

## **INTRODUCTION: EXODUS 25**

John 4:24 (NKJV)

**24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."**

- As I've said before... the order of events in scripture are important
- In John 3 Jesus reveals to Nicodemus that one must be born again, born of the spirit to see the Kingdom of God
- Unless you are born of water (physical birth) and the Spirit (spiritual birth), you cannot enter the kingdom of God
- Then in John 4 Jesus reveals to the Samaritan woman that those who worship God must worship Him in spirit and truth
- We must worship Him in spirit – meaning only those who are born again, born of the Spirit can worship God (we saw that last time)
- If you are not born again, God does not receive your worship because worship is an act of love and only those who are born again love God
- Those who are not born again can acknowledge God's position and power, confess that Jesus is **LORD**
- But the worship God receives is based on a relationship of love and that relationship is only experienced by those who are born again
- But Jesus said... we must also worship Him in truth
- Truth in our culture is subjective... you have your truth, I have my truth... it may be true for you, but I have my own experience
- The temptation is to accept my experience as truth...
- But as we studied Mount Sinai, we saw that God gave Israel an opportunity to grow, to be elevated in their experience through a supernatural encounter with the Presence of God
- Worship gives me the opportunity to grow, to be elevated in my experience of God, to become conscious of the Presence of God
- As I encounter God through worship my concept of **TRUTH** becomes aligned with the author of truth... who is Jesus
- I begin to see life differently... I begin to see what is really going on
- Because the **REAL**, the **TRUE** is in heaven and the **SHADOW**, the **COPY** is on earth

***Paul writing to the Hebrews said...***

Hebrews 8:4–5 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> Since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; <sup>5</sup> who serve ***the copy and shadow of the heavenly things***, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “*See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.*”

- **THUS** the Tabernacle is God’s pattern for worship and through this pattern of worship we experience **ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**

***[SLIDE 1] Last time we looked at the Ark of the Covenant***

- **[SLIDE 2]** The Ark represents God’s case against man, man’s rebellion
- The mercy seat, where the blood of the **LAMB** is applied covers man’s rebellion and man is forgiven of sin
- **[SLIDE 3]** We also looked at the mercy seat and the two cherubim where God speaks to man and the connection to the empty tomb
- Because of what Jesus has done for us we worship God from a place of gratitude and thanksgiving knowing our sins are forgiven
- If you missed that message... I encourage you to watch it on our website [calvarysancllemente.org](http://calvarysancllemente.org)... **ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**

***Today we are going to continue looking at the instruments of worship***

- **[SLIDE 4]** We will look at them in the order they are listed in Exodus
- As I’ve said often... God is a God of revelation and He is revealing Himself to us even in the order the instruments of worship are listed
- We will unveil the mystery of the order once we get through all the instruments of worship listed in the Tabernacle

***[SLIDE 5] The next instrument listed is the Table for the Shewbread***

- Now, I refer to them as instruments and not furnishings because everything was used for the purpose of worshipping God
- The Tabernacle didn’t have couches and tables to put your Bible on or a hook for your purse... everything had a reason and a use
- **[SLIDE 6]** The Table for the Shewbread was placed in the Holy Place opposite the Menorah but the verse I want to focus on is Exodus 25:30

Exodus 25:30 (NKJV)

<sup>30</sup> And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.

***There are 2 TRUTHS I want to unpack for us this morning***

- **[SLIDE 7]** First... the Hebrew Word for Shewbread is “lechem panim”
- It literally means “bread of face” or “bread of presence”
- The 12 loaves represented the 12 tribes of Israel and God said you will set the showbread on the table before Me (in My presence) always
- The first TRUTH I want us to see is simply this... as God’s people we are in the Presence of God always
- This is the default position of the believer
- ***Not one moment of your life is lived outside of God’s Presence***

***John said...***

1 John 4:16 (NKJV)

16 And we have known (know through experience) and believed (to accept) the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

- Everyone who is born again, who has accepted God’s love, who abides or continues in God... the Bible says God is ***IN*** you!
- He Himself, His Presence is ***IN*** you!

Zephaniah 3:17 (NKJV)

17 The LORD your God in your midst (among you), The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet *you* with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”

- ***NOTE:*** The Prophet Zephaniah says... the LORD your God among you
- Literally, the LORD your God in the inward parts or in your heart or in the center of you
- Now let me ask you a question... if God is inside of you... is it possible for you to be away from the Presence of God?
- Is it possible for you to be judged by God?
- If God is inside you and at the same time judging you... then can God bring judgement Himself?
- You might say... what about sin?
- Doesn’t the Bible say your sins have separated you from God?
- The answer is ***NO***... the Bible says your iniquities have separated you from God
- Every person is born into separation from God because of Adam’s sin
- I cover this in detail in a message titled Separated from God

- It's available in the teaching section on our website
- But to further illustrate this, Zephaniah wrote this prophecy just before Judah was taken into captivity for idolatry
- Why is this significant?
- It means when God was saying to Judah... I am in your midst... Judah had already compromised themselves through idolatry
- And yet... God didn't say their fellowship was broken
- Rather from Ezekiel 8 we discover God was present while they were worshipping other gods... this brings up an incredible **REALITY**

**Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)**

**5 Let *your* conduct *be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*"**

- God never leaves us or forsakes us because we are the Bread of Presence... we are always in the Presence of God
- That is the **TRUTH** of our position... even when we do bad things God is with us, watching us, grieving over us... He never leaves us
- You're worried about google... I'd worry about God

***But there is another incredible revelation about the Shewbread***

- The Shewbread were placed on the table in 2 rows of six cakes stacked on top of each other and the priests would put a little Frankincense, which was a very expensive perfume, on the top of each stack
- The sweet smelling fragrance of Frankincense would fill the room
- Every Sabbath, 12 loaves were replaced on the Table of Shewbread and the priests would eat the previous weeks Shewbread
- The previous shewbread was eaten by the priests
- The Rabbis say the bread tasted as if it was freshly baked and taken right out of the hot oven
- So the priests would receive life as they ate the Bread of the Presence

***In John 6, Jesus reads the weekly passage from the Torah (5 Books)***

- The weekly Torah portion is called the Parsha, which is usually taken from the Masoretic Text of the Tanakh (Hebrew Scriptures)
- Every synagogue reads the same passage of Torah and it takes 1 year to go through the Hebrew Scriptures
- On this day... Jesus reads from Exodus 16 and Psalm 78

- Both speak of God giving Manna or Bread from Heaven
- Jesus says in John 6:32 Moses didn't give you the bread from heaven, but my Father in heaven gave you the bread from heaven
- Then He says... the bread from God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world
- Then Jesus says... I am the Bread of Life, I am the Bread of Heaven
- As the priests received life by eating the Bread of the Presence, it was a foreshadow of Jesus, the Bread from Heaven, that gives life
- The Frankincense representing the Presence of Jesus in the Holy Place that would fill the room with a sweet fragrance, a sweet aroma
- So we see a picture of Jesus in the midst of the Holy Place... a sweet smelling aroma, the bread that gives life

***[SLIDE 8] The next instrument of worship is the Menorah***

- It had 7 branches... 3 on each side and 1 in the middle
- 7 is the number of completion, it's a whole or complete number
- It was the sole source of light in the Tabernacle

**Exodus 25:37 (NKJV)**

**37 You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it.**

- NOTE: The lamps "give light in front of it"
- Literally it means the light or the illumination or the dawn will go beyond the face and it gives a picture of the light of the Menorah doing something supernatural by going beyond or further than normal
- The Rabbi's say the light of the Menorah in the Temple would illuminate all of Jerusalem

***There are 3 meanings that can be derived from the Menorah***

- The obvious being Jesus who is the Light of the World (John 8:12)
- Anyone who follows Jesus will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life and this is the default position of the believer

***The second meaning is found in Psalm 119***

**Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)**

**105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.**

- Meaning the sole source of illumination and hope in the life of the believer is the Word of God
- God's Word directs me, God's Word guides me, repositions my thinking (which is repentance)

### ***The third meaning is found in Revelation 1***

Revelation 1:12–13 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

### ***The 7 lampstands is a Menorah***

- John has a vision of the Real Holy Place in heaven with Jesus, dressed as the High Priest, in the midst of the 7 churches which represents the complete church (7 is the number of completion)
- The fire burning in the lamps is the Spirit of God representing the Holy Spirit at work in the Church today (Revelation 4:5)
- Every follower of Jesus is shining the light of Jesus in the darkness
- The question is are you covering your light or letting it shine
- This is the point of the Shewbread and the Menorah
- This is not a picture of what we hope happens... we hope God shows up, we hope His Spirit is working, God is always here, we are the ones who show up because the Spirit draws us to worship
- This is a picture of what ***IS***... this ***IS*** reality, whether it's our experience or not, whether we feel it or not, whether we believe it or not... it's ***TRUE***
- We are in God's Presence, Jesus is shining and He is shining thru us
- And because it's ***TRUE***... because this is ***REALITY***... it changes how we live, how we treat each other, how we think, how we speak, the decisions I make...

Hebrews 4:13 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

- I want to challenge you to change how you think and to begin recognizing that you are in God's Presence, His light is shining
- Don't quench the work of the Spirit, but let Jesus shine, let Him work!