

"Are You Living a Patterned Life?"

Exodus 25:1-9

April 2, 2017

Exodus 25:1-9 ...INTRODUCING the Tabernacle—

The Tabernacle??? ...What's the point in the realm of religion and religious life?

We have now arrived at the longest, most blessed, but least read and understood section of this precious book of Exodus. From the beginning of chapter 25 to the end of 40—excepting the important parenthesis in 32 to 34—the Holy Spirit has given us a detailed description of the Tabernacle, its structure, furniture, and priesthood. It is a fact worthy of our closest and fullest consideration that more space is devoted to an account of the Tabernacle than to any other single object or subject treated in Holy Writ. Its courts, its furniture, and its ritual are described with a surprising particularity of detail. Two chapters suffice for a record of God's work in creating and fitting this earth for human habitation, whereas ten chapters are needed to tell us about the Tabernacle. Truly God's thoughts and ways are different from ours!" A.W. Pink, "Gleanings in Exodus", Kindle loc 5837

Heb 8:1-5 Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. 3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. 4 Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; 5 who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN." NASU

Heb 9:11-12 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12 and not through the blood of goats and

calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. NASU

Heb 9:23-24 Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; NASU

When God gave Moses a pattern for the priestly, sacrificial system, he didn't just make it up on the spot for the Jewish people, he patterned it after glorious reality in heaven. We get a glimpse into God and his ways when we ponder the priesthood of Israel.

*And the point of the book of Hebrews is that Jesus Christ, God's Son, has not just come to fit into the earthly system of priestly ministry as the best and final human priest, but he has come to fulfill and put an end to that system and to orient all our attention on himself ministering for us in heaven. The Old Testament tabernacle and priests and sacrifices were shadows. Now the reality has come and the shadows pass away. **John Piper**, "Our High Priest is the Son of God Perfect Forever"*

Life and Preexisting Patterns

Ex 25:8-9 "... a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. ⁹ Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

*"The Plan of our Lives. There is a profound lesson here. All our life has been preconceived in the mind of God, and every son and daughter is called, not only to see His face and live, but to behold the plan and pattern of life, which has to be reconstructed in actual living, so that we may say with our Lord, "The Son can do nothing of Himself—He can only do what He sees the Father doing; for whatever He does, that the Son does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and reveals to Him all that He is Himself doing. And greater deeds than these will He reveal to Him, in order that you may wonder. The words I speak are those which I have seen in the presence of the Father" (John 5: 19; John 8: 38, Weymouth)." **F.B. Meyer**, "Exodus" Vol. 2, Kindle loc 699*

How easy it is for man to lose sight of his true origin! His complete nature, purpose, and design existed in the mind of God before it was brought forth in the realm of this world. ...This is essential to How You and I Approach All of Life!

- *Gender ...*
- *Marriage ...*
- *Good & Evil ...*
- *The Local Church ...*

This is what is at the heart of whether something is SIN (it 'misses the mark')... Does it follow the 'Pattern' that God Ordained for it to have?

"The earthly tabernacle was a copy or a shadow of the true dwelling place of God in heaven. It showed what God was like and what was needed to deal with sin. In this way it symbolized what the Messiah was to do for our salvation. We may say it 'forshadowed' the Messiah and His work. ...Israelites had genuine communion with God when they responded to what He was saying in the tabernacle. They trusted in the Messiah without knowing all the details of how fulfillment would finally come."

Vern Poythress, "The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses", p. 10-11

*"When God gave Moses a pattern for the priestly, sacrificial system, he didn't just make it up on the spot for the Jewish people, he patterned it after glorious reality in heaven. We get a glimpse into God and his ways when we ponder the priesthood of Israel." **John Piper***

...So, what's the significance of this "Ancient Tabernacle" thing?...The Nature of the Tabernacle Reveals the Nature of God and of Salvation.

*"The tabernacle expresses another side of the character of God, namely that He is holy and inaccessible. The altar, several coverings, and two sets of curtains bar the way into His presence." **Vern Poythress**, "The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses", p. 10-11*

First Order of Human Existence—To BECOME God-Centered! ...God is the Creator, Author, and Source—We Take Our Cues from Him, not Him from Us!

"The Shack" vs The Tabernacle

As of February 2017, [according to Publishers Weekly](#), it has sold over 22 million copies across all formats worldwide! It is now one of the best-selling Christian books in history and has been translated into many other languages. ... When *The Shack* was picked up for distribution by a Christian publisher and released at a booksellers' convention I attended, a huge promotional sign visible a hundred feet away asked, "What is God like?" The answer—so they said—was found in *The Shack*. The book wasn't about theology? Well, theology is the study of God. And there is no more direct and basic theological question than the one the publisher claims *The Shack* seeks to answer: "What is God like?" **Randy Alcorn**, EPM blog

In *The Shack* Papa says (in the context of Mack bringing up God pouring out bowls of wrath on people), "I don't need to punish people for sin. Sin is its own punishment, devouring from the inside. It's not my purpose to punish it; it's my joy to cure it" (120). **Randy Alcorn**

...Yet, what God reveals through the Tabernacle is the "visitation of the penalty of sin upon the innocent" ...all that bloodshed is what let's you see what Christ does on the cross—"without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness"

I'd like to address one particularly disturbing and underlying aspect of this book. As I read the book I saw that, from beginning to end, *The Shack* has a quietly subversive quality to it. The author very subtly criticizes many aspects of the church and contemporary Christianity before replacing the concepts he criticizes with new ones. He criticizes seminary education ("Mack struggled to keep up with [Papa], to make some sense of what was happening. None of his old seminary training was helping in the least" (91)), the Bible ("God's voice had been reduced to paper, and even that paper had to be moderated and deciphered by the proper authorities and intellectuals" (65-66)), Sunday School ("This isn't Sunday School. This is a flying lesson" (98)), the church as a body ("You're talking about the church as this woman you're in love with; I'm pretty sure I haven't met her.... She's not the place I go on Sundays" (177)), the church as individuals ("For Mack these words were like a breath of fresh air! Simple. Not a bunch of exhausting work and long list of demands and not the sitting in endless meetings staring at the backs of people's heads, people he really didn't even know. Just sharing life" (178), ...) **Tim Challies**, "The Shack, a Review", July 2008

...Yet, the Tabernacle is the precursor of the Temple, which is the precursor of the Church (1Cor 3)

"You will learn to hear my thoughts in yours" (195), says Sarayu, the Holy Spirit. "You might see me in a piece of art, or music, or silence, or through people, or in Creation, or in your joy and sorrow. My ability to communicate is limitless, living and transforming, and it will always be tuned to Papa's goodness and love. And you will hear and see me in the Bible in fresh ways. Just don't look for rules and principles; look for relationship—a way of coming to be with us" (198).

...Contrast that with what God says in Ex 25 ...He says that the Tabernacle is God's Means of Being With Us!!

What Pattern are You Following as You Build Your Life?

"...the man who is accustomed to live in the presence of God, and who believes that of every year, of every month, and of every day there is a complete pattern. ...The ideal of his friendships is there, and he expects to be led from one stage into another ...The ideal of his marriage, the ideal of his home, the ideal of his business-life, the ideal of each summer holiday, the ideal of the manner in which he is to pass home to God—each is there on the Mount, and he is at perfect peace, only desiring to build as near as may be to the pattern which lives in the thought of God. The same thought is contained in that assertion of Ephesians 2:10, R.V. "For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them." F.B. Meyer, "Exodus" vol 2, Kindle loc. 708

"Do not be driven by circumstances; do not be shaped by Fate or Destiny; do not sullenly follow out your own plan and scheme, but continually hide yourself in God, wait your six days, as Moses did, and see the perfect pattern you are afterwards to reproduce." F.B. Meyer, "Exodus" vol 2, Kindle loc. 717

...Everybody is Building in These Categories—and EVERYBODY is Following Some Pattern ...the only question is WHOSE???

...So, what's the significance of this "Ancient Tabernacle" thing? ...The Nature of the Tabernacle Reveals the Nature of God and How We Can Dwell with Him in a Relationship!

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