

Chapter 7: Mobilize Bows

Dig Deeper:

Passage: Read Deuteronomy 6:8-9

*“You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.
“You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*

Review: We’ve covered the two phases of the spiritual maturing progression for believers so far as they correspond to the major Feasts or God-established Holy Days. Can you name them without looking back? Give both the Feast name as well as the name of the process referred to by Paul if you can.

“Feast” morsel (no pun intended): The Hebrew Feasts were referred to as “mo’eds,” or “[divinely] appointed times.” The whole purpose of the Hebrew Feasts were to teach mankind about prophetic divine appointments in the future, both corporately and individually. But (if I didn’t say this before), it is critical when trying to understand the Bible that you apply the Hebrew perspective that Bible prophecies are fulfilled in cycles and layers—repeat cycles of fulfillment in history, and multiple layers of fulfillment (such as corporately, individually, and in Christ). This is one reason why Christian scholars and teachers have such a hard time with biblical prophecy—they do not realize that, according to Hebrew teaching, history does not unfold on a “line,” but in repeat patterns. Many people think that certain Bible prophecies are already fulfilled, and that’s that! On many prophecies, they are only half correct in that there are more layers and cycles yet to be fulfilled.

Egypt to the Promised Land: Phase 3 of a Personal Journey

Tabernacles (glorification): So we’ve learned about Passover corresponding to the salvation experience, Pentecost corresponding to the sanctification or obedience process, and finally, today we are going to learn about *Tabernacles*.

Remember that after being rescued from Egypt, the Israelites were to **forsake idols, live by the Torah** (ten commandments), and to **demonstrate belief through action**. We know they failed miserably at this time and again, and were unable to enter the Promised Land because of their unbelief in God and His promises.

This resulted in a miserable trek through the hot, dry, dusty wilderness for 40 years, living in temporary structures called “sukkas” or “tents,” as the younger generation awaited their permanent, glorious dwelling place in the Promised Land. Throughout their history, God traveled with them via a mobile, temporary tabernacle as well. Solomon’s Temple was the first “permanent” dwelling place of God, but it was destroyed, as was the second Temple. The next Temple or Tabernacle fulfillment came when Jesus gave His Spirit to believers at Pentecost. At this time, believers became the Temple or dwelling place of God.

We see all this progression mentioned on one Jewish website (<http://www.judaica-guide.com/sukkot/>):

Sukkot (Tabernacles) is the third of the three “Pilgrim Festivals” in the Jewish tradition. While Passover is celebrated in memory of the exodus from Egypt, and Pentecost celebrates

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the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai, Sukkot is a celebration in memory of the huts in which Moses and the Israelites lived in the desert for 40 years. Moses and the Israelites traveled in the desert for forty years before they were allowed to enter the Promised Land. During that time, they slept in shelters made of branches, which were relatively easy to construct and carry around with them. That is why the holiday of "Sukkot" ("Tabernacles") is celebrated until today.

Applying for Today

Personal Tabernacles: Though we are on our way to the Promised Land of living in the future Kingdom with Jesus in resurrected immortal bodies, we currently dwell in temporary shelters of mortal bodies. For some, this can be a delightful (although quite stretching) experience of dwelling in blessed, empowered fellowship with God through obedience and faith (like Joshua and Caleb). For other believers, it will be a miserable "wandering in the desolate, dry wilderness." We will discuss how the two different groups of believers (Joshua and Caleb vs. the rest of the Israelites) symbolize two different types of Christians with two different stages of entrance into the future PL next week.

For now, let us consider the promise of "glorification." Read Romans 8:12-18:

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

According to Paul (vs. 12), who are the "sons of God?" _____

Do you think all believers automatically qualify as sons of God? Why or why not? _____

Here is some commentary on Tabernacles at a personal level from Bible teacher, Steve Jones. He also compares the experience to that of the different levels of Levitical priests who served in the Tabernacle/ Temple behind the veils:

The believers, those justified by faith, those who have experienced Passover, are those who have entered the door of the tabernacle into the outer court. Having passed through the first veil, they are separated from the glory of God by just two veils.

The true Pentecostals (not the traditional sense), those sanctified and set apart for priesthood, are those who have experienced Pentecost. These have passed through the second veil into the Holy Place and are separated from the glory of God by only the final veil.

The overcomers, those who are part of the body of the High Priest after the Order of Melchizedek, are those who will experience the feast of Tabernacles [first]. These are the ones in whom Christ "tabernacles" in the fullest sense of the word. They will have access to the Holy of Holies to meet Christ face to face in all His glory [before other believers, which we will cover next week].

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I believe that...no one will see Christ [fully] without passing through the barriers of the three veils. This is the purpose of “the unveiling of the sons of God” and “the unveiling of His glory.” John says in Rev. 1:7 that “every eye will see Him.” However, John does not say how or at what point in time. I believe that, in time, every eye will see Him, but only after they have been prepared by going through the proper door, or veils. They must first be justified by faith, then sanctified by the Spirit, and only then will they enter that final veil and behold His glory face to face.

I hope all this is making sense and that you are enjoying this new avenue of learning. It sure has been eye-opening for me, and has helped the OT come alive like never before! There is more exciting stuff in next week’s lesson about the special rewards for overcomers...see you then!

Group Interaction:

- Is there evidence in your home of whom you serve? Is there evidence in your life as a parent in the way you use your hands and abilities (sign on your hands) and the things you consciously take into your mind (forehead) of your First Love? Do friends and neighbors recognize your home by the “signs of Jesus” through your activities and actions as a family?
- In the book we listed 4 mental obstacles to investing in *the mission*:
 - Too many needs—I can’t make a difference
 - The mission field is not for everyone
 - I don’t know if my money reaches the intended purpose
 - But wait! What about the American Dream?
- Which of the 4 obstacle(s) do you struggle with most? Share your thoughts and experiences with the group.
- How will these mental obstacles impact your family’s mission and purpose?
- Discuss with the group, if applicable, the ways your family is currently invested in *the mission* (time, money, talents, prayers, other). How has this impacted your family, and in particular, your children?
- Have your group define what it means to live for the “American Dream.” How much of a stronghold does it have on your family? In what ways, if any, have you been feeling convicted to lead your family away from this trap (share with the group)?
- If your group is not currently investing in the plight of orphans (individually), would you consider joining together to help support an international discipleship home? There are many ministries who offer this and it can be a great way to feel a part of something, both at home, working together, as well as making a difference for a group of children who are being shaped to impact their country. Plus, many of them offer mission trips to visit the home you sponsor. What a great bonding experience for your group and/or your family!

Bring it Home:

Jesus taught His disciple to BE AUTHENTIC...

Day 1: Read Matthew 6:1-4

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

Day 2: Read Matthew 6:5-6

“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

Day 3: Read Matthew 6:16-18

“Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

Day 4: Read Matthew 7:3-5

“Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

Day 5: Read Matthew 12:33-35

“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. ...For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.”

Day 6: Read Matthew 15:8-9

“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.”

Day 7: Read John 3:21

“But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought (originated) in God.”