**The Church**

New Testament Worship

*The Tabernacle of David*

* At New Life we try to model our leadership and government, our teaching, our intercession, and our worship on New Testament instructions
* Some may view our worship at New Life as a bit wild and weird. (flags, uplifted hands, guitars, drums)
	+ We are not nearly wild and weird enough
* New Testament teaching-following churches:
1. Have a supernatural--not a purely naturalistic, scientific worldview—believe in God, angels, demons, and Creation.
2. Accept the Bible as the Word of God, respect and honor it, take it literally when it can be taken literally, and spiritually when it calls for spiritual interpretation
3. Have an historical Christian view of morality (husband/wife/family), not a pagan worldview of immorality, polygamy, unfaithfulness, homosexuality, child sacrifice
4. Appreciate, invite, and follow the Holy Spirit (the only “touch” of the Trinity on believers since the Incarnation)
5. Promote personal discipleship and transformation so members develop the “mind of Christ” and the fruit of the Spirit
6. Encourage member participation, not pastor/priest exclusive access to God and His work
* Is there New Testament teaching on how to worship?
* Is there a model for it?
	+ The Jewish tabernacle or temple worship?
	+ The Jewish synagogue?
	+ Early churches in history (Roman Catholic, Protestant?)
* Old Testament verses on worship in the Psalms feature:
	+ Singing, shouting, dancing, bowing down, lifting hands
	+ Playing stringed instruments (early guitars), blowing trumpets (shofars)
	+ Banging tambourines and cymbals (drums)
* Was this to continue into the Church Age, or were we supposed to “calm down” and get more “reverent?”
	+ Most Christian denominations allow singing
	+ Some forbid instruments
	+ Many allow some instruments (historically organ, then piano)
* New Testament verses on worship
* John 4:23-24
* “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship *in the Spirit* and *in truth*.”
* Rom. 12:1
* Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper *worship.*
* Hebrews 13:15
* Through (Christ) then let us *continually* offer up a *sacrifice of praise* to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.
* Instrument references in the New Testament
	+ There was music played at the celebration of the return of the prodigal son (Luke 15:25)
	+ Jesus’ response to criticism that He was not as ascetic as John the Baptist and followers (“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance…”) (Matt. 11:17
	+ Trumpets will herald the Rapture (I Cor. 15:51-52)
* There are instruments used in the book of Revelation
	+ Harps are played by the 24 elders before God’s throne (Rev. 5:6) and the tribulation saints (Rev. 15:2)
* The trumpets are played by the angels signaling judgments coming to the earth (Rev. 8:6ff)
* Eph. 5:19-20
* Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritualsongs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
* Psalms (Gr: *psalmios*) – in the nature of the Psalms – very likely with musical accompaniment (24 of the Psalms call for instruments)
* Hymns (Gr. *hymnios*) – likely acapella singing (recall Jesus and the twelve after the Last Supper in Matt. 26)
* Spiritual songs (Gr: *pneumatikais*) – a meditation or mystical songs (chanting?)
* In early church history *singing* in church was well documented
	+ *Instrument use* less so and is controversial—many arguing that instruments where not used until 660 AD, and not widely until after the Reformation
	+ Yet the church fathers Ignatius, Justin Martyr, Clement of Alexandria, Hippolytus, and the Christian critic Celsus document instrument use in the early church
* Note: whether with instruments or not, early Church believers *sang* and *worshipped*
	+ They did not just *observe* the singing of monks, medieval choruses, church choirs, or worship teams They were encouraged to *participate*
	+ And make their lives a *continuous worship* to God by their obedience and dedication to discipleship
* There is a built-in human need to worship
* We are programmed to recognize and admire beauty in art, music, and people
	+ It will either lead us to worship the *Creator*
	+ Or to worship the *created*—other humans, money, things
		- American” idols” (sports, media, entertainment stars)
		- Cult of personalities (political and cult human leaders)
* Israel historically--and mankind subsequently--has tried to get out of worshipping God
	+ By disobedient, unholy, ungrateful lifestyles
	+ By worshipping other *created* pagan gods and humans
	+ Or by letting professionals do the worshipping for them
* Ex. 20:18-20
* Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, *“You speak to us,* and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.”
* Moses went up on the mountain, beheld God, and worshipped
* The Hebrews at the foot of the mountain--who did not want to behold God--ended up *building a golden calf* and worshipping it
* God responded by giving Israel priests and prophets to be intermediaries for them
	+ And giving Moses the Law with its complex instructions on priest consecration, animal sacrifices, dietary laws, feasts and limited access to the Presence in the Holy of Holies
	+ Worship in the Old Testament was defined by more than singing
	+ It involved keeping the law, sacrificing for sin, and keeping the festivals
	+ These matters were carefully described by Moses and were led by the Levities
	+ Worship and sacrifice could only occur in Jerusalem, at the feasts, led by Levites
* Why so restricted?
	+ So that the Israelites would not worship like the pagan tribes around them on the “high places”
* Who was allowed inside the tabernacle and later the temple proper (the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies)? -- Healthy Levite males only
* Numbers 16: 21-22
* Behold, I have given to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work they do--the service of the Tent of Meeting. No longer may the Israelites come near to the Tent of Meeting, or they will incur guilt and die.
* Non-Levite Israelites were not allowed to approach the Presence of God and the ark in the Holy of Holies
	+ Even lame or blind Levites were banned from temple service
	+ Women were only allowed in the court near the temple
	+ Gentiles were only allowed in a court farther out than the women
	+ The following folk were not even allowed to be in the *assemblies* (at the time of the feasts):
		- Eunuchs
		- Illegitimate children to the 10th generation
		- Descendants of Moabite or Ammonite birth to the 10th generation (King David, for example)
* Access to the “Presence” changed with Jesus’ death and resurrection
* Heb. 10:19-21
* Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way opened for us through the curtain of His body…let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith…
* The Church has not always been helpful with this correctly understood access to God and worship of Him
	+ The Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox church, and many Protestant denominations have:
		- A strict hierarchy of priests or pastors, bishops, cardinals, popes, administrators (intermediaries)
		- Placed an undo emphasis on the crucifixion, Mary, and the saints and professionals as intercessors for the laity
		- Forbidden laity from having Bibles in the vernacular
		- Promoted high church with vestments, incense, choruses, solemnity, crucifix-carrying, and pilgrimages
		- Did Jesus promote such seriousness in worship (and life)?
* Matt.9:14-15
* At that time John’s disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Why is it that we and the Pharisees fast so often, but Your disciples do not fast?” Jesus replied, “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while He is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.”
* Consider:
	+ Jesus is not still on the cross
	+ The “Groom” is still with us by His Spirit
* Since the Resurrection, the model of worship has been—not the tabernacle of Moses or Solomon’s temple—but the tabernacle of David
* Amos 9:11-12
* “In that day will I raise up the *tabernacle of David* that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:

that they may possess the remnant of Edom and *all the nations* who are called by My name…” who does this.

* Acts 15:14-18
* After they stopped speaking, James responded, saying, “Brothers, listen to me. Simeon has described how God first concerned Himself about taking a people for His name from among the Gentiles. The words of the Prophets agree with this, just as it is written:

 ‘After these things I will return,
 And I will rebuild the fallen tabernacle of David…
 So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,

 And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,’

 Says the Lord, who makes these things known’”

* Why did James make the case for the tabernacle of David being set up again?
	+ To allow everyone, not just the priests and the Jewish people into God’s Presence
	+ To include Gentiles
* The temple in Jerusalem had no future—it was soon to be destroyed in 70 AD
* And a new ”temple” was coming:
	+ 1) New Covenant believer’s body and
	+ 2) The corporate gathering of New Covenant believers indwell by the outpoured Holy Spirit
* I Cor. 3:16
* Do you not know that you yourselves are God’s *temple*, and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?
* Eph. 2:21-22
* In Him the whole building is fitted together and grows into a *holy temple* in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God in His Spirit.
* A new, God-ordained temple was to be spiritually rebuilt in the souls of believers
	+ Its prototype would *not* be the temple of the Law, but the tabernacle of David
	+ And certainly *not* a rebuild physical temple in Jerusalem that will fulfill end-times and anti-Christ prophecies
* The tabernacle of David is the model of New Testament church worship and practice
	+ Much more so than the tabernacle of Moses, temple of Solomon, or medieval Roman Catholic or liturgical Protestant church service
* Church practice that emphasizes Old Testament ritual, a still-on-the-cross Jesus, and high church liturgical tradition endorses:
	+ Professional priests and pastors vs. laity contribution to the work of the Faith
	+ Grieving continually over our sins rather than rejoicing in Jesus’ resurrection, the Spirit’s outpouring, and our forgiveness and cleansing of sins
	+ A funeral vs. wedding
	+ A synagogue teaching-emphasis model vs. the worship-emphasis described in the tabernacle of David
* As disciples of Jesus, we are to delight ourselves not only in sports, media stars, singers, pleasures, and entertainment--but also, in the Lord
* Worship will transform us
* What we worship, we give power into our lives
* The Old Testament predicts that the Gentiles would worship God to the ends of the earth
* Rom. 15:9-11
* As it is written: “Therefore, I will praise You among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to Your name.” Again, it says: “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people.” And again: “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and extol Him, all you peoples.”
* What is the tabernacle of David?
* The tabernacle of Moses was the site where the Hebrew congregation gathered at the feasts and where the priests performed the sacrifices on behalf of Israel in the Wilderness, during the time of the judges, and the time of the kings Saul and David
* The ark of the covenant was in the Holy of Holies in the innermost part of the tabernacle
* The tabernacle and ark, after its 40-year travel in the Wilderness, crossed the Jordan with Joshua and was placed at the town of *Shiloh.*
* When the Philistines defeated Israel in the time of Eli and young Samuel, they captured the ark and placed it in their temple of the false god Dagan in *Ashdod*
	+ Dagan fell over repeatedly, and the people developed “piles”
	+ Then the Philistines send it back to Israel on an ox cart
* The Israelis placed the *tabernacle and bronze altar* in *Gibeon* and the *ark* in Kiriath-Jearim
* David tried to move the ark to Jerusalem, but it was not carried according to the rules in the Law of Moses; an unfortunate man (Uzzah) was killed for touching it (II Sam. 6)
	+ David then placed the ark in the house of Obed-Edom
* David succeeded in bringing the ark properly to Jerusalem on his second attempt
	+ But… he only brought the ark and a few utensils…*not* the tabernacle poles, walls, or the bronze altar for animal sacrifices
	+ He left the tabernacle and altar with the priests in Kiriah-Jearim
* Then David built a tent (a new tabernacle) over the ark and commanded worship in or near this tent in Jerusalem
* I Chron, 16:37-40
* So, David left Asaph and his brothers before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to minister (*in Jerusalem)* regularly according to the daily requirements…David left Zadok the priest and his fellow priests before the tabernacle of the LORD at the high place in Gibeon to regularly present burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of burnt offerings, morning and evening, according to all that was written in the Law of the LORD.
* At the tabernacle of David, King David (who was not a Levite and was a descendant of a Moabite) had full, free access to God’s Presence near the ark
* Further, there was no recorded division between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies
	+ And no veil separating people from ark of the covenant, as there was in Moses’s tabernacle
	+ Everyone could come before God’s Presence at or near this simple tent.
* The common Israelites, the bastards, the eunuchs, the lame, the descendants of pagans, David himself, and Gentile proselytes were all welcome to worship near (and possibly inside) the tabernacle of David—unlike before or after
* Ps. 27:3-4
* One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell *in the house of the LORD* all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire *in his temple*.
* Psalm 15:1-2
* O LORD, who may abide *in Your tent*?
* Who may dwell on Your holy mountain?
* He who walks with integrity and practices righteousness
* Who speaks the truth from his heart
* The separation of the ark from the tabernacle also resulted in a different type of worship than what typically occurred at Moses’s tabernacle. At David’s tabernacle, the people:
	+ Made sacrifices of *praise* (instead of animal sacrifices) (Psalm 27:6).
	+ Clapped their hands (Psalm 47:1).
	+ Lifted their hands in worship (Psalm 134).
	+ Shouted (Psalm 47:1, 5).
	+ Danced (2 Samuel 6:16; Psalm 149:3) and
	+ Played instruments (1 Chronicles 23:5; Psalm 47:5; Psalm 149:3)
* The size of David’s tabernacle is nowhere stated
	+ But many priests and singers ministered there
	+ Commentators believe it was modeled after Moses’ in size
	+ The tabernacle of David existed for a brief time between the tabernacle of Moses and the temple that David’s son Solomon constructed (about 40 years)
	+ But all the good kings of Judah, from Solomon through Hezekiah and Josiah to Zerubbabel modeled their worship “according to the commands of David.”
* Prophecies predicted a future restoration of *David’s* tabernacle — not the Tabernacle of Moses or even the Temple — beyond the final (Herod’s) temple. (Amos 9:11-12)
* The prophet Isaiah wrote that the Messiah would rule from the “tent of David”
* Is. 16:4-5
* When the oppressor (the antichrist) has gone, destruction has ceased, and the oppressors have vanished from the land, in loving devotion a throne will be established in the *tent of David.* A judge (Christ) seeking justice and hastening righteousness will sit on it in faithfulness.
* Christ will rule the Millennium from the tabernacle of David, from the lineage of David, on a literal throne
* The Church gets to experience the tabernacle of David spiritually now (and as a taste of the Millennial Rule of Christ and later heaven)
* After the tribulation and Millennium, all temples and tabernacles (divine and pagan)--
	+ Whose purposes were to be places where God and gods meet with their followers--*will be done away with forever*
* Rev. 21:2-3; 22
* I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God…And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man, and He will dwell with them…But I saw *no temple* in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.”
* The tabernacle of Moses had an Old Covenant purpose.
	+ It showed that holiness was needed to appear before the Presence of a holy God.
	+ No sin; no illegitimacy; no disabilities, and no Gentiles were permitted
* But the tabernacle of David has the New Covenant purpose of making a way so all who trust in God have equal access to God’s Presence (“I will write my laws on your hearts”)
* The assignments in David’s tabernacle
* I Chron. 15:19-22; 24
* The musicians Heman, Asaph, and Ethan were to sound the *bronze cymbals.* Zechariah, Aziel. shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah were to *play the harps* according to Alamoth. And Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah were to *lead the music* with l*yres*.Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer—the priests—were to *blow the trumpets* before the ark of God.
* The Pentateuch is dedicated to how the tabernacle of Moses and temple of Solomon was to function
* The Book of Psalms is dedicated to how the Tabernacle of David was to function
	+ Psalms are the “hymnals” in the “pews” of the Tabernacle of David
* David’s Instruction for Praise in the Tabernacle:
* Sing
* Ps. 96:1
* Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
* Clap your hands
* Ps. 47:1
* Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!
* Dance
* Ps. 149:3
* Let them praise His name with the dance;
Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp.
* Lift your hands in worship and bow down
* Ps. 63:4
* So, I will bless You as long as I live;
I will *lift up* my hands in Your name.
* Ps. 95:6
* Oh come, let us worship and *bow down*;
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.
* Shout
* Ps. 47:1
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!
* Raise up banners
* Psalm 20:5
* We will sing for joy over your victory,
And in the name of our God we will set up our banners.
* And finally, use musical instruments
* Ps. 150:1
* Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre. Praise Him with timbrel and dancing.
* Psalm 98:5-6
* Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
* With the lyre and the sound of melody.
* With trumpets and the sound of the horn
* Shout joyfully before the King, the Lord
* With the church being the prophetic taste and spiritual fulfillment of the restoration of the Tabernacle of David, normal New Testament-approved expressions of worship should be:
	+ Inclusive
		- Particularly of Gentiles of every tribe, tongue, race, and nation
		- But also, of women, the disabled, the poor
	+ Participatory; constantly open for everyone to delight in and worship the Lord
	+ Exuberant and loud with dance and instruments
* The two greatest *commandments*:
	+ Love the Lord God with all your heart and mind and strength
	+ Love your neighbor as yourself
* The two great *commission*s:
	+ The Great Commission –testify to what the Lord has done for you
	+ Becoming a worshipper and offer a sacrifice of praise
* No training is needed to obey the two greatest commandments, and to carry out the two great commissions
	+ No gift-development needed; no seminary training
	+ We can begin doing these things the day after we are saved