

## THE GLORY OF GOD

Week 10 - God Tabernacling With Us...For His Glory!

November 12, 2024

The Feast of Tabernacles in Scripture is also called the Feast of Booths (Lev. 23:34, 42-43). The children of Israel were told to construct booths – temporary shelters (Lev. 23:40; Neh. 8:15). It was also called THE Feast (Lev. 23:39; John 7:2, 37). This feast great significance; it is the last of the feasts on the Jewish calendar in a given year; it is the 7<sup>th</sup> feast. And, it is also called The Feast of INGATHERING!! (Ex. 23:16).

The Feast of Ingathering – ingathering from the last harvest. The Feast of Ingathering will be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom when God will use the Jewish people to evangelize the Gentiles which God had initially chosen them to do. Zech. 8:23 – Setting: Millennial Kingdom - *Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'* (READ Deut. 16:13-14; commands re: the Feast of Tabernacles)

The Jews were to be the instrument of blessing for the WORLD (Gen. 12:3; Gen. 18:18).

In Scripture we read that God gave the Jewish people the Feast of Tabernacles to reflect on God dwelling with them, to thank Him for His provision, to share it with “strangers” (to share the one true God of Israel w/ Gentiles), and...to look forward to a future time...as the feasts of the LORD all pointed forward to the promise of the Messiah: Passover – crucifixion (I Cor. 5:7); Unleavened Bread – burial/death-separation – body from soul; separation from Egypt which represents the world); First Fruits – resurrection (I Cor. 15:20, 23); Weeks/Pentecost – Jews and Gentiles in the body of Christ (Eph. 3:3-4, 9; Matt. 13; I Cor. 12:13); Feast of Trumpets – tribulation; Yom Kippur – Physical 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming; Tabernacles – Millennial Kingdom

Throughout Scripture God always told the children of Israel... “REMEMBER what I’ve done on your behalf,” “WORSHIP Me now,” and “ANTICIPATE what I will do!!!”

Scripturally, what does tabernacling look like? God tabernacling with man!

In Ex. 25:8 God told the Jewish people He desired to dwell w/ them.

During the Fall Feast of Tabernacles, God instructed the Jewish people to build booths/sukkahs (Lev. 23:40; Deut. 16:13-15; Neh. 8:15). The booths were temporary/woven shelters in which the people would dwell for seven days and invite guests (strangers/Gentiles)..

We see this promise of God dwelling with man throughout Scripture.

Gen. 3:8 – Adam and Eve, because of sin, hid from God. God pursued them.

Ex. 25:8 – God said, *And let them make Me a sanctuary **that I may dwell among them.***

The tabernacle is where God moved in and lived with His people.

Salvation in the OT was the same as it is now! By God’s grace, through faith in God’s revealed message – which always points to the Messiah – and is based on His promised sacrifice for sin!

The Holy Spirit regenerated in the OT and He regenerates now.

Compare Eze. 36:24-29 and Titus 3:5.

Read John 3:5-7 and John 3:16. With whom is Jesus speaking?

God's physical presence was in Eden. And now we're about to see the glory of God, visibly seen in the form of a pillar of cloud in the day and a pillar of fire in the night...come down into the tabernacle.

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God dwelling with man is a recurring theme in Scripture.

CONSIDER:

- God created the heavens and the earth in six days. God instructed Moses re: His commandments and the tabernacle over two forty-day periods (Ex. 24:18 & Ex. 34:28).
- Concerning the creation in Scripture: 2 chapters in Genesis and several chapters in Psalms. There are no less than fifty chapters regarding the tabernacle: 13 in Exodus; 13 in Numbers; 18 in Leviticus; 2 in Deuteronomy; 4 in Hebrews; other selected passages....
- *And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself* (Lk. 24:27). The tabernacle points to Jesus.
- Jesus told the Jewish leadership of His day, *If you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me* (John 5:46).
- *...let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.* *Shakhan* (verb - to dwell; to settle down; to abide; to reside). The Hebrew word for tabernacle is *mishkan*. God is the One Who wants to dwell with His people. God pursues!
- Moses did not design the tabernacle and then invite God to dwell in it. It was God Who, according to His plan of redemption, desired to dwell among the children of Israel.
- Moses constructed the tabernacle according to the pattern of things in the heavenlies – the pattern which was shown/revealed to Moses (Ex. 25:9 - *According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.*)
- That “pattern” later appeared, so it seems, to the Apostle John while he was on the isle of Patmos. In the book of Revelation we find in the throne room of God seven golden lampstands (Rev. 1:12), an altar (Rev. 6:9), the golden altar of incense (Rev. 8:3), and the ark of His covenant (Rev. 11:19).
- Re: the design of the tabernacle. God began where we might end, at the ark of the covenant in the Holy of Holies...the absolute interior of the tabernacle (Ex. 25:21-22). We might begin from the exterior...from the entrance screen into the courtyard of the tabernacle compound.
  - The visible glory of God...God's presence within the tabernacle...resided between the cherubim on top of the mercy seat which sat on top of the ark of the covenant (I Sam. 4:4) from where God dispensed mercy to man. The mercy seat on top of the ark of the covenant was placed at the inner part of the tabernacle. How does God view man? God looks upon the heart (I Sam. 16:7).

God, Whose Being fills the universe, moved into the Holy of Holies and dwelt under the angels' wings and dwelled with the children of Israel, not always righteous, on the way to the land of promise for the next 40 years!

Ex. 29:42-46 - ...at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the Lord...I will meet you to speak with you. <sup>43</sup> And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory (set apart for a purpose – God's glory)...<sup>45</sup> I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. <sup>46</sup> And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.

Ex. 40:33b-38 - So Moses finished the work. Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup> And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. <sup>36</sup> Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel

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would go onward in all their journeys. <sup>37</sup> But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. <sup>38</sup> For the cloud of the Lord was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys. Num. 33:1-49 – 40 locations are mentioned re: the tabernacle departing from one location and arriving at another during the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.

*The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle* (Ex. 40:34). Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it/the cloud settled on it (Ex. 40:35) and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Glory in the Hebrew is *kavod* and it means weightiness! How, as humans, are we to comprehend the weightiness of the glory of God. It signifies the immense significance, power, and overwhelming presence of God that is so profound it feels almost tangible...like a great burden or weight that commands deep reverence and respect; essentially, it describes God's awe-inspiring majesty and authority that cannot be fully comprehended by humans.

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The tabernacle was set apart to be God's dwelling place with the children of Israel. God traveled with His people from Sinai to the land of promise. For 40 years the children of Israel crossed the desert inhabited by Gentile people. Had God intended His people to be a witness to the nations? YES!! How were they witnesses to the nations? Eze. 5:5 - 'This *is* Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her. Israel was a land bridge between continents, acting as a crossroads for trade and cultural exchange, allowing the Israelites to be a beacon of God's covenant and teachings to the surrounding nations.

The tabernacle was set up in Shiloh in the land of promise for approx. 400 years. I Sam. 4:17-22 - The son of one of the corrupt priests was named "Ichabod" – "The glory has departed from Israel" because the ark of the covenant had been captured by the Philistines.

The tabernacle was replaced by a more permanent temple in Jerusalem built under King Solomon's reign.

I Kings 8:6 - *Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim.*

I Kings 8:10 - And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy *place*, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, <sup>11</sup> so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

Ezekiel was given a revelation of the glory of God. God transported Ezekiel to Jerusalem in a vision (??) and placed him in Solomon's temple. In place of the altar where blood was shed, Ezekiel was shown an image of jealousy. Israel was worshipping an image to a heathen god. God told Ezekiel to see the wicked abominations that were painted on the walls in the Holy of Holies – every form of creeping things and beasts and detestable things Exe. 8:9-10. Even greater abominations – Eze. 8:14 – a group of women wept for Tammuz. The women belonged to the Babylonian mother-child cult worship. The temple in Jerusalem had become the center of worship for that cult.

The glory of the Lord departed from Solomon's Temple before it was destroyed.

Eze. 10:4 - ...*the glory of the Lord went up from the cherub, and paused over the threshold of the temple; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the Lord's glory.*

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Eze. 10:18-19 - *Then the glory of the Lord departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. <sup>19</sup> And the cherubim lifted their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight. When they went out, the wheels were beside them; and they stood at the door of the east gate of the Lord's house, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.* The east gate was the main gate by which to exit the temple area to the Kidron Valley and the Mount of Olives.

The glory of God had left the Holy of Holies...departed to the front door, moved to the outer wall, and stood over the east gate.

Eze. 11:22-23 - *So the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel was high above them. <sup>23</sup> And the glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which is on the east side of the city.*

...and left!

Following 70 years in captivity in Babylon, a good # of Israelites returned to their land. They rebuilt the temple which had been destroyed in 586 BC. Scripture does not tell us that the glory of God occupied the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple in Jerusalem.

Haggai 2:4-9 (READ) – when will this occur?

Psalms 2:7-9 (READ) – timeframe?

Luke 1:67-75 (READ) – timeframe?

## QUESTIONS

Answer the questions posed re: Haggai 2:4-9, Psalm 2:7-9, Luke 1:67-75

Why did we discuss God dwelling among us?

How is this study preparing us for Christmas?

What impacted you?

## SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 10's handout with Bible references.

Continue writing in your Journal.

Pray about inviting Jewish friends to the Chanukah/Christmas Celebration

Pray about sharing this lesson with someone.

Read Week 11's handout when you receive it.