



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2023 – WEEK 11

Exodus 40: I Will Dwell With You

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

– Exodus 40:34-35, 38 ESV

- **In the beginning...**

...God created the heavens...

...and the earth.

...And God said, let there be...light

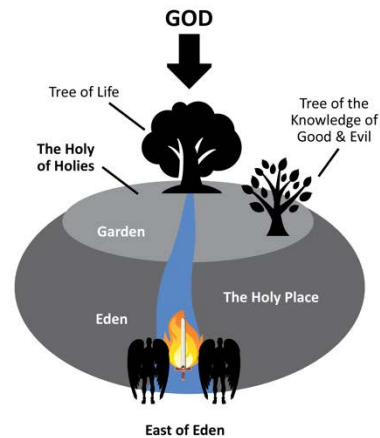
- And on this planet, he picked a place
- And in this land he created a garden in which He placed a tree,
- And a man and a woman

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” – Genesis 1:28 ESV

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day... – Genesis 3:8 ESV

- The garden provided...
 - ...access to God
 - ...communion with Him
 - ...a sense of purpose
 - ...a means of sustenance
 - ...and eternal life

Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.” – Genesis 3:22-24 ESV



- **Banned from God’s presence**

- Because of sin, man was cast out of the garden
- Death entered the world
- Humanity moved “east” – away from God
- And their moral decline reflected their growing distance from God

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. – Genesis 6:5-6 ESV

- **Wiped out of existence**

- God purged mankind from the earth
- And He started over again – with Noah

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” – Genesis 9:1 ESV

- **A monument to their own success**

- Noah’s descendants increased in number
- But they also increased in independence
- They pursued fame rather than faithfulness

Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” – Genesis 11:4 ESV

Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. – Genesis 11:7-9 ESV

- **The making of a nation**

- God was not done yet
- He had a plan for humanity

- That began with one man

*Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And **I will make of you a great nation**, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* – Genesis 12:1-3 ESV

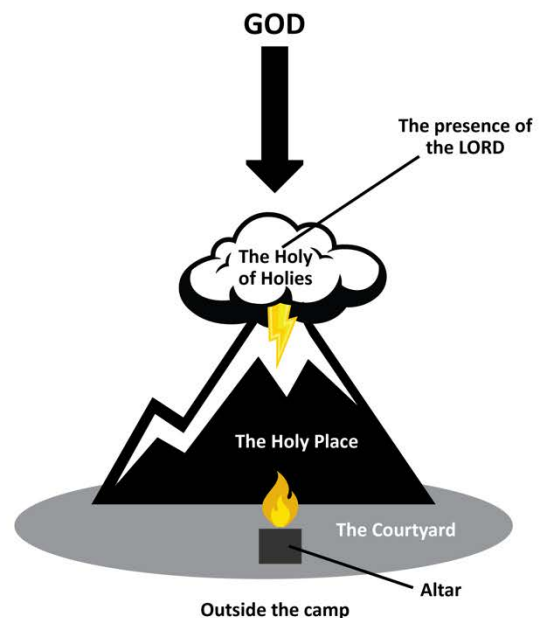
*"Lift up your eyes and look...for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. **I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth**, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted."* – Genesis 13:15-16 ESV

Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions." – Genesis 15:13-14 ESV

- **Fast-forward to Sinai**

- God has kept His word
 - They are a great nation
 - They are free
 - They have inherited all His promises
 - And they are blessed by His divine presence

*On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast...Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke **because the LORD had descended on it in fire**...and the whole mountain trembled greatly. – Exodus 19:16, 18 ESV*



- God came down
 - But He was still...
 - ...distant
 - ...unapproachable
 - ...inaccessible
 - ...transcendent
 - ...frightening
 - ...and demanding

*"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be **my treasured possession** among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be*

*to me **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.” – Genesis 19:5-6 ESV*

- **The desire of God’s heart**

*The LORD said to Moses, “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution... And let them make me a sanctuary, **that I may dwell in their midst.** – Exodus 25:1, 8 ESV*

- God had come down to the mountain
- Now, He was coming to the valley
- To dwell among His people
- But His glory demanded holiness
- His presence required proper preparations

Then you shall erect the tabernacle according to the plan for it that you were shown on the mountain. – Exodus 26:30 ESV

- *Moses received a vision of the tabernacle*

- Nothing was being left to chance
- He had detailed plans
- And an architectural rendering
- Patterned after the heavenly model



We have a High Priest who sat down in the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven. There he ministers in the heavenly

*Tabernacle, the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands...there already are priests who offer the gifts required by the law. They serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven. For when Moses was getting ready to build the Tabernacle, God gave him this warning: “Be sure that you make everything **according to the pattern** I have shown you here on the mountain.” – Hebrews 8:1-2, 4-5 NLT*

- **A little bit of heaven on earth**

- This was to be God’s earthly dwelling place
- That explains its opulence
- It justifies its exacting standards
- But was this house for God?

This is what the LORD says:

*“Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.*

Could you build me a temple as good as that?

Could you build me such a resting place? – Isaiah 66:1 NLT

“David found favor with God and asked for the privilege of building a permanent Temple for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who actually built it. However, the Most High doesn’t live in temples made by human hands.” – Acts 7:46-48 NLT

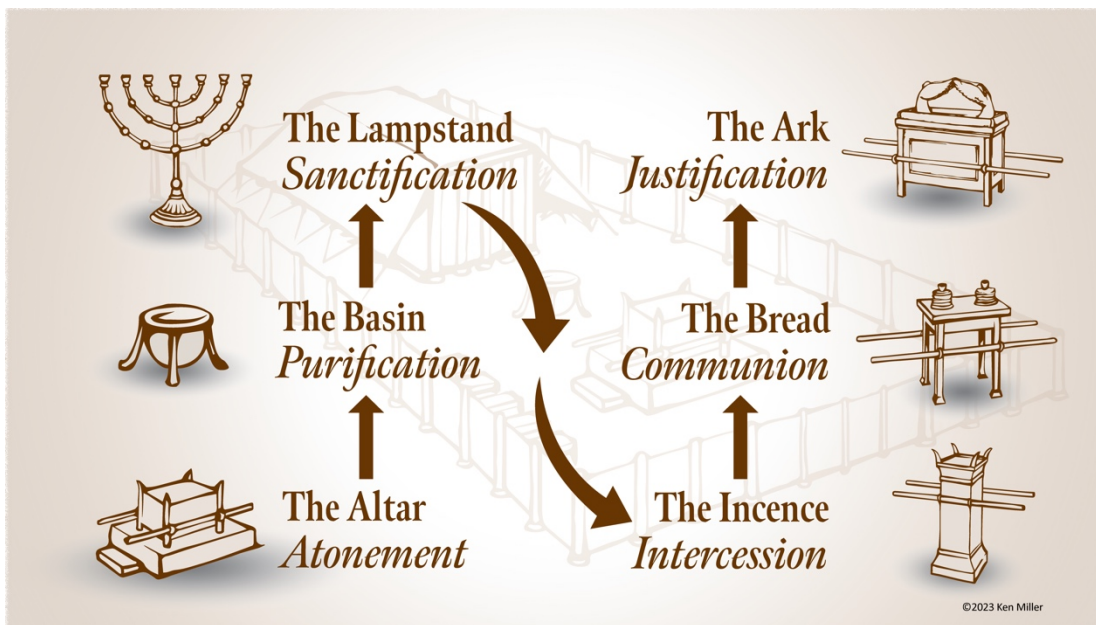
- **An earthly glimpse of God’s glory**

- The tabernacle was for the Israelites
 - It revealed God’s glory and splendor
 - It accentuated His holiness
 - Yet, it made God accessible
 - A daily reminder of His presence

For what great nation has a god as near to them as the LORD our God is near to us whenever we call on him? ⁸ And what great nation has decrees and regulations as righteous and fair as this body of instructions that I am giving you today? – Deuteronomy 4:7-8 NLT

- Everything was meant to reflect His glory

God	Fine linen	Fine leather
Silver	Exotic wood	Olive oil
Bronze	Precious gems	Incense
- Crafted by divinely skilled artisans



When these things were all in place, the priests regularly entered the first room as they performed their religious duties. But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the entrance to the Most Holy Place was not freely open as long as the Tabernacle and the system it represented were still in use. This is an illustration pointing to the present time.

For the gifts and sacrifices that the priests offer are not able to cleanse the consciences of the people who bring them. – Hebrews 9:6-9 NLT

*So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and **secured our redemption forever**. – Hebrews 9:11-12 NLT*

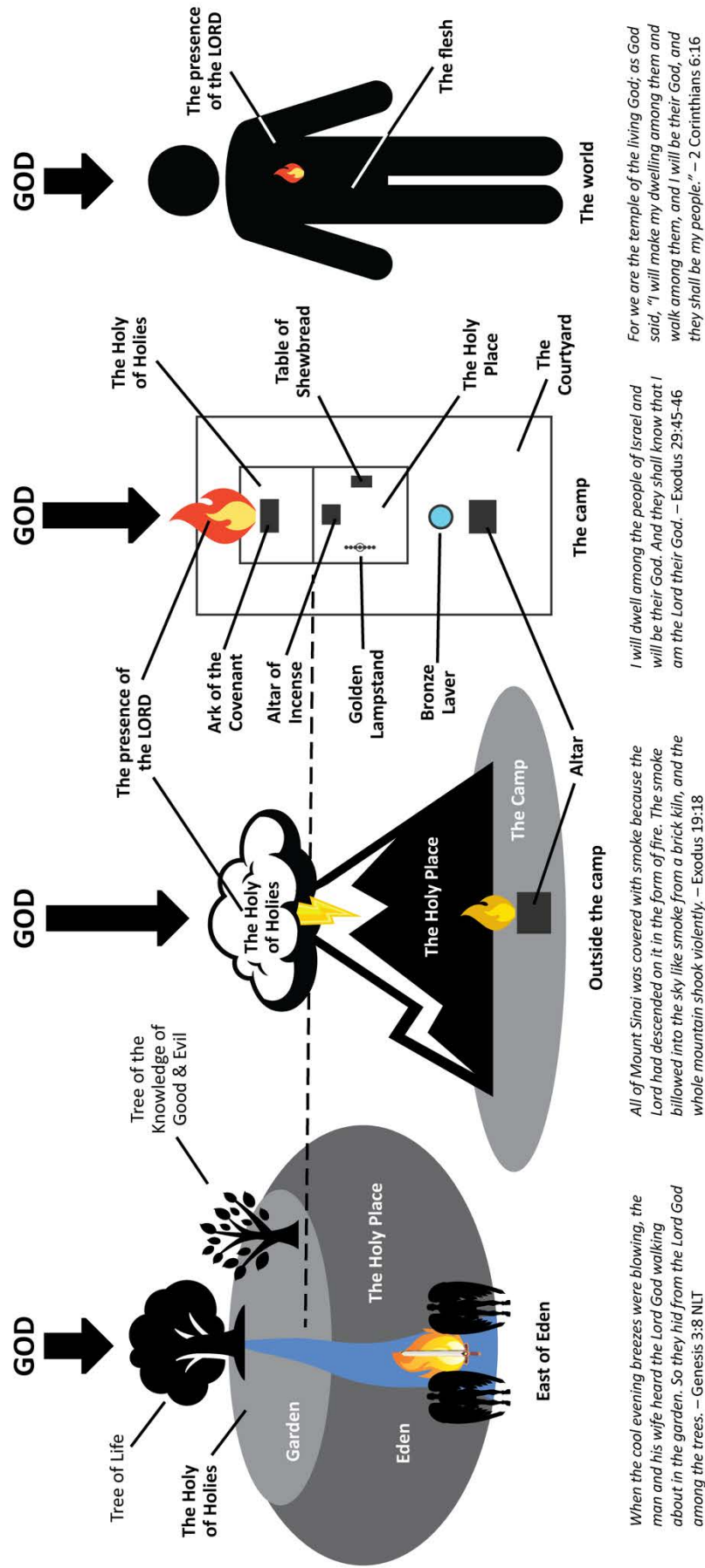
- **The final dwelling place of God**

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. – Revelation 22:1-5

- **Discussion questions**

- Ever since Eden, God has desired to dwell among men. Now, He lives in you. How does that thought strike you?
- Since God has made our earthly bodies His Tabernacle, in what ways does He reveal to His glory through you?
- How does the Revelation 22:1-5 passage bring closure to the events of Eden and bring us hope for today?

THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD



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