



Hebrews 9:1-11

The True Tabernacle Sun, May 25th 2008

True Story

It passed around on the internet – many wondered if made up. Became a blonde joke. Yet, according to Snopes turns out to be mostly true. Down at Lake Stevens in Washington state – years ago. A man who was new to boating had a problem.

No matter how hard he tried, he just couldn't get his brand new 22-ft Bayliner to perform. It wouldn't get on a plane at all, and it was very sluggish in almost every maneuver, no matter how much power he applied.

After about an hour of trying to make it go, he putted over to a nearby marina. Maybe they could tell him what was wrong. A thorough topside check revealed everything was in perfect working order. The engine ran fine, the outdrive went up and down, and the prop was the correct size and pitch.

According to internet story - one of the marina guys jumped in the water to check underneath the boat. He came up choking on water, he was laughing so hard. Under the boat, still strapped securely in place, was the trailer.

Prob the true story says the guy was looking over the back...spotted the license plate

Either way – the point – trailers are good...yet there is a place where separate

- In some ways is a good illustration for what we want to talk about today

As book of Hebrews was written – many struggling with something you might not

- What about the Temple? What do you do with it? About it?
- It was prescribed by God, their worship system was 9:1
- Yet now....Jesus...our Great High Priest – what to do with?
- For many...tried to keep both – the trailer attached to the boat

Practically – this is not your issue...yet Biblically it is

- Better you know this book – you would have questions
- Over 50 chapters in OT devoted to Tabernacle, Temple
- What does this mean for us...what do we do with it?

I. Tabernacles Purpose

1. **God told them to build the Tabernacle, later the temple – why?**
 - a. **Ex 25:8-9** – that He might dwell among them
 - b. Point – God's presence with them...meeting with them
 - c. Full name given "Tabernacle of Meeting"
 - d. Called this over 140 times in the Bible – point is to meet with God
2. **God's desire was and is to meet with men....Tabernacle is about**

II. Tabernacles Description

1. **Quick overview of the Tabernacle**
 - a. Had an outcourt – not mentioned in Hebrews here
 - b. Had two key instruments in outer court–Alter of offering, Laver of washing
 - i) Again–not mentioned here in Hebrews. Whole focus on Tabernacle itself
 - c. Show pictures of Tabernacle
2. **Lets lay it out**
 - a. Tabernacle measured 10 cubits by 30 cubits – 15 ft by 45 ft
 - b. Broke into two sections described in v.2
 - c. **1st part Called the sanctuary – or other times the Holy Place (translation of word)**
 - i) In it three holy instruments
 - ii) Golden Candlestick – Menorah – only source of light in
 - iii) Table of showbread – 12 loaves places weekly
 - iv) Golden alter of Incense – burning continuallyIn v.3 includes this with the inner sanctuary. Considered by many Jews to be a part of the inner sanctuary – though it set on outside
 - d. **Second section – behind second viel – Holiest of All – Holy of Holies**
 - i) Ark of the Covenant - overlaid with gold – glory of God
 - ii) Ini it golden pot, manna, tablets (ten commandments)
 - iii) Above the ark – golden angels – cherubim
 - e. Show illustration and pictures
3. **Cannot speak of these things in detail**
 - a. But O the details that are there!

III. Tabernacles Indication

1. Priests always went into the first part – performing service to God

- a. Daily the wicks trimmed on the Menorah
- b. Weekly – loaves of bread changed
- c. Daily the Incense burned on the Alter

2. In the second part – Holy of Holies

- a. Only the High Priest entered – and only one day out of whole year
- b. Need of blood to even enter

3. What is the point? Don't have to guess – tells us

- a. Holy Spirit – God, writer of scripture – indicating – making plain
- b. Way into Holy of Holies not manifest – no way in
- c. Only 1 day a year did anyone enter
 - i) Picture it 359 days a year (of 360 day yr) – no one entered
- d. For you – as a gentile – not even access to court
- e. But even as a Jew – only priest could enter...and not into God's presence
- f. All a testimony of what we want...but cannot obtain

4. Think it through....

- a. Tabernacle of meeting ...for relationship – but not effective
- b. Imagine a marriage – where only say each other 1 day a year

5. Suppose I could add even this...

- a. Not only limited to not enter – limited by location...corruption

IV. Tabernacles Reality

1. Here is the great hope – the tabernacle just a model...of the real

- a. True not built by man 8:2
- b. It is, was a copy, shadow of the real – 8:4-5
- c. The tabernacle, temple – not the real – but a scale model...

2. What is the point of a model? Perhaps silly to ask, but think about it

- a. Businesses do it, churches do it, and even home owners
- b. Why have a scale model of something you want, or are building?
- c. Would you be in danger of the model satisfying? No!
- d. Opposite – model reminds, presses on – puts before you hope

3. Christ Entered Real – made a way into God's Presence

- a. Mark 15:37-38 – the veil is ripped
- b. Look ahead at 10:20 – the veil of separation is ripped

What is the Picture of the Tabernacle declaring?

1st – No other way into God's Presence accept through Christ

- Tabernacle of meeting – yes...but also called Tabernacle of Witness
- Testifies to the access to God – never had till Christ
- Only have in Christ
- John 14:6

2nd – The Real Replaces the Model – don't go back

- For the Jews then – time to disconnect the trailer from the boat
- It is time to embrace the real
- Not that understanding the model is bad, for them, for us
- Answers part of the question as to the relation of OT to NT
 - Not under law, not performing sacrifices
 - But the shed light on the reality of Christ
- Col 2:16-17 – substance is Christ

3rd – Is a Model for how we enjoy God's Presence

- Entire Tabernacle speaks of Christ – of what have in Him
- Menorah – picture of the need of the Holy Spirit – only light
- Bread – Picture of the People of God
 - Used to believe and teach picture of the Bible....don't think so now
 - Picture that we can't do this alone – are a body
- Incense – picture of Pray to God rising to God
- From Ark – in Ark – 3 pictures of the Word of God
 - Ten Commandants - God's word, law – firm
 - Manna – daily bread – daily Word
 - Almond Blossom – all about Christ
- Ark – God's presence itself – to be enjoyed – meeting with
- Call you to Heb 10:20-22

4th picture – foreshadow of heaven

- Notice 8:1-2 - Then notice 9:11 – good things to come
- Not good things that have come...but that are to come...
- Flip ahead – Rev 4

The Tabernacle is a model of heaven itself – throne room of God

- Ark – Throne of God Rev 4:2-3
- Table – the People of God – 24 elders
 - 12 on the table in the OT – but here 24 elders – why
 - 12 Patriarchs of OT and 12 apostles of Christ
- Lightning, Thundering, voices – Word of God
- Lampstand – Spirit of God Rev 4:5-6
- Cherubim – presence angels Rev 4:7-8
- Alter of Incense – worship and prayers rising before God 4:8-11
- Interesting omission. Preview of what is in verses before us in Hebrews
 - Showed you a picture of the Tabernacle at beginning
 - Told you that did not focus on outer court – neither does Rev – why?
 - Outer court was about being clean – cleansing from sin
 - Notice 4:6 – sea of glass – no cleansing – reflecting, displaying
 - Sin is done – paid for in Christ – Heb 9, gone entirely in heaven....wow
- We have a preview of the good things to come
 - If it does what a model is supposed to do – makes hungry for real