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## Deep Symbols in Spiritual Reality

August 27, 2023 Message Notes

*TEXT: EXODUS 25-28*

God gave instructions on building a ‘mobile unit’ designed to travel with the Israelites to help tend their wounds and keep them safe spiritually, physically, emotionally and relationally – the Tabernacle. Here, the priests would perform directions God gave them for the people and dwell with them. Seven furnishings in the tabernacle facilitated the people being connected and clean, and these are relevant to us today.



## NOTES

**Exodus** - our long distance journey to an intended destination across a wilderness.

God gave instructions on building a 'mobile unit' designed to travel with the Israelites to help tend their wounds and keep them safe spiritually, physically, emotionally and relationally – the Tabernacle.

Ancient Hebrew priests were like community gatekeepers intended to help keep people connected and clean with God and each other through worship and fellowship, overseeing the rituals and rules of cleanliness.

The system of sacrifice required that offerings be made of the first, best animals and harvest to God in worship, but also for ritual cleansing and atonement for sin.

People would see, in the sacrifice of an animal, a substitute for their own wrongs done. This is substitutionary atonement.

The Apostle Paul tells us that the Old Testament stories of the exodus are examples written for us.

“These things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.”

*1 Corinthians 10:6*

Example = **'types'** - a prefiguring, or model of a reality yet to come; a reliable precedent for others to follow.

The tabernacle was where God would dwell with the people, where the priests would perform directions God gave them for the people.

**Seven furnishings** in the tabernacle facilitated them being connected and clean, and they are relevant to us today.

**1. Brazen Altar** – Sacrificed animals were then burned here.

“Sin” means to miss or go wrong, to do less than what’s right.

God makes a way through substitutionary atonement for the people to admit their wrong and then, by faith, enter the way God was providing for them to be forgiven.



- 2. Brass Laver** – The priest washed here to be purified and prepared to enter the tabernacle.
- 3. Golden Lampstand** – Fueled by oil with seven wicks to provide light in the Holy Place
- 4. Table of Showbread** – Set with 12 loaves of bread as a reminder of God’s promises to provide for them.
- 5. Altar of Incense** – The nonstop rising of fragrant incense represents the prayers of the faithful.
- 6. Veil** – Made of blue, purple and scarlet threads. Separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy, the Holy of Holies.
- 7. Ark of the Covenant** – Held the Ten Commandments, some manna and Aaron’s budding rod. The top was the Mercy Seat flanked by two winged cherubim.

Every part of the tabernacle was designed and functioning to bring sinful people to a loving and holy God.

What does this have to do with you? Jesus is the message of the Tabernacle.

The Ark was gold and wood. Jesus was God and man.

“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.”  
*Colossians 2:9*

“He who has seen me has seen the Father.” “The Father and I are one.”  
*Jesus in John 14:9, 10:30*

#### **In the Ark:**

**Aaron’s Rod** – Jesus’ resurrection - Priest

**Manna** – Jesus is God’s miracle bread - Prophet

**10 Commandment Tablets** – Jesus is fulfiller of God’s Law – King

“Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the True Bread from heaven.”  
*John 6:32*

**Mercy Seat** – where the blood of sacrifice made atonement through the High Priest.



“It was not with perishable things such as silver or gold you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”

*1 Peter 1:18-19*

Jesus Christ is our high priest and our sacrificial lamb, in the Holy of Holies for us.

**In the Holy Place:**

**Table of Showbread** – Jesus is God’s provision

**Altar of Incense** – Jesus lives to pray for us

**Golden Lampstand** – Jesus is our Light

“All the promises of God in him (Christ) are ‘Yes’ and in Him ‘Amen’...”

*2 Corinthians 1:20*

He is our bread of life that his body would be broken for us as one of us and we are nourished and kept healthy by feeding on him, our daily bread.

“He is light and in him there is no darkness at all...and if we walk in the light as he is in the light we have fellowship with one another.”

*1 John 1:5-7*

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than Christ.”

*Colossians 2:8*

Jesus Christ isn't just another philosopher or religious teacher. He is the Son of God in who is no darkness at all.

The tabernacle was a type, a pre-figuring pattern of a reality yet to come, and that foreshadowing became real in Jesus Christ.

**What is the message of the tabernacle to ancient Israel?**

- Holy God who set you free wants to dwell with you and has made a way for you to move through the wilderness to the land of promise with Him.

**What is the message of the tabernacle for you today?**

- That same God can set you free from the empty worship of false gods, from death and judgment of sin by the blood of the Lamb and the power of spiritual baptism into new life.



### **How are you to make it through the wilderness of your life?**

- You're going to need forgiveness and freedom, cleansing of your sin.
- You're going to need guiding light by the oil and fire of God's Holy Spirit.
- You're going to need daily bread. You're going to need to see prayers answered and know God is on your side.

You've been given the pattern for understanding how to know the invisible God in the wilderness of this life.

We have been drawn out to be drawn in - not just to a piece of land but to the living God.

Are you on the journey with Christ?

God wants to be with you every day of your journey - to be your source of life and strength no matter what wilderness you are passing through.

“We do not have a High Priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

*Hebrews 4:15-16*

The tabernacle was like a mobile health unit, with God as their Great Physician. Christ Jesus is that for us today.

If Christ is inside you, you are part of God's mobile health unit. He wants us to be part of the healing flow as we move with Him through the wilderness.

Be a tabernacle on the move in this *'Tour de Wilderness'*.

