

- In Extraordinary, Powerful Ways:
 - To Preserve And Retain His People!
 - And The Lord Did So:
 - Personally, Actively, And Continuously:
 - By Even Preserving The Clothes On Their Backs & The Shoes On Their Feet!
 - And - All Of This:
 - Pointed To Jesus Christ!
 - And His Gracious:
 - Retention & Preservation Of:
 - His People!
 - So - Even In The Wilderness Of The World:
 - In Which We Live Today:
 - Christ Redeems, Relieves, Revives, Rescues, And Retains All Those:
 - Who Trust In & Belong To Him!
4. Well - Tonight:
- We Are Going To Look At:
 - One More Way Christ Appeared To His People:
 - In The Wilderness:
 - That We Briefly Introduced Last Week!
 - And That Is Through:
 - The Tabernacle!
 - So - Let's Turn In Our Bibles:
 - To Exodus 25 - Where:
 - The Tabernacle Of God Is First Mentioned:
 - And Then - Is Explained In Detail:
 - All The Way Through:
 - Exodus 40!
 - And - In Exodus 25:1-9:
 - We Find God's Call To Moses:
 - To Build This Special "Tent" - That Would Become:
 - God's Temporary Dwelling-Place With His People!
 - Let's Read Those Verses Together:
 - "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, / Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. / And this [is] the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass, / And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' [hair], / And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, / Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense, / Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate. / And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. / According to all that I shew thee, [after] the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make [it]!"
 - The First Mention Of God's Tabernacle In All Of The Bible:
 - Is There In 25:9!
 - And - The Purpose Of That Tabernacle:
 - Is There In 25:8!
 - It Was To Be A "Sanctuary" - Or - A Special, Sacred Place:
 - Where God Himself Would:
 - "Dwell Among Them!"
 - As They Made Their Way Through The Wilderness!

5. Now - Already - God Had Revealed:

 - His Presence With His People:
 - In Several Ways!
 - He Already Showed That His Presence:
 - Was *Ahead* Of Them:
 - When He Led Them From Egypt:
 - In The Pillar Of Fire & Cloud!
 - He Already Showed That His Presence:
 - Was *Above* Them:
 - When They Stood At The Foot Of Mount Sinai:
 - And Saw The Fire & Smoke:

- Ascending To Heaven:
 - From The Top Of The Mountain! (Exodus 20)
 - He Already Showed That His Presence:
 - Was *Around* Them:
 - When He Graciously Provided Them:
 - Food From Heaven & Water From A Rock:
 - To Meet Their Physical Needs In That Dry & Thirsty Land!
 - But Now - He Wants To Show That His Presence:
 - Was "*Among*" Them!
 - Not Just *Ahead* Of Them Or *Above* Them Or *Around* Them:
 - But *Among* Them & *With* Them!
 - Again - 25:8 - "And Let Them Make Me A Sanctuary; That I May Dwell *Among* Them!"
 - And - This Sanctuary - This Tabernacle:
 - Would Point Them & Us To:
 - The **Rest** That He Was Offering Them:
 - Through Christ Himself!
6. So - As We Consider Tonight:
- God's "Sanctuary In The Desert" - We Will Transition:
 - From Seeing Christ:
 - In The Wilderness:
 - To Seeing Christ:
 - In The Tabernacle!
 - Because - This Tabernacle:
 - Would Not Just Be Used By The Children Of Israel:
 - In The Wilderness:
 - It Would Continue To Be The Special Place Of God's Presence:
 - For The Next 300 Years!
 - But - This Special Call:
 - To Moses & To His People:
 - To Build His Tabernacle:
 - Involved Several Things!
 - All Of Which Point To Christ:
 - In Some Way!

* The First Thing God Tells Moses About - Deals With:

1. The Articles Of The Tabernacle:

- In 25:10-40!
 - We Won't Take The Time Tonight:
 - To Read All Of These Passages:
 - But Here - The Lord Begins To Reveal To Moses:
 - The Shape & Design Of His Tabernacle With Them!
- The Articles Referred To:
 - In These Verses Include:
 - The Ark Of The Covenant!
 - The Mercy Seat:
 - That Would Sit Above The Ark!
 - The Table Of Shewbread! And:
 - The Candlestick:
 - Which Would Be The Main Source Of Light:
 - Within The Tabernacle Itself!
 - In Chapter 30:
 - The Lord Gives Moses The Details:
 - About Some Of The Other Articles Of The Tabernacle - Including:
 - The Altar Of Incense!
 - The Laver Of Brass!
 - As Well As The Recipes For:
 - The Holy Oil For Anointing & The Incense For Burning!
- We Will Look More Closely At:

- These Articles Over The Coming Weeks:
 - But In Each Of Them:
 - We Can Learn Something:
 - About Christ!
- After All - As The Apostle John:
 - Tells Us In John 1:14 About Jesus:
 - “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us!”
 - When Jesus “Dwelt” With Us:
 - His Flesh Became The New Tent & Tabernacle Of God’s Presence!

* The Second Thing We Find Is:

2. *The Assembly Of The Tabernacle:*

- In 26:1-37:
 - Which Gives Us All The Details:
 - About How The Tent Itself Was To Be Built!
 - And Even Though:
 - The Interior Of The Tabernacle:
 - Would Be Crafted Of Fine Linen:
 - Embroidered With Colorful Images Of Cherubims!
 - The Exterior Of The Tabernacle:
 - Would Have A Rather Rough & Plain Appearance:
 - Since It Was Covered With Curtains Made of Goat Hair, Ram’s Skin, And Badgers Skin!
 - And This Too:
 - Is What We Find When John Tells Us That:
 - Jesus Christ - As The Eternal Word:
 - “Was Made Flesh!”
 - His Eternal Glory:
 - Was Veiled For A Time:
 - By The Rough & Plain Skin:
 - Of His Own Human Flesh!

* The Third Thing God Describes To Moses Is:

3. *The Activities Of The Tabernacle:*

- In 27:1-21!
 - That Is - The Main Activities:
 - That Were To Take Place:
 - In & Around The Tabernacle!
 - The Main Activities:
 - Revolved Around:
 - The Main Article:
 - The Altar - Which Was Placed In:
 - The Court - Which Is Also Described In Detail To Moses!
 - Of Course - God Would Give:
 - Further Instructions:
 - For The Sacrifices That Were To Be Offered:
 - Upon That Altar!
 - But - That Great Altar:
 - Would Point To The Great Sacrifice:
 - Of Jesus Christ - That Would:
 - Be The Final Sacrifice For Sin!
 - Even As We Are Told:
 - In The Book Of Hebrews - And:
 - Hebrews 9:26 - “But now once in the end of the world hath he - Jesus - appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself!”

* The Fourth Thing God Describes To Moses Is:

4. *The Administration Of The Tabernacle:*

- In 28:1 - 29:32!

- That Is - He Describes The Priests - And Especially:
 - The High Priest:
 - Who Would Represent The People:
 - Before The Lord:
 - In The Tabernacle!
- In 28:2 - The Lord Told Moses:
 - “And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty!”
 - And Then - He Proceeds To Reveal His Plans For:
 - All Of Those “Holy Garments!”
 - From Head To Toe!
- Of Course - Aaron - Along With:
 - All Of The Other High Priests:
 - That Would Come After Him:
 - Were A Types Of Jesus Christ:
 - As The Last & Greatest:
 - High Priest Before God!
- Hebrews 4:14-16 Tells Us This:
 - “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession. / For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. / Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need!”

Conclusion:

1. And So - From Exodus 25 - 30:
 - God Calls On Moses & The Israelites:
 - To Build This Special “Sanctuary In The Desert!”
 - Including Its Special:
 - Articles!
 - Assembly!
 - Activities! And:
 - Administration!
 - All Of Which:
 - Will Point Us To:
 - The Person & Work Of Christ:
 - In Some Way!
2. But Then - In 29:42-46:
 - The Lord Reiterates His Purpose:
 - For The Tabernacle - To Moses!
 - Where - After Giving Instructions About:
 - The Daily Sacrifices - The Lord Says:
 - “[This shall be] a continual burnt offering throughout your generations [at] the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee. / And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and [the tabernacle] shall be sanctified by my glory. / And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest’s office. / And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God. / And they shall know that I [am] the LORD their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I [am] the LORD their God.”
3. In These Verses - The Lord Makes Some Special Promises:
 - To Moses - About That Tabernacle:
 - That Would Be Built!
 - Two Times In 29:42 & 43 - The Lord Says:
 - “I Will Meet!”
 - Also Two Times - In 29:44 - The Lord Says:
 - “I Will Sanctify!”
 - And Then:
 - Two Times Again - In 29:45 & 46 - The Lord Says:
 - “I Will Dwell!”
 - Now - Think Of These Promises:

- For The Tabernacle:
 - In Terms Of:
 - The Our Lord Jesus Christ!
- 4. In Jesus Christ:
 - God Himself:
 - Meets With Us:
 - In The Wilderness Of This World!
 - And - Oh How We Needed This!
 - Because - We Could Never Go To God:
 - To Meet With Him:
 - By Our Own Initiative!
 - Instead - God Had To Come To Us:
 - To Meet With Us:
 - By His Own Initiative!
 - But - What Greater Condescension It Was:
 - For God To Meet With Us:
 - Not In A Tabernacle Made With Hands:
 - But In The Flesh Of Man!
 - Let Us Never Forget:
 - What It Meant For God To Meet With Us:
 - In Christ Jesus!
 - Even As We Are Told In:
 - Philippians 2:5-8 - "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: / Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: / But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: / And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross!"
 - In Jesus Christ:
 - God Himself Meets With Us:
 - In The Wilderness Of This World!
 - But Even More:
- 4. In Jesus Christ:
 - God Sanctifies Us:
 - In The Wilderness Of This World!
 - Back In Exodus 29:44:
 - The Lord Told Moses:
 - "And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest's office!"
 - To "Sanctify" Means To Set Apart For Holy Use!
 - And - Only Those Things That Are Sanctified Are Approved By God!
 - When Jesus Christ Came Into This World:
 - He Was Sanctified By The Lord:
 - To Do The Work Of His Ministry!
 - And - This Approval Was Seen When - At His Baptism By John The Baptist:
 - Matthew 3:16-17 - "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: / And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!"
 - And - All Of This Happened:
 - To Show Us That:
 - When Jesus Christ Came Into This World:
 - He Also Came To Sanctify Those Who Believe In Him:
 - To Continue The Work Of His Ministry!
 - Even As Paul Wrote To The Thessalonians In 2 Thessalonians 2:13:
 - "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth!" - So:
 - Through Jesus Christ:
 - God Himself:

- Meets With Us & Sanctifies Us:
 - In The Wilderness Of This World!
 - But Also:
- 5. In Jesus Christ:
 - God Dwells With Us:
 - In The Wilderness Of This World!
 - In The Great Commission:
 - That We Find In Matthew 28:19-20:
 - Jesus Himself Makes This Promise To Us!
 - “And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen!”
 - And - All That Was To Be Done:
 - In That Old Testament Tabernacle:
 - Was To Point To And Bring About:
 - The Time When God’s Presence Would Be With His People:
 - Permanently - Through The Son Of God & The Spirit Of God!
- 6. The Purpose Of The Tabernacle:
 - Was So That - God Would:
 - Meet With His People!
 - Sanctify His People! And:
 - Dwell With His People!
 - But - There Was Still More:
 - To That Purpose!
 - Because In Exodus 29:46a:
 - The Lord Adds:
 - “And They Shall Know That I Am The Lord Their God, That Brought Them Forth Out Of The Land Of Egypt!”
 - The Tabernacle Was Given By God:
 - So That His People Might “Know” Him More & More!
 - 7. And So - In Jesus Christ:
 - We Now Can Know God:
 - Personally & Intimately!
 - Because - As We Are Told In:
 - Colossians 2:9 - “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily!”
 - And That Should Now Be:
 - Our Greatest Quest:
 - In The Wilderness Of Our World!
 - Not Just To Survive! But:
 - Like The Quest Of Paul:
 - In Philippians 3:10 - “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death!”
 - 8. And - You **Can** Know Him:
 - More & More:
 - Because God Himself Has:
 - Met With Us!
 - Sanctified Us! And:
 - Dwells With Us!
 - All In Our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Because He Is:
 - The True Tabernacle Of God!

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