

Make Me a Sanctuary

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[0 : 00] Find Exodus chapter number 25. I'll be a little transparent with you.

! I've been nervous for a lot of months.! What are we going to do past that?

Well, we're just going to take it one passage at a time. I was nervous about starting this book a long time ago and felt like the Lord's been leading throughout the entirety of the book.

And so the study has been good for me. I trust it's been good for you. And there's much more to come. So let's find chapter 25. Last week we finished chapter 24.

And we watched as Moses went further up into that mount and abode there for six days of silence waiting on God to give him instruction and to give him anything.

[1 : 04] And he heard nothing. Six days he sat and it reminded us that something we saw a few chapters ago that God's not in a hurry. He does not operate in urgency. But more importantly, we discern that even though we don't understand why God does something and even though He doesn't tell us why He does something, there is a why.

And we can trust our God with that. And we have to be okay with that, that He doesn't tell us why. And so we have to trust Him. That's what we need to learn. We also realize that any frustration that Moses felt in that day, any confusion that he felt waiting on God's voice, it was not because God was slipping or because He was behind.

It was because Moses maybe had his own assumptions about what would happen when he got up there. Maybe he had his own expectations and things weren't living up to his expectations.

Maybe it was his own impatience that brought on his frustration or confusion. And so we need to remember that everything is going right and fine according to God's directive and plan.

And any frustration or confusion may be on our fault. It may be our way or our own doing of assuming things or being impatient ourselves.

[2 : 20] We finished last week by looking at some things that you should not do if God has you waiting in six days of silence. And we won't rehearse that. So we'll move forward. Today we're going to rejoin Moses.

And now it's the seventh day. And now the Lord speaks to him. Closing chapter 24, Moses went into the midst of the cloud and got him up into the mount. And Moses was in the mount 40 days and 40 nights.

So we're going to rejoin him now and see how God begins a lengthy discourse regarding the construction of a dwelling place that is to be for God.

A tabernacle it's called. It's an earthly dwelling place for almighty God. An earthly little tent, like probably a third of this room, for the high and holy creator and giver of light.

Like that God is going to come down and dwell on earth, not just with men, but with his people. The people that he's been enjoined to with this covenant, as we studied in chapter 24, the blood of that covenant, he wants to dwell with them.

[3 : 35] And so to do this, he is holy beyond all comprehension, he has to have a sanctuary. A place that is set apart, sanctified, and is set apart from sin, from those people, from mankind, but he wants to dwell with them.

So we're going to read today these first couple verses of this chapter and just follow along as we see God starting to give some instruction about this sanctuary. Verse number one, the Lord spake unto Moses saying, Speak unto the children of Israel that they bring me an offering of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart, ye shall take my offering.

And this is the offering which ye shall take of them, gold and silver and brass and blue and purple and scarlet and fine linen and goat's hair and ram skins dyed red and badger skins and shittim wood, oil for the light, spices for anointing oil and for sweet incense, onyx stones and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.

And let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show thee after the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

Now he's going to go forward and talk about different items of furniture or of instruments that are going to be inside of this tabernacle. He's going to go on and talk about the covering and the inner, outer, up and down details of the tabernacle.

[5 : 04] Chapter after chapter after chapter after chapter of what this is to be. Before we get into that though, I want to give you something that I have to say the message this morning is going to be a bit more conceptual than it is applicable.

There's a lot here that I want to get to and I think it's going to take us two weeks to do it. So today I'm just going to introduce a concept to you. And it has application on its own. But then next week, come back into this section of passage, Lord willing, and try to make a little more detailed application about that sanctuary.

But I've got to introduce what I'm talking about first. And this stuff excites me. This Bible, this book is like, you think we're just talking about some tent of thousands of years ago in some dry wilderness that God wants them to build for Him so we can dwell.

There's something here. Believe me. So before we get into that, let's pray and then let's get to it. Father, this is the time now where we open up Your Word and it's the time for our hearts to be settled, to be stilled from all the cares of this world and all the things that go on outside of this place.

And so Lord, it's my prayer that You would guide our attention and direct it into the words of God, into the very text that we're reading. Help us to vision and see this. Help us to understand it.

[6 : 25] Help it to apply to us. Help us to understand the Lord Jesus Christ and what You're trying to make of us. Lord, do a work here and Your Holy Spirit has got to open our eyes to see this.

So I pray that You do that today and help me to do my part and we ask in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen. So I'm going to redirect your attention again back to verses 8 and to 9.

God gave them all of the building materials that He's looking for and then He says this, Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them according to all that I show thee after the pattern of the tabernacle.

Apparently, God showed Moses something. Apparently, Moses saw something with his eyes. More than just dictating to him a description of the tabernacle which is given in these chapters 25, 6, 7, 8, 9, 30, 31.

Apparently, more than just the dictation of words for it to be written down, he saw something. At the close of the chapter, verse 40, after he gives a description of certain items to be made, he says, And look, that thou make them after their pattern which was showed thee in the mount.

[7 : 47] Now, if you want to change the Bible and say it was revealed to you or you want to change the words, then you're going to take away something. But I've got some better proof for that. The Bible with the Bible always.

Look at Acts chapter 7. Let's just take a quick peek to Acts chapter 7 when a man named Stephen stands up and preaches to a group full of Jews and he gives a little history lesson about God's hand and his working amongst, from Abraham through Moses and Mount Sinai and all that's taken place here.

And I want you to notice something specific about what we just read in Exodus 25, something Stephen says in his message. Acts chapter 7, find verse number 44. Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen.

So there's the proof. God showed Moses something. He saw it with his eyes. What God was expecting him to replicate down below in the wilderness, he gave him a glimpse of.

He called it in verse 8 a sanctuary. What Moses saw in verse 9 was the pattern of the tabernacle.

[9 : 13] The pattern of the tabernacle that he was to build. Now you could read that two different ways. This Bible's a tricky book and I can't say which way it's meant.

Here's what I mean. You could read it verse 9 saying, according to all that I show thee after the pattern of the tabernacle that you saw. That sounds about right.

So you saw a tabernacle because you're going to make one after the pattern of the tabernacle that you saw. Or you could read it to say that he's saying, according to all that I show thee after the pattern of the tabernacle that you will make.

Meaning the tabernacle is a reference to the one he's going to make down below but I showed you a pattern of the tabernacle that you will make. It's either a pattern of the tabernacle that you saw you're supposed to make it.

So you see it could be one or the other. I wonder what exactly he saw. I wonder if he saw a vision of the finished product. Was it assembled in such a way that Moses could walk in and out and view all the details of it, analyze everything to see it with his eyes, to plug it away, to know that when he's talking about these loops and these different instruments that I know exactly what it's supposed to look like as he showed me.

[10 : 31] I wonder if it was a glimpse into what Hebrews calls the true tabernacle that God built that was not made with hands. Hebrews talking about heaven itself. That might be a far-fetched thought for you and I but Moses is up there for 40 days and 40 nights on the mount and the cloud.

I don't know what he saw. I don't know but it's fascinating to consider. It's fascinating because there's some supernatural experience going on up there on the mount and I can only wonder.

33, 34 more days to go and Moses is up there with God. But I don't want to spend our time contemplating the inconceivable and instead I'd rather draw our attention to something I think is far more relatable and far more valuable to our lives today of what Moses might have seen.

Again, I want you to read with me verses 8 and 9. God said let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them according to all that I show thee.

So we understand this. The responsibility of making God a sanctuary to dwell in fell upon Moses and upon the people of God there in the wilderness.

[11 : 48] God showed Moses what he wanted. What it was supposed to look like. He saw it plain as day. And on top of that it's also written down in chapters of details of what this is supposed to look like.

The materials to use, the measurements are given, all of it's written down. So God did not leave it up to Moses to decide, you know, whatever you think there Moses, you make the call or just do your best and I'll be happy with.

No, God never does that with man. He doesn't leave it up to man to decide how his temple is going to look or his tabernacle. He shows him, he reveals to him what his desired dwelling place was supposed to look like.

The inside and the out from top to bottom. All of it. Moses saw it and Moses had it in writing. You got those two things? Moses saw it and Moses had it in writing.

Alright? Let's keep those two thoughts close and then stay with me because we're going to transition and then there's a couple things that I want to relate to you. The Bible calls your body, this body, the Bible says it's made of dust and it's going to return to dust.

[13 : 01] I don't think anybody here has any arguments with that. The Bible calls your body an earthly house. Paul uses that term in 2 Corinthians chapter 5, our earthly house.

It's earthly, not just because it lives here on the earth, because it's made of the earth. The first man is of the earth, earthy. He was made of the dust of the ground. That's what your body is.

And so you have an earthly house, a body that houses the real you as we studied in our doctrines class Sunday, your soul. Your soul dwells within the body and departs the body at death.

But this earthly house is also called a tabernacle. Paul calls it that in 2 Corinthians 5. Peter calls it a tabernacle, saying that the Lord showed him how to put off his tabernacle when he died, or when he changed, actually, when he saw him changed and glorified.

This is called a tabernacle or an earthly house. When a sinner receives the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior or her Savior, God comes to that sinner, that man or woman, and abides with them and abides in them in that tabernacle, in that earthly house.

[14 : 15] The Bible says that we have this treasure in earthen vessels in 2 Corinthians 4. Now, I'd like to take your... We'll come back to Exodus, maybe. I'm not even sure if we will. Probably not.

But let's go to the Gospel of John, something we've been studying through in Sunday school. And I want to start to relate some things to you about this. The Apostle Paul teaches that God in the person of the Holy Spirit dwells inside a believer.

He says that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith. Find John chapter 14. He also says in Colossians 1, a mystery is that Christ is in you.

Christ is in you. In Romans chapter 8, he says, if the Spirit of Christ dwell in you... So, the Lord comes to abide within those that are His children.

He quickens them and gives them eternal life and the Spirit of God dwells within them. This is something that He taught to His disciples. Look at John chapter 14 and look at verse 16.

[15 : 24] And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another comforter that He may abide with you forever. Even the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive because it seeth Him not neither knoweth Him but ye know Him for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you.

Now, you can remember already we're talking about in the Old Testament He says, make me a sanctuary that I may dwell with them. Okay, so, He says, He dwelleth with you and shall be in you.

Verse 18, I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you. Yet a little while in the world seeth me no more but ye see in me because I live ye shall live also and at that day ye shall know that I am in my Father and ye in me and I in you.

Verse 24, He that loveth me and keepeth not my sayings the word which my, no, verse 23, I'm sorry. Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me he will keep my words and my Father will love him and we will come unto him and make our abode with him.

That's a promise to dwell inside. Look at verse, oh no, no, let's not do that yet. Under the New Testament, God has chosen born again believers as his dwelling place on earth.

[16 : 47] Paul said in 1 Corinthians 6, Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you which ye have of God and ye are not your own. the spirit of the same God that dwelt in the Old Testament tabernacle in the wilderness in a tent, the same God that dwelt there now dwells inside his children.

Those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and those who are born again, they're born of God. He dwells in them, in his people. So the first concept we're getting this morning is that the tabernacle or the temple of God today is his people.

It is not a building. God does not dwell in this building. Even if we call it a sanctuary, we do set this apart for worshiping God but it is not where he dwells.

And when we leave, he doesn't stay in here. He goes where we go if you're one of his. You are his temple. Alright, so you're in John.

Come back to John chapter 1. John chapter 1. Just stay with me and just let these truths kind of take hold and then we'll put it together and relate it.

[18 : 06] John chapter 1. This is a second concept that I want to add to this. We're not now anymore talking about your body.

We're not talking about a dwelling place for God. We're going to talk about something else. Verse 1. In the beginning was the Word with a capital W.

It's a person. And the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made.

I might just pause here and say that the Apostle Paul tells us that God created all things by Jesus Christ. And that Word with a capital W is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Before He was ever manifest as a man with the name Jesus or the title Emmanuel, He was the Word that was God, that dwelt with God in the beginning was, already was, with God.

[19 : 14] The eternal Word. Now how do we know this is Jesus? Look at verse number 14. And the Word was made flesh.

Flesh. Hebrews says that He took part of, likewise, took part of the same flesh and blood like you and me. That's Jesus Christ. The Word was made flesh and, look at that, dwelt among us.

And watch this, we beheld with our eyes, we beheld, we saw, we beheld His glory. The glory is of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Verse 17, for the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

And let's, there's the name, there's, it's unmistakable. The person that we're speaking of, that they beheld, full of grace and truth, grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

The Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us. Verse 18, No man hath seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.

[20 : 26] The Word that is God was manifest to men in a visible way. The invisible God that no man has seen, that no man can approach unto.

He was manifest to God in a visible way. They beheld His glory. He, the Lord Jesus Christ, revealed or declared, as John says, the Father to mankind.

The holy and righteous character of God that we cannot see with our eyes was revealed in the person and life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now flip over back to chapter 14. We were there a minute ago. John 14. A little bit earlier in the chapter this time. And verse number 7.

John 14. 7. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also. And from henceforth ye know Him and have seen Him.

[21 : 42] Philip saith unto them, Lord, show us the Father and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you and yet hast thou not known me, Philip?

He that hath seen me hath seen the Father. And how sayest thou then, show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father and the Father in me?

The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself but the Father that dwelleth in me he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me.

So, they could see the Father in the person of the Son. The only begotten Son. The Word that was made flesh.

Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 3 that God was made flesh. They could see the Father because the Father dwelt in the Son. And the Son was a reflection of or a revelation of a manifestation of the Father.

[22 : 50] Now turn to the right all the way to the back of the Bible to the book of 1 John. Before you get to Revelation you'll find a couple epistles here named after John. Find the first one.

1 John chapter 1. 1 John chapter 1.

If you found it we're just going to be at chapter 1 verse 1. And this is John speaking in the first person or actually about on behalf of the other apostles and disciples.

Verse 1. That which was from the beginning. Hmm. What would that be a reference to? Which we have heard. Which we have seen with our eyes.

Which we have looked upon. And our hands have handled of the capital W. Word of life. He is obviously referring to the Lord Jesus Christ.

[23 : 54] Because he spent time with Him. Verse 2. For the life was manifested and we have seen it. And bear witness and show unto you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested unto us.

How? By the Son. That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you. How? In writing. That ye also may have fellowship with us and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

The fellowship with the Father is maintained through the Son Jesus Christ. Alright. So God revealed Himself to the world in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

How God expects men to live. How God expects men to behave. To treat one another. Etc. all of this. He displayed to the world when He came to His own.

When He was manifest in the flesh. When He was made flesh. So the Lord Jesus Christ was the example.

[25 : 07] The pattern. Jesus Christ was the living visible human form of what God desires to dwell in today.

The Bible gives us a record of the life and of the ministry and of the actions and of the character of God in the flesh. And those disciples saw it.

They said we beheld His glory. He said we have seen it. And bear witness. They revealed to us in the written word of God the person of Jesus Christ.

But more than that come back to John again. John's gospel in chapter number 5. There's a little bit more turning and then we'll be done turning.

John chapter 5. Not only did the record that John and Matthew and Mark and Luke and the apostle Paul and any others not only is there a written record of the life of Christ witness of His character and His person the pattern that were to be the follow after but the entirety of the book itself would you find verse 39 before any of those men ever wrote in the New Testament about the life of Christ all they had was Genesis through Malachi 39 writings to look at and to study and to search and Jesus said this in verse 39 search the scriptures for in them you think you have eternal life and they are they which testify of me me that tells me from Genesis to Revelation it's a revelation of God and in the person of and in pictures of and types of

[27 : 05] Jesus Christ the only begotten son that declared him the Lord Jesus was a living visible human form example or pattern of what God expects His dwelling place to be it's not just he was not just visible it was written down does that ring a bell with what I told you about Moses it was visible what he saw and what he received in writing now turn to Hebrews chapter 7 Hebrews chapter 7 we're going to see over time how that earthly tabernacle in all of its instruments and much of its furniture and enclosings picture and illustrate some specific thing or major thing of the Lord

Jesus Christ it's typology all over this tabernacle that we're we're just now at the door of studying but I want you to see in a different picture something about make me a sanctuary as he told Moses Hebrews chapter 7 and this is about Christ in verse 24 but this man because he continueth ever hath an unchangeable priesthood wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them for such a high priest became us meaning he was made flesh Jesus Christ who is holy harmless undefiled separate from sinners and made higher than the heavens would you consider that the tabernacle that Moses and the people were to build was a holy tabernacle and all of it was to be holy every instrument was to be most holy inside of that tabernacle was a holy place and even further yet deeper inside was the holiest of all the most holy place and the

Lord Jesus Christ is said to be holy it also says in verse 26 separate from sinners does that not picture that tent that was erected there in the wilderness and yet God was going to dwell among his people but not all over them and in them but separate from sinners in a sanctuary sanctified set apart though he dwelled with them or among them he was still separate from them they couldn't just walk in there and say good morning they'd be dropped dead on the spot and the priest that couldn't approach to God had to obey and follow very specific details he says it over that he die not because I'll kill the priest if he tries to approach my holiness alright so the tabernacle and the Lord Jesus Christ quite a strong connection can be made there the father dwelling in the son pictures the sanctuary of the Old Testament where God dwelt among his people in his sanctuary the word was made flesh and dwelt among us he came unto his own just like back in

Moses' day this morning I'm making the case to you this morning I'm making the case that just as Moses was shown a pattern for what God expected him to build below a sanctuary he said let them make me a sanctuary just as Moses was shown that pattern God also revealed his standard for his dwelling place for us today he's shown us what our lives are expected to look like on the inside and on the out in word and in deed that standard like Moses was beheld when they beheld his glory when their eyes have seen and their hands have handled and it was also put in writing in Exodus 25 and on and just like the entirety of the book itself the standard is the Lord Jesus Christ and the information to meet that standard is written in black and white in the pages of the word of God one more place for you to turn today 2nd

Corinthians chapter 6 2nd Corinthians chapter 6 and let's just pick it up toward the end of the chapter at verse 16 2nd Corinthians chapter 6 and verse 16 the question is asked what agreement hath the temple of God with idols this is the last of a list of questions that are obviously no agreement no fellowship no communion light and darkness and then he continues with this statement for 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

[32 : 50] God and they shall be my people wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate like a sanctuary set apart separated sanctified be ye separate because you're my dwelling place now saith the Lord and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you and will be a father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters saith the Lord Almighty when God said in Exodus 25 to Moses let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them according to all that I show thee I want to relate this to us today and to show you that you're the sanctuary today you're the dwelling place and God says make me a sanctuary that I may dwell in I gave you the pattern the pattern was my son

I dwelt in him and you beheld his glory he is what I want you to be he is the place that I'm pleased to dwell in so then my question is easy how does your life match up to the Lord Jesus Christ oh I know I know I'm just like you I know it's not even close I know that we all know that right there's no no hypocrites in here that's going to be like well I'm pretty close no no if we're honest we know but you see that's the standard do you see that he gave his holy harmless undefiled son as the standard for your life to look like his his life was without sin they could find no fault at all with him his in his speech there was no guile he was full of boldness and courage yet he depended upon the father he was always obedient to the father he always did those things that pleased him does that sound like your life

I'm not asking you are you holy and undefiled I know you're not Jesus Christ was compassionate Jesus Christ was humble Jesus Christ always had communication and communion with the father he was one with God that's the kind of life God desires for a dwelling place that's the life he dwelt in when he was on the earth he showed us what it looks like and he wrote it down for us to read the details the measurements the materials every detail it's written in the word of God do you want to know what your life supposed to look like it's in the book it's in a holy book holy words I could give you a list where to have the mind of Christ Philippians chapter 2 let this mind be in you which was also in

Christ Jesus a mind of humility and of esteeming others better than self we're to have the mind of taking suffering and suffering for the Lord Jesus and Peter said in I think it's 1 Peter 2 that we're to follow in his steps it's the steps of suffering Jesus Christ did it he's a pattern for you and I to take it on the chin from the world or from the devil and to stay humble and obedient to God you don't have an excuse to quit on God you don't have a reason to say God you aren't right the Lord Jesus Christ showed us how to suffer and then tells us following my steps be like me he did something with his disciples in John 13 and said I have given you an example that you should do as I have done unto you I'm just teaching you how to live come unto me learn of me he said I'll show you how to live

I'm the pattern look at me read of me study me you want to please the father you better get like his son the way to get like his son is to have fellowship with his son spend time with his son spend time in the word of God with his son you'll become more like him there's a verse about in Proverbs about an angry man with an angry man thou shalt not go lest thou learn of his ways like you hang out with that kind of person that's who you're going to start to act like you start hanging out with this kind of person it's who you're going to start to act like it's going to show so the message is more like I said at the beginning more conceptual than it is practical and I think next week I want to go back into that passage and draw out how to make that tabernacle and some ways that you can make sure that you're making it the way

[38 : 09] God's telling us to make it with the materials that he calls for back there with the right attitude that he calls for and everything and I think there's more to draw out of Exodus 25 but for today let's take this thought that God showed Moses what he wanted him to construct and he gave it to them in writing and then it was up to them to do it and so church it's up to you it's up to you to look to your pattern and to submit yourself to your pattern the Lord Jesus Christ and to follow what was spoken and written down for you in the word of God you say I don't know the Bible why not it's been on this earth your whole life pick it up start to get in it take it day by day let the Lord Jesus Christ start to teach you and learn of him come to him with a humble heart he will absolutely teach you if you have a humble heart so next week we'll just pause here and we'll pick it up next week with the how to make this happen

I want you to consider what your life look like is it matching up to the standard is the tabernacle something that God would look at and say oh no not coming near that thing that lacks an awful lot I'm not expecting and I'm not putting it on you that you need to be Jesus Christ and be that perfect pure gold all of this I'm not putting that on you but I think God is looking to dwell in you he's looking to walk in you as he said in 2nd Corinthians to walk in them and to be your God so let's give him what he deserves fathers we dismiss this morning I want to say thank you for the Lord Jesus Christ and for not just being in heaven and telling us what to do but for coming down here and showing us how what you're asking what you're demanding of us and that we with humility would comply with open hearts

Lord put a desire in every single one of us to be more like Jesus Christ to not accept our failing not make excuses for failing and for just being what we are in the flesh Let us not be satisfied with our carnality let us not be satisfied or excited about the world and the pleasures of sin Lord help us to be holy convict us to be holy to be people that you would want to dwell in and that you can walk in and that the world can see this tabernacle is far different than it used to be so Lord make us and change us and grow us in Christ we ask these things in the name of!

Jesus Christ!