

Tabernacle: God With Us

Overview of the Tabernacle

Exodus 25-31, 35-40

What is a Tabernacle? A temporary and portable dwelling place. A tent.

1. The Condition of the Israelites

- Idolators (Lev. 17:7, Deut. 32:17, Acts 7:42-43): they were under God's wrath against idolatry.
- Slaves (Exodus 1): Their lives were miserable and they were not free to worship God.

Idolatry:

- Trusting in or relying on visible, created things instead of the invisible Creator-God.
- Giving affections that rightfully belong to God to someone or something else. To treasure, value, or revere above God.

2. What God did for the Israelites

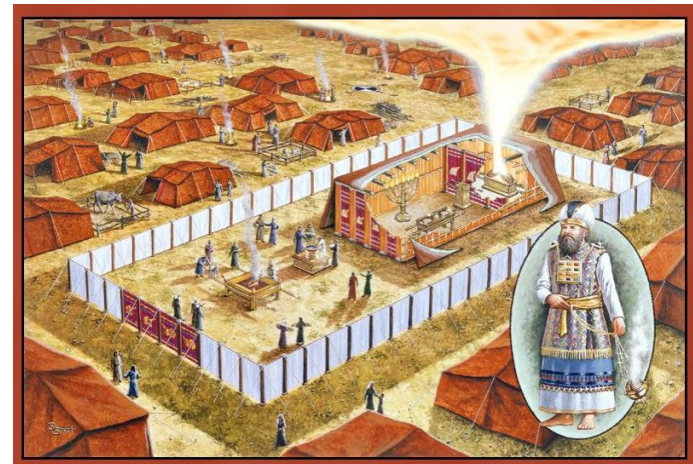
- Redeemed them by the blood of the Passover lamb. (Ex. 12)
- Gave them the treasures of the Egyptians. (Ex. 12:35-36)
- Freed and Separated them from old life in Egypt at the Red Sea. (Ex. 14)
- Led them to Mt. Sinai by a visible cloud of His presence.
- Made a suzerain-vassal treaty with them at Mt. Sinai. (Ex. 20)

3. God is a Great King

- Gold and jewels and incense are brought to Him. (25:1-7)
- Royal colors. (25:4)
- He gave the pattern for the Tabernacle. (25:9)
- Outer courtyard, Royal Courtyard, Throne Room.
- Royal attendants. 28:1-43 and Numbers 4. Kohath, Gerson, Merari.
- Most skilled craftsmen. 31:1-11, 35:10

4. God is a Holy God

- “I have seen these people and they are a stiff-necked people, now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them.” 32:9
- “I will send an angel before you...but I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way.” 33: 2,3
- “You cannot see my face and live.” 33: 18-20
- Outer Curtain 7-1/2 ft. tall: “Stay out!”
- Three curtains: Holy, Holy, Holy



God, the Most Holy, Great King, redeems His people, and then chooses to humble Himself and live in a tent in order to be in the very midst of His people, experiencing all they experience.!

5. God Lives in a Humble Tent—Just Like His People

- “Have them make a sanctuary for Me and I will dwell among them.” 25:8
- Extra wide entrance: “Come!” 27:16
- Curtains on the outside: nothing special. 26:14



JESUS is the fulfillment of the Tabernacle

- He was God that came down to live among His people.

*“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him ‘Immanuel’—which means, ‘God with us.’”
Matthew 1:23*

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God...The Word became flesh and dwelt (‘tabernacled’) among us.” John 1:1,14

- John 2—“Destroy this Temple...” He was referring to His body. The Holy of Holies. His body was the “tent” over the very presence of God.

Questions to think about:

- Have I worshipped God above everything else in my life and relied on Him for everything?
- Who or what have I valued more than God and His ways?
- Have I been redeemed?
- How?
- For what purpose?
- Why would God want to be with me?
- In the life of Jesus, what things highlighted that He is a great King? That He is holy? That He humbled Himself to be with us?

Meditate on these verses:

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Phil 2:3-8

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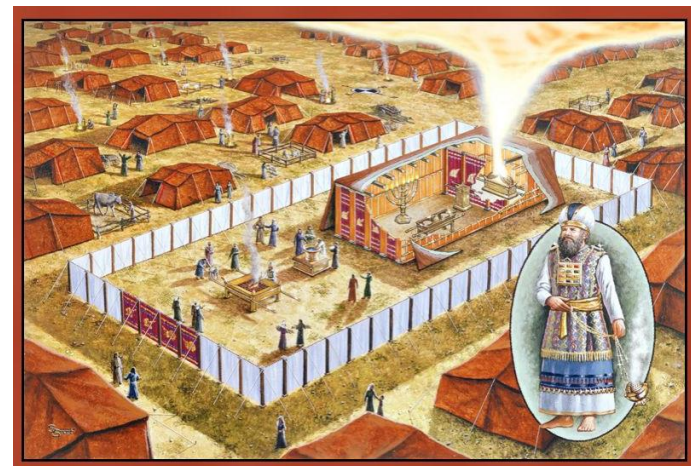
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