

The School of Biblical Law
Introduction to Law and Grace
Lesson Ten: “God’s Law in Three Tabernacles

The Scriptures record three tabernacles that were houses for God’s Presence and containers of His Law

1. The first tabernacle was the Tabernacle of Moses (Ex. 25-27; 35-40).

Three articles were placed inside the Ark of the Covenant (Heb. 9:4): The pot of manna (Ex. 16:33-34); Aaron’s rod that budded (Num. 17:8-10); The Tablets of Testimony (Deut. 10:1-5).

The Ark was placed into the Holy of Holies (Ex. 40:20-21).

The Tabernacle was erected in Shiloh on Mt. Gibeon after entering Canaan (Josh. 18:1).

The Tabernacle of Moses serves as a type of Old Covenant believer. (“The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience,” Heb. 9:8-9.)

2. The second tabernacle was the Tabernacle of David.

Only the Ark occupied this tabernacle while the other pieces of furniture and all Mosaic instruction for the Lord’s service continued in Gibeon under the hands of Zadok the priest (I Chron. 16:1, 39-40).

The same three articles of the manna, the rod, and the tablets remained in the Ark.

David’s Tabernacle was erected in Zion (II Sam. 5:7).

The Tabernacle of David serves as a type of Christ.

- In David’s Tabernacle, the glory took residence in a tent made of skins. In Jesus, “The Word became flesh and dwelt (*skenoo* – to dwell, to tent, to pitch a tent or tabernacle) among us and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”
- Both tabernacles existed simultaneously for 33 years in David’s day and the Temple of Herod and Jesus’ tabernacle existed together for 33 years in Jesus’ day.
- Jesus was the Word, the embodiment of the eternal will of God, and the eternal Law of God (Mt. 5:17-18, Mt. 7:12; Lk. 2:23, 27, 39; 24:44; Jn. 1:45; Acts 28:24; Heb. 10:7).

3. The third tabernacle was Solomon’s Temple (I Kings 8).

Study of the tabernacles reveals earthly houses where God’s glory and presence was manifested in the earth. Close examination discloses the fact that God’s Law was an important aspect in all the tabernacles, which were built under the mandate of God and the pattern He gave. Every man’s home reflects his ethic; and God’s heavenly and earthly homes demonstrate His ethic, which is the holy standard found within the Law of God.