

#1

The Tabernacle, Part 6: A Kingdom of Priests

God is intimating a change that He plans on making in His people.

God has taken decisive action:

He has called them out of Egypt

He has called them to come to Him

He has called them into worship

He has said: "you shall be to Me a kingdom of priest and a holy nation."

#2

Exodus 19:5-6 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

God is telling them that before He is finished with them they will be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

They really have no idea what God is calling them into.

They will be a Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation.

They struggled in this area of worship.

#3

It is important to remember the history of man.

In **Eden**, their sin excluded them from the presence of God.

Able offered an acceptable sacrifice to God, but **Cain** attempted to worship God in his own wisdom.

This is the first period in history where a distinction is made between those who are of faith and the world.

Men began to multiply and congregate in cities.

Cain went into the land of Nod laying the foundations of a kingdom in which 'the spirit of the beast' prevails.

The descendents of **Seth** gathered around an open profession of faith in God's promises, and man's purpose to serve God.

It is noteworthy that after the birth of **Enosh** *men began to call on the name of the Lord*, (Genesis 4:26).

The Godly line follows to **Cainan, Mahaleel, Jarod, and Enoch**.

#4

Enoch was the seventh from Adam.

Enoch stood out as one man who walked with God. After **Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech**, and then **Noah**.

The race of man became a wicked and godless civilization.

Only **Noah** found grace in the eyes of God.

He preached to a universally corrupt and rebellious people for 120 years without results.

After the flood the descendents of Noah repopulated the earth; very little is said of a relation to or worship of God.

Shem, Eber, Peleg, Joktan

Job is a distant relative of Shem from the land of UZ.

The Bible calls Job a righteous man.

#5

The tower of **Babel**, represents cultural, social, and personal rebellion against God.

Their independence, pride, and disobedience were in direct rebellion against God's commands.

The Babylonians interpreted "Babel" to mean "the gate of the god."

Babel is related to the city Babylon, and the Babylonian god Marduk.

From the confusion of languages and dispersion of people came the many nations.

#6

Abraham is the next person mentioned who hears the voice of God.

God called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldeans in Mesopotamia, a center of pagan idolatry.

Abram was called out from the land, people, and gods of his father Terah, to serve the Living God.

Worship and service to God was not organized.

The Patriarchs were the individuals who had a relationship with God.

Very few individuals are mentioned in relation with God.

יְהוָה עוֹלָם אֵל

Yehôvâh ˙owlâm êl

The Lord, Jehovah, God Everlasting was the God of Abraham, and then Isaac, and Jacob

Jacob's sons were exposed to the God of Jacob.

Joseph was sold into Egypt.

Egypt was corrupted by paganism.

Later Jacob and his family go into Egypt.

From Sinai, God calls them to come out of Egypt and worship Him.

From this history it is evident that the called out people did not have a full appreciation of what that means.

God made promises to Abraham about his descendents.

Now, through Moses, God is brings them out of Egypt to worship Him.

Everything God is telling Moses is new for them.

For the first time in history, God is instituting corporate worship.

Watch the people and you realize they do not understand what the Holy Almighty God requires.

Repeatedly, God demonstrates His holiness, power, and majesty.

The people did not know how to come close to God.

So, God gives instruction to Moses for the people.

The purpose for the Sinai discourse with Moses is to prepare a people for the Lord.

From the Mount of God, the people hear His voice and see frightening evidence of His holiness and power.

Now, God starts laying out the plans and format of a worship and lifestyle they are to enter.

It is important to remember who they are and where they came from.

Although they refer to their fathers; Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the people are just starting to personally engage and encounter the living God.

God is ready to bring them near.

He is ready to absorb them into this relationship and fellowship.

He has devised and provided a covering and atonement for them.

He is ready to dwell in the midst of His people.

While Moses in on the Mountain with God, the people revert to the form and ritual of Egypt.

God is ready for them, but they are not ready for God.

God is revealing more of Himself than they are willing or able to take in.

God is ready to inhabit the praises of His people.

God is ready to tabernacle with them.

God is prepared to bring His people into a close fellowship.

So God told Moses every step that was required for the people to enter into His presence for cleansing, atonement, worship, and fellowship.

#9

*God is prepared to tabernacle with them.
He wants to pull them into the Holy of Holies.
He wants to sanctify them so He can come near.*

When you come into the tabernacle one of the first pieces of furniture that you see is the laver.

It was a great bath.
It was a place of baptism.
It was a place for cleansing.

#10

Exodus 30:19 "Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and feet thereat"

The penalty for neglecting to wash was very severe.

Exodus 30:20, 21 "they shall wash with water *that they die not*"

The outward symbol of impurity was punishable with death.

God required them to be clean before they entered into His presence.

#11

Do you know that God is HOLY?

What does that look like?

This area of fellowship is new for them.

Once we begin to understand what a Holy God is, we must evaluate what we must look like.

What does the impure heart look like in the sight of God?

How do you prepare the body, mind, and spirit for God's presence?

The priests were required to draw near to God, with clean hands and feet, and a pure heart.

No worship can be pleasing to God, if the heart is polluted.

The difference was life or death.

The concept is overwhelming.

This place indicates an approach to God's holy presence.

It is required to do so in as holy and righteous manner as humanly possible.

#12

The brazen altar pointed to the atonement, and the laver to sanctification.

The brazen altar point to the blood that cancels the guilt of sin.

At the laver the defilement of sin can be washed away.

These two places became valuable in the fellowship and worship of Almighty God.

Before entrance into the Holy place a priest must wash.

At the age of 30, the worshipper was brought to the laver and was baptized.

When he came out of the water, he was a priest unto God.

God is indicating through them something He institutes within the Church.

#13

1 Peter 2:9 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.

#14

Has He called you out?

If He has called you out, He has provided the washing and cleansing you need.

When you were washed and made clean by the work of the Holy Spirit, you became consecrated as a priest unto God.

You were raised up to function as a priest unto God.

When He brought you into Christ, He raised you up as a new creation.

God brought you out to worship Him.

Worship is for God's pleasure.

How we feel has nothing to do with worship.

You are called to worship God because you are a kingdom of priests unto God.

#15

Exodus 19:6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

#16

Exodus 19:7-8 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. Then all the people answered together and said, "***All that the Lord has spoken we will do.***" So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord.

Did you hear what they said?

"All that the Lord has spoken we will do."

When Moses laid all of these words before them it sounded good to them.

They really did not understand what God was saying.

It is difficult to worship the Holy God.

They did not know God.

They had not been face to face with God.

They had not been on the Holy Mountain with Him.

They did not know what they were saying.

They had not removed their shoes on holy ground.

Even Moses, found the presence of the Holy God to be more than he could stand.

Often he was overwhelmed in the presence of God.
It will cost you something to really be a worshipper of God.
You are going to have to go through some things if you are going to worship God; if you are going to stand before Him.

Here is a group of people who came out of bondage and they have never known what it is like to hear God speak.

God was instituting a new form of worship.

They had not lived in the presence of God.

#17

Now, the Almighty God is starting to reveal His glory and power to them.

They have been brought out of Egypt to worship the Living God.

They have not witnessed a god like this.

It is no wonder they are fearful.

Every god they had ever seen was made of brass, wood, or stone.

They never knew a God that could talk.

He is able to make His glory known.

The earth responds to His presence.

No wonder they wanted to go back.

They knew Egypt.

You get used to bad situations.

There had been 10 generations of slaves in Egypt.

Egypt represents sin and the world.

#18

Worshipping God brought them to new experiences.

They did not know anything about mountains shaking.
They did not know anything about fire falling.
They did not know anything about trumpets sounding.
They had not heard the voice of God.

It is natural to want to go back to Egypt, to what is familiar.

There is something very calm about worshipping a dead god.

God has to wean them from their past.

Here are millions of people, out in the desert; going out to meet God.

The people did not know what to expect.

God did not give them many details.

They had not known His miracles until He brought the plagues down on Egypt, and delivered them through the Red Sea.

They had not been to Sinai before.

They had not seen the burning bush.

They did not have the privilege of knowing what Moses knew.

They had not been on holy ground with God.

Moses had taken off his shoes on holy ground.

They had not worshipped Him.

Moses had seen the fire of God.

He had heard the Voice of God.

They were going toward something they could not explain.

They had witnessed His power.

They saw the plagues on Egypt.

They saw the Red Sea open.

They saw the pillar of fire and the pillar of a cloud.

Now they are going to meet with God.

They were just like Abraham.

He was looking for city whose builder and maker was God.

Abraham was just following God.

He did not have the details.

God just wanted him to follow.

Walk by faith and not by sight.

These people did not even know where they were going, but they were following God.

They were being drawn toward the presence of God.