

DESERT LESSONS

WORSHIP

Exodus 25 – 40

Pastor Bill Heydorn

May 23/24, 2020

MESSAGE NOTES

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to bring Me an offering. You are to receive the offering for Me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give. Then have them make a sanctuary for Me, and I will dwell among them.

— Exodus 25: 1 – 2, 8

Tabernacle = "living place" or "dwelling place"

In order to understand the significance and purpose of the Tabernacle, ... the children of Israel were about to journey from there and thus draw away from the site of the theophany. ... So long as they were encamped in the place, they were conscious of God's nearness; but once they set out on their journey, it seemed to them as though the link had been broken, unless there were in their midst a tangible symbol of God's presence among them. — Robert Harris

In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out — until the day it lifted. So the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels. — Exodus 40:36 – 38

"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe Me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." — John 4:19 – 24

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great Priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching. — Hebrews 10:19 – 25

How is worship different now than from the time of the tabernacle?

- We have full access.
- We are the dwelling place.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What part of the message this weekend stuck out to you? Why?

- What does Exodus 25-40 teach us about God?

- What about Hebrews 9-10?

- What was the role of the tabernacle in the life of Israel during this time?

- Jesus is present when two or three gather in his name together...

How can we connect better during these times even though we can't physically meet?

What ought our attitude be to the weekend gathering of the church?

Is there anything we could/should do differently at church to reflect the great significance of meeting with God?

- How is it that people who fail God as we often do dwell with Him? (Hebrews 10:19 – 25)

- How can we better foster discipline and joy in spending time with Him?

- How can you enjoy God's presence more?

- Share with the group your current habit in terms of drawing close to God?

- What attribute of God did you see in the passages this week that particularly struck you?

- How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?