

March 9, 2021

His Glorious Abiding Place

Shalom,

The Torah Portions we are studying this week are found **Exodus 35:1-40:38, Vayakhel**, or “**He Assembled**” and **Pekudei**, or “**Accounts**.” These last portions of the book of Exodus are the culmination and result of God’s miraculous deliverance of the people of Israel from Egypt to form a nation of kings and priests for His habitation and finishes after the Tabernacle is set up for the first time. YHWH approved of the obedience to His plan and manifested the cloud and His presence in the earthly predecessor of His eternal temple.

Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Adonai filled the Tabernacle. Moses was unable to enter into the Tent of Meeting, because the cloud resided there and the glory of Adonai filled the Tabernacle. (Exodus 40:34-35 TLV)

An abundance of materials, precious stones, wood, leather, and fine fabric that valued at today’s market values would be worth over thirty million dollars in materials alone. This **temporary** dwelling place that was built in all its magnificence pales in comparison to **the true dwelling place of the Living God**. The great value and glory of that original dwelling place was not to be seen in the wondrous amount of gold, silver, and jewels, but in the immeasurable preciousness of the One for whom it existed.

You know that you were redeemed from the futile way of life handed down from your ancestors—not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with precious blood like that of a lamb without defect or spot, the blood of Messiah. (1 Peter 1:18-19 TLV)

Furthermore, that original structure, with all its painstaking construction and marvelous appearance, is but a mere model of the wonderful and amazing structure under construction at this time to endure for eternity; that dwelling place made without human hands nor effort that cannot be valued in human terms. The body of Messiah is a glorious congregation without spot or wrinkle that is to take its place in His immeasurable estimation of what is valuable and precious.

Therefore if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17 TLV)

As you come to Him, a living Stone rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house—a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Messiah Yeshua. (1 Peter 2:4-5 TLV)

Everything that God has set in motion for mankind from the very beginning is entirely about His love and care for those who will receive what He has purposed for us and sealed by covenant through the blood of Jesus, the Messiah. **His will is to dwell, not just near, but inside the ones He has redeemed.** He makes us new creations in Christ and bestows His divine nature to us, when we trust, to show the world, through us, that He lives, loves, and grants eternal life to everyone who will take it by faith.

But now, thus says Adonai—the One Who created you, O Jacob, the One Who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, or through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned, nor will the flame burn you.” (Isaiah 43:1-2 TLV)

*Or don't you know that **your body is a temple** of the Ruach ha-Kodesh Who is in you, Whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?* (1 Corinthians 6:19 TLV)

*For those whom He foreknew He also **predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.* (Romans 8:29 TLV)

Can you imagine travelling into the Arabian desert during the days of Moses and coming upon the great congregation of Israel, perhaps an area 12 miles across, and seeing in the very middle of the camp a tabernacle so beautiful that it showed up as a shining jewel in a desolate place? Even more than its natural beauty, God chose to reside within and above it in a glorious manifestation that would certainly have awed all who saw it. **Now consider that Tabernacle was just a shadow of the splendor and glory that is, even now, and becoming more and more, in all of us who make up God's glorious temple in this earthly realm and will continue forever, for He truly inhabits us and will adorn us as His bride.** The Children of Israel invested so much of themselves into God's building, in time, devoted talent, and material possessions, and they did it all under a Torah of sin and death. How much more should we who partake of the Holy Spirit by the blood of Jesus, **in the Torah of the Spirit of Life**, give ourselves unto all that He has destined for us?

All out for Jesus,
Terry

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