

Lesson 15c: A Separated Relationship

Key Search Words - face, dwell, sanctuary, meet, tent, Jerusalem, bride, Israel, wife, husband, Jesus

God's relationship with the children of Israel couldn't be a close and personal one, though. God could not meet with them face to face, or else they would die.

Exo 33:20 (LITV)

But a husband and a wife must dwell with each other in order to stay in relationship with each other. So, in order to dwell with the children of Israel, God required a holy sanctuary to be built.

Exo 25:8 (JPS)

It was called the "tent of meeting" because it was there where God could meet with the children of Israel. The Tent was a temporary home where God could dwell with them in the wilderness until He brought them into the land of Canaan. This is the land that was promised to them through God's covenant with Abraham, where God would establish a permanent home with them.

Exo 29:43-44 (JPS)

Gen 12:1-5

Deu 31:7

God commanded the children of Israel to make the Tent in a special way and they were to make "furniture" and special "tools" to be used in the Tent (see Exodus chapters 25-27). Only God's appointed Priests (Aaron and his sons – the tribe of Levi) could attend to the Tent or "Tabernacle", perform the sacrifices for their sins and atonement, and receive the people's offerings (see Num 18:6).

On the Day of Atonement, God's presence would come down upon the most Holy Place of the Tabernacle in the form of a cloud, and God's glory would fill the Tent (see Lev 16:2, Exo 25:22, Exo 40:34). When God's Spirit was there, only the High Priest could go into the most Holy place of the tabernacle (where the Ark of the Covenant and Mercy Seat were located - see Lev 16:23-24). This only happened once a year (see Lev 16:32-34), and it was the closest a man could ever get to God.

The children of Israel had to keep the Ten Commandments and the Law in order to stay pure, consecrated, sanctified, and holy before God (see Lev 11:45). This "formal" union required tedious and meticulous sacrifices and offerings to cover the sins of the children of Israel. The children of Israel became tired of following all of God's rules, so Israel became a disobedient wife. Israel then began to

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commit adultery with foreign gods and broke her covenant with God, her Husband. She left Him, even after He brought her into the Promised Land and established a home for them in Jerusalem.

2Ch 6:5-6

Jer 2:1-7 (CEV)

Jer 3:20-22 (KJV)

God deeply loved the children of Israel, and he graciously renewed His covenant with them over and over again when they returned to Him, but the continual sin in their lives kept them distant from Him. **That is why God sent His Son, Jesus, to cover their sins and the sins of all who would believe in Him once and for all so that mankind could be close to Him again. Jesus, who is God in the flesh, is the Husband we can have a personal relationship with!**

God wanted all mankind to see His face and be able to walk in His garden with Him again (see Rev 22:1-5), just like He did with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden before they sinned. Jesus came to this earth so that all people could relate to God "face to face".

2Co 4:6 (ISV)

It is Jesus who can personally fill our hearts with God's light and glory! It is Jesus who we can get close to, who removes the barrier of sin. It is Jesus who died for us so that we could live forever with Him.

(Review BLT Level 1, Lesson 5: Why should we keep the commandments of Jesus?)