

# The Tabernacle – Introduction

## Slide #2 – Why Is Studying the Tabernacle Important?

- The Account of Creation – 2 chapters (Genesis 1 and 2)
- Construction & operation of the Tabernacle (50 chapters)
  - Exodus (13), Leviticus (18), Numbers (13), Deuteronomy (2), Hebrews (4)
- John 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for ... they are they which testify of me."
  - "scriptures" = Old Testament (at this point in time there was not a New Testament)
  - "testify of me" = testify of Christ
  - the Old Testament reveals Christ, Christianity, salvation, and the church
    - they are modeled or represented by Old Testament examples

## Slide #3

- Hebrews 9:24 "holy places made with hands" (the Tabernacle) was "figures of the true"
  - "figures of the true" = a copy or pattern of the real thing
  - Why was God was VERY particular about the details of Tabernacle, its furnishings (altar, lampstand, ark, etc.), arrangement of the furnishings & the sacrifices?
    - because they represent New Testament salvation
- Key words: figures, types, a shadow, examples, models, ensamples, patterns
  - something physical or literal that explains a spiritual concept
- 1 Corinthians 10:6 "these things [the Exodus and Israel's journeys] were our examples"

## Slide #4 (Hebrews 8:1, 5)

- Hebrews 8:5 "example and shadow of heavenly things"
  - "shadow" – a rough outline of the real thing
  - example of a "shadow": Tabernacle furnishings were in the shape of a cross
    - (NOTE: drawing on page 2 of handout shows the altar of incense closer to the veil; the exact placement is unclear, but the Cross outline is still there either way)
  - if Moses changed "the pattern"—that would have brought about confusion later on

## Slide #5 – Before God made man, God had a plan

- God (who is love) wanted a relationship w/people
- God made man a creature of choice (true love comes from choice)
- man sinned (separating him from God)
- God's plan was to restore mankind into right relationship with Him
  - the plan of salvation
  - we are JUSTIFIED in God's sight (declared to be in right standing)
  - this (a spiritual concept) can be difficult to understand
- God slowly revealed His plan to man
  - the literal O.T. Tabernacle is a literal (visual) explanation
  - the Tabernacle and the Law revealed man's sinful condition & his need for a Savior
    - one had to come to the altar (sacrifice)
    - then the laver (washing)
    - before coming into God's presence (right relationship with God)

## Slide #6

- Israel was God's chosen people
  - what were they chosen to do?
  - they were set apart (sanctified) from other nations
  - the Messiah would come through this nation
  - Old Testament Israel = God's people in the Old Testament
  - New Testament Israel = God's people in the New Testament (saints, Christians)
    - Old Testament Israel is an example, type, shadow of God's people (Christians) today
      - examples of what they should do and not do
- God's people (Israel) went into Egypt (because of famine) & eventually became slaves
  - 10 generations of bondage
    - an example of people in sin (bondage)
  - people cried to God for deliverance
    - an example of a sinner crying out to God for salvation
  - God delivered them out of Pharaoh's hand
    - an example of New Testament salvation
- Israel's desert journey
  - because of unbelief = 40 years of wandering
- God established a covenant with His people
  - a plan for worship
- The people, their deliverance, the plans for worship (Tabernacle) help us understand New Testament salvation and living for God

## Slide #7 – Tabernacle Pattern & Construction

- On Mount Sinai – God gave Moses the Law and a pattern for the Tabernacle
  - Exodus 25:40 AMP "And see to it that you copy [exactly] their pattern which was shown you on the mountain."
  - Exodus 25:8 "make me [God] a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them"
    - God was saying, "Make Me a place where I can come and meet with My people"
    - this was a holy God wanting to meet with sinful people – a picture of the Gospel
- definition of tabernacle = "a movable habitation"
  - Hebrew word mishkan = "a dwelling place" (God desires to live among His people)
  - studying the Tabernacle ...
    - gives a greater appreciation for God's desire to dwell with us
    - helps us understand the plan of salvation
    - allows us to understand the call to be holy

## Slide #8 – Old Testament Tabernacle – God's FIRST dwelling place on earth

- represents God's desire to dwell **within** His people in the New Testament
- John 1:14 AMP "And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us."
  - Jesus lived among us for a time ("tabernacled")
    - the Old Testament Tabernacle was temporary
    - Jesus' time here on earth was temporary
    - BUT – God desires to "tabernacle" (dwell within) His people all the time
      - this was made possible by Christ's sacrifice
  - 2 Corinthians 5:1 "our earthly house of this tabernacle"

- our body is a tabernacle (dwelling place)
- 2 Corinthians 6:16 "ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people"
- we are designed to be a dwelling place for God

### **Slide #9 – Location of the Tabernacle**

- always in the middle of the camp
- represents how God wants to be in the midst of His people (His church)
  - all eyes are focused on Him
  - everything revolves around Him
  - everyone has equal access to Him
  - Matthew 18:20 – "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"
- Tabernacle always faced east – source of light
  - represents a people who are willing to face and walk in the light God shows them
- Numbers 2:2 AMP - "The Israelites shall encamp, each by his own standard or banner with the ensign of his father's house, opposite the Tent of Meeting and facing it on every side."
  - Tabernacle was surrounded by 12 tribes (4 major divisions)
    - 3 tribes on each side of the Tabernacle
  - "standard or banner" showed people where they belonged, where to gather
    - (some examples of banners are on the slide)
    - God's standard shows people where the true people of God are
    - without a standard, people do not know where to assemble

### **Slide #10 – Layout of the Tabernacle**

- (Activity on page 2 of the handout)
- **Tabernacle – 3 Distinct Areas**
  - **Outer Court**
    - the altar of burnt offering (sacrifices)
    - the laver (where the priests would wash their hands and feet)
  - **Tabernacle Proper** (divided into 2 rooms)
    - **The Holy Place**
      - Hebrews 9:2 "the first [room], wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary"
    - **The Holy of Holies**
      - Hebrews 9:3-4 "And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant."

**Song:** "Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary"