

and the building of the Church. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and his ways are past finding out!" (Rom.11:33).

QUESTIONS

1. Where and in whose supervision was the work of the Tabernacle done? Who were the main craftsmen?
2. The Tabernacle was an important institution for Israel. Why?
3. How appropriate was the name "Tabernacle" for the sanctuary? Which are its other names?
4. Which earthly Temple replaced the Tabernacle?
5. What were the main materials used for building the Tabernacle? How were they obtained?
6. Draw a plan of the Tabernacle with the courtyard and mark the positions of various articles of the Tabernacle.
7. Write short notes on:
 - a) Board surrounding the Tabernacle
 - b) Curtains of the courtyard
 - c) Coverings of the Tabernacle.

LESSON - 17

THE TABERNACLE (PART II)

THE SHADOW OF NEW TESTAMENT TRUTHS

Reading : Heb.9

Memory verse : Heb.10:1

Theme: To learn the New Testament truths which are revealed through the Tabernacle of the Old Testament and put them into practice for a glorious Christian life.

Introduction: What is the importance of Tabernacle for us? Let us consider the truths underlying in the institution of the Tabernacle.

1. Represents Jesus Christ: God reveals His Son Jesus Christ through the Tabernacle.

a) The Tabernacle was the place where God and man met together. It is only through Jesus Christ that man can approach God and meet with Him. "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me". said Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

b) Just as God made His abode in the Tabernacle. He lived in Jesus Christ. "In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col.2:9). All those who came in contact with Jesus could see the glory of God (2Pet.1:16-17).

c) The Tabernacle was constructed according to the plan of God as shown to Moses on the mountain. The material body of Jesus Christ was planned by God before the ages through the wonderful work of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35, Isa.7:14; 9:6).

d) Although the Tabernacle was unattractive externally, its interior was beautiful and filled with the glory of God (Exo.40:34). Jesus had no form nor comeliness but was marvelously glorious internally (Isa.53:2-3)

2. Represents the Church (1Tim.3:15): Church which is the body of Christ, is the holy Temple of God where he dwells now (Matt.18:20; 1Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16; Heb. 8:9; 9:9; 1 Pet.2:5-6; Eph.2:21-22). God does not dwell in temples made by hands (Acts 7:48; 17:24). On the other hand, He dwells in the Church which is His Temple. The corner stone of this Temple is Christ. Holy Spirit is building the Church with living stones which are the believers who receive life through Jesus Christ. As the Tabernacle was build by craftsmen filled with the Spirit of God, the Church is now being built by spirit filled servants of God.

3. Represents every believer: Believers are Temples of God (1Cor.3:16-17; 6-19). Just as the Tabernacle had three section: Courtyard, Holy Place and the Most Holy Place, a man also has three constituents: body, soul and spirit (1 Thes. 5:23). Glory of God dwelt on the Throne of Grace in the Most Holy Place. Similarly, God establishes His Throne in the spirit are involved in the worship all the three constituents of a believer take part in worshipping God. God commanded that the Tabernacle should be kept holy. Similarly a believer must keep himself holy in all respects.

4. Represents three ages:

a) The Court of the Tabernacle is the place where sacrifices are offered. It points to the Old Testament age in which rituals of sacrifices and offering were given as part of worship.

b) The Holy Place represents the church (New Testament) age. The golden candlestick, the table of shewbread and the altar of incense are placed here. Believers must shine forth as lights, filled with the Holy Spirit, partaking of the Lords Table and offering the incense of prayers and praise.(1Pet.2:5-9).

c) The Most Holy Place points towards the golden age that is to come in future. As its length, breadth and height are equal, so also, the dimension of the new Jerusalem are equal (Rev.21:10-16). It is illuminated by the glory of God and there no need for any lamps or the sun or the moon to provide light in that place. (Rev.21:23; 22:5)

5. Represent earth, heavens and Heaven of heavens:

Jesus Christ came to this world and offered Himself as a sacrifice of atonement. He traveled across the heavens and entered into the presence of Father with His own blood (Heb. 9:11-12;4:14). Court of the Tabernacle stands for this earth where Christ offered Himself, Holy Place stands for the heavens (sky and the planetary formations) and Most Holy Place stands for the Heaven of Heavens where Gods Throne is established (Heb.9:23-24).

Thus we see that Tabernacle represents Christ, the Church, individual believer, three periods of time and the whole universe comprising of earth heavens and the heaven of heavens. We shall study in the next few lessons about how the articles in the Tabernacle and the various rituals of worship stand as pointers to New Testament truths. Let us realise our position and responsibilities as New Testament believers and dedicate ourselves in the presence of God as His true worshipers.

QUESTIONS

1. Which are the various objects that are represented by the Tabernacle?
2. Prove that the Tabernacle is a type or Christ.
3. In which Temple does God dwell now.
4. Show how three section of the Tabernacle represent three periods of time.
5. How are the earth, the heavens and the Heaven of heavens represented by the three sections of the Tabernacle.
6. How does the Tabernacle represent a believer?