

The Tabernacle: God's Blueprint for Relationship, Part 8

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.

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!

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!**

We started our series with a lesson simply called "**SACRIFICE**" – because all Old Testament Tabernacle worship was based on the fact that something or someone (in this case, an animal) had to die for the sins committed by Israel. This pointed ahead to Jesus' sacrifice.

Next, we dealt with the three components of God's "vertical" plan of **SALVATION – BLOOD, WATER and SPIRIT**. They are pictured in the Brazen Altar, Brazen Laver and the Ark of the Covenant. They pointed ahead specifically to Jesus' death, burial and resurrection ... and they are fulfilled specifically in our obedience through repentance, water baptism, and receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Next, we dealt with the three components of God's "horizontal" plan of **SANCTIFICATION – WITNESS, PRAYER and WORD**. They are pictured in the Golden Candlestick, the Altar of Incense and the Table of Shewbread (all located in the Holy Place) ... and they are fulfilled as I develop these beautiful habits of discipleship in my life.

- **WITNESS** is "me talking to others."
- **PRAYER** is "me talking to God."
- **The WORD** is "God talking to me."

As we finish this series, our final lesson is entitled simply "**ACCESS**" – because it deals with another critical component of Tabernacle worship, the **VEIL** that separated the Holy of Holies (and God's presence) from everything else in the Tabernacle.

A veil is a divider, a cover, or a separation curtain that is used to hide something. In this case, it hid the Shekinah glory of God from the eyes of men, acting as a partition to separate sinful mankind from a holy God.

Exodus 26:33 And thou shalt hang up the **vail** under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall **divide** unto you between the holy place and the most holy.

In the Old Testament there was NO ACCESS into God's presence behind the veil except the High Priest once a year, under penalty of death. But in the New Testament we have ACCESS into the presence of God because the veil was rent when Jesus died on Calvary!

Matthew 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

Mark 15:37-38 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

Luke 23:45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.

Matthew, Mark and Luke record this event but only John records the words Jesus spoke. Maybe it was years later before the church finally realized their significance – **the Old Testament Law was finished!**

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

TELEO – used by artist, writer, servant, priest, merchant in their fields; means "it is finished, it stands finished, and it always will be finished!"

When Jesus died on the cross, He was both priest and sacrifice, both offerer and offering. His sacrifice forever satisfied the demands of the Law, and so the veil of the Temple was rent miraculously from top to bottom to abolish the old system forever. This was not man approaching God under Law any more, it was God approaching man under Grace!

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have **access** by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:18-19 For through him we both have **access** by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Ephesians 3:12 In whom we have **boldness and access with confidence** by the faith of him.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great **high priest**, that is **passed into the heavens**, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an **high priest** which cannot be **touched** with the feeling of our **infirmities**; but was in all points **tempted** like as we are, **yet without sin**. Let us therefore **come boldly unto the throne of grace**, that we may **obtain mercy**, and **find grace** to help in time of need.

Much more than a curtain was rent that day! What happened in the Temple was just a symbolic act, declaring to Israel what God had done in the body of Jesus Christ as He died on the cross. His flesh was the real rent veil, opening up the way for us into the very presence of God.

Hebrews 10:19-20 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By **a new and living way**, which he hath consecrated for us, **through the veil, that is to say, his flesh**;

When mankind fell into sin in Eden, we **LOST THE WAY**. But Jesus came to declare that He **IS THE WAY**. And now through His blood He has opened up **A NEW WAY** for us to have a relationship with Him.

Hebrews 6:19-20 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that **within the veil**; Whither the **forerunner** is for us entered, even Jesus, made an **high priest** for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

**A forerunner implies that there will be runners following after Him!
Jesus has made a way for us to follow into God's presence!**

The way is open – go behind the veil!