

## Genesis 1:26-28

- What does it mean to be created in the image and likeness of God?
- Remember that Adam and Eve are created on the same day as all the other land animals
- Adam and Eve are set apart as different than anything else that's been created
- There is an intimate, personal relationship between God and man that doesn't exist with any other aspect of creation (light, sun, moon, stars, animals, etc.)
- God is described as a Spirit ([John 4:24](#)) and a Spirit does not have flesh and bones
- So being created in God's image isn't talking about physical attributes
- When we were created, God gave us a sense of Morality and Spirituality that nothing else created has
- In addition, God also gave us a responsibility that nothing else has
- Man is not the creator, but he has been put in charge of the creation

**Psalm 8:4-6** - Of what importance is the human race, that you should notice them? Of what importance is mankind, that you should pay attention to them? 5 **You made them a little less than the heavenly beings.** You crowned mankind with honor and majesty. 6 **you appoint them to rule over your creation;** you have placed everything under their authority,

- Interesting that we are described as a little lower than heavenly beings instead of just above the rest of creation
- Man is uniquely positioned between God and His creation as a link between the two
- Our status is that we are not the creator, and we should never think we are
- At the same time, God put us in charge over creation, and we should treat creation as God would treat it
- We were appointed to rule over God's creation as Regents
- In **Genesis 1:26-28**, God has commissioned man to reflect and represent his greatness and glory to the rest of the Earth

**Genesis 1:27-28** - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply and **fill the earth...**

- When God first made the world, he planted a garden sanctuary
- In it he placed his image — a man and a woman, whom he commissioned to expand this garden sanctuary by carrying his image to the ends of the earth
- Eden was a template of what God wanted the whole Earth to be
- It's interesting to me that God chose man to expand His creation of Eden
- God could have simply made all the world like Eden, but He chose man (image bearers) to spread His glory to the rest of the world
- Have you ever thought about what Adam and Eve were like?
- Have you ever thought about what happened once the Earth got full?

- Adam and Eve failed in expanding the garden sanctuary by choosing to follow the serpent in their rebellion
- Adam and Eve were supposed to subdue and have dominion over the animals
- Instead the serpent took dominion from them
- Satan is now ruler of this world

**1 John 5-19** - We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

- But God makes a promise in the garden

**Genesis 3:15** - I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

- One day, an offspring of the woman would regain dominion and the world

- From Adam's fall, sin escalated quickly
- After God destroyed all His creation in a flood He repeats His mandate to Noah
- **Genesis 9:1-3; 7**
- **Genesis 11:1-9**
- **Genesis 12:1-3**
- Growing out of the two commands to Abraham to "go" and "be a blessing," a two-stage process emerges for overcoming the curse
  - 1.) Abraham would need to go to the land of Canaan, where God would make him into a great nation
  - 2.) From this great nation, Abraham's offspring would produce someone that could ultimately overcome the curse and bring blessing to all the families that are spread around the earth
- **Genesis 22:17-18**
- **Genesis 26:3-4**
- Not only would Abraham and his family be blessed, but through one of Abraham's descendants, all the nations of Earth would be blessed

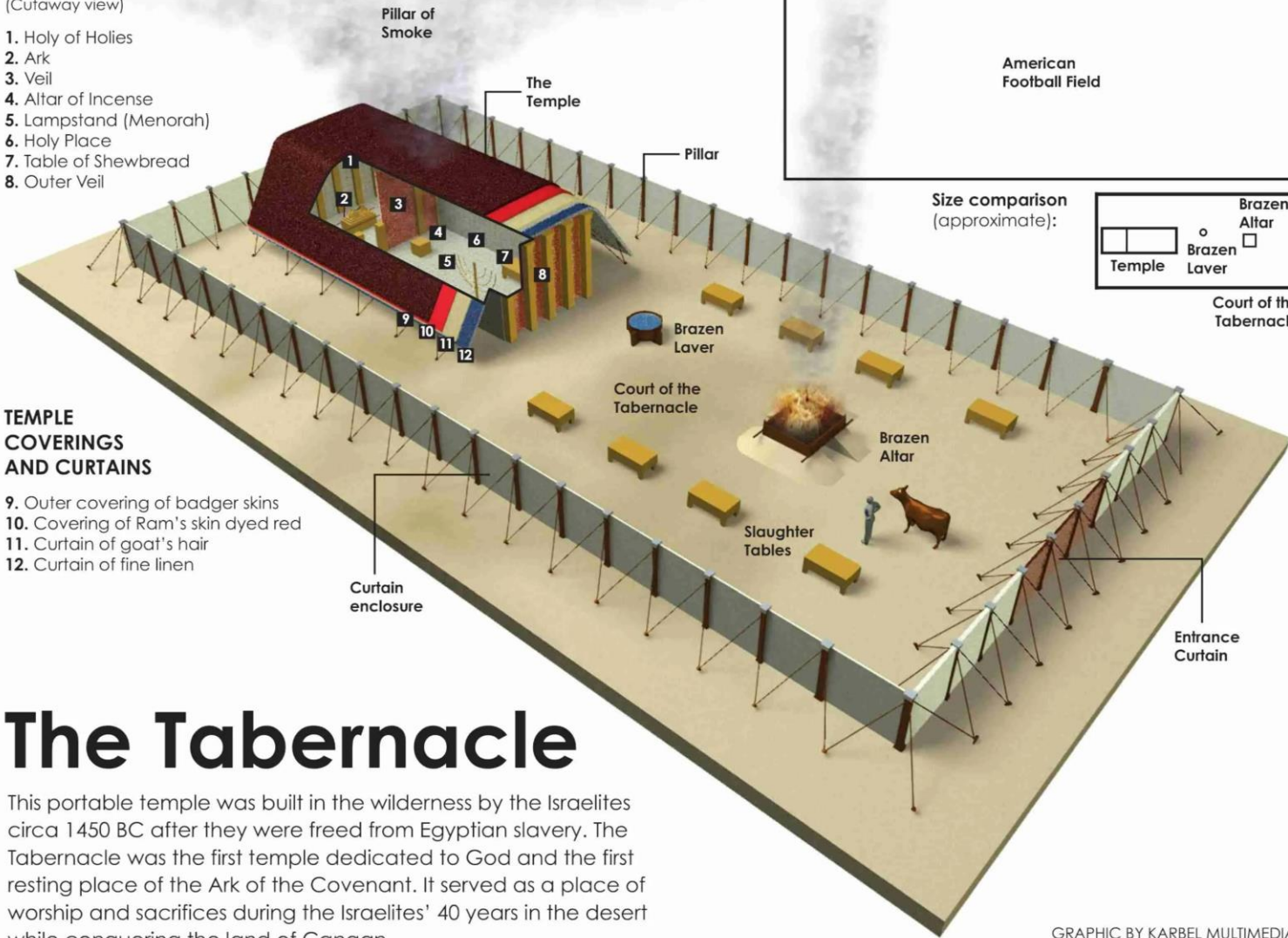
**Genesis 12:1** - Now the Lord said to Abram, **Go** from your country and your kindred and your father's house **to the land that I will show you.**

- In one sense, the biblical storyline seems to leave the garden sanctuary of Eden behind, but the people still remember it
- Man multiplies over the face of the Earth, but now they need a place where they can meet with God again
- God needs a place that is set apart, where He can show His glory and dwell with man again
- 600 years after the promise to Abraham, God directs Moses and the Israelites that left Egypt to erect a tabernacle
- At the base of Mt. Sanai, they build a portable tent to meet with God in
- Everything about the this portable tent reminded them of the garden of Eden

## INSIDE THE TEMPLE

(Cutaway view)

1. Holy of Holies
2. Ark
3. Veil
4. Altar of Incense
5. Lampstand (Menorah)
6. Holy Place
7. Table of Shewbread
8. Outer Veil



## TEMPLE COVERINGS AND CURTAINS

9. Outer covering of badger skins
10. Covering of Ram's skin dyed red
11. Curtain of goat's hair
12. Curtain of fine linen

# The Tabernacle

This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1450 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifices during the Israelites' 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan.

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**Exodus 19:5-6** - Now therefore, if you will indeed **obey my voice and keep my covenant**, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.

- If Israel would just surrender their lives and obey God, they would display God's holiness to the world

**Deuteronomy 4:6** - Keep them and do them, for **that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples**, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

- The calling in Eden was to go and Edenize the rest of the world
- Israel's calling was not to go into the world
- It was simply to obey
- From obedience, the world would be drawn to it



- But just like Adam, Israel failed in obeying God and they rebelled
- Even with the failures of the Mosaic covenant, God raised up prophets like Isaiah who remembered the promises that one day, God would bring good news and blessing and the glory of God to the whole world through a single descendant

**Isaiah 61:1-3** – The Spirit of the Lord God is upon **me**, because the Lord has anointed **me** to bring good news to the poor; he has sent **me** to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn...that he may be glorified.

- Once we get to the New Testament, in **Luke 4**, Jesus opens his ministry by directly quoting this same **Isaiah 61** prophecy, assuring us that He's the one we've been waiting for
- Jesus is the one Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, and the other prophets anticipated — the one through whom all the world can be blessed
- Paul goes back to the promises that God had given to Abraham

**Galatians 3:8; 14; 16; 29** - The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." ...In Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles...Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring...who is Christ...And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

**Acts 26:22-23** - To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: 23 that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.

- Paul, an Israelite, proclaims that it's not just about Israel anymore
- It's Jews and Gentiles
- And it's not just Jesus who is to proclaim the good news, it's the church

**Acts 13:47** - For so the Lord has **commanded us**, saying, I have made **you** a light for the Gentiles, that **you** may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.

**Isaiah 52:7** - How lovely on the mountains Are **the feet of him** who brings good news,  
Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation...

**Acts 13:47** - How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? **As it is written,** How beautiful are **the feet of those** who preach the good news!

- In Isaiah, the future Messiah is the one bringing the good news of salvation
- Once we get to the New Testament, what was prophesied to be the job of one man has now become plural
- Jesus has given us the task of proclaiming the gospel
- The church is the one who is to carry the good news to rest of the world
- We are to be His image bearers again

- God had called Old Testament Israel to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation
- By doing that, the world would be drawn to them and God
- Now, the church is called **to Go into the world** to reach the lost

**Matthew 28:19-20** - **Go** therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...

**1 Peter 2:9** - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, **that you may proclaim the excellencies** of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

- In Christ, the new creation has begun
- God is now re-establishing things to their right order
- His glory is to be increasingly filling the earth
- And God will do that through us

**2 Corinthians 5:17-20** - So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come! 18 And all these things are from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ **and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation.** 19 In other words, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting people's trespasses against them, **and he has given us the message of reconciliation.** 20 **Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making his plea through us.** We plead with you **on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God!"**

How can you plead with people to **“Be reconciled to God!”**

- Your testimony
  - Before I knew Christ, I lived and thought this way
  - How I received Christ
  - After I received Christ, these changes took place

How can you plead with people to **“Be reconciled to God!”**

- **Romans Road**

**Romans 3:23** - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**Romans 6:23** - For the wages of sin is death,...

**Romans 5:8** - but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Romans 10:9** - if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.