

Dwelling places of God

Lesson Two

SYS -213

Recap Lesson One

What did garden in Eden represent? What was the purpose of the garden?

1. (Gen 1:1) *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
 - The garden in Eden connected the Heavenly realm to the earthly realm garden in Eden
 - The garden was God's first holy meeting place man
2. The garden in Eden was a place of rest
 - (Gen 2:15) *Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.*
 - The transliteration for the phrase "and put him" means: rest, to settle down, to cause to rest, to be granted rest.
3. The garden was God's sanctuary/tabernacle and Adam was the priest
 - (Gen 2:15) *Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.*
 - Tend and keep (NKJV) To work and keep
Avoda, or Avodah literally means "work, worship, and service"
 - To dress it and keep it (KJV, ASV) or to worship and observe (obey)
The transliteration would be: (to work or serve), (to guard and have charge of)
 - To cultivate and keep it (NSBA)
Although a crippling grammatical translational

To cultivate ('avad) and keep (shamar) are used together elsewhere in the Hebrew Bible, they are always intended in the sense of worshiping/serving (God) and obeying Him. These Hebrew words are associated with priestly duties

Examples in scripture:

- (Ex 27:20-21, 28:1) *“You shall charge the sons of Israel, that they bring you clear oil of beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually. In the tent of meeting, outside the veil which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall **keep it in order** from evening to morning before the Lord; it shall be a perpetual statute throughout their generations for the sons of Israel. “Then bring near to yourself Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the sons of Israel, to minister **as priest** to Me*
- (Num 3:7-8) *They shall perform the duties for him and for the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, to do the service of the tabernacle. They shall also **keep** all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, along with the duties of the sons of Israel, to do the **service of the tabernacle**.*

4. Sin entered the sanctuary

- God’s law of Divine reward and punishment was executed on man
- Trust was broken, and man was exiled from the garden, Adam and Eve lost the privilege of worshiping and serving in the temple, God’s sanctuary, the garden in Eden

Result

Even though God had driven man out of the garden. God’s story of grace and mercy continued. God still talked with mankind and met with him. But not back in paradise, the land of delight.

Lesson Two

Noah's Altar

- As the narrative in Genesis unfolds, scripture says “*And Adam knew his wife again and had a son and named him Seth*” (Gen 4:25)
- Scripture gives insight to a time line from the days of Seth to the days of Noah, 1,238 years (Gen 5). Then another 100 years till the flood (Gen 7:11).

1. God chooses Noah.

Why? (Psalm 115:3)

God calls on Noah (Gen 6:13, 18)

- God presents guidance and promise to Noah that would require, faith, trust and obedience. Just like God had given to Adam.
- This time however Noah was to enter a place where God would now preserve life as where with Adam it was place where life started.
- One year and ten days after Noah entered the Ark (Gen 7:11, 8:13,14) God instructed Noah to now get out (Gen 8:15-17)
- The experience of man in the garden in Eden was long gone.

2. God's command, to go out from.

- (Gen 8:16-17) God commands Noah to exit and empty the ark
- The ark in itself was a place of refuge, a sanctuary where life was safe and preserved by the hand of God.
- Immediately after exiting the ark, (Gen 8:20) states: *Then Noah built and altar.*

3. The altar

- Noah understood completely that the old world was gone, an adjustment had been made. There was now a new world, a new beginning.
- Noah's heart prompts him to immediately make a sacrifice to the LORD.
- Noah builds the first recorded altar in scripture.
- Offerings and/or a sacrifice was not something new to man, this goes back to Cain and Able (Gen 4:4). Noah would have understood this.
- Noah however does do something new, he builds structure, a place that would now become a meeting place between God and man.
- In an act of gratitude to God, Noah offers the first free will sacrifice at an altar.
 - This is the first time in scripture "burnt offerings" are offered to the LORD.
- Notice that Noah took from the clean, pure, unblemished to offer as a burnt offering unto the LORD.
- This was a foreshadowing of the sacrificial system to come that God would establish with Moses.

4. God's meets with Noah

- (Gen 8:21) This offering was a sweet savor to the LORD. The Hebrew transliteration (soothing, tranquillizing odor of sacrifices acceptable to the LORD).
(Exodus 29:18, 25, 41)
(Leviticus 1:9, 13, 17)
- God blesses Noah and makes a covenant with him at an altar saying "*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth*" Sound familiar? Where was this said before?

5. Where was this altar?

- (Gen 8:4) *In the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat.*
 - Simply meaning on a high place.
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The 5 Altars of Abram

(Gen 12:7-8, 13:4,8, 22:9)

1. God chooses Abram (Gen 12:1)

- God presents guidance and a promise to Abram (Gen 12:1-3) that would require, faith, trust and obedience. Just like God had given to Noah and to Adam.
- Abram departed as instructed, arrives at Canaan, passes through that land and Abram stops at a place called Shechem, (approx. 30 miles N of Jerusalem) which is in the valley between Mt Ebal and Mt Gerizim (at this point the Canaanites were not opponents of Israel)
- The LORD then appears to Abram telling him this is the place that I will give to you.
- Abram immediately builds his first altar.
- By this act Abram made an open confession of his religion, declaring his faith in god's promise.
- This was the first true place of an altar of worship erected in the Promise Land
- Abram knew the importance of an altar, that it was a sacred place of thanksgiving, **sacrifice, prayer, and worship** unto the LORD. A place to meet with God.

2. Abram then moves to the mountain East of Bethel. Pitches his tent, builds altar, and calls upon the name of the LORD.
 - Called upon: means Abram proclaimed the LORD's name, spoke it out loud, this was a place where Abram worshiped the LORD
3. Abram goes back to Bethel
 - After going down to Egypt, Abram's sin led him back to Bethel
 - Abram went back to where his tent had been the place where he called upon the LORD
4. The LORD again gives guidance and promise to Abram (Gen 13:14-17)
 - Abram obeys and moves his tent to Hebron; he immediately builds another altar to worship the LORD (Gen 13:18)
5. Abram, now Abraham, builds his final altar
 - The location; Mount Moriah. Which today is inside the walls of modern Jerusalem.
 - Scripture states the Solomons Temple was built on Mount Moriah (2 Ch 3:1)
 - This location is said to be the same place the current site where the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. And the same place where Solomons Temple once stood.
 - (Gen 22:2) God calls Abraham to come worship Him on Mount Moriah by offering his son Issac as a burnt offering to Him.
 - This last altar was the highest form of worship Abraham would give to God. On this altar he laid his own son, Isaac, ready to be slaughtered and sacrificed as a burnt offering to make a pleasing aroma to the LORD.
 - God meets Abraham at this altar and blesses him for his obedience (Gen 22:15-18)

The Altar

The word "altar" in Scripture means a place of slaughter and sacrifice, where blood was shed and death took place; it symbolized acknowledgement of, approach to, and appreciation of God, in other words "worship".

An altar indicates a close relationship, a personal relationship between the one who erects it and the one who received the act.

The purpose of the altar will remain throughout the Old Testament. As a place of sacrifice, worship, to commemorate an encounter with God, a memorial, to make a covenant, to find refuge.

Listed below are a few examples:

Issac (Gen 26:24-25)

Jacob (Gen 33:18-20)

Moses (Ex 17:15) (Ex 24:4-5)

Joshua (Joshua 8:30)

Gideon (Judges 6:24)

Samuel (1 Sam 7:17)

David (2 Sam 24:25, 1 Chron 21:18)

Solomon (1 Kings 3:4)

God's blueprint for the altar (Ex 20:24-26)

- God instructs Moses with a specific way on how He wants an altar to be built onto Him.
- Verse 24: Burnt offerings and peace offerings would be made to God on this altar
- Verse 24, An altar of the earth: natural
- Verse 25, An altar not built with tools: this altar God, wanted to share glory with no man. This was primarily to prevent the altar from becoming an idol and to prevent pride over workmanship.
- Verse 26, No steps leading up to it: so, the priests would not be indecently exposed. a precaution taken for the sake of decency. Later on, altars with steps would be allowed but the priest had to wear linen undershorts.

Moses' Tabernacle

God alters the altar

1. The Exodus from Egypt had occurred, and all of Israel is now at the base of Mount Sinai.
 - God will now once again come and tabernacle (dwell) with His creation.
 - Mankind will still offer burnt offerings at an altar as required by the LORD
 - However, God will now give specific instructions to build a temporary dwelling place (tabernacle). Where God would come to meet and speak to man.
 - God will be in the center of Israel, His chosen people, and He will be the center of worship.
 - This time, unlike that in the garden in Eden, man would now have to approach God in a whole new way.
 - Due to the fallen sin nature of man (Gen 3:6), God now set boundaries with specific rules, so that sinful man could come speak to a Holy God.
 - God will require man to be anointed, sanctified and consecrated before they could approach Him. (Ex 28:41)
 - Consecrate: to sanctify, set apart. prepare, dedicate, be hallowed, be holy

2. God comes to meet Moses and Israel (Ex 19:16-20)
 - Unlike man's introduction to God in the garden in Eden. The LORD was now going to display His power, greatness and glory for all the nation of Israel to see.
 - From the heavens there was a long continuous sound of trumpet, blasting louder and louder, God comes down upon Mount Sinai. (verse 16)

- A thick cloud covers Mount Sinai with thundering and lighting, the LORD descended upon the mountain in fire. And its smoke ascended to the heavens and the whole mountain greatly quaked. (Verse 16, 18)
- This was God's reintroduction, to a people that He had chosen.
- All Israel gazed to the mountain top, where God's glory rested, all they saw was a consuming fire. (Ex 24:17)
- The glory of the LORD now rested on Mount Sinai. (Ex 24:16)
The word rested or abode means: to settle down, abide, dwelt, tabernacle, reside.
The Hebrew word for "rested" is dwelt.

3. God instructs Moses to build for Him a new temporary dwelling place, where God would come down and meet with man
 - The tabernacle served as a meeting place between God and men, and was thus known as the "tent of meeting"

➤ The Tabernacle

- The building of the Tabernacle reveals the ultimate desire of God our Father – to live amongst us His children (Exodus 25:8).
- Moses Tabernacle was based on a tabernacle in heaven. (Exodus 25:40) tells us that Moses' tabernacle built on earth was made according to a pattern that existed in heaven. Therefore, there is a heavenly temple that served as a pattern for the earthly tabernacle and temple.

- There was only one way, one entrance into the tabernacle, as there is only one way to God (John 14:6-7)
- The Old Testament tabernacle had three distinct sections: the Outer Court, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies. One section led to the next and this would be the pattern that the priests and High priests would have to follow in approaching the LORD.
- The entrance to the tabernacle faced East (to the rising of the sun) which led to holy of holies. Similar to the entrance into the garden of Eden as did the gate to the entrance that led to Solomons temple
- The Tabernacle was set up in the same direction, one had to enter heading West as the holy of holies faced to the East. Man could re-enter the presence of the LORD

➤ The Tabernacles Heavenly Design

- The tent over the tabernacle had Cherubim woven into its linens (Ex 26:1) The designs on this covering were visible only from the inside of the tabernacle. Therefore, on the inside of the tabernacle, the priest and high priest saw cherubim all around
- When lit by candle the light would illuminate off the gold, lighting up the whole room seeing the Cherubim above.
- The veil, the veil hung from columns separating the holy place from the most holy of holies. The veil had artistic designs of Cherubim woven into it. (Ex 26:31)
- Three sides of the tabernacle were enclosed with wood boards, these boards were overlaid with gold. (Ex 26:29). Gold resembles the purity of God.

- God's presence above the mercy seat beyond the veil (Ex 25:10-22)
 - God's meeting place with man will now be above the mercy seat that was above the ark.
 - There I will meet with you; and from above the mercy seat, from between the two Cherubim.
 - The cherubim were associated with the transcendent, glorious presence of God.
 - The central meaning of human existence on planet earth was to have a relationship with God that brings Him glory; this tabernacle was a symbol of how that relationship might be made viable.

- Like the garden in Eden, the Tabernacle represented a Holy place and Spiritual realm.
 - The garden in Eden was a tabernacle, it is where God united the earthly realm to the Heavenly/Supernatural realm. Remember, Eve was not taken back by a talking serpent and had a conversation with it.
 - The imagery in this new tabernacle was designed to be a constant reminder to priests and high priest that this was a sacred holy place.
 - The tent covering and the veil had Cherubim woven into the linens, this was symbolic to the heavenly realm.
 - The pattern of the priestly duty "to tend and keep" that Adam was directed to do by God back in the garden in Eden (Gen 2:15). Was once again established in the tabernacle that God had Moses' build (Ex 27:20-21, 28:1) (Num 3:7-8). Aaron and the priests were to tend and keep in the holy place of the tabernacle.

- At one time man was naked before God and not ashamed, it was a pure spiritual relationship (Gen 2:25) Then when sin entered God clothed man to cover his shame (Gen 3:21). At this new tabernacle man would still have to approach God in the same manner. there could be no nakedness (Ex 25:42-43).
- God Himself planted Eden, by doing so Eden was sanctified by the presence and glory of God; it was a spiritual paradise before sin exposed itself.
- God will now have this new tabernacle built by man to His specifications. And God Himself will sanctify and consecrate the tabernacle, the altar with His glory (Ex 29:43-44)

➤ The glory of God and the tabernacle.

(Exo 40:34-35)

- *Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.*
- God was pleased with the obedience of Israel. Moses or Israel didn't earn this display of glory because of their obedience; yet their obedience welcomed it.
- God doesn't love us more when we obey. Yet, when we walk in God's light and truth, there is blessing. (Proverbs 3:5-6) speaks to this: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*
- Without this glory, the tabernacle was just a fancy tent.

➤ (Exo 40:36-38)

Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the Lord was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

- Once again, the LORD was in the midst of His creation.

(Ex 29:45-46) I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.

In Closing

- After Israel crossed the Jordan and settled at Gilgal, they did not set up the tent of meeting (Tabernacle of Moses).
- Israel conquered Jericho and Ai, they then went to Shechem, taking only the Ark of the Covenant with them.
- Joshua immediately builds an altar to the LORD of Israel (mtg place) and the ark was placed in the valley between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim. (Joshua 8:30-35)
- The tabernacle was eventually set up at Shiloh. (Joshua 18:1)
- The ark was captured by the Philistines (1 Sam 4:3-11), and was never again part of the tabernacle.

- The tabernacle was moved from Shiloh to Nob (1 Sam 21: 3-6)
- The Tabernacle of Moses moved from Nob to Gibeon (1 Chronicles 16:37-39)
- The Tabernacle remained at Gibeon until it went into extinction when Solomon moved it to Jerusalem
- The ark would eventually wind up under the tent, the tabernacle of King David, and would be the next center of worship.