

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Morning Service

Date 14th August 2022

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles, Ps/Hymns Ps 67 2nd version Tune St Anne, 109, 277.

Bible Reading Exodus 25:1-9 Bible Text Exodus 25:1-9

Series – The Tabernacle series (1) Title Why Build The Tabernacle?

When the children of Israel were delivered from Egyptian bondage, they were saved by the Lord and set free to serve the Lord.

Having spent time as slaves in the land of Egypt, they observed the ways of the heathen, in all their pagan practices and false worship to their idols.

Therefore, the Lord's covenant people, as redeemed by blood, were to grow in grace.

The Egyptian influence that would hinder and hold them back from worshipping God, and going on with God, must be laid aside.

Paul urged believers in **Heb 12:1** "**let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us...**"

The word **beset** means **something that stands well around us**. It surrounds from all sides.

Whatever might cause you to lose sight of Jesus, and is persistently, pulling you away, slowing you down, hindering you, lay it aside to go on with God.

The moment a sinner is justified, fully pardoned, they desire to be sanctified. **Justification and sanctification while both are different yet both go together.** **Justification** is when a sinner is declared or pronounced, righteousness, perfectly

pardoned by an Act of God's free grace, from all sin through faith in Christ alone.

Whereas, **sanctification** is a work of God's grace, where we are *enabled or strengthened more and more to die unto sin and to live unto righteousness.*" It is seeking daily to live holy unto God, for He said be ye holy for I am holy saith the Lord.

For that reason, at Mount Sinai, God brought Moses up to the mountain for 40 and 40 nights. During this time, God gave him His Law.

There was three parts to God's law.

The Moral law as summarised in the 10 commandments was written down for the first time, to teach the people, their **Accountability before God.**

Then **the ceremonial law**, dealing with worship, offering of sacrifices to teach the people their **Acceptance before God**, and then **the civil law** to teach the people their **Actions in society.**

But God also gave Moses the plan of the Tabernacle to teach the People their **Approach unto God.**

Here is law and grace together. Notice the order, when God's law is given to sinners, showing the knowledge of sin, then grace is proclaimed to show there is forgiveness of sin, and approach to God.

God said to Moses in **Exodus 25:8** "*make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.*" The word **sanctuary**, means **a sacred place, a dwelling place.**

Furthermore, the name sanctuary was one of many names describing the Tabernacle throughout scripture.

For instance, the two main name are "**tabernacle**" in **Exodus 25:9**, and "**sanctuary**" **Exodus 25:8; 36:1**.

Other names include "**tent**" **Exodus 39:33**, "**tent of the congregation**" **Exodus 39:40**, "**tabernacle of the congregation**" **Exodus 27:21**, "**tabernacle of testimony**" **Exodus 38:21** "**tabernacle of the Lord**" **1 Kings 2:28**, "**tabernacle of witness**" **Numbers 17:8**), and "**sanctuary of the Lord**" **Numbers 19:20**.

The Tabernacle was basically a tent, a temporary dwelling place. It was set up, then taken down and rebuilt as Israel journeyed.

The Tabernacle was succeeded around 500 years later by Solomon's temple, a more permanent dwelling place.

In the OT Testament, God's everlasting covenant of grace, in Christ, that He would come and pay the penalty for sin, by shedding His blood by offering Himself as a willingly sacrifice was **revealed by object lessons, types, shadows, promises and prophecies** which all pointed to and were fulfilled in Christ the promised Saviour.

The Tabernacle was one of God's object lessons to teach spiritual truth.

Now it is not my aim today **go into every detail of the Tabernacle as we will do this** throughout the series.

But only to walk through the Tabernacle according to scripture.

One would enter the Tabernacle through the only gate. Then immediately inside the gate was the **brazen altar** for sacrifices, then the **laver** for cleansing.

Then the tent was separated in two **parts by a veil**. The first Part of the tent was called the holy place, where there was three pieces of furniture.

On the right the table of **shewbread**, on the left side the **Golden candle stick**, and in the middle was the **golden altar** of incense.

Through the veil into the second Part of the tent was called the holy of holies where the ark of the covenant with the mercy seat upon it was placed.

Every part of the tabernacle, in its framework, and furniture led the people to consider the person and work of Christ, and that sinful man can only approach God in fellowship upon the basis of sacrifice that He accepts.

I FIRST THE PURPOSE OF THE TABERNACLE.

God instructed Moses in **Exodus 25:8** to “***make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.***” **Ex 40:34-35**
“***The glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.***”

The purpose of this tabernacle was God dwelling place among His people on earth.

The word **dwell** means **to tabernacle**. And while we know God is omni-present meaning He is everywhere present, yet in a sense, by God's presence within the tabernacle, He taught **God must be worshipped as He has appointed.**

The people would learn that when they came to worship God they entered into the very presence of God, the holy one of Israel by means of a representative, one to appear in the presence of God for them.

Therefore, they could not approach God, to worship, anyway or by another way or representative they desired. They could not approach God in their sin.

Rather God had appointed the OT priests to bring the people before God, by prayer upon the sacrificial blood. all pointing to Christ the great High priest and representative of His people.

Approach unto God was upon the foundation of the shedding of sacrificial blood well pleasing to God for the removal of sin.

Heb 9:22 “**and without shedding of blood is no remission (forgiveness) of sins.**”

Since the Tabernacle centred upon Christ in His sinless person and sacrificial work, then God met and fellowshiped with His people and they with Him by faith upon the life and blood of Jesus Christ.

The first piece of furniture to be built is recorded in **verse 10 the ark**, or the ark of the covenant. Yet in the tabernacle it was the last piece of furniture in place.

The ark was made of shi-ttem (acacia) wood which was a hard and lasting wood, in other words it was durable or incorruptible wood. Then it was covered with pure gold.

Within the Ark were three items, one of them was the unbroken copy of God's law. Then upon the top was the mercy seat where the sacrificial blood was sprinkled.

The object lesson taught, that the wood and gold spoke of Christ's two natures. His deity and humanity. **Matthew 1:18** states He is “**Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us.**”

We read of Christ in **John 1:14** “**and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us...**” the word **dwelt** is the word

tabernacle. God tabernacled or dwelt among men and woman in the person of Christ.

Revelation 21:3 “...**behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them and be their God.**”

So when we put it all together we learn Jesus Christ is the ark of the covenant.

He identified with sinners, He came to save, and by His sinless life and sacrificial death, He perfectly obeyed God law.

Jesus Christ is the only sinless man who did not break the law of God. And **by His own blood, He entered in once into the holy place having obtained** secured **eternal redemption for us.**” The ark spoke of Christ.

It is in the person and work of Christ that God will meet with sinners and have approach into Him.

Oh believer, we come to God’s house, because He wants to meet with us.

Why should we attend God’s house, because God has appointed a place to meet with His people, as a congregation assembled together. And each time we assemble we come on holy ground, a sacred place.

II SECOND, THE PATTERN OF THE TABERNACLE

When in the Mount with God, Moses was given every detail about the building of the tabernacle. **Verse 9** “**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 word **pattern** means **form, figure, or outline**, signifying that Moses actually was shown the very appearance of the tabernacle. There was a revelation given to him of every detail that pertained to the tabernacle.

In other words, the tabernacle on earth was patterned after the heavenly tabernacle. **Psalm 11:4** “**The LORD is in His Holy Temple, the LORD’S throne is in Heaven...**”

The pattern was not left for Moses to invent. The tabernacle was not built based on human speculation but based on Divine revelation.

(The same word **pattern** is used in **1 Chron 28:11-13**, These verses record the delivery of the pattern of the temple by David to Solomon from the Holy Spirit to build a more permanent dwelling place.

Notice the words in **verse 12**, “**the pattern of all that he had by the Spirit.**” It was a pattern as given by the Holy Spirit; it did not arise within David’s own mind.)

Moses is given the outline of the Tabernacle by God. The same thought was recorded by Paul, of the priest’s ministry in the tabernacle, **Hebrews 8:5** “**who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, Moses was admonished of God, when he was about to make the tabernacle, for, see, saith he, that though make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.**”

The words, **example**, means **a figure, copy, a pattern, a type**. The word **shadow** also means **an outline**. When you see a shadow of yourself or a building, you are looking at the

outline or shape, but not the actual substance or building itself.

In this case the Heavenly Tabernacle is the substance or reality, whereas the earthly tabernacle was the shadow or outline.

Upon the Mount, Moses was lifted up to higher ground, and the Lord instructs him ***“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.”***

Moses don't add anything else, don't even make or take suggestions. The pattern of my tabernacle, how I will meet with sinners, is not open for discussion.

Moses was not to digress from God's revealed will in the building of the tabernacle. The tabernacle was to be built according to the Divine pattern and was set up to be the centre of the worship of the Lord.

God was establishing a principle that is found everywhere in Scripture, God's work must be done in God's way.

We must not to deviate from what the Lord has revealed with regard to how spiritual matters are to be done.

But as Jonah was commanded by God in **Jonah 3:2**, ***“go unto Ninevah... and preach the unto it the preaching that I bid thee.”***

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, a ministerial college and instructed him in maintaining the scriptural pattern for ministering the word set forth by God. In **2 Tim 1:13** Paul wrote, ***“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou***

hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

The word **form** means, **a standard, a pattern and outline.** The idea of this word is taken from an artist, when they draw a person or building, they make a sketch, an outline of that person or building, then complete the rest.

The point is, they do not change anything or add anything, they keep the pattern, outline form as it is before them.

Paul is saying to timothy, I have received the gospel from the Lord, and I am now passing the message to you to preach the Saviour of sinners, therefore Timothy keep to the pattern, outline set down by Christ, preach the living book and blood.

Preach the person and work of Christ. ***“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me.” Maintain the standard, keep the outline. Then you will not go wrong.***

To divert from the pattern is to divert from the person and work of Christ.

The unsaved must know, approach unto God and entrance into heaven is by God’s one way, not man’s many different ways. ***Jesus Christ is the only way, and the only name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.***

when we endeavour to keep the pattern set down, the Lord will meet with us, and we will know the blessing of His presence and His power among us, as a church family.

The tabernacle of was built in God’s way.

III THIRD, THE POSITION OF THE TABERNACLE

In is interesting to note that when the Lord said ***“that I may dwell among them,”***

the word **among** reads **in the midst**. “That I may dwell in the midst of them.”

It meant all focus would be upon Christ. The Tabernacle was built to remain in the middle of the camp.

Numbers 2:17 shows that the 12 tribes were arranged so that the Tabernacle was to sit “**in the midst of the camp**.” This meant that three tribes were located on each of the four sides of the Tabernacle.

(On the east side- Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun; **On the south;** Reuben, Simeon, and Gad **on the west** side, Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin; and then **on the north side-** Dan, Asher, and Naphtali. The Levites (except for Moses, Aaron and his sons) pitched their tents nearer the Tabernacle on the west, south, and north sides of the Tabernacle. Whereas, Moses, Aaron and his sons pitched their tents near to the Tabernacle on the east side.)

Furthermore the Lord gave instruction unto Moses and Aaron, in **Numbers 2:2** “**that every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father’s house, far off, about the Tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch.**”

If you have a margin in your Bible, the Hebrew word **far off** means **over against**.

In other words, the doors or opening of their tents were facing or over against, looking toward the Tabernacle.

The point is, in the morning when the Israelites came from their tents, their sight and thoughts were directed to the Tabernacle so at the evening the last sight that they in viewed before entering their tent was the Tabernacle.

Therefore, the position of the Tabernacle in the camp of Israel teaches us that Christ is to be the centre of our lives.

In the morning and evening times our minds must focus upon Christ yes individually, but as a congregation we must gather at set times to remember Christ.

Think upon Christ's life and death on our behalf believer. Spend time in His presence, by hearing from Him in reading scripture and talking to Him in prayer.

In considering the cross, **John 19:18** states "**where they crucified Him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.**" Therefore, the message is look unto me and be ye saved al the end of the earth for I am God there is none else.

Remember in **John 20** after His Resurrection, when the Saviour appeared to His disciples **verse 19** says **Jesus stood in the midst...** **v20** "**then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord.**" all eyes were centred upon Christ.

Christ must be the centre of all our praise, preaching, prayer and practices.

It is our desire that as we study the Tabernacle, that in each message, Christ will be centre, and we will continually look to Him as our Saviour and Salvation.