

# PATTERN OF THE SANCTUARY VISIONS IN REVELATION

## SANCTUARY VISION Introducing the SEVEN LETTERS Revelation 1:12-20 (NKJV)

- 12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,  
13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.  
14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;  
15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;  
16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.  
17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.  
18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.  
19 "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.  
20 "The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

## SANCTUARY VISION Introducing the SEVEN SEALS Revelation ch.4-5 (NKJV)

- 4 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."  
2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne.  
3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.  
4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.  
5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices: Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.  
6 Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal.  
7 The first living creature full of eyes in front and in back.  
8 The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.  
9 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:  
"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"  
10 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever.  
11 The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:  
"You are worthy, O Lord,  
To receive glory and honor and power;  
For You created all things,  
And by Your will they exist and were created."  
5 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.  
2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"  
3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.  
4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.  
5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."  
6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.  
7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

## SANCTUARY VISION Introducing the SEVEN TRUMPETS Revelation 8:1b-6 (NKJV)

- 8 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.  
2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.  
3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.  
4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.  
5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.  
6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

## SANCTUARY VISION

### Introducing the SEVEN BOWLS

Revelation ch.15 (NKJV)

**15** Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.  
2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark<sup>a</sup> and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.  
3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:

"Great and marvelous are Your works,  
Lord God Almighty!  
Just and true are Your ways,  
O King of the saints!"

4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?

For You alone are holy,  
For all nations shall come and worship before You,  
For Your judgments have been manifested."

5 After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.

6 And out of the temple came the seven angels, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands.

7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever.

8 The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

## SANCTUARY VISION

### Introducing the LAST VISIONS

Revelation 19:1-10 (NKJV)

**19** After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord<sup>a</sup> our God!"

2 "For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."

3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunders, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

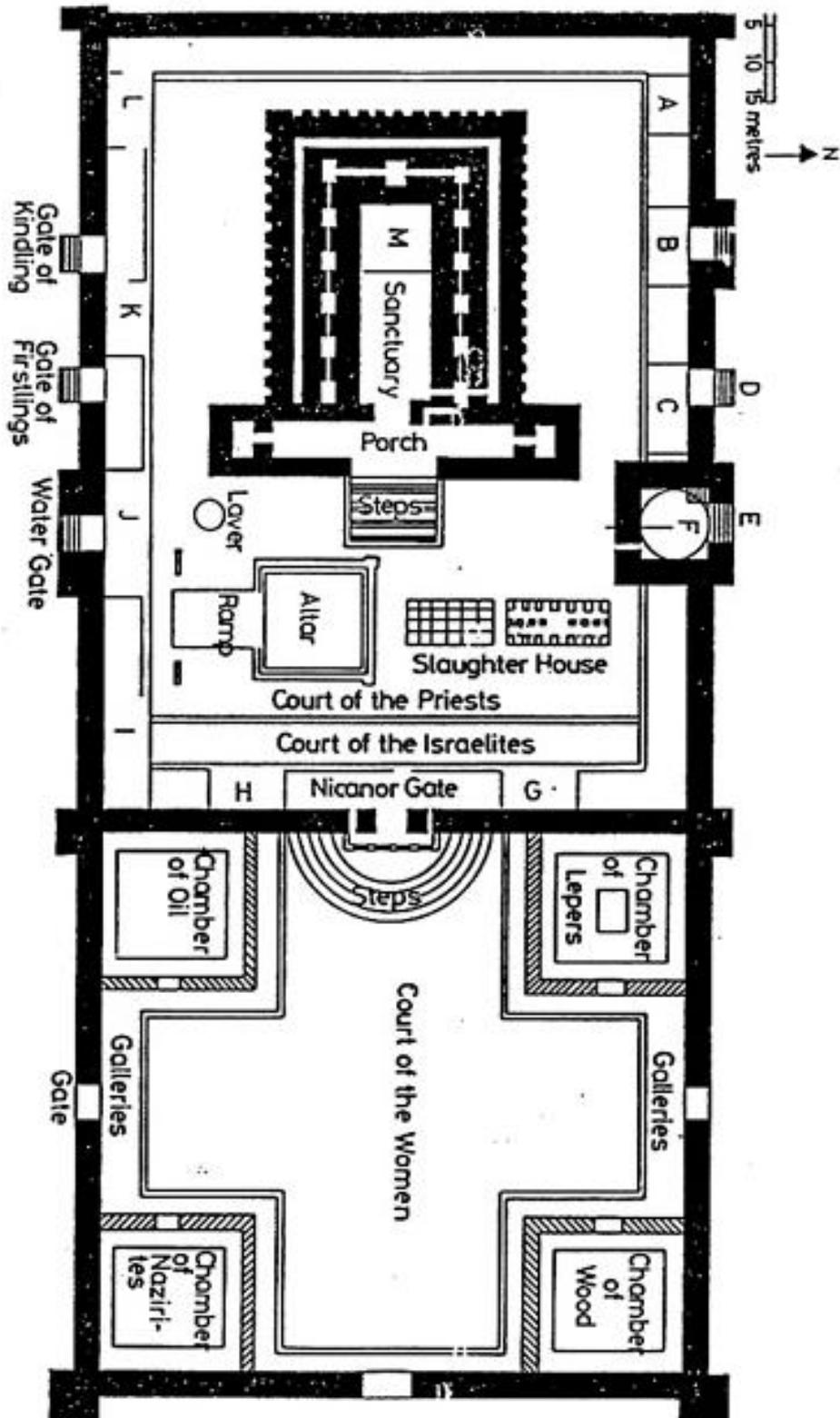
9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

10 And I felt at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

# THE DAILY SERVICE IN HEROD'S TEMPLE

Bruce Satterfield, "Jerusalem and the Temple of Herod"

<https://emp.byui.edu/satterfieldb/rel211/temple.html>



## THE DAILY SERVICE IN HEROD'S TEMPLE

The Temple and its services were the SPIRITUAL HEART of Israel. Though synagogues grew in importance as centres of worship for the Jews of the Diaspora they were never a rival to the Temple.

There were aspects of the Temple services which were NATIONAL as they were conducted on behalf of the WHOLE OF ISRAEL. There were other aspects which involved INDIVIDUALS who came to the temple with their personal/family concerns. Jesus parents Presenting Jesus at the Temple with a sacrificial offering of two doves (Luke 2:22-24) is one such example.

The NATIONAL aspects of Temple worship were two-fold.

**FIRST**, there was the YEARLY CYCLE of FEASTS which expanded the 7 months of the Dry Season in Palestine. These were the months of the HARVESTS. The festivals of the First month were threefold:

- 14/1 – Passover
- 15-21/1 – Feast of Unleavened Bread
- First Fruits

Fifty days after the Feast of First Fruits was the Feast of Pentecost.

The Cycle of Festivals closed in the Seventh Month with

- 1/7 – Feast of Trumpets
- 10/7 – Day of Atonement
- 15-21/7 – Feast of Tabernacles.

SECOND, each day, once in the morning and another mid-afternoon, two significant sacrifices took place. These constituted the DAILY SERVICE. In this session we will consider the DAILY SERVICE.

### I. SOURCES:

The Bible does not contain an integrated description of the Daily Service, though we do get insights given into various aspects of it. For a description of the process of the Daily Service we need to turn to extra-Biblical Sources. In the Jewish writings known as the MISHNA there are references to the Daily Service. The Tract "TAMID" (Daily) describes the Daily Service in detail. Another tract, "YOMA" (Day) describes the Day of Atonement but has references to the Daily Service. Both are available online. So is Alfred Edersheim's Edersheim's Book – "The Temple and its Services".

### II. FOCUS:

In this study we will focus on the Daily Service as it was performed in Herod's Temple as this was the Service both Jesus and John, as well as the First Century Christians and Jews knew. Both the Tamid and the Yoma contextualise their presentations within the Temple renovated by Herod the Great.

We undertake this study because of its importance to understanding Revelation.

### III. PREPARATIONS FOR THE DAILY SERVICE

Preparations for the Daily Service began very early in the morning while it was still dark. There were sleeping quarters in the Temple for the Course of Priests on duty. They would arise and ceremoniously wash in preparation for the casting of the first of four lots.

#### LOT I: Appointment of Priest for REMOVAL OF ASH from ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERING

The first task was the Preparation of Altar of Burnt Offering for Daily Sacrifice. So the casting of the First LOT appointed a Priest who would ASCEND to the top of the Altar with a shovel and DESCEND with a shovelful of ash.

On his descent a group of priest would ascend and remove the ashes from the burnt offerings of the previous day. Any unburnt remains of offerings were carefully put to the side.

There were THREE Fires to be maintained on the Altar. Firewood was set for two of these:

- a. Fire for Burnt Offering – any unburnt pieces of previous sacrifices repacked among wood
- b. Fire to provide coals for Incense Offering

Once reset, each was lit with fire from The Fire of Kindling - a third fire that was perpetually kept alight (Tamid 2:5)

“On the altar, which at the top was only 36 feet wide, three fires burned, one (east) for the offerings, the second (south) for the incense, the third (north) to supply the means for kindling the other two”.<sup>1</sup>

#### LOT II: Appointment of 13 priests for the following tasks (see Tamid 3:1; Yoma 2:3)

A second Lot was cast for the appointment of the following tasks:

1. Two priests for **BLOOD OFFERING**
  - a. The slaying of the Lamb
  - b. The catching of the Blood and its sprinkling on the altar
2. Two priests to **PREPARE for INCENSE OFFERING**
  - A. Two priests to
    - a. Remove ashes from Altar of Incense
    - b. Tend to the 7 lamps of the Lampstand
3. Eight priests for **BURNT OFFERING**
  - B. Six priests to carry pieces of Lamb up the ramp onto the Altar of Burnt Offering
    - a. the head and the [right] hind-leg,

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.bible-history.com/jewishtemple/JEWISH\\_TEMPLEEdersheim\\_\\_Within\\_the\\_Holy\\_Place.htm](https://www.bible-history.com/jewishtemple/JEWISH_TEMPLEEdersheim__Within_the_Holy_Place.htm)

- b. the two forelegs,
- c. the tail and the [left] hind-leg,
- d. the breast and the throat,
- e. the two flanks,
- f. the innards,

- C. Two priests to carry the Cereal Offering
  - a. the fine flour,
  - b. the cakes

4. One Priest for the DRINK OFFERING

Altogether thirteen priests merited a task.

**IV. FROM SUNRISE TO THE OPENING OF THE GREAT DOORS**

**SUNRISE** marked the point of time when the Daily Sacrifice commenced. A priest who stood at a high point in the temple to watch for sunrise was asked: *“Has the whole of the east [of the sky] lit up. as far as Hebron?”* (Tamid 3:2).

In response to an affirmative answer the lamb selected for sacrifice was then brought from the Chamber of Lambs in the north-western corner of the Court of the Priests (Tamid 3:3). It was given a drink from a gold cup. The lamb had been examined on the previous evening and was now re-examined by torchlight (Tamid 3:4).

The lamb had to fulfill three criteria: it had to be a male. It was to be without blemish and it had to be a yearling.

The priest who had one the right to slay the lamb took the lamb to the north side of the Altar of Burnt Offering (Tamid 3:5) where it was prepared for slaying.

**V. THE OPENING OF THE GREAT GATE**

The Great Gate was the Door to the Temple itself. The sound of the opening of this gate signalled that the way into the Holy Place was now open (Tamid 3:7). Those appointed by the Second lot were now able to perform their allotted tasks.

1. The Lamb which had been prepared for sacrifice was now slain. Its blood was caught in a golden bowl by the priest appointed to apply the blood to the altar. (Tamid 3:7)
  - a. The Blood was then applied to the Altar
  - b. The LAMB was then skinned and cut up in preparation for the Burnt Offering.
- D. With the sound of the Gate opening the two priests appointed in the second lot moved toward the Holy Place. One to remove the ashes from the Altar of

Incense and the one appointed to tend to the lamps of the Menorah (lampstand). See Tamid 3:9)

The ashes were removed from the Altar of Incense and left in the Holy Place. The Altar of Incense was now PREPARED for the Offering of Incense.

#### **Tamid 6.1**

They began to ascend the steps of the Sanctuary. Those *who had won the right to clear the ashes from the inner altar and from the candlestick<sup>2</sup> went in front*. The one who won the right to clear the inner altar went in and took the teni and bowed down and went out again.

The one who had been chosen to clear *the candlestick* went in, and if he found the two eastern lights still burning he cleared out the eastern one and left the western one burning, since from it he lit the candlestick for the evening. If he found that this one had gone out, he cleared the ash away and *lit it from the altar of burnt-offering*. He then took the kuz from the second step and bowed down and went out.

THE TRIMMING OF THE LAMPS involved *cleaning them from the accumulated ashes, waste-oil and putting in them new oil and wicks*. This task also *includes lighting the new flame*. (YOMA 1:2)

- E. **LOT III was cast to appoint the Priest for the INCENSE OFFERING** (Yoma 2:4; Tamid 5:2)

#### **Tamid 5:2a**

He said to them: those who are new to *the incense* come and *draw lots*, and who ever won, won.

Tamid 5:2 places this lot after the Sprinkling of the Blood upon the Altar of Burnt Offering.

- F. **LOT IV was cast to appoint priests to carry the BURNT OFFERING to the FIRE OF BURNT OFFERING** (Yoma 2:4). This immediately followed the third lot:

#### **Tamid 5:2b**

He said to them: those who are new to *the incense* come and *draw lots*, and who ever won, won. He then said: new and old, come and draw lots to see who shall take up the limbs from the ascent to the altar.

- G. **THE INCENSE OFFERING:**

At the Altar of Burnt Offering the priest selected by lot to offer incense received a ladle of gold with a small dish in the middle of it that contained a heap of incense (Tamid 5:4).

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<sup>2</sup> "Cleaning the lamps" means *cleaning them from the accumulated ashes, waste-oil and putting in them new oil and wicks*. This task also *includes lighting the new flame*. (YOMA 1:2)

The priest appointed by lot to carry the firepan took a silver pan, ascended to the top of the altar and filled it with coals from the fire of incense. He then descended and transferred the coals to a gold firepan. (Tamid 5:5)

In the Holy Place the one carrying the coals heaped them on the top of the Altar of Incense and spread them over the altar with the end of the firepan. After bowing down, he went out. (Tamid 6:2)

The officiating priest now spread the incense on the coals. Its smoke rose, filling the Holy Place and penetrating into the Most Holy Place.

In the New Testament the Offering of Incense is intimately connected to PRAYER:

**Luke 1:10-11 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup>So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, <sup>9</sup>according to the custom of the priesthood, <sup>10</sup>his lot fell to ***burn incense*** when he went into the temple of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>And ***the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.***

**Revelation 5:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup>Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, ***and golden bowls full of incense***, which are ***the prayers of the saints.***

**Revelation 8:3-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup>Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much ***incense***, that he should offer *it* with ***the prayers of all the saints*** upon the golden altar which was before the throne. <sup>4</sup>And ***the smoke of the incense***, with ***the prayers of the saints***, ascended before God from the angel's hand

**H. THE BURNT OFFERING:**

Upon the completion of the Incense Offering the priests appointed to its offering now ascended the ramp to the Altar of Burnt Offering where they collected the pieces of the cut Lamb that had been placed there previously. These were carried to the top of the Altar and IN TURN added to the fire:

**Tamid 7:3**

If the high priest wished to ***burn the offerings*** [himself], he would go up the ascent with the deputy high priest at his right. When he reached the middle of the ascent the deputy took hold of his right hand and helped him up. The first [of the other priests] then handed to him the head and the foot and he laid his hands on them and threw them [onto the altar]. The second then handed to the first the two fore legs. And he handed them to the high priest who laid his hands on them and threw them [onto the altar]. The second then went away. In the same way all the other limbs were handed to him and he laid his hands on them and threw them [on to the altar fire]. . .

**I. THE DRINK OFFERING:**

Finally, the Drink Offering brought the Sacrifices to completion:

The *four 'horns' of the altar* were straight, square, hollow prominences, that at the ***south-west with two openings, into whose silver funnels the drink-offerings***, and, at the Feast of Tabernacles, the water from the Pool of Siloam, ***were poured***.<sup>3</sup>

**Tamid 7:3**

He then went around the altar. From where did he begin? From the southeastern corner; from there he went to the northeastern, then to the northwestern and then to the ***southwestern***. They there handed him ***the wine for libation***.

**J. THE SERVICE OF PRAISE:**

As the Officiating Priest bent to pour the Drink Offering into the funnel a signal was given and the Levitical Choir that had assembled sang the Psalm appointed for that particular day. This brought the Daily Service to an end.

**Tamid 7:3**

The deputy high priest stood on the corner/horn of the altar with the flags in his hand, and two priests on the table of the fats with ***two trumpets in their hands. They blew a teki'ah, a teru'ah and a teki'ah***. They then went and stood by Ben Arza, one on his right hand and one on his left. ***When he bent down to make the libation*** the deputy high priest waved the flags and Ben Arza struck the cymbals and ***the Levites sang the psalm***. . .

This was the order of the regular daily sacrifice for the service of our Lord. May it be His will that it be rebuilt speedily in our days, Amen.

**VI. RECAPITULATING**

**Activities in the Temple with respect to the Daily Service can be summarized as follows:**

**1. PRE-SUNRISE:**

**Casting of the FIRST LOT**

**Preparation of the Altar of Burnt Offering and its fires for the Daily Services to follow**

**Casting of the SECOND LOT**

**Appointment of the one who would perform the Slaughter of the Lamb and the one who would apply the blood to the Altar**

**Appointment of Two priests to prepare the Altar of Incense for the Incense Offering and the Lamps of the Lampstand**

**Appointment of those to carry the flayed lamb to the ramp to the Fire of Burnt Offerings**

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.bible-history.com/jewishtemple/JEWISH\\_TEMPLEEdersheim\\_\\_Within\\_the\\_Holy\\_Place.htm](https://www.bible-history.com/jewishtemple/JEWISH_TEMPLEEdersheim__Within_the_Holy_Place.htm)

**Appointment of the ones to carry the Cereal Offering and the cakes**

**Appointment of the one to carry the Drink Offering**

**2. POST-SUNRISE**

**Lamb slain**

**Blood collected**

**Lamb flayed**

**LAMPS TRIMMED**

**Blood Offering applied to altar**

**Pieces transported partway up the Ramp to Altar of Burnt Offerings**

**BLOOD OFFERING MADE**

**Lots 3: appointment of the one to offer the Incense**

**Lot 4: appointment of priests to complete the transfer of Burnt and Drink Offering to the Fire of Burnt Offering and the drink offering to the south-western funnels of the Altar**

**INCENSE OFFERING**

**BURNT OFFERING (Lamb and Cereal Offering)**

**DRINK OFFERING**

**SERVICE OF PRAISE**

**We will next apply our understanding of the Daily Service to Revelation.**