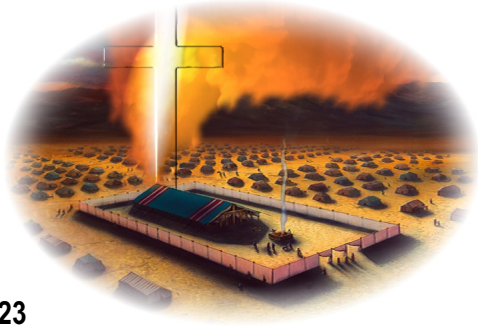


Approaching GOD

Exodus 40

John 14:1-6

Revelation 21



27 August 2023

Pressing Forward into 2023

God's Eternal Purpose

Overview of Our Tabernacle Series

- God's desire to FELLOWSHIP with His people.
 - Connect God's Eternal Purpose with the Tabernacle.
- God designed the plan/the Way for He and sinful man can have fellowship.
- Fellowship with God is ONLY through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Walk through the Tabernacle:
 - Details, Details, Details - God's Way NOT Your Way.
 - The Outer Court (Matthew 11:28-30)
 - The Gate (John 10:7-9; 14:6; Acts 4:12)
 - The Brazen Altar of Sacrifice (Isaiah 53; John 10:18)
 - ➔ Innocent Perfect Sacrifice - NOTHING LESS. (1 Peter 1:18-20)
 - ➔ God provides Himself the Lamb. (Genesis 22:8; John 1:29,36)
 - The Laver (John 13:8; 1 John 1:8-9; 2 Corinthians 7:1)
 - The Holy Place (John 14:6)
 - The Table of Shewbread (John 6:31-58)
 - The Golden Altar of Incense (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34)
 - The Golden Lampstand (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14-16; John 1:1, 14; Psalm 119:105; 18:28; Proverbs 6:23; John 15:1-10; **Romans 12:4-5**)
 - The Veil (Hebrews 10:19-20; Matthew 27:51)
 - The Holy of Holies/Most Holy Place (Revelation 21:1-3)
 - The Shekinah Glory of God. (John 1:1, 14; Matt 17:1-5; Heb 1:3)
 - The Ark (Psalm 40:8; Hebrews 10:7)
 - The Mercy Seat (**Psalm 85:10**; Proverbs 16:6)

God Commands/Man Obeys (Exodus 39-40)

- In chapter 39 the work of the Tabernacle is finished.
 - ★ Ten times the Spirit records "as the Lord commanded".

- ★ “as the Lord commanded” - down to the minute detail. All of the furniture, pins, loops, pillars, cords, pegs, screens, hangings, sockets, tachs, utensils was constructed just as the LORD had commanded.
- (Exodus 39:33, 43) They brought the Tabernacle to Moses - the “typical mediator” and it had to pass his inspection. **MEDITATE** on 2 Corinthians 5:10. Verse 43, “And Moses blessed them.”
- (Exodus 40:1-17) God commands, “You shall . . .” in assembling the Tabernacle.
- SO Moses raised up the Tabernacle and he . . . (Exodus 40:16-33)
 - ★ Eight times in this section the Spirit recorded “as the LORD commanded”.
- God is to be obeyed because He is the Creator.
- Those who LOVE and FEAR Christ OBEY Him. (John 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 2:3-4)
- Those who do not love Christ do not keep His Word. (John 14:24)
- Those who DO the will/command/Law of God are promised Heaven. (Matthew 7:21-23, 24-29)
- **To ignore, disobey, twist, pervert the Word of God is to despise God Himself.** (2 Samuel 12:9-10)
- If there is no OBEDIENCE to the **written** Word of God there is no faith. (James 1:22; 2:14-26; 1 John 2:3-5; John 14:24; **Hebrews 5:9**)

THEN the Glory of the LORD Filled the Tabernacle (Exodus 40:34)

- Here is the example of John 14:23 - “If anyone loves Me, he **will** keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and WE will come to him and make Our home with him.”
 - When all was done “as the LORD commanded” God came to dwell with His people.
- This is recorded for our learning. If we desire God’s presence then we must do things exactly as He commands. **ONLY the written Word of God.**
- Tradition and culture (“the world”) have no place in doing the work of God.

“I AM the Way” - Exposition of John 14:6

- The “I AM’s” in John – see handout.
- **“the”** - definite article. If Christ is **the** Way there is no other way! If Christ is **the** Truth there is no other truth. If Christ is **the** Life there is no other life!
- **“no one”** - this is an absolute negative
- **“comes”** - to come means one must leave somewhere to come to Christ. One must leave the world!
 - One comes to God for fellowship. It was FELLOWSHIP with God that was lost in the Garden of Eden. Sin separates us from GOD! (Isaiah 59:2; Micah 3:4)

- “except” - **ONLY ONE EXCEPTION** - through Christ. (Acts 4:12)

Coming to Christ - Exposition of John 6:44

- **First**, Jesus says, “**NO ONE** can come to Me.” **Universal Negative**
- **Second**, Jesus say, “No man **CAN** come to Me.” **Inability**
 - God is ACTIVE. Man is PASSIVE.
 - The verb is in the SUBJUNCTIVE mood – possibility – “except” is the key word.
 - Man has NO ability/NO strength (Romans 5:6)
 - Man is in bondage to sin, Satan, self, world. HE IS NOT FREE! (Ephesians 2:1-3)
 - Man is blind. (2 Corinthians 3:14; 4:4; 1 John 2:11; John 3:3)
 - Man’s understanding is darkened (1 Cor 2:14; Ephesians 4:18)
- ★ It is not in man to come to Jesus Christ, because at the fall:
 - ① Man’s **heart** (emotions) was estranged from God. He loves the world and not God. (1 John 2:15-17; Ephesians 2:1-3; James 4:4; Luke 16:13)
 - ② Man’s **understanding** (mind) was darkened. (Eph 4:18; 1 Cor 2:14)
 - ③ Man’s **will** was *enslaved* to sin. (Romans 6:16-20; Eph 2:2-3; John 8:34)
 - Man is DEAD in his sin. (Ephesians 2:1, 5)
 - Jesus Christ taught that it is IMPOSSIBLE for anyone to do anything to save themselves! (Matthew 19:25-26)
- ★ Christ taught that it is **IMPOSSIBLE** for man to do ANYTHING to save himself. (Matthew 19:26)
- ★ To say that man has the *power* within himself to accept Christ, is to *repudiate* the fact that he is a captive of the Devil, and to say that there is *at least one good thing* in the flesh. (Romans 7:18)
- ★ **Man’s only hope lies outside of himself, in Divine help.**
- **Third**, Jesus says, “. . . except the Father **DRAW** him.”
 - This NOT “wooing” - it is God’s “exceeding great mighty power”. (Ephesians 1:18-20)
 - John uses this word in John 18:10; 21:6, 11
 - NT usage: James 2:6; Acts 16:19; 21:30
 - OT usage: Judges 4:7; Hosea 11:4; Jeremiah 31:3
 - ★ Psalm 65:4 - God chooses and causes those who will approach Him.
 - ★ ALL Greek usages signify RESISTANCE to the POWER drawing **and** triumph of the drawing power.
- **What, then, is this “drawing”?**
 - It is the *power* of the Holy Spirit overcoming self-righteousness.
 - It is the *power* of the Holy Spirit overcoming self-centeredness.
 - It is the *power* of the Holy Spirit convincing the sinner of his absolute lost condition.
 - It is the Holy Spirit *awakening* him to a sense of real need.

- ▶ It is the *power* of the Holy Spirit that causes the sinner to come to Christ as an empty-handed beggar.
- ▶ It is the Holy Spirit *creating* within the sinner a hunger for the bread of life.

BUT GOD . . . (Ephesians 2:1-10)

- **BUT GOD** overcame ALL the obstacles between Himself and His people through the work of His eternal purpose that He is accomplishing through His Son. (Ephesians 3:10-12)
- **BUT GOD** provided the WAY - the Gate. (John 10:7-9)
- **BUT GOD** provided the INNOCENT SUBSTITUTE to die in our place. (1 John 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- **BUT GOD** promised forgiveness and cleansing. (Revelation 1:5; John 13:8-10; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 1 John 1:7)
- **BUT GOD** provide HIS "Bread from heaven". (John 6:31-58)
- **BUT GOD** provide an Advocate (1 John 2:1-2) and an INTERCESSOR for His people (Roman 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)
- **BUT GOD** called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9; John 8:12; 1 John 1:6-7)
- **BUT GOD** provided His Son to pay the price for us and when Christ died the veil was torn open (Hebrews 10:19-20).
- **BUT GOD** provide mercy with no expense to truth through Christ. (John 1:1, 14; Psalm 85:10)
- **BUT GOD** used the "exceedingly greatness of His power . . . working His mighty power" to save even one of His special people. (Ephesians 1:18-20)
- **BUT GOD** made fellowship with Him a reality once again.

THEREFORE . . .

- ★ **LET US** enter in the Holiest for fellowship. (Hebrews 10:19-21)
- ★ **LET US** draw near for worship (Hebrews 10:22; 1 Peter 2:9)
- ★ **LET US** hold fast to our confession without wavering. (Hebrews 10:23; **Luke 8:15**; Matthew 13:23)
- ★ **LET US** consider one another in order to stir up love and good works. LET LOVE AND WORK.(Hebrews 10:25)
- ★ **LET US** not forsake the assembly of ourselves and so much the more as we see the Day approaching! (Hebrews 10:25)