

# **Welcome to the Tabernacle**

## **LESSON 10 . . . God's Prophetic Calendar**

# **The Shekinah Glory, the Passover, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread**

**In chapter 40 of *Exodus*, the tabernacle was erected, the furniture put in its proper place (40:17-30), and Moses, Aaron, and Aaron's sons washed their hands and feet at the laver (40:31-32).**

**Then, the fence was raised all around the court, and the gate was hung (40:33), completing all God had instructed Moses to do.**

**At that point what wonderful thing happened, according to Exodus 40:34-35?**

**"Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle."**

**This is a description of what is called...**

## **I. The Shekinah Glory of God**

**The word *Shekinah* (she-KI-nuh) is a Hebrew word that means “that which dwells.”**

**It is a non-biblical term used to describe the visible presence of God.**



**When the tabernacle was complete, the purpose for which it was built could then be fulfilled as God said... that I may dwell among them.**

**That was the divine purpose of the Shekinah glory, also a very practical purpose for the visible presence of God over the tabernacle.**

**Exodus 40:36-38** "Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys."



**God's Shekinah glory was not simply a cloud like a rain cloud but rather an awesome visible sign of God's presence and glory that words can't describe.**

**God's presence and glory have always been intriguing, even to Moses.**

**In** Exodus 33:18 Moses requested of God: *I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.*

God's **answer** is one of the most sacred scenes **in** Scripture.

**Notice** God's **response** to Moses' request.

**Exodus 33:20-23** "But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." 21 And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. 22 "So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. 23 "Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.""

**This fascinating passage inspired Fanny J. Crosby to write her famous hymn, “He Hideth My Soul.”**

**Moses’ experience makes it clear that the Shekinah glory of God cannot be seen in all its fullness.**

**That is why Moses was unable to enter the tabernacle in ...**

**Exodus 40:35 “And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.” (ESV)**



**The profound effect of being close to the Shekinah glory of God is found in Exodus 34 when Moses cut two tables of stone like the first ones, upon which God would write the Ten Commandments.**

**Early in the morning Moses took the second set of tables to the top of Mt. Sinai (Exodus 34:1-4).**

**After 40 days in the presence of God, Moses came down from the mountain.**

**What obvious physical effect did that time with God have upon Moses, according to...**



**Exodus 34:29-33** "Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. 30 So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. 31 Then Moses called to them, and Aaron

**and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them. 32 Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them as commandments all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. 33 And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face."**

**People who have a close fellowship with the Lord should show it on their faces.**

**If indeed we have the Son of God living in our hearts, we need to tell our faces.**

**We see the Shekinah glory mentioned and referred to often during the earthly ministry of Jesus.**

**Matthew 16:27 ""For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."**

**Even after the completion of the tabernacle and the descent of the fascinating Shekinah glory of God, Gods plan for the tabernacle was only beginning.**

**We must be careful in studying the tabernacle that we do not stop with the structure or even the Shekinah glory, for it was what took place in the tabernacle that really mattered.**

**One does not go to church simply to admire the architecture of the building, beautiful as it may be.**

**Neither does one go just to see what mighty things one might experience there.**

**We go to church services to  
WORSHIP God.**

**Luke 9:28-31 "Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. 30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem."**

**John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."**

**In the same way, a study of the tabernacle would not be complete without considering the feasts and holy days of the Lord.**



**Many times during this study, reference has been made to one of the feasts—the Day of Atonement.**

**The ultimate sacrifice of Christ on the cross was foreshadowed by the Day of Atonement.**

**The sixteenth chapter of *Leviticus* is completely devoted to this most important day of the year to the nation of Israel.**

**However, if we are to learn the lessons God has for us in the Day of Atonement, we must also study the 23rd chapter of *Leviticus*, where the Day of Atonement is placed in**

**chronological order in relation to the other six holy feast days that were annually observed by all devout Jewish males.**

**The full significance of Leviticus 23 cannot be understood without realizing it is God's prophetic calendar.**

**Moreover, if we are to understand what God is doing in this world, we must be acquainted with His calendar.**

**God is a God who does things *decently and in order* (1 Cor. 14:40).**

**God's orderly observance of the annual holy feast days is no exception, as they begin with...**

**II. The Passover (Leviticus 23:5)**

**God's calendar is lunar and is therefore based on the moon rather than the earth's revolutions around the sun.**

**Each month starts with a new moon, reaching a full moon in the midst of the 28-day cycle.**

**Thus, the fourteenth day of the month is the full moon.**

**God commanded that the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's passover (Leviticus 23:5).**

**Therefore, Passover always falls on the first full moon of spring, which would be March or April on our calendar.**

**It marked the beginning of Israel's religious calendar.**



**After NT times, the Jewish Christians linked Easter with the Passover and observed it on the fourteenth day of Nisan (April) regardless of the day of the week.**

**However, Gentile Christians later celebrated the annual observance of the resurrection of Christ on the Lord's day (SUNDAY).**

**In 325 A.D., the Council of Nicea decided Easter would be observed the first Sunday after the full moon following vernal equinox (the time the sun crosses the equator—approximately March 21st).**

**This remains our method for determining the date of Easter, and it always falls between March 22nd and April 25th.**

**Therefore, it doesn't coincide with Passover, which is the fourteenth day of Nisan.**

**The First Council of Nicaea**, held in Nicaea in Bithynia (present-day Iznik in Turkey), convoked by the Roman Emperor Constantine I in 325, was the first Ecumenical council of the early Christian Church, and most significantly resulted in the first uniform Christian doctrine, called the Nicene Creed.

**The purpose of the council was to resolve disagreements in the Church of Alexandria over the nature of JESUS in relationship to the Father; in particular, whether Jesus was of the same substance as GOD THE FATHER or merely of similar substance.**

Nicene Creed (325AD): *We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father [the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God], Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made*

*[both in heaven and on earth]; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down and was incarnate and was made man; he suffered, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. And in the Holy Ghost.*

*[But those who say: 'There was a time when he was not;' and 'He was not before he was made;' and 'He was made out of nothing,' or 'He is of another substance' or 'essence,' or 'The Son of God is created,' or 'changeable,' or 'alterable' — they are condemned by the holy catholic and apostolic Church.]*



**Arianism is the theological teaching attributed to Arius (ca. AD 250–336), a Christian presbyter in Alexandria, Egypt, concerning the relationship of God to the Son of God (Jesus of Nazareth).**

**Arius asserted that the Son of God was a subordinate entity to God the Father.**

**Deemed a heretic by the Ecumenical First Council of Nicaea of 325, Arius was later exonerated in 335 at the regional First Synod of Tyre, and then, after his death, pronounced a heretic again at the Ecumenical First Council of Constantinople of 381.**

**What does this teach about the Councils of men?**

**The Arian (also called GNOSTICISM) concept of Christ is that the Son of God did not always exist, but was created by—and is therefore distinct from—God the Father.**

# **Why is a proper Biblical knowledge of the Person of Christ so critical to our Salvation?**

**Romans 10:9-10** “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” **(ESV)**

**Philippians 2:5-8** “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” **(ESV)**

**1 John 2:22-23 “Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.”**

**PRAYER TIME**