

“HE DWELT (TABERNACLED) AMONG US”

John 1:14

He pitched His tent on earth for thirty-three years. There is here a latent reference to the tabernacle of Israel in the wilderness. That tabernacle had a typical significance: it foreshadowed God the Son incarnate. Almost everything about the tabernacle adumbrated the Word made flesh. Many and varied are the correspondences between the type and the Anti-type. Following are a few of the more conspicuous:

1. **The “tabernacle” was a temporary appointment.** Not like Solomon’s Temple, which was a permanent structure, but was merely a tent to be moved about during the journeying of the Israelites. So it was when our blessed Lord Tabernacled here among men. His stay was brief, less than forty years; and, like the type, He abode not long in any one place, but was constantly on the move—unwearied in the activity of his Love.
2. **The “tabernacle” was in the wilderness.** From Egypt to the Promised Land, the wilderness foreshadowed the conditions amid which the eternal Word tabernacle among men. It unmistakably foreshadowed the manger-cradle, the Nazarite-carpenter’s bench, the “nowhere” for Jesus to lay His head, the borrowed tomb for His sepulcher. A study of the chronology of the Pentateuch indicates that the tabernacle was used for less than 35 years.
3. **The “tabernacle” was humble and unattractive in appearance.** Unlike Solomon’s Temple and its magnificence, there was nothing externally to please the eye. Only plain boards and skins. So it was at the Incarnation. The Divine majesty of our Lord was hidden beneath a veil of flesh. When He arrived, it was without a host of angels. He had no form nor comeliness; and when they beheld Him, their unanointed eyes saw in Him no beauty that they should desire Him. Isaiah 55:3
4. **The “tabernacle” was God’s dwelling.** In the midst of Israel’s camp, He took up His abode. There between the cherubim upon the Mercy-seat He made His throne. In the holy of holies He manifested His presence by means of the Shekinah glory. And during the 33 years the Word tabernacle among men. God had His dwelling place in Palestine. The holy of holies received its anti-typical fulfillment in the Person of the Holy One of God. Just as the Shekinah dwelt between the two cherubim, so on the mount of trans-figuration the glory of the God-man flashed forth from between two men—Moses and Elijah. “We beheld His glory” is the language of the tabernacle type.
5. **The “tabernacle” was where God met with men.** The tent of meeting. If an Israelite desired to draw near unto Jehovah He had to come to the door of the tabernacle. When giving instructions to Moses concerning the making of the tabernacle and its furniture, God said, “And thou shalt put the mercy-seat above upon the Ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee” (Exodus 25:21, 22). How perfect is his type! Christ is the meeting place between God and man. No man cometh to the Father but by Him (John 14:16). There is but one mediator between God and man, the man Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5).
6. **The “tabernacle” was the center of Israel’s camp.** In the immediate vicinity of the tabernacle dwelt the Levites, the priestly tribe (Numbers 1:50), and around the Levites were the twelve tribes, three on each side (Numbers 2) See also Numbers 2:17, and Numbers 11: 24-25. He is the greatest gathering center. And His precious promise is, that “where two or three are gathered together together in My name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20).
7. **The “tabernacle” was where the Law was preserved.** Moses’ first two tablets of stone, on which Jehovah had inscribed the 10 commandments were broken (Exo. 32:19); but the second set were deposited in the ark in the tabernacle for safe keeping (Deut. 10: 2: 5). It was only there, within the holy of holies, the tablets of the Law were preserved intact. How this, again, speaks to us of Jesus! “...thy law is written in my heart” (Psalm 40:7-8). Throughout His Life He preserved in thought, word and deed honor for God’s Law.

- 8. The Tabernacle was the place where the sacrifice was made.** In its outer court stood the brazen altar, to which the animals were brought, and on which they were slain. There the blood was shed and atonement was made for sin. Jesus fulfilled in His own Person the typical significance of the brazen altar, as of every piece of the tabernacle furniture. The Cross was the altar upon which God's Lamb was slain, His blood shed, and full atonement was made for our sins.
- 9. The Tabernacle was the place where the Priestly family was fed.** *“And the remainder thereof shall Aaron and his sons eat: with unleavened bread shall it be eaten in the holy place; in the court of the tabernacle of the congregation they shall eat it...The priest that offereth it for sin shall eat it: in the holy place Shall it be eaten”* (Lev. 6: 16, 26). *How deeply significant re these scriptures are these scriptures. How they speak to us of Christ as the food of God's priestly family today, that is all believers (1 Peter 25). He is the Bread of Life for our soul.*
- 10. The tabernacle was the place of worship.** To it the pious Israelite brought his offerings. To it he turned when he desired to worship Jehovah. From its door the Voice of the Lord was heard. Within its courts the priests ministered in their sacred service. And so it was with the Anti-type. It is “by him” we are to offer to offer unto God sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13:15). He is the bread of life for our soul.

Thus we see how fully and how perfectly the tabernacle of old foreshadowed the Person of our blessed Lord, and why the Holy Spirit, when announcing the incarnation, said, “And the World became flesh, and tabernacle among us.