

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

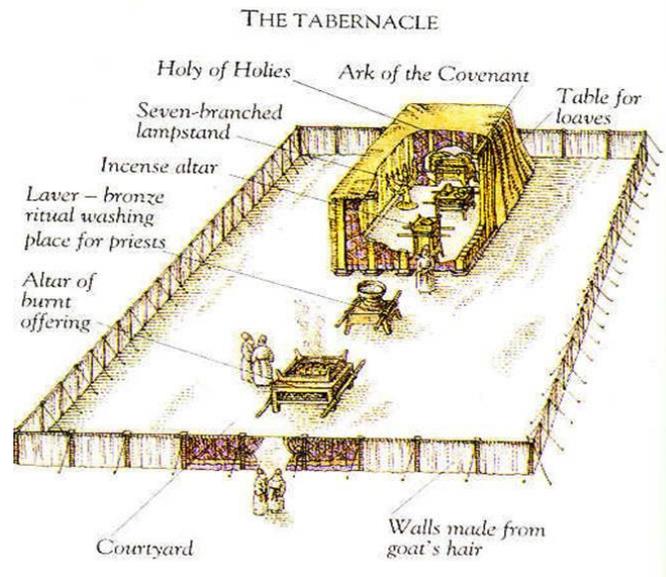
Feb. 11, 2016

- Exodus 26-27 – The tabernacle: the curtains (26) and the altar of burnt offering (27).
- John 5:16-30 – Divine Concurrence.
- Song of Solomon 3:6-11- The Wedding Procession.

Commentary:

1. Exodus 26-27. The curtains and covering layers were mainly functional, providing enclosure for ‘Ehyeh’s house. The “house” was a symbol of loving and protective divine presence among the chosen people. Though God kept himself invisible, the symbols of His presence helped His people remember that He dwelt among them, watched over them, set their agenda for life, and offered constantly to them the blessings of His covenant, even in the hostile environs of the wilderness. As far as the altar, God was teaching His people the basic principle of salvation from sin:

something that God considers a substitute must die in my place so that I may live. Altar sacrifice was the primary way for this substitution to be taught. To point to Christ’s death on the cross, which was the ultimate sacrifice to which all others pointed, animal sacrifice was practiced by the Israelites. One can approach God only through sacrifice; only by sacrifice is sin atoned for. On this altar—the first object a worshiper saw in the tabernacle courtyard—sacrifices for sin were continually being made. This all pointed to the ultimate Sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Heb. 10:1–18).



2. John 5:16-30. Notice Jesus’ confirmation of God’s concurrent activity in all things. God gives all things existence along with all of their properties—Jesus was no deist! God sustains the universe, gives all things existence, and is the Author of all life. God does not take breaks on the Sabbath, so neither does Jesus, who is equal with God as noted by John in 5:18. God’s activity in giving all things existence includes the existence and actualization of the direction of our wills according to His plan. God writes the story of all of our lives. We do not get to choose when or even why we exist (efficient and final cause). The only “say” we have is in the



type (formal cause) of character (virtue or vice) of the individual in God's story. Other than that, our place in history is predestined. For example, Peter had an arrogant and weak character and so God placed him in a situation for His own purpose, which allowed Peter to *freely* deny the Lord three times. God could have placed Peter in a boat on the Sea of Galilee where Peter would not be around to deny the Lord. God decides when and where we will live out our freedom—Acts 17:26! we could have been born among the Canaanites that the Israelites destroyed! Looking back at our lives, do we like the character that we are cultivating in God's "play?" What is our attitude to the Lord? His Word? The local church? Our jobs? Our general attitude to His plan for our lives? What kind of person will we be known for for all of eternity? Anyone can change the direction of his life even if he cannot change the when, where, and why of his life. God is always standing by to make us heroes and heroines instead of complainers—a sign of a skepticism and ingratitude—about His plan for our lives. To understand that we are part of a transcendent plan is to move into the eternal perspective, and that changes the way we look at all of the details of life. In fact, it is the only way to truly love our lives regardless of the circumstances of life.

3. Song of Solomon 3:6-11. What is described in these verses is the pomp and beauty of the wedding procession. The Scriptures teach that marriage is one of the most important events in a person's life. Therefore, it is fitting that the union of a couple be commemorated in a special way. The current practice of couples *casually* "shacking up" apart from the bonds of marriage demonstrates loss of appreciation of the beauty of marriage. There is nothing casual about marriage, and such a view violates the sanctity of marriage and is contrary to God's standards of purity.



On the Glory Road,

Pastor Don