

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

05/27/2023

"The Tabernacle"

1. Question: What's so special about the Hebrew Tabernacle?

Exodus 25:8-9

Tabernacle in Hebrew is "MIS-KANE" which means "a tent dwelling place" which was the abode of Yahweh, the One True God, amongst humans. It had wooden walls and a tent covering. There were images of cherubim, palm trees, open flowers and pomegranates carved into the walls and a menorah. The Shekinah glory of God dwelling among men in the form of a **cloud of mist** by day and a **pillar of fire** by night. Part of the glory of the Tabernacle was the gold, silver and bronze which was used according to the plans God gave Moses on the mountain. The 2024 value of just the metal used would be \$72,515,095.20!

(The Tabernacle is where Heaven and earth meet!)

2. Question: Was this the first Tabernacle (NO)

Genesis 2:8-10

God planted a Garden in the East at Eden, "Delight" in Hebrew with all manner of flowers, fruit trees, shade trees and what was likely the River of Life flowing past the Tree of Life. This is the reason for the images in the Tabernacle (the menorah represents the Tree of Life). The River of Life flowed out of the Garden and split into 4 heads to bring it's water to the rest of the created world.

Genesis 1:26 & 2:7-10 The word translated "image" is the Hebrew word "TSELEM" meaning "a representative figure". This is the same word translated "images" in Numbers 33:52 regarding pagan idols. Adam (humanity) is the "idol or representative figure" of God. However, notice the difference between representative figures made by Yahweh and idols made by men. 1) Though both are fashioned from substances that are existing, God created those substances ex-nihilo, out of nothing. 2) Humans fashion idols proudly from their own finite, corrupted minds to worship them as their god, while Yahweh created His "idol or representative figure" with His perfect, infinite mind to worship Him and care for His creation as He directs. 3) Psalm 135:15-18 describes human-crafted idols as mute, blind, deaf and dead, whereas the one true eternally existent Yahweh breathed His breath of life into His "idol", human life. The gods represented by the human-made idols are frequently depicted as angry, vengeful, petty, or cruel, yet The One True God wants a loving relationship with His created human (Adam) life (Eve).

(The Garden of Eden was a Tabernacle and Adam was the first priest!)

3. Question: Returning to #1... What did the Hebrew Tabernacle *prefigure*? (God dwelling with man)

Genesis 28:10-17 [Holy ground is wherever God is]

John 1:14** [God, thru Jesus, tabernacled with us] **The Greek word "dwelt" is the verb meaning "to pitch a tent".

John 1:29 [Jesus was the spotless Lamb]

John 1:51 [Jesus is the Door to Heaven]

Matthew 17:1-8 [Jesus opens the Door to Heaven]

John 6:35 [Everlasting food and drink, like in the Garden of Eden]

Hebrews 6:19-20 [Jesus has entered the Holy of Holies as our High Priest]

(Jesus is the Garden of Eden, the River of Life, the Tree of Life, the Tabernacle, the Door to Heaven and the High Priest of Heaven!)

4. Question: What did the baptism of Jesus *prefigure*? (man becoming the Tabernacle for God)

Matthew 3:16-17 [The Hebrew word "moved" in Genesis 1:2 means "fluttering or hovering"]

Acts 2:1-4 ["Mighty wind" = Greek: "Pneumos" = Breath (of God); "Tongues of fire" = Pillar of fire lighting the way]

John 7:37-38 [occurred during the Feast of Tabernacles when priests were praying for rain] [River of Life flowing out to the world]

Colossians 1:27 [Christ IN you, the hope of future Glory]

1 Peter 2:4-5 [The Cornerstone of the True Tabernacle is building up His followers, like living stones, into a Tabernacle and holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices]

Romans 12:1 & Ephesians 2:10 [We are, as priests, to present our bodies to God as that living sacrifice. Despite the extreme value of the Hebrew Tabernacle, WE are worth more to God!]

(We, through the indwelling Holy Spirit, are *living Tabernacles* where the lost world comes to see and hear Christ!)

5. Question: Is the indwelling of humans by the Holy Spirit the culmination of God's plan? (NO)

Revelation 21:10-14 [The New Jerusalem, comes out of Heaven to the new earth]

Revelation 21: 22-27 [There is NO TABERNACLE, NO SUN OR MOON, NO CLOSED GATES, NO NIGHT, NO SEA because God is again, living face to face with His people and supplying all the delights He had intended to in the Garden of Eden]

(Heaven and earth were always intended to be joined and God's created beings were always intended to have a loving, peaceful, face to face relationship with Him!)

