

YOUR FIRST DAY IN HEAVEN

Message 9

Words: 6298

INTRO: We are looking at the fourth main point of this series of messages, which is what the believer experiences after the altar. We have taken a diversion, to explain a matter so as to understand the white robes of Revelation 6. I have recommended that the believer who enters heaven arrives first at the altar. From there he goes to the laver. But to understand why I believe that, and to understand what happens at the laver I want to explain the basic stages of the tabernacle and the purpose of the laver. This really belongs to a separate series, but to understand the white robes we are taking this up now.

Here are the main points of what we have covered so far. We first looked at the altar at which the believer arrives in heaven. Then we looked at how it is that a person arrives there in the first place. All this is given to us in the text we have been considering. Then we looked at what happens at the altar. That gives us the reason why we arrive there. It would not be appropriate to arrive before God Almighty without having first been to the altar.

We are now considering what happens after the altar. All we have in our text is that they are given white robes. That is our clue to what is happening and that is our subject. I have proposed that the white robes are given, not at the altar, but after the altar, or rather at the laver. I have also proposed that the significance of the laver is water and baptism. Washing is the key thing about the laver.

And what I want to do now is give you the basic stages of the tabernacle throughout history. From here, we want to take a closer look at the laver. So we begin with the background to an understanding of the tabernacle. I have been most mentally exercised in studying this. I hope this will put life to a lot of Scripture as you read through the Bible. My four year old grandson picked up on the temple when they were doing their reading the other day.

And now we want to take a look at time before any tabernacle existed, and then the tabernacle during the past 6,000 years and for at least 1,000 years into the future. And then we want to look at the time when the temple will never exist in this form again.

IV. WHAT THE BELIEVER EXPERIENCES AFTER THE ALTAR

B. The Basic Stages Of The Tabernacle

1. The tabernacle-less time

Well, to understand the basic stages or ages of the tabernacle, we need to begin at the beginning. In Genesis 1 and 2 we have the creation of matter and the universe. For mankind, everything begins here. It was not 60 or 80 billion years ago, it was 6-8 thousand years ago. We learn that, not from old bones with new ideas, but from an old book with God's eternal plan.

In Genesis 3 we have the record of man's fall into sin. We have already seen that there is a tabernacle in heaven. All the furniture of the earthly tabernacle is in the heavenly tabernacle. We have seen that this tabernacle in heaven is the perfect tabernacle, and the one on earth is a copy, a replica.

Turn to the book of Hebrews chapter 8. It is evident that the tabernacle in heaven has not always existed, and I believe that it did not exist before man sinned. The tabernacle has to do with sin and how God deals with man's sin. There was no need for it before man sinned. The book of Hebrews has much to say of the tabernacle. Look at verses 1-2 of chapter 8:

1 Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

So you see that God erected the tabernacle in heaven. Since it was erected by God that means it did not always exist. And I propose that it was pitched after man sinned. And the very first thing man was taught after he sinned, is that a sacrifice had to be made to cover his sin. God made clothes of skin for Adam and Eve and that required a sacrifice.

You see, when Adam and Eve sinned, God taught them to sacrifice. He made clothing for them from animals. I have no doubt it was from lambs. There is the first reference to Christ as pictured in the shed blood of the animal. When the first two sons came along, they were taught to sacrifice. Here is the first idea of the way to come to God as pictured in the altar, the very altar we have been looking at in Revelation 6. You see, this teaching goes as far back as man's sin does.

Now turn to Genesis 8:20. It says, *Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.* And from then on we read about altars, which is the first piece of furniture one meets in the white fence.

All that to say this: there was a time when no tabernacle existed and that time was before man sinned.

2. The heavenly tabernacle

So, there was a time when there was no tabernacle. I want to introduce us then, to the very first tabernacle. It is the tabernacle that God pitched in heaven. When man sinned, God pitched the first tabernacle, and He moved into the holy of holies, and no one could approach Him in any other way than

coming through the one door, and first coming to the altar, and second, going to the laver.

Acts 17:24 says that God does not dwell in temples made with hands. No, He dwells in a temple made by Himself. Listen to Hebrews 9:24, *For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.* So Christ entered holy places not made with hands. And He did so to appear in the presence of God for us. And so where does that indicate God is? He is in the temple not made with hands.

Let me just point out here that sometimes it is thought that in the OT people were saved by keeping the law. That has never been true. Every person born, after Adam and Eve sinned becomes a sinner. And every person must get saved in the same way. There never has been any other way to be saved than by grace through faith. But in the OT Christ had not yet come. He was prefigured in all the sacrifices and many other things. And all of these sacrifices that were done out of pure motivations were done by faith, trusting fully in the Coming One. We come in exactly the same way, only we trust in the One who has already come.

So, we had a time when no tabernacle existed. Then when man sinned, a tabernacle was erected in heaven by God Himself. And this tabernacle is where all truly saved people from Abel onward entered heaven by the one door. And here they all arrive at the one altar. And there I believe the very same thing happened to them that happens to everyone who dies today. As one studies this subject, along with many others, one sees what theologians over the years have called progressive revelation. It is clear here as well.

3. The earthly, movable tabernacle
 - a. Its dates

We come then to the first earthly tabernacle, the one Israel built at Mount Sinai and it was taken with them during their wilderness wanderings. Let me begin by giving the dates of this tabernacle. Although I did not mention the dates of the heavenly tabernacle, I want to do so later on when we see where it comes to an end, and it does. But the dates for the moveable tabernacle are from Moses to Solomon. That is from about 2,500 years after creation until 3,000 years after, so it was in use for about 500 years in its movable form.

b. Its construction

This first earthly tabernacle brings us to the third time period of the tabernacle. There was the time when there was no tabernacle. Then the heavenly tabernacle was erected by God Himself. And we have now come to the time when Israel had become a large group of people in Egypt. And they were severely mistreated by Egypt, and eventually, after God had shown up Egypt's gods to be impotent, they finally let Israel go. So far we have been introduced to the altar and to the sacrifices, but not an earthly tabernacle.

And now they will leave Egypt, and Egypt is a picture of the world. And leaving Egypt was a picture of justification by faith. You see, they had killed the Passover lamb, put some of the blood of the doorposts of their homes, and the death angel passed over them. So it is called the Passover. And this became the first of seven biblical feasts Israel kept. Well, after the death of their firstborn, Egypt let Israel go.

Today, when we come to Christ by repentance and faith in Him as our sacrifice, the world has to let us go. Well Egypt regretted letting Israel go and came after them and trapped them at the Red Sea, and now Israel will be baptized, as they go through the water. 1 Corinthians 10:2 says they were baptized to Moses in the Red Sea. Passing through

the Red Sea is a picture of death, burial and resurrection. The same waters that saved Israel drowned the Egyptians.

Well, death burial and resurrection is commemorated by the Passover and the feast of First-fruits. Firstfruits pictures the resurrection, it is the day Christ arose from the dead. At Passover, the lambs died, and this is what first happened in Egypt. Three days later they came out on the other side of the Red Sea. That is resurrection.

Go now to Exodus 19. I have told you that they had the first Passover in Egypt. Three days and three nights later, they had crossed the Red Sea, and when the sun arose we have that which would become the feast of First-fruits or the picture of resurrection. And now we are in Exodus 19:1:

1 In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai.

2 For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain.

3 And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:

4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

5 'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; 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 which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Turn now to Hebrews 8. You see, here at Mount Sinai Moses was given the law and when you read through the Bible you will read what all happened here. We have now come to another time which would be commemorated as the one of the seven feasts of Israel. Does anyone know which one that is? It is the feast of Pentecost, and on that day the Jews remember the giving of the law at Mount Sinai. These feasts were all prophetic. These four feasts have been fulfilled, and the last three await fulfillment in the future. There is much to say here for which I cannot now take time. I have covered much of this on Pentecost days. Here God and Israel made a covenant with Israel. It is what we know as the Old Testament. And so let us read a few verses in Hebrews 8, beginning at verse 1:

1 *Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,*

2 *a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.*

3 *For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.*

4 *For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;*

5 *who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."*

Notice that God gave Moses the pattern for the tabernacle in the Mountain, that is Mt. Sinai. Well, there they collected all the materials God had told Moses they would need, and then they constructed the tabernacle. Then they made the priestly garments and there the white robed priests were dedicated to the service of God at the laver and we read this in the previous message. This is recorded in Exodus 25. Here we have the history, I believe of baptism, and of the white robes sometimes used at baptism, and the white robes that Revelation 6 speaks of.

In the tabernacle many things are taught. Both the nature of God and the nature of man can be learned from the construction of the tabernacle. So we want to now look at the construction of the tabernacle.

b. Its construction

We cannot take time to discuss all of the construction, but I want to point out a few things with regard to the laver. I find it most interesting, when you pay careful note to which article the construction of the tabernacle began with and with which article it concluded. The first article to be made was the ark of the covenant. That is not surprising. The last one was the laver. That is amazing.

A while ago we celebrated the birthdays that happen in our family in February. And we had a wonderful Sunday feast and as we feasted we discussed the tabernacle. And one of the families had just read about the laver and they had learned something very interesting about the laver. It is this: Of all the things made, while there are careful dimensions given to all the other articles, there are no dimensions given for the laver. And I said to them that that is not a mistake in the Bible. *1Remember this for later.

Turn now to Exodus 30. And let me say this of the laver, that if we called the laver a big bowl for water, we would get a more accurate picture in our mind. It was a huge bowl that held water. Those are the two most outstanding and significant things about the laver. It is generally agreed that it was round, and that too is significant. Let us begin reading at verse 30:

30:17 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

18 "You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it,

19 "for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it.

20 "When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, lest they die.

21 "So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them – to him and his descendants throughout their generations."

Let me just mention about the word bronze that I understand that it means copper. Let me add this as well, the white fence had silver and copper. But anything inside the white fence was made of copper. And anything inside the tabernacle was made of gold or covered with gold. This is all significant.

Turn now to Exodus 38. There is one other most outstanding feature about the laver. There is only one verse of Scripture that makes reference to this aspect directly. So look at a very lonely, but very important verse. This is all we are told about the laver in this passage. I am going to read it in the KJV. It says:

8 And he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the lookingglasses of the women assembling, which assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

What are lookingglasses? Well, they are brass or copper mirrors. They did not have glass mirrors. Now just what is the meaning of this? *2Well, remember this as well. It is most significant.

Now the bowl or laver held water. And the water was used for three things. First, the entire body of the priests that were consecrated for ministry was washed here. I have no doubt that here is the history of baptism. Furthermore, they did not wash themselves, the High priest washed them. After washing, they were clothed with white robes, and then they were anointed. *3See how much of this you can remember for later messages.

The second thing the water was used for was for the priests to wash their hands and their feet. They always did this before they entered the tabernacle, and after they came out, and if they did not, they died. *4Remember this for later as well. *5The third thing it was used for was to wash certain parts of the sacrifice and remember this for later as well.

Well, this tabernacle was in use for about 500 years. That is like from the time of Martin Luther or Menno Simons until today. You see, the tabernacle traveled with them through the wilderness and you can read many interesting things about what happened to it after Israel got to the promised land. And that brings us to the next phase of the tabernacle. The biggest aid in understanding the NT is an understanding of the OT.

4. The earthly, permanent tabernacle
 - a. Its dates

Well, about 1,000 years before Christ, and 500 years after the tabernacle was built, Solomon built the temple to God in Jerusalem. You see, Israel had for some time lived in the land of Canaan, and this was as far as they were going. They were in the promised land. Now, this temple that Solomon built housed the tabernacle. But some of the furniture was made again because it needed to be much larger as it would now service many more people, and we won't take time here for all that except to comment on the laver.

For this we go to 2 Chronicles 4. You see, as I have mentioned all the furniture built for the temple was much larger than in the tabernacle. So we begin in verse 1:

1 Moreover he made a bronze altar: twenty cubits was its length, twenty cubits its width, and ten cubits its height.

That is the altar we have been speaking of in Revelation 6. This altar was about 30 feet by 30 feet by 15 feet high. It was huge. If the altar in heaven is comparatively bigger than this one, and there is reason to think it is, compared to the one in the tabernacle, you can see how it says in Revelation 6 that the martyrs stood under the altar. We go on to verse 2:

2 Then he made the Sea of cast bronze, ten cubits from one brim to the other; it was completely round. Its height was five cubits, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference.

Here we have the laver. What is it called? A sea! *6Remember that as well. Picture this bowl. It is about 15 feet across! Did you notice that it is called a sea? Take note of that. You see, when it speaks of the Sea of Galilee or the Mediterranean Sea, that is the word used. We read on:

3 And under it was the likeness of oxen encircling it all around, ten to a cubit, all the way around the Sea. The oxen were cast in two rows, when it was cast.

4 It stood on twelve oxen: three looking toward the north, three looking toward the west, three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east; the Sea was set upon them, and all their back parts pointed inward.

5 It was a handbreadth thick; and its brim was shaped like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It contained three thousand baths.

6 He also made ten lavers, and put five on the right side and five on the left, to wash in them; such things as they offered for the burnt offering they would wash in them, but the Sea was for the priests to wash in.

Well, it is sad to say, but because of Israel's disobedience to God that temple was destroyed. Then later it was rebuilt again by Nehemiah. And we move along in time and now we come to the last verses of the OT. We are now some 400 years before the time of Christ. And after Malachi penned his last chapter, God remained silent for 400 years. And when Christ came we come to a whole new time period. The Messiah has come. The temple, and the tabernacle have fulfilled their earthly purpose for this time. They are no longer needed. And in 70 AD the temple was destroyed and to this day it has not been rebuilt, although the call to rebuild it is an ever growing call in Israel today.

But when we come to Christ, the Messiah, a new day dawns. So we go now to the next tabernacle or temple which I call the spiritual tabernacle.

5. The spiritual tabernacle

Well, the earthly tabernacle took us from Solomon to Christ. When Christ came, the ceremonial law was

fulfilled. Sacrifices would come to an end because Christ fulfilled them. The ceremonial law was fulfilled. Christ fulfilled them. Prophecies related to His first coming were fulfilled. The pictures of the tabernacle were fulfilled in Him. We will see how this took place in a later message. And now we are going to see how the Lord prepared the world for the spiritual temple, and yes, it was for the world, not just for Israel. This is what I will call the spiritual tabernacle or temple.

So let me first give evidence for a spiritual temple. You see, for some 2,000 years now there has been no material temple in Jerusalem. About 40 years after Christ ascended, the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman General, Titus. The disasters of that destruction are horrific almost beyond description. Bodies were piled up so deep they had a hard time passing through the streets. Though Titus wanted to save the temple, it too was burned.

Go to Matthew 24. The time is about 40 years before Titus destroyed the temple. The disciples wanted to impress Jesus with the beautification Herod the Great had done on the temple. We begin in verse 1. It is just before Christ was crucified. We begin in verse 1:

1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.

2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

I understand that when the temple was burned, the gold melted and ran into the cracks of the rocks, and the rocks were later torn apart to get the gold out. But by the time this temple was destroyed, God

was well underway with building a new one. This one was spiritual.

Turn to 1 Peter chapter 2. We begin in verse 1:

1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

The Church, the true believers, are the spiritual temple. You will remember these verses from 1 Corinthians 3 which we have considered earlier. Verses 16-17 say:

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Here Paul says that Christians are the temple of God. And not only that, every believer is the temple of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 6:19 says, *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?* You see, that is also why we don't smoke, do drugs or drink alcohol. So we conclude that there is a spiritual tabernacle or temple.

Well, I want to give you now an explanation of the spiritual temple. I think few will argue that Jesus Christ was the focal point of the tabernacle of the OT, and that He is pictured in almost all that it had. The fence, the capitals of the posts, the foundations of the posts, the enclosure and all therein, the tabernacle itself and all therein, the priests, their clothing and their work, all spoke of Jesus Christ. And when Jesus Christ came, He began to fulfill every part of what that tabernacle pictured.

How long does this spiritual temple last? Until the Church is raptured, so it is for at least 2,000 years. That is 500 years longer than the OT tabernacle, along with the temple lasted. And we are going to look at this tabernacle in much more detail later and answer some of those questions we have asked earlier about baptism and so on.

6. The tribulational temple

The temple will be rebuilt again not too long from now, and we will call it the tribulational temple. After the Church is raptured, in some way, Israel will once more rebuild the temple. We do not yet know how that will come about. In my earlier Christian life there were stories told about how the Jews were preparing to rebuild the temple. Most of those turned out to be untrue. But today, in actual fact, much of the furniture for the tabernacle is being rebuilt. We have seen it with our own eyes in the city of Jerusalem. Even the priestly robes we are talking about have been made.

Now I want to show you that it will be set up. Go to 2 Thessalonians 2:

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled,
either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if
from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

3 ¶ Let no one deceive you by any means; for that
Day will not come unless the falling away comes
first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of
perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is
called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as
God in the temple of God, showing himself that he
is God.

Now that speaks of the tribulational temple, and
the antichrist will break his covenant with the
Jewish people and set Himself up as God in this
temple. How long will it last? Seven years.

7. The millennial tabernacle

When the tribulation is done, another temple is
about to begin. Like the transition from one
government to another in the United States of
America, the transition, according to the book of
Daniel will be about 70 days. You can study that in
Daniel 12.

Now the book of Ezekiel gives us some very
interesting prophecies of the latter days. It tells
us about Israel becoming a nation again, just like
we have seen happen in 1948. The prophecies to that
were given almost 2,600 years ago. That is
phenomenal. The next time you read through Ezekiel
pay close attention to chapters, say 35-39. Someone
asked me a while ago, is the United States of
America in prophecy? And if I understand Ezekiel
right, he makes a very brief mention of the US and
Canada.

But if you will read Ezekiel 40-44, you will find a
detailed description of the millennial temple. And
it is very interesting to find that this temple is
missing some of the furniture of previous temples

or the tabernacle. And one of those missing pieces is the laver. We won't take time for more on this temple and its purposes here. Let me just say that this temple lasts for 1,000 years and brings us to the new heavens and the new earth.

Turn now to Revelation 20. Now this millennial temple is the last temple that will ever exist. When this time is done, the tabernacle or temple as building will be forever done. We begin in verse one, where the tribulation has just come to an end, and the tribulation temple comes to an end here as well:

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no

power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

So we now come to the end of the millennium and we continue in verse 7:

7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Do you know where we are now? We are at the end of sin. No more sin from here on forever! And we have come to the end of the last temple. There is no more need for it. Sin is done, and so is the temple. So we go to chapter 21. So we go to the last period. We began with the tabernacle-less time, and we conclude with the tabernacle-less time. It came in because of sin, and it is done because sin is done.

8. The tabernacle-less time

Now I am running out of time and I cannot tell you in detail about the tabernacle-less time. Turn to Revelation 21. I wanted to show you the three different NT words used for the temple and tabernacle. But maybe another time.

But all that to say this from Revelation 21 verse 22 which says, *And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.* The word here is *naos*. But look back at verse 3 now, *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.* In verse 22 John said he saw no temple in the New Jerusalem. But here he says the tabernacle of God is with men.

Maybe in a later message I will have time to explain the three words that speak of the tabernacle or the temple. Let it suffice for now to say that this is the *skeenee*, and as I see it, the *skeenee* is a movable dwelling place. And the tabernacle here is the movable city that comes from heaven. And look at the words 'He will dwell with them'. This is the verb form of the word *skeenee*. He will dwell, tabernacle among the people. But the form of the tabernacle that was so important up until here, the *naos*, will no longer exist as a building.

Now listen to these most beautiful words of
Revelation 21:1-4:

1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

CONCL: So we have taken an overview of the tabernacle from the time it did not exist until the time it became obsolete and no longer existed. When man sinned, God pitched the tabernacle in heaven. Later Moses built a replica of it on earth and it was in use in its movable form for 500 years. Then Solomon built the temple and the tabernacle was housed in it.

This temple was destroyed and rebuilt. Then, after Christ came it was destroyed by Titus and has never been rebuilt. Today much effort is going into the effort to have it rebuilt. It will be rebuilt again in the tribulation. After the tribulation, the temple of the last chapters of Ezekiel will be built and it will last for 1,000 years.

After the final rebellion at the end of that time the new heavens and new earth will begin. God will come to dwell with man in the city which comes down from heaven and He will dwell with man forever. That then, is the history of the temple and or tabernacle.