

# Tabernacle: Unlikely Material

Saturday, February 14, 2026  
10:01 AM

Good morning, Arising Church!

It's February 15, 2026, and at this point, we have spent five weeks in a series focused on the geography of Israel and how it teaches us about our lives following and working for a Jewish Messiah. Because today is our sixth week on this subject, we need to do some review to ensure your understanding of the continuity of these messages and to display the conceptual pathway that we've been walking together.

We'll start with our first message after we got back from Israel. Next slide:



We began our journey at the Gihon Spring, the vital water source of Jerusalem that flows through the Kidron Valley. We saw how King David conquered the Jebusite stronghold by ascending its water shaft, transforming it into the City of David. This same spring was the site of Solomon's anointing as king and later, King

Hezekiah's engineering marvel that brought its waters safely inside the city walls. The Gihon represents the life-giving flow of God that requires us to "tunnel" through our stony hearts to make room for His presence.

You should be hearing that at Gihon, you learned about an **awakening** where God initiated salvation; His life begins to flow through the man of God, and the heart of man is opened.



Next, we traveled north to Mount Hermon and Caesarea Philippi, a region historically associated with foundational spiritual battles . We explored how this site, once ground zero for ancient corruption and pagan worship, became the backdrop for Peter's confession that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This message challenged us to reject compromise and stand on the offensive against the "gates of hell," knowing that the church is built on a rock of revelation and conviction that will not be overcome.

At these geographical locations in northern Israel, you learned that the man of God experiences **confrontation**. The enemy resists, identity is contested, and through this process, conviction is forged.



Returning to Jerusalem, we walked the Kidron Valley, exploring the physical proximity of choices that lead to life or destruction. We saw the narrow stairs ascending to the Temple and the wide stairs descending away from it, alongside the monuments of the martyr Zechariah and the rebellious Absalom standing just a stone's throw apart. This message highlighted how the site of the resurrection on the Mount of Olives sits right next to Gehenna, illustrating that small, daily decisions ultimately yield radical, eternal outcomes.

At Kidron, you learned about **decision**. Daily choices shape destiny, and salvation becomes, not just a moment, but a path both lived and walked upon.

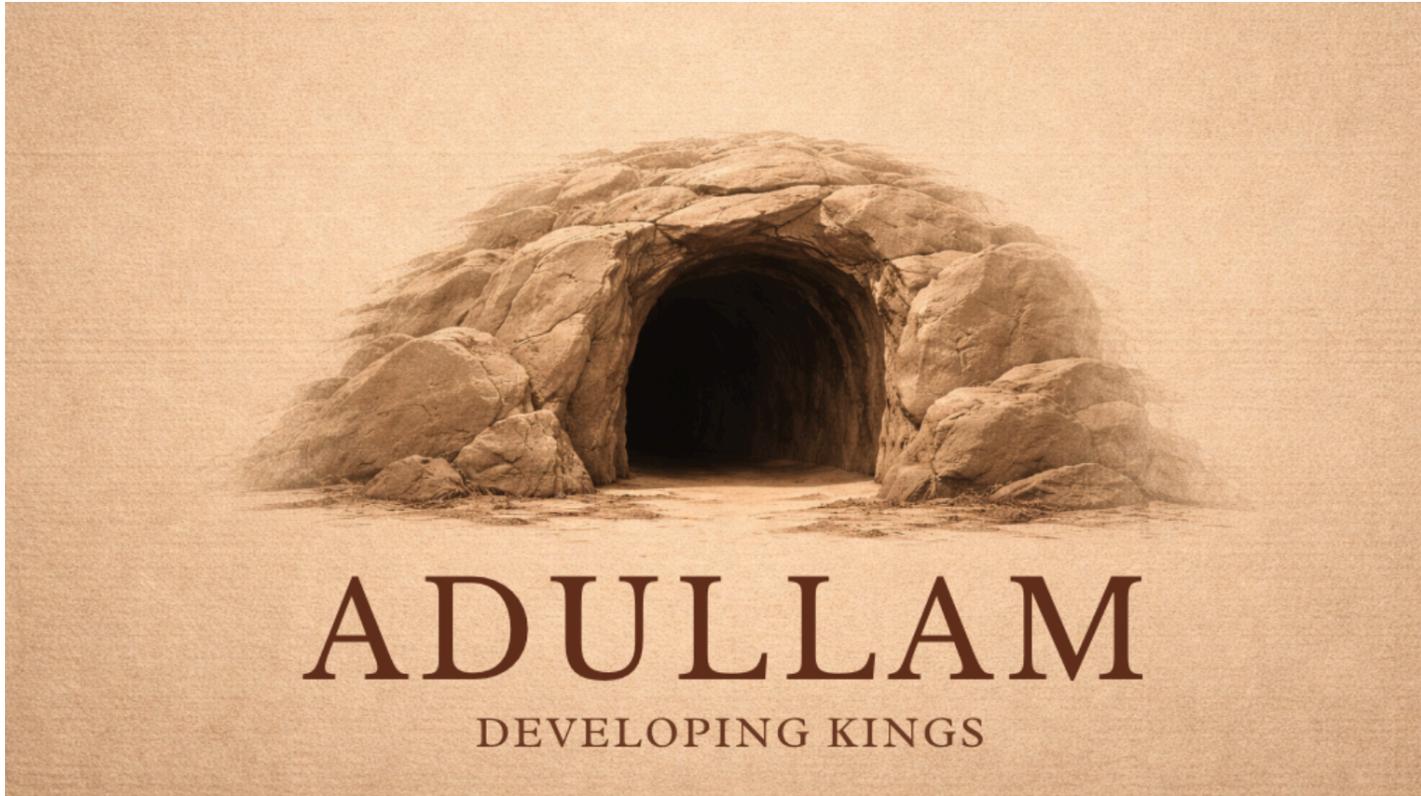


# KINGS VALLEY

AGONY AND A CROWN

We then moved into the Valley of Shaveh, or the King's Valley, where Abraham met Melchizedek after his victory. We traced the path of pressing that produces true kingship, from Gethsemane—the "place of the olive press"—where Jesus submitted His will to the Father, to Golgotha, where He was crucified. This message taught us that the agony of pressing is not a punishment, but a process that produces the pure oil of anointing, leading to a crown of life.

In this message on the Valley of Kings, you learned about the necessary **pressing** that the Lord uses to refine His people. Through this process, obedience is perfected, and anointing is produced.



Finally, last Sunday, we descended into the Cave of Adullam, where David fled from Saul and was joined by 400 men in distress, debt, and discontent. In that dark cave, David didn't take it easy and feel sorry for himself during a difficult season in his life—after all, the king of Israel and his entire army was trying to kill him—rather, David transformed a ragtag group into gibborim, or "mighty men" of valor. We saw how obscurity and hardship are God's training grounds for kings, and how the life of Jesus Himself, the greater David, confirmed the required pattern of all men of God from humble origins, giant victories, and the development of Adullam that transforms distressed souls into kings under Messiah, the son of David.

From Bethlehem to the Valley of Elah, from the Cave of Adullam to the writings of the prophet Micah, these locations speak to us about **formation**. Seasons of hidden obscurity develop kings—disciples become leaders, and what was just a calling becomes ingrained character.

Let's put all of these prior sermons together to show you the pathway we've been walking together. Next slide:

# Encountering Israel: Deepening Convictions

## 1. Gihon — **Awakening**

God initiated salvation; His life begins to flow through the man of God, and the heart of man is opened.

## 2. Hermon — **Confrontation**

The enemy resists, identity is contested, and through this process, conviction is forged.

## 3. Kidron — **Decision**

Daily choices shape destiny, and salvation becomes, not just a moment, but a path both lived and walked upon.

## 4. Valley of Kings — **Pressing**

God refines through pressure; obedience is perfected, and anointing is produced.

## 5. Adullam — **Formation**

Seasons of hidden obscurity develop kings—disciples become leaders, and what was just a calling becomes ingrained character.

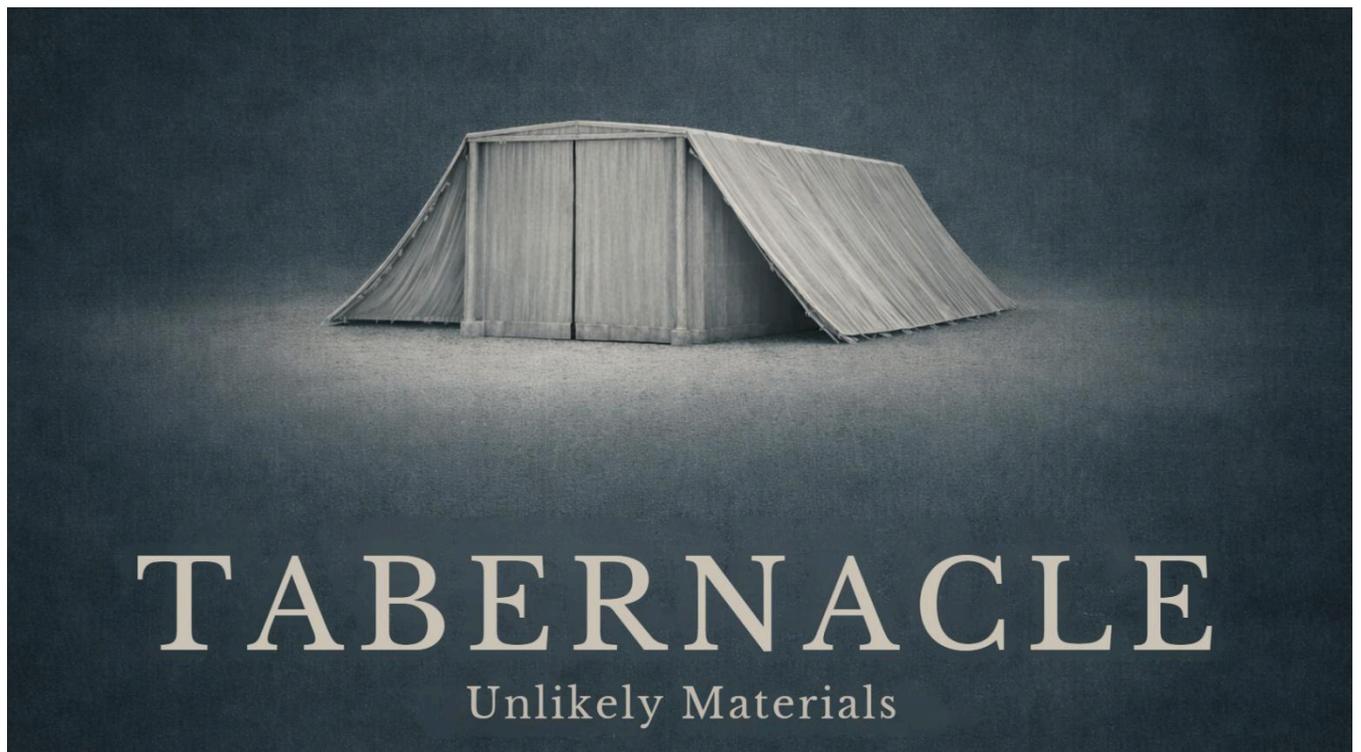
With these messages, we are aimed at helping you grasp the requirements for a life capable of bearing the weight of kingship under Messiah—to understand your right to true spiritual authority, your responsibility to sacrificial leadership, and to help develop your capacity and confidence to shape others.

Saints when you see each of these on the slide, you can put an "S" on the end of all of them:

- Awakening(S) - you are going to have many awakenings and you need to look forward to them.
- Confrontation(S) - There are going to be many confrontations in this life. We may even give you several today....
- Decision(S) - there are lots of decisions that you will make. You come to constant forks in the road.
- Kingdom Pressing(S) - The olive may have 3 or 4 but as you follow Christ you will have way more than that.
- Formation(S) - You don't just get formed and then move on. Everything in your life is forming you.

You know what we are really describing? Discipleship, that can't be done in a classroom.

Our series has been and will continue to be about Encountering Israel to deepen convictions. Week by week, we have allowed the geography of the land to instruct us, drawing vital lessons from its terrain, history, and patterns. Through this, you are not just gaining information, but being formed into heaven-born ministers, shaped according to the pattern that has been entrusted to you. With that said, let's take a look at our title for today:today



While our topic this week: The Tabernacle, did not originate within the land of Israel, it is as intrinsic to Israel as any other factor. Let's take a moment to revisit a few details about Israel's formation.

Abraham, the father of the nation of Israel was originally taken from Ur of the Chaldees.

- o **Genesis 15:6-7 NIV**

- 6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

**7** He also said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

Abraham is not only the father of the nation, his journey of faith remains the standard for the people to this day. But He started off as just an ordinary man, made of ordinary things. He grew up in a place other than Israel, was uprooted and taken through a process and only together with his descendants would he receive the promised land of Israel.

Let's take a look at another patriarch.

- o **Genesis 35:9-11 NIV**

**9** After Jacob returned from Paddan Aram, God appeared to him again and blessed him. **10** God said to him, “Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel.” So he named him Israel.

**11** And God said to him, “I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will be among your descendants.”



Jacob was given the name Israel at Peniel in modern day Jordan. He was told that he would become a synagogue of nations. This means that the very name Israel was given to a man outside of the land he would inherit. He was also told that the final product of what he would become would be a collection of the nations, a synagogue.

From the beginning of the story of Israel, it was always about a gathering of unlikely ordinary people assembled together to become a "synagogue" or a house for the Almighty to dwell in.

Let's look at a passage from the writings about the nation itself.

- o **Psalm 80:8–11 (NIV)**

- <sup>8</sup>You **transplanted** a vine from Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.

- <sup>9</sup>You cleared the ground for it,  
and it took root and filled the land.

- <sup>10</sup>The mountains were covered with its shade,

the mighty cedars with its branches.  
<sup>11</sup> Its branches reached as far as the Sea,  
its shoots as far as the River.

Israel was a nation that broke ground and begun to spring forth outside the nation, but God transplanted them so he could plant them in the land.

The tabernacle was a structure built in the desert but was transplanted in Israel

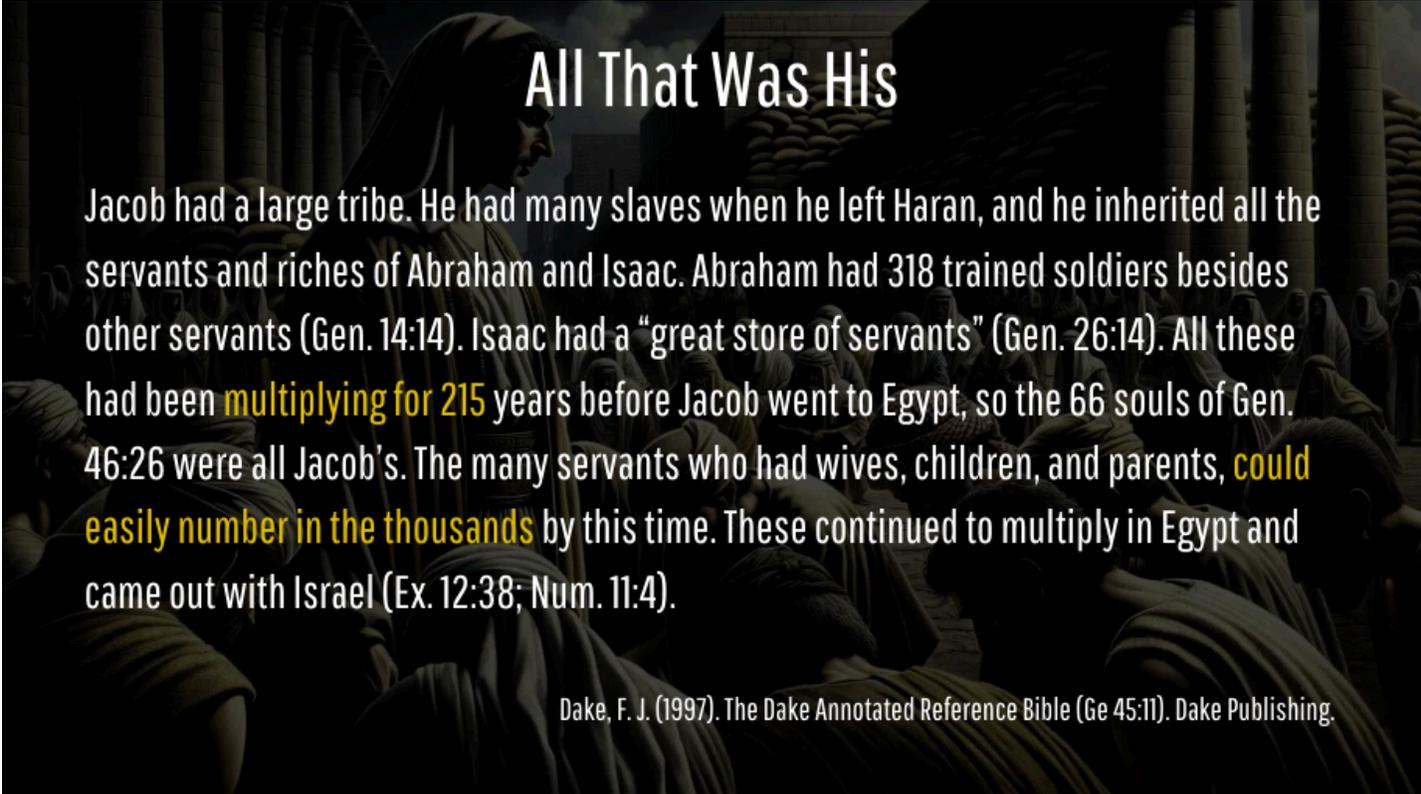
- o **Joshua 18:1 (ESV)**

- Allotment of the Remaining Land**

- 18** Then the whole congregation of the people of Israel assembled at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The land lay subdued before them.

Think of the journey that they went through, Jacob not only gathered all the people from Shechem in his family's journey, the nation of Israel also gathered a mixed multitude that came with them out of Egypt.

**(READ SLIDE)**



## All That Was His

Jacob had a large tribe. He had many slaves when he left Haran, and he inherited all the servants and riches of Abraham and Isaac. Abraham had 318 trained soldiers besides other servants (Gen. 14:14). Isaac had a “great store of servants” (Gen. 26:14). All these had been **multiplying for 215** years before Jacob went to Egypt, so the 66 souls of Gen. 46:26 were all Jacob's. The many servants who had wives, children, and parents, **could easily number in the thousands** by this time. These continued to multiply in Egypt and came out with Israel (Ex. 12:38; Num. 11:4).

Dake, F. J. (1997). The Dake Annotated Reference Bible (Ge 45:11). Dake Publishing.

Truly God caused Israel to grow as a nation that was uprooted and planted in the land promised to Abraham and his descendants. Can't you see how God took unlikely materials from seemingly random places, took them through a very difficult journey full of developmental cycles and processes and then assembled them into what would be His dwelling place.

We wanted to quickly revisit these foundational truths as we turn to our subject today: the Tabernacle. This is not new material, but it is essential.

The Tabernacle was conceived in the heavens and constructed in the wilderness from unlikely materials. Yet it became inseparable from Israel's identity—just as central in its meaning as the Temple that would later stand in Jerusalem.

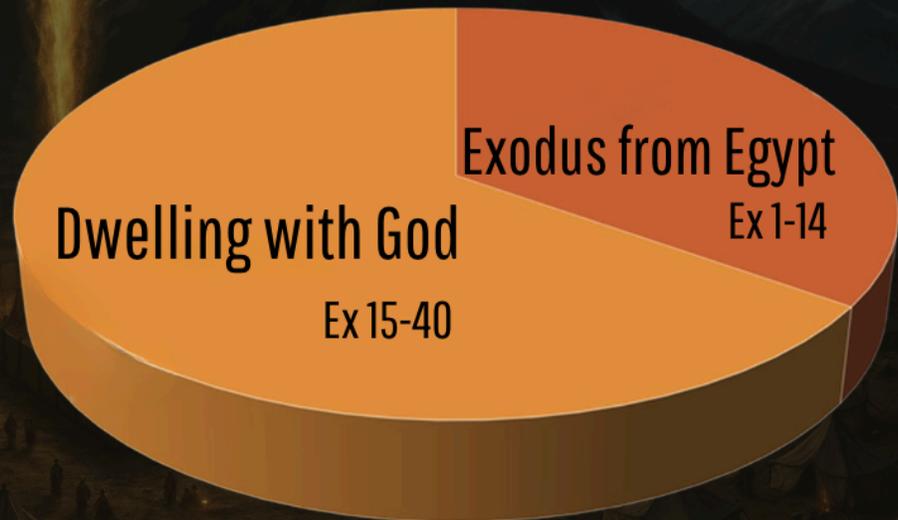
To study the Tabernacle is to study Israel because it's story of the nation itself.

With all of this in mind we want to ask you a question, what is the primary focus of the book of..... **Exodus?**

# WHAT IS EXODUS ABOUT?

65%

35%



You by now have probably got this down, but most people have this reversed in their own lives. They spend most of their lives trying to figure out how to leave Egypt and not enough time focused on dwelling with God.

The majority of the book of Exodus is a nation being disciplined so that they can dwell with God on a daily basis.

Our title today is Tabernacle: Unlikely materials. We have a video to get started with.

[Tabernacle video #1](#)

Engage with:

- "how much more..with somebody made in His image"
  - The ordinary materials you are made out of is not an opportunity to expect little from yourself. In fact its quite the opposite. You were

ordinary but He made you into something Divine and that means you should expect much from yourself.

The subject of the Tabernacle and God's dwelling with man is something that we will soon get to explore more fully together. However, today it is our intention to stir your appetite.

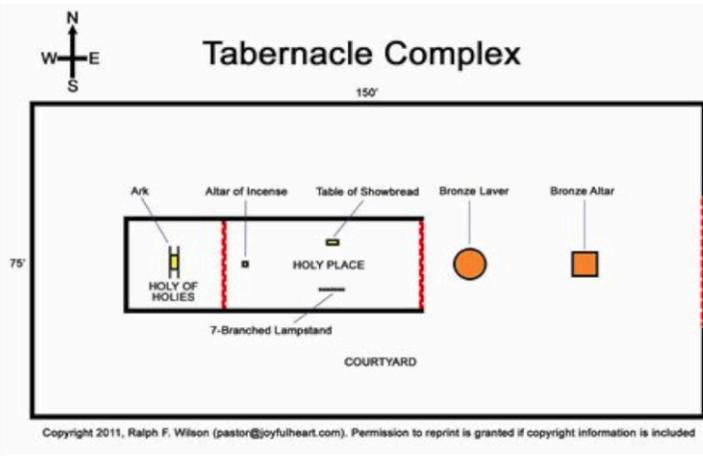
Of the major acts of construction or creation in the Bible the vast majority of people would assume that topics like the creation of the world, or the building of the temple are the most highly detailed but that is not the case.

Take a look at our next slide:

(possibly elaborate on the glory of heaven and the age to come being proportionally small compared to the focus on the "less" glorious temporary nature of the world for a 6000 year period)

## Most Described Structure in the Bible

- This is the most described item in the Bible (16 total Chapters)
- 10 Chapters to construction and furniture
- 1 Chapter to the builders
- 2 Chapters to the Priests
- 1 regarding the new tablets
- 2 regarding the golden calf (breaking pattern)



o Contrast this truth with:

- 2 Chapters for the Creation of the World
- 1 Chapter for Noah's Ark
- 9 Chapters for Solomon's Temple
- 7 Chapters for Ezekiel's Temple
- 4 Chapters for Nehemiah's Temple

The reality is that no other physical project is given the same level of prominence in the biblical text—not even the creation of the world or the building of Solomon's temple.

Unimpressive structure

Imagine Bezalel being filled with the Spirit of God, given extraordinary wisdom, skill and creativity and working on the most important mission he would ever do in his life by far...**entrusted with shaping the dwelling place of God among his people.**

- (That is what God has called you to do as well, by the way...you are called to create the dwelling place of God among his people here on the earth)

Yet, much of the work Bezalel poured himself into would never be seen by the people. The most impressive parts of the tabernacle were not even visible.

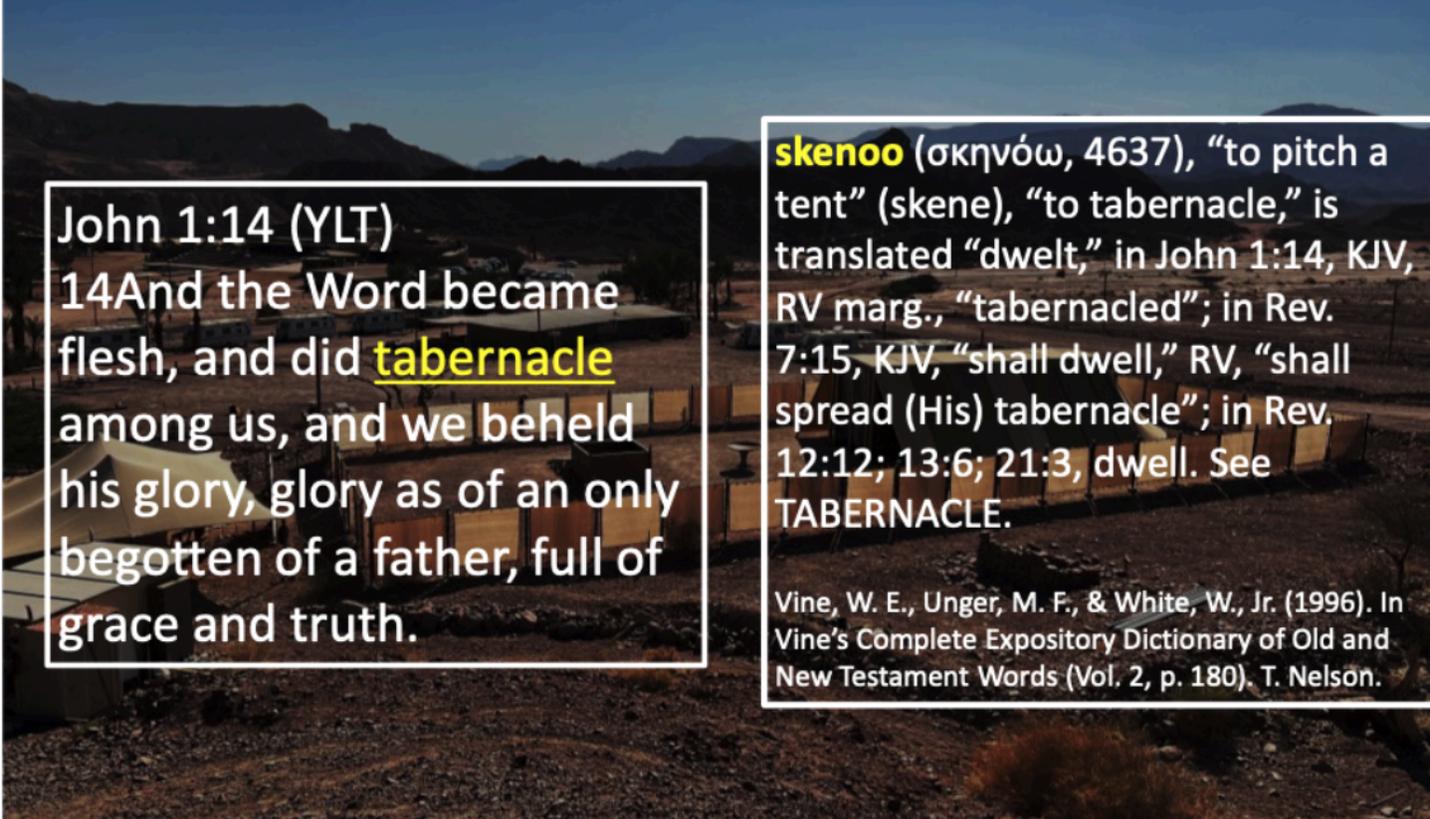
Adonai was preparing His people, teaching them, through the Tabernacle, not to despise the ordinary appearance of something.

**Elaborate as needed**

o **Isaiah 53:2–3 (ESV)**

2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.



John 1:14 (YLT)  
14And the Word became  
flesh, and did **tabernacle**  
among us, and we beheld  
his glory, glory as of an only  
begotten of a father, full of  
grace and truth.

**skenoo** (σκηνώω, 4637), “to pitch a tent” (skene), “to tabernacle,” is translated “dwelt,” in John 1:14, KJV, RV marg., “tabernacled”; in Rev. 7:15, KJV, “shall dwell,” RV, “shall spread (His) tabernacle”; in Rev. 12:12; 13:6; 21:3, dwell. See TABERNACLE.

Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Vol. 2, p. 180). T. Nelson.

Mankind wouldn't be able to make a building that appropriately describes God's glory, and God doesn't ask us to! He hides his majesty in the inconspicuous and ordinary, like you!

If you think that you need to be popular, magnificent, great, and then people will see God's glory in your life, you must understand that is satanic and opposed to how God wants to dwell on the earth!

Man's thinking says give me the diplomas and the certificates and the plaques that I can hang on the wall so people will see that I have achieved something. Why do you think a pastor would hang his certificates of achievement on a wall behind him?

So when you're looking at him as he's talking you think he knows what he's talking about?

We want seminary and courses so that we can feel like we have achieved something, and we want the diploma so that others can see that we have achieved something, but God does just the opposite. He hides his achievements deep within the heart of ordinary human beings, and it is only by pressing into each other's lives that you see the glorious work of God!

Why are we studying the tabernacle so much, you may ask: We want to know how it was built. We want to know everything about it because it's how he will dwell with you! And that process is discipleship!

16 whole chapters of the Bible are dedicated to describing the dwelling of God on earth, and it is very unimpressive to gaze upon. From the outside, all you would see are tents, wood, skins, and a very, very, very small holy place. Even if you went inside the holy place, you would only find 3 small items present. Yet this was the focal point of God's presence on the entire earth for four centuries!

It is shockingly unimpressive, except for the fact that the creator dwelled within it!

All that we have seen in the Tabernacle ultimately points beyond itself. The same descriptions that apply to that wilderness structure—humble in appearance, formed from unlikely materials, yet filled with the glory of God—also find their fulfillment in Jesus, who came to dwell, to “tabernacle,” among us. Isaiah 53 foretold that there would be no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing outwardly impressive to compel belief. And this was not merely the reaction of distant nations; even His own family, did not recognize Him. With that in mind, let us turn to another passage.

- o **John 1:33–34 (ESV)**

33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

## Tabernacle Video #2

Engage with:

- *"Parking Lot to Parking Lot..you had to want him"*
  - This is why seeker-sensitive churches do not actually reflect the Character of God nor do anything for the Kingdom. Adonai never caters to an audience, the Kingdom is built when Men and Women want Him so badly they approach him regardless of the cost or optics.

God has a habit of taking things that are in the heavens and building them on earth with inconspicuous and unlikely materials.

It's true of mankind. God took dirt and breathed into it, think about that!

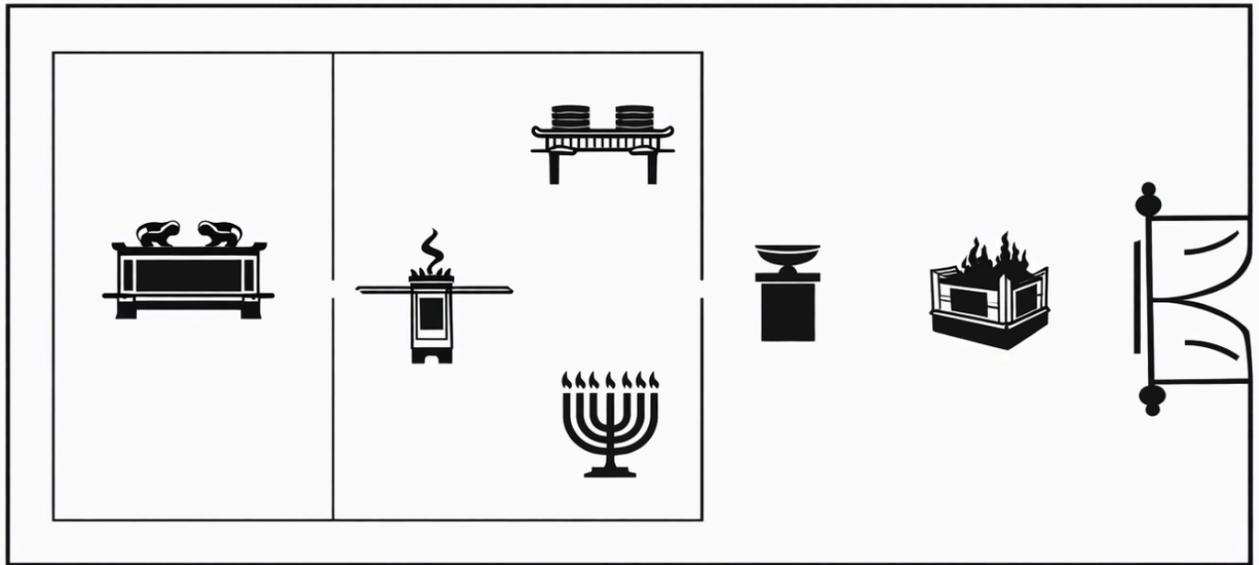
This was true of Jesus! This is true of you as the body of Christ! And we need to understand the revealed pattern so that we can dwell with the Lord and men can come to know Him by dwelling with us.

Don't be surprised that it looks so ordinary...God has always done it this way.

How pitiable would it be if the dirt was wanting to be seen as something special in and of itself?

This is not supposed to be based on the outward appeal but the inward substance. Let's refresh the layout of the tabernacle. Next slide: **\*Just walk through 1-7 with light explanation\***

## TABERNACLE



We have spoken a lot about the Tabernacle and how it is a heavenly pattern, and each part of it reveals spiritual principles meant to shape the life of God's people.

The **Gates of Praise** is the first step. It is a shifting of focus from yourself and pointing it on God's greatness. It requires a deliberate turning of the heart and mind towards him. Ultimately, the gates of praise teach that the first step into relationship with God begins with worship and gratefulness.

The **bronze altar** is a place where sin dies, not so that you can perpetually carry it around and mourn, but it is where sin is left behind so you can move on in freedom. This process is cyclical, occurring repeatedly throughout a believer's walk with God.

The **bronze laver** represents cleansing and transformation after sacrifice. It is the place where what was dealt with at the altar is washed away, allowing a person to see themselves from God's perspective. This means you would be clean, restored, in fact, as you walked up you would look down into the water to see your reflection backlit by the heavens. Rather than focusing on inadequacy, the laver invites us to recognize our identity as those made to belong in God's presence.

From there you move to **the menorah** that is a representation of His Spirit. It's communicating to us that as we have been renewed in his image, his spirit will empower you to do his work. He has not only saved you, he has not only cleansed you, he is now empowering you and desires for you to know his will and be able to accomplish it on the earth.

The **table of showbread** represents the Word of God being received and embodied. It is not just for study but for transformation, so that you can live and display God's word in your daily life.

The **altar of incense** represents your ongoing prayer and close fellowship with God. As we talked about on Wednesday night it is positioned right near the veil, it symbolizes prayers rising continually and filling the throne and reflects your partnership with the Father, praying in alignment with His will and acting as one who speaks and intercedes on His behalf.

This brings you finally to the **ark of the covenant** which represents the very throne and presence of God. It reminds us that the tabernacle was not merely a structure but a divine blueprint meant to shape your life as a living tabernacle. Though outwardly and unimpressive, it contains a heavenly design.

All of this was not contrived by man but was the result of an exact pattern that came from heaven:

## ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN

Exodus 25:9 (NIVUK84)

9 Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings **exactly like the pattern** I will show you.

Exodus 25:40 (NIVUK84)

40 See that you make them **according to the pattern** shown you on the mountain.

Exodus 26:30 (NIVUK84)

30 "Set up the tabernacle **according to the plan** shown you on the mountain.

Exodus 27:8 (NIVUK84)

8 Make the altar hollow, out of boards. It is to be made **just as you were shown** on the mountain.

Where is Moses' opinion as the leader in these plans?

Where is Bezalel's expertise taken into consideration?

It's not, He's not asking for you to interject your way into this process, but for you to build exactly according to the pattern that existed long before you got here and that will outlast all of the world creations.

# ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN

Numbers 8:4 (NIVUK84)

4 This is how the lampstand was made: It was made of hammered gold from its base to its blossoms. The lampstand was made **exactly like the pattern** the Lord had shown Moses.

Hebrews 8:5 (NIVUK84)

5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything **according to the pattern** shown you on the mountain."

Acts 7:44 (NIVUK84)

44 "Our forefathers had the tabernacle of the Testimony with them in the desert. It had been made as God directed Moses, **according to the pattern** he had seen.

## Discuss men who built according to the pattern:

- o Moses
- o David
- o Peter and Paul

All of these men looked into the heavens, saw a heavenly pattern, and brought it down to earth.

For David, you learned last week the pattern that he was building into men at the Cave of Adullam.

Peter and Paul built the heavenly pattern into their disciples as well.

All of these were ordinary vessels of no particular beauty or majesty beyond what is common to man. If you ran into them on the street, they would look as common

as anyone else. However, they underwent a process that produced something of divine value in them.

Discipleship is that process. Discipleship won't change your outward appearance... but it will hammer into you that which is heavenly, that which is divine.

Just like God did not use a pyro-technic display in the sky.. He used inconspicuous materials to display a powerful message inside—we are that material. Something rough on the outside that requires a process and development by a skilled builder who knows the value of what's inside.

Do you know what most of the structure if the tabernacle was made of?

### Tabernacle part 3 Video

Engage with:

- *"unroot it from the earth, they didn't just use whats above ground, they had to use what was deeply rooted in the ground" (2:40)*
  - Just like the acacia we have to be uprooted from the earth to be useful, what is actually usable is only found once you go beyond the exterior. 1 Sam 16:7. God is never intimidated or impressed with outward appearance, its always about the heart, what is underneath
- *"working divinity into you, it was hammered gold" (3:36)*
  - For you to represent him it doesn't take an easy/gentle process. You must be hammered by the master craftsmen but the result is gold.

# ACACIA TREE

---

- Like A/C in the desert
- Roots embed on rocks
- Umbrella shape
- Germinated through seeds carried in the wind
- Desert thorn bush
- Likely what Moses saw on fire
- Thorns & poisonous bark
- Must be stripped down to be used



# ACACIA TREES

- Desert air conditioners
- Roots embed on rocks
- Umbrella shaped
- Germinate through seeds carried in the wind

- Desert thorn bushes
- Probably what Moses
- Thorns & poisonous b
- Must be stripped down used

Unlikely turned to ordinary

Let's show you some pictures;



Thorns



Next slide:



The acacia tree is a surprising choice for something as sacred as the tabernacle, especially the ark, because its bark was known to be bitter and even poisonous. In many places, animals that grazed on it became sick, and people treated it with caution. Yet this very tree—a tree that is thorny, harsh, and even dangerous—was chosen to provide the wood for the focal point of God’s dwelling place. Something that appears outwardly unsuitable by human standards is shaped and formed to be of use for the Divine.

Ark conclusion:

The thing that most represented God on earth was made of acacia wood, stripped, and overlaid with hammered gold. Even the ark is made of hammered gold! This is what is happening to us

# Ark Of The Covenant



What you're looking at is an artist rendition of the ark that is the representation of God's throne on earth, but underneath the golden exterior... it was made from that acacia tree.

His presence, his divine power was something that he wanted constructed from Acacia. It had to be dug out of the earth—It had to be uprooted from rocks that it wanted to hold on to fight—it needed thorns to be stripped away and the poisonous exterior just to get something that could begin to be worked with.

Many of you in your individual homes have used furniture, trim, or décor of some sort to cover imperfections in the home. The ark wasn't like that. No, it was hammered. We're not obscuring the tree. We're placing what represents divinity on the tree and striking it and striking it until it is driven into the tree.

Are you starting to get a feel for what God is doing with you?

The entire point of this representation is this: God wanted you to understand that HE who is in the heavens can in fact dwell on the earth! BUT the way that he wants to do it is with those ordinary, poisonous, stubborn trees that he can make into something divine.

This is God's process of bringing his image to earth and this was the first way that he wanted it to be known. You were always intended to be a tabernacle and an Ark of God.

You can't get to that without going through the process

If you take this cover off, do you remember what is inside?

- Aaron's staff. It is a dead tree that produced supernatural life even though it was dead
- It was the Word of God written on tablets of stone
- And it was the miraculous bread from heaven that came down to feed the people

These things represent what it takes for the heavenly pattern to be on earth through a divine merger. The way those things are invested in you is the process of discipleship. This is the process it takes to learn to rely on God who brings out of dead situations—supernatural life. You are learning to live your life by the instruction that he gave from heaven. You are learning to rely on supernatural sustenance by the Word of God he gives you daily.

This is what it is to be discipled and that's why it's not a six week course. It's a process that keeps repeating. And, the end result of that process can only be seen if you can get past the unimpressive outward structure. The life of following Christ may appear uninviting at first, it takes drawing close and seeing Divinity that is wrapped in the ordinary to be fully transformed from something ordinary into something divine.

-----

o **1 Peter 1:6–9 (ESV)**

6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your

faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

o **2 Corinthians 4:16–5:1 (ESV)**

16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. 1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

What thorn needs to be removed in you? Example: "I'm not good enough"

I know about all those things...it is not catching me by surprise. He is the master builder very aware of the materials that He is using to build as He is shaping and forming.

Your obedience in this process will make you into a king.

Stop using your thorns as an excuse.

Quote from exodus 25 foundations:

Moreover, this points to another layer in God's redemptive pattern for Israel. In the future, an Israelite would walk this same path...but in reverse. Rather than being raised from humility to glory, He would be clothed in gold yet willingly stripped of His divinity, exchanging a crown of honor for a crown of thorns.

This is quite literally what happened to Israel's messiah. He was stripped of all majesty and glory and humbled himself to the point of becoming a

man so that he could wear a crown of thorns in order for his people to be overlaid with Gold.

- o **James 1:2–4 (ESV)**

Testing of Your Faith

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

This message today should further instruct us on why these difficulties are present in our lives.

Every time you're in a situation where a thorn is being taken off of you being removed from you, every time you're in a situation where the outer bark is being stripped off of you to get to the divine that's inside, every time you're in a situation when you feel like you are being hammered and it hurts a little bit, you now understand a little bit more about why you're going through those kinds of trials in your life.

Because when you meet trials of various kinds, you know that the testing of your faith is producing steadfastness in you. It's producing endurance in you. It's producing divinity in you, its hammering GOLD into you.

And let steadfastness have its full effect that you may be perfect and complete.

The result? It says that we will be perfect, complete and lacking in nothing. The process that you're going through is for a reason. The heavenly pattern that you are engaging with is for a reason. Church, what the Lord is doing inside of you is going to literally change the world around you.

It's not just going to stop in this building, and it's not just going to stop in the city. It's going to change the world in the same way that it did with Moses, with David, with their disciples, with Peter, with Paul, with all the men that came before us. It's going to change the world. Your God wants to use you to affect divine change and the souls around you, and he's going to accomplish it, and there's a pattern that he's using to accomplish it.

Consider for a moment this church building. It is unimpressive from the outside, mismatched paint, potholes. Nothing that would promote us to the public based on outward appearance. There is no social media campaign or fancy sign to attract visitors.

But what about what is on the inside? What is happening is world class Biblical study...life-changing discipleship...Spirit and Word centered worship...lives being hammered with Gold and useful for the Kingdom.

Close:

## Encountering Israel: Deepening Convictions

### 1. Gihon — Awakening

God initiated salvation; His life begins to flow through the man of God, and the heart of man is opened.

### 2. Hermon — Confrontation

The enemy resists, identity is contested, and through this process, conviction is forged.

### 3. Kidron — Decision

Daily choices shape destiny, and salvation becomes, not just a moment, but a path both lived and walked upon.

### 4. Valley of Kings — Pressing

God refines through pressure; obedience is perfected, and anointing is produced.

### 5. Adullam — Formation

Seasons of hidden obscurity develop kings—disciples become leaders, and what was just a calling becomes ingrained character.

### 6. Tabernacle — Assembly

The dwelling of God is built with unlikely materials that are stripped down and covered with hammered gold.