

THE HOLY PLACE – Essentials to Life Before the Presence of God

Exodus

May 21, 2017

INTRO ...Understanding the Tabernacle as a '**Means**' of Nearness

"As we study the Tabernacle, it's important not to lose sight of the big picture: God coming down to live with his people. ...The Bible describes the Tabernacle carefully because every part of the building has something to teach about God and his salvation in Jesus Christ. The purpose of the Tabernacle was partly pedagogical. ...While it may be true that we can't find Jesus everywhere, it nevertheless remains true that the Tabernacle is a revelation of his glory. Jesus is in many of the details. ...Although it is important to see how Christ is taught in all the Scriptures, we shouldn't try to find him in places he doesn't actually appear." Phillip Ryken, "Exodus", p. 824-826

- The destination of the Tabernacle is God DWELLING Among Them—It is God's Nearness to them! ...The Destination of the Work of the Messiah is RESTORATION/RECONCILIATION to God!

....God is not merely wanting us to be able to recognize how Christ is Illustrated in the Tabernacle...

....When Heb 10 exhorts us to Draw Near... it introduces the possibility that we 'might be standing too far away from where God wants us to be!'

Heb 10:19-23 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Knowing great facts about the Tabernacle and even Ultimately about Christ doesn't mean we've "experientially arrived"... What God had in mind was NEARNESS! ...Dwelling ...Presence!

Prayer is a conversation that leads to encounter with God. ... that is our goal. ...A character-forming experience of God's presence and reality. ... John Calvin argues that Jesus gifts for his people are not experienced by so many of them. That enjoyment, he says, can happen only through "communion with Christ" and "the secret energy of the Holy Spirit, by which we come to enjoy all his benefits." ...We must not settle for an informed mind without an engaged heart." Timothy Keller, "Prayer", p. 165

"All these aspects of the Tabernacle may be expected to say something to Israel about the meaning of communion with God and dwelling with God. They picture the nature of God's dwelling and the manner in which He is approached." Vern Poythress, "The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses", p. 16

Here's where we are seeking to arrive at the conclusion of this Tabernacle —NOT merely at the place where you can say, 'I can explain all the pieces of the Tabernacle' ...but rather, through what I've learned, I have ENCOUNTERED the nearness of God's Presence!!

...That, by the way, is the aim of this year's Summer Bible Jam!

The HOLY PLACE... a Revelation of Christ and a Means of Drawing Near

NOTE Carefully What We are NOT Doing in the Holy Place ...We are Not Continuing to Deal with OUTER COURT Needs—the Need for Atoning Sacrifice, the Forgiveness of Sins, and the Cleansing of Conscience

But What of This "Ministry" Before the Presence of God? What of this "Exchange" between Us and God in this setting of Meeting with God (The 'Tent of Meeting')? ...it involves 3 pieces of furniture and their related experiences—REMEMBER, Each Piece does 2 Things: (1) It Reveals Something of Christ to Us ...(2) It is a MEANS of Drawing Near to God

The Table of Bread

Ex 25:23-25, 30

Lev 24:5-9 "You shall take fine flour and bake twelve loaves from it; two tenths of an ephah shall be in each loaf. ⁶ And you shall set them in two piles, six in a pile, on the table of pure gold before the Lord. ⁷ And you shall put pure frankincense on each pile, that it may go with the bread as a memorial portion as a food offering to the Lord. ⁸ Every Sabbath day Aaron shall arrange it before the Lord regularly; it is from the people of Israel as a covenant forever. ⁹ And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place, since it is for him a most holy portion out of the Lord's food offerings, a perpetual due."

MEANING: several elements come into the Table of Bread

- It was a TABLE ...a place of fellowship around a meal

"...this was no ordinary symbol of God's favor, when He descended familiarly to them, as if He were their messmate. They were called 'the bread of faces,' because they were placed before the eyes of God; and thus He made known His special favor, as if coming to banquet with them." John Calvin, "Calvin's Commentary" (Lev 24:5)

"...this offering was not to feed Yahweh. The purpose was exactly the opposite: to acknowledge that he supplied the ongoing needs of the Israelites as their resident Creator-Provider." (from "The Illustrated Bible Background Commentary")

- It contained elements of COVENANT Making & Remembering... It was Eating with God, similar to what the elders did on Mt. Sinai
- The Symbolic 12 ...most likely indicative of Israel (12 Tribes)

How Does the Table of Bread Reveal Christ?

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life

Luke 22:19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

How does the 'Table of Bread' help us understand our "drawing near"?

- The eating in the presence of God is *an expression of a covenant meal...*
- "God prepares a table in the wilderness" ...Living with an awareness of God's favor in every life situation
- The table of bread in the house of God is *a picture of fellowship with God*

The Lampstand

Ex 25:31-32, 37

How Does the Lampstand Reveal Christ?

John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

- v.4 ...*His Life - is the light of men!*Until you see Christ accurately, life is a perpetual stumbling in the dark!!

Ps 36:9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

How does the 'Lampstand' help us understand our "drawing near"?

Isa 2:5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

1 John 1:5-7 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

The Altar of Incense

Ex 30:1-3, 6-8

- A fragrant offering that was ignited by coals from the Brazen Altar ...
- The pattern of the priests...

How Does the Altar of Incense Reveal Christ?

Heb 7:23-25 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, 24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

How does the 'Altar of Incense' help us understand our "drawing near"?

Ps 141:1-2 Lord, I call upon you; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to you! 2 Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,

Rev 8:1-4 When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, 4 and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

Isa 56:6 these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

Num 16:44-48 and the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 45 "Get away from the midst of this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment." And they fell on their faces. 46 And Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer, and put fire on it from off the altar and lay incense on it and carry it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone out from the Lord; the plague has begun." 47 So Aaron took it as Moses said and ran into the midst of the assembly. And behold, the plague had already begun among the people. And he put on the

incense and made atonement for the people. 48 And he stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stopped.

"The action of Aaron, who literally stands 'between the living and the dead', demonstrates the value and urgency of intercession, which Christians do through prayers which ascend to God like incense." (from Baker Illustrated Bible Commentary)