

Advent 2020, Exodus 25:1-22

Dwell: The Incarnation of Jesus Christ in the *Torah*

Introduction

1. *TNK*: The Orthodox Jew divides the Old Testament into three parts (*Torah* – Law, *Nevi'im* – Prophets, *Ketuvim* – Writings)
2. Jesus divided the Old Covenant this way (**Luke 24:44**)
3. All Scripture points to Jesus Christ: The Messiah was anticipated in the *Torah*, the Writings, and the Prophets
 - a. EX: Gen 3:15, 49:10, Num 24:17, Deut 18:15-19
 - b. The Angel of the Lord (*Christophonies*)

Main Idea The Tabernacle was erected by the Israelites as a place of worship of God. The Tabernacle, as a picture of the heavenly throne room, was the place God dwelt in the midst of His people on earth. The Old Testament Tabernacle foreshadowed Messiah Jesus, who dwelt in the midst of His people and presently dwells within the saints of His Church.

Covenant: God Will Dwell With His People (vv 1-9)

1. 1400 BC – The Hebrews are brought out of Egypt, The giving of the Law at Sinai: instruction on the building of the tabernacle
2. The Tabernacle was erected for God to dwell in the midst of His people – God commanded for contributions to be given
3. Contributions: Precious to Common (Gold → Bronze), Majestic Colors (Blue, Purple, Scarlet), the Ephod with twelve stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel
 - a. High Priest would wear the Ephod into the Holy of holies as the intercessor and mediator between God & His people
4. *Shakan, Mishkan* – to dwell, lodge (*Shekinah* Glory Cloud)
 - a. Hebrews were nomadic – the tabernacle was a temporary tent pointing to a permanent dwelling
 - b. The tabernacle was the place God drew near to His people, and for His people to draw near to Him
5. The Language of Covenant – God wants to be in the midst of His people (those who have been circumcised in their hearts, worship and love Him)
6. The temporary pointed toward the permanent (**Ez 37:24-28**)
 - a. David the Shepherd would shepherd God's sheep
 - b. The nations would see God as a Redeeming God
7. The Tabernacle was to be constructed exactly how God ordered for it was a picture of heavenly realities (The Throne of God)
8. The Lord alone sanctions the ways He is to be approached and worshipped

Consecrate: God's Presence Is Holy, Righteous, & Just (vv 10-16)

1. The Ark of the Covenant – a symbol of Divine Holiness
2. The Ark was placed behind the veil in the Holy of Holies
3. Poles were placed through rings to carry it – no one was to touch the Ark because it was Holy unto the Lord
 - a. EX: Uzzah (**2 Samuel 6**) – he died when he touched it
4. God is Holy (**Isaiah 6**) – Sinless Seraphs cover their eyes
5. The testimony of God (The Law) was inside the Ark
6. The Law of God is a Problem for us
 - a. It is a contract (covenant) between God and His people
 - b. God draws the stipulations of the covenant, what He would do and what His people would do
 - c. The Law is a reminder of God's character and our responsibility to be holy as He is holy
 - d. God's people are Covenant breakers, sinners, rebels
 - e. The penalty for breaking covenant is death (**See Gen 15**)

Compassion: God's Grace Is Merciful (vv 17-22)

1. God is Rich in Mercy – He provides the (*Kapporet*) Mercy Seat
 - a. *Kaphar* – Covering; the sins of the people were covered, or atoned for at the Mercy Seat (the place of covering)
2. *Kaphar* was translated into Greek *Histerion* in the Septuagint; in the New Testament this means Propitiation
 - a. Propitiation – Appeasing God's Wrath
 - b. The Divine Testimony of God's Covenant is God's Wrath on the Law Breaker
 - c. The Mercy Seat is where the Wrath of God is averted
3. Substitutionary Atonement: Once per year in the Holy of holies, an innocent animal was sacrificed by the High Priest for the sins of the people (The Innocent for the Guilty)

Christ: Incarnate Son of God Tabernacled Among Us (John 1:14)

1. Jesus Christ is God in the Flesh where God's people meet God
2. God the Son, Jesus Christ, put on flesh and dwelt among us
 - a. The Tabernacle points to the fulfilling of God's Law in Christ through the Substitutionary Atoning Mercy of the Cross of Christ (**Hebrews 10:5-7, John 1:14**)
 - b. *Dwelt* – The Hebrew word *Shakan* in Greek is *Skenosen* (Jesus *tabernacle* among us): He is the true temple of God
3. Jesus Christ tabernacled with us – God's presence in our midst (**Matthew 1:23**)
4. Jesus tabernacled with us to fulfill the Law we broke (**Ps 40:8**)
5. Jesus, the Merciful, died as a substitute and propitiation for our sins by His blood (The Innocent for the Guilty) (**Rom 3:21-26**)
6. He is the Propitiation for Our Sins (**1 John 2:2, 4:10**)
7. God's wrath is averted from sinner to Jesus at the Cross