## **Types And Shadows: Wilderness journey**

- After being set free from bondage and slavery and then passing through the Red Sea the Israelites begin their wilderness journey. This wilderness journey will be a type and shadow of earthly lives after salvation. The final destination is the Promised Land.
- The Israelites did not have permanent homes in their wilderness journey, but rather lived in tents that were temporary. These tents were taken down and put up at the camp where God would lead them. At the center of the camp was always the Tabernacle where the ceremonial sacrifices and ordinances would take place and where Yahweh's presence would dwell in the Holy of Holies. All the tents were arranged according to their tribes (Numbers 2:1-3:39) and subsets of the Levites (Numbers 3-4) would be camped the closest around the Tabernacle.
- The Tabernacle was always at the center of the camp, and it was to go with the Israelites wherever they went.
- The tents the Israelite camped in represent the temporary nature of the journey.
  - Tents is also the analogy Paul uses to describe our bodies while we are on our wilderness journey marching to the promised land.
    - 2 Corinthians 5:1-5 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup> For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, <sup>3</sup> inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup> Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.
  - The tents the Israelites used were temporary until they reached the Promised Land and this is the same for us. We are nomads journeying through the wilderness of life living in our tents until we enter our permanent dwelling (the Promised Land).
  - As we are in our earthly tents, just like the Israelites had the Tabernacle in the center when they camped, so should God and His presence be the center of our lives.

- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- and dwelt  $\grave{\epsilon}\sigma\kappa\acute{\eta}\nu\omega\sigma\epsilon\nu$  4637: to have one's tent, dwell, tabernacle from skéné (eskēnōsen)
  - God tabernacled us and had His tent among us!
  - Matthew 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."
- The Israelites received their direction and guidance on where to go and when to go by the pillar of cloud and fire.
  - The fire and cloud did not cease until they reached the Promised Land. This fire and cloud was God(Exodus 13:21)(Exodus 40:34-38)(Numbers 9:15-23)(Nehemiah 9:12). It is God that is leading them in all their ways and guiding them ultimately to the Promised Land. This represents the Holy Spirits' work in our lives to guide us in all our ways and to ensure that we will enter the Promised Land.
- They received manna from heaven for food.
  - The manna did not cease until they reached the Promised Land (Joshua 5:12).
    - Manna, which was the supernatural food, given to the people for food (Exodus 16) is a type and shadow for Jesus as seen in (John 6:31-35). He is the bread of life that sustains us in this life. He gives us His word to feast on and we won't need His physical Word (Bible) in Heaven, because we will be with THE WORD!
- Israel received water from a rock.
  - This rock is Christ (1 Corinthians 10:1-4). In John 7 the setting is at the feast of booths/tabernacles. There was a water ceremony associated with the feast of booths and it would involve the priest drawing water from the pool of Siloam and then pouring it into a basin near the altar. Jesus knows that this festival is about remembrance of His provision of them in the wilderness including with water from a rock. It is here in John 7:34-39 that Jesus uses this water reference to say that the water in the wilderness journeys was physical water, but the water that He would give is spiritual water and would quench the thirst of all who drink forever. We are filled and indwelled with the Spirit of God and drink of Jesus our living water from the time of regeneration onward as we journey in life.
    - The rock was struck the first time so that the water would spill out and quench their thirst (Exodus 17:1-7). Moses's sin was that he was told the second time in

(Numbers 20: 1-12) to only speak to the rock and not strike it for the water to come out. What was the difference this time? The Rock represents Jesus. He was struck (crucified) only once so that the Living water that would quench our spiritual thirst permanently. Now we speak to this Rock for the living waters in prayer for the guidance of His Spirit. We speak and confess He is Lord and speak to ask the Rock for forgiveness, guidance, wisdom, etc via the Holy Spirit. We are able to come and speak to Him because He was struck for us on the cross.

- The feast of booths was the last of the fall festivals (Leviticus 23:33-43). It was the end of the agricultural year when grapes and olives were harvested in Israel. This was a time to give thanks to God for His provision and ask God for His future providence.
  - Other places in the Bible where the feast of booths is mentioned(Not an exhaustive list):
  - This was considered one of if not the most joyful of all the feasts and festivals. The
    people live in tents or booths for 7 days to commemorate and remember living in tents
    in their wilderness journeys and how God provided for them and dwelled among them.
  - Gentiles were allowed to come and worship and learn of Yahweh via the feast of booths, but only through Israel. This is the mystery of the Gospel in the Old Testament.
     (Deuteronomy 31:10-13)
  - The tents were made of foliage of beautiful trees, <u>palm branches</u>, and boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook.
    - o John 12:12-13 On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup> took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and began to shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel."
      - o He tabernacled us, made his tent with us, dwelt with us!
    - o Revelation 7:9-12 On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup> took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and *began* to shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel."
    - o Revelation 21: 1-4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, <sup>4</sup> and He

will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

We are finally being tabernacled by Yahweh, we are in the Promised Land and our earthly tents have been done away with in lieu of our permanent residence.

- Moses could enter the Promised Land.
  - At first glance this may seem unfair since God disqualified Him from entering the Promised Land after one sin (Numbers 20:1-12). The wage of one sin is death (Romans 3:23). If you are guilty of breaking one part of the law, you are guilty of them all (James 2:10)
  - Moses represents the Law which no one will ever be justified (Romans 3:19-20)(Galatians 2:16) and is fitting that he not enter the Promised Land.
  - The one coming after Him, Joshua (who is a type of Christ, whose name is where the name Jesus is derived, and whose name means "God is deliverance") would be the one to lead them into the Promised Land.

There's more to the story!!