

SINGLE ALLIANCE

The Greater One

One Greater Than the Temple

I. Introduction

A. Last week we looked at how Jesus was greater than Solomon. Solomon gave wisdom at a price. Jesus gives wisdom freely to all who come in faith.

B. This week we will look at the third instance in the NT where it says Jesus is greater than something.

C. **Matthew 12:1-6**

II. Greater Than the Temple

A. Jesus' disciples picked grain on the Sabbath and eat it. The Pharisees accused them of harvesting on the Sabbath, thus they were guilty of working of the Sabbath.

B. Jesus gives two aspects about the temple in response to their accusation

1. David and his men ate the Shewbread on the Sabbath without profaning the temple

2. The Priests work double time on the Sabbath because extra sacrifices were offered up on the Sabbath. They were not guilty of profaning the Sabbath.

C. The Shewbread is compared to Jesus and the priests work on the Sabbath is contrasted to Jesus. They were but types concerning Jesus but He was the greater fulfillment of them. Jesus is greater than the Temple- which represents the Law.

III. Greater than the Shewbread

A. **Lev. 24:5-9**- God commanded that 12 flat round loaves of unleavened bread be set in two rows or stacks **BEFORE THE LORD**. They were set upon a golden table. God looked upon this bread which was placed in the Holy Place. This bread was for God to view. This bread was called the **Bread of Presence** [or His face]- This was the Bread God beholds.

1. The table was set on the north side of the Holy Place and the lamp stand was on the south side. God dwells in the sides of the North- **Is. 14:13** The bread was for God to behold. The lamp stand was toward the South, which gave light to men. God did not need the light. He is light!

B. On the table were golden plates, bowls with frankincense and wine [according to the Mishna].

C. The frankincense came from piercing the Arbor Thuris tree. The sap would come out in the shape of tears and hardened. This was a very bitter substance but when it was burned with fire it put off a very sweet and soothing aroma.

D. The Bread stayed out in God's presence for 7 days and then it was changed for new bread on the Sabbath.

E. The Priests then would take a portion of the bread and offer it to God on the fire along with the frankincense.

F. This all represents Christ

1. Christ is the Bread of Life- **John 6:48**- This represented His perfect humanity. The bread was made of fine pure flour

2. This bread was set upon the golden table. This represents the Deity of Jesus Christ. He was the God-man.

3. The Shewbread represented the perfect life of Christ. God the Father always beholds the perfections of the Son. This is why it was left before Him for 7 days- 7 stands for completion and perfection- This bread was continually put before the Father. This represented His perfect life under the Law. He lived for 30 years before dying completely fulfilling the righteousness of the Law.

4. There were 12 unleavened loaves- This reveals the sinless Son of God that is representing all of God's people- 12 were for the twelve tribes of Israel- ALL God's people were represented in this bread. Christ represents all of us before the Father. He beholds His perfection as our representative before the Father.

5. The bread being set out before God spoke of His perfect life. God observes the perfection of Jesus on our behalf. Jesus came and lived and died as our representative, not for kicks!

6. After the 7 days were over on the Sabbath a portion of the bread and frankincense from the Shewbread table was burned on the altar. This represents the death of Christ on our behalf. The frankincense represents the suffering and sorrow of Christ in redemption. As the tree was pierced and tears came out to produce the frankincense, so our Lord and the tree He hung on was pierced through. Jesus tears flowed in sorrow as the Father turned His presence away from Him. He cried out, My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?! The fire of God's judgment fell on Jesus. When the fire hit the Lord a sweet

smelling aroma of His sacrifice ascended in our behalf to the Father. It was a sweet smelling aroma to God.

7. The rest of the bread was eaten by the priests with the wine on the table. Jesus left us His communion to eat and drink which represent His body and blood- the bread and wine. Eating symbolizes faith. When we eat we partake of communion, we partake of Christ by faith. When we eat of the bread and drink of the wine we are placing all our trust and faith in the merits of the perfect life and death of the Son of God as our representative. Through His life and offering in our stead we are given the gift of righteousness. All God's gifts flow on the basis of this perfect righteousness.

IV. Greater than the Priesthood

A. Jesus second thing He brought out about the temple was that the priesthood worked on the Sabbath. They actually worked twice as hard because of twice as many sacrifices were offered on the Sabbath than any other day. They worked but were not guilty of breaking the Sabbath.

B. The book of Hebrews mentions that the temple had furniture in it. However, one piece of furniture it did not have was a chair. There was a mercy seat in the Holy of Holies, but God rested upon that! There were no chairs for the priests. This means their work was never over. It was perpetual. Constant sacrifices had to be offered up to atone for and cover sins.

C. Jesus died on the cross the day before the Sabbath. The Sabbath started the evening Jesus was crucified. On the cross Jesus shouted it is finished! This referred that all the demands of the Law was met- by His life and by His death.

D. **Col. 2:16-17**- Jesus ushered in an eternal Sabbath- He IS our eternal and perpetual Sabbath. We rest in Him. His is a finished work. He is greater than the priesthood and the temple.

E. **Hebrews 10:11-12**- The priests stood around, Jesus is seated! Our sins have forever been atone for and removed from us. We have received in their place the righteousness of God Himself!

F. We must present the showbread to God to get answers to your prayer. You need to “shew” Him the bread. This represents the perfection of Jesus Christ on our behalf! His is a finished work. You do not need to finish it for Him! It has been done!