

# EXPLORATION: BIBLE

The Jewish scriptures contain a mysterious “Scarlet Thread” that supernaturally connects biblical stories together. Woven through the tapestry of the Old Testament, over and over again, this “Scarlet Thread” prefigures the coming Jewish Messiah. **In this article, we will begin a study on how “The SCARLET THREAD” passed through the TABERNACLE and later the Jewish TEMPLE to directly link with Christ in the New Testament.**

## SCARLET THREAD #5

**When God DWELT/TABERNACLED with Mankind**

When Yahweh, the God of Israel, commanded Moses to build the Tabernacle He gave humanity a visual picture of God’s Eternal Plan for our world. Central to that plan is Jesus of Nazareth. Even as God came down and “tabernacled” with the Children of Israel in the Old Testament, even so Jesus came down to “tabernacle” with us in the New Testament. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God... 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt (*tabernacled*) among us” (John 1:1-2, 14).

### THE TABERNACLE OF MEETING



**This replica of the Tabernacle was set up in Timna Valley Park, in Israel. [Wikipedia commons]**

In the Bible, there is no distinction functionally between the Tabernacle and the Temple. The Tabernacle of Meeting was portable and the Jewish Temple, that later replaced the Tabernacle, was permanent. Both were the one place on earth where sinful people could meet with the living God. **ONLY AFTER** the sacrifice of an animal (lamb, goat, bull) and blood atonement was offered, could a sinful person be forgiven and accepted by God. Atonement for sins only happened at the Tabernacle/Temple.

### THE JEWISH TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM



**This is a model of the 1st Century Temple that was in Jerusalem in the days of Jesus. It is located at the Israel National Museum. [Photo by Chip Thompson, 2016]**

We will see in this and future articles that Yahweh God came down and dwelt or tabernacled with mankind five times in the Bible:

- 1st in the Tabernacle of Meeting in the wilderness
- 2nd in the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem
- 3rd in the person of Jesus Christ
- 4th in all true believers, also called the Church
- 5th He will forever tabernacle with His people in the New Jerusalem at the end of days.

The PRIMARY MESSAGE is that Yahweh God loves mankind and desires to dwell with His people always.

The first Tabernacle was built by Moses and the Children of Israel in the wilderness. Moses, however, was not the designer of the Tabernacle. Jesus said... “All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses... concerning Me.” (Luke 24:44-45). God gave the exact design of the Tabernacle to Moses, to picture Jesus.

*Exodus 25 tells us, “Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying: 2 “Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering... of gold, silver, and bronze; 4 blue, purple, and scarlet thread... and ram skins dyed red... 8 And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell (tabernacle) among them. 9 According to all that I show you, that is, the PATTERN of the Tabernacle and the PATTERN of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.” The exact PATTERN for the Tabernacle and all of its furnishings was given in Exodus chapters 25-30. Every detail of the Tabernacle was important. The Tabernacle and all its furnishings were symbolic, they perfectly pictured God’s plan to reconcile the world to himself through Jesus Christ.*

**Hebrews chapter 9 explains, “Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. 2 A tabernacle was set up [by Moses]. In its first room were the lampstand and the table with its consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. 3 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, 4 which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered Ark of the Covenant... When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. 7 But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, **and never without blood**, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance... 9 **This is an ILLUSTRATION for the present time... But when Christ came as high priest of good things... he went through the greater and more perfect Tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation... It was necessary, then, for the COPIES of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.** 24 **For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a COPY of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence.”****

Do you see what it says? The Tabernacle/Temple were “COPIES” of God’s throne room in Heaven. The High Priest of Israel was a mere picture of Jesus our Great High Priest. Israel’s High Priest entered the Holy of Holies once every year to offer the blood of atonement first for his own sins, then for the sins of the people. Jesus, the forever High Priest, entered the Holy of Holies in Heaven to offer his own sinless blood as an eternal atonement for the sins of the whole world.

Both the Tabernacle and Temple were created so a Holy God could meet with sinful humans. No one, not even the High Priest, entered the Tabernacle/Temple because they were worthy. All who came were not worthy; they were all sinners. The Tabernacle/Temple was a slaughterhouse, a place where innocent animals shed their blood so sinful humans could receive remission of sins. Hebrews 9:22 says, “According to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”

From these tidbits of information, I think you can see that this is a very complicated and important topic. In future articles, we will dive deeply into the symbolism and function of the earthly Old Testament sanctuaries called The Tabernacle and The Temple.