



EXODUS 25:8

“And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.”



EXPLANATION OF MEMORY VERSE

A sanctuary is a place of refuge, shelter, and safety. The Tabernacle was such a place.



THEME OF LESSON

Man can only come to God according to His design. Today it is only by faith in Jesus (Rom.3:28) (Jn. 14:6).



PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Although the Tabernacle was a sanctuary for God, it also provided a sanctuary for Israel. This teaches us that where God is, there are blessings.



BACKGROUND OF LESSON

As the Lord was giving His commandments, He also gave instructions for His dwelling place (Ex.25–27).

I. Together with God

- A. God walked with them (Gen.3:8; 5:22; 6:9). Now He wanted to dwell with them (Ex.25:8; 29:46).
 1. God has always desired a close relationship with man.
 2. God has always had to regulate the relationship due to man’s sinfulness.
- B. If Israel obeyed God’s law, He would dwell with them and protect them. If they disobeyed, there would be death.
 1. The Lord knew they were sinners and wouldn’t be able to keep the commandments.
 2. Unless they had some way of escape, God would have to punish them.
 3. The way of escape was through the tabernacle.
 4. In God’s mercy, he made a way for sinners to come to Him without being destroyed.

II. Tabernacle with God

- A. God gave Moses specific instructions on how to build a portable tabernacle.
 1. The Court – a rectangle shaped border made of fine twined linen; almost twice the size of a basketball court and about seven feet tall; it had an entrance gate that was about thirty feet wide and was the only way in (Ex.27:9–21)
 2. The Brass Altar – the first thing you saw when entering the gate; this was where the priest would burn the animal sacrifice; the fire was to be burning day and night (Ex.27:1–8) (Lev.6:9–13)
 3. The Brass Laver – the second instrument you saw; this was where the priest would wash his hands and feet before entering the tent of the tabernacle (Ex.30:17–21)
 4. The Tabernacle – tent, dwelling place, home; it had two parts separated by a veil (Ex.26)



- B. The first part of the Tabernacle was called the “Holy Place.” It had three things in it...
 - 1. The Golden Candlestick – represents the Holy Spirit; gives light to see and understand; it was to stay burning day and night (Ex.25:31-40; 27:20,21); it shed light on the bread
 - 2. The Golden Table of Shewbread – symbolizes God’s provision and nourishment; about three feet long, two feet high and one and a half feet wide; the bread was laid out in two rows of six, representing the 12 tribes of Israel and the future 66 books of the Bible; the priests baked a new batch every week with permission to eat it (Ex.25:23-30) (Lev.24:5,6)
 - 3. The Golden Altar of Incense – symbolizes prayers going up to God (Ps.141:2); it was to be burning all the time (Ex.30:7,8) (1Thes.5:17)
- C. The second part was called the “Most Holy.” It had some very special items in it...
 - 1. The Ark – a rectangular box made of wood and covered in gold; about four and a half feet long, two and a half feet wide, and two and a half feet tall; Jesus was both man and God (wood & gold); it was where God’s presence showed up (Ex.25:10-22; 40:34-38)
 - 2. The Ark had in it the 10 commandments, Aaron’s rod, and a pot of manna.
 - 3. The high priest entered once a year to offer incense and sprinkle blood on the mercy seat.
 - 4. The blood that was sprinkled on the mercy seat was a covering for the broken law inside.

III. Today with God

- A. God dwells in the heart and body of the saved. Your body is now the “tabernacle” of God.
 - 1. The moment you are saved, He dwells within you (Eph.1:13) (1Cor.3:17; 6:19).
 - 2. We no longer need a priest or sacrifice to make “propitiation” or “reconciliation.”
 - 3. When you have Jesus as Saviour, you have it all (Col.2:10) (Heb.7:22-28).
- B. God had specific instructions for the O.T. Tabernacle. He also has them for the N.T. Christian!
 - 1. We are to offer our bodies a living sacrifice (Rom.12:1,2) and a sacrifice of praise (Heb.13:15).
 - 2. We are to rely on the H.S., feed on the word of God, and offer up prayers.
 - 3. These instructions remind us of the candlestick, bread, and incense.