
Overview of the Tabernacle of David

I. THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID: GOD'S BLUEPRINT, DAVID'S ORDER

A. The LORD said, "I will raise up the Tabernacle of David" (Am. 9:11–15; Acts 15:16–17). This describes the order in which we function as a house of prayer (i.e. Davidic order), which is from the place of encountering God with day and night prayer and worship with prophetic musicians and singers (1 Chr. 9:33; 16:1, 4, 37; 25:5, 7), that is fueled by the beauty of God as it is in God's heavenly temple (Psalm 11:4; 27:4; 119:96; Rev. 4:1–11; Mat. 6:10). David was given this specific order of worship by the Spirit (1 Chr. 28:11–19)

¹¹ David gave his son Solomon the plans...¹² for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD...¹³ also for the division of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD...¹⁹ All this," said David, "the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans." (1 Chr. 28:11–19)

B. The Lord showed David the beauty realm of heaven where He saw unceasing prayer and worship before the Father's throne. In all Scripture, Revelation 4 best describes the beauty realm of God.

⁹⁶ I have seen the consummation of all perfection [God's Throne of Glory]... (Ps. 119:96)

C. Afterwards, David's life-consuming passion was to dwell in the house of the LORD all of his days (Ps. 27:4).

⁴ One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. (Ps. 27:4)

D. Because David couldn't access heaven 24/7, he vowed to establish a dwelling place for God on earth, as it is in heaven (Mt. 6:10) regardless the cost of resources, resistance or reproach it brought (Ps. 69:7–12; 132).

¹ Remember David and all his afflictions; ² how he swore to the Lord and vowed... ³ "Surely I will not go to the chamber of my house or... the comfort of my bed; ⁴ I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, ⁵ until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob." (Ps. 132:1–5)

E. Around 1000 BC, David set the Ark of God in Jerusalem where it continued for 33 years. He provided financial support to 288 Levite singers (1 Chr. 25:7), 4,000 musicians (1 Chr. 23:5) and 4,000 gatekeepers (support ministries), so they could continually give themselves to the priestly ministry of worship and prayer before the LORD as a full-time occupation of work (1 Chr. 9:33; 16:1, 4, 37; 25:5, 7). Today, this is \$25 million per year.

⁵ 4,000 were gatekeepers, and 4,000 praised the Lord with musical instruments... The number... instructed in the songs of the Lord...who were skillful, was 288. (1 Chr. 23:5, 7)

³³ These are the singers... who... were free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night. (1 Chr. 9:33)

¹ They brought the ark...and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David erected for it. ⁴ He appointed Levites [singers] to minister before the ark...to praise the Lord...³⁷ to minister before the ark regularly, as every day's work required... (1 Chr. 16:1, 4, 37)

- F. What was so significant about the ark of the covenant and the prophetic picture of what David was doing? The resting place of the ark was where the Lord's presence rested on earth (1 Kings 8:29–30), the expression of His throne on earth, called the "footstool". (Ps. 99:1–5; 132:7; Isa. 66:1).

¹ The Lord reigns; Let the peoples tremble! He dwells between the cherubim . . . ⁵ Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool—He is holy. (Ps. 99:1–5)

- G. These musicians and singers stood before the Mercy Seat where the High Priest could appear only once a year to offer blood and incense (prayers) for national atonement (Lev. 16:2, 12–16). The Mercy Seat is the throne of God where Jesus will sit on earth. *It's a prophetic picture of the saints ministering directly before the Lord* (Rev. 4:1–11; 7:9–10; Heb. 8:5; Mat. 6:10). How radical and also prophetic was that!?

II. THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID: THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD, PRINCIPLES FOR REVIVAL

- 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).

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. (2 Chr. 29:25)

- B. Every time in Israel's history when Israel followed these commands they experienced revival and military supremacy. This type of revival occurred seven times afterwards:

1. Solomon

¹⁴ And, according to the order of David his father, he appointed the divisions of the priests for their service, the Levites for their duties (to praise and serve before the priests) as the duty of each day required, and the gatekeepers by their divisions at each gate; for so David the man of God had commanded. (2 Chr. 8:14)

2. Jehoshaphat

²¹ And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever."... (2 Chr. 20:21)

3. Jehoida/Jehoash

¹⁸ Also Jehoiada appointed the oversight of the house of the Lord to the hand of the priests, the Levites, whom David had assigned in the house of the Lord, to offer the burnt offerings of the Lord, as it is written in the Law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was established by David. (2 Chr. 23:18)

4. Hezekiah

²⁵ And he stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the Lord by His prophets. ²⁶ The Levites stood with the instruments of

David, and the priests with the trumpets.... (2 Chr. 29:25-27)

5. Josiah

*...¹⁰ So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their places, and the Levites in their divisions, according to the king's command... **15 And the singers, the sons of Asaph, were in their places, according to the command of David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer. Also the gatekeepers were at each gate; they did not have to leave their position, because their brethren the Levites prepared portions for them.** (2 Chr. 35:3-15)*

6. Zerubbabel

¹⁰ In the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah all Israel gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day. They also consecrated holy things for the Levites, and the Levites consecrated them for the children of Aaron. (Ezra 3:10)

7. Ezra and Nehemiah

⁴⁷ In the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah all Israel gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day. They also consecrated holy things for the Levites, and the Levites consecrated them for the children of Aaron. (Neh. 12:47)

- C. These worship principles are timeless and valid today, such as establishing singers and musicians in God's House, day and night prayer, music with prayer, beauty-driven worship and prayer, etc... However, the application of these principles will differ in each generation and culture.

III. THE CHURCH RECLAIMING PRAYER AND WORSHIP AS ITS MAIN EXPRESSION

- A. The Lord is rebuilding the tabernacle of David "in every place" before the coming of the Lord (Mal. 1:11; Amos 9:11-15; Acts 15:15-17; Isa. 42:10-15). These verses speak of God putting *a spirit of prayer* in the Church *accompanied with music (worship)* that is *primarily beauty driven*, and *intercession* to release His purposes across the earth (Luke 18:7-8; James 1:6).

¹¹ For from the rising of the sun [east], even to its going down [west], My name shall be great among the Gentiles; in every place incense [prayers] shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering; for My name shall be great among the nations." Says the Lord of hosts. (Mal. 1:11)

¹¹ 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... (Amos 9:11)

- B. In 1983, after twenty-one days of corporate fasting and prayer, the Lord spoke to Mike Bickle through a prophetic man that "***I will establish 24-hour prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David.***" In 1999, IHOPKC launched unceasing prayer meetings combined with music that has not ceased since.
- C. The Holy Spirit is birthing corporate prayer services world-wide over the past few decades.
1. In 1985, there were 25 Houses of Prayer;
In 2018, there are over 20,000 Houses of Prayer.

Some may be hosting only a few hours of corporate prayer a week, but 10–20 years ago they did not exist!

2. A mission organization named, Call2All, hosted a congress in Orlando (Jan. 2008), and 170 CEOs of most of the top missions organizations made a commitment to start 70,000 new houses of prayer by 2020. In the Hong Kong Congress (June 2009) 3,000 leaders committed to start 400,000 houses of prayer by 2020.
In Call2All congresses, leaders have committed to start over 500,000 houses of prayer.
3. Before the Lord returns, He will raise-up the greatest prayer and worship movement in history. There are many indications of this in Scripture (Ps. 96:1, 9, 13; 98:1–9; 102:15–22; 122:6; 149:6–9; Isa. 19:20–22; 24:14–16, 23; 25:9; 26:1, 8–9; 27:2–5, 13; 30:18–19, 29, 32; 35:2, 10; 42:10–15; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8; 62:6–7; Jer. 31:7; 51:8; Joel 2:12–17, 32; Zeph. 2:1–3; Zech. 8:20–23; 10:1; 12:10; 13:9; Mt. 21:13; Lk. 18:7–8; Rev. 5:8; 8:3–5; 14:18; 16:7; 18:6; 22:17).
4. Other’s stories in the past few decades—For example, in the 1990’s the Lord visited a Rwandan pastor and told him to do prayer and worship in the “spirit of the Tabernacle of David,” the exact same mandate the Lord gave Mike Bickle in 1983—these men had never met each other or knew of each other at that time.
5. Since serving at the International House of Prayer missions base (IHOPKC), we have met numerous church leaders from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Germany, Canada, China and more, stirred to build places of prayer, fueled by God’s beauty, offering both worship and prayer.

D. What does this exponential growth of prayer mean?

1. **A great world-wide revival is here:** Amos linked the *restoration* of the Davidic order and the *acceleration* of the great harvest (vs. 11–12) to the *replanting* of the nation of Israel to her land forever (vs. 14–15; cf. Zech. 13:8–9; 14:1–4). We are in this time period. The significance cannot be overstated of the Lord highlighting “prayer in the spirit of the TOD” independently to those in His Church overlapping with the rebirth of the State of Israel.

¹¹ 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 [*Modern Southwestern Jordan*], and all the Gentiles who are called by My name... ¹⁴ I will bring back the captives of My people Israel [*1948*]... ¹⁵ I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land... (Am. 9:11–15)

- a) Ancient “Edom” is modern Jordan, representing *Islamic nations*. The Lord will visit Islamic nations with the gospel and the Spirit.
- b) The Holy Spirit will be poured out again globally beyond what occurred in the book of Acts (Joel 2:28–29; Mal. 4:5; Acts 2:17; Rev. 11:3–6; 18:20). God is establishing a global upper room for a global outpouring.
- c) There are 12,000 people groups (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9; 14:6). Leading mission leaders predict that the gospel will be preached to every people group by 2020. The Bible has been translated into 2,000+ languages (used by 98% of the world’s population). The greatest harvest in history is occurring now.

¹⁴“This gospel...will be preached...to all the nations [ethnos] and then the end will come.” (Mt. 24:14)

2. **Spiritual maturity:** The church will mature before the Lords return in the context of 24/7 worship and prayer. Also called *fullness* (Rom. 11:25), *perfect* (Eph. 4:13; Mat. 5:48), *glorious* and *holy* (Eph. 5:27).
- a) *Mature understanding of God and His end time plan* (Jer. 23:20; Dan. 11:32–33; Rev. 1:19; 1:3; 22:7)
²⁰ ...the Lord will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly [maturely]. (Jer. 23:20)
- b) *Maturity of godly character* (Eph. 4:13; 5:27; 1 Cor. 13:13; Gal. 5:22–23; Mat. 5:3–10, 48)
²⁷...He [Jesus] might present her [Church] to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5:27)
- c) *Maturity of supernatural power* (Dan. 11:32–33; Mt. 16:18–19; Jn. 14:12)
¹² “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. (John 14:12)
3. **The Lord’s return:** The Scriptures speak of the global prayer and worship movement that will be dynamically connected to the Lord’s return (Rev. 8:1–3; Isa. 24:14–16; 42:10–15).
¹⁰ Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you coastlands and you inhabitants of them! ¹¹ Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, The villages that Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, Let them shout from the top of the mountains. ¹² Let them give glory to the Lord, And declare His praise in the coastlands. ¹³ The LORD shall go forth [Jesus’ second coming] like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies...¹⁵ I will lay waste [by earthquakes] the mountains ...” (Isa. 42:10–15)

From the ends of the earth (Isa. 42:10) describes five challenging areas that will engage in the prayer movement

- a) ***Go down to the sea:*** includes the nearly 12,000 inhabited islands of the earth
- b) ***Coastlands:*** includes the major population and resource centers on the coastlands
- c) ***Wilderness:*** includes the small cities in the wilderness and desert regions
- d) ***Villages of Kedar and Sela:*** Islamic villages in Jordan (Sela) and Saudi Arabia (Kedar)
- e) ***Top of the mountains:*** includes those in hard to reach altitudes
- E. It was David’s obsession to build a resting place on earth for God like he saw in heaven (Psalm 132). Today He is stirring in believers’ hearts across the earth to build places of prayer in their local context, to hasten the Day of the Lord and release His heavenly activity (Luke 18:7–8; 2 Peter 3:12).
¹ Remember David and all his afflictions; ² how he swore to the Lord and vowed... ³ “Surely I will not go to the chamber of my house or... the comfort of my bed; ⁴ I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, ⁵ until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.” (Ps. 132:1–5)
- F. How will you respond with what the Lord has given you in your sphere of influence?