

The Tabernacle, Christ, and the Church

-A study through the second half of the book of Exodus-

Lesson 5-The Tabernacle (Exodus 26)

Description of the Tabernacle

-The tabernacle was a tent 45 feet long, 15 feet wide, and 15 feet tall. The interior was divided into two sections: the Holy Place and the _____ Holy Place. The Holy place was 30x15x15 and the Most Holy Place was 15x15x15. The tabernacle was made with a wooden frame and 4 layers of curtains hanging over the frame.

Purpose

-To house most of the sacred items as well as to provide a specific place to be entered into that would signify coming into the _____ of God.

“To worship in the tabernacle was to worship in a holy place and to experience the holy presence of God.”-Hyde

“The worship of the living God was well known to Israel’s sons. They had raised altars to His name. The slaughtered victims and the curling smoke had oft declared acquaintance with the way of peace. In holy rites, at many blood-stained stone, their faith had used the ordered means. But till they reached the base of Sinai, no stated house for stated service had been reared. Here first gracious word went forth, ‘Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.’ Exodus 25:8. Here mercy planted the earliest symbol of God’s constant presence.”-Law

Christ foreshadowed

-The existence of the tabernacle is a picture of God dwelling amongst men. God chose to have His presence reside amongst His people. God came down to meet with the people and as the people met with God in the tabernacle, they were in a sense _____
_____ to the place of God’s presence.

“The tent was a token of a present God. There He was pledged to commune with His sons: to show His face: to hear their cry: so in Christ Jesus heaven meets earth, and earth ascends to heaven.”-Law

-The beauty and the glory of the tabernacle were _____. The ornate and beautiful curtains were only visible from the inside. Whereas the outside of the tabernacle would have looked very plain.

“The first (layer of curtain) has no inviting look. Its color shines not. Its texture uncouth. Thus to the worldling, Jesus shows no charm. The eye which seeks some tinsel-glimmer will turn away in scorn. But there is folly and much peril here.

Offence at the meek Savior's lowly guise may be a rapid downfall into hell's worst depths."-Law

"It is fascinating that the Lord put the most unattractive curtains on the outside and the most attractive on the inside. John J. Davis writes, 'From a purely aesthetic point of view the tabernacle could not be considered a thing of beauty, at least not from the outside.' This is typical of God, who often cloaks His glory in simplicity, His power in weakness, and His wisdom in foolishness to confound the unbeliever but to comfort the believer (1 Cor. 1:18-31). Ultimately, He cloaked His majesty in flesh as His Son, Jesus Christ, took on ordinary humanity: 'He had not form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him' (Isaiah 53:2b). In a sense, then, to come to the tabernacle was to come to the holy God Himself, hidden under the veils of the ordinary and earthly."-Hyde

-The setup of the tabernacle shows us at least two important truths. First, the way in which the tabernacle was set up. The entrance of the tabernacle was at the _____ end. So, the tabernacle moved east to west.

"Adam and his wife were sent to the east. The garden, which was like heaven on earth, was to the west. To go east in Scripture, then, is to go away from the presence of God. To go west is to go toward His presence."-Hyde

-Second, the veil (made of various beautiful colors with cherubim on it) separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place also teaches us something. It was through this veil that one had to go to arrive at the place of God's presence and to arrive at the mercy seat of God. The veil had to be gone _____ to know God and His mercy.

"As the high priest entered the Holy of Holies, he passed beyond the cherubim on the great veil-the image of the cherubim at the entrance to Eden."-Hyde

"And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom...Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near..."-Matthew 27:50-51a & Hebrews 10:19-22b