

Prophetic Fall Feasts of The LORD

October 2, 2019 Lesson #38 God's Dwelling Place

The Feast of Tabernacles was the most joyous of the annual Jewish feasts.

Lev. 23:40 You shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

Deut. 16:13-15 Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine: And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within thy gates. Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD shall choose: because the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice. [your joy will be complete]

Note: The Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, was observed 5 days before the Feast of Tabernacles.

- Day of Atonement: They expressed deep sorrow, mourning and fasting over their sins.

Lev. 23:27, 29 ye shall afflict your souls. For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.

Note: Until their sins had been cleansed and forgiven, they could not rejoice.

- Sin always prevents joy. Joy always follows cleansing and forgiveness.
- When David sinned, he lost his joy.

Ps. 51:12 He pleads with God: Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.

- He did not lose his salvation. He lost his joy.
- When we walk in unbroken fellowship with our Lord and keep our confessing up to date, our heart remains joyful.

Consider: People who want happiness without holiness are destined to be disappointed.

Interesting: Feast of Tabernacles was observed 5 days after Day of Atonement when the national sin was purged. Israel's communion with God was re-established. Then they celebrate the future coming of their King when He will dwell among them in the Millennial Kingdom.

5 [5 days] is the number of _____ in the Bible.

A sanctuary: a sacred place; place of holiness; safe haven

A habitat is defined as the environment in which a plant or animal naturally lives and grows.

God lives in Heaven, but He also desires to dwell in all His fullness in His children.

God desires for us to grow, flourish, and rejoice in His presence.

If I truly desire the fullness of Jesus manifested in my life, I need to be a prepared temple for His dwelling. What kind of habitat is pleasing?

In Exodus 25:8 God told Moses that the Israelites were to build a sanctuary, tabernacle, for His dwelling place.

The Hebrew word is miqdash which means a consecrated or holy place; a place set aside by men upon God's direction and acceptance as the place where He meets them and they worship Him.

God had specific demands regarding the environment and type of dwelling place that was acceptable to Him.

God took Moses on the mountain and showed him exact details for the tabernacle which was patterned after and symbolized the heavenly tabernacle of God.

In Revelation 4, John takes us into the house of God, the heavenly tabernacle and into the very Holy of Holies itself. By taking a guided tour of God's dwelling, we will discover 4 key points regarding God and His dwelling place.

I. Who Is On The Throne of My Life? - Who's In Charge?

God's Habitat is the throne (seat of authority) of Heaven.

Rev. 4:1-2 After these things (letters to the 7 churches) I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

² Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne. As John crosses the threshold of Heaven, he first sees a throne with the LORD sitting on it. John is overwhelmed due to the authority of that throne and the glory of the One sitting on the throne. God's habitation is the place of power and authority.

I Cor. 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? [temple or sanctuary] For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

If God is going to reside in your house; if you are going to experience the fullness of His presence manifested in your life, then He demands the throne. The THRONE is God's dwelling place. He demands the right to rule, the right to control our lives.

He comes as Lord, Master and King of our lives.

Questions to Ponder: Why am I not growing spiritually? Why am I often frustrated with my Christian life? Why don't I have the deep, intimate relationship with God that I desire?

I easily relate my actions to the approval or disapproval of men.

Basically, we don't understand God's ways. We don't fully realize that if God's presence is to be fully manifested in us, He MUST fully reside on the throne of our lives - without hesitation or equivocation.

Question: Have I said to God: Cleanse me. All that I am is Yours. All that I have I give to You. Here is my life. I surrender it to You. I want You to take over the throne of my life.

Truth: If God is going to feel at home in me, if I want a lasting, abiding, and growing relationship with Him, I MUST give Him the throne.

II. Time For Housecleaning - I Must Provide Him a Holy Place.

After John views the splendor of the throne of God and Him who sat on it, he begins to notice other things in God's dwelling place.

1. 24 thrones surround God's throne

2. These thrones have 24 seated, white-robed elders, crowned with gold crowns
3. Lightning and thunder proceed from the throne.
4. A sea of crystalline glass shimmers in front of the throne.
5. 7 lamps of fire surround the throne
6. Four living creatures like a lion, a calf, a man, and an eagle stand before the throne.

Rev. 4:8a The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within.

- The first living creature was like a LION: "King of the beasts"; represents majesty
 - Christ is portrayed in the Gospel of Mathew as "King of Kings".
- The Second living creature is "like a calf:" also be translated as "bullock" or "heifer."
 - This animal was used for sacrifice. CHRIST is portrayed as "Sacrifice" for our sins.
 - Mark's Gospel presents "CHRIST as the SERVANT who was to be sacrificed."
- The Third living creature "had a face as a man:" Represents CHRIST as a MAN.
 - Luke's Gospel presents CHRIST as the Perfect Man.
- The fourth living creature was "like a flying EAGLE".
 - The eagle symbolizes Sovereignty and Supremacy: represents CHRIST in all his DEITY.
 - John's Gospel presents JESUS CHRIST as the SON OF GOD.

These four living creatures do not rest day or night as they protect the throne of GOD in its holiness. When Israel was camping in the wilderness, there were special precautions taken with the Tabernacle which was the habitation of God in their midst.

The Tabernacle was always in the center of the camp and was surrounded by 12 tribes.

EPHRAIM	WEST	OX BANNER
DAN	NORTH	EAGLE BANNER
REUBEN	SOUTH	MAN BANNER
JUDAH	EAST	LION BANNER

Rev. 4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within.

And they do not rest day or night, saying:

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

When the 4 living creatures gave glory and honor to God, the 24 elders fell on their faces and worshiped, saying

Rev. 4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power;

For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

John becomes aware that God's throne is surrounded by absolute holiness.

It is thrice holy; the plan for the tabernacle included a place called the "Holy of Holies."

Truth: If God is going to dwell in us; if we are to enjoy the full richness of His presence; not only must we give Him the throne, but we **MUST** also provide Him with a holy place.

God's home is a place of holiness. Yet many of us expect Him to dwell with us when there is uncleanness, rebellion, lust, worldliness and other unholy things in our lives.

Point To Ponder: If I am in tune to the Holy Spirit, it is part of His ministry to point out those things to me and clean them out. My part: Humble myself, yield and let Him work.

As long as I listen and co-operate, He will be working in me so that sanctuary becomes a holy dwelling place. It's when I resist that I grieve the Holy Spirit. Persistent resistance can eventually quench the Holy Spirit in my life. If I want God to dwell in me, I must present myself to Him as a clean, pure, empty and holy vessel.

A.W. Tozer: The key to spiritual progress and maturity is to find out what God loves and love it; find out what God hates and hate it.

Holiness is not just measured by not doing certain things; it is measured by the depth of our desire to please the Lord. Too many of us try to live by laws and discipline rather than by love. We need to serve the Lord out of devotion; NOT duty.

Ps. 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

II Cor. 5:9 Paul said, our ambition is to be pleasing [acceptable] to Him.

Strong's #5389 philotimeomai to love or seek after honor; to strive earnestly, make it one's aim; I am zealous, strive eagerly, desire very strongly.

III. Provide Him with a Spirit of Thanksgiving

John relates that the throne is surrounded by atmosphere of holiness and thanksgiving.

Rev. 4:9 He watches and listens as the 4 living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever.

Rev. 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

God dwells in the midst of continual thanksgiving. His Word exhorts us to give thanks.

I Chronicles 16:34 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.

Eph. 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

I Thess. 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Giving thanks to God is a healing balm for our spirit.

Consequence of NOT Giving Thanks (Ingratitude or Indifference)

Deut. 28:47-48 Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; ⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

Stiff penalty? It shows the value and importance God places on thanksgiving.

Questions to Consider: Is the voice of constant thanks heard in the temple of my heart?

If God sniffed the air of my sanctuary, would He smell the sweet, fragrant incense of praise and thanksgiving or the stench of bitterness, anger, pride and ingratitude?

God puts a premium on thanksgiving. Ps. 22:3 He inhabits the praises of His people. When we gather in a spirit of praise, thanksgiving and worship from pure and sincere hearts, we create an atmosphere that actually draws the presence of God. I can individually be in God's presence when I offer to God a heart and life that is holy, thankful and completely surrendered to Him.

Paul & Silas were in jail, bound in heavy chains and behind guarded doors. It was dark and dismal. Around midnight they began praying and singing hymns of praise to God. God heard the praise and the prayers and said - "That sounds like home." He came down, the ground shook, the chains fell off, the prison doors opened and a pagan jailer and his family were brought to Christ - all because of an "attitude of gratitude." God responds powerfully to a thankful heart. Ps. 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

IV. Provide God With An Attitude of Worship

In John's vision of Heaven, the throne of God is also filled with an atmosphere of worship. The 4 living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to God while the 24 elders fall on their faces before Him, cast their crowns at His feet and worship Him. (Rev. 4:9-11)

John witnesses the entire created host of Heaven and earth praising and worshipping God.

Rev. 5:12, 13b-14 "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

"Amen" is intimately tied with worship; a powerful word that means to be in agreement with - "So be it." It is also a word of RADICAL OBEDIENCE which is at the heart of true worship.

Genuine worship comes from a heart that is in:

1. Absolute agreement with God
2. Absolutely committed to God
3. Radically Obedient to God

II Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

- Strongly support those whose heart is completely His
- Show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him

1. KNOW - You will strengthen me if my heart is fully committed to You.
2. RECKON (Bank on) - I am counting on You to fulfill Your promise to strengthen me.
3. YIELD - I gladly yield and commit myself to You and the power of the Holy Spirit.
4. THANKS - I thank You and give You praise that You will perform Your promise and You will strengthen me.

When God told Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice, Abraham did not complain; he complied. Without question or hesitation Abraham took Isaac to the mountain, placed him on the sacrificial altar, and prepared to slay him - until God stayed his hand and provided a ram to be sacrificed in Isaac's place. That was WORSHIP. There was no music, no singing, no preaching, no program - just RADIAL OBEDIENCE.

When God allowed Satan to test Job's faithfulness, Job lost his family, wealth and health. He was reduced to sitting on an ash heap, scraping his sores with a piece of broken pottery. Job didn't understand his suffering and cried out to God. Yet there was an "amen" in his heart. In the midst of his trials he said:

Job 1:21-22 "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there.

The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."

²² In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

Job didn't rail at God, curse God or turn away from God. Instead, he worshiped.

When God told David that the child born of his adulterous affair with Bathsheba would die, David secluded himself for a week to seek God and fast and pray for the life of the child.

When he was informed that the child was dead, what did David do? Did he get angry at God? Did he lose faith in a God who did not answer his prayers? NO! The Bible says that David washed himself, put on clean clothes, and worshiped God. (II Sam. 12:20)

David had an "amen" spirit. Despite his pain and sorrow he accepted God's will as right and just. That is WORSHIP. Acts 13:22 tells us that David was a man after God's own heart.

Truth: True worship is the response to the will of God in which, no matter how difficult or radical a thing He asks you to do, there is NO OBJECTION, NO RESISTANCE - there is only an "AMEN" in your spirit that says: "I agree with You, Lord." It is a trusting acceptance that God's will is right, His justice fair, and His purpose perfect.

"Amen" worship is a radical abandonment of myself to the will and purpose of God.

God is looking for those who will abandon themselves completely to Him, casting everything at His feet.

Point to Ponder: If I am to grow in the things of God, into the fullness of His presence with the strength and stability to finish my race, I must come to the place of absolute surrender to God's will and ways. I must say to Him with a sincere and pure heart:

"Lord, take the throne of my life. I give it to You. Make me into a holy habitation acceptable to You. Clean out the worldliness that has so controlled my life - the lust of the eye, the pride, the bitterness, the resentment, the uncleanness. Take it all out. I want to be a clean vessel, a holy habitation for Your presence and glory. Let thanksgiving rise up new every morning, like Your mercies, for great is Your faithfulness. Give me an "Amen" in my heart of absolute surrender and radical obedience. Amen - So be it!"

Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living, sanctuary, for you.

Judson Van de Venter (1855-1939) taught art in public schools and was active as a layman in his Methodist Episcopal Church. Based on his fervent faith and service to the church, friends encouraged him to leave his field of teaching and become an evangelist.

It took 5 years for him to finally "surrender all."

Each stanza begins: "All to Jesus I surrender." The refrain includes the phrase, "I surrender all" 3 times in the melody and an additional 2 times in the men's part. If you sing all five stanzas, you would sing the word: Surrender = 30 times All = 43 times

The stanzas all revolve around the key word.

Stanza one: stresses complete surrender: "all to him I freely give."

Stanza two: the singer forsakes "worldly pleasures."

Stanza three: prays to "feel the Holy Spirit."

Stanza four: asks for Jesus' empowerment, to be filled with "thy love and power."

Stanza five: the singer "feel[s] the sacred flame," an image of the Holy Spirit.

The result of feeling Christ's "full salvation," is to sing "glory to his name."

All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

*Chorus: I surrender all; I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken
Take me Jesus take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender
Make me Savior wholly Thine
Let me feel the Holy Spirit
Truly know that Thou art mine.

All to Jesus I surrender
Lord I give myself to Thee
Fill me with Thy love and power
Let Thy blessings fall on me.

All to Jesus I surrender
Now I feel the sacred flame
Oh the joy of full salvation
Glory glory to His name