

## The Tabernacle of Testimony

Our Father erected a *tabernacle of testimony* (place of witness, *Edah*) in the desert, telling Moses to make it *according to the pattern* he had seen, as also our Father gave Paul the charge to make the *Edah according to the pattern* he had seen (Acts 7:44; Heb 8:5), which he had observed in Judea, after they scattered and went to establish more communities in its many different townships, and also in Samaria (1 Ths 2:14; Acts 8:1,5).

*You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, all Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8)*

The apostles established the churches (the *Edah*, the witness) according to the pattern in Judea (1 Ths 2:14), and were likewise persecuted. Saul was the main one who was persecuting the churches in Judea, even agreeing with putting some of them to death (Acts 8:3). Now what were those first believers gathering in — a fancy building? No. How did *all those who believe* live back then, nearly 2000 years ago? They were living together, and *eating their meals together from house to house* (Acts 2:46). So then each “church” was a household.

Can you imagine it? They were sitting there — men, women, and children eating together with *gladness and sincerity of heart* — and in comes Saul to ravage them. He would go from church to church, meaning he would enter household after household and drag men off and women, and put them in prison (Acts 8:3).

1 Ths 2:14 was the *pattern* Saul had witnessed, and was commanded to build upon. This pattern was the antitype<sup>1</sup> of the *pattern* Moses had been commanded to build upon, and not any different, in any way — *a temple not made with human hands* (Acts 7:44-48).

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<sup>1</sup> *Antitype* — a person or thing represented or foreshadowed by a type or symbol; especially a figure in the Old Testament having a counterpart in the New Testament.

*Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? Or what is the place of My rest? Has My hand not made all these things? (Acts 7:49)*

What kind of house, place, or building can anyone build for divinity to dwell in, forever and ever, as an eternal dwelling? Elohim is looking for an *eternal resting place* which He Himself will build, *without human hands* — which He Himself has not yet made, nor formed, throughout all the past millennia, however long it was. This will be the last thing He will do before He begins to fulfill His eternal plan, in the same way and with just the same pattern as He began with in the first century in Judea — establishing dwelling places, going on to “Samaria” and then to the ends of the earth, as our Master said in Acts 1:8. Then we will go on to fill every planet and every galaxy in the universe with redeemed humankind. This is the *Tabernacle of Testimony*, the *Edah*, a beehive swarming from place to place, colonizing and establishing new dwelling places. And, of course, it will take forever and ever to fill the ever-expanding universe.

But He has to have a dwelling place in order to do that. *We are His dwelling place.* We were not made with human hands (Eph 1:22-23; 2:7,19-22). God is Spirit, so then His Spirit will inhabit that very house which we are right now in the process of building, by each and every one of us *DOING* the will of God — doing what we are called to do, according to our faith, according to our gifts, doing the works prepared for us to walk in (Eph 2:8-10; 4:12,15,16).

As we read in Eph 2:19-22, the whole building is being fitted together and is growing into a holy dwelling place or sanctuary, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets (Eph 2:20), built upon Messiah Himself, who is the chief cornerstone. Remember: we are now *members of His household*, citizens and not strangers or aliens.

You can really see and understand how the Scriptures fit together, and what we are now in the process of doing. Like Moses, who built the tabernacle according to the *pattern* he saw, and Paul who understood to build his communities according to the

*pattern* he observed in Judea, likewise, we are building according to that same *pattern*, upon that foundation (1 Cor 3:10-13).

1 Ths 2:13, NKJ — He *works effectively* in us if *we work effectively*, as Eph 4:16, by doing the works prepared for us to build the Body of Messiah, which is *His tabernacle*.

1 Ths 2:14 — How did they know to become “imitators of the churches in Judea”? Because the first apostles had established those churches according to that pattern. Paul had observed them; he had seen the witness himself when he went to those “churches” — every household, *every place* in the region of Judea — and dragged those men and women out, to put them in prison. He knew how they lived.

1 Ths 2:15, NAS — Paul was the “one of your own countrymen” doing much of the persecuting. He was “doing God a favor” (Jn 16:2), until our Master Yahshua revealed Himself to him, “*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?*” (Act 9:4-5). Paul had joined the “they” who “*killed both our Messiah, and their own prophets.*” This is speaking of the Jews; the Jews lived in Judea. If you lived in the territory of Benjamin, you were a Benjaminite. Judeans are Jews. Those Jews had made themselves *contrary to all men* (1 Ths 2:15-16).

So you can see that there is a *pattern*, the only way the church can be, which is living together in households. During the 1984 Raid in Island Pond, Vermont, they did the same thing in persecuting us. They went to every one of our 19 households, which were established between 1980 to 1984, in just four years. You can see that our Father was working there, because so many people were coming in at that time, and there were so many households. When they raided us, they went from household to household, just as they did in Paul’s day, dragging the disciples out; likewise they did to us, wanting to put us into prison. But our Father saved us. Their goal was to take our children away from us, charging us with child abuse, or something like that.

1 Cor 1:2 — This is the pattern. Our Father is in the process of building that eternal dwelling place. We are that building, and it is not finished yet, as He is still in the

process of building it. We are building it for Him every day if we are *working together with Him*, as you work according to your gifts and abilities, as you do the works that are prepared for you, working together in coordination, in unity and synergy with others' gifts and abilities. This is the witness, the *dwelling place* of Eph 2:22 which He is building, a resting place which He never has had before.

Right now, in this age, He lives here, but He does not yet have an *eternal* resting place, or those *more numerous than the dust of the earth* as promised to Abraham, His true seed (Gen 13:16; 15:5), which you can see could not possibly ever be fulfilled in this age, or just on one planet.

We are the eternal dwelling place, the *tabernacle of God*, His home right now, even the true seed of Abraham (Gal 3:26-29). He is building His home in us and through us. And in the Eighth Day, Elohim will dwell in each one of us, so that He can reach to the ends of the universe. Is there such a thing as the “end of the universe”? No, there is not. So then we, the Holy, will be reigning with Him over those worthy of the nations — forever and ever and ever (Rev 22:4-5). We will lead them to colonize the expanse of endless galaxies, filling up each of the planets within them, according to the same pattern.

Rev 21:2-3 — The *New Jerusalem* is us, the Bride, adorned for the Husband, Messiah. Our Master Yahshua will be our husband and we will be His wife. Husband and wife will be one, and God will dwell in *us*, the new corporate Man, His eternal habitation, which makes us *the tabernacle of God*. And we will dwell with or among *men* (male and female) of the nations. Through us, He will be their God, and they, the nations, will become *His people*. We are His people now; they will be His people in the eternal age. The nations will continue to have natural offspring forever and ever; likewise we, the corporate Redeemed Man, will have spiritual offspring to rule over them. This will continually increase, and increase, and increase, exponentially (Gen 13:16).

$2 + 2 = 4$ ;  $4 + 4 = 8$ ;  $8 + 8 = 16$ ;  $16 + 16 = 32$ ... perpetually, without end. The seed of Abraham will be more numerous than the dust of the earth. Can we possibly understand that number, *the dust of the earth*? One dust particle is so minute you can hardly even see it using a microscope. Rub your finger across a surface, and see if you can even count how many individual particles there are on your finger. Can you? And then add to it all the dust in the room, and all the dust on the entire earth. Even man is made out of dust. The whole earth is dust.

Isa 9:6-7 — We are the fulfillment of this prophecy. We are *His government*, and there will be *no end to the increase of His government*, which will and only happen through each one of us being exponentially, spiritually multiplied throughout eternity.

*The children of Your servants will continue (Ps 102:28).*

We are *His servants*; *children* mean spiritual offspring, and *continue* means perpetually, outnumbering the stars and even the dust of the earth, which won't be just a few million, but it means trillions of trillions of trillions of trillions (1 Cor 2:9,10,12).

### **Qualitative Renewal**

Rev 21:1 — The heavens and the earth will be made new, qualitatively renewed. All the old has passed away; all things are new (Rev 21:4-5). When you dig in the earth, no matter how far, never will you find any artifacts<sup>2</sup> or mentifacts<sup>3</sup> of man-made origin, nor any animal bones or anything else under the earth. The fire beneath the earth's crust will burn the earth down until it burns up everything from the past — everything. Everything will be totally new. The new heavens and new earth will never pass away, and the sun will no longer keep shining, once the Lamb is our light.

*The city had no need for the sun or moon to shine (Rev 21:23-24).*

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<sup>2</sup> *Artifact* — an object shaped by human craft; an ornament of archaeological/historical interest.

<sup>3</sup> *Mentifact* — The works of men's minds such as mythologies, theologies, and philosophies.

And also whenever man inhabits planets, the planet will never explode. Man is eternal, as also the universe is eternal (Rev 21:1-3). Here we are, building God's dwelling place. That is what we are living for. We *are* God's dwelling place, His home, even His Body. Elohim will dwell in us forever and ever, ruling through us over those of the nations who were judged worthy of the second life. And we will visit them on every planet, as rulers, reigning in love, laboring to help them, and will be colonizing other planets with them. We will take a swarm with us to another planet, another galaxy, where we will continue to help them fill the universe, treating them just as our Father would (Rev 21:3).

God is spirit, so they will not see Him except through us. Only we will see our Master Yahshua, and the nations will only see us; but since we will be just like our Master, when they see us, they will have seen the Father (Jn 14:6,9). Dwelling in us, God will be with and among them (Rev 21:3). Since we are His dwelling place, we will be *Immanuel* to the men (male and female) of the nations. We will be the ones living with them and among them. Our Master was called *Immanuel* — "God with us." God was with them in Messiah Yahshua, in His humanity. In the next age, God will be in our humanity, and so that will make us the corporate *Immanuel*, God with *them* — the men of the nations. We will be dwelling with them. They, the people of the nations, will be *His people*. Rev 21:3 cannot refer to us when it says "*will be His people*," because we are *already His people*. But then, in the eternal age, *they will be His people, and He will be their God*. Elohim is not the God of the nations right now, but He will be then.

*There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, no more pain... (Rev 21:4)*

We will wipe away every tear from their eyes, from all those righteous people who suffered in death. Every one of them had to go into death for their sins, but were given a second life, if they had enough human worth left to pay for their sins.

We need to pass on this understanding as much as we can to one another, new disciples, and *especially* our children. This is all going to be inculcated into our children in their curriculum books, lessons, and through reading our freepapers to them.

Lk 10:21-24 — This is amazing, isn't it? We will become rulers of the universe. But we have to follow Messiah, which means we have to hate our own life in this world (Jn 12:25). *Hate your life* means no longer love your life and no longer love the world, leaving behind whatever we have done in the world, to follow our Master and serve Him where He is. Now we are *where He is*, as we can only serve Him *there* (Jn 12:24-26). If we are serving Him with all of our heart, we will be honored by the Father. And that is the glory that is upon us. And if we have His glory, we will be in unity, and we will be *one as the Father and Son are one* (Jn 17:22).

I'm thankful that we have to hate our life in this world in order to follow Him, and that we have to leave it behind. Paul counted all things loss, as rubbish, even *dung*, for the sake of gaining Messiah, and to have eternal life (Phil 3:7-8). You don't mess around with dung; you bury it, or you flush it down the toilet. You get rid of it. This is how we are to treat our old life in this world. If we do not consider our old life in this way, then we're not saved. Paul suffered the loss of all things (Phil 3:5-6). Then he walked by the Spirit (Phil 2:2-7). This is the only way we can follow Him, and serve Him where He is.

*In my Father's house are many dwelling places (Jn 14:1-3).*

We are going to go and prepare *dwelling places* (1 Tim 2:8). This is not speaking of someplace in heaven, in castles on clouds, but it is happening right here and now, on earth (Jn 14:18). So the Holy Spirit goes with us, wherever we go. His Spirit went with us to Island Pond, Vermont, and established there a place where He dwells, and we kept on increasing until we had 19 houses. And then we stretched our tent pegs out, going out of Vermont, and spreading all over the earth: people were sent out to Germany, France, England, Australia, and Spain, and everywhere.

Certainly, we were struggling as we did this, and we are struggling now. If we're not struggling, we're not truly His disciples. We have to pray to keep in touch with our Father, to stay in communion with Him. If we're not praying, we're not in communion. Yes, we are struggling in every place, if we're real disciples. If it was easy, anyone could do it, and that is why Christians are not doing what we're doing, busily making dwelling places for God to live in for eternity here on earth, right now, in this age (Mt 24:14).

**Hakam** — Our Father gave Moshe the pattern for the tabernacle, and King David the pattern to build the temple. The pattern is precise, and He isn't going to accept anything substituted for it. He never has, and He never will.

He knows what vessel He wants to live in and fill the whole universe through. It is so important to bring this out for Christians, because they never get out of the church-on-Sunday paradigm. It is a very powerful spirit, obviously, because it keeps people locked up. It is going to take a lot of understanding to know how to help people get out of that prison.

Our Father isn't any more interested or involved in that religious system than He was in Judaism when our Master died on the cross. The veil in the Temple was torn and there was nothing behind it. That is why people have to see the witness, so that they will understand that our Father's life is in *a people*. Imagine the relief to Christians to gain that revelation.

If you were a Christian, then probably you would think that Paul went around persecuting the "churches" in Judea on Sunday at 11 am (if you thought about it at all). If they all met at the same time, then it must have taken him weeks, going to one per week, to persecute them all. Really, this just makes no sense.

Sometimes I think about things like this: what if we held a symposium at the Deli or somewhere, and presented what God's people have always been like. For example, if we put up a picture of a present-day church, or a board of church pastors and beside it have all the verses that describe what the true church is like, just so people could realize they can't reconcile Christianity today with the Scriptures. Let's just present the whole Bible, what the Word really says about His heart.

People have to actually obey *all* the commandments (Jn 14:21).



**Chanowk** — The more that pattern continues to be duplicated, the more opposition we are going to have, just as the first church did. Naturally, the evil one will oppose us when we try to build what is right; when our Father gives His approval that we are pleasing Him.

Our Father will identify with us as *His people* through sufferings. Thus I want to see those sufferings not as a bad thing, but a good thing. At that time, I want to look up to Him, believe, and trust. He has never gotten His heart's desire, that dwelling place. What an awesome God we have, that He actually wants to dwell in us, human beings, and not just as a spooky spirit in some sterile building.

*Whoever has His commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Him, and will be loved by Him...* Now, a Christian can gather all the commandments together, look at them, and then what is he going to do? How can he obey them? There is no way to keep those commandments outside of the context of a community. The commandments are ONLY for the community, to keep them by living together in unity, as we obey them every day. I mean, we don't obey ALL of them every day, but we continue to obey those commandments. They come to our hearts, and we understand them; He has even written them in our hearts, as we serve Him where He is.

**Ben-Nabiy** — I like that analogy, "*dust of the earth*," how the life will be multiplied, and keep being propagated, like a swarm of bees. Beehives that are healthy spread out into more beehives. As you keep getting more and more bee boxes, you get more and more honey.

A healthy community is one that is reaching out for more people, and bringing them in. Then the hive can split, propagate, and go to another place, unto the ends of the earth. I remember taking furniture up for families swarming up to Island Pond, from Chattanooga. At that time, I had never gone that far, and here we were, going up into the back woods, and I said to myself, praying, "*I don't understand it. I don't know where we're going, but all I know is that our Father has directed us through Yônêq, and I'm going to trust him and stand behind him,*" despite all the lonely feelings.

Sure enough, it was hard winters, hard to get started — everything was hard — but the life was abundant. People were coming in from all over the place, on bicycles, skidoos, by car. They started hearing about us in Boston, in Canada, in Germany, and all these places. They were coming there to Island Pond, because that is where the beehive was, where God's

dwelling place was. And that is where He started making His name known. The holy angels were able to draw people there, because they saw the reality of the life of God there, as we endured the hardship, even the persecution.

We need to *outdo one another in love and good deeds*. We're going to come to that place, all of us, because of the momentum that is going to start rolling on the earth. We're going to want to, as we sense that His Spirit is working for us. For example, everybody in Chattanooga, including us, thinks that old house on the corner should be torn down, but we're going to display a demonstration by restoring it.

It is one thing to build a Deli, and another to maintain it, and it's another thing to build another one. That's why I'm thankful for the gifts in the Body, how some can build, and the others can serve in it. All we want people to see is that God is with us.

Each and every one of us knows that we are the corporate dwelling place of God, and that He has chosen us to manifest Himself to men of the nations who will inhabit the universe. We will rule over them. So when one of us goes to another planet to help them, they will see us as Messiah, because we will be just like Him. Understand this: our Father won't give the people of the nations the grace to establish and populate those planets in harmony alone. He only gives the grace to us to do it. Therefore He gives grace to the nations in the form of us. So then, this is apostleship, to go and establish things; and we will all be apostles in the Eighth Day.

Now when you go to that planet, and those people of the nations see you, what are they going to say? Are they going to say, "*Oh, there is old Gene,*" or, "*There is Ben-Nabiy?*" No, they are going to say "*Immanuel, God is with us.*"

Mind you, I don't want to use that word, "God," because it is an errant word, a mistranslation. But they will receive us as God because He will be in us. Now I'm not saying we have divine flesh; no one does. However, Divinity cannot be seen, so Divinity will have to live in redeemed humanity, as our Master said, "*When you've seen Me, you've seen the Father.*"

Christians think that means His flesh is God, but He is saying that He *represents* His Father, as we also will represent Him. Thus when the nations see us, they will be seeing Him. That is the only way His Spirit can be seen — through humanity — and that is why He needs us. He has created us to house His divinity. So here we are, and we might think, “*Well, that is just too much to think about,*” or, “*Who? Little old worthless me?*” But we can’t think this way. He has chosen us, and He is doing a work in every one of us.

**Hakam** — If we can see where we are going, then this will help us understand how we need to be today. We’re getting ready to build that house today, but when we get up from this breakfast table, we’re not going out to fill the universe. We’re going to go outside and fill up the *Yellow Deli*, or go on construction jobs, to present His life to all. This is enough to give any of us energy, and our Father will cooperate with that and energize us to lay down our lives every day.

**Shemiyah** — I’m thankful we can hate our past life in this world, and even hate everything we could be or do apart from fulfilling our Father’s purpose, to bring about the eternal age. This orients me for what I have to do today, and to surge to overcome any attitude that would come to me, and be zealous to jump in and serve in any way I am asked to.