

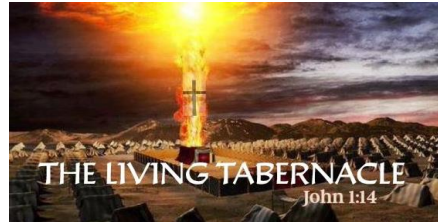
Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: *John* – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: John 1:14 – *The Word of God was made flesh and dwelt among us!*

Today's Message:

"The Living Tabernacle"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we came to the first negative in the book – darkness. We were reminded of the similarities between Genesis 1 and John 1. In both books, we find God dividing His light from the darkness to bring new life! Today, we will find out how Jesus Christ is the **LIVING** tabernacle! In the Old Testament, God chose to dwell with His people in a tent called *the Tabernacle*. His presence would literally fill it, and He would be visible to His people through a pillar of fire by night and cloud by day. Yet, God had something much bigger planned! Isaiah prophesied hundreds of years in advance that a virgin would bring forth a son called "*Immanuel*" or GOD **WITH** US. God had planned to come down and dwell again only this time as a **MAN** – yet fully God! Jesus was the fulfillment of this prophecy. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text John 1:14

#1. *The Historical Event* – few things surpass the **HUMILITY** of Jesus Christ.

AND *THE WORD* WAS **MADE FLESH** AND DWELT AMONG US

- ✓ Jesus Christ fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies **PERFECTLY!**
 - **Genesis 3:15** – the Messianic prophecies began with *the seed of the woman*.
 - **Isaiah 7:14** – God's sign to Israel was that *a virgin shall conceive and bear a son*.
 - **Micah 5:2** – out of little *Bethlehem* He *came forth* who would be *ruler of Israel*.
- ✓ Jesus Christ humbled Himself to be made in the **LIKENESS** of men!
 - **Romans 8:3** – God sent His own *Son in the likeness of sinful flesh* to our sin bearer.
 - **Galatians 4:4-5** – *God sent forth His Son, made of a woman to redeem us* from the law.
 - **Philippians 2:5-8** – He who inhabits eternity was *fashioned as a man* while also God.
 - **1 Timothy 3:16** – without controversy, the great mystery is *God manifest in the flesh!*
 - **Heb 2:14-18** – He chose to be *made like his brethren...a merciful and faithful high priest!*

AND *THE WORD* WAS **MADE FLESH** AND **DWELT AMONG US**

- ✓ Jesus Christ was the "*Emmanuel*" of Isaiah's prophecy – GOD **WITH** US!
 - **Isaiah 7:14** – "*Behold a virgin shall... bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*"
 - **Mt 1:21-25** – "*Now ALL THIS WAS DONE, that it might be fulfilled... spoken of the Lord...*"

2023 VISION: *Hold the Fort!*
Making disciples and caring for souls!

2 Cor 8:9
For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

#2. The True Tabernacle – Jesus Christ is the minister of the TRUE tabernacle!

AND **THE WORD** WAS MADE FLESH AND **DWELT** AMONG US

Exodus 40:34
Then a cloud covered the tent... and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Psalm 11:4
The LORD is IN his holy temple...

Revelation 11:19
And the temple of God was opened IN HEAVEN...

- ✓ In the **Old Testament**, God chose to **DWELL** with His people in the tabernacle.
 - In **Ex 25:8**, “And let them make me a sanctuary; THAT I MAY DWELL AMONG THEM.”
 - In **Ex 25:9**, “According to all that I shew thee, AFTER THE PATTERN of the tabernacle...”
 - In **Heb 8:1-6**, “Who serve unto THE EXAMPLE and SHADOW OF HEAVENLY THINGS...”
- ✓ In **new Jerusalem**, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will **DWELL** with us!
 - In **Rev 21:1**, “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth...”
 - In **Rev 21:2**, “And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God...”
 - In **Rev 21:3**, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them...”
- ✓ **2000 years ago**, when God became a man, Jesus Christ **was** the **LIVING** tabernacle!
 - **Heb 9:1-11; 10:1-14** says Jesus is the GOOD thing to come from *earthly shadows*...
 - According to **Col 2:17**, Jesus is the BODY or substance of the *earthly shadows*...

Rev 11:19
Rev 14:17
Rev 15:5-8
Rev 16:17

The Tabernacle was located in the center of Israel’s camp.	Jesus Christ is <i>our life</i> and the center of it.
There was only one door to enter the tabernacle walls.	Jesus Christ is <i>the only Door</i> to heaven.
The first thing you see in inside is <i>the Altar of Sacrifice</i> .	Jesus Christ is <i>the Lamb of God</i> ; our sacrifice.
The next thing you see is <i>the Brasen Laver</i> for washing.	Jesus Christ is <i>the Living water</i> that cleanses us.
Inside <i>the holy place</i> was <i>the Table of Shewbread</i> (6 + 6).	Jesus Christ is <i>the Bread of life</i> and of heaven.
Inside <i>the holy place</i> was <i>the Golden Altar of Incense</i> .	Jesus Christ is our <i>Intercessor</i> and prays for us.
Inside <i>the holy place</i> was <i>the Golden Candlestick</i> (7 candles).	Jesus Christ is <i>the true Light</i> ; 7 <i>spirits of God</i> .
Inside <i>the veil</i> and <i>the Holiest</i> (holy of holies) was <i>the Ark</i> .	Jesus Christ is <i>the Ark and all that is inside it!</i>

#3. The Glory of God – John never seemed to get over the incredible HONOR!

AND **WE** BEHELD HIS GLORY

- ✓ John said they had the unprecedented honor and privilege to **BEHOLD** His glory!
 - **1 Jn 1:1-4** – “We have seen with *OUR EYES*... looked upon... *OUR HANDS* have handled...”
 - **Proverbs 8:22-31** – it was the ETERNAL God and WORD they HELD with their hands!
 - **2 Pet 1:16-18** – Peter said, “We were *EYEWITNESSES* of *HIS MAJESTY*...” AMEN!!!

THE **GLORY** AS OF **THE ONLY BEGOTTEN** OF THE FATHER...

- ✓ Jesus Christ is truly the only One of His kind! Amen. He is the **ONLY** Son of God!
 - **Genesis 5:4** – First Mention – a reference to Adam... “... after he had begotten Seth...”
 - **Ps 2:7** – “The LORD hath said unto me, *Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.*”
 - **Col 1:15-18** – “Who is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn** of every creature:”
 - **John 1:18; 3:16, 18; 1 John 4:9** – John is the only disciple to use this term for Jesus.

“**Begotten**”
(Greek: monogenes)
One of a kind;
only son or child.

FULL OF **GRACE** AND **TRUTH**

- ✓ Both of these qualities in our Lord are at **FULL** measure – He balances both in love!
 - **Grace** – “Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin *and* our guilt!”
 - **Truth** – Jesus Christ said, “**I am...the truth.**” We must worship God in Spirit *and* in Truth!

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