions for worship and sacrifice

The law isn't a bad thing...it makes life BETTER

- Dodo-ronomy the twenty-terd chapter...
- Burying your poop outside your camp is great practical advice!
- How to be wise...how to enter into God's presence...this is important stuff!

Like the Garden, when God is making the rules...life is BEST.

PURPOSES OF THE LAW:

1. *Guides us to the holy life God intended*

The misperception of the law...God is out to ruin your fun.

(VIDEO – "Guard Rails")

- Like those guard rails along the road, the law helps define the path of living the kind of life God desires AND help us avoid heartache and pain.

2. *Reveals our sin –*

- We need an unchanging standard to measure against - that standard is GOD.
- The law defines right and wrong so we see our selves for what we really are...

(Illustration – Dirty White Hat)

- My hat looked pretty white...until it was measured against REAL white. Then you saw all the ugly filth and stains.

3. *Reveals our need for a Savior*

- Even though we have God's standard and we try and try to live up to it...
- It's impossible to obey the law perfectly and reach God's standard in the law.

(VIDEO – Standing Long Jump / Crowd Surfing)

- No matter how hard we trained, we could never jump from the stage to the back
- No matter how hard we try, we can't live the holy life on our own.
- **The law is very important...but WE STILL NEED A SAVIOR to rescue us.**

Galatians 3:24

The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith [in Christ].

TO RECAP THE WHOLE STORY:

- God has an intended design for our lives...and it's good. It's the best.
- Sin ruins everything.
- God promises rescue.
- The law given to Moses begins God's rescue by restoring His presence & rule.

THIS WEEK- The Law Part 2: Tabernacle & Sacrifices (Nov. 30)

Final 2 Purposes of the Law

4. Reveals God's character – His holiness
5. Restores God's presence in the tabernacle with his people

I said earlier, the three kinds of laws were civil, moral and ceremonial

2 key areas of the ceremonial laws reveal God's character & restore His presence

1. How to build the Tabernacle
2. How to offer sacrifices

FIRST – The Tabernacle

Exodus 25: 1, 8

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all it's furnishing exactly like the pattern I will show you."

God gives Moses precise directions to build each element of the tabernacle

- Dimensions & materials for...
- The Ark of the Covenant, Table, Lamp Stand
- The tent itself that was the tabernacle & curtains separating the holiest place
- Incense Alter, Alter of Burnt Offerings
- The clothing the priests wear

(Images of the tabernacle & priests clothing)

Emphasis - Depicting God's holiness / separation / holy of holies

Why so precise in how it was built? Was God just picky? NO...

- The physical perfection symbolized God's perfection – HIS HOLINESS
- Everything was a symbol and had a purpose

Purpose of the Tabernacle

- Showing the holiness of God
- Allowing (limited) access to the presence of God
- A place of worship and thankfulness to God - Their "church"

SECOND – The Sacrifices

The tabernacle shows us the separation of Holy God from unholy, sinful people.

So God provided a way to bridge that gap through a system of sacrifices.

Purpose of the sacrifices:

- Provided a means of worship, thanksgiving, and dedication to God
- Provided temporary forgiveness of sins, appeasing God's wrath against sin
 - o Remember – sin deserves death
- Provided a covering of sins – allowing limited access into God's presence

So what did this sacrificial system look like?

- Burnt offerings, Grain offering, Fellowship offering, Sin offering, Guilt offering
- Each offering had a different purpose...thankfulness, forgiveness, dedication...
- Most were bloody...ceremonially killings...representing the price paid for sin
- If you were offering a sacrifice, you would bring your offering to the tabernacle, and kill, burn, or present it to the priests
- The offerer would place his hand on the head of the animal, to identify him self as the one deserving death and the SUBSTITUTION being made on his behalf

Day of Atonement – Yom Kippur – Once a year (IMAGE OF PRIEST)

- Priest would provide forgiveness for the whole nation's sins
- *Priest's process of cleansing and preparation – Leviticus 16:*
 1. Bathe using the bronze basin in the tabernacle courtyard & put on the sacred tunic
 2. Slaughter a bull for his own sin offering & enter the holy place
 3. Fill an incense burner from the alter of incense and enter the Holy of Holies
 4. Sprinkle the bull's blood in front of the atonement cover 7 times
 5. Go back out and slaughter a goat & re-enter the Holy of Holies
 6. Sprinkle the goat's blood on the atonement cover 7 times for the sins of the nation
 7. Go back out to the courtyard - sprinkle blood from both animals on the horns of the altar
 8. Lay all of the sins on a living goat (*scapegoat*) and release him in the desert
 9. Return to the holy place and take off the sacred tunic, bathe and put on his regular tunic
 10. Sacrifice a burnt offering for all the people back out in the courtyard
- This is the ONLY TIME to physically enter into the holy of holies - God's presence

Here's the point:

- Being in God's presence is the life God intended for us, just like the Garden
- Our sin ruins everything and separates us from God presence.
- **The tabernacle & sacrifices help us clearly see how HOLY God is and how much our sin SEPARATES us from God without the forgiveness of Christ.**

With the sacrificial system, sin was COVERED, not TAKEN AWAY. Only Christ could remove them completely and give us complete access to God.

Hebrews 7:27

Unlike the other high priests, [Jesus] does not need to offer sacrifices...He sacrificed for [our] sins once and for all when he offered himself.

Because of Christ, we have complete access to God by His perfect sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:19, 21

Therefore, brothers, since we have the confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart...

Tonight, we are going to experience that...by entering into our own most holy place we've created in the Journey Room **to draw near to God and be in His presence.**