

THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

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The Same God Yesterday, Today, and Forever More!

(Malachi 3:6, Revelation 1:8)

God's greatest desire is to "dwell" with us!

God is revealing Himself through illustration and manifestation throughout the entirety of the bible so that we may become right, and one, with Him once again for all eternity! This is the main idea and truth of the bible in its entirety, the great story of salvation that results in freedom and eternal life with God forever.

The end goal for every Christian believer is the Promised Land which symbolizes Eternity in Heaven with God where the fulfillment of our salvation is experienced! While we are waiting on eternity, God gave us the most beautiful plan of how we are to live life, here on earth, in the fullness of His presence and power, through the Tabernacle in the Wilderness!

The most profound description of Who God is, how He works in our lives, and in His church is found in the Tabernacle of the Wilderness.

God Surrounded Them! (The Father-Tabernacle)

God With/Among Them! (Jesus-Emmanuel)

God in Us! (Holy Spirit)

Tabernacle: Hebrew word meaning "dwelling place."

Wilderness: this sinful fallen world.

Tabernacle in the Wilderness: We are God's dwelling place in this sinful fallen world.

OVER 50 CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE TO DESCRIBE

1. 50 Chapters about Relationship: The most profound description of Who God is, how He works in our lives, and in His church is found in the Tabernacle of the Wilderness, devoting over 50 chapters to its description. Thirteen chapters are found in Exodus (chs. 25-31; 35-40); eighteen in Leviticus (chs. 1-10; 16-17; 21-25; 27); thirteen in Numbers (chs. 1-9; 16-19); three in Deuteronomy (chs. 16-18); and it is central to eight chapters in the book of Hebrews (chs. 3-10).
2. 2 Chapters about Creation: The creation of the heavens, the earth, and human beings. Genesis chapters 1 & 2.
3. The Point: Relationship to God trumps all!

SUMMARY

After the Israelites deliverance from Egypt the Lord commanded Israel to “make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.” (Exodus 25:8).

This teaching from God reveals in great detail the beautiful picture of His plan of salvation which includes deliverance and redemption, which He would later carryout through Jesus Christ over 1500 years later. The tabernacle gives us many valuable insights to God’s plan and His working in our lives, through His faithfulness. This plan, His working, and His faithfulness never changes. It has always been, continues to be, and will always be because He is the same God yesterday, today, and forever more!

God uses a house, the tabernacle in the wilderness, with three rooms, and seven pieces of furniture to explain and reveal the fulness of Himself to the people. He gave this detailed plan to Moses on Mt. Sinai, along with the second set of tablets containing the ten commandments.

ROUND TWO: TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE TABERNACLE PLAN

The Law and Grace are given at the same time!

Moses was given the first two tablets of the Ten Commandments on top of Mt. Sinai. When he came back down the mount with them, he saw the people practicing all kind of sin with their idol worship like their days of old in Egypt, once again turning away from God and His command for Holy living. In seeing this horrific display of the people, he broke the tablets in anger, signifying the law/covenant with God and man was broken again! God instructed Moses to go back up the mountain! Here, he not only received the second set of tablets of the law, but the detailed instruction for the Tabernacle, grace and righteousness. The tablets and the tabernacle combined mean that through sin, the law was broken separating man from God, but through Jesus Christ, righteousness and grace redeems us!

These second set of tablets, unbroken, would later be placed in the Ark of the Covenant. The tablets signify the law, which cannot be satisfied without the tabernacle, signifying Salvation/Redemption in Christ Jesus! The unbroken tablets of the law were satisfied through the finished work, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ counting us righteous before God-Just as if we have never sinned, broken God’s laws.

It is important to understand the power within the first 4 commandments of the Ten that were written on the first tablet as they deal with God and our relationship with Him. In other words, the rest of the law depends upon the first! We cannot keep the law perfectly, nor be declared righteous without God’s grace given to us by faith in Jesus Christ.

God wants to dwell (tabernacle) within His people to fellowship with them. This fellowship results in empowerment to live victoriously within a sinful fallen world. We are in this world, not of this world!

BACKGROUND

ENSLAVED IN EGYPT: IN BONDAGE

Taken out of Egypt but Egypt was still very much alive inside of them!

After the deliverance from the Egyptians, the Israelites begin their wandering in the wilderness that will last for forty years. The Israelites had much to learn about holiness, holy living and just how Holy, Awesome, Magnificent, Wonderful, and great their One, True, Living God was, is, and will always be! The same God we worship and serve today! The same yesterday, today and forever more! (Malachi 3:6, Malachi 3:6, Revelation 1:8).

The Israelites were enslaved for 400 years in Egypt, being exposed not only to the brutality of the Egyptians, but their false, pagan God's, and their forms of worship causing them to lose sight of their foundation and roots in their worship of the One, True, Living God!

By the time they are rescued, their inner character is weak, and their faith misplaced. Not long after their deliverance out of Egypt we see them already becoming nostalgic, meaning homesick, for Egypt making comments about their food in Exodus 16:3-4 (NIV): *In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."*

The God of the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the same God in between the time of the Old and the New. There were 400 years of silence, where no prophet spoke, between the Old Testament, and the New Testament, from the Book of Malachi to the book of John. No new direction or revelation was given.

WHY: Because there was nothing new to teach, to reveal, to discuss. The ways of God were established forever more! Now, it was time to fulfill ALL that has been written, revealed, established, and taught! God established it in the old and now I, God, will fulfill it in the new through Jesus and until Jesus returns once again for the fulfillment of the fulfillment to take place! And that is not a typo, the fulfillment of the fulfillment, this is what the second coming of Jesus Christ will accomplish!

Revelation through Divine Design

Bullet Points: What the Tabernacle Reveals:

1. God's great desire to live among His people.
2. God revealing Himself to His people.
3. The Pattern of Worship to experience the fullness of God, in His presence, God's Way.
4. God's plan to fix a broken creation and relationship.
5. It all points to Jesus, the Believer in Jesus, the Plan of Salvation, and His Church.
6. Reveals Jesus work on the Cross and the Resurrected Life, the Christian Walk, in detail.
7. The only place where God and humanity can meet. At the Brazen Altar, the Cross of Calvary.
8. Represents the believer in Christ and Christ in us.
9. God's House: with 3 rooms and 7 pieces of furniture: The Three rooms represent Our Body, Our Soul, and our Spirit. God wants to redeem and invade all three. The 7 pieces of furniture represent our Christian Walk (Journey) into the fullness of God where we experience all of Who God is and truly know who we are in Christ as God's son or daughter. The place of complete trust in Him when you reach the final room: the Shaking Glory (Holy of Holies).
10. Three curtains: Represents Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life, also the Trinity: The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit.
 - a. John 14:6: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Your Notes:

7 STEPS OF OUR CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

1. Through the Gate (first curtain-The Way) to the Brazen Altar.
 - a. John 14:6 (NIV): Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
 - b. Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV): ¹³"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.
 - c. Made of Bronze: signifying Judgment.
 - d. This first room is the outer court, representing our bodies, and Jesus in the Trinity (The Son). Father God is represented in the third room of the house, in The Holy of Holies.
 - e. 4 Horns: the horn of salvation.
 - f. Tied the animal down in the grate: we were bound to sin but because of Christ we are free from the power of sin as well as the penalty of sin!
 - g. The animal was the very best, pure-without blemish.
 - h. Represents calvary: the place of sacrifice where the blood was shed. Covered and washed in the blood.
 - i. The animals were the living sacrifice, representing Christ, then we come to the altar as the living sacrifice to identify with the crucifixion, the death of Jesus. We come to God, through Jesus offering up our old selves as the living sacrifice, our sinful natures, to be crucified with Christ, born again as the first step of our new life in Christ!
 - i. The Measurements: 3x4x5:
 - i. 3 is always the number of the manifestation of God (Faith, Hope and Love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
 - ii. 4 is the international number-the 12 tribes, the gospel is for everyone (North, South, East and West).
 - iii. 5 is the number of God's grace.
 - j. The priest accepted the sacrifice from the people (checked the animal), took the animal, parted it, tied it, then burnt it. Before placing it in the fire, he put his hands on the animal signifying the transfer of sins, counting on the sacrifice to remove the sins, not himself. The black smoke went up to heaven where God would receive the sacrifice as accepted for the removal of sins.

- k. The Brazen altar is at the East side, and God in the Holy of Holies is at the west end.
 - i. Psalm 103:12 (NLT): He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.
 - ii. The east and the west never touch! The north ends before you have to go south. Same with the south, it ends and you are forced to enter into the north. Our sin will never touch again.
 - l. Galatians 2:20 (NIV): I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
 - m. Romans 12:1-2(NIV): Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.
 - n. This signifies our standing in Christ: we are now in right standing with Christ because of the blood of Jesus and His righteousness!
 - o. We must continue on! We are not to stay here!
2. To the Laver (The Word of God): Bronze on the outside: no measurements here. The word of God cannot be contained, measured, bound! It was bronze on the outside: judgment-humaness on the outside, and filled with water on the inside. We are washed in the Word of God!
 - a. Round: No beginning and no end!
 3. Golden Candlestick: The Holy Spirit (Walking in the light of the Holy Spirit).
 4. Table of Showbread: Our tithes and offerings unto God.
 5. The Altar of Incense: Prayer, Praise and Worship.
 6. Ark of the Covenant (In Christ).
 7. Mercy Seat (Blood Sprinkled).

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

(Additional Informal Study Notes for Home Use)

ADAM AND EVE: God created the family from Adam and Eve. God was with them, and nothing separating them. God was where he wanted to be, with his family. Sin came in and ruined everything. Man locked out God and sin separated them. Man chose something other than God. Remember, in God is the fullness of everything we need. In His presence, through our fellowship with Him is His power, provision, protection, all that we could ever need, want, or desire! Adam and Eve rejected God's direction, instruction, His warning. Why? Because it would cost Adam and Eve everything! Just as it costs us everything today! They chose sin, the idol, the fake, the enemy, the fall. They turned their back on God, refused His direction, His way of doing things to ensure their everything in Him and Him with them!

God wasn't wanted by His family anymore. Jesus came and his own didn't even want him. God craved their fellowship. That's why we were created. As we fellowship with God we get blessed, answers to prayer, live the blessed life.

There was a great separation, but from time-to-time God visited his children in a Christophany or theophany. Meaning He would come "in the like" of a Gideon or an Abraham and speak to them. He wasn't in them, but He was with them.

His children, the Israelites were taken into bondage in Egypt for 400 years. Then his children were delivered through redemption, through Passover-the blood and the crossing of the red sea-another type and shadow of redemption through the blood.

God has now redeemed them. Moses goes up to Mount Sinai and God gives him the law and reveals the plan of the future, redemption and the full revelation of me through a House. And God said that this house will be very unusual because it represents us: our bodies-the outer court, The Holy Place would represent our souls, and the Holy of Holies, our Spirit.

God was going to show things by revelation through the tent for over 1,000 years. Over 1500 years later, Jesus came, then God was now in the tent of a body through Jesus Christ. Jesus dies, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father so that the Holy Spirit could come and tabernacle Himself in us, so then we become the tabernacle/tent in the wilderness where God comes and invades our spirit, soul, and body as demonstrated in the three rooms in the tabernacle.

The three room signify the Trinity: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, three persons, one God, the fullness of God!

God wants to get inside of us. In revelation, God says He has triumphed because He is tabernacled in man. We gave God the cold shower and people still do it today. The tabernacle was the first shot to

make it up with his family to demonstrate Himself and Christ through salvation, redemption, and total freedom.

When the people were brought out of Egypt, which is a type and shadow of redemption, God wanted to reveal Himself to His people. God is saying, I want to be in the midst of you. I want back in! I want fellowship with you again. The way I'm going to do it is through illustration of this house. He can't go on TV, online, in the newspaper, he has to go by way of illustration! He chose a house to illustrate through only 3 rooms and 7 types of furniture the fullness of who He is and who we are in Him! It illustrates the fullness of God, us in Christ, and the entire plan of salvation and the Christian walk.

The tabernacle is built according to the replica in heaven.

Hebrews 8:5 (NLT): They serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven. For when Moses was getting ready to build the Tabernacle, God gave him this warning: "Be sure that you make everything according to the pattern I have shown you here on the mountain."

GOD DWELLS IN US!