

11. THE TABERNACLE: GUIDED TOUR

Introduction

We are made brand new creatures when we come to Christ. The old things of our lives pass away and all things become new. We are born and united with God in our spirit. Our souls are saved by Jesus Christ and we have the strength to live our lives in the power of the Holy Spirit. Everything about us is made brand new by God. We are made new in our spirit. We get newness in our soul and we get new power to live for God in our behavior.

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creature; the old things passed away;** behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation," (2 Corinthians 5:17-18, NASB95)

We become the dwelling place of God and He begins a work in us to make Godly choices and live for His good pleasure. We are His workmanship and we are being made into His dwelling place or "tabernacle".

" For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, **a house not made with hands**, eternal in the heavens." (2 Corinthians 5:1, NASB95)

The tour through The Tabernacle is a spiritual tour conducted by the High Priest of our souls, Jesus Christ. Jesus knows The Tabernacle intimately. He is the One who designed The Tabernacle and will be the best guide for the Tour.

" Now the main point in what has been said is this: **we have such a high priest**, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, **a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.**" (Hebrews 8:1-2, NASB95)

We can now be introduced to our Tour Guide. If you have passed the spiritual exam and were issued a ticket, we can walk with the Tour Guide into The Tabernacle. He will show us the way, illuminate the truth and grant us new life in Him...

"Jesus said to him, **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."** (John 14:6, NASB95)

Remember, only priests can enter the Tabernacle. We can enter on the Tour when we have become priests in the Kingdom of God in Christ.

Now let's meet the High Priest.

12. TOUR GUIDE: THE HIGH PRIEST

The high priest was required to follow specific rules and regulations in order to enter The Tabernacle. Various sacrifices and washings had to be performed before approaching the Tent of Meeting (The Tabernacle) and entering into the Presence of God. The priest had to be totally washed with water, sprinkled with blood from the sacrifice and then anointed with oil before he could enter The Tabernacle. Blood from the sacrifice was also sprinkled on every piece of The Tabernacle's Furniture as well as being anointed with oil. Any deviation from the protocol God prescribed would result in the death of the priest.

The following passage gives us a glimpse into the specific and detailed instructions and the multiple sacrifices that had to be made before the high priest could enter The Tabernacle.

" Now the Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they had approached the presence of the Lord and died. The Lord said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat. **"Aaron shall enter the holy place with this: with a bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.** "He shall put on the holy linen tunic, and the linen undergarments shall be next to his body, and he shall be girded with the linen sash and attired with the linen turban (these are holy garments). Then he shall bathe his body in water and put them on. "He shall take from the congregation of the sons of Israel **two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering.** "Then Aaron shall offer the bull for the sin offering which is for himself, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household. "He shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the doorway of the tent of meeting. "Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the scapegoat. "Then Aaron shall offer the goat on which the lot for the Lord fell, and make it a sin offering. "But **the goat on which the lot for the scapegoat fell shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, to send it into the wilderness as the scapegoat.** "Then Aaron shall offer the bull of the sin offering which is for himself and make atonement for himself and for his household, and he shall slaughter the bull of the sin offering which is for himself. "He shall take a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar before the Lord and two handfuls of finely ground sweet incense, and bring it inside the veil. "He shall put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the ark of the testimony, otherwise he will die. "Moreover, he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat on the east side; also in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times. "Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. "He shall make atonement for the holy place, because of the impurities of the sons of Israel and because of their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and thus he shall do for the tent of meeting which abides with them in the midst of their impurities. "When he goes in to make atonement in the holy place, no one shall be in the tent of meeting until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household and for all the assembly of Israel. "Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the Lord and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and of the blood of the goat and put it on the horns of the altar on all sides. "With his finger he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it seven times and cleanse it, and from the impurities of the sons of Israel consecrate it. "When he

finishes atoning for the holy place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall offer the live goat. "Then Aaron shall lay both of his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and he shall lay them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who stands in readiness. "The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a solitary land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness. "Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and take off the linen garments which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there. "He shall bathe his body with water in a holy place and put on his clothes, and come forth and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people and make atonement for himself and for the people. "Then he shall offer up in smoke the fat of the sin offering on the altar. "The one who released the goat as the scapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body with water; then afterward he shall come into the camp. "But the bull of the sin offering and the goat of the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall be taken outside the camp, and they shall burn their hides, their flesh, and their refuse in the fire. "Then the one who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body with water, then afterward he shall come into the camp." (Leviticus 16:1-28, NASB95)

Every one of these detailed instructions had to be followed without any deviation. The point is that God required a whole set of instructions to come into His Presence. The Old Tabernacle and its protocol were only shadows for the regulations for the New Tabernacle. Before the priest could enter The Old Tabernacle it required the blood of multiple sacrifices.

The High Priest in the New Testament made the way open for us by shedding His own blood. He took the place of all the instructions, sacrifices and protocol. In this sense, our High Priest is not only the Priest but He is also the complete sacrifice. The sacrifice Jesus made satisfied all the requirements to enter into the Presence of God. His blood covers us so that we can walk with Him right into the Most Holy Place without fear of death. Jesus is the protocol for coming into the Presence of God. By understanding the Law's detail in the Old Testament, Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross becomes very significant in how we can meet the requirements of the Law.

"The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "**Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!** "This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' "I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.'" (John 1:29-31, NASB95)

Jesus came as the Lamb to take away our sin and He is also our High Priest. How did the Lamb, our sacrifice, become our High Priest? The glorious truth is that the Lamb did not stay dead. He rose from the dead through the resurrection to become our High Priest.

" Now the main point in what has been said is this: **we have such a high priest**, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain." **But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as**

much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises." (Hebrews 8:1-6, NASB95)

If Jesus died and remained dead, His death for us would be meaningless. He would have been an innocent misguided martyr for the things He taught. With Jesus' resurrection He conquered sin and death and took away the penalty of sin for us. Jesus made the way open for us to enter into the Presence of God. The door has been open for us to be forgiven and know God personally.

"But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:54-57, NASB95)

Jesus Christ is our High Priest and He is the Tour Guide for our tour through The Tabernacle.

Our Tour Guide is actually the High Priest, Jesus Christ. He is not only The High Priest, but He offered Himself as the Sacrifice for our entry into The Tabernacle and the Presence of God. He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world AND by His resurrection from the dead He conquered sin and death and is now our High Priest.

13. TOUR MAP: SEVEN QUALITIES AND SEVEN PIECES OF FURNITURE

Various numbers have special significance in the Bible. God uses the number seven as a number that refers to completeness in the Bible. He created and completed all of Creation in seven days. There are seven days in one complete week. There were seven pairs of clean animals taken with Noah on the Ark. There are seven Lampstands, Spirits, Trumpets, Seals and Churches in the Book of Revelation. The number seven is used all through the Scripture as a number to refer to being complete or whole. God loves the complete number seven. (See **SIDE TOUR 6: Number Seven**).

A relationship can be drawn between two sets of sevens, one in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament. These sets of seven's are an example of how the Old and New Testaments and Tabernacles correspond to each other. God directed the protocol for entering the Old Tabernacle through one set of sevens. He has also given a protocol or pattern to enter the New Tabernacle through another set of sevens. These two "sets" give insight into our relationship and life in God.

II Peter describes seven distinct qualities that give us a pattern for the believer (the New Tabernacle) to enter into God's Presence. God's desire is that we don't fall away from Him through unbelief but to stay in a close relationship with Him. The Bible exhorts us to diligently pursue these qualities and apply them in love to our lives. As these qualities are pursued and applied, the Bible promises that a believer will never stumble in a walk with Christ. These New Testament seven qualities are:

- 1.) Faith
- 2.) Moral Excellence (Virtue)
- 3.) Knowledge
- 4.) Self-Control
- 5.) Perseverance
- 6.) Godliness
- 7.) Kindness

In the Old Testament The Tabernacle had pieces of furniture that represent another set of seven. The Furniture was specifically placed on the path from the Outer Court into the Most Holy Place. The pattern, materials and significance of The Furniture were prescribed by God and given to Moses to build. The seven pieces of Furniture are:

- 1.) The Brazen Altar
- 2.) The Laver
- 3.) The Golden Lampstand
- 4.) The Table of Showbread
- 5.) The Altar of Incense
- 6.) The Ark of the Covenant
- 7.) The Mercy Seat

There is a correlation between these “sets” of seven. During the Tour our Tour Guide will explain the relationship between the following:

Faith	and	The Brazen Altar
Moral Excellence	and	The Laver
Knowledge	and	The Golden Lampstand
Self-Control	and	The Table of Showbread
Perseverance	and	The Altar of Incense
Godliness	and	The Ark of the Covenant
Kindness	and	The Mercy Seat

Seven qualities and seven pieces of Furniture corresponding to each other. II Peter 1 tells us that the seven qualities are to be diligently pursued and applied in our lives in love. God is love and He will help us in the pursuit and application of these qualities.

14. THE TABERNACLE TOUR

Now, let's begin the Tour through the Old and New Tabernacle.

The Tabernacle gives us a blueprint or pattern to come into God's Presence. Our High Priest will direct the Tour because He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Just as there was a pattern of worship for the Old Tabernacle, there is a protocol pattern for the New Tabernacle.

"Now even the first covenant had **regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.**" (Hebrews 9:1, NASB95)

"But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through **His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.** For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**" (Hebrews 9:11-14, NASB95)

First, let's check our hearts. Remember we have been made priests in Jesus' Kingdom allowing us to enter into His courts. Psalm 100 tells us to come into God's courts with praise and thanksgiving.

"**Shout joyfully to the Lord**, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with **joyful singing.** Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. **Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.** For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 100, NASB95)

As we enter the Outer Court with praise (recognizing who God is) and thanksgiving (recognizing what God has done) we must remember that The Tabernacle was made from gifts from those who freely gave their resources. Likewise, those that come to God must believe that He is and He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. We do not come by coercion but we are drawn by the Father to Jesus by the work of the Holy Spirit. We then can freely give ourselves to God.

"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a **rewarder of those who seek Him.**" (Hebrews 11:6, NASB95)

"**No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;** and I will raise him up on the last day." (John 6:44, NASB95)

"But **as many as received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13, NASB95)

We think that receiving Jesus as our Lord and Savior is an act of our free will. The truth is that we are actually drawn to God as He works in us. Our responsibility is to willingly and completely give our lives to Him. The Holy Spirit sends an invitation to anyone who will hear His voice. Just as

Jesus stood at the door of the Laodicean Church in the Book of Revelation, Jesus stands at the door of the heart and knocks. If we hear Him, He will come into our lives. He transfers us from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom and domain of Jesus Christ. How do we hear Him? We can hear Him by first believing that He exists. Our faith comes by hearing and our hearing is opened by the Word of God.

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17, NASB95)

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me." (Revelation 3:20, NASB95)

A time will soon come when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. Those that do not know Him will be forced to their knees. Those that have received Him willingly will be rewarded with eternal life. Either way, every knee will bow and recognize Jesus as Lord.

"For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11, NASB95)

"**He who believes in the Son has eternal life**; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36, NASB95)

Although God loves us and sent His Son to die on the Cross for us, those that refuse Him will not be in His Presence for the rest of eternity. The Bible describes the suffering for those who have refused God and are outside His Presence with the term "weeping and gnashing of the teeth".

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. "So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out **the wicked from among the righteous, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**" (Matthew 13:47-50, NASB95)

CAUTION

The Tabernacle Tour has the potential of changing your heart and life. God will perform a supernatural work in your heart if you will allow Him. Your life will never be the same if you enter in and embrace the truths of The Tabernacle.

God invites those that put their trust and faith in Jesus Christ to go on this Tour. He has personally paid the price for admission by His blood.

NOTE:

As with any tour, The Tabernacle Tour will not have every detail explained or exhaust all the insights and applications for every aspect of The Tabernacle. The Tour Guide will point out some points of interest and highlights. He invites you to study the subject on your own for further insights and

applications. The Tour Guide is more than willing to spend time with you personally and give you more information.

*The Tour Guide's comments, insights and applications will be indicated by" **TOUR GUIDE:**"*

15. ADMISSION TICKET: TABERNACLE PROTOCOL

The Tour Guide, our High Priest, allows only those that know Him personally to go on the Tabernacle Tour. The High Priest qualifies each person that receives Him and makes them a priest in His Kingdom. A person is not qualified by their own righteousness or good works but by the imputed (or credited; not earned) righteousness of Christ. Man's righteousness and all our good works done in the flesh cannot earn or buy a "ticket" on the Tour. Our Tour Guide, the High Priest of our salvation, Jesus Christ qualifies us and clothes us with His righteousness when we put our trust in Him. He has bought the ticket for the Tour with His blood.

Paul, the Apostle, in the Book of Corinthians said that he did not want to know anything among the Church at Corinth except Jesus Christ and the mighty work He did on the Cross. He knew that the way to know God is by knowing Jesus Christ. We enter The Tabernacle by the broken body of Jesus Christ and the blood He spilled for us.

"For I determined to know nothing among you **except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.**"
(1 Corinthians 2:2, NASB95)

Paul knew that the ticket to the final destination in the Tour was in Christ. The word "in" in the Scriptures is one of the biggest words in the Bible. In Him, in Christ, in Christ Jesus is the safest and most secure place in life. Not only is Christ in us but we are in Him. In Him is the fullest joy possible for a person to experience. No one comes to the Father except by being "in" Jesus Christ and Him being "in" them.

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; **no one comes to the Father but through Me.**" (John 14:6, NASB95)

"You will make known to me the path of life; **In Your presence is fullness of joy;** In Your right hand there are pleasures forever." (Psalm 16:11, NASB95)

We can begin the Tour. Buckle 'in'. The Tour Guide has paid the admission price for us. He as The High Priest knows The Tabernacle better than anyone. We are very privileged to have Him as our personal guide.

Since we have been made a royal priesthood in Christ, we can enter into the Outer Court of The Tabernacle. We approach the door to the Outer Court from the east. The Outer Court is approximately 75 feet wide and 150 feet long. There are 60 posts holding a 7 foot tall curtain that makes the wall of the Outer Court. The eastern opening is about 10 feet wide covered by a colorful curtain. As we walk through the opening we come to the first piece of Furniture, The Brazen Altar.