

Exodus 25 -27

“The Tabernacle: Echoing Eden and Longing for Home” by Drew Hunter

Overview

Moses receives specific directions for the construction of the Tabernacle. These three chapters are more than simply a detailed instruction manual. We find that the Tabernacle is about God’s intention to share His presence with His people. The Lord tells the Hebrews to “... make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in your midst” (Exodus 25:8). The Tabernacle is about...

Dwelling with God God rescued the Hebrews from slavery in order to have Him dwell with them. God’s presence was to be at the center of their lives.

Echoing Eden The elements of the Tabernacle point back to Eden, the first temple, where God’s presence was enjoyed. This includes the ark, mercy seat, table, lamp stand, tent, veil, altar, and the gate.

Pointing to Christ The book of Hebrews teaches that the Tabernacle and its continual sacrifices are copies and shadows of the final and perfect substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross.

Informing our Lives Shows us.... our true home, the way home, how to live in our new home, and how to long for our new home.

Quotation

“In speaking of this desire for our own far off country, which we find in ourselves even now, I feel a certain shyness. I am almost committing an indecency. I am trying to rip open the inconsolable secret in each one of you—the secret which hurts so much that you take your revenge on it by calling it names like Nostalgia and Romanticism... These things—the beauty, the memory of our own past—are good images of what we really desire; but if they are mistaken for the thing itself they turn into dumb idols, breaking the hearts of their worshippers. For they are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

Understanding & Application

1. Drew suggested that the Tabernacle points to our human longing for a true home. That our common desire for a stable, lasting, settledness is an echo of our longing for our lost home in Eden. How has a longing for a true home been manifested in your life?

2. What do you imagine was shocking or revealing to the Hebrews when they learned that their God wanted to personally dwell with them? How has this realization impacted you? Have you ever taken this for granted?

3. The ark, mercy seat, table, lamp stand, tent, veil, altar, and gate point to Eden and sharing in the presence of God. What specific lessons or aspects of dwelling with the Lord stand out to you in these elements?

4. How is Jesus the perfect and final means of having God dwell with humanity compared to the Tabernacle, which was only a copy and shadow?

5. There is no longer a Tabernacle in the wilderness or a temple in Jerusalem. God has chosen you to be His dwelling place. What should it mean to you to be the tabernacle of God? (1 Corinthians 6:19)

6. How are you tempted to make this world your home by being overly attached to a season of life, place, relationship, or a sense of settledness?