

# THE TENT OF NEW CREATION

An exposition of Exodus 35-39  
at West Hills San Jose on July 5, 2020

**PASTORAL PRAYER:** God Almighty, Lord of glory, Maker of heaven and earth. We come before you this morning acknowledging our own brokenness, our own sin, our great need, and OUR GREAT DESIRE for you. We come acknowledging that apart from you, there is no true joy in this world. Apart from truly enjoying you, we cannot truly enjoy anything. Hallowed be your name in the world.

Lord we pray for all the nations of the earth. Would you show the power of your mighty hand by seeking and saving the lost. Would you raise up men and women and children from every tribe tongue and nation, who will say here I am send me, and thrust them out into the mission field for the glory of your great name. I pray for the nations in the 10/40 window, for those countries in the middle east which has very little gospel presence, would you raise up missionaries and christians in their midst— that those who are lost in darkness might hear and see the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. I pray for the country of France, where Damien and Sarah are heading in just a few short weeks. Would you at this very moment be at work in the hearts and lives of those they will be interacting with to draw their souls to Christ.

I pray for the Jourdan's and for the Smith's, two families that will be moving away from our area and our congregation this month. God I pray that you would strengthen them by your grace to love and serve their next church just as faithfully as they loved and served ours if not even more so. Would you use them to advance your gospel and your kingdom in the places you are calling them in a way that brings great glory to your name. And would you cause the rest of us, in this local church to not only miss them terribly, but also to learn to love your glory far more than all other things, and to praise you for the great work you are doing in the world.

Lord I also pray for our country. Would you grant us the power to rejoice in our circumstances. Would you grant us the capacity to see and understand the ways you are at work in the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Protect us from grumbling in our hearts, about the ways our lives are different, help us to give thanks for the ways you are changing us and shaping us through this into the image of Christ. I pray for our leaders and those in authority over us, would you grant them wisdom and righteousness in their pursuit of the best way forward. But I also pray that through them you would enable us to live a quiet life, with all dignity. I pray that you would restore our ability to assemble as a church family and worship together in person as the people of God. You are our King Lord. You say to the winds and waves be silent and they are still. A day is coming when you will say “be done” to Coronavirus and our lives will be restored to normal. But we humbly wait on your timing, and ask in faith...please deliver us. God I now pray for our time together around your Word, would you open our minds and our hearts to hear and to see your glory, that we might be changed forever. In Christ's name, amen.

**PROBLEM:** Welcome back church, I wish I could see all of you the way you all can see me. If one thing was made really clear to my heart on our vacation over the last few weeks it's that I really really miss all of you guys, and I really want to be able to gather for worship with you all.

And this morning I want to share with you the sermon that God preached to my soul from the tabernacle construction texts that we are covering this week. And that probably sounds crazy. And maybe it is. But I feel like the Lord in His grace had a response for me in this text to the question my heart, if I'm being fully open with you, was really wrestling with over the last few weeks. And that question was this: "Why are we doing all of this?"

Why not just meet and do what we want? Would it really be that big of a deal to just start meeting again? Who would know? And I had a crazy moment where it dawned on me that that is how I used to reason with myself when I was a criminal. Why not just do what I want? Would it be really that big of a deal if I just stole this one thing, if I just broken this one law? Who would know? Of course, Scripture gives us a distinctly alternative path. Titus 3:1-2 says "Reminding them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle and to show perfect courtesy toward all people." And then Paul says the reason we ought to do those things is because of the gospel of Jesus. Why are we doing all of this?

Well the Word of the Lord commands it and the commands have gospel rationale. Why is my heart bucking against it? Well probably because it feels like there is no end in sight. Over the past week there was a crazy surge in cases, and it feels like for every two steps we took forward we are taking one step back. And I started to feel kind of like the future is bleak. Who knows when we are going to meet again, and sing praise together, and share in communion at the Lord's table, and hug each other? And as I contemplated the coming weeks and months, as I thought about the future, my heart began to despair. And then I opened the Word of God.

And in the Word of God I was thoroughly and forcefully rebuked. The Word of men is one thing. But the Word of God is something else altogether. And He has spoken. God has promised us a glorious future. God has promised that what is before us is the fulfillment of all that is symbolized in the tabernacle. God has promised that what lies before me, and what lies before all who are in Christ Jesus is bodily fellowship with one another in the presence of God forever, sharing a feast at the Lord's table, hugging each other, worshipping God and singing without masks on. Shelter in place is not your future...maybe for a few blinks of the eye in the scope of eternity, it is involved in your future, but in today's text we see the shape of our future described in detail. And this very thing is what I hope to unpack from the Scriptures this morning. Why are we doing all of this? Here is my point from the text

**MAIN POINT:** The tabernacle is a window into our future, so rejoice in the hope of the new creation!

**SETTING THE CONTEXT:** Please open your bibles to Exodus 35 we are going to be covering 5 chapters of text this morning chapters 35-39 so I won't be reading through the text before hand as it takes about 25 minutes to do so and we have actually covered the grand majority of it already as I will show in a bit. But let me just reestablish us in the context of the book of Exodus. The people of Israel have been delivered from Egypt by signs and wonders, and have been led out of slavery and INTO covenant with God at Mount Sinai. And what has primarily dominated the final 3rd of the book of Exodus and the last several months worth of text is the question of how can God be present in the midst of his sinful people. And in between chapters 25 and 34, we

were offered two contrasting answers. The first was God's answer. He would author for the people a tabernacle, a tent in the wilderness that would not only be beautiful but suffused with meaning and symbolism.

Within that tabernacle would be zones of increasing holiness, that became increasingly inaccessible the closer you get to the Ark, the symbolic throne of God. There would be a priesthood, with garments that resembled the tabernacle, and incense and anointing oils that carried a powerful and specific fragrance, and it would be kept utterly clean, and perpetually ensure safe and righteous access to the presence of God for the people of Israel, with an altar of sacrifice to deal with the peoples perpetual sins. That was God's answer, on the top of Mount Sinai.

Down at the foot of the mountain, the people came up with their own answer. They thought they could manufacture God's presence by forming an idol. Of course you can't manufacture God's presence and the fact that they tried led to death and destruction, rather than life and blessing. But the people repented, and continued to seek God's face and because of His own great love and through the intercession of His servant Moses, God remains committed to being present in the midst of the people. And so what is left to be done is the construction of the tabernacle according to the Word of the Lord. And the question before us is will the people believe and obey, or will they take things into their own hands again? As I promised before I'm not going to read all five chapters since we have already covered the majority of it, however chapter 35 through chapter 36:7 contains a number of unique contributions so that is what I will be reading this morning. Let's humble our minds and open our hearts for the reading of the Word

READING: 35:1 [1] Moses assembled all the congregation of the people of Israel and said to them, "These are the things that the LORD has commanded you to do. [2] Six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. [3] You shall kindle no fire in all your dwelling places on the Sabbath day."

[4] Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "This is the thing that the LORD has commanded. [5] Take from among you a contribution to the LORD. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the LORD's contribution: gold, silver, and bronze; [6] blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen; goats' hair, [7] tanned rams' skins, and goatskins; acacia wood, [8] oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, [9] and onyx stones and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

[10] "Let every skillful craftsman among you come and make all that the LORD has commanded: [11] the tabernacle, its tent and its covering, its hooks and its frames, its bars, its pillars, and its bases; [12] the ark with its poles, the mercy seat, and the veil of the screen; [13] the table with its poles and all its utensils, and the bread of the Presence; [14] the lampstand also for the light, with its utensils and its lamps, and the oil for the light; [15] and the altar of incense, with its poles, and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense, and the screen for the door, at the door of the tabernacle; [16] the altar of burnt offering, with its grating of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils, the basin and its stand; [17] the hangings of the court, its pillars and its bases, and the screen for the gate of the court; [18] the pegs of the tabernacle and the pegs of the court, and

their cords; [19] the finely worked garments for ministering in the Holy Place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, for their service as priests.”

[20] Then all the congregation of the people of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. [21] And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the LORD's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments. [22] So they came, both men and women. All who were of a willing heart brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and armlets, all sorts of gold objects, every man dedicating an offering of gold to the LORD. [23] And every one who possessed blue or purple or scarlet yarns or fine linen or goats' hair or tanned rams' skins or goatskins brought them. [24] Everyone who could make a contribution of silver or bronze brought it as the LORD's contribution. And every one who possessed acacia wood of any use in the work brought it. [25] And every skillful woman spun with her hands, and they all brought what they had spun in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. [26] All the women whose hearts stirred them to use their skill spun the goats' hair. [27] And the leaders brought onyx stones and stones to be set, for the ephod and for the breastpiece, [28] and spices and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense. [29] All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the LORD had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the LORD.

[30] Then Moses said to the people of Israel, “See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; [31] and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, [32] to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, [33] in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. [34] And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. [35] He has filled them with skill to do every sort of work done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of workman or skilled designer.

[1] “Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the LORD has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded.”

[2] And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work. [3] And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, [4] so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, [5] and said to Moses, “The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do.” [6] So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, “Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary.” So the people were restrained from bringing, [7] for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.

**ROAD MAP:** 1.) How the work of God is to be done, 2.) The work of the Lord described, 3.) what the work of the Lord means, 4.) How this all applies to us.

## HOW IS THE WORK OF GOD TO BE DONE?

1. So let's jump right in to our text, chapter 35 opens with a reiteration of the Sabbath command in verses 1-3. Which, at first glance, seems like kind of a strange way to transition from the idolatry and restoration stories to the tabernacle construction. Until you think about what is happening. What is about to happen? The nation of Israel is about to mobilize as a work force and begin laboring to build this huge construction project. And Moses leads with the assertion that **EVEN WHEN WORKING ON THE TABERNACLE OF GOD...you must obey the command to sabbath on the seventh day.**
  1. Even when the thing you are doing is explicitly commanded by the Lord, you must do so in light of your fundamental covenant allegiance. You must work hard, for six days, and observe the Sabbath on the seventh day as a solemn rest, holy to the Lord and if you don't you will be put to death. You must do this work, in a way that explicitly reflects your covenant allegiance to God.
  2. You may or may not feel the prerogative to Sabbath the way I do, but I think the underlying point applies to all of us. The way we work, the way we do whatever work the Lord has given us to do in this time of our lives, should reflect our fundamental covenant allegiance to God.
  3. You can see how easy it might be in obeying the command to build the tabernacle, for a worker to neglect the command to Sabbath. I'm almost done with this project if I can just have a few more hours on Sabbath morning I will be done with it and then I can really rest, without lingering on my incomplete project.
  4. I'm sure all of you feel the tension that I feel, between being productive and stopping to pray. If I just have a few more hours during my normally scheduled prayer time then I will be done with my project and then I can rest without my mind lingering on my studies, lingering on my work stuff, lingering on my chores etc.
  5. This passage suggests that we can't obey one set of commands, work as unto the Lord, as for Christ, to the neglect of other commands, to seek first the kingdom of God and to trust that all these other things will be added to me.
  6. Whatever your work is, whether that's working hard as a student, as an employee of a company, overseeing a household, whatever the work is that God has given you to do in this season of your life, you must do it in a way that reflects your covenant allegiance to God. You must work in a way that expresses your love for him, your love for your neighbor, and your desire to see the nations worship our King. So the first way the work is to be done, is in faithful obedience to the covenant.
2. Second, God's work is to be done willingly in (v. 4-29). In verse 5 Moses insists that the work ought to be done from the overflow of the hearts generosity. He calls every skilled craftsmen in verse 10 to come use your gifts to **CREATE** all that the Lord had commanded. It's amazing the number of times that Moses reiterates not just what the people did but their attitude in doing it.
  1. Verse 21 And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the Lord's contribution. Verse 22 so they came both men and women. All who were of a willing heart. Verse 26 All the women whose hearts stirred them to use their skill spun the goats hair. Verse 29 All the men and women, the people of

- Israel whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a FREEWILL OFFERING to the Lord.
2. When you read in the New Testament that God loves a cheerful giver, that he doesn't want elders to shepherd under compulsion but willingly, I think that can all be traced back to this story. God does not desire a begrudging obedience, but a glad and willing obedience.
    1. Now that being said, let me ask you this question. If I don't want to do something that God has commanded, does that mean I shouldn't? And the answer is OF COURSE NOT. Saying that God desires a glad obedience doesn't mean he is fine with disobedience. Where we feel an unwillingness in our hearts to obey the Word of Christ, we ought to repent...not excuse ourselves. We ought to turn to God and say change me, heal me, I don't want to serve you with a begrudging heart but with a glad and willing heart by the power of your grace. Which brings me to the third way in which the work of God is to be done.
  3. 35:30 through 36 verse 1 By the Spirit's power. In verse 31 Moses explains that God had uniquely gifted two men with skill and intelligence from the Spirit, Bezalel son of Uri and Oholiab the son of Ahisamch. In verse 34, these skills they had from the Spirit were not only for the work of devising artistic designs and skilled craftsmanship, BUT ALSO TO TEACH OTHERS.
    1. The gifts of the Spirit were not for themselves, but for building the work of God and showing others how to build up the work of God.
    2. Now I'm going to resist the temptation to interact with the larger theological question of how the Spirit was present in these men and instead settle on the underlying point. Spirit empowered men were to do the work of the Lord and they were to teach others. But not only that, it wasn't just these uniquely gifted men called to this work but 36:1 EVERY CRAFTSMEN in whom the Lord has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all the Lord commanded.
    3. So the Spirit of the Lord it seems had put skill and intelligence in LOTS OF PEOPLE. And the point was everyone was to do the work of the Lord according to what the Spirit had given them. And it's hard not to see an analogy between the construction of the tabernacle and so many New Covenant assumptions about the church and living life as a body. Yes there are going to be some people uniquely gifted to teach but all of us are empowered by the Spirit and all of us have been gifted and taught by the Spirit so that we are all capable in Christ of building up the body the church to the glory of God. Ministry is not something I do...and the rest of you do something else. Ministry is something we do as a church, we minister TO one another, and to our neighbors and to the world.
    4. So the work of the Lord is to be done in a way that reflects their fundamental consent obedience, it was to be done willingly, and by the Spirit's power. And finally it was to be done in proportion to what was needful 36:2-7.
  4. In verse 2 everyone whose heart stirred them came and worked. And in verse 3 people kept bringing and bringing and bringing freewill offerings to the point that they literally had more than enough for the construction of the tabernacle. Their generosity overflowed beyond what

was necessary. And Moses said in verse 6, stop bringing stuff. We have enough. In other words, Moses stopped their generosity when it became more than what was necessary for the work of the Lord. Or to say that another way, Moses didn't take advantage of their generosity. He didn't use it to line his own pocket. He didn't even use it to make the tabernacle more extravagant than what the Lord had commanded.

1. We also, ought to be careful not to take advantage of one another generosity, whether financial or relational.
5. But in any case, this is how the work of God is to be done. It is to be done in a way the reflects our covenant allegiance, it ought to be done willingly by the Spirit's power and ethically, not taking advantage of willing worshippers. Let's now turn our attention to how the Work of the Lord is described.

### THE WORK OF THE LORD DESCRIBED

1. So starting in verse 8, you basically get a verbatim restatement of chapters 25-31, with the addition of statements of completion. So for example Exodus 25:10-20 lays out the command to build the Ark, and in 37:1-9 we are told in exact detail that Bezalel did what was specifically commanded. And it doesn't simply say, He did what the Lord commanded, Moses says he did every detail from Exodus 25. In other words, Israel created the tabernacle exactly according to the pattern shown to Moses on the mountain
2. Since we already taught through all the details of all the part of the tabernacle I just want to give you a few observations about chapters 36-37. First, when Moses describes the actual construction of the tabernacle, he describes it chronologically rather than theologically.
  1. When the tabernacle commands were given, God began in the very center of the holy of holies and described every element from the inside out. In concentric circles getting further and further away from the center until he had described the whole thing.
  2. It is likely that the description in 25-31 was ordered theologically to help us grasp the significance of every part of the tent. Here, it has been observed, the construction happens in the order you would expect the construction to take place. So they start with the curtain walls in verse 36:10, and then they build the clasps that they would use to hang the curtains and then the frames to hang the curtains on and so forth. So the work of the Lord here is described chronologically rather than theologically.
3. The second thing this shows us is that the Word of the Lord is fulfilled. In chapters 25-31 the Lord spoke, he commanded the detailed construction of the tabernacle. And in chapters 36-37 it was so. The Lord said...and it was so. With the people function as an intermediary.
4. Now think with me for a moment about why all this detail might be necessary? Why take up all this space to say what could be said in a sentence...the people built the tabernacle exactly according to the pattern that was shown to Moses on the mountain.
  1. This portion of the book of Exodus (from chapter 25 onward) began with God explaining how He could safely dwell in the midst of His sinful people. And right in the middle of that description...we find Israel at the bottom of Sinai attempting to architect their own way of manifesting God's presence among them. The people are rebuked, the idol is destroyed, Moses prays and the people repent. And then we get a long detailed description of the work being done precisely according to the Words of God. So what

might this detailed enumeration of all the specifics imply? I think it means that the people's repentance and obedience was complete and comprehensive.

2. The people didn't just resolve to stop building idols. They resolved to seek God's presence in the way God commanded. Repentance wasn't just turning away from sin but physically pursuing righteousness.
3. Have you resolved in your heart this morning, to not only turn from sin but to pursue righteousness? Maybe you are listening to this message and you are feeling like man covenant obedience, a willing heart, empowered by the Spirit...that is not how I would describe how I have been using my time over the last week or month or several months. What should I do?
4. And the answer is to repent. To seek God, to pray and ask for forgiveness and help. Pray Psalm 51 out loud to your Father in heaven and enter into the overflowing abundance of free grace. Don't wait another day, don't wait for another hour, don't wait for another minute...if the Spirit is stirring guilt in your conscience turn to the Lord and be set free from sins guilt TODAY.
5. This section of Exodus is the story of God showing overwhelming grace towards a congregation of people that literally built an idol and worshipped it. If God has grace for repentant idol worshippers, how much more will he have grace for those who come in the name of His only begotten Son, who died for our sins and was raised and now ever lives to intercede for us.
6. So what have we seen? We have seen HOW the work of the Lord is to be done, second we have seen why the work of the Lord is described in such detail, to express the fullness of Israel's repentance. Third let's consider what this work of the LORD means and how it applies.

#### WHAT THE WORK OF THE LORD MEANS

1. So what is the tabernacle for. Well there is the immediate and obvious context. It is the meeting place between the King and His subjects, between the LORD and His covenant people. It is the mobile tent that will serve as the place where God will dwell among His people, and where His people can safely draw near to Him. But there is actually far more going on here than just that (as significant as THAT is).
2. The construction of the tabernacle is the next step in redemptive history toward the new and glorified creation.
  1. Let me just offer some very big picture observations of the book of Exodus and then the building of the tabernacle in particular. Israel has been redeemed from the decreed chaos of a judged Egypt and into communion with God. The the Lord says let there be an ark let there be a lamp let there be an altar let there be...and chapters 35-39 are the literary echo...and it was so.
  2. This work is done by the powerful presence of the Spirit, just as creation began with the Spirit hovering over the deep. This text begins by emphasizing resting on the seventh day (which is what God did at creation).



3. When all the work is complete in chapter 39 the people bring the materials to Moses in verse 43 and he looks and when he sees it is good (or done according to the Word of the Lord), he blessed them. This is like a miniature creation story. A new creation story.
3. And it becomes even more obvious when you step back even and think about all of the symbols within the tabernacle and the fact that many of them show up again in the New Jerusalem at the end of Revelation.
  1. The presence of God, the tree of life, the table of covenant feasting or the wedding feast, etc
4. The tabernacle is new creation in symbol, that stands as a promise of the new creation that is coming. Which leads to the application of this text for the church today.

#### HOW THIS APPLIES TO US

1. The tent standing in the desert 3000 years ago proclaims that your future is not to be indefinitely sheltering in place. Your future is not the circumstances you face tomorrow...the tabernacle says that your future is not the things you are worried about that are coming down the road. Your future is to live in the light of the glory of God and the Lamb.
2. The new creation is where the symbols of the tabernacle find their full and complete fulfillment.
  1. The ark shows us that it is a place where God reigns
  2. The table with the feast shows that it is a place of joy and communion
  3. The lamp stand shows us that new creation is a place where we will walk in God's light and see and understand clearly and there will be no more variation or shifting shadow
  4. The lamp stand also describes the tree that gives life to the world and brings healing to the nations.
  5. The new creation is a place where creation is reordered by the Word of the Lord
  6. The priesthood shows us that new creation is a place where we have been made suitable to enter into the holy presence of God Most High.
  7. The holy of holies which is shaped like a cube in the tabernacle, is the same shape as the entire city of New Jerusalem. It is a place where God is utterly present everywhere and everyone will have equal and unfettered access to His face.
    1. Think about those times you have felt especially close to God. I don't know what that looks like for all of you...a few weeks ago we were praying together with the Morgan Hill staff as we do every Tuesday and my heart was really filled with a lot of things, and I was worried about a number of different things in life to the point that I was nervous to even pray out loud because I didn't know what would end up coming out of my mouth.
    2. And as I was sitting there in prayer, in my consternation, one of the brothers started praying for me...and he started praying for the exact things I was wrestling in my heart about...like in order...and like 8 things in a row. And it was one of those moments where could that have been a total coincidence? Maybe. But in the moment, I felt like I could physically hear with my ears...the Spirit of God praying for me through my brother. And I was overwhelmed by the reality that I am seen and heard and known and loved by God. And it had the effect of humbling me and filling me

with joy and faith and hope and zeal for His glory. And now I'm thinking about the creation...and the whole city being the most holy place...and whatever that was in prayer...multiplied by a billion, without the confusion and distortions that my sinful mind can introduce to an experience like that...and I'm like what is that gonna be like. I'm already a pretty upbeat guy. Am I going to be shouting for joy every moment of every day? Probably

3. The tabernacle tells me that is my future. Feasting in the light and life of God Himself.
3. Recognize that for those who love God and live for Him, the Lord is preparing an eternal weight of glory that is beyond all comparison. My comparison will seem silly in the presence of God. WHY? Because it will be BEYOND ALL COMPARISON
4. That is your future if you love and trust God. The tabernacle preaches this. This isn't like finding out you are going to inherit a hundred billion dollars....finding out your are inheriting a hundred billion dollars is about one billionth as good as this. Jesus says...do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
  1. Our future is not determined by the words of men, but by the promises of God in Christ Jesus, believe and rejoice.
  2. Don't start your search for joy in your circumstances start your search for joy in God, who made you for Himself. A day is coming, and will soon be here where Revelation 21:4 God Himself will wipe away every tear from your eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have will have passed away. And He who was seated on the throne said "these words are trustworthy and true." Whose word do you trust?
5. Now what if you don't love and trust God. What should you do? What if you want this future but you don't know how to pursue it. You start by recognizing that you don't deserve this future. You are unclean, and the only things safe in the presence of God are things that are holy. And you must recognize that you can't make yourself holy, just like I can't make myself holy. But there is a way to be made clean. God Himself sent His only begotten son into the world to die for our sins, to cleanse us of all unrighteousness and to bring us to God. We were lost like scattered sheep, but He has come into the world to gather us under Himself as our shepherd. TO feed and nurture our souls...and to lead us into glorious life everlasting. All you are called to do...is repent and believe that it's true. That he really died for your sins, to really draw you to Himself, that you might turn from your sins and live for God and receive eternal life.
  1. It doesn't cost anything. You don't need to be smart, or clever, or better than anyone else...you just need to be honest with yourself about your sins, and turn and receive the fullness of God's grace in Christ Jesus. If you do...you will enter into the joy of hoping for this glorious future, foreshadowed by the tabernacle. And your heart will rejoice.

The tabernacle is a window into our future, so rejoice in the hope of the new creation!