

RESOURCE MINISTRIES
PRAISE AND WORSHIP SEMINAR
Session 1 - "THAT I MAY DWELL AMONG THEM"
TABERNACLE OF DAVID\TABERNACLE OF MOSES

By Jim Stephens

"Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. (Ex.25:1-8 NIV)

"Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here." (Ex. 33:15 NIV)

"Let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we did not inquire of it during the reign of Saul." (1 Chronicles 13:3 NIV)

"They brought the ark of God and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and they presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before God." (I Chron. 16:1 NIV)

"However, the Most High does not live in houses made by men." (Acts 7:48 NIV)

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. (Acts 17:24 NIV)

I enjoy and appreciate all that goes into the process and experience of "church"; Beautiful buildings, good music, powerful preaching, the works. But what I am seeking is the presence of God.

I. Moses' Tabernacle. Exodus 35-40

- A. Became a meeting place where the God who is everywhere could meet with representatives of His people.
- B. Had structure, detail, and beauty - the list of materials -the design - the pattern. tables - bowls - lampstands - altars. priceless - beautiful. The focal point - the Ark of the Covenant.
- C. Pictured sinful man coming before a Holy God - sacrifices of sheep, goats, cattle - confession of sin - washings and anointings - every one of these things was a symbol - a picture of the new covenant reality - incense for prayers -offered by a priest. Once a year the blood of a lamb - sprinkled on the mercy seat of the Ark by one man - the high priest - while all the people waited outside.

- D. This tabernacle went with them everywhere - center of all their life - through 40 years in the wilderness - everyone camped around it - THE SANCTUARY - TABERNACLE - with the Ark of the Presence (covenant) What Covenant? "I will be with you - I will be your God - you will be my people. The Tabernacle went with them across the Jordan (priests carrying the Ark) made camp - with them in battle until it found a permanent resting place at Shiloh.
- E. Then one day Eli allowed his perverse and rebellious sons to take the Ark into battle against the Philistines - They lost the Ark, the Presence of God - Phinehas' wife gave birth to a son - ICHABOD - "the glory is departed" - she lost her husband, her father-in-law, and her own life - but her grief was over the loss of God's presence.
- F. The Ark caused great trouble - sickness, disease, for the enemies of God and for their god. 7 months (I Sam. 6:1) Philistine rulers sent it back in a new cart - came back to Israel - But for many years, they left the Ark in a little village miles away from the Tabernacle and the center of life. The tabernacle was in Shiloh - but the Ark - the presence wasn't there anymore.

II. David brought back the Ark of God. I Chron. 13:3

"Let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we did not inquire of it during the reign of Saul." (1 Chronicles 13:3 NIV)

- A. Put it on a new cart - they started for Jerusalem with the Ark - rejoicing, dancing, singing, music - Uzza touched the Ark and died (Power) - What God allowed the Philistines to do in their ignorance, He did not permit from David and the priests who ought to know better. Doing God's will man's way!

- B. Discouragement - I Chron. 13:13

He did not take the ark to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. (I Chron. 13:13 NIV)

- C. I Chron. 15:2, 13 David searched the scripture and found the problem.

"Then David said, 'No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, because the LORD chose them to carry the ark of the LORD and to minister before him forever.'" (1 Chronicles 15:2 NIV)

It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the LORD our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way." (1 Chronicles 15:13 NIV)

- D. The worship in David's tabernacle - nothing is said of the structure. (I Chron. 16)

"They brought the ark of God and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and they presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before God." (I Chron. 16:1 NIV)

1. Singing - music - the most skillful - 24 hours a day they sang and praised God at David's tabernacle.
2. Only 40 years until Solomon's temple - the Ark moved there - David's tabernacle taken down - disappeared
3. Solomon's temple, then Herod's temple being the centre until 70 A.D. Titus destroyed. Jesus said "Your house"

III. What it means to us!

"In that day I will restore David's fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be, (Amos 9:11 NIV)

"After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, (Acts 15:16 NIV)

- A. Not the tabernacle of Moses - with its detailed instructions (50 chapters - Ex. - Lev. - Num. - Deut.) because it was the tabernacle of animal sacrifice - and law - Jesus - once for all - entered the Holy of Holies - with His own blood - sprinkled the mercy seat - veil of the temple (Moses tabernacle) torn asunder.
- B. But the Tabernacle of David - where all the people rejoice and praise the name of the Lord because the Lamb of God has taken away their sin and invites all to be priests and worship before Him.
- C. Now not only a priest (High Priest) - but all may come into the Holy of Holies - presence of God.
- D. Tabernacle of David raised up - no more sheep and goats and calves to kill...The Lamb of God has been slain.

E. Then what is the truth in all this for us?

*Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-- the fruit of lips that confess his name.(Heb. 13:15 NIV)
that we may offer the fruit of our lips.(Hos. 14:2 NIV)*

F. Praise for Him - presence for us! The Lord inhabits the praises of Israel.

David built a tabernacle because he desired the presence of God - (At Shiloh they still had Moses' tabernacle - all the form and furniture - but no presence.)

having a form of godliness but denying its power. (II Tim. 3:5 NIV)

G. David didn't care about the fashion, form, furniture - He wanted God's presence!

H. I have been in some of the most beautiful buildings (like Moses tabernacle in David's day) - listened to the world's best singers and musicians - heard the world's best and most "powerful" (popular) preachers. I can appreciate these - but it's not what my heart longs for. And I can tell you... I just want God's presence!

IV. HOW CAN WE CONSISTENTLY EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRESENCE?

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (I Peter 2:9 NIV)

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. (Ps. 100:4 NIV)

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. (Ps. 22:3 NIV) "But thou art holy, o thou that inhabiteth the praises of Israel." (Ps. 22:3 KJV)

In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. (Is. 12:4 NIV)

May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. (Psalms 141:2 NIV)

Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD: (Psalms 102:18 NIV)

"This shall be written for the generations to come: and people which shall be created will praise the Lord." (Ps.102:18)

"The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom(prophecy) and the voice of the bride(praise and worship), the voice of them that shall say, praise the Lord of Hosts: for the Lord is good; for His mercy endureth forever:and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land as at the first, saith the Lord." (Jer. 33:11)

People of praise - created to praise Him. (singing, clapping, lifting hands, bowing, standing)