

# THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

## Part 1: 'Let Them Make Me A Sanctuary...'

Reading: *Exodus 25:1 - 9*

### Introduction

- A sprawling encampment of 600,000 tents covering 6 - 8 square miles at the base of Mount Sinai.
- A central, larger structure called '*the Tabernacle*.'
- A mysterious pillar of cloud hovers over this Tabernacle.
- Who are these people?
- Where did they come from?
- Why have they not moved for a year?
- What is this '*Tabernacle structure*'?
- Why is it fenced off?

### 1 Who Are These Millions Of People?

- They are referred too as '*Israel*' or '*the children of Israel*.'
- Their origin goes back to an old man and his wife called Abraham and Sarah.
- God gave them a '*miracle child*' called Isaac.
- To Isaac and his wife Rebekah Jacob was born.
- God changed his name to '*Israel*' meaning '*prince or ruling with God*.' [Genesis 32:28].
- To Jacob 13 children were born. One daughter and 12 sons.
- Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin and Joseph.
- To Joseph 2 sons (Manasseh and Ephraim) were born.
- This family of some 70 people emigrated to Egypt in the days when Joseph was PM of Egypt.
- They remained there 4 centuries and when they left '*these descendants of Israel*' numbered about 2.5 million.
- That's who is camped at the base of mount Sinai.

## 2 Where Are They Going To?

- They are going to a land then called '*Canaan*.'
- God promised this land to them through Abraham [Genesis 12:7].
- That promise was reiterated to Jacob/Israel in [Genesis 28:13].
- The land would come to be known as '*the land of Israel*.'
- God chose Israel to be '*His people*' out of all the other peoples of the world. [Exodus 4:22]

## 3 Why Have They Not Moved For A Year?

- Their leader is called by God to the top of Mt. Sinai where He gives him 2 things.
- The '*Decalogue*' and '*the plans/blueprint*' for '*the Tabernacle*.'
- They were to construct this '*tabernacle*' exactly according to the plans without alterations.

## 4 What Is The Purpose Of The Tabernacle?

- It was essentially a portable worship centre.
- It allowed Jehovah to dwell or '*tabernacle*' among His people.
- God loves to fellowship with His people (Adam and Eve, Abraham etc)
- At His incarnation the Lord Jesus came to '*dwell/tabernacle*' amongst people. [John 1:14].
- (See also Matthew 18:20).
- The '*Tabernacle*' is a '*type*' of the Lord Jesus and His redemptive work.
- NB. Two chapters devoted to God's dwelling place for humanity [Genesis 1 & 2]
- But 13 chapters devoted to God's dwelling place here amongst us.
- Ch 25 - 31. The **PLANS** For The Tabernacle.
- Ch 35 - 40. The **PRODUCTION** Of The Tabernacle.

## 5 Why The Positioning Of The Tabernacle?

- The rectangular perimeter of tabernacle was 150' by 75'
- The 12 tribes camped in order around the 4 sides of the Tabernacle.
- The Tabernacle was right in the middle of the encampment.
- All ancient nations positioned their king in the middle of the camp.
- This said that Jehovah was Israel's King.

- **Question:** *Is The Lord Jesus in the centre of all that happening in your life. Is He your King?*

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Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle 837-869 Shore Road Belfast BT15 4HS  
Tel: 028 9077 7074 Email: info@whitewell.church  
[www.whitewell.church](http://www.whitewell.church)