

Sermon #10 — *Christ in Numbers*

Title:                    **THE TABERNACLE**  
                                 **GOD'S SALVATION**

Text:                    Numbers 7:1-89

Date:                    Tuesday Evening — March 10, 2020

Subject:                *The Message of the Tabernacle*

Readings:              *Lindsay Campbell and Mark Henson*

Introduction:

Let's go back to Numbers 7, again, tonight. I want us to learn the message of the Tabernacle. The title of my message is — **THE TABERNACLE** — **GOD'S SALVATION**. Our text will be the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel According to Numbers. — **THE TABERNACLE** — **GOD'S SALVATION** — (Numbers 7:1-89).

(Numbers 7:1-89) And it came to pass on the day that Moses had fully set up the tabernacle, and had anointed it, and sanctified it, and all the instruments thereof, both the altar and all the vessels thereof, and had anointed them, and sanctified them; (2) That the princes of Israel, heads of the house of their fathers, who *were* the princes of the tribes, and were over them that were numbered, offered: (3) And they brought

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

their offering before the LORD, six covered wagons, and twelve oxen; a wagon for two of the princes, and for each one an ox: and they brought them before the tabernacle. (4) And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, (5) Take *it* of them, that they may be to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; and thou shalt give them unto the Levites, to every man according to his service. (6) And Moses took the wagons and the oxen, and gave them unto the Levites. — (89) And when Moses was gone into the Tabernacle of the congregation to speak with him, then he heard the voice of one speaking unto him from off the mercy seat that *was* upon the ark of testimony, from between the two cherubims: and he spake unto him.

**God spoke to Moses from off the mercy seat.** Oh, may he be pleased to do that for us this hour. Spirit of God, O Holy Spirit, speak to us from our Savior, Christ Jesus, the Mercy Seat! Speak to us about him! And let us worship him!

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD’S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

**Moses made the Tabernacle in the wilderness exactly according to the pattern (Christ crucified)**

**God showed him in the Mt. Sinai.** Here, we are told, “*Moses had fully set up the Tabernacle, and had anointed it, and sanctified it, and all the instruments thereof, both the altar and all the vessels thereof, and had anointed them, and sanctified them.*” This Tabernacle had three compartments.

- **The Outer Court** was approximately 75’ x 150’. It contained the brazen altar and the laver.
- **The Holy Place** was approximately 15’ x 45’. It contained the Table of Showbread, the Golden Candlestick and the Altar of Incense.
- **The Holy of Holies**, the most holy place, was separated from the holy place by a thick veil. In the most holy place stood the Ark of the Covenant with the Mercy Seat.

**The Tabernacle was a simple tent of earthly material on the outside; but on the inside it was glorious.** Everything inside the Tabernacle was overlaid with pure gold. — That is Christ.

- The meek and lowly Man!

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

- The great and glorious God!

**Proposition:** The whole purpose of the Tabernacle was to give God's saints of old a visible, prophetic type and picture of the glory of God in the salvation of his elect by the doing and dying of his dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's go to the Tabernacle and see God's salvation and his glory in Christ Jesus.

**A SACRIFICING PRIEST**

1<sup>st</sup> — As we approach the Tabernacle, the *first* thing we see, standing by the gate and the brazen altar is a sacrificing high priest. **This sacrificing priest represents Christ, our great High Priest** (Hebrews 5:1-5).

(Hebrews 5:1-5) “For every high priest **taken from among men** is **ordained for men** in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: (2) Who **can have**

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD’S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

**compassion** on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; **for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.** (3) And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. (4) And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as *was* Aaron. (5) **So also Christ** glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee.”

- Taken from Among Men (Leviticus 21:17-18)
- A Man without Blemish — Holy, Harmless, undefiled, and Separate from Sinners — One Who Had No Sin, Knew No Sin, and Did No Sin!
- Merciful and Compassionate
- Chosen and Ordained of God

**All the garments of the priest spoke of Christ.**

- His **mitre** with its golden plate — “*Holiness to the LORD*” — The Holiness and Perfection of Christ’s Nature.

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

- His **white linen garments** — Christ's Righteousness — The Garments of Salvation.
- His **girdle** — Christ our Strength.
- His **breastplate**, with the names of twelve tribes of Israel engraved upon it, shows Christ as our Representative before God, with our names engraved upon his heart.
- His **ephod** (apron that held the breastplate), with the twelve stones bearing the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, shows us that Christ bears all God's elect upon his shoulders in all his priestly functions. The work of our redemption is his work alone.

**But a priest without a sacrifice is as useless as a bucket without a bottom.** Every priest ordained of God was a sacrificing priest. Without a blood sacrifice, no man can come to God. **And all the sacrifices offered in the Tabernacle by God's priests were typical of Christ our Sacrifice.**

- Strong Beasts — Males of the 1<sup>st</sup> year.
- Tame Beasts — Led, not forced, to the slaughter.

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

- Beasts without Blemish — Innocent.
- Gentle Doves

**Christ is offering we bring to God.** He is our Sacrifice. Christ is our Atonement, our Silver of Ransom and our Gold, our God of infinite worth, our Mercy and our Truth. He is our Incense of Acceptance, well-pleasing to God.

- Christ is our true Burnt Offering (Leviticus 1; Ephesians 4:32-5:2).
- The Lord Jesus Christ is our true Meat Offering, our Offering of Firstfruits (Leviticus 2; 1 Corinthians 15:19-23).
- Our Savior is our true Peace Offering (Leviticus 3; Romans 4:25-5:11).
- He is our one and only Sin Offering (Leviticus 4; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Galatians 3:13-14).
- The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God himself, is our only and our true Trespass Offering (Leviticus 5; Isaiah 53:1-12).
- Christ is our Altar of earth, the Altar of God's making, by which we come to God.

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

Christ is our Sacrifice, in whom alone sinners have access to and acceptance with the holy Lord God. If we would come to God, we must come to God by him. Blessed be his name, we can and do come to God by him.

**BRAZEN ALTAR**

2<sup>nd</sup> — The next thing we see, as we approach the Tabernacle, is the Brazen Altar (Exodus 27:1-8). This Altar and the burnt sacrifices offered upon it represent Christ our Altar (Hebrews 13:10).

(Hebrews 13:10) “We have an Altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the Tabernacle.”

Dying upon the cross, our Lord Jesus was a burnt offering to God. The fire of God's wrath fell upon him there. As all the excrement and filthy inward parts of the slain beasts were burned upon the altar, so all our sins, being laid upon Christ, when he was



**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

made sin for us, were purged away, being consumed by the fire of God's wrath.

**LAVER OF BRASS**

3<sup>rd</sup> — Standing between the Brazen Altar and the Holy Place is the Laver of Brass (Exodus 30:18-25). **Every priest, before entering the holy place to do any service for the Lord in the sanctuary, had to wash his hands and feet.** This represents our sanctification, regeneration by God the Holy Spirit, creating us new creatures in Christ, creating in us that holiness without which no one shall ever see the Lord (Revelation 1:5; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 12:14).

(Revelation 1:5) “And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.”

(Titus 3:3-7) “For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived,

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD’S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

...serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another. (4) But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, (5) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; (6) Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; (7) That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

**Before you can serve God, you must personally wash and bathe yourself in the laver of Christ’s blood.**

There is a fountain filled with blood,  
Drawn from Immanuel’s veins;  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,  
Lose all their guilty stains!

**This washing involves personal faith in Christ.**  
You must personally appropriate to yourself the

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD’S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

merits of Christ’s finished work. **All who wash in this laver are holy before God!**

**As the priests washed in this laver daily, so you and I must bathe daily in the Word of God, applying the blood of Christ to ourselves, asking the Savior to wash us again, that we may be cleansed from the defilements of sin** (John 13:2-10).

(John 13:2-10) “And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s *son*, to betray him; (3) Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; (4) He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. (5) After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded. (6) Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? (7) Jesus answered and said unto him, What

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. (8) Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. (9) Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head. (10) Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash *his* feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.”

**THE HOLY PLACE**

4<sup>th</sup> — Now, go with God's priest into the Holy Place. In Moses' day none but the priests could go into that sanctuary. We, you and I who trust Christ, are priests, so let's lift up the outer veil and go in. **What do you see in the holy place?** — **Three things:**

1. On the south side, on your left, you see **The Golden Candlestick** with its seven lamps burning (Exodus 25:31).
  - This golden candlestick represents Christ, the Light of the world.

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

- There were seven lamps in the candlestick — Seven, being the number of perfection, shows that Christ is the perfect revelation of God.
- The only light in the holy place was the candlestick. — The only light any man has into the things of God is the light Christ gives by his Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:14-15).

**These seven golden candlesticks also represent the churches of Christ, holding forth the light of life in this dark world** (Revelation 1:20).

2. On the north side of the sanctuary, on your right, is **The Table of Showbread** (Exodus 25:23-30).

- This is Christ, the Bread of Life.
- There were twelve loaves on the Table. — Bread provided for all the tribes of Israel. As God's manna was given to Israel alone, so his grace in Christ is given only to his elect.
- The Bread was always on the Table.

3. Sitting in the back, against the veil, is **The Altar of Incense** (Exodus 30:1-10).

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

This is Christ our Intercessor (John 17; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2). Our prayers, sacrifices, and services come to God and find acceptance with him, through the sweet incense of Christ our Intercessor and Mediator (1 Peter 2:5; Hebrews 13:15; Revelation 8:3-4). — The incense burned perpetually upon this Altar because Christ's intercession for us, as our Mediator in heaven, is perpetual!

**THE VEIL**

5<sup>th</sup> — Standing between the holy place and the most holy place is the veil (Exodus 26:31). **This heavy, thick veil was typical of Christ's humanity** (Hebrews 10:20).

(Hebrews 10:20) “By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.”

This veil was the only way of access to God. — Before man could enter into and have access to God,

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

and be accepted of him, this veil had to come down.  
— Christ had to die. When Christ died, the veil was  
rent in two, from top to bottom! — **The rent veil**  
**means that**....

- Justice is satisfied!
- Righteousness is established!
- Sin is gone! — No cause for separation!
- The law is fulfilled!
- Reconciliation is made!
- The way to God is open!
- Sinners are welcome!
- Me too! — (Hebrews 4:16)

**Come to God. The way is open. Coming to God by**  
**faith in Christ, you may come with full assurance**  
**of acceptance!**

(Hebrews 10:18-22) “Now where remission of  
these *is, there is* no more offering for sin. (19)  
Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into  
the holiest by the blood of Jesus, (20) By a new  
and living way, which he hath consecrated for

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; (21) And *having* an high priest over the house of God; (22) **Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

**THE ARK**

6<sup>th</sup> — Entering into the Holy of Holies, we see one glorious, magnificent piece of furniture — The Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:10-22).

(Hebrews 9:1-5) “Then verily the first *covenant* had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. (2) For there was a Tabernacle made; the first, wherein *was* the Candlestick, and the Table, and the Showbread; which is called the sanctuary. (3) And after the second veil, the Tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All; (4) Which had the Golden Censer, and the Ark of the Covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein *was* the golden pot that



**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the Tables of the Covenant; (5) And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the Mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.”

**The Ark of the Covenant was also a beautiful type of Christ.** It was made of shittim wood, overlaid with gold, representing both the humanity and the deity of our Savior. The Ark was the symbol of God's holiness, power, and glory. It was carried about from place to place upon the shoulders of the priests, by staves. Even so, Christ is carried through the world upon the shoulders of chosen men by the preaching of the gospel. — **There were three things in the ark...**

1. **The Golden Pot that had Manna** — This is God's provision for sinners in Christ with life and grace (Exodus 16:33-34).
  - It was a golden pot.
  - It was a big pot, holding an omer of manna.
  - It had manna — The Bread of Heaven.

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

2. **Aaron's Rod that Budded** — This rod represents God's power, the gospel of Christ.

- Christ was smitten by Moses' rod — The Law.
- The water of life flows out to sinners by Aaron's rod — The Gospel.
- The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16-17). No wonder Dagon (1 Samuel 5) fell before the Ark!

3. **The Two Tables of the Law** — This represents God's purpose.

- The law was written upon tables of stone, representing both the hardness of our hearts and the inflexibility of God's justice.
- The law represents our curse and condemnation by reason of sin.
- The law was always kept in the ark, under the Mercy Seat, under the blood (Exodus 25:16, 21).
- That represents perfect redemption by Christ. And that is the purpose of God (Romans 8:28-31).

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

(Romans 8:28-31) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. (29) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. (31) What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

**THE MERCY-SEAT**

7<sup>th</sup> — Sitting on top of the Ark, completely covering it, is the Mercy Seat (Exodus 25:17, 21-22).

(Exodus 25:17) “And thou shalt make a Mercy Seat *of* pure gold: two cubits and a half *shall be* the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof.”

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD’S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

(Exodus 25:21-22) “And thou shalt put the Mercyseat above upon the Ark; and in the Ark thou shalt put the Testimony that I shall give thee. (22) **And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the Mercyseat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the Ark of the Testimony,** of all *things* which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.”

**Illustration:** The High Priest on the Day of Atonement.

**The Word “Mercyseat” means “a propitiatory covering.” That is what Christ is to us** (1 John 2:2; Romans 3:24-26).

(1 John 2:1-2) “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: (2) And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world.*”

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD’S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

(Romans 3:24-26) “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: (25) Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; (26) To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”

**The Mercy Seat represented...**

- Sovereignty
- Substitution
- Sacrifice
- Satisfaction

(Hebrews 9:12) “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.”

- The Publican saw this!

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

- Isaiah saw it! — (Isaiah 6).

**The Mercy Seat was the symbol of God's presence.** With the blood upon the Mercy Seat, covering the tables of the broken law, we see the glory of God in the pardon of sin by the sacrifice of Christ (Leviticus 9:23-24).

(Leviticus 9:23-24) “And **Moses and Aaron** (The Law and Christ) went into the Tabernacle of the Congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people. (24) And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: *which* when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.”

- **So we see the glory of God in redemption** (Psalm 85:9-11). The glory of God shines brightly in the face of the crucified Christ!

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

(Psalms 85:9-11) “Surely his salvation *is* nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land. (10) Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*. (11) Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.”

- **God meets sinners upon the Mercy-seat**  
(Exodus 25:22) — **Only in Christ.**

We have taken very brief a tour of the Tabernacle this evening. But I want more for you than simply for you to understand the typical meaning of those Mosaic ordinances. I want you to come to Christ.

1. Christ is the Priest we must have.
2. Christ is the Altar upon which we must do business with God.
3. Christ is the Sacrifice by which we must come to God.
4. Christ is the Laver in which we must wash.
5. Christ is the Light in which we must walk.
6. Christ is the Bread we must eat.

**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

7. Christ is the Mercy Seat of Propitiation upon which God will meet you! Christ is the Mercy Seat of Propitiation upon which God will meet me!

(Psalm 27:1-14) The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (2) When the wicked, *even* mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. (3) Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this *will* I *be* confident. (4) One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. (5) For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: **in the secret of his tabernacle** shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. (6) And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices



**THE TABERNACLE — GOD'S SALVATION**

*Numbers 7:1-89*

of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD. (7) Hear, O LORD, *when* I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me. (8) *When thou saidst*, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek. (9) Hide not thy face *far* from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. (10) When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up. (11) Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. (12) Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. (13) *I had fainted*, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. (14) Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Amen.