

Night and Day Prayer According to David

The HOP Story Book– Painting a
Picture

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Genesis 3:8-9 ⁸ They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day ... ⁹ Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

IN The Beginning

Gen 28:11-12, 17, 19 ¹¹ He came to a certain **place** and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place. ¹² He had a **dream**, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the **angels of God** were **ascending and descending** on it. ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, "How **awesome** is this place! This is none other than the **house of God**, and this is the gate of heaven." ... ¹⁹ He called the name of that place **Bethel** ...

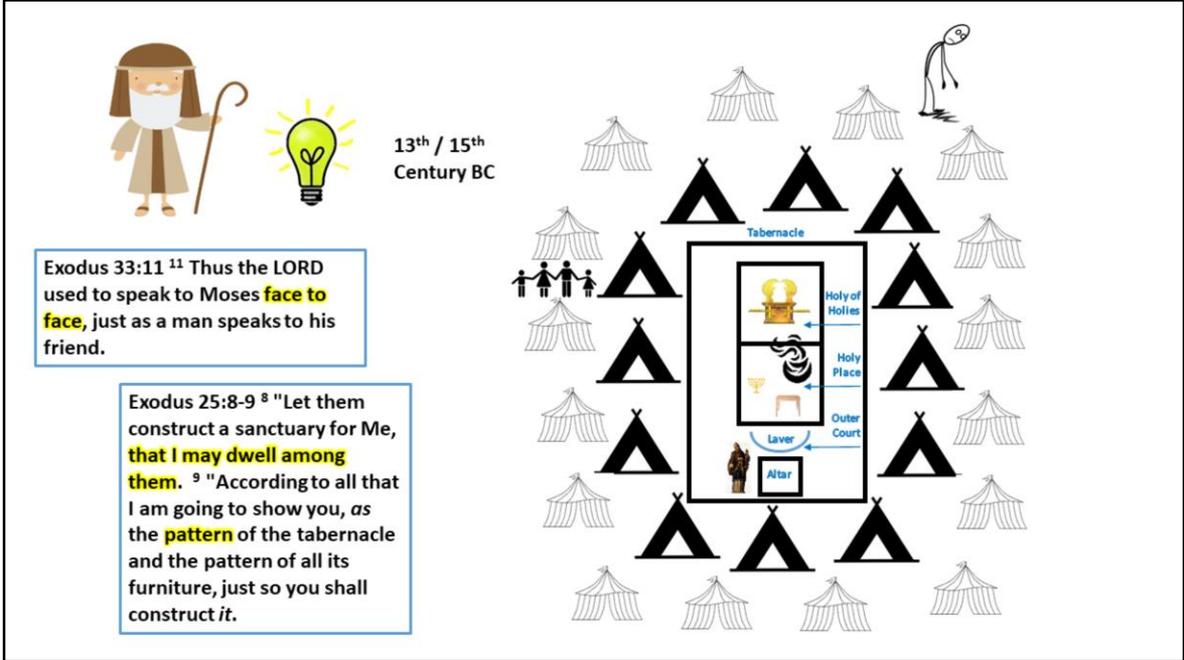
Gen 22:3, 14 ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the **place** of which **God had told him**. ¹⁴ Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be **provided**."

Adam had an amazing degree of friendship with God but sin completely devastated this experience (Gen 3:8-9). God is love (1Jo 4:8) and separated Himself from sin (John 17:19). God began to unfold His plan for correcting the issue of sin. He calls Abraham, covenants with him and shows him the land that will be given to his offspring. Isaac as a young man experiences his father's incredible obedience, God's great mercy in providing a sacrifice in the place of His choosing (Gen 22:2-18). It is a place of provision. Jacob, Isaac's son who has rough edges as his name suggests, has a powerful dream and revelation. Turns out, God's house is a place of revelation – messages coming down and reports going up.

God's "Bethel" or house, was an awesome place of revelation and provision.

(1Jo 4:8 NAU) ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

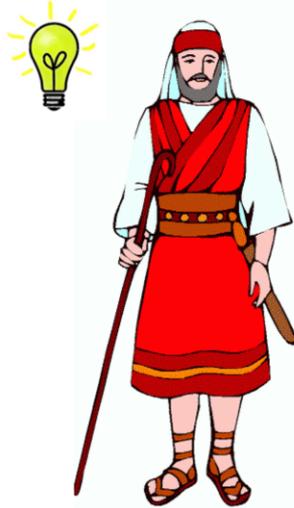
(Joh 17:19 NAU) ¹⁹ "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.



Moses was given a **divine idea** (Exo 25:8-9). God showed him the pattern for the tent of meeting. What stood out was “separation” not relationship. The High Priest could only come once a year into the Holy of Holies (Lev 16:34). Coming unannounced meant death (Lev 16:2). The Levites could not even see the holy artifacts of the tent or would die. When they moved around in the desert the artifacts had to be carefully covered by the priests or the Levite workers would die. The Levites in turn camped around the tent of meeting to help protect the people from inappropriate access. The Israelites coming out of Egypt were very unfaithful and relationship with God in His presence would take time to recover. God was watching for hearts (Amos 5:25-27). Moses, of course, had a different experience personally. He had tremendous contact. He was the friend of God. He had 40 years of wilderness preparation. Adversity prepared his heart. It would be David who got the next installment on intimacy and friendship.

(Lev 16:2, 32-33 NAU) ² The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat ... ³² "So the priest who is anointed and ordained to serve as priest in his father's place shall make atonement: he shall thus put on the linen garments, the holy garments, ³³ and make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar. He shall also make atonement for the priests and for all the people ...

Amos 5:25-27 ²⁵ "Did you present Me with sacrifices and grain offerings in the wilderness for forty years, O house of Israel? ²⁶ "You also carried along Sikkuth your king and Kiyyun, your images, the star of your gods which you made for yourselves. ²⁷ "Therefore, I will make you go into exile beyond Damascus," says the LORD, whose name is the God of hosts.



King David – 940 BC

1 Samuel 13:14 ¹⁴ "... The LORD has sought out for Himself **a man after His own heart**, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people ..."

1 Chronicles 28:12-13, 19 ¹² and the **plan** of all that he had in mind, **for the courts of the house of the LORD** ... for the storehouses of the dedicated things; ¹³ also for the divisions of the priests and the Levites and for all the **work of the service of the house of the LORD** and for all the utensils of service in the house of the LORD... ¹⁹ "All this," said David, "the LORD made me understand in **writing by His hand upon me**, all the details of this **pattern**."

The Story continues with David. He is a man after God's own heart (1Sam 13:14) and God gives him a **divine idea too** (1Chr 28:19). He will pick up where Moses left off in building the tabernacle and reveal a somewhat hidden dimension of God. He is a bridegroom God who desires intimacy (Ps 27:4). The apostle John has much more to say about intimacy in the book of Revelation. David enthusiastically pursues the revealed pattern that God provides. Others aspects of God's house will come later through David's offspring and the prophets God sends.

1 Samuel 7:1-2 And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took the ark of the LORD and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill ...² From the day that the ark remained at Kiriath-jearim, the time was long. 2 Samuel 6:17¹⁷ So they brought in the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent which David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

Jerusalem

2 Samuel 5:6-7⁶ Now the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, and they said to David, "You shall not come in here, but the blind and lame will turn you away"; thinking, "David cannot enter here."⁷ Nevertheless, David captured the stronghold of Zion, that is the city of David.

1 Chr 21:29

Gibeon

David takes Jerusalem from the Jebusites. It will be his capital but more importantly, God is coming to town. He has chosen Jerusalem as His place.

David erects a tent in the city of David and brings the neglected Ark of the Testimony or Ark of the Covenant and places it in his simple tent or tabernacle. The Ark is where God met with Moses (Ex 25:22). By David's time, the Ark was no longer in Moses' tent of meeting. It was kept in storage at Abinadab's home (1 Sam 7:1). Moses' tent of meeting continued to operate independently in Gibeon (1 Chr 21:29). For 43 years David's tent and Moses' tent were separate. Asaph ran David's tent in Jerusalem (1 Chr 16:5) and Zadoc ran Moses' tent (1 Chr 16:39) at Gibeon. It appears that everyone collectively, blinked! No one seemed surprised that Moses' tent did not have the most significant element. The Ark, where God's presence was found, wasn't there!

(Num 7:89 NAU)⁸⁹ Now when Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim, so He spoke to him.

Jerusalem

1 Chronicles 25:1-7
Moreover, David ... set apart for the service *some* of the sons of Asaph ... to **prophecy with lyres**, harps and cymbals ... ⁷ Their number who were trained in **singing** to the LORD ... were ... **288**. ⁸ They cast **lots** for their duties, all alike, the small as well as the great, **the teacher as well as the pupil**.

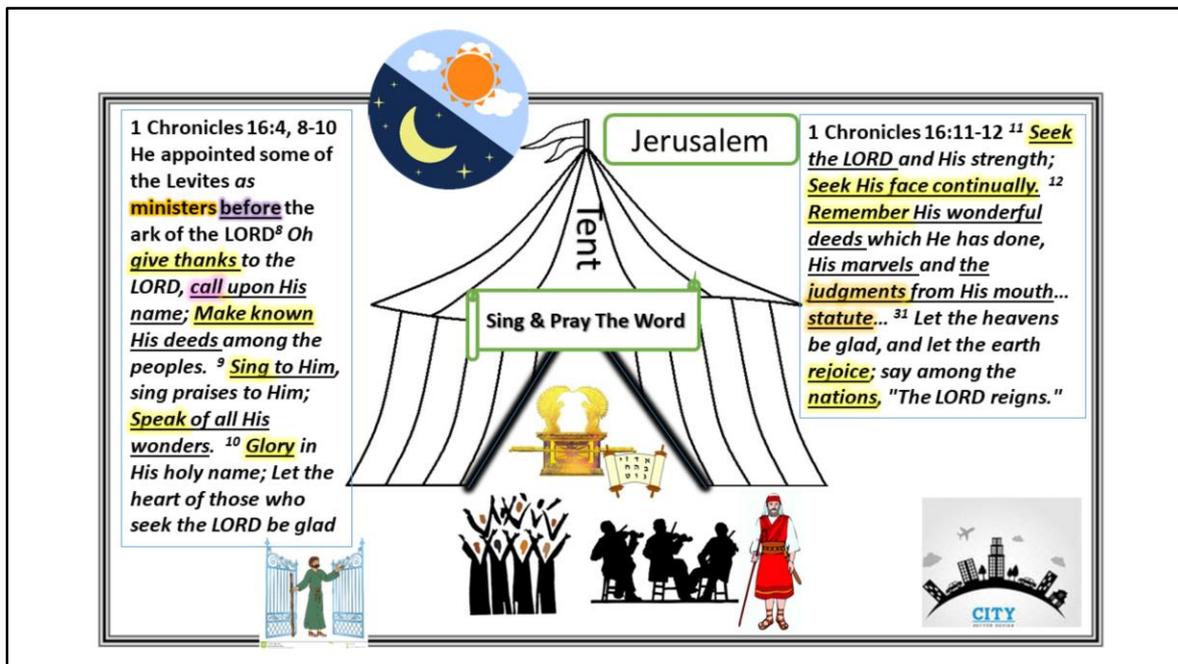
Psalm 141:2 ² May my **prayer** be counted as **incense** before You; The **lifting up of my hands** as the **evening offering**.

1 Chronicles 23:5 ⁵ ... and **4,000 were gatekeepers**, and **4,000 were praising the LORD with the instruments** which David made for giving praise.

1 Chronicles 9:33 ³³ Now these are the **singers**, heads of fathers' *households* of the Levites, **who lived in the chambers of the temple free from other service**; for they were engaged in their work **day and night**.

CITY

David appoints 288 prophetic singers, 4,000 musicians and 4,000 gatekeepers to provide “round the clock” focus on God. The number of musicians and singers allowed for 24/7 coverage. There were shifts or teams. There is no mention of how often the “lot” was recast or how many were on a team. The Levites were “full time” in David’s tent and other duties were picked up by other Levites to help David’s singers keep their focus.



Asaph and his relatives are appointed to **minister** to the Lord. The word “minister” is a translation of the Hebrew word **Sharath** – **the pleasant and deeply satisfying service that is rendered to the Lord**. The word is first used of Joseph’s service (ministry) to the Egyptian Captain of the Guard, and later to the jailer. They were so pleased with Joseph that they left everything in his care.

God is the audience of One, the focus of “sharath”. The Levites were to do it literally “before the face of the Ark”. They sing, declare and pray what would have been the scriptures available to David. **The “sharath of the Lord” or first commandment devotion is the central premise of David’s tent.**

Jerusalem

Psalm 27:4-5 ⁴ **One thing** I have asked from the LORD, that I shall 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 meditate in His temple ⁵ For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His **tabernacle**; In the secret place of His **tent** He will hide me...

Psalm 55:16-17, 19 ¹⁶ As for me, I shall call upon God, And the LORD will save me. ¹⁷ **Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur, And He will hear my voice ...**

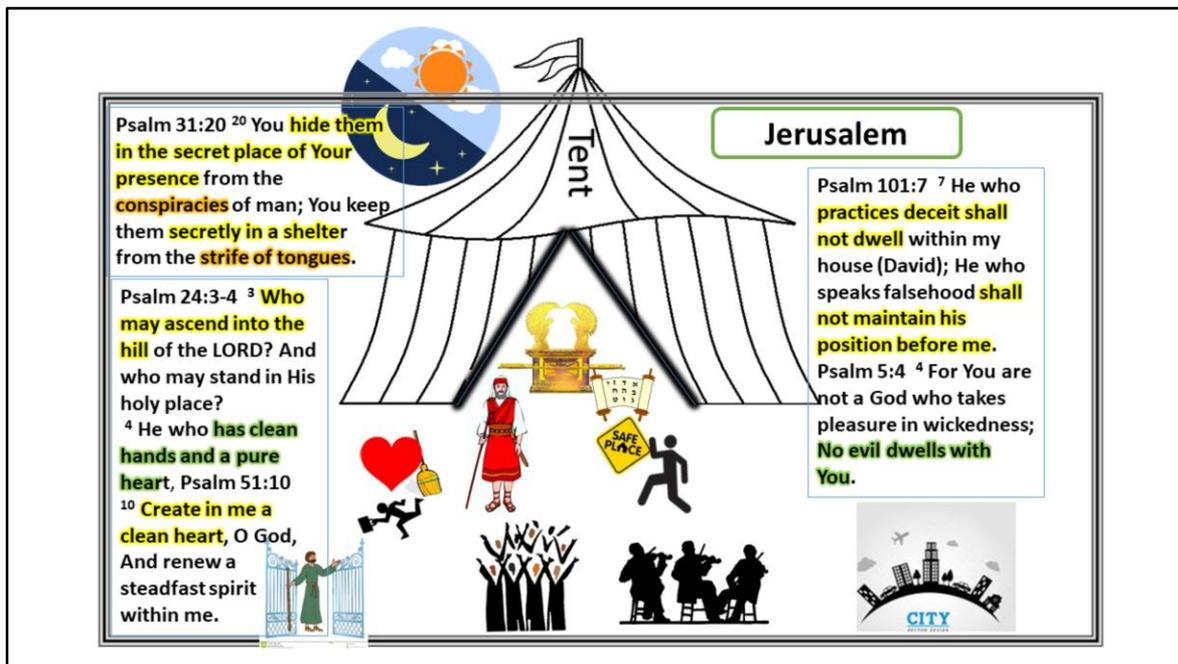
Isaiah 55:3-4 ³ "Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, **According to the faithful mercies shown to David.** ⁴ "Behold, I have made him a **witness** to the peoples, A **leader** and commander for the peoples.

Psalm 27:8 ⁸ **When You said,** "Seek My face," **my heart said to You,** "Your face, O LORD, I shall seek."

David made dwelling in God's presence his passion. He was there morning, noon and night. Even though he was a busy man – husband, father, military leader and political leader, his focus was the manifest presence of God. He wanted to be before the face of God, always and would go out to do life as needed. This is the opposite of what is typically seen today. Folks do life and fit God in when it is convenient! .

David saw the beauty of God in his tent. Intimacy with God was David's greatest testimony. He cared about the laws of God but they flowed out of his experience of God's beauty. As Paul would later say, the law is a "guardian or tutor" pointing to a time when a son comes of age in his father's home (Gal 4:1-2). The son's motivation differs from that of the slave. The Son loves the Father. David was God's son. It was a heart issue and behavior followed heart.

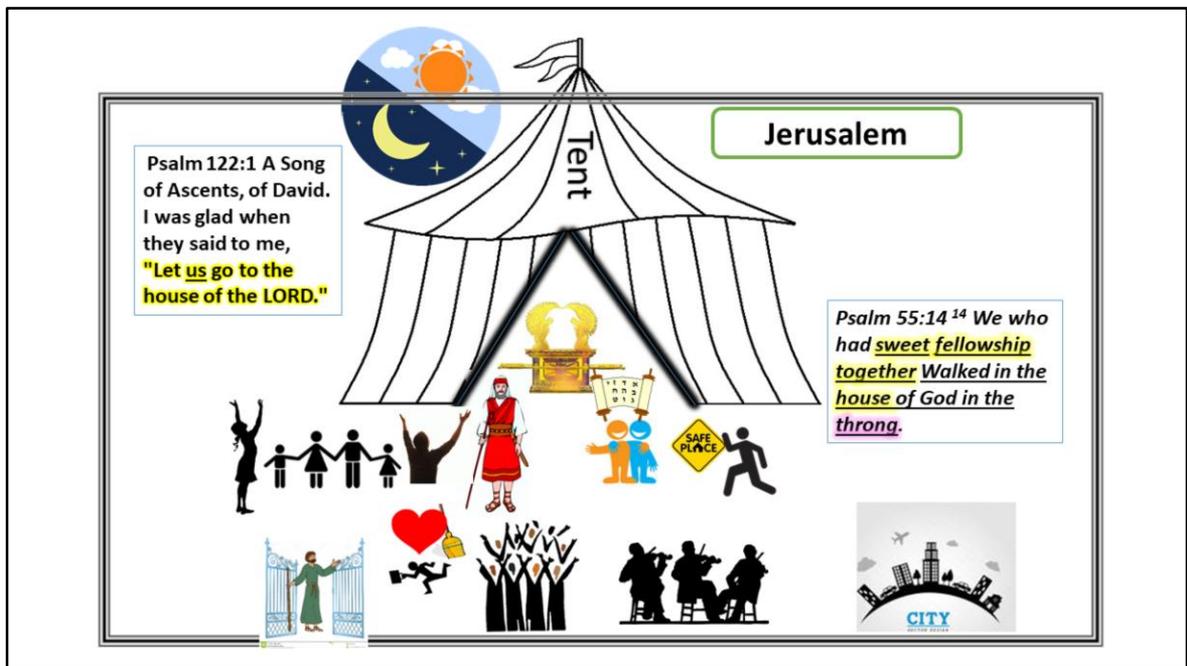
God told Isaiah years later that David was actually the gold standard for worship and prayer. He was God's model and God made him a leader for the nations – a "witness" or testimony. He was not just the leader of Israel but the nations (ethnos). **Do it like David was heaven's message.**



David provided God’s view on the purpose of David’s tent. It was certainly the place to minister to the Lord and that was job one (Psa 27:4). Intimacy was the language of the tent. From today’s vantage point, we might call it First Commandment Christianity! The Great Devotion comes before and sustains the Great Commission. David is the pioneer.

The side benefits to ministry were amazing. David’s tent was a place of refuge from threats, disappointments and the conspiracies of men. Criticism was no stranger to David but he was able in God’s tent to work through the words spoken against him and the actions that men planned against him.

David knew that the only ones who would come and dwell in God’s courts were those whose hearts and hands God had cleaned and were kept clean by God. All others with a different heart would move on. David applied the same logic to his kingdom operation and his personal house (Ps 101) that God used for His House (Ps 5:4-5).

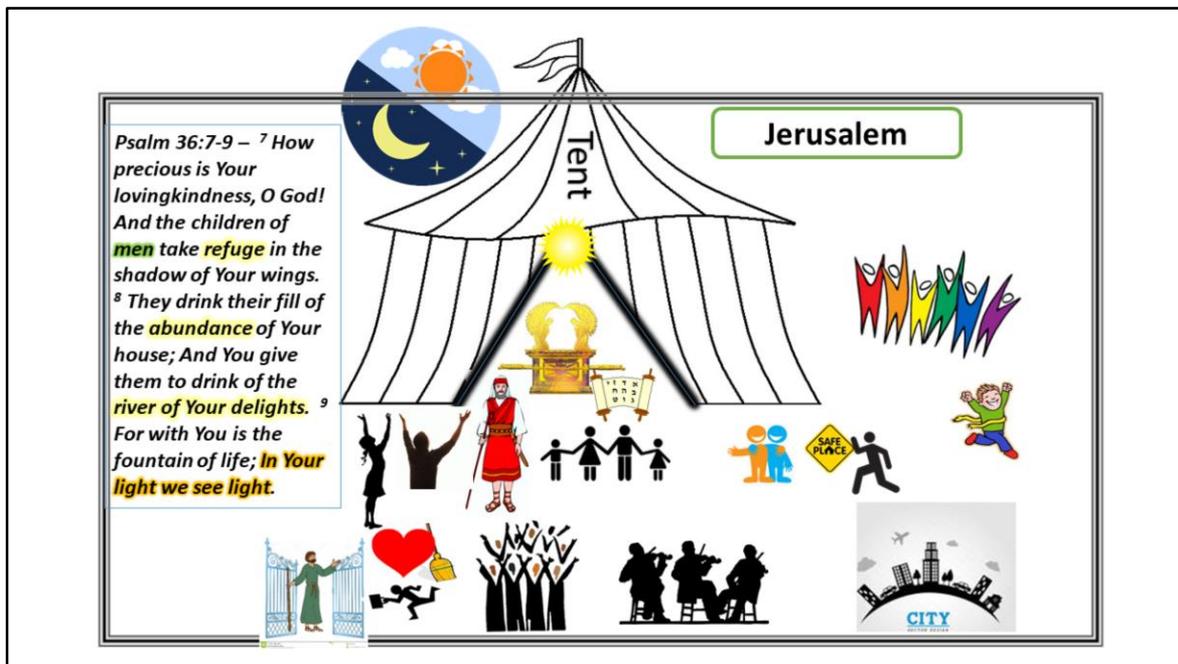


David's tent was not simply for the singers and band. It was not simply for David. It was for the community of faith. They would gather together to minister to the Lord. Moses required all the men to come at least 3 times a year (Ex 23:17) regardless of where they lived.

The whole community would now have access to the Lord not simply the high priest at a set time. This was a profound change from Moses' time. Israel wasn't more holy and God wasn't accommodating sin. David was a witness to the people: a forgiven heart with access. It was a sign of the times to come.

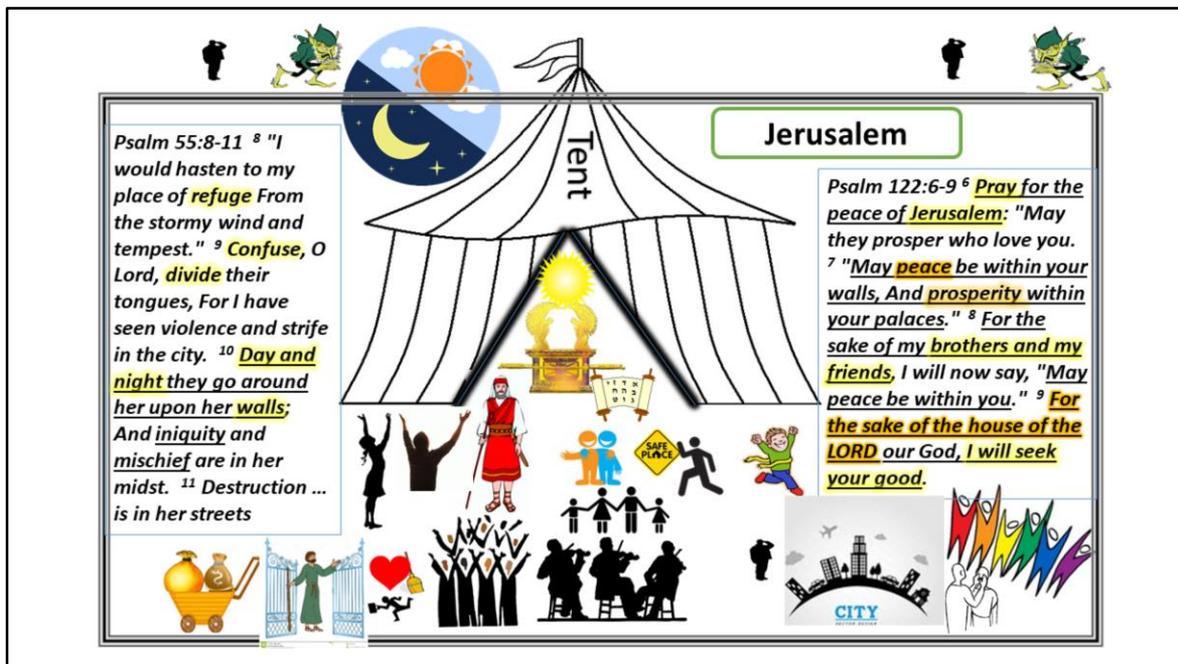
David's tent was also a place of fellowship. Mutual edification followed those committed to "sharath". They worshiped, sang and prayed together and were usually close friends. There were failures in fellowship (Psa 55:15-16) but fellowship in the house remained sweet to those given to that life style and heart. It was expected. It was a natural outcome of David's tent. Those who draw near to God draw near to one another and the Apostle John would later describe (1 John 1:6-10)

(Psa 55:15 NAU) ¹⁵ Let death come deceitfully upon them; Let them go down alive to ²Sheol, For evil is in their dwelling, in their midst.



God's presence was a source of abundance and delight. David expected this from the bridegroom God. It was an attribute of His place. And the Lord had the right to set the location: Deut 12:11; Shiloh (Josh 18:1); Nob (1Sam 21:1); Gibeon (1Chr 21:29)

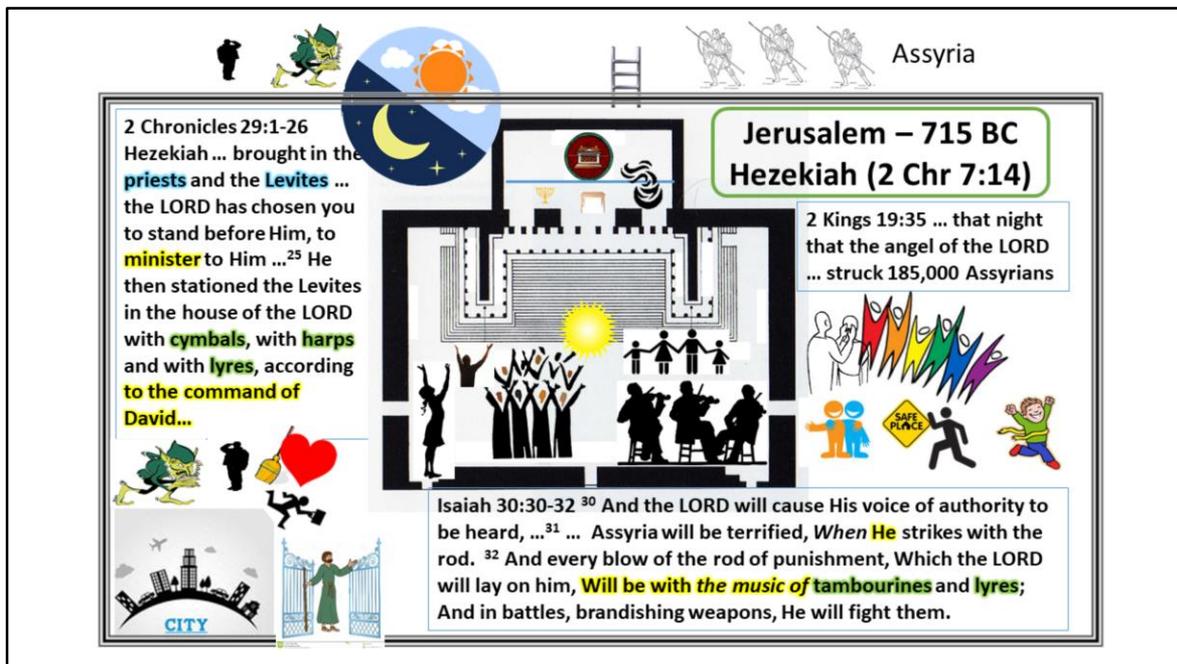
David's tent would be a place of **revelation and insight**. God's light would flood the atmosphere there. What was generally available to the community of faith was enhanced in God's presence and His presence was supremely available in David's tent. It was for all "men" – all "adam" mankind.



David understood that he needed to pray for the prosperity and protection of his city – Jerusalem. He realized that if Jerusalem prospered, his brothers would too and even more importantly God’s house, David’s tent would benefit. The city belonged to God and David would seek its welfare.

David understood that his city was under siege. All was not rosy in the city. And the assault was operating from within and not simply coming from the outside. Mischief and evil operated in the city day and night **just like David's tent** – round the clock. He would cry out in his tent and ask God to mute the effect of those who were bringing destruction to his city. He would pray for confusion and division amongst his enemies and the enemies of God. David was a watchman (Is 62:6-7, Ezek 3:17) for Jerusalem.

It is clear that evil was never eliminated from the city but David’s tent was a strong deterrent. Jerusalem and Israel fared badly when David’s tent failed. And when it operated the fear of the Lord restrained evil in the region. Even the nations surrounding Israel were reluctant to attack (2Chr 20:29).



Sadly, David's experience and tent life, though a commanded practice, died out - most likely sometime during the time of Solomon. It was restored but restoration always was temporary. The nation would turn away. Hezekiah brought the nation back for a season. The Assyrian army was devastating the northern kingdom and Jerusalem was in Assyria's sights! Hezekiah quickly restored the worship and prayer of David's tent according to the promise given to Solomon in 2 Chr 7:14. The singers and band were restored. The night and day command of David was restored. And during the night watch, God destroyed 185,000 Assyrian troops (2 Kings 19:35) as the praise went up. Jerusalem was saved.

David's commanded practice would fail again under Hezekiah's son Manasseh. Ezra and Nehemiah made the last major attempt to revive the HOP.

Ezra 9:8-9⁸ "But now for a brief moment grace has been *shown* from the LORD our God, to leave us an escaped remnant and to give us a peg (think 'tent' peg like David would have used) in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our bondage."⁹ "For we are slaves; yet in our bondage our God has not forsaken us, but has extended lovingkindness to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us reviving to raise up the house of our God, to restore its ruins and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem.

Three hundred years after Hezekiah, Ezra himself is now in Judah. The 2nd temple has now been built but Nehemiah has not come and the walls are still broken down and the gates burned with fire. A natural wall for Judah would be a big undertaking. **A revived HOP in Jerusalem would provide Judah such a wall.** The HOP had a regional impact beyond the city gates. **In Jesus' day, it was but a whisper in history.**

Coming Future HOP?

Isaiah 6:10 ¹⁰ "Render the hearts of this people **insensitive**, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears ... be **healed**

Isaiah 56:6-7 ⁶ "Also the **foreigners** who join themselves to the LORD, To **minister** to Him and to love the name of the Lord ... ⁷ Even those I will bring ... And make them joyful **in My house of prayer**. ... **My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.**"

Isaiah 62:6 ⁶ On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed **watchmen**; All day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves; ⁷ And give Him no rest until He establishes And makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Isaiah 60:2 ² "For behold, darkness will cover the earth, **deep darkness** ... But the LORD will **rise upon you**.

Eze 3:17 NAU) ¹⁷ "Son of man, I have appointed you a **watchman** to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me.

The House of Prayer (HOP) was God's term (Isaiah) for David's tent. God instructed Isaiah to prophecy blindness and deafness to Israel. As a prophet, Isaiah saw that the HOP would collapse again (Is 59:2). The blind and deaf would not seek or call out. This must have been a staggering word to bring and Isaiah surely wondered how Israel could survive without the HOP functioning. God provided a startling solution.

In the future, David's would have a successor who would dispense justice from David's tent (Is 16:5). God would bring foreigners in who loved Him to man the HOP. Israel's blindness would not stop God. He would be faithful even though Israel was not. God would have the wall of intercession manned "night and day". The intercessors would be commanded to give Him no rest until Jerusalem was a praise in the earth. As is so often the case, no time period for this was given to Isaiah. It was for another day. Isaiah, however, was given a clue for that time period.

Deep darkness would cover the earth in that coming day, but God's dawn would arise. The light would overwhelm the darkness even as "day" overwhelms the night. He would provide watchman for His purposes. These watchman would receive messages coming down (Ezek 3:17) and report messages; praise and requests on the kingdom, up (Is 62:6-7). This is broadly the function of the "prophetic".

... Last Days

790 BC; Amos 9:11-14 ¹¹

"In that day I will **raise up the fallen booth (sukkah, skene) of David**, And wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins And rebuild it as in the days of old; ¹² **That they may possess the remnant of Edom** And all the nations who are called by My name ... ¹³ **"Behold, days are coming**, when the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed ...



433 BC; Malachi 1:11 ¹¹

"For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name *will be* great among the nations, and **in every place incense is going to be offered to My name**, a pure offering (YLT); for **My name will be great among the nations**," says the LORD of hosts



Early Church

- ✓ Israel, Temple, Greater David is returning to bring **justice (Joel 3:2)**
- ✓ Jewish and gentile evangelism with **signs and wonders (deeds)**
- ✓ Nero, antichrist type
- ✓ **Davidic intercessory** like worship (Acts 2, 10 (Cornelius), 12 (Peter), 13 (Missions, Antioch), 16 (Philippi) – albeit under the radar.)

- ✓ Amos 9:11-13 –
- ✓ **Last days?**
- ✓ ... **Not yet**
- ✓ **Down payment**



Luke 63 AD; Acts 15:15-17 ¹⁵ "With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written, ¹⁶ **'AFTER THESE THINGS** I will return, **AND I WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE (skene) OF DAVID WHICH HAS FALLEN**, AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL **RESTORE IT**, ¹⁷ SO THAT **THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK THE LORD, AND ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME,**'

Malachi foretold that there would be incense rising around the nations in God's day, not simply in Jerusalem but in "locations". Amos anticipated that the wait would be long but a time was coming when God's promises to Abraham and Israel would be fulfilled. The day of rebuilding would be near the day of unparalleled harvest. The reapers couldn't even finish before the planters arrived for the next season. Isaiah called it the "last days" when the mountain of the Lord would rise above all others (Is 2:2) and the nations would stream to it.

The early church thought that day had arrived. Israel was on the land, the temple was in place, the greater David had come and was returning. Jews were coming to Christ and in the midst of signs and wonders even great numbers of gentiles were believing as David had seen. A restored HOP as Luke saw (Acts 15:15) must have been close at hand. The fallen tabernacle of David was going to be rebuilt. History shows that this was not to be. It would await another day when God would begin to deal with His Jewish sons and daughters. Step one, get an unsaved Israel back on the land (1948).

That day, as Amos had seen, would be tied to God's dealing with Israel and the nations that opposed her (Joel 3:1). It would be the last of the last days.

(Mat 6:9-10 NAU) ⁹ "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ 'Your **kingdom come**. Your will be done, **On earth as it is in heaven**.



(Rev 5:8-10 NAU) ⁸ When He had taken the book, the **four living creatures** and the **twenty-four elders** fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a **harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints**. ⁹ And they **sang** a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. ¹⁰ "You have made them *to be* a **kingdom** and **priests** to our God; and they **will reign upon the earth**."

... Heaven to Earth

(Rev 15:5 NAU) ⁵ After these things I looked, and the temple of the **tabernacle of testimony** in heaven was opened

(Rev 21:3 NAU) ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the **tabernacle** of God is among men, and **He will dwell (tabernacle) among them**, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

The apostle John was invited to heaven to see God's plans for the end of the age and somewhat incidentally to see how heaven operated. God intends to bring His operation to earth and as Matthew noted, we need to pray this way. There already appears to be a heavenly House of Prayer – singers, intercession, men from every tribe and God's intention is to "tabernacle" among men on earth.

Illustrations



The Ark of the Presence;
intimacy, audience
of One



288 Prophetic
Singers



4,000 Musicians
4,000 Gatekeepers



Awesome deeds



Prosperity -
provision



God's Instructions:
commandments, statutes,
judgments



River of Delight



Fellowship



Refuge of God
A Place Restoration



Transformation



Light of His
Presence, Wisdom



Restored Israel

External pressure; internal mischief,
deep darkness, dawn



Like David



Messages

Your City



Night and Day



Missions



Intercession & Worship
Agreement with God
Community



Only God cleans hearts
Others leave



Drawing the nations

