

The Tabernacle: God's Blueprint for Relationship, Part 1

The Tabernacle is incredibly important in our study of the Bible. There are only 2 chapters about creation in the Bible, but there are 42 chapters about the tabernacle plan!

The entire purpose of the Tabernacle was so that a holy God could have a relationship with sinful people. But this relationship would only function properly if the people put the tent together right; if they did, then God promised that He would show up with His power and provision!

Exodus 25:8-9 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may **dwelt** among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the **pattern** of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

Throughout Scripture, there are **four major dwelling places** of God:

1. The Tabernacle of Moses (later, the Temple of Solomon)

- Tabernacle temporary, Temple permanent
- Same floor plan

2. The Incarnation

John 1:1, 14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt ("**tabernacled**") among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 8:1-2 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of **the true tabernacle**, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

Hebrews 10:4-5 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but **a body hast thou prepared me:**

3. The Church

2 Corinthians 6:16-17 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the **temple** of the living God; as God hath said, I will **dwelt in them**, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

4. Eternity

Revelation 21:2-4 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men**, and **he will dwell with them**, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

The Tabernacle was God's **ORIGINAL BLUEPRINT** for relationship, and it foreshadows everything else that comes later in the Word of God. In other words, our relationship with God must follow the **same pattern!**

The purpose of our study is not to get bogged down in the details of the Tabernacle's construction, even though there is great beauty there; our purpose is to understand the major PRINCIPLES of God's BLUEPRINT. In weeks to come, we're going to look at each of the individual parts of the Tabernacle, but today we want to take a bird's eye view ...

THE CROSS IN THE TABERNACLE

VERTICAL - God's Plan of SALVATION			
Brazen Altar	Blood	Death	Repentance
Brazen Laver	Water	Burial	Baptism
Ark of the Covenant	Spirit	Resurrection	Holy Ghost
HORIZONTAL - God's Plan of SANCTIFICATION			
Golden Candlestick	Witness	Light of World	Light in the World
Altar of Incense	Prayer	Intercessor	Thy Kingdom Come
Table of Shewbread	Word	Bread of Life	Word in Heart

Curtains:

- Badger Skins – humanity / "no beauty that we should desire him"
- Rams' Skins Dyed Red – sacrificial blood
- Curtains of Goats' Hair – sin offering (scapegoat)
- Curtains of Fine Twined Linen – divinity, cherubim embroidered

When we approach God, we must start at the Brazen Altar (repentance) and proceed all the way through to the Holy of Holies (Holy Ghost) – MAN'S APPROACH THROUGH FAITH.

But we can also look at the Tabernacle from God's viewpoint. When God approached us, He started in the Holy of Holies (Heaven) and proceeded to the Brazen Altar (Calvary) – GOD'S APPROACH THROUGH GRACE.

The overriding principle of the entire Tabernacle system was the principle of SACRIFICE.

- In the OT, thousands of animals died to cover sin temporarily.
- In the incarnation, Jesus Christ became the final, perfect sacrifice.
- In the church, we give “sacrifices” to God today as “holy priests.”
- In eternity, Jesus’ sacrifice (and ours) will be honored – Zech. 13:6.

Hebrews 9:8-14 ⁸ The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: ⁹ Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; ¹⁰ Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. ¹¹ But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; ¹² Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. ¹³ For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: ¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

The New Testament takes the terminology of the Old Testament worship and re-interprets it for us to describe a radically new way of worship.

Under the Old Covenant the people brought “the fruit of their fields,” but under the New Covenant we bring “the fruit of our lips” ...

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

(continually - "his praise shall continually be in my mouth" - praise that sounds like a chant - like a crazy person talking to himself!)

Psalm 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Under the Old Covenant the people brought a “whole burnt offering” (a whole animal), but under the New Covenant we offer our “whole life” to God! Not a whole animal to be killed, but a whole life to be lived!

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.