

The Tabernacle, Part 7: "I brought you out to dwell among you."

Moses told Pharaoh that God had a plan and purpose for Israel.

- *Everything Moses said went against Pharaoh's plans.*

God wanted to bring them out of Egypt to worship Him.

- *They could not achieve God's purpose in Egypt.*

In Exodus 19, God was going bring them to Sinai.

- *God was going to show them His glory and presence. God was going to bring them near to Him. They were going to become a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*
- *They would be different from any other nation of people.*

So, God brought them out of Egypt to Himself.

- *God is very jealous over His people. They are God's own special treasure. God has placed a high value on His people.*

1 Peter 2 reveals God's plan for those who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) ⁹But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

- *God's plan for Israel is parallel to the church.*
- *Almighty sovereign God has a plan for your life.*

Before Abram realized any of God's blessings, God revealed what He was going to do.

- *God said He would make Abram a great nation and abundantly bless him.*
- *The whole earth would be blessed through his offspring.*
- *God's plan took into account all of the ages of man.*

God's scope of knowledge and plan is greater than our ability to comprehend.

God told Abram events that would occur after he died.

- *God holds all of time in His hands.*
- *He knows today and tomorrow.*
- *God knows the right time for His plan.*
- *He knows when to bring them in and out of Egypt.*

None of us knows how to order or control our future.

- *Only God knows the future.*

Job said: "He knows the way that I take." (Job 23:10)

The Psalmist said: "In His hand are the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills are His also." (Psalms 95:4)

Almighty sovereign God is in control of time and space.

- *God brought them out of Egypt at the right time, in the right way, with the right possessions.*

God had a plan!

- *When they came to the Red Sea, God had a plan.*
- *When Pharaoh came after them, God had a plan.*
- *He had claimed them as His own before they were born.*

God had a plan!

Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV) ⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were

born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV84) ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

What is God's plan?

- At the right time, God brought them out of Egypt to be His own special people.
- This was God's purpose for dealing with them.
- God will make them different than the world.
- God will bring them out of Egypt and He will take Egypt out of them.

If you are going to be a man or woman of God, you will be pulled out of the world.

- God cannot dwell with you in the world.
- You cannot live like the world and walk in God's presence.
- God wants to tabernacle with you.

You have been brought out to worship God.

- Worship is a mandate. God is worthy of all praise, honor, and glory. God chose you for worship.

When Moses came down from Sinai, he found the golden calf that Aaron had made.

God's people were worshipping a golden calf.

- **After the gold calf was formed they said:** “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt.”

The Lord God almighty is a jealous God.

Isaiah 6:3 (NKJV) ³And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”

Isaiah 42:8 (NKJV) ⁸I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

No one will prosper who robs God of His glory.

Listen to what God says about them.

Exodus 32:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! ¹⁰Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.”

God was ready to destroy them because of their sin. (Exodus 32)

Moses pleaded with the Lord his God for their lives.

- He told God they were His people. He reminded God of His many promises to Abraham. He told the Lord, “the world is watching these people that you brought out of bondage.”

Moses went down from Sinai and saw the great sin the people were committing.

- **Then Moses returned to the Lord and said:** “Oh these people have committed a great sin and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.” (Exodus 32:31-32)

- **But, God said:** “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book.”

- The people had too much of Egypt in them.

After the plague, God was ready to abandon them to their future. (Exodus 33)

- He brought them out, but they are too sinful for Him dwell among.
- **God told Moses to** “Depart from here and take the people you have brought out of Egypt to the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”
- God was ready to abandon them.
- Their sin and rebellion was too great.
 - God is a holy God. We like to talk about the love of God and the mercy of God.

Never forget that God is holy.

God cannot dwell with rebellious and sin-filled people.

Exodus 33:5–7 (NKJV) ⁵For the LORD had said to Moses, “Say to the children of Israel, ‘You are a stiff-necked people. I could come up into your midst in one moment and consume you. Now therefore, take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do to you.’” ⁶So the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by Mount Horeb. ⁷Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp.

This was a temporary Tent of Meeting.

- **It was a provisional tabernacle.**
 - God was upset with them. This is not what God wanted.
- **The symbolism is great.**
 - The people wanted God to be with them, but not too close.
- **God does not want to dwell on the outside of your life.**
 - When the Tabernacle was built, it was in the middle of the congregation. The 12 tribes camped all around.
- **When the Tent of Meeting is on the outside, God is not really involved in their lives.**
 - They would go outside of their daily routine to meet with God. They are involved in other things.
- **God is on the outside.**
 - They are not prepared to fellowship with God. God’s holiness, glory, and presence frightens them.
- **God was telling them:** “I am not into the things you are into.”

God will be in the center of your life or He will not be in your life at all.

Hebrews 12:18–21 (NLT) ¹⁸You have not come to a physical mountain, to a place of flaming fire, darkness, gloom, and whirlwind, as the Israelites did at Mount Sinai. ¹⁹For they heard an awesome trumpet blast and a voice so terrible that they begged God to stop speaking. ²⁰They staggered back under God’s command: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.” ²¹Moses himself was so frightened at the sight that he said, “I am terrified and trembling.”

When God came close and they were not ready for Him!

They came to Sinai to meet with God.

- God almighty came down in His glory, holiness, and power to meet with them. The mountain was on fire. Blackness and a tempest surrounded the mountain. There was a loud sound of trumpets blowing. Sinai was shaking under God’s presence.

They saw the Almighty God up close.

- He has delivered them. They have been sheltered under His cloud and pillar of fire.

Now, God has come down in power.

- *God is showing more of His glory than they have known. He is revealing His greatness and might.*

How great is your God?

- **Moses has been on holy ground with God.**
 - He took off his shoes and heard His voice.
- **Now God has come down in His power.**
 - Moses was exceedingly afraid, then God called him up into the mountain.
- **Regardless of what you have experienced in the past, God is greater.**
- **Moses is going up the mountain to meet face-to-face with God.**
 - The people were warned to not even touch the foothills of the mountain.

Moses was going up higher to meet with God.

- **Everyone was terrified.**
- **Psalms 111:10** *“The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.”*

When you worship God, remember God is not a man.

- The Lord our God is holy and powerful. Moses was exceedingly afraid and trembled.

God is preparing them for His presence and worship.

- They are to wash themselves and their garments.
- They are to sanctify themselves and be clean.
- Anything that defiles and is unclean is to be removed.

God is preparing a way for them to come in and worship Him as they have seen Moses do. Exodus is not just getting God's people out of Egypt, God is claiming them and bringing them to Himself.

- *They are the first church, the ecclesia.*
- **The word ecclesia means: the called out ones.**
- We have been called out of the world.
- We have been called out of sin.
- We have been called out of darkness.

Once this is settled, God assigns preparations for the Tabernacle.

Exodus 25:1–9 (NKJV) ¹Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²“Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering. ³And this is the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze; ⁴blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats’ hair; ⁵ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; ⁶oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; ⁷onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate. ⁸And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. ⁹According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.

God told them to give willingly.

- Then God required specific things from them.
- They had to willingly give.
- They had to give specifically.

God has a purpose for giving.

- When we come into the House of God, we must bring something that has purpose.
- Don't bring God your leftovers.

David said: *"I will not offer to the Lord my God that which cost me nothing."*

- *If you have been invited to someone's house for a meal and you ask: "Can I bring something?"*
- *You want to bring something that has a purpose.*
- *You don't want to bring that three day old pizza.*

They willingly gave their wealth to God.

- *They have seen God's glory and power.* Now, they willingly commit their possessions for God's purpose and vision.

God was not going have them build a tabernacle unless the people commit to building it.

- God did not need their gifts.
- He established the earth without help.
- He is the God who made all of the gold.

The people gave willingly with their heart.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV) ⁷So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

- If they are going to have a place to worship God, they must give from their heart.
- They all gave something to build this tabernacle. It cost something.
- If we are going to meet with God, it will cost something.
- God is ready to give heaven's riches.

Malachi 3:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

- He is ready to give you double for all your trouble.
- He is going to have fellowship with you.
- He is ready to come down.
- He wants to dwell with you.

Are you ready to come aside and meet with Him?