

# God Tabernacled with His People

Exodus 25: 1-9

Exodus 40:1-34

Hebrews 8:1-5; 9:11-15



## Pursuing our Goals - Pressing Forward Together into 2023

- Discipleship - Are you **DELIGHTING** in the LORD? (Psalms 1; 37:4; 119:35; Nehemiah 1:11;)
- Catechism and Scripture Memorization

## God's Eternal Purpose

From all eternity God purposed to gather to Himself a special people from every nation, tribe, peoples and tongue, re-created in His image, purchased by the blood of His own Son, **who would treasure, glorify, praise, worship and enjoy Him for His infinite worth and beauty for all eternity for His own glory and their good and pleasure.**

## Review: The Glorious Gospel So Far

- God's **UNCONDITIONAL PROMISES** to Abraham, Jacob and Moses
- God keeps His promises: multiplied His people, brought them out of the "house of bondage", judged Pharaoh and Egypt and provided a guide to lead them to the land He had promised (Genesis 15:13-16; Exodus 3:6-8).
- He demonstrated His great power both in Egypt and at the Red Sea.
- He demonstrated His power and majesty in the cloud (Exo 13:21-22).
- He demonstrated His mercy, love and power in feeding them with fresh manna and water daily - ca. 2 million people (Exodus 16-17).
- God enters into a **conditional covenant** with His people (Exodus 19:5).
- And the people said, "Whatever you say we will do." (Exodus 19:8).
- God has laws, commandments and demands; which all men everywhere are obligated to **obey and repent** (Exodus 19-20; Acts 17:30-31).
- The Need for a **MEDIATOR** - The people asked that Moses be their mediator between them and God! (Exodus 20:18-21).
- All of this was a small picture of the Glorious Gospel of God.
- All of these events are recorded for our learning. Are we learning? Have we learnt? **MEDITATE!** (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:1-12).

## Why Study the Tabernacle?

- It is in the Scriptures. More than 50 chapters of Scripture are devoted to it. 13 are in Exodus (chs. 25-31; 35-40); 18 in Leviticus (chs.1-10; 16-17; 21-25; 27); 13 in Numbers (chs.1-9; 16-19), 3 in Deuteronomy (chs.16-18) and it is central to 8 in Hebrews (chs. 3-10).
- The **layout and furnishings teach the plan of salvation**. The Tabernacle with all its furnishing is an elaborate picture of the person and work of Jesus - See handout: How to get to God.
  - ① The Brazen Altar.
  - ② The Laver.
  - ③ The Lampstand.
  - ④ The Table of Shewbread.
  - ⑤ The Golden Altar.
  - ⑥ The Ark of the Covenant.
  - ⑦ The Mercy Seat.
- It shows us that God never changes - the Eternal God.
- The **materials and colours** teach us how particular God is in how we are to worship Him and come before Him (Exodus 29:42).
- It enhances our understanding of the New Testament and is a picture of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.
- Every aspect of the Tabernacle points to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (John 1:14; Revelation 21:3)
- Scripture records at least 5 names of the Tabernacle:
  - ① Sanctuary - Exodus 25:8
  - ② The Tabernacle - Exodus 25:9
  - ③ Tent of meeting - Exodus 40:24
  - ④ Tabernacle of the Meeting - Exodus 29:42
  - ⑤ Tabernacle of the Testimony - Exodus 38:21
- Once it was completed, it was **perfect: no addition or alteration was needed**. It was done **exactly** as God commanded. God did not leave anything for Moses to imagine. Meditate!

## The Offering for the Tabernacle Materials

- God commanded Moses to take an offering. The offering was for the building of the Tabernacle - Remember Ex 12:35-36; Gen 15:4
- Whatever God gives us, we must be ready to give back for His purposes.
- Although it was a tent, its furnishings were of the best materials, as is fitting for that structure which was to house God's glory.
- The plans for the Tabernacle came from God while the materials came from the people, through God's provision.
- God gave skills and equipped the people. A picture of God preparing a body for Christ when He was manifested in the flesh - God's plan and eternal purpose (Exodus 31:1-6; 1 John 3:8; 1 Timothy 3:16).

## The Purpose and Pattern of the Tabernacle

- It was unique because it was built according to revelation. Moses received instructions from the Lord while at Mt. Sinai (Exo 25.1-40). He was also shown a pattern of the divine plan (Exo 25:9; 40).
- The pattern of the Tabernacle was according to the heavenly one. It was a copy and shadow of the heavenly things (Hebrews 8:5).
- God revealed His **desire** to dwell in the midst of **His people** (Exo 25:8).
  - Revealed in the **plan** for the Tabernacle. God Himself gave the plans for the Tabernacle. God is setting forth for the people the terms under which He will come and dwell in their midst.
  - Exodus 25-27 reveals the plan for the Tabernacle; Exodus 36-38 is the performance of that plan with 100% compliance. The Tabernacle had to be built in **God's way** by **His people** (Isaiah 55:8,9).
  - Revealed in the **placement** of the tabernacle. When the Tabernacle was finally completed, the twelve tribes of Israel were arranged in such a way that the Tabernacle stood exactly in the midst of the tribes. From Genesis 3 (separation from God due to sin) to Exodus 25, there had been no plan whereby humanity could have God in their midst. God is now revealing in a special way that it is His plan and **His desire to dwell** in the midst of His people.
  - The purpose of His dwelling in the midst of His people was to tabernacle (**fellowship**) with His people - Lord, Owner, Master.
- God reveals His **grace** in providing a way for sinful man to approach Him. See handout: How to get to God.
  - The **Holy God** takes the **initiative**. The Tabernacle stood in the midst of the people as a reminder that their God had taken the initiative in coming to them. Meditate! (John 6:44).
  - God is approachable based on offerings and sacrifice. The Tabernacle is an eternal reminder that "without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin." In addition, without the shedding of blood, there is no approach to God (Hebrews 9:22).
- God reveals his plan for **redemption** through the Son.
  - The **person of the Saviour** is presented (John 1:14).
  - The **work of the Saviour** is presented. Seen in all of the **furniture** of the Tabernacle (Hebrews 8:2; 9:11-14).
- God prepares for **His dwelling in the Church**.
  - The Church is the **gathering together of His people**. Understanding the Tabernacle in the wilderness will deepen our appreciation of the indwelling of God in His Church in our day. God promises to be with His people.

- The individual believer is also **the sanctuary of God**. The body of the believer is a sanctuary of God - His dwelling place. God inhabits a holy place (Romans 12:1-3; 1 Cor 6:19).

### **Are We in AWE of the Glorious Gospel and Have We Learnt?**

- God's **desire is to tabernacle (dwell)** with His people (John 1:14; Revelation 21:3).
- God is specific about how we are to **approach, worship** and **serve** Him - the way He has revealed in His word (Deuteronomy 29:29).
- Be in **AWE** and give thanks to God for making a way for us sinners to approach and get to Him (Exodus 25:8; Hebrews 10:19-22).
- God is **HOLY** and calls us to be holy (Exodus 26:33; 1 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:14).
- Salvation is only through Jesus - the **ONLY MEDIATOR** between a **HOLY** God and sinners (1 Timothy 2:5; Deuteronomy 18:18-19).
- We are to give to God **readily, willingly** and **cheerfully**. It renews our trust in Him as our source and supply (2 Corinthians 9:7).