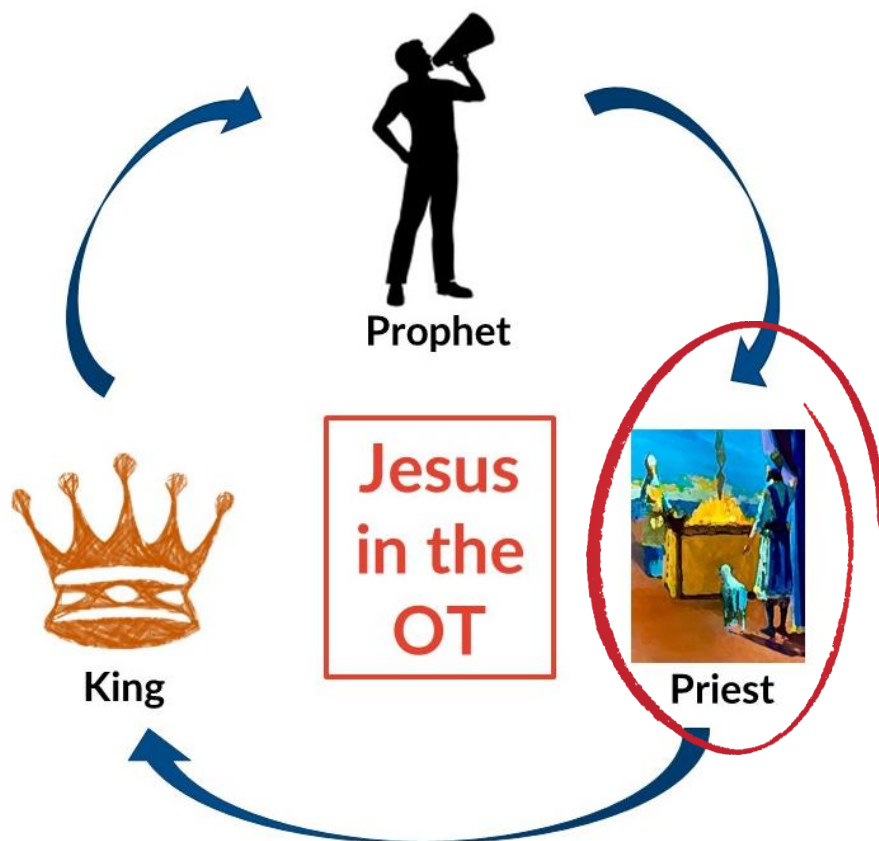




Discipleship Course

The Big Story of the Bible

Session 7: Jesus- The ultimate priest



The Big idea

Lots of the OT is taken up with priests, and the temple, and sacrifices. What does all of this mean for Christians? What does it have to do with Jesus? Today we see that it all points forward to Jesus, helping us to understand what he has done on the cross for us.

God wants to speak with us



Old Testament → *New Testament* → *Today*

God speaks to his people through the OT prophets

Jesus is the prophet we really need

We need to listen to God speaking through Jesus

God wants a relationship with us



Old Testament → *New Testament* → *Today*

God enables a relationship with himself through the OT priests

Jesus is the priest we really need

We need to trust in Jesus' sacrifice for relationship with God

God wants to lead us

Old Testament → *New Testament* → *Today*



God leads his people through the OT Kings

Jesus is the King we really need

We need to obey God's eternal King Jesus

Intro: What on earth does it have to do with me and my life??

“In fact the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness”

Hebrews 9:22

1. Three key ingredients of the OT priesthood (Ex.-Deut.)

a. Tabernacle/Temple: for God to dwell with his people

“Have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you”

Exodus 25:8-9

b. Sacrifices: to deal with the people’s sin

“[The priest] shall slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain... in this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites”

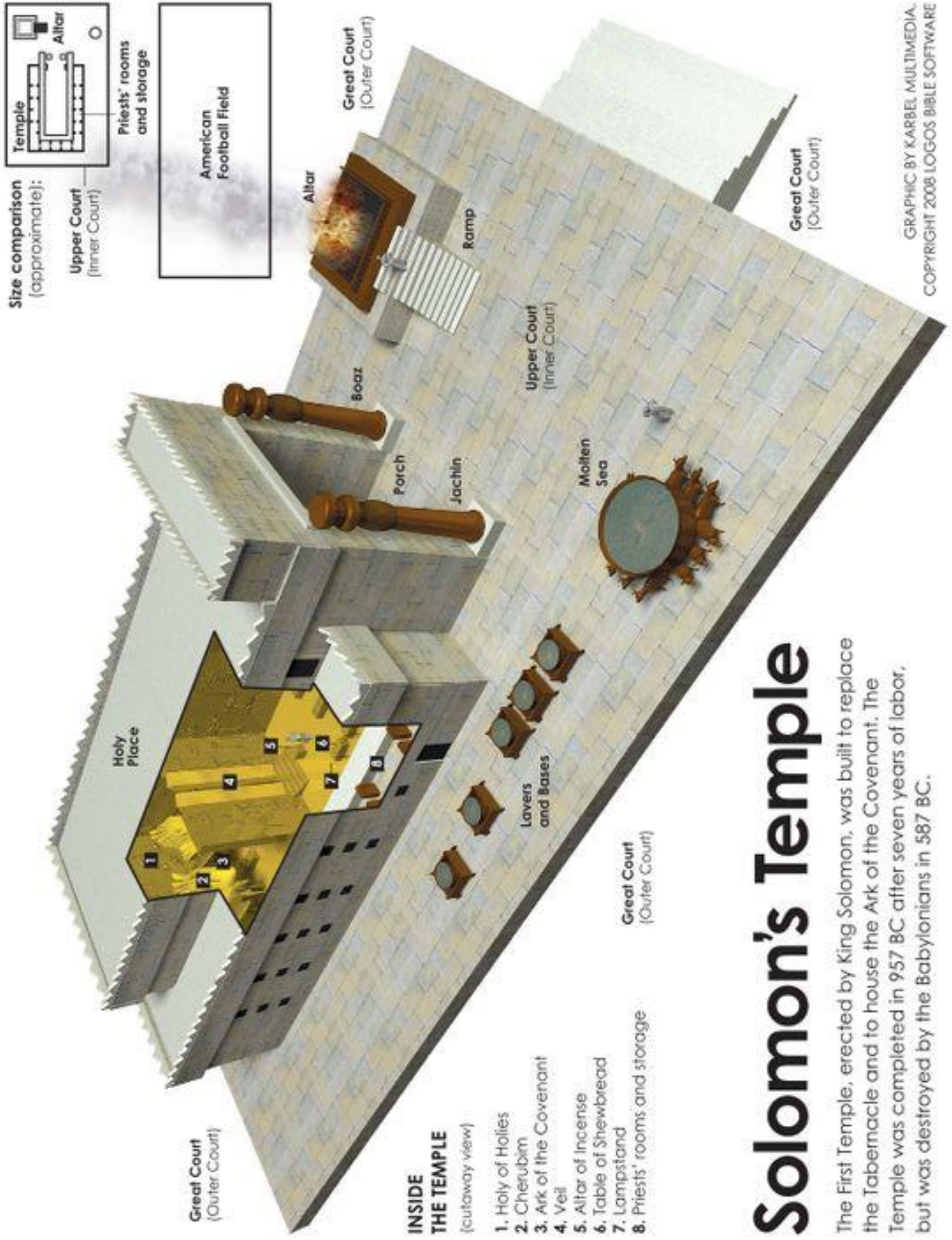
Leviticus 16:15-16

c. Priests: set apart to do all the work associated with the temple

“You [priests] are to be responsible for the care of the sanctuary and the altar, so that wrath will not fall on the Israelites again”

Numbers 18:5

2. Priests prove we have a problem (Hebrews 10, p. 1207)



Solomon's Temple

The First Temple, erected by King Solomon, was built to replace the Tabernacle and to house the Ark of the Covenant. The Temple was completed in 957 BC after seven years of labor, but was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC.

3. Priests fail to solve the problem... but point forward to Jesus who does! (*Hebrews 7-10, p.1206*)

Old Testament	New Testament
Comparing the priests... (Heb. 7:23-28)	
<i>OT priests have their own sin problem</i>	<i>Jesus has no sin</i>
Comparing the sacrifices... (Heb. 10:1-14)	
<i>The animal sacrifices can't take away sin</i>	<i>Jesus' sacrifice of himself on the cross perfectly removes sin</i>
Comparing the relationship enabled with God...	
<i>Through the tabernacle, access to God was limited (Heb. 9:6-8)</i>	<i>Through Jesus, access to God is guaranteed (Heb. 10:19-22)</i>

4. Why Jesus is a 'must have' priest

- a. Only Jesus can completely deal with our sin and guilt (*Heb. 4:15-16*)
- b. Only Jesus is always there for us (*Heb. 7:25*)
- c. Jesus really does sympathise with our weakness (*Heb. 10:14*)

Small Groups

Discussion questions from the talk

- How does our need for priests in the OT reveal the problem we have?
- Do you have any questions about how Jesus is the perfect priest we need?

Bible study- Hebrews 10:11-25

The letter to the Hebrews can seem very odd to us because it uses so much imagery from the Old Testament. However the writer's aim is quite simple: to show that Jesus is the perfect fulfilment of the Old Testament. Here we see how we should respond to having Jesus as our perfect priest.

1. V11-14 contrasts the OT priests and their sacrifices with Jesus and his sacrifice. In pairs, jot down the differences

OT priests and their sacrifices	Jesus and his sacrifice

2. V14 is a great summary of what Jesus' sacrifice has accomplished for those who trust in him. Is there anything surprising?
3. What difference will knowing v14 make when Christians mess up and sin?

The logic of v19-25 is as follows: since the things in v19-20 and v21 are true, there are 4 things we should all do in response (the four 'let us' in v22, 23, 24 and 25).

4. What can Christians have confidence to do? On what basis? (v19-20)
5. From v22-25 there are four 'let us' phrases. Take one each in pairs/groups, and discuss...
 - *What are we being encouraged to do?*
 - *How is Jesus' sacrifice an encouragement to do this?*
 - *What do you think doing this will mean practically for us?*
6. Which of these 'let us's do you find most of a challenge personally?
7. Everything we enjoy as Christians rests of Jesus' sacrifice for us. How can you make sure you keep remembering that?

Taking it further in the week

Reflect

- God's great desire is to have a relationship with people- so great that he sent Jesus to be the great high priest offering the perfect sacrifice we need. Do you take time to enjoy to 'draw near to God' and enjoy that relationship?

Read

- **Mark 15:16-41** recounts the events of the crucifixion. This is the point at which Jesus deliberately offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sin. Read it slowly, appreciating all that he has done for us.

Respond

- Thanks God for giving us Jesus, the priest who we really need. Pray that you would hold on to Jesus, and remember to draw near to God, and enjoy the relationship Jesus has won for us.

Prayer points