

## The Sovereign Hand of God – restoring the Tabernacle of David –

### Introduction:

1. ***“On that day I will raise the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old; That they may possess the remnant of Edom, And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,’ Says the Lord who does this thing.***
2. ***2 Timothy 3:16: “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and training in righteousness.”***
3. What does that mean? Well, the message for today is as a thread: starting in Genesis and is the ongoing story of God wanting a relationship with His people.

### Summary:

1. The story begins in **Genesis 1** - conflict then enters with sin, creating separation in that union.
2. Restoration begins on Mount Sinai - union again - beginning with the tent that was constructed under the direction of Moses, where God’s Presence will be
3. ***2 Samuel 6 “Wearing a linen ephod David was dancing before the Lord with all his mind while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the Lord entering the city of David, Michal, the daughter of Saul, watched from the window, and when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she despised him in her heart. They brought the Ark of the Lord and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the Lord”.***
4. There's no doubt that people would have heard him coming long before they saw the parade
5. ***Psalm 24: “Lift up your heads, you gates. Lift them up. You mentioned doors that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty he is the king of Glory”***
6. They saw their new king in the front of the parade wearing a linen ephod and he's dancing
7. ***“I'm not a king who's coming to sit on the throne. I'm a priest who's coming to lead you into God's presence”***
8. The Ark was the intersection between Heaven and Earth
9. David hunted down the Ark and brings it back to Jerusalem and he is the dancing priest celebrating the return of God’s presence.
10. When he gets to the city, he doesn't enter the palace – instead, he has a tent set up right in the city center.
11. In the New Testament, the mish-kan (dwelling) of the Lord is amid the believers: ***“Don’t you know that you are a temple of God, and that God’s Spirit lives in you?” 1 Corinthians 3:16***
12. David's very first act of his very first day as Israel's king was to reconstruct Moses’ tent of meeting in the city center.
13. The tent was more than assembly point - it was a statement of value - a challenge to the status quo
14. We grind on with the stuff from yesterday instead of praying and seeking His face to know what God is doing today
15. David’s Tabernacle was a New Testament reality of access to God in an Old Testament world.

16. It was a picture for us – we have that same access to God but today we don't need a tent or a sanctuary – you are that sanctuary – that tent – that house for God the Holy Spirit to dwell in

### **Comfort and Ease:**

1. Amos has this revelation that during a time of peace and comfort, Israel has praised God but forgotten truly who He was.
2. So why is the restoration of a dwelling place for God the solution?
3. Mother Teresa described her ministry this way - *our mission is only entirely to minister to Jesus, which we do primarily through prayer and worship*
4. What If it actually was the channel between heaven and earth and the Kingdom of God was able to be poured out among the common people
5. David's political strategy was a radical commitment to prayer and presence and during his reign, there was unparalleled peace and safety.
6. Economic prosperity, care for the poor, and a justice system brought equity and unity to a divided Kingdom.
7. David understood that they weren't merely singing songs but creating a dwelling for God, fulfilling God's will on earth.
8. The modern church's best kept secret is this one that we believe in - productivity not prayer
9. We have a formula for success because we have adopted the management principles from the secular world - the hidden atheism of our time is that we will busy ourselves with almost anything except prayer and time with God, and yet we expect God to move in our midst.
10. We live in a time when the church which use to be at the center of society is now laughed at and ridiculed and called irrelevant
11. ***Ezekiel 22:30 "I looked for someone to stand up for me against all this, to repair the defenses of the city, to take a stand for me and stand in the gap to protect this land so I wouldn't have to destroy it. I couldn't find anyone. Not one."***
12. ***Luke 24:32 records the incident "Back and forth they talked. "Didn't we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?"***

### **Endure Forever:**

1. ***2 Samuel 7:16*** where God makes a promise to David. ***"Your house and your Kingdom will endure forever before me. Your throne will be established forever"***
2. In both ***Exodus 40 and 1 Kings 8***, God's presence is depicted as a cloud filling first the Tabernacle and then later the temple
3. ***Ezekiel 10:18 says in a cloud filled the inner court, and the glory of the Lord moved from the threshold of the temple.***
4. ***Verse 18: "Then the glory of the Lord departed from over the threshold of the temple."***
5. The temple is still going well. Attendance is high, and the budgets look good—there's tons of activity. But God has left the building, and no one seems to notice.
6. This longing for another king, one in the line of David, one who will come back into the same city as foolishly as David did to re-establish all that's been discarded.
7. Remember Amos's promise - ***A day's coming when I'm going to rebuild David's Tabernacle - a promise waiting, not a building but a person.***

8. **John 1: "The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We've seen his glory, the glory of the one and only saw that came from the father, full of grace and truth"**

(the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us)

9. The glory of God that filled the Tabernacle in ancient times is now filled the very body of Jesus - He is the living, breathing, walking, talking Tabernacle

10. Seven days before his death, Jesus came into Jerusalem as king, just as David did

11. **Matthew 21: "Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling them. He overturned the tables of the money changers, and the benches of those selling doves and says It is written, My house will be called a House of prayer, but you're making it a den of robbers."**

12. Don't miss the very next verse. **"The blind and lame came to Him at the temple, and he healed them."**

13. They saw Jesus' entrance to the city – they saw His restoration of the temple and they connected the dots and remembered David's Tabernacle

### **The Ongoing Story:**

1. **"Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let's put up three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"** He wanted to build a Tabernacle

2. **"The Jews then responded to him. What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this? Jesus answered them. Destroy this temple and I'll raise it again in three days"**

3. **1 Corinthians 3 includes this "don't you know that you now this is the plural you" "Don't you know that you yourselves (communally) are God's temple and that God's spirit dwells in your midst?"**

### **My House will be called a House of Prayer:**

1. Prayer is the ultimate expression of intimacy with God.

2. What I find is that I quickly become spiritually exhausted and overwhelmed when I take the fruit of the Kingdom and I confuse it with the King himself and when that happens, I turn a relationship into a duty

3. Fruitfulness is just the product of that intimacy

4. We must become people of prayer in our everyday lives.

5. This is a plea – a petition – an imploring – a challenge for us as the church here at Bellevue to both privately and publicly with early morning walks and gathered together Sunday experiences to allow God to tabernacle once again with us saturating every aspect of our lives

6. Prayer was at the center of God's people, and then the Kingdom spilled out from those little places into the streets of the city outside and the world

7. Here is our cutting edge, innovative plan for reaching a spiritually suspicious, emotionally cold city and nation and a world who distrust institutions and dismisses churches.

8. But we cannot take a step forward unless we have clear direction from the Lord first – it is not our programs trying to build a church, but God must inspire and breathe life into anything and everything before we move.

9. **Moses said "If your presence does not go before us Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. (Exodus 33:15)**

### **Valley of Decision:**

1. God hears ordinary people in an ordinary place like this - God is offering the same invitation to any ordinary people foolish enough to take him up on His invitation.
2. We all know the story of how David defeated Goliath.
3. Israel was on one hillside and the Philistines were on the other hillside, and there was this valley in the middle. All eyes were down on the valley. David, unarmed and unarmored, picks up five smooth stones from the stream
4. Eugene Peterson says *the scripture never tells us directly that David knelt, but he had to have knelt because there's a certain quality of rock you must get to fit a sling.*
5. This is my dream for us – *“that we might be foolish enough to kneel down, unarmed and unarmored, and say, God, make us a sign to the world and the church and anyone else who cares to notice of the way you still get your work done. The way that you still secure victory”*
6. And so, I pray a prayer I've never stopped praying. *God, raise up David's Tabernacle* - let this not be a story but a call to our knees – a call to action – a call to submission – a call to a new hunger for Him