

HOSTS OF HIS PRESENCE

Houses of Light Church • April 15-16, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

Ez. 37:27-28

"My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 28 Then the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The Father's heart has always been to dwell among His children throughout all generations. That is the story of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. From the Garden of Eden to the consummation of time when the New Jerusalem (heaven) comes down to earth this is the Father's narrative behind everything that happens.

Gen. 3:8 "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife..."

Rev. 22:3-4 "No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads."

II. THE FIRST TABERNACLE

- A. When we look at the first tabernacle that God ordered with its regulations and even the priesthood itself, we realize that the Father's purpose was for the people to host His presence in their midst.

Lev. 26:12 "And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people."

- B. In fact, the name of that place that God ordered was also called "***tent of meeting***" because God's purpose was to meet His people on a daily basis.

Éx. 29:42 "It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there."

- C. Even the sanitary and grooming regulations were meant to host His beautiful and holy presence.

Deut. 23:14 "Because the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you."

- D. They were not ordinances for the purpose of being religious but because the Lord was walking among His people to protect them and give them victory over their enemies.

III. THE RELEVANCE OF THE SECOND TABERNACLE

- A. When David became king, the Lord's throne had been in "exile" outside of Israel for a century. In the battle of Aphek, the Philistines had captured the ark, and although it was returned seven months later, it was sent to the house of Abinadab

of Kiriath-jearim, a Gibeonite town in an area populated jointly by the tribes of Judah and Benjamin.

1 Sam. 4:10-11 *"So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. ¹¹ And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died."*

- B. After David conquered Jerusalem and made it his capital, he soon decided to bring the ark to the city. For the first time in a century, the ark was back where it belonged, in the midst of Israel, and for the first time it resided in Jerusalem. The "tent that David had pitched for it" (1 Chron. 16:1) was the first sanctuary Israel established in Jerusalem, and was the only place of worship ever erected in Zion.

2 Sam. 6:17 *"And they brought in the ark of the Lord and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord."*

- C. This Tabernacle is something very big before God and for the people of God for at least seven very important reasons:

1. It is great because the tabernacle of David was the first dwelling place of the Lord in Jerusalem, which came to be called *'The City of the Great King'*.

Psal. 48:1-2 *"¹Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, ² beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King."*

2. It is great because David's tent was the only sanctuary ever established on Mount Zion, and because Zion is one of the main symbols of Scripture.

Psal. 2:6 *"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."*

3. It is great because David is a central character in the Old Testament and certainly with Adam one of the two main Old Testament characters who are a type of Christ (Lk. 1:32) and because according to Chronicles his greatest achievement was the reorganization of worship in preparation for the temple.

1 Chrón. 25:1 *"David and the chiefs of the service also set apart for the service the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who prophesied with lyres, with harps, and with cymbals..."*

2 Chrón. 23:18 *"And Jehoiada posted watchmen for the house of the Lord under the direction of the Levitical priests and the Levites whom David had organized to be in charge of the house of the Lord, to offer burnt offerings to the Lord, as it is written in the Law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, according to the order of David."*

4. It is great because it was the time when singing began to play an important and even predominant role in worship.

2 Chrón. 5:13 *"They were all under the direction of their father in the music in the house of the Lord with cymbals, harps, and lyres for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the order of the king."*

7 The number of them along with their brothers, who were trained in singing to the Lord, all who were skillful, was 288."

5. It is great because it is part of the climactic picture in Amos' prophecy for the end times before Jesus returns.

Am. 9:11 "In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old,"

6. It is great because James spoke of this at the first church council, precisely quoting the prophecy of Amos.

Acts. 15:14-18 "...James replied, "Brothers, listen to me. 14 Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from 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 I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, 17 that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things 18 known from of old."

7. It is great because it foreshadowed the joyous heavenly assembly to which we ascend in worship, which in turn is a foretaste of the assembly at the end of all things.

Rev. 5:9 "nd they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation;"

IV. THE CALL OF THE CHURCH TO HOST HIS PRESENCE

Ef. 2:21-22 "in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by[e] the Spirit."

- A. When we see how God, in David's time, wanted the nation to establish and support singers and musicians to minister before Him day and night, we must know that this desire in God's heart has not changed for his church. **If He established His nation with continuous worship at its center, why would the church format be a service we attend on the weekends with a few moments of worship to "prepare" the preaching?**

- B. **Based on all this, we understand that just as the nation of Israel was a people centered on His presence through worship and prayer, the Church must function in a similar way.**

1 Ped. 2:5 "you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

- C. We all recognize Jesus' outrage at the Temple in the first century because they left out the very reason the temple existed: **worship and prayer day and night.**

Lc. 19:45-46 *"And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, ⁴⁶ saying to them, 'It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."*

- D. For the church to thrive in the midst of the looming crises, it must reclaim its prophetic calling to be a house of prayer for all nations. And this is our calling as a church to be a community centered on the person and presence of Jesus through ongoing worship and prayer in all aspects of church life: services, house of prayer, friendship and restoration groups, business, etc.
- E. Our worship leaders are not artists, but prophets who declare the word of the Lord through song. Our goal is to have a biblical vision of what it means to be a psalmist, a singer or a musician, who is anointed to prophesy with instruments and sing the word of the Lord to build Him a resting place just as David did.

Sal. 132:1-5 and 8 *"Remember, O Lord, in David's favor, all the hardships he endured, ² how he swore to the Lord and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob, ³ 'I will not enter my house or get into 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,... ⁸ Arise, O Lord, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might.,"*

V. CONCLUSION

- A. The song of the Lord being released in an anointed atmosphere of God's glory was not only for the Tabernacle of David, but also for our meetings today. **And we need it more than ever because it is the presence of Jesus that fills and transforms everything.**
- B. The very presence of the Tabernacle of David on earth not only changed the global worship movement for God's people in all ages, but also forever established a physical and prophetic emblem for the centerpiece of heaven's governmental structure in the earth. **The Church is the center of government of God on earth now and therefore it is crucial to exercise our call to host the presence of God and pray what is in His heart.**

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **This Wednesday April 19 at 6:30 p.m.** The house of prayer will be having a fundraising dinner to share what God has done and the vision of what He wants to do as we continue to host his presence. **Space is limited, please register at www.nhop.la or at the table outside.**
2. **Parents, we want your feedback!** Please complete this survey to tell us how we can better serve you and your family in our ministry to children and teens. **Scan the QR code on the screen or if you prefer to do it by hand you can fill out the sheet and give it to an usher at the end of the service!**