

# SANCTUARY STUDIES LESSON #17

## THE COURT PART IX

### THE LAVER

#### INTRODUCTION

All italics are in original. All other emphases are authors. All Scripture are from the K. J. V. Bible unless stated.

The laver was a large bowl-shaped reservoir that contained water. It was placed between, the altar of burnt offerings and the door of the holy place or tent of the congregation. The priest used it for cleansing before performing their duties within the sanctuary itself or at the altar of burnt offerings. Failure to obey the rules of cleansing would result in the death of the priest therefore, it was very important to perform the ceremonial cleansing. The laver's base or foot was a circular trough surrounding a pedestal on which the bowl sat. the bowl was evidently fitted with some kind of faucet, which allowed water to flow from the bowl into the foot. This allowed the priest to wash. A fitting symbol of the service of baptism for without the washing in baptism there is no remission or cleansing from sin! for this reason if opportunity for baptism is refused it will bring eternal destruction symbolized by the priest's death upon refusal to wash at the laver before performing his sacred duties.

Let us pray:

Holy Father, please send Your holy spirit to guide our thinking and understanding as we study this lesson. May the words that I write be Your words and not mine. Forgive all our sins and renew a right spirit within. I ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

**EXODUS 38:9.** “ And he **made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the looking glasses of the women** assembling, which assembled *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.”

**EXODUS 30:18.** “Thou shalt also make a laver *of* brass, and his foot *also of* brass, to wash *withal*: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the

congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein.”

**NOTE:** Brass is an amalgamation of copper and another metal, possibly zinc or iron. It is a representation of man or flesh.

**JEREMIAH 6:28; JOB 6:12.** “They *are* all grievous revolvers, walking with slanders: **they are brass and iron; they are all corrupters.**”

**Job.** *Is* my strength the strength of stones? or *is* my flesh of brass?”

**JEREMIAH 17:9.** “The heart *is* deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

**NOTE:** The flesh is brass, and corruption! The brass laver was filled with water. Water represents the word of God or the holy spirit. We are cleansed by the washing of water by the word. We are cleansed by the holy spirit and the study of the Word, which is the mind of Christ! The Laver represents humanity.

**EPHESIANS 5:26, 27.** “That he might sanctify and cleanse it (the church) **with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**”

**NOTE:** The laver was made of the looking glasses of the women. We have this same concept revealed in James and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians.

**JAMES 1:23, 25; 2<sup>ND</sup> CORINTHIANS 3:17, 18.**

**JAMES 1:23,** “For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is **like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.**”

**2<sup>ND</sup> CORINTHIANS 3: 17, 18.** “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there

# SANCTUARY STUDIES LESSON #17

## THE COURT

## PART IX

### THE LAVER

*is* liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

**NOTE:** Can you make the connection? If we are symbolized as brass and water as the holy spirit or the Word (which is Jesus), and we are to look into the law of liberty as a mirror or looking glass, and by beholding we become changed, then it behooves us to behold Christ (the law of God) and by beholding we become changed into His Glory. Praise God! It is necessary for us to be filled with the water (the holy spirit) and to let Jesus into our hearts. We must determine to continue in His Word and be a doer of that Word and not forgetful of what we have learned. The grace of God is our only hope! Can you see how the Gospel was preached in the Old Testament as well as in the New.

Now, what about baptism?

**MATTHEW 3:5, 6.** "Then went out to him (John the Baptist) Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins."

**MARK 16: 16.** "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

**JOHN 3:22.** "After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized."

**ACTS 2:38.** "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

**MATTHEW 3:16, 17.** "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him. And lo a voice from heaven,

saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

**NOTE:** Christ is our example. What He did we are to do also. At Pentecost Peter, without question, passed the right of baptism to the Christian era till Jesus comes. In fact, Christ commanded us to baptize in His name even to the end of the world. It is obvious that the baptismal pool to the Christian is equal to the Laver for the Jew.

**JOHN 3:5.** "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

**NOTE:** Except by Christ's shed blood and baptism can a person be confirmed into the true Israel of God, which is the church.

One last thought before we leave the laver and the brazen altar of burnt offerings. I am sure all of you can recall studying the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and the 250 princes who had formed an alliance with them. It is found in numbers 16. After God had executed judgment by causing the earth to swallow them up, He commanded that the brazen censers they had used in the rebellious sanctuary service to be beaten into plates to make a covering for the altar of burnt offerings.

These brazen scales represented rebellious thoughts which must be left behind at the altar. We must be washed clean through the instructions of truth. Then we may abide with Christ and are prepared to walk the path of sanctification.

**SDA BIBLE COMMENTARY VOL 4, 1176:8.** "All the washings and sprinklings enjoined in the ceremonial law were lessons in parables, teaching the necessity of a work of regeneration in the inward heart for the purification of the soul dead in trespasses and sins, and also the necessity of the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit." (RH December 19, 1907). {4BC 1176.8}.

