

# 1. Worship & the Tabernacle of David

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Sub-title: The Worshipping Church

Today we are launching a new series of messages about worship. We will study God's Word about worship in connection with the Tabernacle of David.

- Worshipping God is the highest expression of our faith
- Worshipping God is/will be a major feature of the end-time church
- We sense a renewed drawing of God's Spirit into the place & practice of worship
- The Tabernacle of David foreshadowed the worshipping church

**James 4:8 (NKJV) *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.***

- As we draw near to God in worship, He draws near to us
- The level & intensity of God's presence in our lives is determined by the level & depth of our worship
- Cleanse your hands – the word “hands” has to do with our practices
- Purify your hearts – the word “hearts” has to do with our attitude
- God is calling us to a renewed level of holiness

## 1. Old Testament Worship versus New Testament Worship

- Although there are many similarities between OT & NT worship, there are certain differences:
  - OT worship was typically worshipping God from afar
  - NT worship is worshipping God by drawing near

**Exodus 24:1–2 (NKJV) *Now He said to Moses, “Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. 2 And Moses alone shall come near the Lord, but they shall not come near; nor shall the people go up with him.”***

- Only Moses was invited to come near to the Lord
- All the others had to stand at a distance and worship God from afar
- In the OT, (typically) only priests, prophets and kings were able to come into the presence of God, and experience God in an intimate way

**Mark 15:37–38 (NKJV)** *And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. 38 Then **the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.***

- In the OT temple, there was a veil (curtain) between the Presence of God and the people
- This curtain was a physical barrier between the presence of God and people
- It also represented a spiritual separation between a holy God and sinful people (Isaiah 59:2)
- Only the High Priest was allowed to go past the curtain into the Presence of God, and only once a year, to offer the blood of the Passover lamb
- When Jesus Christ died on the cross, this curtain was torn from top to bottom to remove the barrier between God and the people
- Now, in the NT, we can draw near to God without any restrictions

**1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)** *Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed **Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.***

**Hebrews 10:19–22 (NKJV)** *Therefore, brethren, **having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, **through the veil**, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.***

## **2. A new and living way of Worship**

- The woman at the well asked Jesus about the correct place for worship

**John 4:19–24 (NKJV)** *The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 **Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.**” 21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 **But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”***

- In the OT:
  - Samaritans worshipped at Mount Gerizim (Mount of blessing)
  - Jews worshipped in Jerusalem (Mount Moriah)
- In the OT, worship of God was focussed on a geographic location
- Jesus told the woman that the hour had come where true worshippers are no longer restricted to a geographical location
- True worshippers worship the Father in spirit and truth
- In spirit (in the realm of the spirit)
- And truth (New Testament truth)
- Vs. 23. ***the Father is seeking such to worship Him ...***
- God is not seeking worship
- He is seeking worshippers!
- God knows:
  - when He has our worship, He also has our heart
  - when He doesn't have our worship, He doesn't have our heart

### **3. God is rebuilding the Tabernacle of David**

**Amos 9:11–12 (NKJV)** *On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and **repair its damages**; I will **raise up its ruins**, and **rebuild it as in the days of old**; **12** That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,” says the Lord who does this thing.*

- The tabernacle of David was primarily about:
  - God's Presence
  - Unrestricted Worship
- God is speaking about a future day when He will raise up the Tabernacle of David which has fallen down:
  - Repair its damages
  - Raise up its ruins
  - Rebuild it as in the days of old

**Acts 15:13–17 (NKJV)** *And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, “Men and brethren, listen to me: **14** Simon has declared how **God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of 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 will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; **17** So that the*

***rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the Lord who does all these things.'***

- Acts chapter 10 onwards became a partial fulfilment of Amos' prophecy concerning the rebuilding of David's Tabernacle
- Since the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross, gentiles (non-Jews) can now be saved and come into the Presence of God

**Salvation Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You sent Your Son Jesus Christ into the world to save me from my sins. I recognise that I have broken Your commandments, and that I was destined for eternity in hell. I also admit that I cannot save myself by my own good deeds. Lord Jesus, I thank You that You have taken the punishment for my sins by dying on the cross. I make a decision now to surrender my whole life to You and everything that I have. I now receive You as my personal Lord and Saviour. I thank You that I am now forgiven, and that I am now born again. Please lead me and guide me and show me Your plan and purpose for my life. Help me to be strong so that I can live according to Your purpose and Your plan for my life. I pray this in Jesus' Name, amen.