

The Exciting Tabernacle of DAVID

Part 2

Light on the Rock

by Philip W. Shields

Listen to part 1 first. Last time we identified David's Tabernacle on Mt. Zion as distinct from the "other" Tabernacle at Gibeon. TWO tabernacles at the same time! What did Michal's reaction represent? How did the Tabernacle of David revolutionize worship on Mt. Zion? You'll never read the Psalms the same way again! Learn what this could mean to our New Covenant church services.

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[Note: this transcript is close to the audio, but not word for word. We recommend you hear this message also by audio. The audio has material not in the transcript and vice versa.]

Greetings again my friends, this is Philip Shields. I'm tickled pink with this topic of the Tabernacle of David, part 2.

James, in Acts 15, uses the Tabernacle of David for a picture of the New Testament church era! He uses the Tabernacle of David as justification for bringing in Gentiles.

Acts 15:12-17 "Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles. 13 And after they had become silent, **James** answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me: 14 Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. 15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: 16'After this I will return and **will rebuild the tabernacle of David**, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; 17 **So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles** who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things.'

Up until then, the Jews figured they had a corner on God since they figured they were God's special people. But James sees in the Tabernacle of David the answer to the question of how they can justify bringing in the Gentiles. We'll see why and how much more deeply today. It was not easy for a Gentile until this time to come into the presence of the God of Israel.

James felt the Tabernacle of David was being fulfilled in the New Testament church right there and then ... "So that the REST of mankind may seek the LORD, even the Gentiles..."

There were 2 tabernacles going on at the same time, as we learned last time.

Last time we recalled how God warns Israel in Jeremiah 7 not to count on their presence in the "temple of the Lord" as a guarantee of their safety.

Please turn to Jeremiah 7. We're giving Part 2 today, of "the Exciting Tabernacle of David" – and today we're going to show how and where it applies in our lives today! If you haven't heard Part 1 yet, please listen to part 1 first so this Part 2 makes more sense to you.

Jeremiah 7:1-4 Today's English Version The message in Jer 7 is straight from God Himself.

"The LORD sent me to the gate of the Temple where the people of Judah went in to worship. He told me to stand there and announce what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, had to say to them: "Change the way you are living and the things you are doing, and I will let you go on living here. 4 **Stop believing those deceitful words, 'We are safe! This is the LORD's Temple, this is the LORD's Temple, this is the LORD's Temple!'**"

Before continuing, there's a lesson there for us: what is the "temple of the LORD" today? It's the church! (1 Cor. 3:16) I've amply covered that in other recent sermons. **There are gobs of people today who feel that they are *safe* from Divine wrath because they go to church, or are part of what they have determined is "the true church",** the temple of God. But God tells us, for whom these words are written (**1 Cor. 10:11**) – don't get complacent because you're in church or part of "the" church! It's not enough! I heard an evangelist 20 years ago preach that the brethren were safe as long as they never left the particular denomination he was speaking to! That's not a safe assumption, according to **Jeremiah 7:4**.

God warns us to repent – or be spit out of His mouth. OR, if we do repent, He will dine with us and have us sit on His throne. God wants a people who are passionate for Him, have a heart for Him, and worship Him with gusto.

So last time we covered how the **Philistines captured the Ark** after killing thousands of Israelites in a battle, took the Ark back to their cities – eventually returning it to Israel – but, get this: **the holy ark of God never again is put back into the Tabernacle of Moses in Shiloh. Never.**

So what do we have happening? The priests continued to serve in the Tabernacle that God had rejected (**Psalms 78:59-61**), and the High Priest continued to go into the Holy of Holies on the day of Atonement once a year – *to an empty room!* It had all the trappings of "church services", there were sacrifices, there were probably sermons, there were animal sacrifices and their blood, there were the priests and Levites in their ephods, blowing the *shofar* – *but God Himself says He had abandoned Shiloh! He wasn't there anymore.*

Makes you think, doesn't it? It sure has made me think! Anyway, the Ark has been stored away in the house of Abinadab in Kirjath-Jearim (**1 Samuel 7:1**) *for twenty years* during the time of Samuel, Saul – and the rise of David. The Ark is forgotten practically, for 20 years!

We ended up last time learning that when David became king over all Israel in **2 Samuel 5**, the *first thing* he does – **2 Samuel 6** -- was to bring up the ark of God. At first they did it all wrong and Uzzah is killed at ***the Threshing Floor, the place of decision*** – because they tried to worship God the way the Philistines had, by bringing the Ark up in a wooden cart (see **1 Chronicles 15:12-15**). They were supposed to move the Ark raised up high upon the ***shoulders of sanctified Kohathite Levites***. But – they didn't, so at the threshing floor God struck Uzzah. A threshing floor is where the useful is separated from the useless. The valuable wheat from the chaff.

You also were once consecrated – at baptism and laying on of hands. You also were set apart for holy use. And then God allows us to come into contact with His holy word, His holy way, and so on.

So the ark is stored 3 months in the house of Obed-Edom the Philistine from Gath, the "Gittite" – and he is blessed. So David moves the ark this time on the shoulders of consecrated Levites – and this time

there is great celebration – and we ended with this: David had prepared his own Tabernacle for the ark and it is in Mt. Zion, amid great celebration. (**2 Samuel 6:12-19; 1 Chronicles 15:25-28**)

David sacrifices at the beginning and end of the short journey (v. 13, 17). In researching this, I find some believe David never again had animal sacrifices after this, but he does speak of God's altar being there (**Ps. 43:3-4; Ps. 84:3**) so I don't think that is correct. I think there were other sacrifices. You wouldn't have an altar if you didn't expect to have animal sacrifices. They *were* still in the old covenant. However, we sure don't read much about sacrifices from David during this time.

[more material in the audio here]

So last time we ended with the fact that now you have the very strange paradox of there **being TWO TABERNACLES – the Tabernacle of Moses that had now been moved to “the high place at Gibeon” about 5 miles away**, and now the Tabernacle of David on Mt. Zion, with the Ark of God.

The first tabernacle has all the bragging rights – except one. But they could say they had the original plan from God, the right colors and skins and fabrics, the altar, the lampstand, the priests, and so on – but one problem: God's glory wasn't there anymore. The ark was gone. The holy of holies was empty.

5 miles away, in the Tabernacle of David, things were different. And *they* had the ark of God, and its glory!

1 Chronicles 15:25-28

“So David, the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-Edom **with joy**. 26 And so it was, *when God helped the Levites who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD*, that they offered seven bulls and seven rams. 27 David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master with the singers. David also wore a linen ephod. 28 **Thus all Israel** brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps.”

Question: If YOU were in charge of organizing this return of the ark, would you have arranged for this kind of worship to God – with people shouting, with horns blaring, and trumpet fanfare, crashing cymbals, stringed instruments and harps and the king and others *dancing* their heart out with all their might – or would you have liked something more ... dignified? David knew he could worship even in the dance (**Psalms 149:3; 150:4**)

Keep your finger here in 1 Chronicles – but I just want to read what is inspired in **Psalms 68:24-25:**

“They have seen Your procession, O God, **The procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary.** 25 The singers went before, the players on instruments followed after; Among them were the maidens playing timbrels.”

If you move to verse 32, you'll see David appealing to ALL the kingdoms: “Sing to God, *you kingdoms of the earth*, O sing praises to the Lord. Selah.” David is opening the door for Gentile kingdoms to come sing to God. Don't forget that David's ancestry included Moabitess Ruth!

Now continue in 1 Chronicles 16. So back to our story: now we have 2 TABERNACLES going on at the same time. Each tabernacle with its own set of priests, and as you'll see, each has its own

high priest: Abiathar at David's tabernacle and Zadok over the tabernacle at Gibeon. **David** just knows where the Ark is, where the *shekinah* glory of God is, where the 2 cherubim are – and that's where he wants to be. You'll also see he's worshiping in a new way; almost a New Covenant –style service here, as you're about to see.

1 Chronicles 16:1-6, 36-43 makes this very clear (also 2 Samuel 6:16-19)

“So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God. 2 And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD. 3 Then he distributed to everyone of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins.

4 And he appointed some of the LEVITES to minister BEFORE THE ARK of the LORD, to commemorate, to thank, and to praise the LORD God of Israel: 5 Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, and Obed-Edom: Jeiel with stringed instruments and harps, but Asaph made music with cymbals; 6 Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests regularly blew the trumpets before the ark of the covenant of God.”

HOLD IT, HOLD IT! I thought only the High Priest could stand before the Ark, and that it had to be behind a thick veil!? What is David doing? He's opening up worship of God to ordinary Levites – Levites, plural, standing before the ark itself!

A DIFFERENT KIND OF TABERNACLE AND SERVICES

Very important: Nothing here indicates David just made a replica of the other rejected Tabernacle. NO. There is no mention here of a veil. No mention here of the need for a high priest to stand in front of the Ark. *David's worship is NOT “same ‘ol, same ‘ol”, folks – and that is part of the meaning of the Tabernacle of David. Plus, he puts it in Mt. Zion, in the City of David, near Mt. Moriah and what will be the temple mount later.*

And keep in mind, this is all GOD'S idea and doing.

Psalm 78:60, 67-70

“So that He [GOD] forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, The tent He had placed among men, 67 Moreover **He rejected the tent of Joseph,** And did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, 68 **But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved.** 69 And **He built His sanctuary like the heights,** Like the earth which He has established forever. 70 *He* also chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds ...” So, verse 68 shows GOD chose Zion.

As we continue, keep in mind that we cannot put in a box the way God is worshiped. God is not worshiped the same way, all the time. This was a time when the way God is going to be worshiped is changing quite a bit.

DAVID, THE TYPE OF THE MILLENNIAL MESSIAH

Before going further we need to understand some things about **King David**. He's more than a king. He is actually a *type* of the Messiah. He too was a **good Shepherd** who was willing to risk his life for his sheep – as Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd. He was also a **great prophet**, writing more

prophecies than most of the other prophets put together, with the exception of the 3 major prophets like Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah. Of course Jesus is the ultimate Prophet (**Deut.18:15; Acts 3:22**)

As you'll see more clearly as we go along, David was also acting as a *type* of **PRIEST** (though not an official priest – because only the sons of Aaron could be official priests). How? In the fact he – along with all the Levites and priests – was dressed in the garment of the priests, **a linen ephod** and that he offered a sacrifice.

2 Samuel 6:13-14 “And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that **he** sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. 14 **Then David danced** before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod” **1 Chronicles 15:27** makes a point *twice* that David had on a linen ephod.

Sacrificing after the priesthood was established, was the domain of priests, remember!

Are you not a priest (**1 Peter 2:9**)? Are you a descendant of Aaron? NO! But you are a priest under the order of Melchizedek, who was Christ! And now in Christ, there is no more male or female, no more Jew or Gentile, but we are all one in Christ. You are the son or daughter of a higher order of Priesthood – whether you are male or female! The verses about being a priest were not written to the men only! Only one Being is High priest. That role is taken! Only One is in charge now. We are all – though in different callings and functions – we are all fellow priests under the High Priest!

We may say more later, but I wanted you to be thinking of David as the Shepherd King, Prophet and Priest – a type of God's people in the end time, *a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD* called to proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (**1 Peter 2:9**.)

LET ME HASTEN TO ADD AND WARN though: Since starting this study, I've discovered there is quite a **movement** to establish *the tabernacle of David* concept. I was unaware of it when starting this 2-part sermon. I believe some in that movement go too far. *Many seem to believe that “restoring the tabernacle of David” means that there should be NO formal order of worship, no ordained clergy or ministers, and they try to read into what David is doing here – the justification for their beliefs. I do NOT think scripture supports that line of reasoning as far as some of them are going. I'm not “going there.”*

Though I sympathize with a desire to worship God with more Davidic passion and joy, as is clearly shown in Scripture, I cannot go along with the unscriptural idea that there are no ordained pastors and teachers. There clearly are (**Eph. 4:11-12**). And there clearly is *some* authority in the church. **But have many churches and denominations gone way overboard in making their pastors and ministers practical “lords” over the flock? Absolutely.** I see it in many denominations of all stripes. In the Catholic church, they literally bow down before the Pope and kiss his ring, as laity do to Cardinals. They are called the “Princes” of the church. I don't believe Peter was the first Pope. But even if he had been, could you ever imagine humble Peter allowing such homage bordering on his worship? NOT if you read 1 Peter 5. Other churches refer to their ministers as “the *officers*” of the church. That's not the right concept!

It is important to get the balance on this so that you know where I'm coming from as you hear or read this sermon. Let's read *what God says* to us. What we're told and shown in the New Covenant is that

the church is the **FAMILY of God**. We are brothers and sisters in a FAMILY relationship – NOT a military relationship of generals and privates.

In a loving family, you have the Father – God. You have the Mother – Jerusalem above. You have a firstborn son – Jesus. All the rest of us are the children of God, brothers of Jesus Christ. The position of “Father” is already taken, so none of us should be called a “holy father” (**Matthew 23:8-10**). High Priest is taken too – by Christ. The rest of us, including us ministers, are merely priests *along with* the regular unordained laity. You and I may have been called to be teachers, but NEVER to be “lords” over the flock. NEVER. But many ordained ministers act like they’re lords over the flock.

In **Matthew 23:8-12** Jesus warns us not to take on religious titles like Rabbi and “Father” as a religious title. I don’t even go by “reverend”, for that is God’s title. He teaches that the one who hopes to be first should be the greatest servant of all (**Mark 9:36**). Peter, in **1 Peter 5:3**, reminds the overseers to be *examples* to the flock **and not act as lords over them**. Paul says several times, in several ways that though he has authority over the churches God led him to set up – for he spoke of coming with a rod, and another time he put a man out of the church for open sin – Paul still says in **2 Corinthians 1:24** “Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow *workers for your joy*; for by faith you stand.”

So as we continue here, realize that there are overseers, there are pastors, teachers, elders (**Ephesians 4:11-12**) – but the KJV translation of that verse is poor. The KJV version makes it sound like it’s *only* the pastors and teachers who have the work of ministry: “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” The NKJV is clearer and is what the Greek means in verse 12: “for the equipping of the saints **FOR** the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

King David got a lot of people involved in the worship services of this new tabernacle. Not just the priests or Levites – or pastors/ordained men. The ordained ministers are to equip all the saints for ministry! We are all servants, we all have a ministry, though we may not all be ordained ministers. I am personally an ordained minister, but whether or not you are – you are called to serve, to minister for Christ.

So David gets many involved, and in a joyous and ecstatic way. David’s worship is spontaneous, full of song and worship, full of music, and it is very inclusive. There is no veil, he does not hide God in a corner that only the High Priest could visit once a year. But as we’ll see, there was *order* and there was a *system* in place even in David’s tabernacle. ***It was not a free for all, with nothing but bedlam going on, as you’ll see.***

So I hope if you had some concerns about that as you’ve been hearing me speak of David’s worship, that you will know that I *do* believe everything should be done decently and in order (**1 Corinthians 14:40,33**), but, I feel our modern church services have often gone too far the *other* way, as we’ll see.

MICHAL AND US

Now back to 2 Samuel 6:16-23 (and 1 Chronicles 15:28-29)

The people are rejoicing, cheering, applauding, singing, the choir is performing, maidens are playing timbrels. Everyone was celebrating. But up on the hill was someone looking through her window, and she wasn’t happy with what she saw. [the audio in this section is somewhat different]

Start in 2 Sam. 6:16

“Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, *Saul's daughter*, looked through a window and **saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD**; and *she despised him in her heart*. 17 **So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it**. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.”

One person watching the celebrations and worship is *Michal* – David’s first wife. David goes back home after placing the ark in David’s new tabernacle, or tent. David is on a “high” – ready to bless everyone at home. He is ecstatic. But he runs into an buzz saw, his own wife. She just cuts him up one side and down the other, with deep sarcasm! Remember David pictures King Jesus. I believe Michal is David’s first wife. Who is the wife of Christ? **Michal is also the daughter of a king** – king Saul. Michal was once the passion of David’s life. She was his first love. He risked his very life for her! Michal once deeply loved David (**1 Samuel 18:20-28**). She worked hard in the beginning to even save his life from her own father.

Michal was bought with a price of blood – 200 Philistine foreskins, was the dowry required, and she was paid for in blood (**1 Samuel 18:26-28**). That means 200 Philistines died in order for David to marry Michal. Sound familiar? **You are also the daughter of the King as well. You are the daughter of GOD (2 Cor. 6:18)**. Remember King Jesus is looking for a Bride. **Royalty marries royalty**. You are of the House of God (**1 Tim. 3:15**), who is the King of the whole Universe. You also have been bought in blood – this time the blood of your own Husband (**Acts 20:28**).

David now goes back to bless his household, he’s all revved up, he’s excited, passionate, thrilled, happy – and BOOM, runs into one of his wives, I believe his first wife, who is a *good* wife, but has lost her passion she once had! Kinda like the first era of God’s church – Ephesus (**Rev. 3:1-5**). Think about it. Remember Ephesus: “I know your works, but you have left your first love”. God wants passion! Your *whole* heart. Not just dull, old same ‘ol, same ‘ol.

Let’s continue reading in 2 Samuel 6:19-23:

“Then David returned *to bless his household*. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, *uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants*, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" [David is stunned!] 21 So David said to Michal, "It was *before the LORD, who chose me* instead of your father and all his house, to appoint *me* ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. *Therefore I will play music before the LORD*. 22 *And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor*." 23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.”

[The audio version has additional material]

Don’t be a MICHAL! Some of you don’t like any music in the church! Or just want a certain *kind* of music and worship. Would you have done any differently than Michal, if confronted with worship that includes dancing, tambourines, harps, cymbals – and as you’re about to see, much more?

The maid servants were dancing in the streets more than a decade back: “Saul has killed his thousands, and David his tens of thousands”. Michal heard it no doubt.

That wife, Michal – representative of part of the church – would not grow. Instead of seeing her husband “dancing *before the LORD*” – as David put it – she saw a king who was acting like the “base fellows”, all undignified. Hmm. ***Would any of you ladies listening to this have reacted any differently if he were your husband? Honestly***, you’ve gotta ask yourself. If your husband were the king, and you watch him take off his dignified royal robes, and act and dance like a commoner – perhaps even showing a bit too much leg or who knows what else – would you have been horrified?

But David saw this event as a worship service! He says so: “I was *dancing before the Lord*, not before the ladies!” Michal would have probably preferred a dignified, quiet return of the Ark, with people solemnly lined up along the road, perhaps with their heads bowed reverently and dignifiedly. Now check your heart? Seriously. Which would you have been – a David, or a Michal? Which are you *now*, as you worship God?

Michal never had a child as a result. Whether it was because David cut her off from intimacy – or whether God made her barren, we’re not told. ***But she became unfruitful. She had lost her first love***, her passion (just like the Ephesian era of the church in Revelation 2) – and this upset David. She analyzed and criticized the Lord’s work, being done in a different way from what was the dignified, traditional way. Undoubtedly David’s angry and hurt response reflects what God himself was thinking. *In any case, another result was that no descendant of Saul became heir to David’s throne – which would have been the case if Michal had given birth to a son.*

Brethren, understand the symbolism here! Could you and I be acting like a Michal now when it comes to the worship of the King of Kings!? Are you unwilling to worship in a Davidic way – with his Tabernacle? I’m asking you to find your answer. These were written for our admonition (1 Cor. 10:11). How would you have reacted if someone would bring in cymbals, tambourines, and energetic worship- - to YOUR church service? Would you act like a Michal – or a David? Is your thinking more like a Michal or a David?

David saw this as “dancing before the Lord”. Some of you ministers get worried if someone starts worshipping in an excited way. How would you have treated David? Would you have been in the crowd with David – or up there criticizing with Michal? Are we like the Ephesian era that was all passionate and full of energy in the beginning – but as things settled down, they lost their passion, their first love.

DON’T BE A MICHAL!

The King’s MUSIC MINISTRY

Let’s move on and look at David’s music ministry.

1 Chronicles 6:31-32 David’s tent is called “the house of the LORD”

“Now these are the men whom David appointed over the service of song ***in the house of the LORD, after the ark came to rest.*** 32 They were **ministering with music [KJV: singing]** before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of meeting, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they served in their office ***according to their order.***” [Yes, there is order here.]

How important were these musicians considered to be?

1 Chronicles 9:33-34

“**These are the singers**, heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites, **who lodged in the chambers** [special rooms associated nearby to the Tabernacle] and *were free from other duties*; **for they were employed in that work day and night.** 34 These heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites were heads throughout their generations. *They dwelt at Jerusalem.*”

David thought having singers and musicians was vital. Hats off to you who sing in choirs for God's glory. [more material in the audio] They were so special, David asks them to live in Jerusalem.

God loves music and song! So David arranged for **non-stop shifts of specially trained Levite musicians** – from the choir master Chenaniah who trained them all – and when this choir/orchestra sang, it was world class! It was 24/7 – around the clock! Remember, David understood the heart and mind of God. You sure didn't have 24/7 music worship going on at the other tabernacle, at least not until David comes along.

These musicians, the Sons of Asaph, were so good that **1 Chron. 25:3** says they “**prophesied with a harp** to give thanks and to praise the LORD.” Now go explain that one! All I know is these Sons of Asaph and also the Sons of Korah, were outstanding Levite musicians and singers. No doubt when David first heard them perform, he could have said, “Wow! Where have you fellas been? We've gotta put you in front of the ark!”

Now when you read David's psalms about “coming to MT ZION”, and worshiping before “God who is enthroned between the cherubim” – it should mean a *whole* lot more than it did before.

What follows is the psalm used to dedicate this great new tabernacle on Mt. Zion.

I want you to especially note some of the verses that invite the whole world to Mt. Zion to worship on God – who sits between the cherubim – on the ark, on Mt. Zion. It was an open call to Gentiles and everyone to come and see.

1 Chronicles 16:7-36

7 David's Song of Thanksgiving (Ps 96; 105:1-15; 106:1,47,48)

On that day David first delivered this psalm into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, to thank the LORD:

8 ‘Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; **Make known His deeds among the peoples!** 9 Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! 10 Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! 11 Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

[So He starts by reminding Israel how God started with Israel... but now jump to v 23 and watch what happens!]

23 Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. 24 Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.

....28 **Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength. 29 Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!** 30 Tremble before Him, **all the earth**. The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved.”

[Are you beginning to see why James in Acts 15 uses the Tabernacle of David as his vindication and validation for welcoming the Gentiles? When you read the Psalms, you'll understand how much David tried to have Gentiles be included in worshipping God.]

DAVID does NOT MAKE EVERYONE WORSHIP HIS WAY

1 Chronicles 16:37-43 Now watch what happens. Old and new going on at the same time. While David's heart was with his new tabernacle, he does not abandon or put down the old Tabernacle, and the old way. David realizes not everyone has his passion and energy in worship, and watch what he does. It's a huge lesson for us, as we tend to have one-upmanship – "our church services are better than your church services".

"So he left Asaph and his brothers *there before the ark* of the covenant of the LORD to minister before the ark [at the Tabernacle of David] regularly, as every day's work required; 38 and *Obed-Edom* with his sixty-eight brethren, including Obed-Edom the son of Jeduthun, and Hosah, to be gatekeepers; [now watch what comes next!] 39 **AND Zadok the priest and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the LORD at the high place that was at Gibeon, 40 to offer burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of burnt offering regularly morning and evening, and to do according to all that is written in the Law of the LORD which He commanded Israel; 41** and with them Heman and Jeduthun and the rest who were chosen, who were designated by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because His mercy endures forever; 42 and with them Heman and Jeduthun, to sound aloud with trumpets and cymbals and the musical instruments of God. Now the sons of Jeduthun were gatekeepers.
43 Then all the people departed, every man to his house; and David returned to bless his house."

Do you see what King David is doing? He is maintaining the old Tabernacle with the empty holy of holies, even as he revs up worship services at his new tabernacle. So now 2 ways, and 2 places of worship. Even 2 high priests. **Abiathar** over the new tabernacle in Zion and the other high priest **Zadok** supervising at Gibeon. I think God, who made us all, realizes that some of us are very emotional, spontaneous, 100% on the go all the time, like to sing and dance and clap and move and be expressive – and those types no doubt were at David's Tabernacle with Him.

Those who are more reserved, who like formality and a more subdued service with priests in their official garb, with all the familiar ways continuing as they had for centuries – feel more comfortable at Gibeon! It wasn't bad over there. It was still a church service. It's just that the ark and the glory of God weren't there anymore. **But still, it was in Gibeon where God appears to Solomon in a dream (1 Kings 3:5)** after Solomon went there to sacrifice. But at Gibeon was the formality, the ritual, looking religious, priests sprinkling blood, and a kinda more "closed door" policy – priests only could enter into the holy place, but even then – by then, it's ironic – *God's glory wasn't there anymore*. But David still understood and supported it.

But **5 miles south**, on this other hill – on Mt. Zion, something else is going on, and IT is the one called "the House of the Lord" now – **1 Chron 6:31**. The ark apparently is not hidden behind a big tent now. It's open to all to worship. God – represented by the Ark - is not hidden during this time, as best as I can tell from all the scriptures on it. Where would *you* be? I know I'd rather be at Mt. Zion. But I know many of you would have gone to Gibeon! That's fine – except God's glory was now in Mt.

Zion! People come from far and wide to worship at Mt. Zion and the glory of the Eternal literally shines from this mountain:

Psalm 50:1-2 “The Mighty One, God the LORD, Has spoken and called the earth, from the rising of the sun to its going down. 2 **Out of Zion**, the perfection of beauty, **GOD will shine forth.**”

[Additional material on the audio]

Some of the Israelites are now worshiping with David on Mt. ZION! *Where would you have worshiped? With David on Mt. Zion – with his open tabernacle, Gentiles welcome, music service 24 hours a day, including loud cymbals and trumpets and dancing and everyone involved – or the formal, staid service at Gibeon? I want you to really think about it!*

With all this going on, we’ll understand more clearly now what happens next, in **1 Chronicles 17**.

1 Chronicles 17:1-5

“Now it came to pass, when David was dwelling in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, **“See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under tent curtains.”** (– referring to the TABERNACLE OF DAVID)

2 Then Nathan said to David, “Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you.”

3 But it happened that night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, 4 “Go and tell My servant David, **‘Thus says the LORD:** “You shall not build Me a house to dwell in. 5 ***For I have not dwelt in a house [temple] since the time that I brought up Israel, even to this day, but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another*”**”.

GOD Himself says that He had moved from one tent to another. Now you understand why! I checked the original Hebrew, and the NIV’s translation of “tent SITE to tent SITE” is misleading and is not what the Hebrew says. GOD moved from one tent – the 1st Tabernacle - into David’s new tent.

This was the place of worship that captured God’s heart! This was the one He delighted most in restoring! Isn’t this exciting!? I wish I had seen this 20 years ago!

WHAT IT ALL MEANS

The “Tabernacle of David” worship means these things, as we’ve seen so far:

- * an unprecedented energetic, ecstatic worship with a lot of music, praise, cheering
- * music and worship offered to God *24 hours a day, 7 days a week*
- * an open fellowship even with Gentiles
- * a participatory type of worship that involved all classes of people
- * a passion for the things of God
- * an open door to God’s presence and glory
- * a worship that emphasized being real, being the real you in the way you worship

David was trying to duplicate on earth what he was inspired to see that God had there in heaven: with angels praising and glorifying God virtually non-stop and so forth.

A LOT OF THE PSALMS ARE WRITTEN AT THIS TIME.

You've gotta picture David worshiping in the very presence of God. He's excited, thrilled. I picture him bowing, almost snuggling up close, to the Ark and to the God he loved with all his might. He speaks of being "in the shadow of the Almighty" (**Ps. 57:1; 63:7**)

What do you think he's referring to? Are you getting it? He's right there, in God's presence, feeling safe in the shadow of the Almighty. Looking up into the wings of the Cherubim as He sings, or prays, or worships. Right up close. No veil. No High Priest. Just God and those who are there worshiping, with the Ark and God's *skéninah* glory shining from the top of this ark.

It wasn't bedlam. It wasn't confusion. David had organized and appointed many of the Levites into specific functions and roles. ***But – having said that – there was a lot more music, around the clock, a lot more singing, a lot more worship, a lot more energy in this tabernacle than the other ever had. And much more participation*** from everyone.

Psalm after psalm about ZION – like **Psalm 48:2**. Now it's clearer why David was saying that! Why? *Because GOD is there, ruling above His Mercy Seat, shining His shekinah glory for all who come to worship!*. I'll cite and just quickly read a few psalms, you can follow along – or look them up later.

Psalm 27:4-5

"One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple. 5 For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock"

Do we have that kind of passion for God – or have we lost it? Are we asleep!?

Psalms 99:1-2 ***"The LORD reigns; Let the peoples tremble! He dwells between the cherubim; Let the earth be moved! 2 The LORD is great in Zion, And He is high above all the peoples."***

Psalm 80:1 ***"Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth!"***

Psalm 122:1-9 ***"I was glad when they said to me, "Let US go into the house of the LORD."***

[Hold it, hold it! David couldn't go into the *other* tabernacle! Only priests could! But this sounds like a bunch of people were going right into the tabernacle.]

2 Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

3 Jerusalem is built as a city that is compact together, ***4 Where the tribes go up, The tribes of the LORD, To the Testimony of Israel, To give thanks to the name of the LORD. 5 For thrones are set there for judgment, the thrones of the house of David. 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. 7 Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces." 8 For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you." 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good."***

Remember David's Tabernacle on Mt. Zion is now called "the House of the Lord".

Psalm 46:4-5 “There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God,
The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. 5 GOD IS in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.” Wow! Right there with God.

You’ve got to picture this! David loves His God so much he wants to spend all his time there – in the shadow of the wings of the cherubim. **READ THESE: Psalm 17:8; 36:7; Psalm 57:1; 63:7.**

Psalm 61:1-4 “Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. 2 ‘From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy. 4 ***I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings [of the Cherubim]. Selah***”

Psalm 76:1-2 To the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph. A Song.
“In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. **2 In Salem also is His tabernacle, And His dwelling place in Zion.**”

The Levites reflected the passion they saw in David, and the sons of Korah wrote **Psalm 84**, and they *speak of how they could hardly wait to get back there with God!*

Psalm 84:1-2 To the Chief Musician. On an instrument of Gath. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.
“**How lovely is Your tabernacle**, O LORD of hosts! 2 My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

Psalm 132:1-9, 13-14

“LORD, remember David And all his afflictions; 2 How he swore to the LORD, And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: 3 “Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, Or go up to the comfort of my bed; 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes Or slumber to my eyelids, 5 Until I find a place for the LORD, A dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”
6 Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; We found it in the fields of the woods. **7 Let us go into His tabernacle; Let us worship at His footstool. 8 Arise, O LORD, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength. 9 Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, And let Your saints shout for joy. 13 For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place: 14 “This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.”**

Psalm 135:1-2 “Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD; Praise Him, O you servants of the LORD! **2 You who stand in the house of the LORD, In the courts of the house of our God...**”

This is likely referring to 1 Chronicles 16:4-6, to the LEVITES and priests who ministered before this ark. This is different from the other one where only one man, once a year could enter – and that was the High Priest on the Day of Atonement.

WHAT WE HAVE TODAY

In David’s tabernacle, he was showing people that he already understood that the time was coming when all people could come before God, night and day, any time they needed to or wanted to. **You can**, right now. But you’ve got it even better than David. *Be turning to Hebrews 12 please.*

David was picturing what it would be like in the New Covenant, I believe. Don't feel shortchanged. We today, have an *even better* opportunity than David – except we don't have a physical box with a real light shining from it! But we too, come now to the *real* heavenly Mt. Zion! Read it with me in Hebrews 12. Are we getting it? **We don't have it one iota less than David. Look how Paul put it in Hebrews 12.**

Hebrews 12:18-24 Here we see the worship CONTRASTED:

“For **you** have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, 19 and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. . . .

22 But **you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem**, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly **and church of the firstborn** who are **registered in heaven, to God** the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 **to Jesus** the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.”

[more on the audio]

*When you pray “Father in heaven” --, you are transported right into the very presence of our Holy Father in heaven, with Jesus on His right hand, in the presence of the cherubim, the 24 elders, the living creatures, the myriads of angels – and you're right there! “Father” – and you're right there, to the REAL heavenly Mt. Zion, before God on His REAL throne! Sure we don't have the box, the ark – no, we have the REALITY! David saw it, felt it, experienced it. **Are you?***

Why do we not take advantage of that much more often, and feel like David felt – that he wanted to dwell in the house of the Lord forever! When you pray, there is no more veil, for Jesus' torn flesh removed the veil forever (**Hebrews 10:20**), guaranteeing us direct access to the Most Holy and Most High God of all. It doesn't get any better than that.

NEW COVENANT CHURCH SERVICES

In the church today, I believe we are being told that God wants us to restore the kind of worship King David had: a spirited, heart-filled worship with praise, worship, song, -- even shouts of praise. We're afraid to do that, because it's not dignified. We're not used to it. We're not middle-eastern. We've been taught that a church service is a “holy sanctuary” and that somehow “holy” is to equated with “quiet”. Maybe we don't because it “looks Pentecostal” or something. But brethren, let's wake up to what God is saying and to how David DANCED, played music, even with cymbals, trumpets, people clapping their hands and shouting, bowing, worshiping – the whole ball of wax!

We have to be more willing to pray together, pray more, sing more, worship more – wake up out of our sleep. Be willing to come together to pray like they did when Peter was arrested.

One thing you'd have to say: David's worship going on in his tabernacle was no LAODECIAN LUKEWARM worshiping going on!

But if you can't do that, God isn't going to be boxed in or out. God knows He has created various personalities – and my advice is this: Be yourself. The real you, as you worship. Worship our holy God in spirit and truth.

The Tabernacle of David *is* being restored. It's the church in the end time, coming to see their lukewarm selves, repenting, and wanting to worship with heart and soul.

David's Tabernacle was inclusive, *participatory*. All Israel –even the Gentiles - were welcome. I'm out of time, but I want you to start reading **1 Cor. 14:22-33**

Are we ready to make our church services more participatory – rather than one man giving a long lecture? If we read what Paul says about church services in his time, we'll see that there was an *expectation* that *several* would *have something to contribute* to the actual worship. They were attending services with the expectation that each would add something to what was being said and taught. I'm glad to hear some Bible studies are getting that way, but what about full-fledged church services? I'm talking about a meeting with singing, with prayer, as well as with teaching.

I dare say, if you ponder deeply what Paul wrote, describing the early church meetings, you'll discover where you attend doesn't resemble this very much. Where did we get our modern format? There's an interesting book called "Pagan Christianity" that provides some compelling clues!

1 Corinthians 14:22-33 "Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe. 23 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, **and there come in those who are uninformed or [open door?] unbelievers**, will they not say that you are out of your mind? 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an **uninformed person comes in, he is convinced** by all, he is convicted by all. 25 **And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.**

[WOW! That's some service to cause that kind of response! Have you ever seen that in your church?]

26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, **each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation.** Let all things be done for edification. 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. 29 **Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. 30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent.**

[IMAGINE THAT ever happening in a traditional church service. Does this sound like the super planned and strictly controlled services found in churches all over now? Does this sound like the Mega-Church extravaganzas going on, for that matter? Imagine a speaker standing up there and letting people ask questions, or pass judgment on what they feel about what he said. It says, "let the others judge". I know of 1-2 groups that do that, and they are to be commended. We're brothers – not lords over serfs.

We have such a scripted liturgy this just isn't happening!]

31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that ALL may learn and all may be encouraged. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."

Sure, this is less structured, but it allows for much more of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to occur. But I've found most church leaders afraid to let go of their control. Afraid to let God's spirit lead. When I pastured churches, at least during the weekly Bible studies we did a lot of interaction. I announced topics ahead of time and we encouraged prior study and therefore contribution and input during the study itself at church. It was wonderful, but very unorthodox. However, mid-week Bible study attendance – even with snow storms – was above 80-85%. Why? Because people felt they'd learn something. They felt included, they felt what they had to contribute meant something.

Go back to 1 Cor. 14. Analyze what's going on there! It's hardly the mega-church experience we see gaining ground today, with elaborate orchestrated plays, one main speaker preaching to thousands and thousands – while everyone else just sits on their rear end and listens and occasionally claps for the speaker. Any applause should be to clap for God, to His glory – not to the performer or speaker!

What we just read in 1 Corinthians 14 is describing a church service where everyone is participating.

The early church mostly met in small groups, and they came PREPARED, they've prayed and studied God's word and have asked God to speak to each one and through each one as well. Then ALL the parts of the Body of Christ came together – and each one supplied something for the good of the whole body (**Eph. 4:16**). And I don't mean just setting up chairs or sweeping the floor afterwards, although that is very important too. **But I mean each one has a word of encouragement, a thought, a question, an inspiration, something from the week's Bible study – and each one is contributing.**

And remember, these early churches often **met in HOMES** – and not in big organized church services. Aquila and Priscilla hosted such a home church (**Rom. 16:5**). So did Lydia, the seller of purple in Thessalonica (**Acts 16:40**). Also Nymphas – **Col. 4:15** and Philemon – **Philemon 2** had brethren meeting in their homes. Where two are gathered in Jesus' name, He is there (**Matt. 18:20**).

Are we ready for the 2 witnesses? Are we ready for prophets – male and female – which are prophesied to come on the scene in these last days? I don't think we are! Some conservative groups would “frown” on God revealing anything to a woman. But even Philip had 4 daughters who prophesied (**Acts 21:8-9**). Are you ready to *accept* female prophets? **Joel 2:28-29** says they're coming. **Peter** said it was partly accomplished in Acts 2, when the Spirit gave utterance to ALL the disciples there. He told the crowd they were *witnessing* Joel's prophecy about male *and female* servants prophesying (**Acts 2:14-19**).

Brethren, the Tabernacle of David is about coming before God with gladness and energetic joy and song, praise and exuberant worship. It's about being inclusive – and not exclusive.

There's an interesting verse in Isaiah:

Isaiah 16:5 “In mercy the throne will be established; **And One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David**, Judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness.”

This is so exciting and I apologize because I feel I've failed to even *begin* to convey the thrilling meaning of the Tabernacle of David. But I hope you have a glimpse of it. I hope you will dig deeper, pray more, worship more, sing more, *share* your thoughts more, ask more questions, get more involved – and be *yourself, the real you*, be *real* – and most of all, let Christ shine in you.

You don't have to be an ordained minister to get involved. Jesus just said – *abide*. He said, “Abide in me, and let Me and my words abide in you, and you will ask whatever you will, and it shall be done unto you (**John 15:4-7**). If we abide in Christ, and come to *know* the Father – and be known by Him - there is no limit to what God may accomplish through you, you personally, regardless of your past, regardless of your sins, regardless of anything—and through the church group you meet with. **Just know, abide, and trust** – and let Him tabernacle in you! *Of course “knowing God” includes obeying God too! (1 John 2:3-6. Be sure to read this)*

It doesn't get any more exciting than this, if you can grasp what we're being told!!!

Colossians 1:13 “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and *conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*

Do you see why we need to SET our mind on things above? We have a high calling! We can't just ignore it now.

This is what should be charging us up, making us overflow with excitement about the things of God. This is what should be driving us to repent, to change, to overcome. To let Christ shine in us – so that all aspects of our lives reflect Christ, the hope of glory! Don't be ho-hum about this! To gehenna with our past! Our life is new now. Let's let God shine in us now!

Shine, Jesus – shine! Please shine in us. May your *shekinah* glory shine through your church and your people – to *your* glory. Let us not be ashamed or embarrassed to praise you with open heart. May we give ALL our heart to you. Lord Jesus, may you establish the Tabernacle of David again in this end time to YOUR glory, to your majesty. Come, Lord Jesus. Come. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Philip Shields