

Worshipping In The Tent Door Exodus 33; 01-10

Ex 33:1 ¶ "And the LORD said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I swore unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it: 2 And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite: 3 Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way."

I want us to see a prophetic picture of the Church of Salvation by Grace from these verses. We notice that God tells Moses, lead these people to the land of promise and I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the idolatrous inhabitants of the land of promise before you. God tells Israel: I will not personally go with you lest I consume you all in my anger. How do we see the church of today in this scene? Just as with Israel, God the Father does not dwell personally with us, and does not personally lead us on life's journey, through this wilderness world to our eternal land of promise. If God dwelt among us, He would quickly become angry and destroy us. However, we have one advantage over Israel, which is our intercessor, not Moses who was the intercessor for Israel, but Jesus Christ. Jesus came into the world in a prepared body, and Jesus died upon the cross to abate God's anger toward us. God's anger towards our sins is pacified through the finished work of Jesus. God sends us the Holy Spirit, which is greater than an angel, to dwell in us and lead us on our pilgrimage. We give thanks and praise to Jesus, for abating God's anger toward us, and giving us the promise of eternal life, with God and with Jesus, in the eternal place Jesus has gone to prepare for us.

2 "And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite:" When you are born again, you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God, and the Holy Spirit power of Christ in us, which like God cannot behold sin with the least degree of allowance, drives out the former inhabitants of our hearts. Wherefore, **"the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite:"** are a picture of what we are told is in the heart of the unregenerate in **Mt 15:19-20; 19 "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man:"** Well, you ask, what about the inherited sin nature of the flesh. When you are born again and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, you are given a new nature for the flesh, which is the pure sinless nature of Christ, as testified by scripture, seen in **2 Pe 1:2-4; 2 "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."**

Another advantage we have over Israel is that we have the complete King James bible, whereas, with Israel the bible was being written as they went along, and God supplied the law commandments as needed. It is beyond my comprehension, to grasp the totality of the multitude of the blessing bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ, over the blessing of God to Israel. Another advantage that we have over Israel is the promise of Jesus Christ in **Heb 13:5 "for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."** The one thing we share, in common, is as Israel had the promise of God **"I will send an angel before thee;"** we also have the promise of Jesus Christ that we are God's people, and He will never leave nor forsake us.

4 "And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments. 5 For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore, now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee. 6 And the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb. 7 ¶ And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp. 8 And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle. 9 And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the

tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. 10 And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door."

In verses 4-7 we see that Israel received the tidings that God himself was not going with them but his angel. They hear God telling them they are a stiffnecked people, and it cuts them to the heart. God commands them to lay aside all their ornaments, which leaves them without anything to plead with God except repentant hearts. In this scene we see a picture of the child of Grace, having been born again, and realizing that they have nothing to bring to God, for all their vain works are as filth in the sight of God. They only have hearts filled with repentance for their sins, and this can only be brought to God through Jesus Christ. As Israel laid aside all the ornaments, we must lay aside all our works and rely solely on the finished work of Jesus Christ, that the mercy of God may be extended to us.

Next, we see that Moses removed the tabernacle of the congregation from being in the midst of this stiffnecked people and Moses calls it the Tabernacle of the congregation (with a capital T), which is the picture of the New Testament Church, the Church of Salvation by the Grace of God. Seeing the Tabernacle was set apart from sinful Israel, demonstrates to us the separation of the New Testament from the world. Thus, we see the born-again sinner, who is seeking God, leaving the wilderness of sin and going unto the Church outside the sinful camp.

Next, Moses enters the tabernacle, and God descends upon it in the cloudy pillar. When Israel sees this, every man stands in their tent door and watches. When God descends upon the tabernacle He converses with Moses, who is the picture of our intercessor Jesus Christ, with whom God the Father was in constant contact, while Jesus was on earth in the prepared body. We know this because Jesus said in **Joh 11:42** *"And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me."* As Jesus, on earth in His prepared body, was in constant contact with God the Father in heaven: so, the Holy Spirit in the Child of God is in constant contact with God the Father.

Seeing the pillar of God descend upon the tabernacle with Moses in it, all the people rose up and worshipped God. Surely you can see the picture of Jesus ascending to his place on the eternal throne of God, which is indeed afar off from the sinful camp. When we see, and understand, our intercessor has ascended back to heaven, from whence he came, we rise up and worship God. Why? Because we know from the scriptures that Jesus, our intercessor, has accomplished the will of God the Father, in the eternal remission of our sins, and granted to us the promise of eternal life in Christ. There is no name given among men whereby more honor and glory should be bestowed upon than that of Jesus.

Jesus and God, the Father, are still communication about us in the eternal heaven. How do we know this? We are told in **Ro 8:34** *"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."*

One other picture we draw from the scene of Moses entering the tabernacle, is the picture of the vail of the temple being rent in twain when Christ died upon the cross on our behalf. This is when Jesus entered into the most holy place for us and the mercy seat was exposed to all the children of God, seen in **Heb 6:19-20; 17** *"Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: 18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: 19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."* Just as Moses continued to plead and make intercessions with God for Israel; today Jesus is pleading and making intercessions to God for us, which is why Jesus told us in **Joh 15:16** *"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."* God chose Israel to be the nation of people to bear His name upon the earth. God has chosen the Children of God, the New Testament Church, to bear His name upon the earth.

Ex 33:10 *And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door."* When we are enabled to grasp the scene of the Son of God descending from heaven in his prepared body, and that prepared body hanging upon the cross on our behalf;

there is nothing we can do but, like Israel, fall upon our faces and worship our God and Saviour. You say, but preacher it says that they rose up and worshipped God, not that they fell on their faces. Yes, that is true, but it tells us in verse 8 that they were standing in their tent doors. Now, if they were standing, how can they rise up and worship God? They must go from "***standing in their tent doors,***" to falling on their faces when the presence of God descended upon the door of the Tabernacle. Once they have fallen on their faces before the presence of God, they can rise up and worship God in Spirit and Truth. The same thing applies to every Child of God. Before we receive the new birth, we are standing in our tent doors, trusting in our own works for our salvation. When we see Jesus, descended to earth and dying on the cross for our sins, we fall upon our faces before God, just like Saul on the Damascus road. Then, having received the assurance of our eternal salvation, we can stand, each in his own tent door, upon the solid rock of the finished work of Jesus and worship God in Spirit and Truth.

What a wonderful thing, for God to give us a prophetic picture of his Church of Salvation By The Grace Of God in the Old Testament scriptures. What a Joy to know that we have an active intercessor in heaven pleading for us, which keeps us from being destroyed by God's anger for our sins. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound; that saved a wretch like me! Hallelujah! Amen!