

# GOD Cares for His People

GOD has always cared for His people. Many times His people were disrespectful of Him and yet when they repented, He took care of their needs. We see this in many occasions during the time of Judges as He deals with the Israelites. But even before He sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt He had heard their cry: "And the LORD said, I have surely seen the afflictions of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry...." (Exodus 3:7) GOD also knows our needs today. From the time of Adam and Eve leaving the garden He had a plan to save man, to return him back to a fellowship with the Father.

The writer of Hebrews tells us how the law of Moses was a shadow of things to come: "For the law having a shadow of good things to come...." (Hebrews 10:1) Even the tabernacle, the center of worship for the Jews, is a 'shadow' or 'type' of the plan GOD has for all men today.

Out in the courtyard of the tabernacle was the altar of burnt offerings, which was a type of the sacrifice that CHRIST made for our sins. Again the writer in Hebrew tells us "the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sins." Only the blood of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST can remove our sins.

Then the priests had to wash in the laver before entering the holy place. Today we must wash in the waters of baptism to come in contact with the blood of our Sacrifice. (Ephesians 5:25-26 & Hebrews 10:10-12) Just as the priests were able, after washing, to enter the Holy Place of the tabernacle, which was a type of the LORD's church today, we enter the church as we are washed in the waters of baptism. The only way we can enter in the church is through the death, burial and resurrection. The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 6:3-4 : "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into JESUS CHRIST were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as CHRIST was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." We die to the sin in our lives; we are burial in the watery grave of baptism and resurrected from the waters to walk in the newness of life. Only our Father could have come up with such a perfect way for us to be added to His Kingdom!

As the priests entered the Holy Place of the tabernacle they saw the furniture therein. There was the table of showbread, which is a type of the LORD's Supper. We as Christians are to observe this supper, instituted by CHRIST, each first day of the week as a memorial to the sacrifice He made for us. (1Corinthians 11:23-29)

Another piece of furniture in the Holy Place is the golden candlestick. This is a type of the Bible, the Word of GOD. "Thy word is a lamp not my feet and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105) It

also represents the diligent study and teaching of GOD's word that we as Christians should do. (2 Timothy 2:15) Then there is the altar of incense, which is a type of our prayers. This is where the LORD told them He would meet them. (Exodus 30:6) Today Christians go before our Father's throne in prayer.

Only the high priest could enter through the veil of the tabernacle between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. He could only do it once a year as appointed by GOD. CHRIST is our High Priest. (Hebrews 9:7, 11) After passing through the veil you come into the most holy place, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. Atop the ark of the covenant was the mercy seat, where GOD told them He would be. This is a type of heaven and the throne of GOD. Christians today have a hope of heaven because CHRIST died for our sins. If we obey the words of the law of CHRIST, the New Testament, we can enter into Heaven and live eternally.

GOD cares for us today. He has given us His law in the New Testament by which to live. One must hear the word of GOD (Romans 10:17); believe it, (John 3:16); repent of sins, (Luke 13:3); confess the name of CHRIST before men, (Matthew 10:32-33); be baptized for remission of sin, (Acts 2:38); and live faithful to the law of CHRIST until death. This is how we receive our crown of life eternally (Revelation 2:10).