

Today we come to the very end of the book of Exodus. We see Moses setting up the tabernacle for worship.

The story of Exodus starts in slavery, but it doesn't end and it's not completed until you get to worship. A driving point of the book of Exodus is everybody puts their ultimate hope, their identity, by living for something. Whatever you live for, whatever is the most important thing in your life, you serve.

If there's anything else more important in your life than God, you're controlled by it. You are still a slave, until you worship God. When you are enamored with and find your greatest delight in the beautiful and intimate glory presence of God, in that place you will find true freedom.

Exodus 35-40 The final section describes the preparation, construction, and assembling of the tabernacle, which is then filled by the glory of the Lord. *Without* the glory, it was just a fancy tent. The same could be said of a church, of a home, or of the human tent.

God's presence was with Israel, despite the golden calf debacle.

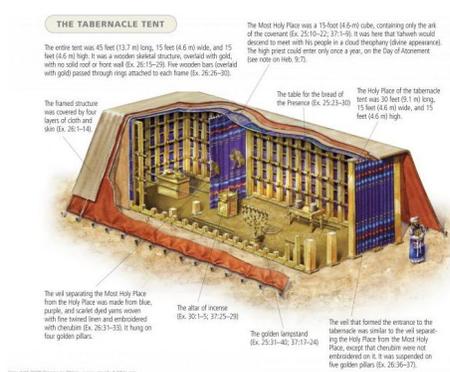
Until you get to worship, you're still not free, and that's the point of the book of Exodus, and that's the reason why the assembling of the tabernacle is the climactic end of the book.

Chapter 35 - Sabbath - 21 Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the LORD's offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting. No manipulation

Chapters 36 - 39 Tabernacle Construction.

Exodus 36:1 "And Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whom the LORD has put wisdom and understanding, to know how to do all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, shall do according to all that the LORD has commanded."

The people offered so much for materials that Moses declared - STOP!



Exodus 36:8 Then all the gifted artisans among them who worked on the tabernacle made ten curtains woven of fine linen, and of blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim they made them.

Exodus 36:14 He made curtains of goats' hair for the tent over the tabernacle;

Exodus 36:19 Then he made a covering for the tent of ram skins dyed red, and a covering of badger skins above that.

Exodus 36:20 For the tabernacle he made boards of acacia wood,



overlaid it with pure gold

Exodus 36:35 And he made a veil of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen; it was worked with an artistic design of cherubim.

Exodus 36:37 He also made a screen for the tabernacle door, of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver,

Ark of the Covenant

Exodus 37:1 Then Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits was its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. 2 He overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold all around it

Exodus 37:6 He also made the mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits was its length and a cubit and a half its width. 7 He made two cherubim of beaten gold; he made them of one piece at the two ends of the mercy seat: 8 one cherub at one end on this side, and the other cherub at the other end on that side. He made the cherubim at the two

ends of one piece with the mercy seat. 9 The cherubim spread out their wings above, and covered the mercy seat with their wings. They faced one another; the faces of the cherubim were toward the mercy seat.

Table of Showbread

10 He made the table of acacia wood; two cubits was its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. 11 And he overlaid it with pure gold, and made a molding of gold all around it.

Golden Lampstand

Exodus 37:17 He also made the lampstand of pure gold; of hammered work he made the lampstand. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and its flowers were of the same piece. 18 And six branches came out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side.

Altar of Incense

Exodus 37:25 He made the incense altar of acacia wood. Its length was a cubit and its width a cubit—it was square—and two cubits was its height. Its horns were of one piece with it. 26 And he

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Exodus 37:29 He also made the holy anointing oil and the pure incense of sweet spices, according to the work of the perfumer.



Altar of Burnt Offering

Exodus 38:1 He made the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood;...And he overlaid it with bronze.

Bronze Laver

Exodus 38:8 He made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze, from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.



These women gave up their ability to measure their own physical beauty (selfie) to make this reservoir for the water of ceremonial washing.

Outer Court

Exodus 38:9 Then he made the court on the south side; the hangings of the court were of fine woven linen

End of Exodus 38 - 2,200 pounds of gold, 7,550 pounds of silver, 5,300 pounds of bronze \$40,730,516.00

The tabernacle represented Yahweh's house among the Israelites—he would soon encamp in his large house in their midst, and they would encamp around his house according to their tribes.

He himself was symbolically represented as dwelling in the “back room” of his house by means of the ark.

In the tabernacle's “front room” were several pieces of furniture, the sorts of things that represented the furniture of a home. Table, Lamp, fireplace - air freshener

When the tabernacle was finally assembled, it was an earthly model of a heavenly reality. Heaven on Earth - God's campsite on earth

Heb 8:5 They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.”

Heaven Scenes -

· Revelation 4:1-6, the Ark of the Covenant = throne of God, the lampstand - 7 torches of fire and the laver = sea of glass - angels

- Revelation 8:2-4, the altar of incense in heaven is mentioned.
- Isaiah 6:1-7, a brazen altar is described.

Exodus 40: 20 He took the Testimony and put it into the ark, inserted the poles through the rings of the ark, and put the mercy seat on top of the ark. 21 And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, hung up the veil of the covering, and partitioned off the ark of the Testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

22 He put the table in the tabernacle of meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the veil; 23 and he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 24 He put the lampstand in the tabernacle of meeting, across from the table, on the south side of the tabernacle; 25 and he lit the lamps before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 26 He put the gold altar in the tabernacle of meeting in front of the veil; 27 and he burned sweet incense on it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 28 He hung up the screen at the door of the tabernacle. 29 And he put the altar of burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the grain offering, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 30 He set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water there for washing; 31 and Moses, Aaron, and his sons would wash their hands and their feet with water from it. 32 Whenever they went into the tabernacle of meeting, and when they came near the altar, they washed, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 33 And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.

34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 36 Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

Why do we need the tabernacle?

We know there is a reality with a capital "R," and we we need and we are disconnected from, actually banished from this reality called the Glory of God. Therefore, we need a temple. Without glory, everything everything here is meaningless.

C.S. Lewis in his sermon, Weight of Glory, "Our lifelong ... longing to be reunited with something in the universe from which we now feel cut off, to be on the inside of some door which we have always seen from the outside is no mere neurotic fancy, but the truest index off our real situation. [...] The sense that in this universe we are ... strangers, the longing to ... bridge some chasm that yawns between us and reality ..."

How does the tabernacle work?

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Did you notice the order of assembly - God insists he do it from the inside out. He starts off by putting the ark of the covenant, which was the only piece of furniture, in the deepest center of the tabernacle, which is the Holy of Holies. Where the Glory Presence of God dwelt. Then he sets up the Holy Place, and he has the bread, and he has the light and incense. Then he moves out into the outer court where you have the altar for the burnt offerings, and you have the basin for washing. God is deliberately showing that there is a way into the presence of God!

The glory of God, the presence of God, the face of God is the ultimate experience of life.. Moses hungered for it. Psalm 16 says, "... in thy [face] is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

All the beauty, pleasures, joy you have ever gone after is in the presence of God, and any joys you have experienced are drops compared to an ocean.

But there are barriers, hurdles, obstacles - curtains, altars, lavers, curtains, lamps, tables, altar, barriers... There's a way of actually experiencing the very glory of God, but there are barriers.

There's a wall between God and man that we have been trying to bust down, but can't.

Here's how we got there. Genesis 2 and Genesis 3 "In the beginning ...". God created heaven on earth, the garden of Eden, and he put humanity into the garden of Eden, and he walked with them. They had his presence. They had the glory. They had an unhindered experience of his presence.

Perfect Shalom - everything was perfect - They were naked and unashamed. That meant there was no hiding, no fear. There was just perfect love and delight and mutual communication. They experienced nothing but joy.

When humanity decided we were going to be our own masters, all of that fell apart. Adam and Eve were banished from the garden of Eden, God put an angel at the door of the garden with a sword, and the sword represented the fact the relationship between this world and that world is broken, and **that the Tabernacle is the way back in.**

Cherubim Palm trees (Ezekiel)- The tabernacle declares - "I am with you and I am coming back. Everything broken about this world is going to be fixed. I have built a prototype of the garden of Eden, and I'm in the center of that, and I'm opening a way in. You will be able to come back."

Who is the tabernacle pointing to?

Jesus said many, many outrageous things, but only one thing led to his execution.

Matthew 26:61. "This man said, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again,' " and he was talking about himself.

Jesus says, "I am the temple. I, in my death and resurrection, am the temple! I'm the way into the God's glory presence"?

Heb 9:11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Jesus is saying, "I am the way over the gap. I am the way through the barrier. I'm the sacrifice. I'm the priest. I'm the basin. I'm the altar. I'm the bread. I'm the lamp. I'm everything! I fulfill it for you."

Heb 9:24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

John 14: 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going." ...6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Go back to Genesis 2 and 3. When Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden, what is put at the gate to Paradise? A sword. The only way back into heaven is to go past the sword.

Someone has to pay for all the blood, pay for all the sins, pay for all the wrong. The only way back in is through a sword.

Verse 33. "Then Moses set up the courtyard ... And so Moses finished the work." God was saying, "**I'm going to show you how to set up the way into my presence,**" and **when Moses finished the work, down came the glory.**

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, he said, "It is finished!" I have built the real tabernacle, the real pathway in of which Moses was just creating a symbol."

The minute he said, "It is finished!" Matthew and Mark say the veil of the temple was ripped from top to bottom by two great big invisible hands, as it were, as if someone way up there was saying, "We won't be needing this anymore." - the boy in the plastic bubble 1976

Hebrews 10, says, "Therefore ... since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body ... let us draw near to God..."

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Remember last week in Exodus 34:6–7. God declared, “I am forgiving, and I never let sin go unpunished. I am absolutely loving and absolutely just.”

Parallels John 1, “And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and **we beheld his glory ...**” he adds, “... the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), **full of grace and truth.**”

Do you know why it's only in Jesus we can behold that glory? **It's only understanding what Jesus has done that the glory comes.** Cross - love and wrath - mercy & justice

Where can you find the tabernacle (the way into the glory presence of God)?

The tabernacle is found in a grace-based relationship with God.

In the old tabernacle, on the way in to get to the Holy of Holies God's glory presence you had to do things. Wash, sacrifice, pray, light, bread - get through curtains - work to the presence

In the tabernacle of Jesus Christ everything is reversed.

Religion is, “I do good. Therefore, I am accepted. I get in,” but Christianity is, “I'm accepted. I'm in. Therefore, I do good.

If you understand Jesus is the tabernacle, and that he has done it all for you. He is the laver, so you're clean in him. He is the priest, so you're accepted in him. He is the sacrifice, so you're completely pardoned in him. He is everything, which means - “Stop! It is finished! Stop trying to get into His presence by your work.”

All we do is on the way out, not on the way in. We've been accepted, so we do good, and we move on out into the world with thankfulness and joy in the things we do, it looks just like somebody who is doing it on the way in, on the outside, but inside is radically different

Good works on the way in, are a grind, and all your good deeds are really about you. It is not about the people you're helping. But, when you're already in, you go and bless people? Free to be Christlike - love - joy - peace .. You get to do it purely for their sake not for your sake.

The Tabernacle was incredibly beautiful - as we find our place in the body of Christ - our community is supposed to be a place of beauty. We are the tabernacle.

All of the work Moses put into making the tabernacle beautiful, because it was heaven on earth ... It was going to show the world, “God is coming back. We're going to have a garden again. We're going to have a Paradise.” - That is the witness of a beautiful church body

The way we get along, the way we love each other, the way we have friendships across different cultural barriers, the way we share our money with each other. We show the world the beauty of the place where God's presence dwells.