

Delivered – Completing the Puzzle

4/5/26

Exodus 25-30 | John 14:6

Sunday AM

Have you ever worked on a 500-piece puzzle? All you see at first are random scattered pieces and shapes. But as you begin to connect them, something happens – an image begins to emerge. And when the final piece is placed, you step back and realize – it was never random at all; it was all part of a bigger picture.

What if I told you the Bible works in a similar way? What looks like separate pieces of random stories from Eden to the cross to Jesus' return – are actually a single picture of God's redemptive plan woven like a tapestry of grace w/ each piece connecting to share the good news of God's love for His creation.

As we've been studying Exodus, we've discovered (2) key pieces of this puzzle that point us to the cross – the Passover and the Tabernacle. The Passover shows us **HOW** God saves us, while the Tabernacle reveals **WHY** He saved us – which was for relationship. These events lay out a clear path into God's presence that ultimately finds its fulfillment in Jesus.

DYK these O.T. events tie to **John 14:6** – where Jesus said – *I am the only way, the only truth, and the only life and no one comes to the Father except thru me.*

Thus, what the Passover and Tabernacle illustrate is a step by step way to God that Jesus fulfilled precisely.

WTM – I want us this Easter weekend to see how each of these puzzle pieces fit together to see the bigger picture of God's grace and redemptive plan to save us.

I **PASSOVER** – The Foundation of Redemption

In **Exodus 12**, we find the Passover story. It begins w/ God delivering the 10th and most severed plague on Egypt. After Pharaoh repeatedly hardened his heart, God declared that every firstborn in Egypt would die in a single night as the death angel would pass over.

At the same time, God provided a way to rescue His people thru what became known as the **Passover**. Each Israelite family was to sacrifice a spotless lamb and apply its blood to the doorposts of their home. When the Lord passed thru the land, He *passed over* every home marked by blood, sparing them from judgment and securing their deliverance – which also served as a foreshadowing of what God would do thru the cross.

Still, the power of this moment wasn't solely in the death of the lamb but in the ***application of the blood***. Truth is, a family could've admired/loved the lamb – but if they didn't apply the blood, the death angel would not have passed over them to save them.

It's like having medicine that can save a life sitting on the table, but never taking it. It's not enough that the provision exists – **it must be applied**.

This truth presses into our lives today – salvation isn't something we earn, inherit, or assume – it's received by faith in Jesus alone. It's not enough to be near the Lamb; we must personally believe/receive Jesus as God's provision for the forgiveness of our sins to actually be forgiven – based on the sacrifice of Jesus.

This is why the writer of Hebrews penned – *w/out the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.*

So – what was a temporary/symbolic event in the Exodus became complete/eternal at the Cross. The Passover was the preview; the Cross is the fulfillment.

But this story doesn't end w/ deliverance. God didn't just bring His people out – **He brought them near** b/c He wanted to tabernacle (have relationship) w/ them.

II TABERNACLE | The Pattern for Relationship

The Passover might've revealed how God redeems His people, but the Tabernacle revealed how He desires to dwell w/ us too. See – ***God hasn't just saved us from sin, He's rescued us into a relationship w/ Him.***

tabernacle (*mishkan*) to dwell/abide. The Tabernacle was the place where God dwelt and it served as a visible reminder that He wasn't distant, but near.

Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. Exodus 25:8

Do you realize the weight of this statement? Unlike the so-called gods of other religions, *the God of Israel and Christianity has come near*. He tabernacles w/ His people. He wants us to know Him and be known by Him. He's not some God who set the creation on its axis and then abandoned it – He came near. He's a loving, personal God who desires relationship w/ us.

As such – the Tabernacle serves as a visual theology – a step-by-step pathway showing how John 14:6 is fulfilled. (picture)

At the entrance into the outer court, we encounter the altar, showing us ***the Way***. It revealed that access to God only comes thru a single door requiring the shedding of blood – and that ***no one can come to God on their own terms but only on God's terms***. Here, sacrifices were made reminding us that sin demands a substitute – an innocent life given in place of the guilty to atone and open the way to God. So, just as the Passover revealed that salvation requires a sacrifice, the Tabernacle declared there's only one entrance – which was fulfilled in Jesus, who said – *I am the door*.

Moving inward from the altar, we come to the wash basin and into the Holy Place, where we see ***the Truth*** revealed – a life of ongoing communion w/ God. The basin reminds us that redemption isn't the end of the story, but the beginning of a life purified by God's grace – which Jesus provided thru the cross where sin was forgiven but is being continually cleansed.

Then, inside the Holy Place – the table of showbread, the lampstand, and the altar of incense display what this life looks like. God sustains, guides, and invites us into intimacy w/ Him. Each element pointing to the truth that Jesus is the Bread of Life who nourishes, the Light of the World who leads, and our ever-living Intercessor whose prayers rise like incense to draw us to the truth that God seeks relationship w/ us.

Finally, moving beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies, we encounter ***the Life*** – the very presence of God at the mercy seat, where relationship w/ Him is realized. And yet under the old covenant, this access remained limited, as a thick veil stood as a barrier, declaring that though God was near, He wasn't fully accessible. A person could come thru the gate, offer a sacrifice, be cleansed, and even enter the Holy Place, but couldn't go all the way in. Only the high priest could pass beyond the veil, and only once a year w/ blood, reminding us that access was available just restricted and intimacy was possible just unfinished.

Thus, year after year, the same sacrifices were made and the same barrier remained, making it clear that sin was covered but not fully removed. All this to point us to Jesus and the cross.

Meaning – *the Tabernacle didn't just show the way to God... it also revealed that a problem still remained.*

It created a longing... a question... and a tension:

*What would it take for the veil to come down?
What would it take for access to be fully open?*

And this tension is what brings us to the Cross.

III **CROSS** | The Tabernacle Fulfilled

At the cross, *everything converges*. This is the moment where all of the puzzle pieces snap into place.

What the Passover anticipated and the Tabernacle illustrated was fully accomplished in Jesus. Jesus is the true Passover Lamb – spotless, sinless, and sacrificed in our place. Crucified during Passover, not by accident but by divine design, fulfilling what had been foreshadowed for generations.

Even more, Jesus is the Gate thru whom we enter into God's presence, the Altar where the sacrifice is made, the wash basin who cleanses, the Bread of life who sustains, the Light of the world who guides, the Intercessor who prays, the High Priest who represents, and the Mercy Seat where grace is given. Everything in the Tabernacle finds its completion in Jesus.

Yet one more thing was required. The veil that separated had to be removed – and at the moment of His death, something spectacular occurred – the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom. Not from bottom to top, as if man were reaching up to God, but from top to bottom, as if God were opening the way.

What had been restricted for generations is now fully and finally opened. Hebrews makes it clear that this wasn't symbolic or temporary – it was finished, final, and forever. Repeated sacrifices are no longer needed b/c the perfect sacrifice has been made.

This is why when He hung on the cross he cried out – **tetelestai** – it is finished.

DYK – *tetelestai* in Jesus' day carried a profound meaning. In a **business** context, it was written across a receipt to declare that a debt had been paid in full. In a **courtroom**, it was announced when a sentence had been completely served. And on the **battlefield**, it was declared when a victory had been decisively won.

So, when Jesus spoke this word from the cross, He was not expressing defeat but announcing victory. He was declaring the debt of sin had been fully paid, the judgment for sin had been fully satisfied, and the war against sin, death, and Satan had been decisively won.

Imagine sitting at a table surrounded by bills you can't pay. Past due notices stacked waist high. Every envelope a reminder of what you owe and can't pay. But then, one day, a letter arrives. You open it and across the top of every bill is stamped in bold letters: Paid in Full. Not reduced or negotiated. Paid. In. Full.

This is what happened at the cross. Not that our sin was minimized... or our debt restructured... but that it was completely satisfied in Christ.

The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man. Stott

This is the story of redemption. The Passover shows how God saves us. The Tabernacle shows that He draws near to us. And the Cross declares the way is now fully open to anyone who will believe/receive.

What we once saw as scattered pieces – from Eden, to the Passover, to the Tabernacle – now come together in Christ at the cross. The picture is no longer partial; it's complete. Every shadow, every symbol, every sacrifice was pointing to Him. And in Jesus, the puzzle of redemption is fully revealed.

He is the Way who brings us in, the Truth who cleanses and sustains us, and the Life who welcomes us into the presence of God. What began as promise has been fulfilled. What was once hidden is now clear. The pieces have come together and the picture is Jesus.

Which means this is no longer just about what God did *back then* – it's about what He's offering *right now*. And now the invitation stands. The Lamb was slain, the way was shown, and the veil was torn. And now thru Jesus – we can come in and find deliverance too.