

IMMERSE: BEGINNINGS

Week 5 - EXODUS – Grace in the Midst of Judgment – Pt. 1

July 11, 2021

In Exodus, we continue to see God's grace upfront and personal...in the midst of His judgment. We are going to discuss the tabernacle in the book of Exodus. WHY?

- God created the entire universe in six days. God instructed Moses re: the construction of the tabernacle during Moses' time with God on Mt. Sinai – two periods of 40 days/40 nights (Ex. 24:18; Ex. 34:28).
- In approx. 60 chapters in the Bible we read about the tabernacle. Creation – 32 or 58 Bible verses.
- The glory of God in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night filled the tabernacle (Ex. 40:34).
- God desired that the children of Israel approach Him. God provided that approach through the tabernacle at this time in His plan of redemption.
- The tabernacle in the wilderness speaks of God's design of redemption. The tabernacle points to the Messiah Jesus (Lk. 24:27).

WAS THE TABERNACLE SIGNIFICANT?

In our study of the tabernacle, we need to focus on God's desire to dwell with His people. This is a recurring theme: Ex. 25:8 – *And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.* The Hebrew word for tabernacle is *mishchan* – a dwelling place. In our studies since Genesis, we have been understanding God's heart – His desire to have a relationship with mankind and with Israel as a nation (Dt. 5:29 - *Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!*)

Moses did not design the tabernacle and then invite God to dwell in it. It was God Who designed His dwelling place on earth and invited His people to approach Him.

There is an issue/a challenge re: God dwelling with man. It's NOT an issue for God. What question might we have re: God dwelling with man? How can sinful man approach our holy God?

GOD PROVIDED THE WAY TO APPROACH HIM!

A SACRIFICE

Sacrifice began on earth in the early chapters of Genesis. The value/the significance of sacrifice was tied to the coats/tunics of skin God provided for Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:21). The animal skin is not immediately understood. We know from this point in God's revelation that He covered their shame in a way that involved death – the death of the animal that provided coats/tunics of skin. Blood was shed.

Cain and Abel sacrificed to God, bringing differing sacrifices. Cain's sacrifice wasn't acceptable, and he didn't come with the right heart attitude. Abel's was acceptable and he had the right heart attitude (Gen. 4:3-5; Heb. 11:4).

Sacrifices were offered by Noah (Gen. 8:20), Abraham (Gen. 12:7-8; 13:4, 18; 22:13), Isaac (Gen. 26:25), Jacob (Gen. 31:54; 33:20; 35:1-7; 46:1), and Job (1:5; 42:8). In Exodus and Leviticus the theme explodes. God delivered Israel from Egypt by sacrifices, through the blood of the Passover lambs (Ex. 12). This narrative re: the

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sacrifices was laid out immediately following sin entering the world to answer the question re: how a holy God can live in the midst of a sinful people. The sacrificial system was given to answer this problem. The basis of the sacrificial system...

Lev. 17:11 - *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement (to make a covering) for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement (a covering) for the soul.'*

Consider: the central theme of the Book of Exodus is redemption by blood! The Jewish people were delivered from bondage to slavery in Egypt by the blood of the Passover lambs! In the tabernacle the children of Israel had access to GOD by the blood. The tabernacle depicts grace in the midst of the 613 commandments that God gave to the children of Israel at Mt. Sinai. God gave the children of Israel the sacrificial system.

The sacrificial system was designed to cover sin/ATONE for sin until it was finally paid for – taken away (Psa. 103:12; Jer. 31:31; John 1:29).

Within the sacrificial system the animal had to be spotless (Deut. 15:21 – not lame, blind, no serious defects). And, the person offering the sacrifice had to identify with the animal in that the person had to realize the reason for the sacrifice. They had to realize their sin! AND, they realized that something had to die in their place for their sin.

“Atonement” covers rather than removes sin. Sacrifices were offered in the morning and in the evening...every day. WHY?

Heb. 10:1-4 - *For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices (animal sacrifices), which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. ³ But in those sacrifices (offered in the tabernacle and in the Temple) there is a reminder of sins every year. (Yom Kippur is being referenced. And, if*

sacrifices were offered daily – there was the continual reminder of sin for approx...1500 years) ⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

God created a shelter of sacrificial blood to protect from God's wrath – when offered with a transformed heart. Consider King David's words inspired by God...

Psa. 51:16-17 - *You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering.* ¹⁷ *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart –these, O God, You will not despise.* The offering of sacrifices commanded by God without a transformed/repentant heart was of no avail! God tells us in Isa. 66:2 - *But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.*

An individual person offering the spotless animal sacrifice (following God's commandment) – with a repentant heart could experience a temporary covering of sin – freedom from guilt for a time...and then they were reminded of their guilt at the time of the next sacrifice!

How could OT people have a relationship with God if they weren't "made perfect"?

Rom. 3:24-25 – *we are freely justified by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,* ²⁵ *whom God set forth as a propitiation(satisfaction) by His blood, through*

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faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance (patience) God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, (His judgment was delayed until payment for sin was offered through Jesus). This is referring to OT saints: who trusted in God's promises re: the Messiah.

Re: OT people who did come to faith in the promised Messiah...

Heb. 11:13-16, 39-40 - *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.* ¹⁴ *For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.* ¹⁵ *And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.* ¹⁶ *But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not*

ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. ... ³⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰ God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

When the Messiah came, He accomplished fully and finally through the sacrifice of Himself what the OT sacrifices accomplished temporarily.