

Who are we and what are we to do?

For you are **a people holy to the Lord** your God. *The Lord your God has chosen you of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.*

Deuteronomy 7:6

Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, **perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.**

2 Corinthians 7:1

'How did they keep the Tabernacle clean?'

The tent is in the desert. Imagine the dust, sand and spider webs. The Tabernacle was a moveable meeting place. Israel was camping not glamping. The Ark of the covenant was carried on poles. *The Tabernacle had to be kept clean for holy worship*

God promises: **"I will dwell with you."** Yahweh will accompany his saved people. **"God is Here and God is also holy."** How can Israel approach a holy God? How can a holy God dwell with rebels? Sin keeps us distant and keeps God separate from us.

God was especially present with Israel and particularly present in the tabernacle.

'Have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.' (Ex 25:8-9)

Outside it is rustic. Inside it is royal - metals of **gold, silver and bronze** and materials of **blue, purple and scarlet** There are numerous curtains which are barriers into the tent: *'the shielding curtain'* (Exodus 39:34). Its design and its decorations echo Eden.

Eden: the place of Sabbath rest. Gen 2:2-3 **Bread of Presence. Sabbath day.** Ex 31:12-18

In Eden stood the tree of Life. Gen 2:9 **Lampstand shaped like tree.** Ex 27:20-21

Eden was full of precious stones. Gen 2:12 **High priest wore precious stones.** Ex 28:15-21

The entrance to Eden faced east. Gen 3:24 **Tabernacle entrance faced east.** Ex 27:13-14

Cherubim guarded way To Eden. Gen 3:24 **Over the Ark hovered cherubim.** Ex 25:22

After he drove the man out he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life (3:24).

The Tabernacle shows the Way Back to God and the Way Into His presence..

God said make the sanctuary **'as I showed you on the mountain'** (Ex 25:40 26:30 27:8 31:11)
Not for us to decide how we relate to or are accepted by God. Don't be blasé or casual!

Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu offered unauthorized fire before the Lord and died.

'Among those who approach me I will be proved holy; n the sight of all the people I will be honored.' Aaron remained silent (10:1-3). **'Now we know that whatever the**

law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be

silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.'

(Romans 3:19-20)

We need a Savior to speak for us.

'If only there were someone to mediate between us, someone to bring us together, someone to remove God's rod from me, so that his terror would frighten me no more. Then I would speak up without fear of him, but as it now stands with me, I cannot.

(Job 9:32-35).

Leviticus 16 The Day of Atonement.

The high priest prepared to represent Israel by making sacrifice for his sins and theirs. Aaron washed himself and exchanged his priestly garments for linen robes. He offered a bull for his own sin (16:11) and his household and a ram as burnt offering: *'take some of the bull's blood and...sprinkle it on the front of the atonement cover* (16:14). Blood was proof that a life had been taken in payment for sin (17:11). Aaron cast lots for two goats: for the Lord and a scapegoat. The first goat's blood sprinkled on the atonement cover for the people's sins (16:16). The second goat was brought to the entrance alive!

'He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness. The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness (16:20-22).

With the blood sprinkled and the goat gone, God covered their sin

BUT

The Tabernacle provided only external cleansing; limited pardon; restricted access.

'God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith' (Romans 3:25-26)

Could pardon for sin be total? Could cleansing be within? Could access be permanent?

'Christ...entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood' (Heb 9:11-14)

External cleansing is now deep

'cleanses our conscience'.

Limited pardon is now total:

'eternal redemption'

Restricted access is 'now permanent. *Christ...appears for us in God's presence.*

Hebrews 10:19-25

CONFIDENCE

We boldly believe TO COME by a new living way...through 'the curtain, that is of his body' – bearing our sin away on the cross.

Don't keep your distance from God's presence and promise.

a. Let us draw near

-- by faith in Jesus and baptism (bodies washed)

b. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess: anchored in God's promise

Don't keep your distance from God's people.

c. Let us consider *how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Since God is present, this means we are committed to being present.