

God's Desire to Tabernacle (dwell) with Mankind 2023



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Unless otherwise noted, all scriptures are NKJV.

DO you realize how much our wonderful Father and Savior want to dwell with their people, with humans, as pictured by the Millennium and then the new heavens and earth? Do you realize how deeply this goes? The depth of His desire will amaze and humble you. Discover your vital role in letting God and Christ dwell in you and you in them.

Please print out the notes first as this will move very quickly.

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Good morning everyone. This is a new sermon in 2023 about how the Feast of Tabernacles shows how much our God enjoys being with his family, with YOU. His DESIRE to “tabernacle” with us, his family. So if you’re keeping God’s divine appointment – his “feast” from Hebrew *moed* -- at the Feast of Tabernacles, I think you’ll feel happy about this sermon and how it can touch you. I recommend you print out the notes first as I’ll be moving thru quickly. The other word for “feast” is “chag” – food and drink, etc.

Please start the services on time, on the dot. Don’t make God wait for his appointment HE set for you.

You who only use notes, miss some of what is said, as the notes are not a word for word transcript of the sermon. So check out the video too.

I’ve been to 56 of these feasts as of 2023, picturing the time ahead when God will live among us, with us, on the earth, and eventually with all of humanity.

I grew up in the Philippines until our mom and dad had a terrible separation in 1966 and then divorced soon after. **My first Feast was 1966...** in gorgeous Squaw Valley, on the shores of Lake Tahoe, CA. So beautiful.

(In the audio I discussed what that was like and how inspiring to hear 9000 voices praising God, etc. Green bumper stickers identifying us as Feast

keepers. Then find and check into our A-frame rental, then grabbed a bit for dinner so we weren't late. Many present were members. I was 13 years old.

Then we gathered together 7 or 8,000 present under the big tent. The minister leading songs got up and triumphantly welcomed everyone to the Feast of Tabernacles. "Please turn in your hymnal to page ..." – and then 8,000 voices raised their voices in song of praise. I found that so exciting as a 13 year old.

What a great first feast that was – where we heard God wanted to send Jesus Christ as King of Kings to come dwell with and rule mankind for 1000 years. **And back in 1966 it was particularly exciting because our church believed that Christ would be on earth by 1975.** *Well, 48 years after 1975, we're still here, still coming to Feasts* and still living God's life even if Christ comes or not in our lifetime. So we were wrong, but now we're 48 years closer to that return. Even Apostle John spoke of being in "the last hour".

I hope we're all as excited today about being at God's feasts of Tabernacles *as we were* back in 1966 or whenever you began. Or if you're "new" to all this, welcome and enjoy! And remember Christ will come when Father decides. Let's be sure we *ARE ready* for His return, whether it's in a few years or decades. Even if we get quite old -- that's OK. We stay faithful.

The FEAST of tabernacles also points to the fact that God wants to live with his family. How long do you imagine God wants to live with people? One more day? A thousand years? Forever and ever? Or do we think he will tire of us as **Benjamin Franklin** (not **Mark Twain**) said, "Guests like fish begin to smell after three days". No, that's not how God thinks of the time he'll spend forever and ever with you and the rest of his resurrected family. We can usually spend more time with fun grandkids but eventually even they have to go home.

Some of us find it hard to imaging holy, righteous God wanting to spend *any* time with you or me, let alone for forever. But actually it's always been that way, from the very beginning and *it will end that way: God tabernacling with his creation, his people – as I'll show you.*

For God to want to spend eternity with us, that must surely mean God really values us! Of course you're valuable. Look how hard Satan goes after us. And see what price God paid for me and for you --to save you and me – the death of his one and only Son. Of course Jesus also laid down his own life by his own decision too (**John 10:17-18**). Now that is LOVE. What a price he has paid for YOU and me.

The Feast of Tabernacles, many believe, pictures the 1000 year Millennium, after Christ returns from heaven with his new Bride to set up His kingdom of kings and priests (royal priests) here **on the EARTH**. He'll dwell with, tabernacle with his BRIDE, as they set up the Son of God's millennial rule. (more comments on the video)

ALL THAT will be happening right here on the earth. This time is also often called "the World Tomorrow".

But I caution you even on that right now: the Millennial reign is not the fully realized Kingdom of God – flesh and blood cannot enter Kingdom of God (1 Cor. 15:50). The Lion and the lamb and little child leading them (Isa 11:6-9) – that's Millennial, but they're all flesh and blood. So it's not fully the Kingdom of God yet. **The full reality of the Kingdom of God is when everything is incorruptible, made of spirit, nothing flesh and blood any more** – as again, flesh and blood is not what Kingdom of God is. Heavenly Jerusalem is all entirely spirit: no rust, no decay, no moth, no corruption, just spirit streets, walls, and gates. *(There's more on video)*

At the FEAST, we live in temporary quarters - like in tents or motels – or all jammed up in a side room on cheap mattresses on the floor like hundreds will do in Kenya this year – **to show the temporary nature of this life** on our way to the permanent promised land. Israel dwelt in booths/tents (Sukkot) **to remind them how they lived in goatskin tents, temporary dwellings**, when they left Egypt and waiting to enter the Promised Land. **Lev 23:43** especially. Let's read the whole passage about the Feast of Tabernacles (FOT from now on) and the 8th day, which is the Day AFTER the FOT.

Leviticus 23:33-36

"Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 34 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of **Tabernacles for seven days** to YHVH. 35 On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it.

*Remember the dates given are based on the **Hebrew** 7th month, which corresponds usually to our Mid Sept to early October. FOT in 2023 begins on Sabbath Sept 30 and ends the following Friday Oct 6, then 8th day is Oct 7. The dates on our Roman calendars will change over the years so in 2024 FOT is later in October.*

God told Moses about HIS holydays, his **divine appointments** or moedim - and feast days in Leviticus 23. The thinking of "temporary" is very real with this feast. They lived in tents/booths while waiting for their homes in the Promised Land. Actually this whole life is temporary.

Now notice God's command to dwell in booths/tents.

Leviticus 23:40-43

"And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. 41 You shall keep it as a feast to YHVH for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

42 You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, 43 that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am YHVH (the LORD) your God."

After the seven day Feast of Tabernacles comes the next festival – simply called "the 8th day," which was also a holy day. This is a one day feast. (All scriptures are from NKJV unless noted otherwise)

It's very important we grasp that "temporariness" is part of the meaning of this feast. The whole universe is temporary. Our bodies are temporary. Both Peter and Paul call our bodies "tents".

2 Peter 1:13-14

"Yes, I think it is right, **as long as I am in this tent**, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that **shortly I must put off my tent**, just as our Lord showed me."

2 Corinthians 5:1

"For we know that if **our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed**, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, **eternal** in the heavens."

Revelation 20:6

"Blessed and holy is he who has part in **the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power**, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

Even the Millennium itself is limited, is temporary. God's kingdom is not temporary. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, then Jesus hands everything over to Father, God Most High as 1 Cor. 15:20-28 explains. Then we will have a permanent life and permanent universe.

So what do we do while we wait for Christ to return?

Luke 12:35-40 NLT

"Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, **36 as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast.** Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks.

37 The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, *he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat!*

38 He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn [2nd or 3rd watch]. *But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants **who are ready.***

39 "Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would not permit his house to be broken into. **40 You also must BE ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."**

Our job is **to BE READY, and to be found BUSY doing his work!**

Preaching the good news to the whole world, making disciples of all He calls and who respond, and turn families back together – turning hearts of fathers to their children; then “to make ready a people, prepared for their Master” (**Luke 1:17**). Preparing His BRIDE, his *ekklesia* – God's called out ones -- in other words.

We are to be “found so doing” – Luke 12:42-46. Very strong language. NOT a time for partying and getting drunk and womanizing or being unfaithful in our marriages. I'll focus on the first few verses and post the rest.

Luke 12:42-44

And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?"

43 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

44 Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has."

We must be busy doing God's work of helping the world see Jesus is the Son of God returning soon and we must believe in him – John 6:29. He returns when we aren't expecting him – Luke 12:46

So I hope you're getting excited to know that we are closer than ever to the time when WE will be a part of the return of the Son of God to earth – to do what? – *to DWELL with mankind right here on earth*, and to rule the earth and teach everyone God's ways. God on earth. Look what was said to Joseph:

Matthew 1:21-23

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall **call His name Jesus (Yeshua in Hebrew)**, for **He will save His people from their sins.**"

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, **and they shall call His name Immanuel,** **which is translated, "GOD with us."**

This is what these holydays is all about: God showing us how He is going to live with mankind again, just like it was before Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. God enjoys being with his people and wants that. **Living with us is made possible by Jesus' life shed for us, to bring us back to God.** "He will SAVE PEOPLE from their sins" and "God with us" is result.

HOW OUR TRUE GOD is so DIFFERENT from PAGANISM'S GODS

But the ancient PAGAN gods, no matter what country we look into, gods that didn't really even exist, were said NOT to want to be with people. They wanted to stay by themselves on the peak of High mountains like Zeus and Hera, or in the ocean depths like Neptune, or below the earth like their god Hades.

- Wanted to be appeased; not uncommon for them to demand human sacrifice – also true of gods of other countries -Aztecs, Incas, etc.
- Didn't care for humans really – but the god Ceres would send crops if you pleased him (Ceres – cereal)
- Terrible fights and wars *and horrible things* among these gods
- Womanizing was common with **Zeus** – 54 children including the famous Helen of Troy, some say 92 children; impregnated 12 earthly women; totally unfaithful to **Hera** his wife, who was also his sister!

But our GOD – the true one living God – is different. Instead of wanting human sacrifice, he **sacrificed his own son – for US!** He doesn't hold a grudge, but *forgives* upon our repentance. And our God is so incredibly patient with us humans. I can't believe how patient he has been with ME.

Look how God reveals his plan at the end: by understanding what He did in the beginning.

GOD SEES and knows the END FROM The BEGINNING

When you grasp this concept – that GOD ties the end and beginning together – so much of scripture becomes more clear.

Isaiah 46:9-10 NKJV

“Remember the former things of old,
For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like Me,

10 Declaring (I will make known” – NIV) the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done,
Saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
And I will do all My pleasure,'

One way that can be understood where God is taking us is to say God unites the end with the beginning. SO let's see what he did in beginning and that will reveal the end. (More is being said in the video).

But let me start with you: How do you like being with people? For how long? Many of us might enjoy having company for a few days -usually not more than 3-4 days though and it starts wearing thin. The famous comment – “After 3 days, fish and company start to stink.” We can wear out our welcome. I'm sure I've done that, and it can appear we're taking advantage of someone's hospitality. SOME of us are tired of someone within minutes or hours!

Normally the exception to this rule would be CLOSE FAMILY --- and if you're so blessed to have married your “soul mate” or best friend, though there may be rough times, we can live together for many decades. If not your soul mate, that will take a lot of work and working through frustrating times – and many end up in divorce. *But you can live a long time with a wife or husband, or look forward to being with brothers or sisters you love deeply and get along with.* **GRANDKIDS** – love being with them too, usually, unless they've turned really bad.

God wants a forever relationship with his family, not just a day or two. How much I love being with my family and grandkids and don't get

enough of it. So we at the Feast of Tabernacles (FOT) are picturing even now, in our temporary lives, LIVING with God as I'll show you.

Our GOD ENJOYS BEING WITH HIS PEOPLE

Remember **Genesis 46:10** says God will make known the end from the beginning. So let's go to the beginning of mankind in Genesis 1, 2, 3.

Genesis 1:24-25 – God simply spoke the creatures into existence – everything from bugs to bison- everything was spoken into existence and at the end of each day of creation God saw "it was good".

Then in Genesis 1:26-28, God – Elohim in Hebrew, a plural word that's translated as "gods" when not referring to the Living God. Anyway, Elohim said, "**Let US make mankind in OUR image and likeness**" - so God created them male and female in his image. Women are also in God's image.

This was the 6th day and they were told to be fruitful and multiply – said at the end of the 6th day, just before sunset by then. Yes, it's wonderful for husband and wife to make love on the sabbath – which was rapidly approaching.

No other creature is made in the image of God – to be like him or look like him.

Genesis 1:31

"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed **it was very good**. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

Then in Genesis 2, it backtracks a bit to show how man and woman came into existence.

With mankind, God did not just SPEAK Adam into existence. He hand formed the man Adam, OUTSIDE the Garden, and BLEW the breath of life into his nose and man became a living soul or being. That was not done for or to any other living form as far as I know. Perhaps this was **the Spirit in Man?**

Then, he brought Adam, INTO the Garden of Eden from outside. We have to be invited into God's presence. So even though Adam was created outside the Garden of Eden, YHVH placed him in the garden, in His presence.

Genesis 2:7-8

And YHVH Elohim (LORD God) formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed (blew) into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

8 YHVH Elohim (LORD God) planted a garden eastward in Eden, **and there He PUT the man whom He had formed.**

Remember that Eve – and really ALL of us – were “in” Adam, for we are from Adam and Eve. Eve was also in Adam at this point still, just as we, the Bride of Christ, are part of the body of Christ (**Ephesians 5:30-32**).

God showed Adam the animals – in context to show him that he needed a wife, a companion like him. But for Adam, no such companion was found (Gen 2:20).

Genesis 2:15

“Then the LORD God (YHVH Elohim) took the man and **put him in the garden** of Eden to tend and keep it.”

Then God explained to Adam the rules of the garden and the 2 special trees. Eve was not present yet.

Genesis 2:18

“And the LORD (YHVH) God said, **“It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper (ezer) comparable to him.”**

Remember that God is also a “helper” – same word as for Eve being a helper: “ezer”. **Eliezer = “God is my help/helper”**

So v 19-20 God had Adam name the animals. But end of verse 20: “But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him”.

Then the first SURGERY – and a SIDE of Adam – flesh and bones, were removed and from that, God built a woman (**Gen. 2:21-25**) and brought her to Adam and told them to MULTIPLY. Yes, of course you can have marital sex on the Sabbath, which was surely about to begin.

This is the first instance of God enjoying being with and living among His people. At least up until this point. So far, sin had not separated God from his created people.

Adam and Eve had a great, idyllic home in the perfect garden. It appears that their Creator walked and talked with them regularly and they enjoyed each other's company.

So in the beginning, Adam and Eve were in the presence of God.

But what happened? Genesis 3 explains how the serpent – appearing perhaps as a shining bright serpent, for Satan turns himself into an angel of LIGHT, (2 Cor. 11:14) remember – and he deceived the woman.

They were both present (Genesis 3:6) and Adam knew better, was not deceived, but he also partook of the fruit and so HE is the one the Bible says sinned first. God is much more lenient on sin done in ignorance (**John 9:41**) (Some speculation on video about why they suddenly knew they were naked)

Genesis 3:6-7

“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.

[Compare to the process of sin -- 1 John 2:16 – lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life)

She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”

So, probably as usual, God came to them, walking in the garden. They could hear the leaves crunching, or branches being turned aside after they had broken His rules. It seems God had walked and talked to them prior to that.

Genesis 3:8

“And they **HEARED the sound of LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day**, and Adam and his wife HID themselves from the presence of LORD God (YHVH Elohim) among the trees of the garden.”

They had sinned. Separation followed. *They had to be thrown out of the Garden –but not before their Creator showed them a hint of His plan of salvation. This was the first time animal blood is shed. This was the real covering of animal skin, pointing to their promised Seed who would crush Satan’s HEAD at Golgotha (Genesis 3:15). This was real covering for them, not those crazy fig leaves.*

Genesis 3:17

“Also for Adam and his wife YHVH God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.”

Then they were expelled from the Garden back to the land from whence God had taken Adam. They had children but God is still dealing with them.

Genesis 4:1-5

"Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and **she conceived and bore** Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." 2 ***Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel.*** Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in the process of time (NET: "At the designated time..") it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to YHVH. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And YHVH respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell."

Genesis 4:6-7

So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 *If you do well, will you not be accepted?* And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

God continued to appear and work with mankind – Enoch, Noah, then Abraham and his family – Isaac – and Jacob and his 12 sons. **Jacob was renamed "Israel" – "Prince with God" (Genesis 32:28).** All through the Old Testament, we see the ***Word of God appearing*** to various ones, showing his presence to Jacob – with the vision of the ladder to heaven; to so many – to Moses and the burning bush and beyond. The God of Israel was making himself available in other words, but only to a few.

Look up "the Word of God came to..." -you'll be amazed. Gen 15:1,4; 1 Sam 15:10; Jeremiah 1:4, 11, 13; 2:1, etc.

NATION OF GOD – AFTER The Passover

You know the story of how Jacob/Israel moved with his family into Egypt during a terrible famine. They became slaves eventually. God restated his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob by FREEING them from slavery.

HOW? God said, "When I see the blood" – of Passover, Exodus 12:13. Before they – or we, can be the people of God – we must come under the blood of Jesus Christ, and we become HIS. Almighty God said, "**when I pass through with the 10th plague of killing all the firstborn of Egypt – you will be safe in your homes IF and WHEN I see the blood** you have splattered on the top of your doors and sides of the doors" -picturing the crucifixion of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ (John 1:29).

Exodus 12:13

"Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. **And when I see the blood, I will pass over you;** and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt."

He did not say, "when I see you living perfectly yourselves, or that your marriage is terrific, or that you've quit stealing, lying or lusting..." – NO! Just "when I see the blood". That has not changed.

THAT IS HOW the world will be reconciled with God as well – pictured by the Day of Atonement just before the Millennium starts. We have to accept the blood payment in our stead for our sins, and then God reconciles and comes to live with us again. When we accept the risen Son of God as our Savior, HE becomes our life, and we become acceptable to God the rest of our lives by being in Christ, with no condemnation (Romans 8:1). We accept his perfect life for us

When we accept Yeshua as our Savior, and ask for his blood, His life to be shed for us, then we can be reunited with God. **It's not by our perfect works, but by the blood of Christ washing away all our sins** – even ones we have yet to commit (1 John 1:7, 9; 2:1-2). **Then God dwells with US.**

THE TABERNACLE OF GOD IN THE WILDERNESS

Now the nation of Israel – former slaves – are now 12 tribes traveling in the wilderness. **What does God say he wants? In Exodus 25:1-7 God** tells Israel to bring gold, silver, fine linen, blue and purple and scarlet thread, ram's skins and badger skins, and acacia wood and oil and spices and various precious stones. Why did he say that?

Exodus 25:8-9

"and let them make Me **a sanctuary, that I may DWELL AMONG them.** 9 According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacleso you shall make it."

Here again, God is saying he wants to be with the people, on the ground, not just at the top of the mountain. The Hebrew word for "dwell" among there can mean "settle down, to dwell with, to lie down and rest with or just abide with".

So understand this: this awesome God who terrified them with his power with the 10 commandments – earthquakes, fire and smoke, loud shofar blast – now wants to CAMP with the camping Israelites, **On the ground! His desire was to DWELL or even TABERNACLE with them! That lasted for**

many centuries with God's presence in the tabernacle among the Israelites.

But then David felt motivated to build a temple for God.

David and the TEMPLE: Read on your own 2 Samuel 7. Later on, hundreds of years later, The God of all the earth is still in a TENT. This bothered David and so he wanted to build a temple for God, and God was pleased. This became known as the House of God.

GOD was going to dwell with the Israelites from his temple, sitting on top the **Mercy Seat**, which was the lid or top of the ARK of the covenant in the Holy of Holies. Remember the Mercy Seat of God was ABOVE the law, the 10 commandments within the ark of the covenant. This all pointed to his grace. And that "Mercy triumphs *over* judgment" (**James 2:13**).

So God chose one nation – Israel – **and lived among them** through his **presence – the Shekinah glory** – this time in His Holy of Holies in God's House the temple, in Jerusalem. Of course He is in heaven, but YHVH can be everywhere, anywhere, at same time.

In the end, Israel didn't appreciate YHVH living among them, sinned heavily against Him – and the short story is: God sent the 10 tribes of the Kingdom of Israel into captivity. Then later God destroyed the Temple built by Solomon, and then sent Judah also into captivity. Judah returned after 70 years. That's a warning for us today, too, as we'll see. **We must appreciate God living among us.**

Here we are at the Feast of Tabernacles or "Sukkot" in Hebrew. We daily ask for our Father's and our Savior's presence to be with us and all Feast sites around the world. In a sense, *we are all experiencing right now God's desire to Tabernacle with us* – because after all, He is the one who asked us to be at His Feast of Tabernacles.

So what have we seen so far? In the beginning, God dwelt openly with Adam and Eve, walking and talking with them in the cool of the day. Then when Israel left Egypt, God asked for **a tabernacle of his own, for his tent**, his own booth, in their midst – right on the ground with them in the wilderness. Then David was inspired to prepare for a real temple for God, built by Solomon. Again- God living among his people.

SO what happened NEXT?

We can read over and over again the expression, "Then the Word of the LORD came to Jeremiah"... or to Ezekiel or others. I believe "the Word"

should be capitalized. I believe those prophets saw and heard this One being called "the WORD of the LORD" – was the one who became Jesus Christ.

The WORD BECAME FLESH TO TABERNACLE WITH MAN

Then John identifies "the WORD" that we keep reading about in the OT!!

John 1:1-3

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

Remember THE WORD was God. It keeps getting better:

John 1:14

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt (tabernacled --YLT) among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The word "dwelt" in the Greek: skenoo--4637, from skenos (4636) – tent, abode, to encamp, to pitch a tent.

Young's Literal Translation says:

"The Word (Yeshua) became flesh and TABERNACLED among us...."

The Word was called **Yeshua/Jesus** - "Savior".

"And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, **for it is He who will SAVE His people from their sins**" (Matthew 1:21)

He was also to **be IMMANUEL** – "GOD WITH us". God is WITH us, God is *for* us. The King of the Universe, God MOST High, sent his eternal companion to us, **and part of what He was called was – "GOD WITH US".**

As GOD, he was – in the flesh – worshipped – at birth, and throughout his life in many examples. THIS WORD – made flesh – Yeshua – WAS WORSHIPPED. Now when men tried to worship Paul and Barnabas (Acts 14)– they forbad it. When John tried to worship an ordinary angel – the angel forbad it (Rev 19:10)

The blind man of John 9:35-38 worshipped him – **and Jesus allowed it because you CAN worship GOD.** Jesus was GOD on earth and even in the flesh, allowed people to worship him without it being sin (Matt. 8:2; 9:18; 14:33; 15:25)

But he's not done about dwelling among us, with his people! He's always loved doing that and is doing it again, right now. *It gets better. But we've just seen that the Word of God became flesh and tabernacled with mankind for over 30 years.*

When's the next promise of YHVH tabernacling with humans?

GOD NOT JUST WITH US, BUT IN US....

Almighty god takes it to the next level. Not just to live near us or among us or from a tabernacle or temple or walk among us as the Messiah... there's more! Here's what Messiah says.

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; **and My Father will love him, and WE will come to him and make Our home with him**".

Some of you are thinking about being baptized into **Christ** and his name. What's holding you back? If you are baptized and receive God's Holy Spirit, you are about to receive company! God and Jesus want to come live in you by their spirit!

All of this became possible when Jesus died on the cross for you and me. It was showing you the value God and Jesus place on you – worthy of Him dying for you –so you could be in the very family of God. Jesus now dwells in our hearts (Ephesians 3:17) – and is returning soon.

One thought here: people often ask, "when do you think Christ will return to earth?". I mentioned that question to my wife Carole, and her response was deep, rapid and to the point. Without hesitation she said, "**For us in the Body of Christ, he's already here, inside us**. He's come already – into our hearts through faith." **Ephesians 3:17**. Do you realize that? When Christ comes to live in us, he comes representing the Kingdom of God. So the Kingdom of God is near us, within us, when that happens.

God's desire for you and me is for us to be among His first fruits of those being saved, those in the first resurrection, those first in the family of God and we will have a 1,000 year head start of being with our Messiah, our Fiancé!

Listen to my sermons on "Your Breathtaking Destiny".

Christ in our hearts, is now our LIFE. **Read Col. 3:3-4.**

That's why Paul said – "I don't live any longer. It's Christ who lives in me."

Galatians 2:20-21

"I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved ME and gave Himself for me.

21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

How TRUE. And our lives should be living examples of what lives ruled by the Kingdom of God should be like. We're still corruptible flesh, we still fail, but we should be letting this heavenly king and his kingdom shine thru us.

Our God wants to be in our lives. Why is Yeshua the King knocking on the door of the Church at Laodicea? Why is he outside at all? (**Revelation 3:20-21**). God's very polite. He doesn't just barge in. He knocks. OPEN your door to your heart to Christ! Tell him you want him to come into your life. He'll come in and dine with you – just like Gen 18 with Abraham. Let him in!

WE'RE ALSO IN GOD – in Christ AND GOD

A KEY POINT to really internalize: God the Father and the Son of God not only come into us – but WE somehow come into the Father and the son. Yes, imperfect you and I **come into the Father himself, and comes into us.** Just how does that happen?

Colossians 3:2-4

"SET your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For YOU died, and your life is hidden with Christ IN God. (GOT that?)

4 When **Christ who is our life** appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

Hallelujah and glory be to Abba, God our Father – who lets US be in Christ – and Christ to be in HIM, in God. So ALL my horrible sins are washed away in the blood of Christ (1 John 1:7,9) and continue to be washed away in an ongoing way every time I come in prayer in repentance and asking for the washing by the blood of Christ and by the water of the WORD over me.

*So not only are God and Christ in US – but we are IN THEM. And they WANT you to come live with them, be with THEM. We are in CHRIST -- so think of yourself now as **now as part of His BODY.** You're the index finger, let's say. SO everywhere Christ himself goes, you're THERE. You're part of him, clean and holy. No body part of Christ (you) is unholy or dirty.*

1 John 4:15-16

"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, **GOD abides in him, and he IN GOD**. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and **he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.**"

How on earth do flimsy mortals with so many faults –possibly live IN holy, holy, holy perfect God the FATHER? Here's the answer again:

Colossians 3:3 again

"YOU died, YOUR life is hidden with Christ in God."

So GOD is TABERNACLING WITH US NOW, AS HIS TEMPLE**When someone comes to VISIT or to LIVE with us – WE PREPARE.**

We clean house. We tidy up. Now God Almighty is coming to live in us. Clean up! What kind of clean, glorious temple are we making for God? I'll be giving a sermon in future on how we must overcome by Christ in us. Ask God to help us clean up his temple – OUR LIVES – TO BE PLEASING to him.

More on the video

The other thing that happens: when people LIVE together, they really come to know each other. Jesus becomes our life. Yeshua and Father really get to know us as they live in us and us in them. Father is in us too. **They SEE what we see.** They experience for real, what we experience. They know us intimately, our every fear, every concern, every worry, every joy we have. AND, also every sin we commit. They're right there.

(More on the video)

And if sins continue as our way of life, we will eventually lose God's Spirit. So David had to pray, "Take not your spirit from me... renew a right spirit, create in me a clean heart o God." **Psalm 51**

Psalms 51:10-12

"Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And **do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.**

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit."

Father is someday going to give each of us a new name and a new assignment. He will explain that you could not have done that assignment without first having gone through everything he is putting you through.

Hebrews 2:10

"For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, **to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.**"

1 Peter 5:10

"But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle YOU.**"

So Jesus understands. He was made more complete, perfected by suffering. (also **Heb 5:7-9**). Next we see what Peter teaches us.

ROYALTY – TIME TO STOP ACTING LIKE COMMONERS

1 Peter 2:5

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

1 Peter 2:9-10

"But you ARE a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people,..... that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy"

1 Peter 2 :9 says we are right now, a royal priesthood, right now. We're not just preparing to be priests, but ARE royal priests right NOW. And in Christ, we are no longer condemned and cut off from God, even when we sin – as Paul explains in Rom 7 and 8.

WHY are we a royal priesthood?

"To DECLARE the praises of him who called us out of darkness..."

God works in BOLDNESS, not in timidity. Let's declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light – like 1 Peter 2:9 says.

GOD DEMANDS A CLEAN, HOLY TEMPLE

When we plan on having company, probably most of us do some clean-up around the house.

ALMIGHTY GOD wants to come home and LIVE in you and you live with him JESUS CHRIST, my commander and LORD, also is coming to stay.

Jesus cast out the money changers and crooks from his father's house. He "cleaned house". We are now in Christ. In HIM.

KING HEZEKIAH GOT THIS (2 Kings 18). *God wants to live in a clean house. So Hezekiah cleaned out the house of God which had fallen into decline. It had become a garbage dump. It was full of pagan idols. KING JOSIAH did the same later. 2 Kings 22.*

It's time. It's way past time— that each of us takes much more seriously how God wants to come into our lives. Hezekiah threw out the garbage, pagan idols and repaired the House of God. Are YOU doing that with YOUR temple?

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

"Do you not know that YOU are the TEMPLE of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, WHICH TEMPLE YOU ARE."

"Temple" in Greek here is "naos". Though it can refer to the whole structure, it can also refer to the holy of holies. That is where God dwelt, after all. When God our Father and Christ come live inside us by their spirit -- GOD —expects us to CHANGE. HE doesn't want a defiled home.

I'm guilty. I began to realize that all too often I had taken the presence of the Most High inside of me for granted – and at times in my life, I got careless and let the House of God - my own life – get defiled.

I SPEAK TO ALL here: we cannot let old sins have safe harbor in our lives year after year. We can't keep doing the same ol' familiar sins year after year either. If we are, we have GRIEVED the Holy Spirit in us.

REMEMBER 1 Pet 2:9 says we're royal priests under Christ; right NOW; not later- right NOW. GET that.

Let's not be acting like the rest of the world, like commoners, like common people but like royal children of the Highest! When we get angry

while driving- - we don't flip people off; we never ever use F word, or toilet words. We're royalty. Let's speak, act and live like royal children of God.

But where are you and I getting sloppy?

- **SABBATH KEEPING?**
- *Not being the husband or wife we should be?*
- *time wasted on too much Facebook or social media?*

I'm giving a sermon soon, I hope, on overcoming... so can't go into that now here for time's sake. But we **MUST** be overcomers. Changing. Converting. Be transformed. It's really letting Christ shine in our lives more.

This is really what God tabernacling with us is all about. We **really get to know someone we live with.** And Father and Christ – believe me – really get to know us.

Over time, people should see more and more of Christ and less and less of us. Just as John the Baptist said – more of him, less of me.

John 3:30

"HE MUST INCREASE BUT I MUST DECREASE"

Seeing and foretelling The END FROM The BEGINNING

Revelation 21:1-2

"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw **the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**"

Who knows what the NEXT verse says?

Revelation 21:3

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "**Behold, the TABERNACLE of God is with MEN, and He will DWELL with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.**"

Remember The End from the Beginning concept (Isaiah 46:10)?

The beautiful Garden of Eden and access to our wonderful God will be here on earth again, in its fullness.

YHVH was with mankind at Eden. He was with Israel in the wilderness. Then he came as a man and tabernacled /lived with us on earth. And then he says God the Father and Yeshua want to come live in US (John 14:23). In this

sense, **it's a restoration of Eden** – with YHVH – both the father and Son – restored to their creation and tabernacling with them.

My brothers and my sisters, you children of God, enjoy God's feast of Tabernacles and all it means.

- Be ecstatic that you have GOD – both God the Father and Yeshua working so unitedly as ONE – living inside you by their Spirit.
- **God demands a holy house to live in.** We have to be “cleaning house”. We have *come to HATE sin and hate it when we FAIL*. We're changing by abiding In the Vine (Jesus) – which causes us to bear much fruit. John 15:5
- And now also live in God himself, through Christ. It's a mystery – hard to fully understand – but it sure is exciting. **Colossians 3:3**
- **And what power, what glory for God that we could all be demonstrating if we all would just learn to open the door to Yeshua** and let God shine through us and work in us. What power, what glory, what love and joyful living, what an example, what miracles – if we would just do it.

I recommend you listen to my sermon on **Constant Contact**. It's about inviting Christ into your life, your thoughts and your heart frequently so that our lives are really Christ living in you and me.

Have a wonderful remainder of the Feast of Tabernacles with one another – and with our Great God Most High, our Great Father and Son of God through the Holy Spirit flowing among and in us.

Closing prayer.