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THE LIVING, BREATHING TABERNACLE (WRAP UP)

NO.279

VIEW FROM ABOVE

God, the supreme architect of His own dwelling place, outlined the most fearfully and wonderfully designed structure and gave the pattern to Moses. He also anointed the men that would build this spectacular place with great skillfulness and proficiency.

This Tabernacle was being raised in a dry and terrible wilderness, away from any trained craftsmen and ready tools. It is a work of genius...it is the perfect type of God's dwelling place in the earth.

Looking from above, we see this sprawling tent, framed by gleaming white linen curtains, standing upon the blistering sand, defying the scorching heat of the desert sun. We see the inner sanctuaries, covered with the hides of slain beasts and ram skins dyed red, all of them proclaiming the victory of God's Lamb over sin and death!

The great mystery of this dwelling place is found in the treasures that are hid within its Holy Place and Holy of Holies! There is so much life hid within this remarkable structure! By the eye of the Spirit, we, who have come to the end of this age, recognize quickly the life that the Lord Jesus has wrought within us, and as we consider each piece of furnishing and each vessel, we realize that they represent the many stations of our earthly journey with Him.

The last piece that we considered in our previous study, was the wonderful little chest of wood overlaid inside and out with pure gold, with the two cherubims facing each other on a thick slab of pure

gold called the Mercy Seat. As we look at the entire scene from above, we recognize the pattern that God laid out in our earthly tabernacles. They are not permanent dwellings. They are designed to travel through the rugged wilderness of this life. The white linen curtains denote the covering of the righteousness of Christ, and the hidden treasures in the Holy Place and Holy of Holies speak of the Christ our hope of glory that is hid within our spirits and souls.

The Ark is where the life resides. It is none other than Jesus Christ as He is, the Firstborn of His new creation, and each member in particular! He has brought us through the stages of this Tabernacle to present us to the Father as He is. *"When he shall appear. We shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."* (I Jn. 3: 2b)

UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF THE ARK

The greatest mystery of the Tabernacle not made with hands is portrayed by the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark is the goal of our journey. God told Moses that He would meet with him between the cherubims. *"And there I will meet with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony..."* (Ex.25: 22a) This is the heart of the Tabernacle. The Ark represents the Lord Jesus Christ and therefore it also speaks of the Body of Christ as the two are one.

We must keep in mind that the Ark was made of sturdy acacia wood, overlaid inside and out with

pure gold. Wood speaks of humanity and pure gold is the nature of God. Therefore the Ark speaks of Jesus Christ after He had put on the seed of Abraham, had overcome death and hell and arose in a new eternal body prepared to live, not only in heaven (spirit realm) but also on earth.

When Jesus was here on earth, He was also in heaven at the same time. *“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.”* (Jn.3: 13) Yet it is after His resurrection that He demonstrated His new eternal Body that could be seen and live on earth while deriving His life from the Spirit (heaven).

The new creation of God in Christ, is the exquisite beauty and unspeakable wonder that the Ark represents! Jesus and all who are chosen and elect in Him from the foundation of the world, are represented by this little treasure chest. Jesus arose and presented Himself to the Father, not only as He was with Him in the beginning, but now as the Firstborn among many brethren! This is the vision that must be set firmly before us! The image that the harlot church had set before us, of dying and going to an eternal heaven somewhere beyond the blue, must be replaced by this most magnificent truth!

The vision that we may have held, of going back to God as the spirits that we were once in Christ, must be replaced by the clear truth that we are returning as brand NEW creatures in Christ. Anything less, takes away from the great redemption that Jesus purchased with His own blood.

Because God dwells in eternity, He sees all things as they are finished in Christ. Thus He could see the sons of God singing and rejoicing even when He was talking to His servant Job. But Job was in “time zone” as we are, and he could not yet see himself as God saw him. He had yet to suffer in the flesh and and go through the loss of all worldly things and even of His loved ones. He had to endure to the end without cursing God, before he could see himself as a joyful son of God. And so it is with us!

Jesus not only atoned for the sins of the world, He

also purchased a new body for Himself (us). The body that His mother Mary gave to Him was fashioned to be laid down as a sacrifice, but the body that the Spirit of holiness within Him gave Him, is the eternal body of the Lord of heaven and earth!

The Ark of God has been in the earth and has traveled within these tents through the rugged terrains of the wilderness of this world's systems and religions. But the Ark has now been taken out of the hands of the Philistines (the strongest enemy, the man of flesh), and has become the permanent temple of God not made with hands.

DAVID BRINGS BACK THE ARK

The Tabernacle was fashioned to be dismantled and transported. When God gave the pattern to Moses, He also gave strict instructions on how to carry each precious piece through the wilderness. The Ark in particular was to be borne by the designated Levites (priests) only. *“At that time the Lord separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to minister unto him, and to bless in his name unto this day.”* (Deu.10: 8)

The Ark had to be carried upon their shoulders. *“And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the Lord.”* (I Chron.15: 15)

The Lord was very particular about all these details, because they were types of the true Ark of God in the Spirit. Today, this applies to those who are called to be God's priests. Today, if we hear God's voice through His Holy Spirit, and if He has set our heart to seek after Him then we are called of God to bear the image of His Son in the earth. We are called to bear the Ark and to bear it in the prescribed manner, lest the Christ we hold up to the people fails to give them light and life.

King David had an experience that is surely an admonition to us all. The Ark had been in the land of the Philistines for seven months and caused them such pain that they built a new cart and sent it away

with their offerings. For twenty years, it remained in the house of Abinadab in Kirjath-jearim. David knew that God's power was in the Ark and he greatly desired to bring it back to Jerusalem. But in his eagerness to do so, he ignored the Lord's instructions for carrying it.

So he ordered the transport in the best manner he knew. *“And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab drove the new cart.”* (II Sam.6: 3) David's heart was pounding within him for joy. When suddenly, the unimaginable happened.

“And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.” (Vs.6-7)

The account states that David was displeased, and he was afraid of the Lord that day. This put the fear of the Lord into David. He carried the ark into the house of Obed-edom the Gittite and it stayed there for three months until David got his act together and learned how God wanted the Ark to be carried.

Then David inquired at the proper way to transport the Ark of God. The priests were set in place and they took up the Ark by their staves upon their shoulders, and brought up the Ark from the house of Obed into the city of David with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. What a great day of rejoicing! This is a great lesson for us. Our Ark of the Covenant is the Word made flesh, the Word of God to us. It had been in the hands of the religious harlot systems of this world, and of the man of flesh who made merchandise and gain out of it.

But through the Christ Spirit, the Ark has been on a journey back to Jerusalem. Back to the New Jerusalem which is the true Bride of Christ. And our David, the Spirit of the Lord within is rejoicing greatly while the man of flesh, the man of ritualistic religion is dying and will never produce again. When we heard the call of God to come out of

Babylon, we came out of our denominations and ritualistic religions by the drove. New ministries were raised among us with anointings that captivated us and in many groups we set out to bring the Ark out of the hands of the enemy.

Many groups were formed: sonship groups, five-fold ministry groups- community living groups- wilderness groups- charismatic groups- discipleship groups and on and on. We were building our own new carts to bring the Ark back. But as we look at it today, we find that this did not bring life. It brought much revelation, but little transformation.

Yet the Lord used all these things to teach us, mature us and to bring us to the light and understanding of the truth. as to how the Ark is coming back to the true Jerusalem from above. Through it all, God has been raising up His priesthood, His firstfruits, His Body among us. They are the only ones who are able to bring back this Ark out of all these rituals and false doctrines. They are fully separated and faithful to Christ. This is where we stand today. We have been separated from everyone and everything, and we are bringing back the Ark to the true Jerusalem from above!

THE ARK CROSSES THE JORDAN

After the death of Moses, God commissioned Joshua to take the people over the Jordan into their promised land. This also is a perfect type for us. Because of the atonement of Jesus on the cross, the Law has now been fulfilled and has no power over us; it is dead. And so we are no longer following Moses, or the letter of the Law, we are no longer married to the Law of Moses, we are following our Joshua (Jesus) into our land of promise (new creation man).

When they reached the border of the land, most of the people who had come out of Egypt were now dead and a new generation was ready to follow. So we see today, that all of the old traditions that were part of us, have been dealt with and buried on our wilderness. The wilderness of religious meetings and teachings, the wilderness of the various churches and groups that we attended are now dead

to us, we no longer desire them. They have been buried in the sand and now, He has made all things new. Through many trials and tests, He has opened our spiritual ears and taught us to hear His voice and to learn the language of the Spirit. He has given us a heart to follow Him and none other. He is taking us over the Jordan.

To understand this type and shadow we must realize that the Jordan represents death. Only this is not speaking of just the death of the body of dust, but also the death of the Adam nature that has been motivating this body. While one may die and go to the grave still laden with the old nature of the first Adam, another may be alive in this body and totally dead to the old Adam nature.

The harlot church system teaches that Jordan is the death of this body only. Various hymns have been written and sung about crossing over the Jordan to pass over into God's kingdom. Such words are not Biblical as one may think, but they serve to soothe the grief of those who are losing their loved ones.

By the Spirit, Jordan is not a type of natural death, it is a type of the death of Jesus Christ and His resurrection, therefore, of our death and resurrection with Him. *“Know ye not that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”* (Rom.6: 3) The Jordan river is a type of our baptism into His death. The Ark is a type of Jesus Christ in His resurrected body. When Jesus was baptized into the literal Jordan, He started His ministry as the Son of God.

The Ark crossing the Jordan is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. In the Old Testament, Joshua is the one commissioned to take the Ark over the Jordan. In the New Testament, the Ark Jesus is the One who passes first over the Jordan, in death and resurrection. We follow two-thousand cubits or (years) behind.

This is the order given, *“When ye see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cu-*

bits by measure: come not near unto it that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore.” (Josh.3: 3-4)

Hidden within this command is the powerful truth that we have now seen come to pass. Jesus Christ, went first into death and resurrection, and His called out church follows two thousand years later. The entire third chapter of the book of Joshua describes the glory of God that was being displayed on that day. We are just skimming the surface here but some high points need to be made.

“And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above and they shall stand in a heap.(Vs.13)

“And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) that the waters which came down from above stood and rose upon an heap very far from the city of Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.” (Vs.15-16)

“And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.” (Vs.17)

The waters rolled back all the way to Adam! Israel passed through to their promised land as the waters of Jordan were held back and they walked on dry ground. It is the account in type of how our Lord Jesus overcame death and the grave (the waters of Jordan) and made the way for all to come through the same way. The priests, that is the firstfruits first, then the tribes then all the people from Adam on down. The way has been made for death to be overcome by all. The waters of Jordan have been rolled back!

God's order is set and laid out! Each in his own order: the Ark of God goes first. Jesus Christ is the only One who has the keys of hell and death. He is the One who has made the way and who has conquered death all the way back to Adam! He is now sitting at God's right Hand until ALL his enemies are under His feet (His body in the earth).

This means that Jesus Christ on the cross, and in His Body is conquering ALL HIS enemies. This means that the devil who had planted his lies in you and me does not have a chance in hell. This means that the enemy that causes our bodies to die and go to the grave, will be fully defeated. This means that the One who calls Himself "the Resurrection" has the power to deliver ALL.

Paul wrote that He has made us (the saints or called out ones for a purpose) to sit together with Him in heavenly places (in the realm of Spirit), *"That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches OF HIS GRACE in his kindness toward us through Jesus Christ."* (Eph.2: 7)

This is addressed to us, His church, His bride, and reminding us from whence He has taken us, and whom He has made us! *"Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; that at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, **having no hope, and without God in the world:** but now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are **made nigh by the blood of Christ.**"* (Eph.2: 11-13)

Paul is reminding us of who we were in the flesh, and so if God brought us in and made us His people, who were not His people, He can do the same for all He chooses. We cannot boast, for it was all His grace that brought us where we are. We cannot lift ourselves up above anyone, for God is able to bring them all in as well.

THE TIME IS IN GOD'S HANDS

Every part of the structure and every piece crafted

for the building of the Tabernacle in the wilderness was executed under the keen supervision of Moses. Israel built it all according to the pattern that God gave Moses in the Mount. Every board was cut to size and every silver socket was forged and shaped to precision. The coverings of ram skins dyed red and of badger skins, the veils, all were ready and waiting. They had embroidered every curtain with intricate designs as specified in God's pattern, and they had diligently sewed the garments of the priests and of the High Priest. Every detail had been filled, and the work had been completed according to all that the Lord had commanded Moses. The Tabernacle was ready to be assembled.

"Then Moses did look upon all the work, and behold, they had done it as the Lord had commanded, even so they had done it: And Moses blessed them." (Ex.39: 43)

It is certain that they were anxious to see the structure erected. Each one had done their part of the work quickly and thoroughly and they wanted to see the finished product come together...but Moses waited. What was he waiting for? He was waiting for God's appointed time.

So we read, *"And the Lord spake to Moses saying, On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation. And thou shalt put therein the ark of the testimony, and cover the ark with the veil."* (Ex. 40: 1-3)

God had a set time to erect the Tabernacle and to set the pieces in their proper places. It was one thing to have each piece perfectly executed, but another to get them all together to form a wondrous place for God to dwell among them, in the middle of this great and terrible wilderness.

This Tabernacle, being the exact replica of the one not built with hands, the perfect blueprint of the Body of Christ, declares to us that even when we are chiseled and tooled and prepared to perfection, there is still a time ordained of God for this Body to appear as it is meant to be in the earth. The time of the appearing of the Lord in His new creation in the earth, is appointed by God. The manifestation will be most glorious, the earth will rejoice greatly, but

first, all that the old man produced must be destroyed and burnt by fire. This is what we are witnessing today. The systems and arrangements that men have installed in the world can no longer stand. The image (governments) that man has set up is falling. There is no saving it...all things shall become new.

We each have been brought down to the carving out and sculpting of His sharp sword in the depth of our beings so that when He appears, we will be as He is. We will be one with the golden Mercy Seat and all that the Ark represents. We will fully comprehend and be in union with the heart and ways of our God.

The Ark at that time was where the presence of God appeared. Later it was Jesus Christ the Son of God who came as the Ark of the Covenant in the earth. And at the end of the age the Ark of God is Himself appearing in the new creation bodies of His brethren. His presence has been among us through the Holy Spirit, but very soon, we will see the sons of God coming to light in a world that has been groaning and travailing to see that day.

THE PROMISED LAND THEN AND NOW

When Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees, he was a man without a country. The Bible says, *“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”* (Heb.11: 8)

All that God told Abraham at the time, was that He was giving him a land to possess, and that the country from which he was called out was no longer his own. He knew not to look back, and he never did. It is written that all those who followed God by faith, confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims upon the earth. They were given a promise and a vision of something greater and died holding on to the promise.

God first promised Abraham an actual land on earth but later, He promised him a seed (Christ) that

would bless all the nations of the earth. *“And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed...”* (Gen.22: 18a)

To each of us who hear the call and follow, the promise of this same seed is also given. We are not called to leave our own country and our houses as did Abraham, or as some may have thought, we are called to leave behind all our forms of worship and the traditions of our worldly forefathers. We are to follow Him and endure to the end, that we might reap the full potential of the Christ seed within, and possess the land which is the high calling of God.

Furthermore, when God told Abraham that his seed would flourish and multiply and that it would bless all the nations of the earth, we know that He was talking about the Christ seed. This indeed makes us heirs of the same promises. Looking at the nations of the earth today, we know that these promises have yet to be fulfilled.

Writing to those *“..who have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ...”* (II Pet.1: 1b) Peter declares that His divine power *“..hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”* (Vs.3b-4)

The divine nature is the foundation of our land or inheritance in Christ. It is the “image” that we are called to bear, inwardly and outwardly too. *“And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”* (I Cor.15: 49)

When Israel came to the border of their land, they sent up spies to find out what was there. The spies returned carrying the fruit of the land. Grapes so large and plentiful that it took two men to carry one cluster between them. But when they mentioned the giants who dwelt there, the people were greatly alarmed and lost heart. They would not go up to possess the beautiful land that the Lord had given them!

And so it is with Christians who hear the promises of becoming a new creation in Christ, and have received the Holy Spirit to lead them, but choose to believe that their land is an imaginary heaven where they will live forever with all their loved ones. They loved the fruits that they saw coming from that land. They loved the gifts of the Spirit and the revelation of the Word. They loved the praises and the thrills of wonderful meetings and great fellowships. But they do not want to hear about giants within their land.

This is where God separates the boys from the men. Only Joshua and Caleb were found to have another spirit. They would lead another generation into the land. The carcasses of the old generation who doubted and feared, were buried in the sand of the wilderness. What does this all mean to us today?

The land that God has promised us is our inheritance in Christ. It is the new creation that He is forming within us. But in order to possess this land, we must follow Him and let Him destroy the giants that have made their abode for generations in the land of our minds and hearts.

Many of us have already walked through our wilderness. God has tested us to see what was in our hearts. We have won our battles with the world and the worldly church systems. We have tasted of the goodness and faithfulness of God in the hours of our trials. We have seen the manifestations of His Spirit and have experienced the power of His gifts.

We have eaten our daily manna and have learned to follow the Spirit and silence the many voices that keep trying to pull us back into the thoughts of Egypt's darkness. I dare say that many among us have confronted many of the giants in our land. The stubborn and double minded giants of our old nature. The giants of fear and unbelief. But there is one last enemy, one last giant that the Lord is bringing us to face today: It is the giant of death and the grave!

*“He must reign, till he hath put all enemies **under his feet**. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”* (I Cor.15: 25-26) This is a powerful revela-

tion. If we are to be like Jesus, then we must overcome death and the grave. He has opened the way for us. We cannot stand in fear of that word.

I know that the carnal reasoning of our mind tells us: “Some have preached a 'Never Die' message and they are in the grave. Even the apostle Paul who wrote about it, went to his grave!” Many more since, have believed and still not received. Some who are here now and firmly believe may still join those behind the veil who are waiting in faith. This will continue until the day when the Last shall be the First to appear as Jesus appears in His complete, perfect Body of saints. That day is at hand!

THE ARK AND THE PRIESTHOOD

It is very clear that the Ark of the Covenant and the furnishings of the Holy Place were to be cared for and transported only by the priests. Certain families of the Levites were assigned to this with specific instructions to follow.

The book of Numbers enumerates the names of those who were to carry the Ark and the rest of the holy pieces. Aaron the High Priest had four sons. Two of them offered strange fires and died before the Lord in the wilderness; they had no children. So the other two sons Eleazar and Ithamar ministered in the priest's office.

God also appointed the tribe of Levites as His firstborn. He commanded Moses to number their children and to choose some of these for certain duties. The sons of Kohath, the sons of Merari and the sons of Gershon were set apart for the service of the most holy things. The Levites were not given any land or cattle or means to provide for themselves, so God saw that their needs were met by the other tribes. The Levites kept themselves apart for the service of the Tabernacle whether in place or while journeying and their needs were taken care of by the Lord through the people.

This was the Old Covenant with Israel. In Christ, the Lord Himself also provides for the needs of His people. He opens our hearts to help one another in love. It always amazes me, how our God knows our

every need and never fails to meet them.

God's priests are not volunteers, they are chosen. *"No man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. So also Christ glorifieth not himself to be made an high priest but he that saith unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee."* (Heb.5: 4-5)

Christ was chosen and begotten of God to be made the High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. He was chosen, begotten and tried by fire. The priesthood is for the begotten sons of God who follow Christ through the fire and keep the faith.

As we talk to various Christians today, it is obvious that some have set their minds on seeking things from above while others have set their affections on things of this life. God's priests are not dressed in clerical frocks or any such things, they go through the paces of every day life and take care of the needs of their families, but in their spirit, their interest is turned fully to what the Lord is speaking and what He is doing. They are excited to discover new revelations and are eager to see all the sons come to maturity in Christ. They are the bearers of the Ark and their earnest desire is to take it over Jordan!

It is obvious that the harlot church, who calls herself by His name, has been set up in the world by the impostor and Antichrist spirit. But the sons have been separated from that harlot; they are ready and eagerly waiting to make their move the moment that Jesus appears and gives the signal.

A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

Sons of God or kings and priests follow the Holy Spirit all the way to the Altar of Incense to be totally consumed by the fires of that Altar. The priesthood is an election. When Peter addressed the "elect" he said, *"But ye are a **chosen** generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."* (I Pet.2: 9)

This is the calling of the firstfruits, the Body of Christ, the Bride of the Lamb, the Church, the "elect," the sons of God, the priesthood. Many titles, but the same people and the same election.

To be a priest of God requires much more discipline than that of little children in the Kingdom of God. A priest is one who brings the need of the people to God. A prophet is one who brings the Word of God to the people. This is a ROYAL priesthood, it means that it is a priesthood at the level of a King. In the Levitical priesthood, the priest did not have the power of a king. But in the Melchizedek priesthood, the priest is given the authority of a king as well. The scepter is righteousness. The crown is eternal life.

The Levitical priesthood did not have the anointing of the prophets, but in the Melchizedek priesthood, the priest is also a prophet. We find this in the study of Samuel who was a priest and prophet. Samuel is a perfect type of the Melchizedek order of priests.

There is no doubt that the priesthood is chosen of God, and now we know that this calling makes harsh demands upon each one who is chosen. Those who enter this place have left all of the old affections behind. They have turned away from their cherished rites and rituals and from the fellowships of glorious meetings where their souls felt lifted up. Their affections are strictly on things on high and not on earth.

*"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. **When Christ shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.**"* (Col. 3: 1-4) O Lord! We are watching and waiting for that Day.

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*