

DIALOGING WITH GOD
THROUGH
THE TABERNACLE EXPERIENCE

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God wants His people to see His truths that He has established in both Testaments of the Bible. God has and still uses symbolic representations of His truths. One of the most significant of these is the tabernacle, where He communicated with His people, sharing His love with them. In these last days, God said that He would dwell in the hearts of His people on a one to one basis. No longer would they have to go through a high priest to enter into His presence and commune with Him. As believers, we are blessed with having the Holy Spirit reside within us, enabling us to freely talk with Him, walk with Him, and experience Him on a one on one basis. To enhance our ability to freely commune with our Lord, He has given to us the tabernacle as a prototype of what He is doing with us today. Let us examine what took place in the tabernacle to see how we can experience the fullness of God, the wonders of His love.

You may ask, "Is going through the tabernacle approach to get into God's presence a form of legalism? Yes, such as if going to work for, say a fine restaurant, means being on time, washing one's hands, being drug and alcohol free, etc., it is "legalism". We have the freedom to go to work there out of our free will. When we do, we receive rewards: Financial, food, praise, a sense of accomplishment. We meet and interface with people. So it is with God!

Lord, bringing back the Jewish roots of the Bible. I see that this can potentially bring people under the law.

Ben, people like to go under the law. Too many are not comfortable with being led by My Holy Spirit.

Lord, what value is there for us to follow Old Testament (OT) practices?

Ben, look to the practices as a prototype. In them, such as the feasts, you will find My plans, My desires. Use them to build your faith. Do not use this – following the (OT) practices – as a measuring stick of your's or other's walk with Me.

Hebrews 8:5 says: (the priests) *who serve the **copy and shadow of the heavenly things**, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."* (NKJ)

Lord, Your comments, please:

Everything originates in the spiritual realm, in heaven. As the tabernacle is a prototype of what is in heaven, so the tabernacle is a prototype of My believers coming into My presence. Jesus made it all possible. We are to come boldly into the throne room of grace. The door is wide

open. Wash yourselves in My precious blood and come to Me. I want to heal you, to love you, to hold you close. I want to set you free to worship Me in Spirit and in truth.

My people need to see the truths I have established in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. They need to see how they fit together. You cannot function with an “Amputated” Bible. So much of what I have revealed through the Old Testament is made reality in the New Testament. You understand it as a prototype. Just as My rhema word spoke things into being, My prototypes speak of things to come. That which has come speaks of Me and My glory. Ben, I see you wrestling in your mind with this concept. Continue to allow My Holy Spirit speak to you and amplify to you the message I am wanting to share with you. When you need a translation, come to Me.

Now, Lord? Yes, now, Ben.

Lord, the two sentences above that I have underlined. Your translation, please.

In the beginning was the Word. I am the Word, the Way, the Life, and the Truth. By My spoken word, My rhema word, I spoke the earth, the stars, the universe, and all that is thereon and therein into existence. That which I have created speaks of My glory and majesty. My Son speaks of My love. My dealings with My people speaks of My love and My judgment when they choose to ignore Me by rejecting the many witnesses I have given to them of My love. The cross is the most significant of these. As I have revealed Myself to My creation, My created beings, I have used, and still use symbolic, picture, representations of my love and My ways. You are learning some of them. The Tabernacle was one of the more significant representations. You will find many truths as you mediate upon its structure, contents, and meanings. You have seen My past word through a veil, through the filters you wear over your spiritual eyes. I am removing those filters from My children’s eyes so that they can see Me and My glory. I am revealing My truths to My people, so that they can worship Me in Spirit and in Truth.

Much credit is given to Drs. Mark and Patti Virkler, whose books, *Dialog With God* and *How To Hear God’s Voice*, provide the basis for the way this information is presented. Great praise and thanksgiving are given to our Lord for His input! Information from my personal dialogs with Him on this subject are included. Please note that God’s responses to my inquiries or comments are shown in *italics*. Read on and be blessed!

THE TABERNACLE

The word “tabernacle” appears in 101 chapters, 17 books in the Old Testament, and five in the New Testament. First, understand that the tabernacle is a prototype. It represents the spirit (Holy of Holies), soul (Holy Place), and body of man (Outer Court). It is a copy and shadow of spiritual realities. Our Lord calls it a prototype. Webster’s definition of a prototype is: An original type, form, or instance that serves as a model on which later stages are based or judged.

The entry gate. We enter this court through a gate, which represents the gate of salvation. I will *enter into His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with praise and bless His name* (Ps. 100:4) As the priests wore robes, we also wear a robe, the robe of righteousness. *I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in our God. For He has clothed me with the garment of salvation, covered me with the robe of righteousness* (Is. 61:10). Our robe is a free gift from Christ. We are to wear it proudly! It is a badge of honor!

Your comments, please, Lord.

When you don My robe of righteousness, you come into My presence with all rights and privileges of son ship. You are mine. I am yours. We are in this together. When you offer praise and thanksgiving to Me, I am able to give it to My beloved Son, Jesus. It is a love thing. You can never out give Me. Give and it will be given to you. You shall reap bountifully.

Lord, I see Joseph’s coat of many colors as a prototype of the robe of righteousness. Your comments, please.

Ben, you are right in seeing it as a prototype. Nothing is wasted in Scripture. There is a reason and a purpose for everything. As you spend time with Me, I will reveal to you the many mysteries of the Scriptures. I want you to see My tremendous love for you, for all of My people. It, My love, is there, but your religious glasses have obscured the reality of what I have done for you and for others. Continue to seek Me, to seek My face. As you do, I will bless you and fill you with My love. Let Me put My arms around you and hold you close. Let My healing love flow into you. I am yours. You are Mine.

Outer court. The outer court corresponds to our body, where we receive knowledge, mainly through our five senses. This court had no covering, thereby receiving natural light. This shows us that we receive light, knowledge and revelation through natural means.

Lord, your comments, please.

I want My people to use both sides of their brain. I want them to learn about Me, to listen to My Holy Spirit, to spend time in My presence. Learn to use both My logos word and My rhema word. I will reveal Myself in both places. In My outer court, and in My Most Holy Place.

The brazen (bronze) altar. From the beginning in Genesis, we were created to commune with and have fellowship with God. After we enter through the gates, we first come to the brazen altar in the outer court. The outer court represents the realm of our bodies, where we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice. Romans 12:1-2 says: *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.** 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.* (NKJ) Lord, Your input, please.

To be a living sacrifice means that I am first in your lives in every aspect. You cannot do this on your own, but with the power and guidance of My Holy Spirit, all things are possible. Draw close to Me. I will do the rest. I will renew your mind. As it is renewed, others will see what is good and acceptable to Me.

The Virklers suggest dialoging with God using the questions they give in their book about each part of the tabernacle (see *Dialog With God*, page 133). I am including how I responded to each of their questions through vision and words from the Holy Spirit.

The Altar. Am I a living sacrifice? As I envisioned being in the tabernacle, I saw myself there praising God, then walking to the altar. I ask the question, am I a living sacrifice? I wait. I see Jesus standing with me in front of the altar. He turns to face me, taking my hands in His. He then picks me up and we go over the top of the altar to the other side. I am a living sacrifice because He made it possible. Lord, this is different than I expected.

My ways are not your ways. Thank you, Lord. You are welcome, Ben.

Next, we move to the **laver**, where we are washed with the water of the word. Ephesians 5:26-27 says: *that He (Jesus) might sanctify and cleanse her (church) with the **washing of water by the (rhema) word**, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.* (NKJ) Lord, Your comments, please.

As you meditate upon My (rhema and logos) words, as you allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your thoughts, you are being cleansed and made whole. My living water purifies, as did the consecrated water in the laver. Though you are born again and your sins are forgiven, continual cleansing of the heart is needed to remove the garbage, the soiling that has occurred in the past. I am preparing My Bride. I am washing Her clean. She will be spotless, She will

be clean.

As I meditated about the laver, the following thoughts came to me. The laver has an upper and a lower level basin containing water. The upper basin is for the washing, the purification of the hands, the lower is for the feet. Since we are washed by the water of the word, I see the upper basin referring to the rhema word and the lower basin to the logos word. It is in the upper basin where we wash our hands, receiving Your rhema words to give us the power that we need to perform that which You desire. In addition, our feet serve as our foundation. Accordingly, we are grounded with the logos word. Lord, Your comments, please, on my thought.

Ben, I gave you that meditation. This is another of My truths. You need both the washing of the rhema and the logos words.

The laver. Have I washed myself by the applying of the Word? I see Jesus and me standing in front of the laver. He again turns toward me, taking my hands in His.

You have studied the Word well. But you have not meditated on much of it. You have not given yourself the opportunity to let My Holy Spirit speak to you in the way I desire.

Lord, forgive me.

You are forgiven, for you did not know better until recent times. Have you noticed how I have given you new revelations and new insights in just a few days?

Yes, Lord, what a thrill!

This is what I desire with all of your Bible reading. Do not get in a hurry — wait to hear from Me. We will have fun together as I share My love with you, giving you My wisdom and understanding.

The Holy Place. The Holy Place represents the realm of our soul. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. This is where God deals with our hearts, our mind, will, and soul. The Holy Place contained a table of showbread, an altar on which to burn incense, and a lamp stand. Lord, your comments, please.

Ben, as I deal with My people, I set them free to worship Me in Spirit and in truth. Refinement is needed in all areas. I want you to come to Me, to fellowship with Me, to fellowship with other believers. Exposure to both allows Me to refine you. Granted, there is grinding, there is rubbing, but it is all necessary.

Table of showbread. We first go to the Table of Showbread, where the priests gathered and ate together. As the grain is ground fine for the showbread, so our wills are ground fine within the

unity of the fellowship of believers.

Showbread. Is my will ground fine before You, God?

It is a daily process.

I see the table with the bread. Your Spirit is doing the grinding.

Stay flexible, stay loose. Do not impose legalism upon yourself to measure your desire to control your will. It will not work. It is just walking with Me.

Golden lamp stand. Next is the Golden Lamp stand, representing the cultivating of the divine nature. It is lit by oil — the illumination of the Holy Spirit. As we examine the word under the light, the illumination of the Holy Spirit, we find revelation knowledge pouring into our souls, transforming our lives, taking us deeper into the presence of God. We are being transformed into the image of God by His Holy Spirit (II Cor. 3:18). We are to present ourselves as living sacrifices, being transformed by the renewing of our mind, so that we can prove what is that good, acceptable, perfect will of God (Ro. 12:1, 2). Lord, Your comments, please.

It is the oil of My Holy Spirit that provides light. It illumines your mind, your heart, you. The flow of My Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to communicate. The Holy Place and the Holy of Holies are normally dark. They need the light of My Spirit. Otherwise, there is darkness — practically and spiritually.

Altar of incense. We then move to the altar of incense, where we learn to offer continual praises and worship. As the fragrant aroma rises to Him, so does our praise. Psalm 141:2 says: *Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.* Through revelation knowledge, we see God ruling in the affairs of men, learning to worship Him everywhere and in everything, *that the living might know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men* (Dan. 4:17). John 4:24 says: *"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."* (NAU). Holy and Righteous One, Your comments, please.

You are learning to walk in continual praise to Me. When you walk in My path, you are offering up fragrance to Me. You are a living sacrifice, continually offering praise and thanksgiving. It is more than just words. It is your actions, your deeds, your thoughts.

The Holy of Holies. This area contained the ark of the covenant. The room was a totally dark enclosure with no natural or artificial light. The only light was the *Shekinah* glory of the Lord when God was present. If He withdrew His glory, it was dark. His priests knew when the glory of the Lord was present and when it was not. This is where hearts receive direct divine revelation. Your comments, please, Lord.

I want My people to come into My presence. I am always there with them. When they fail to come to Me I cannot bless them as I desire. I want to shed My Shekinah glory on each one of My children. In the spirit, you can enjoy My Shekinah glory. In the natural, you would be unable to withstand My glory. As you come into My presence, I am enabled to give you direct revelation. Know that I will never leave you. Though there were times that I withdrew My Shekinah glory from My people, I never left them. I waited patiently for them to return to Me so

that I could bless them with My love, My healing, My hope, My everything. The same applies today as it did in the tabernacle. This prototype has not changed.

Holy Lord, when we enter into the Holy of Holies, into Your presence, we receive impartations of Your love and Your power. In turn, we are enabled to serve as priests to pass on to others the impartations that You have given to us from being in Your presence. It is all part of Your circle of love and we are blessed to be a part. Your comments, please, on my thoughts.

Ben, see the value of meditating upon Me? I want to share so much with you, with all of My children. Encourage others to come into My presence so they can also receive from Me.

The ark of the covenant. I see Jesus and me standing in front of the ark. He takes me by my hand and leads me into our Father's presence. He is sitting on a throne, in great radiance. Lord, I am having trouble visualizing, hearing You speak. I feel I am trying to help.

Ben, you are new at this. Do not be discouraged. Keep returning to Me even though your mind wanders. Come on into the throne room with Me. There is where I want you to offer your petitions to Me. I want you to see Me. I am to be the focus of your prayers.

The Holy of Holies?

Yes, the Holy of Holies. Lay your presents at My feet. Your presents of praise and adoration. Your presents of sharing My love. Your presence. You. Now, crawl up here into My lap. Let Me hold you. Shush.

(I would start to say something and He would interrupt me with a gentle "shush".) There was a quiet time. I felt His love and comfort flowing into me. Then He says:

My throne room is in the hearts of My people.

This came in response to my thoughts about seeing my Lord in different throne room settings. I like best the one at the Sea of Galilee where I have visited. The settings change, but they are taking place in my heart.

Remember, Ben, don't put Me in a box. The tabernacle approach is just one approach. You can come into My throne room directly for everything. You may need to go through the tabernacle approach for clean-up, but remember, it is not the only way.

Thank You, Lord. *You are welcome, Ben.*

A NEW TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

Hebrews. This book offers an overview of the tabernacle and its relationship to today. The New King James version records:

*For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; 3 and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, 4 which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; 5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. 6 Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. 7 But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; 8 **the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.** 9 **It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience--10 concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.** 11 **But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.** 12 **Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption (Heb. 9:2-12).***

Revelation: This book speaks of the tabernacle, the temple, and the light of God.

*Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the **tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.**" 4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (NKJ)*

Rev 21:22-24 *But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it (Rev. 21:1-4) . (NKJ)*

Lord, Jesus, what are Your comments on these Scriptures?

*As I said, I am the light of the world. My light shown in the tabernacle, My light shines in the hearts of My people, My light is the light of things to come. One speaks of the other. **The tabernacle sets forth a pattern of things to come, a prototype, as I said before.** There is a tendency on the part of My people to want to go back and build temples made of human hands. They have a tough time realizing in their hearts that they are My temple and I choose to dwell in them. They may know the words, but their heart does not know Me. **I continue to reveal Myself to My people so that they can be set free to worship Me in Spirit and in truth. Look to the tabernacle as a prototype only.** Do not be guilty of building a tabernacle as some choose to do. Look to spiritual things for spiritual answers. When I say building a tabernacle, I mean any religious pursuit that does not seek Me first. I want people to quit being religious and to look to Me as their God, their lover, their friend, their redeemer, their hope and their salvation. Yes, and their healer also. I want face to face relationships. I want to set My people free. I want them to experience Me in My fullness, not in their religious interpretations. Look for spiritual truths as you study the tabernacle. Let My Holy Spirit guide you into My truths as you read and meditate My logos words.*

Lord, what visualization exercise would you like to have Your people do?

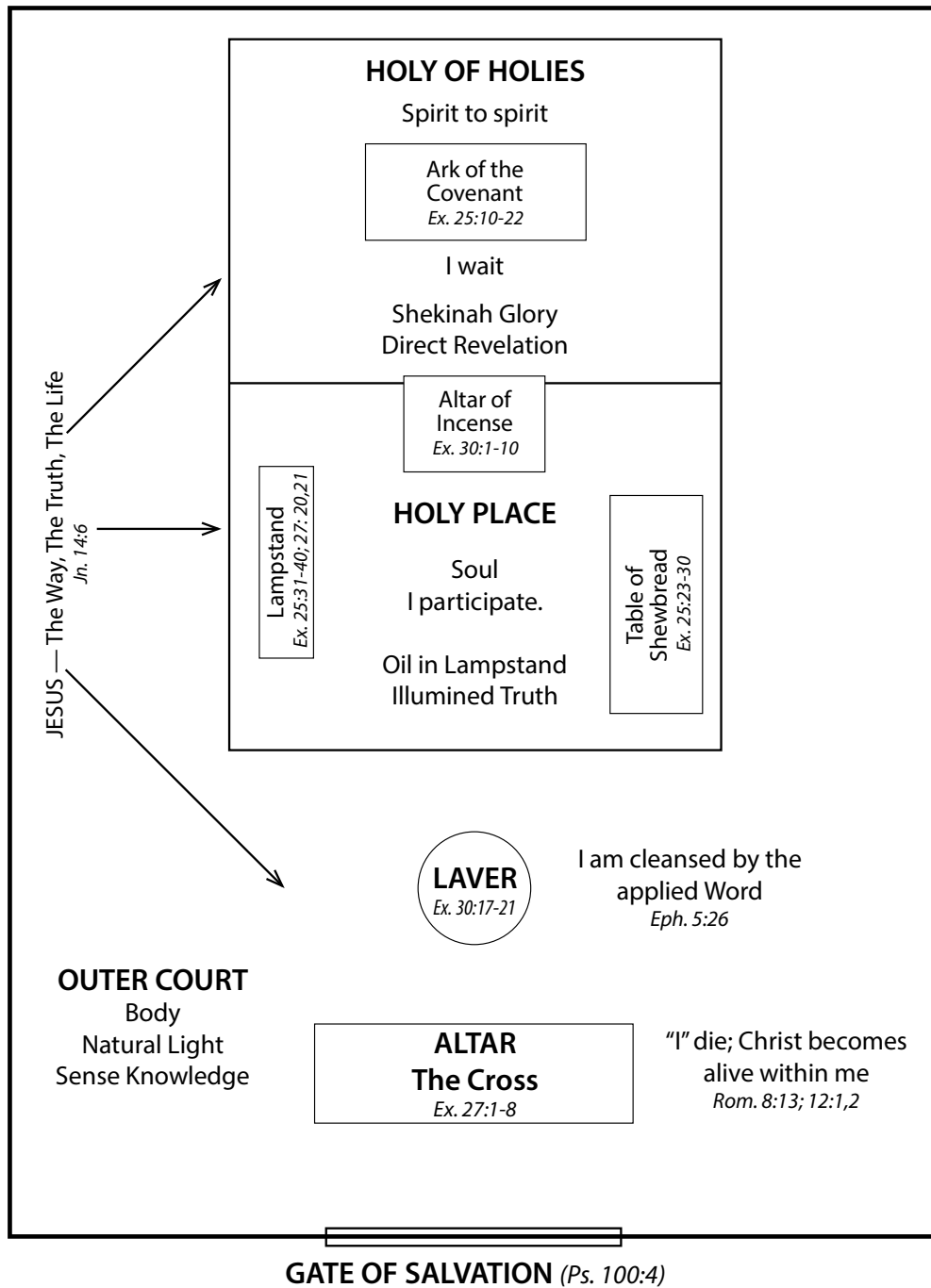
Have them come through the gate with praise in their heart to Me. Have them visualize Me as I join them at the gate and take them to the altar of sacrifice. Have them concentrate upon Me and let My Spirit take over. Have them write down what they see and hear.

HIS CONCLUSION:

Ben, the important thing is for My people to come into My presence so that I can heal them, bless them, set them free to worship Me in Spirit and in truth. Encourage them to seek My face, to spend time with Me, to let Me hold them and heal them. If they will, I will! I have spoken it. That which I speak comes to pass. You do your part and I will do My part!

The Tabernacle Experience

God's Design for Approaching Him (*Heb. 8:5*)



PROTOTYPE: AN ORIGINAL TYPE, FORM, OR INSTANCE THAT SERVES AS A MODEL ON WHICH LATER STAGES ARE BASED OR JUDGED