

The Tabernacle - M.R. DeHaan, MD

Introduction

The Architect of Salvation

Law and Grace in Salvation

Where God Meets Man

Whosoever Will May Come

The Blood Foundation

The Roof of the Tabernacle

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Ropes and Pins

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Introduction

The reality of the tabernacle is that it tells the story of God. And the story of God is that He has always desired to be with us.

(Pg.28) Tabernacle - is called the "Tabernacle of Witness" (Num.17)

In (Rev. 15:5) is called the "tabernacle of testimony"

It was the one and only place where God witnessed and testified to Israel their duty and responsibility to Him.

(Ex. 33:7) we have the expression. "tabernacle of the congregation."

{A temporary Tent}

The Tabernacle in the wilderness which became the center of all worship of the children of Israel during their journeyings was designed by God Himself in Heaven.

(Exodus 25:40; Hebrew 8:5)

"See. That you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain ."

"They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in Heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was to build the Tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain ."

It was, therefore, a perfect replica of something which already existed before in heaven.

The tabernacle is a picture, a type, and a shadow of the Lord Jesus Christ, where God meets man, and where deity and humanity meet in one person.

(Hebrew 8:1-2) "We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by mere human being." (NIV)

In Christ, therefore, we find the complete answer to the spiritual significance of this tabernacle. In (John 1:14) "And the word was made flesh, and dwelt."

{tabernacled} among us, {and we beheld his glory as the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Every detail of the tabernacle, therefore, points to some aspect of the person and work of our Savior.

The Symbol of The Church:

The Tabernacle is a picture of three things

Christ

Salvation

Church

In addition to being a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, the tabernacle become secondarily, a picture of the believer. Jesus was the tabernacle in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwelt bodily.

Jesus was the tabernacle in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwelt bodily.

The believer "IN Christ" is also the dwelling place of God.

We are both "In Christ" and Christ is IN US," the hope in glory. Our life is hid with Christ in God.

We art temples of the Holy Spirit.

(ICor.6:19) "that your bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit."

The tabernacle was the dwelling place of God.

Speak about the three compartments/rooms, The tabernacle was a dwelling place of God consisting of three compartments or rooms.

Just as the dwelling place of the Spirit is a trinity in unity.

The redeemed person is composed of body, soul, and spirit.

It is the outer, the visible part of our personality.

*The body corresponds to the court of the tabernacle.

(Rom.12:1-2) It is the place of Sacrifice.

The soul answers to the holy place and is the place of worship and fellowship with other believers, feeding about the table, walking in the light, interceding for others.

*The answers to the holy place & is the place of worship, and fellowship with other believers.

*The spirit of the believer is the inner holy of holies.

The tabernacle tells more.

It is a complete picture of the plan of salvation.

It consists of 7 steps:

As Sinners outside - We must enter through the door and stop at the altar. The altar is the Cross, the starting point of our experience of salvation.

Next comes separation and daily cleansing at the laver.

We enter into fellowship of the Word at the table.

We learn to walk in the light. Of the golden candlestick (I John 1:7).

Then and then only comes power in prayer at the incense altar.

We are then ready to enter the holy of holies to the highest service of the tabernacle, personal power and communion in our most innermost life.

Thus we reach perfect rest and peace at the blood-sprinkled mercy seat under the shadow of the cherubim.

THE ARCHITECT OF SALVATION

“And the Lord spake unto Moses saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they may bring Me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take My offering.

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 pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.” (Ex.25:1, 2, 8, 9).

Architect is a person who plan, designs, oversees, the constructions of the buildings.

God Himself was the architect, and every detail points to some aspect of character and work of the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, and in its complete form, it is probably. The most comprehensive, detailed revelation of Jesus the Son of God, and the plan of salvation in the entire Old Testament.

There is no portion of scripture richer in meaning, more perfect in its teachings of the plan of redemption, than this divinely designed building.

Small Structure:

It was not an imposing an imposing structure from the exterior, and its unattractive out side gave little hint of the inner glory and beauty.

A stranger viewing it from without would see none of the exquisite beauty and breath - taking splendor of the glorious interior.

Only after one had entered through the door at the eastern end, stopped to sacrifice at the altar of burnt offering, had his hands and feet at the Laver, could one enter to behold the interior of the most magnificent “house of God.”

Before taking you into some of the glories of this interior, we would first of all have you get a clear mental picture. Of the structure as a whole.

Imagine, therefore, first of all, a rectangular plot of ground,75 feet wide and 150 feet long. This is the size of an ordinary city lot.

The rectangular lot was enclosed by a fence, seven and 1/2 feet high, surrounding the three sides, the north, the south. And the west.

At the eastern end of the enclosed end of this enclosure was a gate of the court only means of entrance into the sacred area.

This gate was 30 feet wide, all the rest being enclosed by this white linen fence, suspended like a curtain on brazen pillars, the pillars themselves resting upon a foundation of brazen sockets. This enclosure was latter called the

“Court of the Gentiles”.

Court of the Gentiles:

This court of the Gentiles always faced to the east, toward the rising sun, for it was a clear type of, and pointed forward to, the Sun of Righteousness, the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

At the eastern end of this court, just inside the gate door, stood a brazen altar and to the west of this stood the brazen laver or wash basin, containing water for the cleansing of the worshipers before they entered into the holy place of the tabernacle.

These, the altar and the silver, were the only two items of furniture in this open, roofless court, surrounding the tabernacle proper.

The Furnishings. - there were exactly 7 pieces of furniture

(speaking of Perfection of Him) - every part of this building, every arrivals of furniture, pointed to some aspect of the perfection of the personality and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, - our meeting place with God, our “Tabernacle.”

There were two in the court of the Gentiles; three in the holy place, and two in the holy of holies.

Seen for the door westward, they were the altar, the laver, the table of shewbread, the golden candlestick, the altar of incense, the ark of the testimony, and over it the blood-stained mercy seat. (Pg. 90)

*Will discuss later in the later chapter.

The Walls - the walls of the building were made of gold-plated boards, which stood vertically, each upon two sockets of silver. The boards, made of acacia wood, were completely covered with gold, each board fifteen feet long and two & one - fourth feet wide. There were twenty boards each for the two long sides of the tabernacle, six boards for the western wall. These boards stood upright, next to one another, in their silver sockets (which were imbedded in the desert sand), and were united by five horizontal gold-plated bars which passed through golden loops attached to the boards, from end to end, thus uniting them all into one solid, rigid wall. The inside of the tabernacle, therefore, was solid gold on all four sides.

The Roof - the roof of this tabernacle were made of 4 layers of cloth and leather.

First from the inside and forming the ceiling of the tabernacle, and the only one of the 4 coverings visible from within, was the linen covering, beautifully embroidered with gold, purple, blue, and scarlet, and with figures of cherubim looking down upon the worshippers.

The linen sheet covered the tabernacle.

Over this linen covering which formed the ceiling of the tabernacle proper, was next placed a covering of cloth made of goats' hair which slightly overlapped the linen curtains. Over this was draped a covering of rams' skins dyed a bright red, and over this and forming the putter covering was a great curtain of leather made of badger skins, drab, gray and unimpressive, but water and weather repellent.

Since the top of the roof was covered with leather curtain of drab gray badger skins, the outsider would see none of the inner beauty. There was no hint to the viewer on the outside, of the breathless, exquisite beauty which met the eyes of those who had gained entrance through the door, by way of the altar.

(Take note of this section pg.17-19) Biblical/Spiritual significance

Chapter 2. OLaw And Grace In Salvation

“And He said unto Moses, come up unto the Lord, thou, Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: and worship ye afar off. And Moses alone shall come near the Lord: but they shall not come nigh: neither shall the people go up with him. And Moses went into the mist of the cloud, and gat him yo into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights” (Ex.24: 1, 2, 18).

Before an individual can be saved, he/she must first learn that he/she cannot save him or her self.

Adam had to learn this tremendous lesson.

Self remedy - self-made garment of fig leaf aprons.

God - made - slew an animal - took the skins of the bloody victim, and clothed Adam and wife.
(Gen.3:21) {NIV}. With the substitutionary skins.

This is ever God's order - He kills before He makes alive. It never changed.

He brings down, before He brings up. He makes poor before He makes rich.

Same In Tabernacle

The setting for the giving of the "Tabernacle"

The record of the pattern of this tabernacle.

(the tabernacle given to Israel in the wilderness) is found in (Exodus 25 to 31).

The instruction for the building , is preceded by the record of the giving of the law of God.

The record of the actual building of the tabernacle is also preceded by a repetition of the story giving of the law, and the sad record of Israel's miserable failure in the worship of the golden calf.

Scriptures: In (Ex. 19 to 24) we have a detailed account of the commandments, statutes, precepts, and laws which God enjoined through Moses upon Israel. These laws were designed to show Israel, in their utter inability to keep God's commandments, or to be saved by their own righteousness.

Read - (Ex.24:(3)-4) " And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgements and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do"

Thought they could keep them.

Behold The Blood

God's answer to Israel's foolish promise, "All that the Lord said will we do" is
"Behold The Blood"

When Moses came down from the Mountain

He brought with him the pattern of the tabernacle;

The picture of grace

The plan of salvation

And the glories type of our substitute and redeemer

God gave to Israel through Moses in the mountains two things;

1. The Law

2. The Tabernacle

The Law — to show the awfulness of sin, and man's desperate failure;

The Tabernacle — to show God's way out for the guilty ones who had broken His Holy law.

The tabernacle -speaks of mercy, pardon, forgiveness, atonement, redemption, and salvation.

Same Order Repeated - in (cvs. 35-40) we have three chapters recording the broken laws, and the giving of the second tables of the law, and then follows the actual rearing of the building.

It was God's revelation of His plan of salvation by Grace, redemption through faith.

But first, He must show them how far short they came, allow them to prove the utter depravity of the human heart, convince them of their total corruption, and then, and then only, are they ready for the message of Grace. Paul voices this very thing in

(Titus 3:5). "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."

Other Scriptures:

(Rom.8:3). " For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.

(Heb.9: 19-22) " For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and the scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, this is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoyed unto you. Moreover He sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle, all the vessels of the ministry.

And almost all things are by the law purged with Blood and without shedding of blood is no remission."

(Rom.4:5)

Chapter 3 - (pg.27) "Where God Meet's Man"

The tabernacle God commanded Moses to build in the wilderness -
was a perfect type figure and a figure of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is believed, that every detail of the structure, the materials, the furniture, and the ministry in the tabernacle, revealed some particular aspect of the infinite graces, virtues, attributes, personality, and work of our Savior.

(Hebrew 9) gives a brief description -

(v.2) " For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

He continues: "and after the second veil;, {which separated the holy place from the holy of holies}, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

Which had a golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, where in was the golden pot that had manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; and over it the cherubim of glory shadowing the mercy seat; (Heb. 9:3-5).

But, Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building.

Neither by blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and ashes of the heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctified to the purifying of the flesh:

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered

Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
(Heb.9:11-14).

The meaning of the word "Tabernacle" Let us explore some.

A congregation is a meeting of individuals for fellowship and counsel, and thus, the tabernacle is called - "the tent meeting."

(Numbers 17) - "Tabernacle of Witness"

(Revelation 15:5) - "Tabernacle of Testimony"

(Heb.9:6-7) "Now when these things were thus ordained

[the building Of the tabernacle], the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.

But into the second [the Holy of Holies] went the high priest alone every year, without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people.

The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

Which was a figure - for the time then present. (Heb. 9:8-9)

Tabernacle a Type:

Here then is the Holy Spirit's own testimony and witness, that the tabernacle in the wilderness was a figure of something future, yet to come.

Figure means - "type" or a "shadow," and so we are reminded that this tabernacle was only a shadow of something greater which still lay in the future.

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle {His Body}, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having ordained eternal redemption for us.

For if the blood of bulls and goats, and Asher of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God (Heb.9:11-14).

Christ, therefore is "the original tabernacle", eternal in the heavens.

The tabernacle in the wilderness was a figure and a shadow of Him on the Cross.

The laver speaks of Him as the eternal Word; the table of shewbread as Christ the Bread of life; the lamp as Christ the Light of the world; the incense altar speaks of our interceding High Priest.

The finished work; the wood in the tabernacle points to His humanity; the gold of His diety; the silver to His blood; the brass to His perfect holiness. Purple speaks oh His royalty; white of His righteousness; scarlet of His sacrifice, and of His blood; the veil points to His body which must be rent to give access to God.

Only One Place

In (Lev. 17:3-4) "What man soever there be of the house of Israel, that killeth an ox, or a lamb, or goat ...

And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer an offering unto the Lord before the tabernacle of the Lord ... that man shall be cut off from among His people.

There was only one place of sacrifice permitted, and that was at the altar in the gate of the tabernacle.

It was the sin of Israel in repeated sacrificing in (Other Places), in groves and upon high hills, which provoked the displeasure of the Lord and brought judgement upon them, and caused them finally to be dispersed among the nations.

(Jn.14:6)

(Acts 4:12)

One More Lesson - pg. 31

In the tabernacle - diety and humanity met in one perfect whole.

The boards, the altar, the pillars of the tabernacle, were made of wood, and gold.

The wood was the incorruptible desert wood, acacia or shittim wood, and the gold was pure, refined gold. (Ex.26:15) Only this wood was permitted for building boards)

It represented - the humanity of Christ. Characteristic of Christ

(Isa.53:2)

(Jn.1:14)

A Mystery

Paul tells us it is a mystery {this is a deep mystery, and we cannot understand it, for it must be ever accepted by faith alone.}

In (Col. 1:19) "For it pleased the Father that in Him should all the fullness dwell."

This then is the picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, as represented in the two basic materials in the structure of the tabernacle.

He is the God-Man, who alone can bring God and man together in perfect harmony.

He could pay the infinite price for man's sin: -not for one, but for all.

Again Paul says of Him (1Tim.3:16) "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

The redeemer must be both God and man - to be a mediator who can bridge the gulf by dying like a man, and rising from the dead as the eternal God.

And in (Heb.9:15) sums it up.

"And for this cause He is the mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."

(Acts 4:12) "Neither is there Salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

There is then, no other place where man can meet God, where God can be reconciled, and man can be saved, than in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter 4. WHOSOEVER WILL MAY COME

The most costly building, for its size, ever erected, was the tabernacle in the wilderness.

Though only forty feet long, and fifteen feet wide, and having two rooms one, its cost is estimated to have exceeded two million dollars.

All of this points to the preciousness and infinite value and worth of the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

From this tabernacle everyone was excluded except those who came by the way of the door and the blood and the altar at the entrance of the tabernacle.

It stood within an enclosure the size of a lot, and was bounded by a white linen fence seven and one-half feet high, suspended on sixty pillars or posts of solid brass, resting upon sockets of brass.

The enclosure was called the "court of tabernacle" .

(Ex.27:9-12) " And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle: for the south side southward there shall be hangings for the court of fine twined linen of an hundred cubits long for one side:

And the twenty pillars thereof and their twenty sockets ...

And likewise for the north side ...

And for the breadth of the court on the west side shall be hangings of fifty cubits ...

And for the breadth of the court on the east side eastward shall be fifty cubits.

Purpose Of Fence

{To keep man out.}

Man's approach to the tabernacle where God dwelt was barred completely by the linen fence which surrounded it.

Read from pg. 35 the significance of the:

White linen and the brass pillars.

(Jas.2:10) "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

The linen fence - represented the Law.

The Door

There was a way provided for the sinner whereby he/she could approach from the outside and enter into communion and fellowship with God; by means of a Door.

(Ex.38:18) "And the hanging {curtain} for the gate {door} of the court was needlework, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen: and twenty cubits was the length, and the height in the breadth was five cubits."

This was the only opening in the linen fence, and the only way of approach to the tabernacle.

(Jn.10:9) " I Am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved."

(Jn.14:6) " I Am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father,
But by Me."

This is what Peter refers, (Acts 4:12) " Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Four Colors

These four prominent colors of the tabernacle, points to some particular aspect of the nature and character of the person of our Savior.

Purple. - is the sign of Royalty - King

Scarlet - is the color of Blood - speaks of sacrifice

White - is the color of Perfection & Righteousness

Blue. - is the color of Heaven

Only one Door

These four records constitute the Gospel of the Grace of God.

{There is only One Gospel}

There are various aspects of this one Gospel,

The Gospel of the Kingdom

The Gospel of Grace of God

The everlasting Gospel

“My Gospel”

Each one of them refers to the same good news of Christ crucified, buried, and risen again for our redemption.