

Intro To The Tabernacle of David

I. OVERVIEW OF THE TABERNACLE THAT DAVID ESTABLISHED FOR THE ARK

- A. After David became king, he set up a worship tabernacle as part of his commitment to his vow. David put singers and musicians before the ark to worship God as their full-time vocation.
***1 Chr. 16:1, 4, 37** They brought the ark...and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David erected for it. ⁴He appointed Levites [singers/musicians] to minister before the ark...to praise the Lord... ³⁷to minister before the ark regularly, as every day's work required...*
- B. **As every day's work required:** David provided financial support as measured by "a day's work" so that singers and musicians could minister before the Lord as a full-time occupation (1 Chr. 16:37) and they would be free from other duties, being daily employed in that work (1 Chr. 9:33).
***1 Chr. 9:33** These are the singers...who lodged in the chambers, and were free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night.*
- C. David established 4,000 musicians, 288 singers (12 x 24 = 288) and 4,000 gatekeepers. Thus, he financed about 10,000 people on his "full-time staff" to facilitate worship and offerings to God.
***1 Chr. 23:5, 7** So the number of them, with their brethren who were instructed in the songs of the LORD, all who were skillful, was two hundred and eighty-eight [288].
...four thousand [4,000] were gatekeepers, and four thousand [4,000] praised the LORD with musical instruments, "which I made," said David, "for giving praise."*

II. GOD'S COMMAND FOR KINGS TO EMBRACE DAVID'S REVELATION OF WORSHIP

- A. David commanded God's people to honor the heavenly order of worship that he received by revelation because it was God's command (2 Chr. 29:25; 35:4, 15; Ezra 3:10; Neh. 12:45).
***2 Chr. 29:25** Hezekiah...stationed Levites in the house of the Lord with stringed instruments... according to the commandment of David...for thus was the commandment of the Lord.*
- B. Solomon established singers (about 970 BC) according to the command that God gave David.
***2 Chr. 8:14** According to the order of David his father, he [Solomon] appointed...Levites for their duties to praise...as the duty of each day required...for so David...commanded.*
- C. When Israel went astray, God raised up spiritual reformers with a vision to restore worship as David commanded it. All seven "revivals" in Old Testament times restored Davidic worship.
- D. Jehoshaphat's reform (about 870 BC) included establishing singers and musicians.
***2 Chr. 20:19-28** The Levites...stood up to praise the Lord...²¹He appointed those who should sing to the Lord... ²⁸They came...with stringed instruments...to the house of the Lord.*
- E. Jehoiada the high priest restored temple worship with singers and musicians in the order of David (about 835 BC) and enthroned King Jehoash (Joash) when he was only seven years old.
***2 Chr. 23:18** Jehoiada appointed...the Levites...with singing, as it was established by David.*
- F. Hezekiah's revival (about 725 BC) included restoring singers and musicians as David commanded.

2 Chr. 29:25-27 He stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with...stringed instruments...according to the commandment of David...²⁷The song of the LORD began...

- G. Josiah's revival (about 625 BC) restored full-time singers and musicians as David commanded.

2 Chr. 35:3-15 He said to the Levites...⁴Prepare yourselves...following the instruction of David...
¹⁵The singers...were in their places, according to the command of David...

- H. Zerubbabel (about 536 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as commanded by David.

Ezra 3:10-11 The Levites...to praise the LORD, according to the ordinance of David.

- I. Ezra and Nehemiah (445 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as David commanded.

Neh. 12:24, 45 The Levites...give thanks...according to the command of David...⁴⁵The singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of God...according to the command of David...

III. DAVID PREPARED A TENT FOR THE ARK (1 CHR. 15)

- A. David prepared a tent for the ark, appointing singers and musicians to minister to the Lord before it (15:1-3). The first thing he did after bringing the ark to Jerusalem was to establish a new worship order led by singers and musicians who ministered to God as their full time vocation (1 Chr. 15-16).

1 Chr. 15:1-3 David...prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it. ²Then David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever." ³And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it.

2 Sam. 6:17 So they...set it [the ark] in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it.

1. **Practical:** David prepared a tent (facility) and organized the logistics for night-and-day worship (15:1). There are many practical issues in sustaining the vision for night and day worship.
2. **Biblical:** They were careful to honor the biblical way of transporting the ark on this second attempt (15:2). Scripture gave specific commands related to the ark—that it be *covered*, carried by *poles* on the *shoulders* of Levites and *never touched* directly (Ex. 25:14-15; Deut. 10:8; Num. 4:5-6, 15; 7:9). Because the ark was holy, it was to be kept from the gaze and touch of unconsecrated men.
3. **Mobilized:** David assembled a great work force to bring the ark to Jerusalem (15:4). There were almost 900 (15:4) Levites under eight main leaders (15:11). This required considerable planning, effort, and finances, with much work. Some join a vision without embracing the work related to it.

1 Chr. 15:4 David assembled the children of Aaron and the Levites...

4. **Spiritual life:** David called the top national leaders to sanctify themselves and to call the leaders under them also to do this (15:11-15).

1 Chr. 15:11-15 David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites...¹²He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark...to the place I have prepared for it. ¹³For because you did not do it the first time...our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order." ¹⁴So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark...

5. **Sanctify yourselves:** David appointed those who were diligent about consecration to the Lord.

2 Tim. 2:21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

6. **Proper order:** David was careful to search the Word for the established order that honored God's presence and leadership. When David consulted the Scripture, he found that the ark was to be carried with poles on the shoulders of the Levites instead of on a cart.
- B. David called the Levites to appoint singers with the accompaniment of music (15:16-24). He established a symphony including 4,000 musicians (23:5) with a range of instruments: cymbals (15:19), strings (15:20), harps (15:21) and trumpets (15:24). This had never been done before.
- 1 Chr. 15:16** *Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals...*
- C. David, the elders, and top military leaders brought the ark from the house of Obed-Edom (15:25).
- 1 Chr. 15:25** *So David, the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-Edom with joy.*
- D. David left the Levites to minister to the Lord before the ark as their full-time occupation (16:37-43).
- 1 Chr. 16:37-38** *So he left Asaph and his brothers there...to minister before the ark regularly, as every day's work required; ³⁸and Obed-Edom with his sixty-eight brethren...to be gatekeepers...*
- E. **He left Asaph:** David was the first one in the Scripture to institute a full-time vocation related to ministering to the Lord with song and music (1 Chr. 9:33; 16:37; 23:5, 30; 25:7; 2 Chr. 8:12-14; 31:4-6, 16; 34:9, 12; Neh. 10:37-39; 11:22-23; 12:44-47; 13:5-12).
- F. The work was *regular* (consistent) and had *requirements* (duties with standards) as they were freed from other duties and employed in the work of day and night worship (9:33; 16:37; 2 Chr. 8:14).
- 2 Chr. 8:14** *And according to the order of David his father, he appointed...Levites for their duties (to praise and serve before the priests) as the duty of each day required...*
- 1 Chr. 9:33** *...the singers...free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night.*
- G. God's desire to be worshipped on earth as He is in heaven has not changed. The Spirit has not emphasized this through history, but *is now in many nations*. The order of worship that God commanded David to embrace is both timeless and valid today, such as establishing singers and musicians in God's house. The application of this will greatly differ in each nation and culture.

IV. THE PROMISE OF THE RESTORATION OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID

- A. In 750 BC, Amos prophesied of the restoration of David's tabernacle.
- Amos 9:11-15** *"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; ¹²that they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles [nations] who are called by My name," says the LORD who does this thing. ¹³"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. ¹⁴I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. ¹⁵I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them," says the LORD your God.*
1. **On that day:** speaks of a specific time in history related to the Lord's return
 2. **I will raise up:** speaks of a process in all spiritual, political, and missional arenas
 3. **As in the days of old:** speaks of the physical and political aspects in the land of Israel

4. ***Remnant of Edom***: speaks of reaching Arabs and Muslims for Christ. One key to winning Muslims to Jesus is for the body to function in the spirit of David's tabernacle.
 5. ***I will return the captives***: includes the Jewish survivors of the holocaust
- B. Amos' prophecy linked the timing of the rebuilding of David's tabernacle to one generation—when Israel was restored to her land in a way that *she would never be pulled up from it* (v. 15). Israel was restored to her land in May 1948—it is the *only generation* in which this prophecy could be fulfilled. It *signaled the beginning* of the time when the spirit of the tabernacle of David would be released—connected to the harvest of the remnant of Edom (Arabic & Islamic nations).
 - C. The Lord spoke prophetically in 1983 saying, "I will ***change the understanding of Christianity*** in the earth in one generation. He continued saying: "***I will establish 24-hour-a-day prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David.***" This shows us God's determination to establish night and prayer across the earth. God's plan is to ***change the expression of Christianity by establishing night and day prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David.***
 - D. The Lord has planted Israel in their land three times—in Joshua's generation (about 1400 BC), in Zerubbabel's generation (538 BC), and in May 1948 (the only time they will not be uprooted). We know that the State of Israel established in 1948 will not be cast out of the land because the Scripture prophesies that Israel in the end times will remain in the land surrounded by the nations (Zech. 12-14) with a remnant supernaturally preserved until Jesus delivers them (Joel 2:32).

V. SUMMARIZING THE SPIRIT OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID

- A. The tabernacle of David speaks of the governmental center of earth that operates with a spirit of worship and prayer. It consists of both a worship order and a governmental authority plus much more. God commanded David to command the kings of Israel to embrace this reality. It has a national expression in Israel and an international expression through the body of Christ.
- B. Why David? He was first to establish day and night worship in Jerusalem, he was the king of Israel's government (throne of David), and he proclaimed the kingdom to Gentiles (Ps. 67-68). David's tabernacle speaks of the *fact* of his government and the *way* it was manifest (worship).
- C. The tabernacle of David has at least seven expressions to it that are deeply connected:
 - It has a *spiritual* expression—the body of Christ in ***prophetic worship*** as (1 Chr. 16:1-4, 37).
 - It has a *political* expression—establishing God's ***righteous government*** in the nations (Isa. 16:5).
 - It has a *messianic* expression—a ***believing remnant*** in the restored land and state (v. 14a-15).
 - It has a *missional* expression—***impacting all nations*** with the gospel of the kingdom (v. 12)
 - It has a *transformational* expression—grace to ***restore cities and the agriculture*** (v. 13-14).
 - It has a *supernatural* expression—release of God's power, glory and miracles (Ps. 145:11-12).
 - It has an *eschatological* expression—Jesus received in Jerusalem as ***King over all nations***.
 - It is God's government (ways and power) on earth flowing from prayer with worship (Rev. 4:8).
- D. It is the convergence of heaven and earth in the context of the One New Man (of believing Jews and Gentiles) under the authority of Jesus, the Son of David ruling the nations from Jerusalem. It links together the restoration of *prayer, worship, and the spirit of prophecy* in the Church with the *missions movement* and with the *messianic remnant* in the restored land and state of Israel. It connects three dimensions—the praying Church, the Messianic movement, and the State of Israel (with righteous government as it comes under Jesus' authority from the throne of David).
- E. It is manifest ***in part*** in this age (as it continually increases) and ***in fullness*** in the Millennium. The fullness of the restoration of the tabernacle of David occurs only after Jesus returns to rule all nations from the ***throne of David*** in Jerusalem in the context of worship with intercession.

- F. Today there are **three houses** at war in the earth vying for global dominance in this generation.
1. **Radical Islam:** Globally they have declared Jihad on Israel and the West. It is either an active violent Jihad or a cultural jihad.
 2. **Militant secular humanism:** They seek to impose their beliefs on the rest of society. They work to spread their world view through cultural and educational institutions. For example, nightly we see images of protests and riots many of which are fueled by those in this movement who are seeking to change our culture.
 3. **House of the Lord:** The Lord is raising up houses of prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David. There is a new expression of Christianity with the spirit of devotion and boldness. They renounce compromise and live to see the worth of Jesus magnified and the kingdom expanded.

VI. PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID: 8 CHARACTERISTICS

- A. Prayer that is led by **prophetic worship**, i.e. by singers and musicians with a prophetic spirit (1 Chr. 9:33; 16:4; 2 Chr. 29:25). The first reference to the tabernacle of David in the Scripture is related to David establishing singers and musicians before the ark to praise God (1 Chr. 16:1, 4)
- 1 Chr. 16:1, 4** *They brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it... And he [David] appointed some of the Levites [singers] to minister before the ark of the LORD, to commemorate, to thank, and to praise the LORD...*
1. Israel supported singers and musicians in a full-time occupation (1 Chr. 9:33; 16:37; 23:5; 25:7; 2 Chr. 8:12-14; 31:4-6, 16; 2 Chr. 34:9, 12; Neh. 10:37-39; 11:22-23; 12:44-47; 13:5-12).
 2. David commanded the kings in Israel after him to establish full-time musicians and singers as God revealed to him (2 Chr. 29:25; 35:4, 15; Ezra 3:10-11; Neh. 12:24, 45-47).
- 2 Chr. 29:25** *And he [Hezekiah] stationed the Levites [singers and musicians] in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments...according to the commandment of David...for thus was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets.*
- B. We pray for **justice in mercy**—the release of God’s ways in government and society (Isa. 16:5).
- Isa 16:5** *In mercy the throne will be established; and One [Jesus] will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness.*
- C. We pray for full release of **God’s purpose for Israel**, which includes Jesus reigning in Jerusalem on the throne of David over all the nations (Isa. 2:3; 4:4-6; 24:23; 62:1, 7; 65:18; 66:20; Jer. 3:17; Joel 3:17; Mic. 4:2; Zech. 6:12-13; 8:2-3).
- D. We pray for the **harvest**—for the “rest of mankind.” The first application in the Scripture of the restoration of David’s tabernacle was related to Gentiles being saved (Acts 15:16-17). In about 50 AD, James quoted Amos’ prophecy about David’s tabernacle being restored (Acts 15:16-17).
- Acts 15:16-17** *I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David... So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, even all the Gentiles [nations] who are called by My name...*
- E. Prayer that is energized by **intimacy** with God and by beholding His beauty and love (Ps. 27:4).
- Ps. 27:4** *...To behold the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.*
- F. We pray for **God’s direction** by inquiring of the Lord for His will and prophetic strategies.
- G. We pray for **divine protection** (Ps. 91:1-14). Nearly all of Psalm 27 is about David receiving protection from his enemies and God’s judgment. (I refer to this as the “Goshen principle”).

- H. We pray for the **fullness of God's purposes**. David vowed to contend for the fullness of God's purposes and blessing (Ps. 132:1-5). The Church will be filled with glory—the Spirit's love, power, wisdom, and blessing (2 Chr. 5:13; Hab. 2:14; Eph. 5:27).

VII. ISAIAH'S PROPHECIES ABOUT THE END-TIME PRAYER AND WORSHIP MOVEMENT

- A. Isaiah prophesied of prayer ministries continuing until Jesus returns (Isa. 62:6-7). Only one generation will see the fulfillment of God's promise to "set" watchmen (intercessors) in place to cry out 24/7 until Jerusalem becomes a praise in the earth (which occurs when Jesus returns).

Isa. 62:6-7 *I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace [be silent, NAS] day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He...makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth [at the second coming].*

- B. Isaiah prophesied about a global intercessory worship movement (Isa. 24:14-16; 42:10-12) that would be dynamically connected to Jesus' return (Isa. 42:13).

Isa. 42:10-13 *Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth...¹¹Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar [Saudi Arabia] inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela [Jordan] sing...¹³The LORD shall go forth [Jesus' second coming] like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war."*

Isa. 24:14-16 *They shall sing for the majesty of the LORD...¹⁶from the ends of the earth...*

- C. The convergence of the heavenly worship sanctuary with the end-time earthly worship.

Rev. 7:9-10 *A great multitude...of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne...¹⁰saying, "Salvation belongs to our God...and to the Lamb!"*

VIII. A TRANSITIONAL GENERATION (1 CHR. 12)

- A. There is a transition period from the time that David was anointed to when he was in position to bring change. Saul's systems were functional when David only had a harp, a prophetic word, and the anointing of the Spirit yet without finances, an army or support of the government. Tribe by tribe, person by person, all of Israel had to decide if they would be loyal to the house of Saul or the house of David?"

- B. The sons of Issachar teach us three important principles (1 Chr. 12:32).

1 Chr. 12:32 *...the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command...*

1. **Understanding of the times**: They had prophetic insight into what God was doing.
2. **To know what to do**: They knew what Israel should do—practical action.
3. **200 chiefs**: Their brethren followed their direction—sustained unity.