

“The ‘Tarrying’ Place”

Presentation Handout

Our “Tarrying” Places

- “Tarrying” – to abide or stay in or at a place; to linger in expectation....
- What’s your “tarrying” place(s)?
- That “place” where you gather with family or friends to celebrate, unwind, relax, get-away from the stresses of life, work, school, etc.
- Maybe it’s a favorite restaurant, ice cream shop, hiking spot, vacation “go-to,” a relaxing park, or bike trail.
- For some college student-groups I know it’s one of their apartments where they “hang” together for meals, pray groups, or late Saturday night game nights.
- For the presenter (David) and his family it’s Olive Garden—the place where I thought I would like to marry this young lady I was dating (and I did, God is good). Since then it has become our family “tarrying” place for anniversaries, birthdays, family time get-aways, or a place to unwind during stressful times in life.

Take-Away: Strange as it may sound, God has “tarrying” place too. Yes, God! It’s called the sanctuary, tabernacle, temple in the Old Testament. It was His place to “tarry,” “hang,” connect with human beings {*Exodus 25:8; 29:45-46*}! Does this amaze you, even “blow your mind” that God longingly desires to “tarry” with humans? Yea, He does! Amazing!

The Sanctuary—God’s “Tarrying” Place

- This shouldn’t surprise us: God loves to “tarry,” “hang with,” connect with human beings, like good friends “hanging-out” together. This is who He is—a co-eternal Godhead of love and fellowship, and not just with Himself!
 - We see God doing this in the Garden of Eden with Adam & Eve {*Genesis 3:8-9*} and we read it will happen again for eternity in *Revelation 21:2-3*.
- You may be wondering: *This is nice, even great information, but why are you wanting me to study about some Old Testament sanctuary and its services? That’s the Old Testament.... I’m not an Israelite. I don’t bring animal sacrifices for forgiveness....*
- True..., but we can learn through our study of the Old Testament sanctuary how much God wants to “tarry” with us, how He saves us, and how He prepares us to live with Him in His holy presence for eternity. His “ways” are revealed and explained in the Old Testament sanctuary and its services {*Psalms 77:13; 73:10-(17)*}, which are a symbol/type of His heavenly sanctuary where Jesus intercedes for us now {*Hebrews 8:1-5; 9:6-15*}.

Take-Away: Simple enough, except, sinful human beings (like the Israelites and us) don’t naturally want to live in the presence of a holy God {*Deuteronomy 5:23-26*}. God’s solution—the sanctuary!

Why Human Beings Tend to Avoid God

▪ Fear of God Himself

- We humans are a “messed up” bunch of people because sin separates us from God along with messing up how we view God {*Isaiah 59:2*}.
- Unfortunately, Adam & Eve modeled this separation and fear all too well for the rest of humanity as they hid in the bushes trying to avoid God in *Genesis 3:10*.
- As a result we live in fear of God and estranged from Him because of our sin, shame, guilt, and lostness. We just know He’s going to damn or condemn us! We’re doomed, we think. In this fear and separation our perception/view of God becomes skewed. Here are some examples
 - God is demanding, particularly in obedience & holiness, not giving or helpful.
 - God is authoritative, commanding, not caring, or understanding.
 - God is critical, condemning, not rational, reasonable, or compassionate.
 - God is aloof, disconnected, not personal, connecting, or concerned.
- No wonder the Israelites avoided God in fear. Anyone would if they had these perceptions/views of God. I would! And, sadly, I did for many years.

▪ Fear of God’s holiness

- God is holy! And His holiness can be fearful because sin and sinful human beings cannot live in the presence of God’s holiness. Ultimately His holiness and glory will “burn up”/destroy sin and sinners if they hold on to it.
- Sadly, this is why so many humans live with the idea God is a God who longs to “destroy or hurt” them. Because they can’t deal with this fear they avoid or negate Him hoping not to be condemned or judged by Him.
- Obviously, a fear of God Himself and His holiness would negate any real connection with Him. No one can love or connect with an abuser.
- Yet, this is not the God of the Bible. No! God longs to tarry, connect, “hang with” sinful human beings and have them live in His very presence—His holiness. This is His ultimate heart desire!

Take-Away: But how can this happen when human beings tend to do the opposite—enter the sanctuary where God answers humanity’s fear of Him, skewed perceptions/views of Him, and/or their fear of His holiness. Let’s see how.

The Sanctuary—God’s Answer to Humanity’s Fears About Him

▪ Atonement

- The meaning is simply “at-one-ment” – bringing two estranged parties together to reconcile a relationship. How does God make atonement/”at-one-ment”?
- Through offerings/sacrifices, like:
 - ❖ Burnt offering {*Leviticus 1*}
 - ❖ Grain offering {*Leviticus 2*}
 - ❖ Peace offering {*Leviticus 3:1-17; 7:11-36*}
 - ❖ Sin offering {*Leviticus 4:1-35; 6:24-30*}
 - ❖ Trespass offering {*Leviticus 5:1-19; 7:1-7*}

- Here’s where it gets amazing. These sacrifices are not just some Old Testament blood or grain offerings/sacrifices. They actually symbolize in type something more, Someone unexpected.
- Amazingly, they point forward to Jesus, representing His sacrifice for us as the Lamb of God {*John 1:29, 36; 1 Corinthians 5:7*}. See the chart below.

Offering	Blood on/to	Meat to	Uniqueness	Christ’s Sacrifice
Burnt { <i>Leviticus 1</i> }	Sides of Altar of Burnt Offering	The Lord	All meat consumed	Christ’s life “consumed”
Grain { <i>Leviticus 2</i> }	No blood	No flesh	No death	Christ provides eternal life
Peace { <i>Leviticus 3:1-17; 7:11-36</i> }	Sides of Altar of Burnt Offering	Priest* + offeror <i>*except when he’s the offeror—Leviticus 4:3-12</i>	Offeror eats	Spiritually “partaking/eating” of Christ
Sin { <i>Leviticus 4:1-35; 6:24-30</i> }	Horns of Altar of Burnt Offering	Priest* <i>*except when he’s the offeror—Leviticus 4:3-12</i>	Elevation of blood	Christ as ransom for life
Trespass { <i>Leviticus 5:1-19; 7:1-7</i> }	Sides of Altar of Burnt Offering	Priest* <i>*except when he’s the offeror—Leviticus 4:3-12</i>	Prior payment of reparation	Christ pays debt of sin

- God Himself in Jesus became our atonement by dying for our sins—shedding His blood as a sacrifice for our sins that make us fear Him. Now with forgiveness given freely to us at a great price to Himself, we don’t need to live in the shame, guilt, or condemnation of our sins. They have been forgiven—we have been redeemed!
- What an amazing God who would do this for sinful human beings, us, so we could live connected with Him forever!! This is how much God wants to be with you, tarry with you, connect with you, “hang” with you!
- Through the priests, particularly the high priest
 - Over and over, one reads (see *the list of Scripture verses at the end of this presentation handout*) how the priests make atonement for the one who sinned {*Leviticus 5:5-6; 6:1-3, 6-7*}, again, not the person themselves.
 - Interestingly, the priest makes atonement through the offering, whether blood or grain, not through his own blood or human effort. He only mediates or ministers the atonement.
 - Reminding us, Jesus mediates/ministers His shed blood for us as our heavenly High Priest. The priest and his service prefigure in symbol/type what Jesus does for us. We’ll cover this in more detail in the next presentation—“Living O2.”

Take-Away: As we’ve discovered so far the sanctuary reveals God’s heart desire to live, dwell, connect or “hang” with human beings, through sinful, to the point that He Himself is willing to become the atonement (“at-one-ment”) for our sins, so we will not fear Him anymore. But, there is still one problem for humans to live in God’s presence—His holiness. Here is how God solves this problem, again, through the sanctuary

- **Made Holy**

- God’s holiness is like the sun. It can bless, giving life, like photosynthesis—plants taking the sun’s energy to make food, vitamin D, which fights germs and diseases;

- or destroy/hurt, like sunburns, skin cancer, or blindness by looking directly at the sun for long periods of time.
- His holiness, His presence, destroys sin and sinful human beings who hold on to it. So how can God have sinful human beings enter into His presence without being “burned up”/destroyed by His holy presence? Through His ministry in the sanctuary.
 - Here’s an amazing, hopeful insight sparked by the Holy Spirit through a “thebibleproject.com” video on the book of “Leviticus” (*find their link on the **god-journey.com** website under “Resources”*).
 - The book of **Exodus** ends with Moses, a human being, not able to be in God’s presence because of the intensity of His glory, holiness {**Exodus 40:34-35**}, again not God’s ultimate desire/plan {**Exodus 25:8; 29:45-46**}.
 - The book of **Leviticus** begins with God speaking to Moses, a human being, from the earthly sanctuary/tabernacle {**Leviticus 1:1**}, better than **Exodus**, but still not God’s ideal.
 - Now the book of **Numbers** begins with God speaking to Moses, a human being, in the sanctuary/tabernacle {**Numbers 1:1**}, finally God’s heart desire is being realized—personal, heart connection, **at-one-ment!**
 - What produced the change? How did it happen? Through God’s work in the sanctuary with its services and priesthood’s, particularly the high priest, ministry as revealed in the book of **Leviticus**.
 - God, Himself, made a way for atonement (“at-one-ment”) through Himself for sinful, struggling human beings to move closer to Him and ultimately live in His holy presence—His holiness!
 - Two aspects of atonement:
 - Forgiveness {**Leviticus 4:22, 24-26: 5:1, 10**}
 - ❖ When the offeror confessed his/her sin over their offering/sacrifice, their debt” –penalty caused by sin—which stood in the way of the person’s relationship with God (*remember sin separates people from God—**Isaiah 59:2***) was removed. This forgiveness provided reconciliation—“at-one-ment”—between God and the forgiven sinner!
 - Cleansing {**Leviticus 16:29-30**}
 - ❖ With forgiveness also came cleansing. You can’t have one without the other because sin cannot live in the presence of a holy God—His holiness.
 - ❖ So God’s cleansing/purifying of the repentant offeror’s sin through “at-one-ment” grew the offeror in holiness, obedience. A heart forgiven, redeemed, cleansed wants to please, not appease, his God who gave everything for Him. The fear of his/her sin’s shame, guilt, condemnation opens their heart to receive God’s holiness—the writing of God’s law, His character, into the heart of the repentant offeror {**Hebrews 8:7-12; 9:9-15**}.
 - ❖ Just like the earthy sanctuary/tabernacle was God’s earthly dwelling/ tarrying place {**Exodus 29:44-46; Psalm 74:7**}, our bodies are also temples/sanctuaries for God to dwell in through the Holy Spirit {**Psalm 114:2; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9, 11-12**}. And just like we wouldn’t want to defile His literal sanctuary/tabernacle, we don’t want to defile our bodies in disobedience. Having God dwell in us through the Holy Spirit as living temples, tabernacles, sanctuaries, leads us to shun evil and

live lives of heart obedience to our God. This is the process of sanctification, being made holy, that brings us into a deeper connection with God and His holiness {*Hebrews 8:7-12; 9:9-15*}.

▪ **Additional lessons/truths to remember:**

- God also gave the detailed sanctuary plans/instructions {*Exodus 25:9; Hebrews 8:4-5*}, then provided the expensive building materials through the Egyptians as the Israelites exited Egypt {*Exodus 11:1-3; 12:33-36*}, and finally divinely engineering artisans to construct it {*Exodus 31:1-11*}. What a God we serve!

Take-Away: Atonement is like a coupler that connects, clasps hands with, forgiveness—salvation (our “Hope” mile-marker)—on one side and cleansing—growing in holiness (our “Living” mile-marker)—on the other side. Both forgiveness and cleansing, go/fit together like a hand and glove or an engine and transmission.

The Apostle John picks up this idea in *1 John 1:5, 7, 9* when talking about our salvation.

*⁵ “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that **God is light** and in Him is **no darkness** at all.
⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the **blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**
⁹ If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to **forgive us our sins** and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**”*

Reconciliated—Reconnected with God

- All human beings need reconciliation with God (and with others as well as with themselves) because human beings tend to live disconnected lives. But, in the sanctuary—its services and priesthood—we see God’s answer of reconciliation/reconnection in symbolism/type.
- In the New Testament book of Revelation we see the beauty and reality of this divine atonement (“at-one-ment”), reconciliation in the New Jerusalem.
 - The New Jerusalem is a perfect cube, equal height, length, and width {*Revelation 21:10, 16*}, the same as the Most Holy Place in the earthly sanctuary {*1 Kings 6:19-20*}—the place where God’s Shekinah glory-holiness dwelt.
 - In the New Jerusalem, where the redeemed will dwell with God for eternity, we see the final, ultimate fulfillment of God’s dream for you—to dwell personally with Him forever in His holy presence, His holiness {*Revelation 21:1-5*}.
 - We’ll unpack this idea more in our next presentation—“Living 02.”

LIVING CHOICE: Will you accept God’s atonement/”at-one-ment” of His forgiveness and cleansing/holiness, which allows Him to change you into His likeness, so that you can live in His holy presence forever?

The Sanctuary Concept/Idea in the Bible

- *Exodus 25:8-9* ~ God commanded Moses to build a sanctuary based on the detailed instructions/pattern He gave him.

- This was so He could dwell with the people in such a way that they could learn about Him because they feared, were terrified of, Him {*Exodus 20:18-21; Deuteronomy 5:23-26; Psalm 77:11-(13)*} because their hearts were disconnected from Him through their promises to obey God in their own human strength (they didn't recognize His and His law's holiness) {*Exodus 19:8a; 24:3, 7; Deuteronomy 5:27*} and their "sin-capade" in worshipping the golden calf {*Exodus 32*}—so much for human-willed, empowered "obedience!"
- The Sanctuary is a symbolic pattern/plan by which God could dwell with struggling, sinful people {*Exodus 29:44-46; 1 Kings 6:11-13, 8:10-13 (10, 13), 56-61 (58-59); Psalm 74:7; 2 Corinthians 6:16b*}, reveal His glory to them {*Exodus 40:34-35; Leviticus 9:5-6, 22-24; Psalm 63:2-3; 96:6-8*}, draw them into His presence {*Exodus 19:16-20 (19); 20:18-21 -> Deuteronomy 5:4, 22-26; Hebrews 9:6-15 (9, 13-15); 10:1-4, 19-25 (22)*}, and into a closer faith-walk with Him {*Exodus 29:46; Deuteronomy 5:29*}.
- *Exodus 36(1, 4a), 8-39:31; Psalm 78:69* ~ God equipped ordinary human beings with special gifts, abilities, and talents to construct the sanctuary and its furnishings.
- *Revelation 21 & 22* ~ The New Jerusalem is the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel regarding the rebuilt sanctuary found in *Ezekiel 41-48*.
- *Daniel 8:8-14* ~ The sanctuary and God's truth are connected—as God's heavenly sanctuary is cleansed, restored, re-understood, or reestablished through Jesus' high priestly ministry then God's truth of His character and teachings are re-understood, restored too.
- *Exodus 25:8-9 -> Hebrews 8:1-6 (4-5); 9:1-10* ~ The earthly sanctuary, tabernacle, temple served as a representation, symbol, type of the heavenly one so we as frail, limited human beings could understand what God's salvation plan is for our lives and what Jesus is doing in heaven for us now.
- *2 Chronicles 30:18-19; Psalm 65:1-(3); 79:9; Proverbs 16:6; Ezekiel 16:60-(63)* ~ Ultimately God provides atonement, which is reconciliation and heart connection with God.
- *Exodus 29:31-37; Leviticus 8:14-(15), 22-(34); 9:1-(7); 12:6-8 (7-8); 14:1, 10-22 (18-21), 29-30, 48-(53); 15:13-(15), 25-(30); 16:6-11 (6, 10), 16-18, 20, 24, 27, 29-(30), 32-34; 17:10-(11); 19:20-(22); Numbers 5:8; 6:1-2, 6-(11); 8:5-(12); 16:1-3, 41-47 (46-47); 28:22, 30; 29:5, 11; Ezekiel 43:18-(20)* ~ A sacrifice or incense makes atonement for people (priests & Israelites), the sanctuary (its furniture), homes, etc., which consecrates or sanctifies, setting them apart as special or holy, and/or cleanses them.
- *Exodus 30:1-(10)* ~ Atonement is made by blood on the altar of incense once per year by the high priest.
- *Exodus 30:11-16 (15-16); Numbers 30:15* ~ Ransom "offering" after a census makes atonement, reminding the children of Israel their lives were in God's hands.
- *Leviticus 1:2-4; 4:13-20* ~ A burnt sacrifice offering made atonement for the Israelite who sinned. It died instead of the sinner making atonement on his/her behalf. Atonement is made through an offering outside of the person.
- *Leviticus 4:13-34; 5:1-18 (6, 10, 13, 16, 18): 6:1-(7); 7:1-(7); 10:17; 14:1, 10-22 (18-21), 29-30, 48-(53); 15:13-(15), 25-(30); 16:6-11 (6, 10), 16-18, 20, 24, 27, 29-(30), 32-34; 17:10-(11); 19:20-(22); Numbers 6:1-2, 6-(11); 8:5-(12), 19, 21; 15:22-29 (25, 28); 16:1-3, 41-47 (46-47); 1 Chronicles 6:49; 2 Chronicles 29:20-(24); Ezekiel 43:18-(20), 26* ~ A priest makes atonement through an offering of an animal or grain/flour.

- *Genesis 14:18-20* ~ Melchizedek was the priest of God, on behalf of God, ministering to God and blessing His people like Abram and received tithes from God's people.
- *Exodus 28-29:1-37; Leviticus 8* ~ Aaron & his sons are set aside by God for the special priestly function to minister to God and on behalf of God to His people. To designate this special calling and function, they were given special priestly garments.
- *Leviticus 1-27* ~ God's detailed description of the ministry of the priests and high priests on behalf of God for His people (see above).