

THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

Part 2: 'Let Them Make Me A Sanctuary' Continued...

Reading: Exodus 25:1 - 9

Introduction

- A sprawling camp of 600,000 tents covering a 6 to 8 square mile site.
- A rectangular structure right in the very centre of the camp surrounded by a white linen perimeter fence.
- We've considered
 - i) The **PEOPLE**
 - ii) the **PATTERN**
 - iii) the **PURPOSE** and
 - iv) the **POSITIONING** of the Tabernacle.

1 The Plan Of The Tabernacle

- The whole Tabernacle was made up of 3 parts:
- The Outer Court was rectangular in shape 100 cubits (north and south sides) X 50 cubits (east and west sides) (150 feet X 75 feet).
- The single entrance was in the east side and was 30 cubits wide.
- The court was home to the brazen altar and the laver.
- The '**Tabernacle**' (God's Tent) was also rectangular: 30 cubits (length) X 10 cubits (width) and 10 cubits (height).
- The 1st section called the '**Holy Place**' was 20 x 10 X 10 and was home to the 7 branched golden lampstand, the table of show bread and the altar of incense.
- The 2nd section called '**the Holy of Holies**' was 10 X 10 X 10 and housed the sacred ark of the covenant illuminated by the '**Shekinah**' glory of God.
- Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies and then only once a year on the '**Day of Atonement**.'
- NB. In the NT book of Hebrews there are some 303 references to the Tabernacle.

2 Tents, Tabernacles And Types

- The whole Tabernacle is a type/picture of Christ and His redemptive work.
- The Tabernacle was for God to dwell in among His people.
- [John 1 :14] *“the Word was made flesh and dwelt (Tabernacled) among us.”*
- It took 9 months to construct the Tabernacle. Christ was in Mary’s womb for 9 months being prepared to *‘tabernacle’* among us.

3 The Significance Of The Fence

- Perimeter fence was 100 cubits X 50 cubits creating a consecrated space.
- The fence was composed of fine white linen.
- White linen symbolised holiness and righteousness which God is.
- This is a problem for fallen humanity because they are naturally sinful. [Romans 3:10].
- All our attempts at being righteousness are like filthy rags and far from white. [Isaiah 64:6].
- The fence is thus a barrier between me and God.

4 The Relevance Of The Gate

- The gate was 30 cubits wide and in the eastern side.
- It was the only way to God but it was wide enough that any and all could come.
- The gate section was blue and purple and scarlet in colour.
- The gate speaks of Christ. [John 10:9].
- The blue speaks of heaven where He came from, the purple indicates His royalty as King of kings and the scarlet speaks of the blood He shed.
- Gates of towns and cities in OT was where sin was judged, covenants were witnessed and prophets like Jeremiah called for repentance.

Finally

- When Adam/Eve sinned they ran away from God in an easterly direction.
- They were evicted and cherubim posted on the east of the garden to prevent them re-entering.
- They moved from the west to the east.
- God reverses this at the Tabernacle: the worshipper comes from the east and moves west to where God is in the Holy of Holies.

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