

GATECITY CHURCH
CARRY THE ARK, PT. 5
SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2024 – JIM STERN

I. **Ephesians 3:12-13** – “¹² [Jesus] in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.”

A. We want to build our lives on:

- Faith that is historic
- Faith that is relevant
- Faith that is prophetic

B. We’ve been talking about Carrying the Ark, and the Ark was the most important piece of “furniture” in the tabernacle/temple.

C. Did you know there are 50 chapters in the Bible devoted to the tabernacle? 13 in Exodus, 18 in Leviticus, 13 in Numbers, 2 in Deuteronomy, and 4 in Hebrews.

D. If there was a book that was comprised of just the writings about how the tabernacle of Moses was supposed to be built and how it works, it would be the 3rd largest book in the Bible.

II. **Exodus 25:8-9** – “⁸ And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. ⁹ Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.”

A. God said:

- I want to dwell in your midst.
- I’m going to show you the pattern of how to dwell with Me.
- You are going to be the ones to build the tabernacle.
- You are going to be the ones to carry the tabernacle with you wherever you go.

B. Here’s the good news:

- There is a clear pattern for us to STEP INTO God’s presence every day of our life.
- There is a clear pattern for what our IDENTITY as priests before God looks like.

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III. Here's the pattern/pathway of faith given to Moses so that mankind can meet with God:

A. The Bronze Altar

- Brass always refers to judgment against sin
- The Hebrew root for *altar* means "to slay" or "slaughter."
- God divinely lit the fire, but man was commanded to maintain it.
- There were different offerings throughout the year:
 1. Sin Offering - an offering that atoned for sin.
 2. Burnt Offering - an offering of wholehearted devotion to God.
 3. Peace Offering - an offering of friendship and fellowship with God.

B. The Bronze Laver

- The Word of God cleanses and sanctifies
- The Word reads us.
- This is where we judge ourselves.
- We are sanctified from ourselves unto the Lord.

C. The Golden Lampstand

- It was sometimes referred to as a candlestick. This was actually more of a lampstand fueled by a continual flow of oil.

D. The Table of Shewbread

- *Shew* means "to tell forth or declare."
- 12 loaves of bread were on the table, and this is the first mention of a table in the Bible.
- A "*table*" is used to reestablish severed lines of communication and to facilitate fellowship.

E. The Golden Altar of Incense

- Incense always speaks to us of the prayers of the saints ascending to God
- **Psalm 141:2** – "Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!"

F. The Ark of The Covenant

- The Ark represented the place of covenant with God and mercy from God.
- The mercy seat was set on top of the Ark. When the Priest went into the Holy of Holies, he sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice on the mercy seat.

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- The Ark represented God's throne, God's presence and God's Glory in the earth.

IV. The Tabernacle was not just about tents and furniture. The Tabernacle was all about the cross and was a statement of Jesus who was to come.

- A. Camp of Israel overview (photo)
- B. Jesus is the fulfillment of this same pattern of the Tabernacle, and He reveals both His Supremacy as God's Son, but also God's grace and mercy to us.
- C. Jesus became the atoning sacrifice for all sin.
 - **1 John 2:2** – "He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins — and not only our sins but the sins of all the world."
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** – "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
- D. Jesus is the eternal Word of God.
 - **John 1:1** – "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
 - **Ephesians 5:25-26** – "²⁵ ...Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word."
- E. Jesus is the Light of the world.
 - **John 8:12** – "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- F. Jesus is the Bread of Life
 - **John 6:35** – "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."
- G. Jesus is the Great Intercessor for mankind
 - **Hebrews 7:25** – "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."
 - **Romans 8:34** – "Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us."

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- H. When Jesus died on the cross, He removed everything that hindered access to God.
- **Matthew 27:51** – “And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.”
- I. Jesus is our great High Priest
- **Hebrews 4:15-16** – “¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
- J. These are a few of the many reasons why Jesus is the One found most worthy in heaven and earth!!!
- **Revelation 5:9-10** – “⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you...for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”
 - **Philippians 2:10-11** – “¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- K. SIDENOTE – This pattern/pathway is what makes Jesus incredibly inclusive in His call to people, and at the same time the most exclusive because He clearly says that everyone is welcome and nobody is excluded. But, He also declares Himself to be the **ONLY** way, the **ONLY** truth, and the **ONLY** door to eternal life.
- V. The tabernacle isn't only a revelation of who Jesus is, it also reveals the identity of who we are as the Church all over the earth.
- A. As believers in Jesus, we are a Tabernacle for God's Spirit
- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** – “¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”
- B. As the Church, we are a Tabernacle together
- **1 Peter 2:4-5** – “⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves
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like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

- **Ephesians 2:22** – “In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

C. As a Kingdom of Priests, we can also show forgiveness for sin.

- **James 5:16** – “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.”

D. We can have the Word of God in our everyday lives.

- **Hebrews 4:12** – “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

E. We can live with an illuminated heart of wisdom and understanding.

- **Ephesians 1:18** – “...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you”

F. We can commune with God at His table.

- **1 Corinthians 11:26** – “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.”

G. We can join with Jesus the great intercessor.

- **Revelation 5:8** – “and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”
- **Matthew 6:10** – “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

H. God's presence and power is exalted as we worship Him.

- **Revelation 4:11** – “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

VI. Four Hebrew Words that teach us how to enter into God's presence through worship:

Psalms 100:4 – “Enter into his gates with THANKSGIVING [Towdah], and into his courts with PRAISE [Tehillah]. Be THANKFUL [Yadah] to him, and BLESS [Barak] his name.”

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- A. Towdah – the entryway
- An extension of the hand, adoration, a choir of worshipers, confession, sacrifice of praise, thanksgiving.
 - Psalm 95:6 – “Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving.”
- B. Tehillah – the spontaneous heart song
- To sing a new song, a hymn of spontaneous praise glorifying God in song.
 - Psalm 34:1 – “I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”
- C. Yadah – the embrace of God
- To hold out the hand, to revere or worship (with extended hands, praise thankful, thanksgiving).
 - Psalm 92:2 – “It is good thing to give thanks to the Lord.”
- D. Barak – the continual flow of His presence
- To kneel or bow as an act of adoration, implies a continual conscious giving place to God, to be attuned to him and his presence.
 - Psalm 95:6 – “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.”