

## The Tabernacle *Why God Created the Tabernacle*

The Tabernacle is called

*The Tabernacle of Witness	Numbers 17
*The Tabernacle of Congregation	Ex 33
*The Tabernacle of Testimony	Ex 38
*The Tabernacle of Meeting	Ex 39 (35t in Exodus)

The Tabernacle is another type intended to point us to God's ultimate goal; that people expelled from God's presence in the Garden of Eden, can return to God's presence.

- God condescended to humanity
- Humanity met God in sacrifice and prayer

This is where God met man and man met God

### **The Tabernacle Taught the People About God**

It is the nature of God to reveal himself. He has done so in creation and in Christ –

Psalm 19:1-4 - *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*

John 14:9 - *Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.*

Hebrews 8:5 – *They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.*

The Tabernacle was a crude but effective blueprint / visual aid of himself and his relationship to his people.

Everything about the Tabernacle spoke of God's desire to dwell among his people and what it would look like for God's people.

Adam sinned but God's purpose/plan did not change.

a) Holiness

- God If not for God's presence, the Tabernacle was just a tent. It was God who made the difference.

Exodus 25:8 - *And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.*

Hebrews 9:1 - *Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness.*

The word 'holy' is used 48 times during the Tabernacle's construction (Ex 26-40).

- The People

After leaving Egypt, Israel travelled through the wilderness until they came to Mount Sinai. It was here that God instructed the Israelites to build the Tabernacle and it was here that God gave Israel the Ten Commandments. There is a sense in which the Tabernacle is an extension of Mount Sinai.

**Hebrews 12:18-24** - *For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.*

Outside the camp of Israel is where Gentiles lived. Inside the camp is where the people whom God made holy, lived.

Psalm 96:9 - *Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness*

The people who worship God must be a holy people.

*Theology had to become biography*

- Daniel Hyde

- The materials

As you moved from outside to inside the Tabernacle, the materials became more costly

- The outer court had unadorned, white curtains with silver sockets and wood poles
- The ark and mercy seat in the Holy Place were made of pure gold

b) Heaven

Hebrews 9:24 - *For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.*

The Tabernacle was an earthy representation of something in heaven. It was heaven come down to earth.

God did not dwell there but visited there. After all,

Acts 7:48-50 - *Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says, "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?"*

Acts 17:22-25 - *"Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does*

*not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.”*

c) Jesus

Exodus 33:20 - *“you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.”*

John 1:14 - *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 14:6-7 & 9 - *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ...Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.*

Colossians 2:9 - *For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily*

1 Timothy 3:16 – *He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.*

**Hebrews 10:1-7** - *For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”*

The Tabernacle foreshadowed the day that God would come again and visit his people.

John 1:14 – *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Matthew 12:1 - *I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.*

**Conclusion:**

This is the focus of our study: God living among his people

- In the Tabernacle
- In Jesus
- In the New Jerusalem

This is how we see Jesus in the Tabernacle

- a) Door = Four posts for four gospels & three openings for the way, truth & life
- b) Altar = cross
- c) Laver = Word
- d) Covering = Humility
- e) Curtains = Beauty
- f) Table of shewbread = Bread of life

- g) Lampstand = Light of the world
- h) Incense = High Priest
- i) Ark =
  - Hidden Manna = Incarnation
  - Ten Commandments = Fulfilment of law
  - Rod that budded = Resurrection
- j) Mercy Seat = Reconciler