

Section Two: Worship As Covering

The Concept of "Covering"

1. Although God is everywhere present, there is a distinct manifestation of His rule, which enters the environment of praise.
2. The presence of God's kingdom power is directly related to the practice of God's praise.
3. Worship is an entry point for His kingdom to come or to enter, that His "will be done" in human circumstances.
4. Praise can be described as setting up a "covering" or a "tent" with which we can agree with God.

The word *covering* invokes images of several things:

- Clothing (a place of provision)
 - Shelter (a place of refuge and concealment)
 - Dwelling place/tent (a place of meeting or fellowship)
 - Shadow or overshadowing (a place of power)
 - Shield (a place of strength and protection)
5. Covering can be defined simply as "something that covers so as to protect or conceal".
 6. Covering is required for man...we are protected from the holiness of God in one sense.
 7. Covering expresses the idea that we are "protected" by the garments that God provides for us.
 8. Covering can also convey the idea that our unholiness, our unrighteousness, and our unworthiness is "concealed".

Key Elements About Covering to keep in mind:

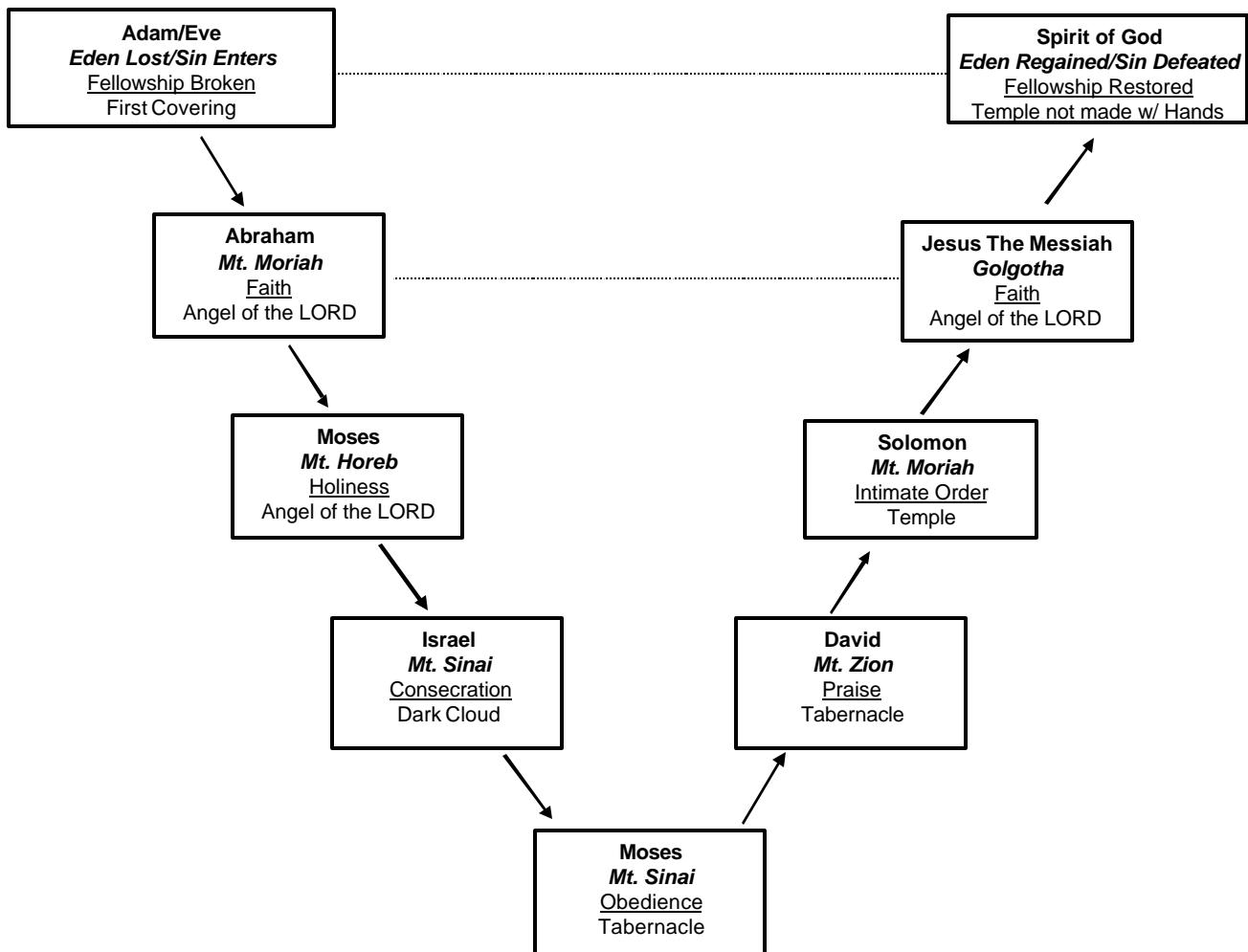
- God Establishes It / Man Attempts to Provide It
 - God Desires It / Man Does Not See the Need for It
 - God Expects It / Man Has Responsibility Associated with Acceptance
9. God will dwell in the midst of several things... His dwelling (abiding presence) is always accompanied by His covering.
 10. AGREEMENT... it defines HEAVEN and HELL. To the degree you come into agreement with His purposes, is the degree you can experience the kingdom of heaven on earth.

Covering is symbolic and representative of several things:

- ◆ Fellowship/Agreement
- ◆ Intimacy w/ God
- ◆ God's Presence In YOUR Midst
- ◆ God's Dwelling or Resting Place
- ◆ Our Approach To God

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The Progressive Revelation of Covering



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The First Covering

11. SIN brought separation from God and a loss of the life with which God intended us to live in—the very life of God Himself, indwelling and partnering with us.
12. God had absolute and perfect justification to KILL Adam and Eve for this transgression out-right, and allow them to be forever separated from Himself. Instead, God closed access to the Tree of Life (which would have meant that man would have lived in eternal condemnation) and instead provided a way for Adam and Eve to continue fellowship with Him.
13. This “access” to God was accomplished by an act of “covering”. In fact, ALL access to God is based on covering. The first SIN also brought about the first COVERING.
14. The problem was that the first covering, the one created and made by man, was INADEQUATE. Therefore, God provided HIS OWN.
15. The covering of leaves, just like religious works and good deeds, are not an adequate approach to God.
16. The covering Adam and Eve made seemed logical and correct to them.
17. What was man’s responsibility?? Adam and Eve had to TAKE OFF their covering of leaves and PUT ON God’s covering of skin..

The Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob)

18. The lesson we learn from Abraham in approaching God is one that forms the fundamental foundation upon which the New Covenant is based: belief expressed and supported by action.
19. Paul stated that Abraham’s faith rested upon his unyielding belief in God’s declaration to him that he would be a great nation (have offspring from him and Sarai).
20. Faith = Belief + Action
21. The presence of God with Abraham was accompanied by the covering of faith. Abraham played a part in the covering by being obedient through faith: He accepted God’s covering.

Moses: The Burning Bush

22. It was from out of Israel that the lineage of a Redeemer would come. But He first had to form a people for Himself: the descendants of Israel and his 12 sons.
23. God’s presence sanctified the place. . . the ground was Holy as a result. God basically “brought His own carpeting”, meaning that Moses approached God through the holiness of God Himself; Moses basically walked on the carpet that God brought. Moses took off his own covering (his shoes), and accepted God’s covering
24. The presence of God with Moses was initially accompanied by the covering of holiness.

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Israel: The First Encounter

25. God's presence was accompanied by a covering: a thick cloud. The people washed their *CLOTHES*: it was a time of purifying their lives before this all important meeting with Jehovah to ratify His covenant. Purity and consecration was a PART of the covering that God was establishing.
26. The presence of God with Israel was initially accompanied by the covering of consecration and purity.
27. God does not come down to us as we worship so much as He moves us up to where He is as we worship.

Moses: The Glory of the Lord

28. We must know God's ways first, before we can experience a deep relationship with Him. Moses desired to know God's way so that:
 - Moses could know God (have relationship and partner with God)
 - Moses could find grace in His sight (be accepted by God)
29. We must commit to following God's way if we are to know Him. We must commit to following His way if we are also going to be accepted and pleasing to Him (experiential vs. positional acceptance). God always uses Kingdom principles to accomplish Kingdom purposes.
30. God reveals His ways so I can accomplish His purposes.. He accomplishes His purposes and goals THROUGH us. What God works in, we must work out. We can not accomplish God's purpose through our own human wisdom and capability.
31. Worship is very similar. We cannot worship God out of they ways we think are best. . . we must rely on Him to show us the best way. Before we can seek and find the glory of the almighty God, we must first seek His ways.
32. We must ask, seek, and knock or else we will never know, find, and have the door opened. It is God's express purpose that we behold His glory.
33. How did God plan on answering Moses desire??
 - ◆ There was a PLACE near Him where Moses could stand
 - ◆ God would COVER Moses as He passed by and then Moses would see His "hindparts" of His glory
34. **When we present something to God for His use, we say that it is "SET APART".** The definition of "HOLINESS" is to be set apart for a specific use. We must do the presenting. . . that is the part that God can and will not do. That is an act of our will. SANCTIFICATION and SANCTIFIED means simply a process of making something holy or set apart.
35. The presence of God with Moses continued to be accompanied by a covering of holiness.
36. God, in revealing His person, says "I will cover you"

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God, in revealing His glory, proclaims His name thus revealing His character:

- **Merciful:** full of compassion
- **Gracious:** showing favor to those not deserving favor
- **Long-suffering:** having an extremely high boiling point, slow to anger
- Abounding in **goodness:** kindness and good deeds
- Abounding in **truth:** firm, sure, reliable, continuous, stable, faithful of affirmation
- **Keeping mercy** for thousands: watch, guard, preserve *goodness* (#4)
- Forgiving **iniquity** and **transgression** and **sin:** lifting, bearing, taking, carrying away, sweeping away perversity, depravity, iniquity, rebellion, transgression, offence
- By no means **clearing the guilty**

37. Moses, in the **covering** of God, **responded** with **WORSHIP**

The Tent of Meeting

38. The "tent of meetings" was not yet the tabernacle proper, but served an interim purpose.

- ◆ There is no recorded command to this effect
- ◆ There was as yet no separated priesthood
- ◆ Sacrifices were offered by "young men of the children of Israel"
- ◆ Already the need of a separated structure was becoming evident.
- ◆ The ark was not yet made
- ◆ A priesthood was not yet appointed
- ◆ It was "without the camp"
- ◆ Joshua was the sole minister
- ◆ It was a simple place of revelation and of the meeting of the people with Yahweh

The Tabernacle of Moses (Mt. Sinai Order)

39. God gave Moses specific instructions, even to the smallest detail, of how to arrange and build the tabernacle.

40. The construction, design, and placement of the tabernacle along with the rules governing its duties were to be a continuous daily statute in Israel.

41. It was to be a tabernacle of MEETING. It would be a place where God would actually dwell in the midst of His people.

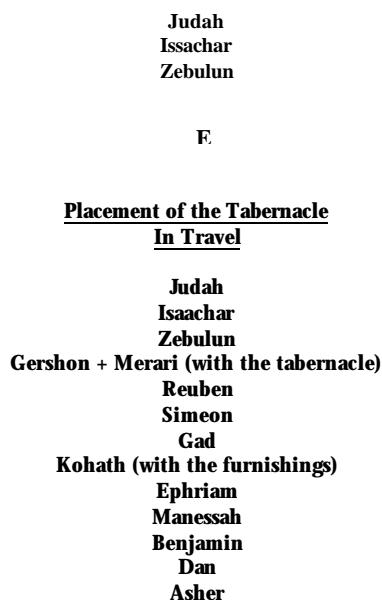
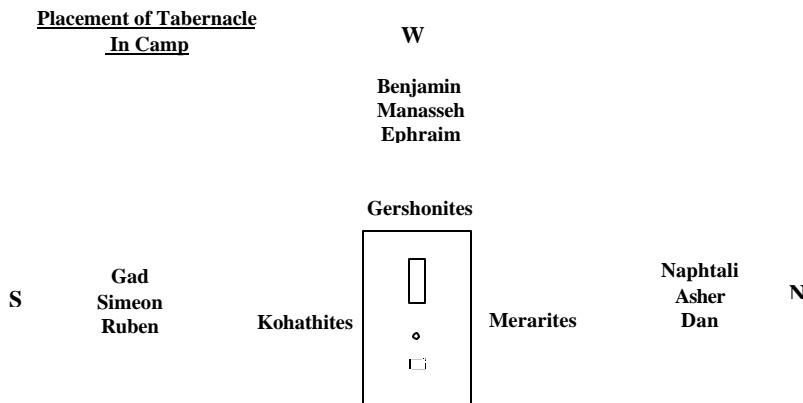
42. The tabernacle represents the approved "COVERING" [it was a tent, after all] where God's presence would rest and abide.

43. If Moses (and Aaron w/ his sons) did not follow the instructions, God would not have DWELT there!

44. We see that instead of a thick dark cloud, now God moved into the actual camp of the Israelites. He came off from the mountain and into their very midst with His presence and glory.

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45. What was man's responsibility as part of the covering?? Moses had to obey in following the details given by God. The fixtures, ordinances, statutes, and rituals had to be followed precisely in order for God to allow His presence to dwell in the midst of the nation. Aaron and his sons had to obey the ordinances involved with the temple (which were many).
46. The presence of God in the Tabernacle of Moses was established by a covering of obedience.
47. God again provide His own COVERING, His own Tent (the Tabernacle of *Meeting*) and gives the instructions concerning that covering.
48. LINEN does not SWEAT, WOOL does. It is not by our might, our works, our toil that we REACH God or become righteous.
49. Salvation is HIS work, surrender is OUR obligation.
50. God established from the very beginning under the concept of COVERING, that redemption is His clothing.



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The Tabernacle of David (Mt. Zion Order)

After the time of the conquest of Canaan and the period of the judges that concludes with Samuel, the next we hear of the tabernacle is at Nob, with Ahimelech as high priest. Nob was 4 miles to the North of Jerusalem and was more-over a high place, 30 ft. higher than Zion. It does not follow that the tabernacle was placed at the top of the hill. Here it remained a few years, till after the massacre by Saul of all the priests at Nob save one, Abiathar.

1 Sam 21:1 Now David came to Nob, to **Ahimelech** the priest. And Ahimelech was afraid when he met David, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one is with you?"

Subsequently, possibly by Saul himself, the tabernacle was removed to Gibeon.

1 Chr 16:39-40 and Zadok the priest and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the LORD at the high place that was at Gibeon, to offer burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of burnt offering regularly morning and evening, and to do according to all that is written in the Law of the LORD which He commanded Israel;

1 Chr 21:29 For the tabernacle of the LORD and the altar of the burnt offering, which Moses had made in the wilderness, were at that time at the high place in Gibeon.

Gibeon was 6 miles from Jerusalem, and 7 from Beth-el, and may have been chosen for its strategic advantage as well as for the fact that it was already inhabited by priests, and was Saul's ancestral city.

2 Sam 5:6-7 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying, "You shall not come in here; but the blind and the lame will repel you," thinking, "David cannot come in here." Nevertheless **David took the stronghold of Zion** (that is, the City of David).

On his capturing the fortress of Jebus (later Jerusalem), and building himself a "house" there, David prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent on Zion in imitation of the tabernacle at Gibeon.

2 Sam 6:1-3 Again David gathered all the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand. And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to **bring up from there the ark of God**, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and **Uzzah** and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, **drove the new cart**.

2 Sam 6:17 So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place **in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it**. Then David offered **burnt offerings and peace offerings** before the LORD.

2 Chr 1:3-4 Then Solomon, and all the assembly with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for **the tabernacle of meeting with God was there**, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness. **But David had brought up the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim to the place David had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem.**

- ◆ He must also have provided an altar, for we read of burnt offerings and peace offerings being made there.
- ◆ Meanwhile the ark had been brought from Kiriath-jearim, where it had lain so long;
- ◆ It was restored in the presence of a concourse of people representing the whole nation, the soldiery and civilians delivering it to the priests

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- ◆ On this journey Uzzah was smitten for touching the ark. Arrived near Jerusalem, the ark was carried into the house of Obed-edom, a Levite, and remained there for 3 months.
- ◆ At the end of this time it was carried into David's tabernacle with all fitting solemnity and honor.

1 Chr 15:1-3 David built houses for himself in the City of David; **and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it.** Then David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever." And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it.

Hence, it was that there were now **two tabernacles**:

- ◆ The original one with its altar at Gibeon,
- ◆ The new one with the original ark in Jerusalem
- ◆ Both under the protection of the king.
- ◆ Both, however, were soon to be superseded by the building of a temple.

The altar at Gibeon continued in use till the time of Solomon. Of all the actual material of the tabernacle, **the ark alone remained unchanged in the temple.** The tabernacle itself, with its sacred vessels, was brought up to Jerusalem, and was preserved, apparently, as a sacred relic in the temple. Thus, after a history of more than 200 years, the tabernacle ceases to appear in history.

I King 8:4 Then they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites brought them up.

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Zion

King David commanded the priesthood to offer praise and worship continually on Mt. Zion. The spontaneity and intimacy of praise and worship were going on at Mt. Zion. Zion represented having a freedom of worship in the presence of God but with no order. David did not receive divine instructions about how to construct this tabernacle (that was recorded). God gave him no instruction as to how to place the Ark of the Covenant and there is no record of any instructions about leaving one room the way he did. There were no curtains, no holy place, no most holy -place. It simply contained the Ark of the Covenant. Why did David bring the ark into his tabernacle and not the one at Gibeon? David had longing for intimacy with God. Therefore, Zion represents the place of intimacy with God: the place where we experience the manifest presence of God. There was no form; there were no rituals. There were no sacrifices made except the initial ones. After that, it was a great place of spontaneity. It was a place of dancing and a place where the song of the Lord could be heard. It was a place where the prophetic flowed and where praise and worship continued day and night without the form and the ritual.

1 Chr 15:16-24 Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the **singers** accompanied by instruments of **music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals**, by **raising the voice with resounding joy**. So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of their brethren, the sons of Merari, Ethan the son of Kushaiah; and with them their brethren of the second rank: Zechariah, Ben, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, the **gatekeepers**; the **singers**, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were to **sound the cymbals** of bronze; Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah, **with strings** according to Alamoth; Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah, to **direct with harps** on the Sheminith; Chenaniah, leader of the Levites, was **instructor in charge of the music, because he was skillful**; Berechiah and Elkanah were **doorkeepers** for the ark; Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, were to **blow the trumpets** before the ark of God; and Obed-Edom and Jehiah, **doorkeepers** for the ark.

1 Chr 16:1-7 So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God. And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD. Then he distributed to everyone of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. And he appointed some of the Levites to **minister before the ark of the LORD**, to **commemorate**, to **thank**, and to **praise the LORD** God of Israel: Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, and Obed-Edom: Jeiel with stringed **instruments and harps**, but Asaph made music with **cymbals**; Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests regularly blew the **trumpets** before the ark of the covenant of God. **And on that day David first delivered this psalm into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, to thank the LORD:**

1 Chr 16:37-38 So he left Asaph and his brothers **there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD to minister before the ark regularly, as every day's work required**; and Obed-Edom with his sixty-eight brethren, including Obed-Edom the son of Jeduthun, and Hosah, to be gatekeepers;

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1Chr 16:41-42 And with them Heman and Jeduthun and the rest who were chosen, who were designated by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because His mercy endures forever; and with them Heman and Jeduthun, to sound aloud with trumpets and cymbals and the musical instruments of God. Now the sons of Jeduthun were gatekeepers.

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Gibeon

King David continued to command the sacrifices be offered on Mt. Gibeon. The priests were commanded to continue their daily rituals and their daily responsibility of maintaining the statutes of Moses concerning the Tabernacle. The form and God-given rituals and ordinances were continuing. Gibeon represented having a form or a ritual without the presence of God (no ark). The legal, correct, God-given ordinances were still being followed in Mt. Gibeon, but God's presence was not there. In fact, when the Ark was originally stolen from the tabernacle, the priests continued to perform their duties and accomplish the ceremonial washings and sacrifices. Even though the tabernacle was empty and the presence of God was not there, they still continued to follow the form. They continued to go through all the form and all the ritual and all the requirements of the Law. They were united in making certain that the system continued to go. Gibeon was therefore a place of form, the place where the priests fulfilled the letter of the Law. However, it was not a place of intimacy.

And Zadok the priest and his brethren the priests, before **the tabernacle of the LORD at the high place that was at Gibeon, to offer burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of burnt offering regularly morning and evening, and to do according to all that is written in the Law of the LORD which He commanded Israel;**

1 Chr 16:39-40

The presence of God in the Tabernacle of David was established by a covering of praise.

The order established by the tabernacle of David for worshipped forms the basis of the New Testament revelation that we find in the person of Jesus Christ: free access to God and intimate fellowship that produces spontaneity and life! The Mt. Zion form of worship would be incorporated and carried forth into the Temple of Solomon. The order on Mt. Zion came from the heart of David himself: a man who hungered and thirsted for God's very presence. Two distinct forms are represented: Old Testament and New Testament. One was based on the Letter, the other based on the Spirit.

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The Temple of Solomon

It is in the Temple of Solomon that we understand God's true design for worship. The Temple represents the marriage of the Mt. Zion order and the Mt. Gibeon order. It represents the ideal environment for which God's presence will DWELL permanently. The glory cloud never descended upon the Tabernacle of David, although His presence was indeed there. It represents in many ways the fulness of God in both the letter of the Law to the fulfillment by the Spirit of the Law.

David could not build the temple, but he gave and provided the specific instructions (along with other prophets) to Solomon in HOW to build the temple and HOW to set up the ministry that surrounded the temple. With intimacy must come responsibility and accountability. True intimacy can be experienced only through an abiding love relationship:

John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

The glory cloud never came to Mt. Gibeon, but it never came to Mt. Zion either (at least that is recorded). Our love relationship with God and our desire for intimacy and spontaneity must produce in us a disciplined lifestyle and a responsibility that holds us accountable to God. David initiated a new Levitical system of worship while the OLD one was still in operation.

This is known as the Davidic Revelation of Worship, which we will discuss later in more detail. There was a conviction in David's heart that the LORD had revealed to Him new methods of worship and given him a vision of the potential of congregational worship in entering God's presence:

1 Chr 28:11-13 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat; and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things; also for the division of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the articles of service in the house of the LORD.

1 Chr 28:19-21 All this," said David, "the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans." And David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God--my God-- will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD. Here are the divisions of the priests and the Levites for all the service of the house of God; and every willing craftsman will be with you for all manner of workmanship, for every kind of service; also the leaders and all the people will be completely at your command."

2 Chr 29:25 And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets.

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Solomon begins to build the temple according to his father's wishes and direction:

I King 5:5

And behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spoke to my father David, saying, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he shall build the house for My name."

I King 6:38

And in the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its details and according to all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.

2 Chr 3:1

Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

What do we consider when looking at Solomon's temple?

2 Chr 5:1-14

So all the work that Solomon had done for the house of the LORD was finished; and Solomon brought in the things which his father David had dedicated: the silver and the gold and all the furnishings. And he put them in the treasuries of the house of God. Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, in Jerusalem, that they might bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD up from the City of David, which is Zion. Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with the king at the feast, which was in the seventh month. So all the elders of Israel came, and the Levites took up the ark. Then they brought up the ark, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites brought them up. Also King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled with him before the ark, were sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be counted or numbered for multitude. Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. And the poles extended so that the ends of the poles of the ark could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they had come out of Egypt. And it came to pass when the priests came out of the Most Holy Place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without keeping to their divisions), and the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets-- indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, for His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

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- ◆ The house of God has been built according to divine blueprint
- ◆ Trained priests stood ready to minister in music and prophecy
- ◆ The ark of God rested in the Holy Place of the temple
- ◆ Lavish sacrifices had been offered
- ◆ The path from the Tabernacle of David to the Temple of Solomon was only a few hundred yards away: the entire path was bathed with the blood of sacrificed sheep and oxen, of which there were so many that they could not be numbered. The spontaneity and vibrance and exuberance of Mt. Zion was now blood-splattered: coated or covered with blood. The road to fulness of God's presence is only by the blood of the lamb and by great sacrifice to us (our lives).
- ◆ There was only two tablets of the Law which Moses put there at Horeb in the Ark. What happened to Aaron's rod and the manna?
 - ◆ Aaron's rod represents our calling and ministry: we may be called to do any number of things, but these things in and of themselves will never keep us true or motivate us to serve God.
 - ◆ The manna represents God's miraculous provision: we may see the supernatural and we may see the provision of God in our life. His provision will not keep us serving Him.
 - ◆ Only a burning for Him by His grace that comes from our heart will keep us faithful to the Lord and His calling. Our heart must cry for God Himself. We will love Him and serve Him because our heart hungers for Him even if He never calls us to great ministry and even if He never provides miraculous favor for us. I serve Him because He is God and because I love Him
 - ◆ The only thing that will keep us faithful is God's word in our hearts enlivened by God's Spirit in our hearts. There can be room for no other thing in our hearts except His law.
- ◆ WHEN they lifted up their voices, WHAT happened??

John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

The Temple of Solomon represents God's ordained plan for His presence. It was a marriage of Mt. Gibeon and Mt. Zion. It included order and God's divine plan that He had given to David.

1 Chr 15:13 "For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order."

1 Cor 14:39-40 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.

1 Cor 14:26-33 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

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The presence of God in the Temple of Solomon was established by a covering of intimate order.

We must marry the life and vibrancy of our experience of the Holy Spirit to the discipline, holiness, and doctrine of the Scriptures to experience the true fulness of God.

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Jesus Christ (The Messiah)

When God the Son became a man, John was inspired to use an interesting concept to describe this in his gospel. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, John wrote:

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

In the Greek:

dwelt = **4637** skenoo (skay-no'-o) from **4636**; to tent or encamp, i.e. (figuratively) to occupy (as a mansion) or (specifically) to reside (as God did in the Tabernacle of old, a symbol of protection and *communion*): **dwell**.

4636 skenos (skay'-nos); from **4633**; a hut or temporary residence, i.e. (figuratively) the human body (as the abode of the spirit): **tabernacle**.

4633 skene (skay-nay'); apparently akin to 4632 and 4639; a tent or cloth hut (literally or figuratively): **habitation, tabernacle**.

The God of the Universe "tabernacled" among us. He made His habitation among us...as and like one of us. It is in the context of this "Tabernacle", this "Covering", His sacrificial body that was broken and slain that again we find our access into God's presence. Jesus alluded to this picture in a discussion with a group of the Pharisees:

John 2:19-21 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy **this temple**, and in three days I will raise it up." Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of **the temple of His body**.

Jesus again is representative of our "Covering", our approach to God. Worship must be first based on that FINAL covering that was provided for our sins and our unholiness and unworthiness to approach God. God dwelt among us because we could not dwell with Him. He took the initiative...He made the preparation...He finished the work.

Rom 3:21-22 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

Rom 3:26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has **faith in Jesus**.

Gal 2:16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Rom 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

The presence of God in the person of Jesus Christ is established by a covering of faith.

Section Two: Worship As Covering

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life:

In order to follow God's way, we must incorporate the Truth of His Word and the Power of His Life.

The incarnation presents one of the most astounding and mind boggling facts to us: God dwelt among us:

- Matt 1:23** Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name **Immanuel**, which is translated, "**God with us**."
- 1 Tim 3:16** And without controversy great is the **mystery** of godliness: **God was manifested in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.
- II Jn 1:7** For many deceivers have gone out into the world **who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh**. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.
- I Jn 4:2-3** By this you know the Spirit of God: **Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God**, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has **come in the flesh is not of God**. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.
- 1 Pet 3:18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being **put to death in the flesh** but **made alive by the Spirit**,

It was the "tent" of His flesh that was torn for our iniquities and our sin:

- Matt 27:50-53A** And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, **the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom**; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

- Heb 10:19-22** Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, **let us draw near** with a **true heart in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- Heb 9:7-8** But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; **the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing**.

- Heb 9:11-15** But Christ came as High Priest of **the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands**, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean,

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sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? **And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant**, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Jesus Christ represent the FINAL revelation of God's covering.

All others point to a fulfillment in His person.

Jesus was God "clothed" with flesh. He could be seen, touched, heard.

He dwelt AMONG us, in our midst.

God moved from a burning bush, to a cloud, to a tent, to a tabernacle, to a temple, and now to flesh and blood.

He became who I was so that I might become who He is . . .

Section Two: Worship As Covering

The Holy Spirit (The Breath of God)

After the atonement was complete, (His death, burial and resurrection) the fulfillment of the Law was accomplished and a new blood covenant had been cut between God and man. Now, anyone could come to God on the basis of that atonement through faith, belief in action. We have come full circle in the revelation of God's presence through covering. We see a major part of redemptive history played out already for us.

Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**; and man became a *living* being.

John 20:22-23 And when He had said this, **He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.** "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

In the Greek:

breathed = 1720 emphusao (em-foo-sah'-o); from 1722 and phusao (**to puff**) [compare 5453]; to blow at or on: KJV-- to blow or breathe upon. **This word used only once by the Septuagint translators in Gen 2:7 where God breathed on Adam and he became a living soul.** 1722 = en- **in**, by, with, etc.

Just as the original creation was completed by an act of God, so to the new creation was completed by an act from the Head of the new creation. Life, the breath of life, the life of God, the life that Adam lost when he sinned, was restored to man. The ability and the desire to do God's will was imparted on the basis of the atonement, God's final covering. Through this covering, man could not covenant and partner with God in a living relationship through a new and living way!

Once again, God moves ever so closer towards US. In fact, God has moved as close to us as He possibly can! Now He says "COME to ME, the WAY is OPEN, the VEIL is TORN. . .ENTER IN by the NEW and LIVING WAY." By God's Spirit living INSIDE of us, we are now the HABITATION of God Almighty Himself. Jesus Christ lives IN US. We are IN HIM.

We have an interesting picture here. When we are made holy and righteous by God through the new birth, God comes to **live in us**. As we hunger and thirst for Him a promise is made that His presence would not only be IN us but would rest UPON us and IN THE MIDST of us. Not only is there a tangible difference in our character, there is now God acting in the midst of our situation, in the midst of our family, in the midst of our job, in the midst of our lives. The key to this is found through fellowship and discipling within the Body of Christ. As we corporately come into agreement together, we with one voice praise and worship God. It is in the atmosphere of agreement that God manifests and dwells.

We are being made to be a dwelling of God by His Spirit INDIVIDUALLY and CORPORATELY.

Eph 2:19-22 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, **being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.**

1 Cor 6:19 Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

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The full revelation of God's covering tells us that He desires to:

Be AWARE -> Be NEAR -> Be INVOLVED -> Be IN THE MIDDLE -> Be IN

We can confidently declare:

God wants to dwell in the midst of my life.

John 14:17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He **dwells with you and will be in you.**

2 Cor 6:16-18 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "**I will dwell in them and walk among them.** I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

We are now the temple of the living God. His Spirit IN us makes us the tabernacle of the living God. If we use that as basis for worship that was designed and implemented from the temples and tabernacles of the Old Covenant, it tells us that we are mobile houses of worship! Collectively as the Body of Christ, we form a habitation of God by His Spirit.

**Your Heart =
Christ's Home =
The Spirit's Dwelling Place =
The Tabernacle of the Living God**

Eph 3:17 that Christ may **dwell in your hearts** through *faith* . . .

♦ Faith pleases God.. it is when we build faith in our hearts that God has a dwelling He is pleased to inhabit. God is free to move in a heart full of faith; He is free to inhabit and indwell and abide in a place where He is freely welcome.

Isa 57:15 For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "**I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit,** to *revive* the spirit of the humble, and to *revive* the heart of the contrite ones.

♦ The abiding presence of God WITH someone is for those who will be humble and contrite. A contrite spirit is a kind of spirit, or heart, pleasing and acceptable to God; The person with a contrite spirit weeps over wrongdoing and expresses genuine sorrow for his sin.

Ps 34:18 The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and **saves such** as have a **contrite spirit.**

Ps 51:17 The sacrifices of God are **a broken spirit**, a **broken** and a **contrite** heart-- these, O God, You will not despise.

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2 Cor 7:10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

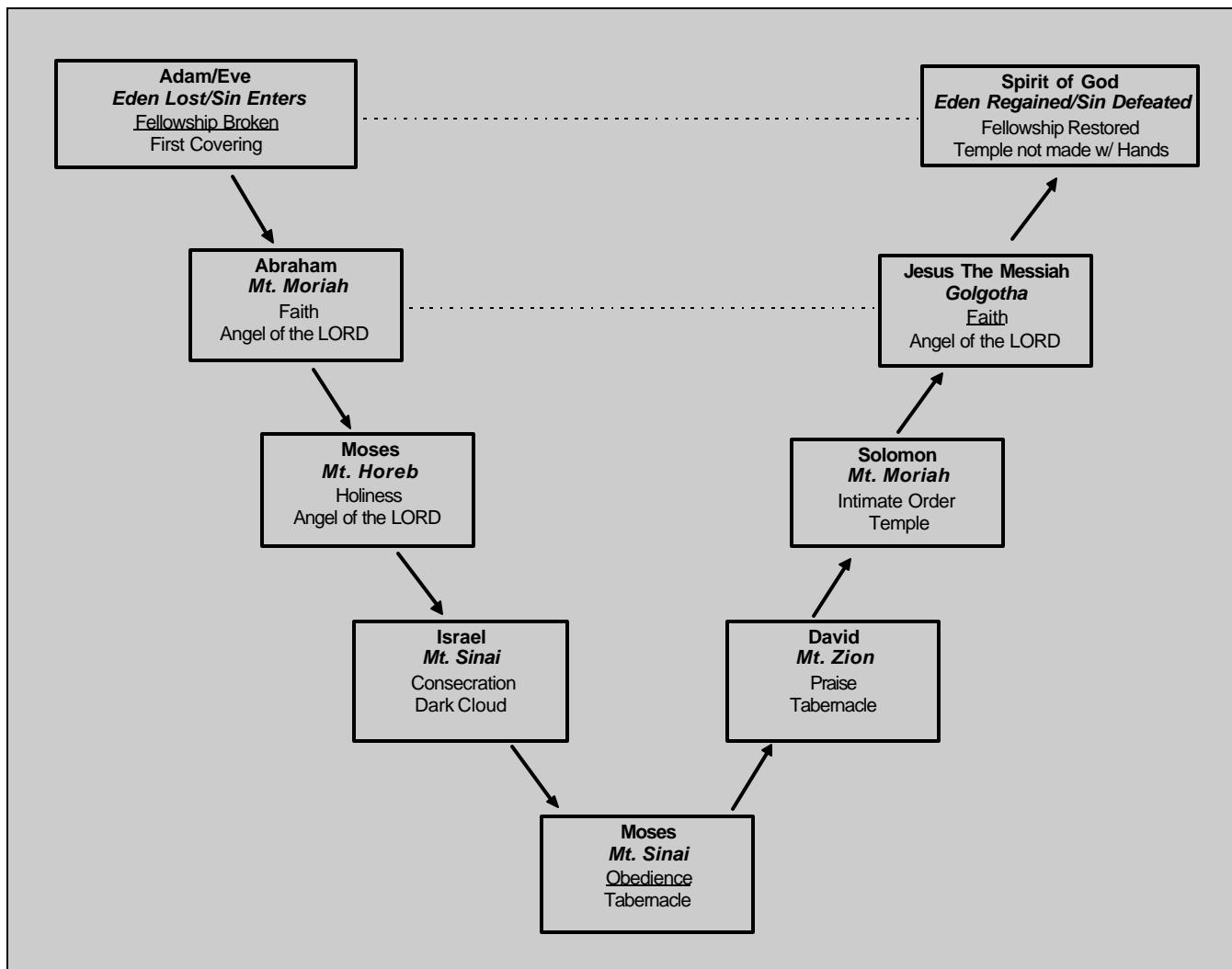
We are meant and destined to be a habitation of God Almighty Himself:

- John 6:56** "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and **I in him**.
- John 14:23** Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him**.
- Rom 8:9-11** But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed **the Spirit of God dwells in you**. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if **Christ is in you**, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead **dwells in you**, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who **dwells in you**.
- Gal 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- Col 1:27** To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.
- I Jn 4:4** You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you** is greater than he who is in the world.
- I Jn 4:16** And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and **God in him**.
- Rev 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, **I will come in to him** and dine with him, and he with Me.

It is through the INDWELLING presence of Christ that we bear the fruit of Spirit from the inside out. Fruit grows from the inside out, from the root out to the branches and leaves, until fruit is produced. That fruit is fed and nourished by the root structure and arterials of the tree. The Body of Christ is our "root system" by which we are to become "living stones". As we grow together corporately and individually, God's character and nature will come from the INSIDE out and manifest in our outer actions.

Section Two: Worship As Covering

The Progressive Revelation of God's Covering



Section Two: Worship As Covering

Seraphim and Cherubim

Cherubim and seraphim are winged angelic beings, often associated with worship and praise of God.

The cherubim are first mentioned in the Bible in Genesis. When God drove Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, He placed cherubim at the east of the garden, "and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life." If God had not done this, man ran the risk of eating of the tree and living eternally in a fallen state, unredeemed and without hope of redemption. Instead, God planted another Seed in the earth that would bear another Tree of Life, a stump out of Jesse, a root of David, a Branch out of Abraham.

Gen 3:24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Symbolic representations of cherubim were used in the TABERNACLE in the wilderness. Two cherubim made of gold were stationed at the two ends of the MERCY SEAT, above the ARK OF THE COVENANT in the HOLY OF HOLIES. Artistic designs of cherubim decorated the ten curtains <Ex. 26:1; 36:8> and the veil <Ex. 26:31; 2 Chr. 3:14> of the tabernacle. When Solomon built the Temple, he ordered that two cherubim be made of olive wood and overlaid with gold. Each measured ten cubits (4.6 meters or 15 feet) high with a wingspread of ten cubits (4.6 meters or 15 feet) <1 Kin. 6:23-28; 8:6-7; 2 Chr. 3:10-13; 5:7-8>. These gigantic cherubim were placed inside the inner sanctuary, or in the Most Holy Place in the Temple. Their wings were spread over the ark of the covenant. The woodwork throughout the Temple was decorated with engraved figures of cherubim, trees, and flowers <1 Kin. 6:29-35; 7:29,36; 2 Chr. 3:7>. **It was between the cherubim that God met and spoke with His people. His glory RESTED in the midst of their outstretched wings on top of the Mercy Seat.**

2 Sam 6:2 And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, **who dwells between the cherubim.**

1 Chr 13:6 And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, to Kirjath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there **the ark of God the LORD, who dwells between the cherubim, where His name is proclaimed.**

Psalms 80:1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock; you **who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth!**

4 key passages deal with cherubim and seraphim:

- ⇒ **Isaiah 6:1-7**
- ⇒ **Ezek 1:4-25/Ezek 10:1-18**
- ⇒ **Revelation 4:6-9**

In some ways, the cherubim were similar to the SERAPHIM, another form of angelic being mentioned in the Bible. Both were winged beings, and both surrounded God on His throne <Is. 6:2-3>. But the seraphim of the prophet Isaiah's vision were vocal in their praise of God, singing "Holy, holy is the Lord of hosts" <Is. 6:3>.

They appear to serve the purpose of:

- ⇒ magnifying the holiness and power of God
- ⇒ leading others in worship of God
- ⇒ serve as a visible reminder of the majesty and glory of God and **His abiding presence** with His people.

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Our interest in them is based on the fact of their "covering". These beings are associated with the very presence of Almighty God and His throne. It is the presence of God in worship that we find the association with a "covering" a praise. Let's look at the instances of cherubim and seraphim and see how they relate to this function:

Ezek 1:4-25

Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire. Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings. Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the soles of calves' feet. They sparkled like the color of burnished bronze. The hands of a man were under their wings on their four sides; and each of the four had faces and wings. Their wings touched one another. The creatures did not turn when they went, but each one went straight forward. As for the likeness of their faces, each had the face of a man, each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle. Thus were their faces. Their wings were stretched upward; two wings of each one touched one another, and two covered their bodies. And each one went straight forward; they went wherever the spirit wanted to go, and they did not turn when they went. As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of torches. Fire was going back and forth among the living creatures; the fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning. And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning. Now as I looked at the living creatures, behold, a wheel was on the earth beside each living creature with its four faces. The appearance of the wheels and their workings was like the color of beryl, and all four had the same likeness. The appearance of their workings was, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. When they went, they went toward any one of four directions; they did not turn aside when they went. As for their rims, they were so high they were awesome; and their rims were full of eyes, all around the four of them. When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, because there the spirit went; and the wheels were lifted together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. When those went, these went; when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads. And under the firmament their wings spread out straight, one toward another. Each one had two which covered one side, and each one had two which covered the other side of the body. When they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of many waters, like the voice of the Almighty, a tumult like the noise of an army; and when they stood still, they let down their wings. A voice came from above the firmament that was over their heads; whenever they stood, they let down their wings.

Ezek 10:1-8

And I looked, and there in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubim, there appeared something like a sapphire stone, having the appearance of the likeness of a throne. Then He spoke to the man clothed with linen, and said, "**Go in among the wheels, under the cherub, fill your hands with coals of fire**

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from among the cherubim, and scatter them over the city." And he went in as I watched. Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when the man went in, and **the cloud filled the inner court.** Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and paused over the threshold of the temple; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD'S glory. And **the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard even in the outer court, like the voice of Almighty God when He speaks.** Then it happened, when He commanded the man clothed in linen, saying, "Take fire from among the wheels, from among the cherubim," that he went in and stood beside the wheels. And the cherub stretched out his hand from among the cherubim to the fire that was among the cherubim, and took some of it and put it into the hands of the man clothed with linen, who took it and went out. The cherubim appeared to have the form of a man's hand under their wings.

Ezek 10:9-13

And when I looked, there were four wheels by the cherubim, one wheel by one cherub and another wheel by each other cherub; the wheels appeared to have the color of a beryl stone. As for their appearance, all four looked alike-- as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. When they went, they went toward any of their four directions; they did not turn aside when they went, but followed in the direction the head was facing. They did not turn aside when they went. And their whole body, with their back, their hands, their wings, and the wheels that the four had, were full of eyes all around. As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing, "Wheel."

Ezek 10:14-15

Each one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, the second face the face of a man, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. And the cherubim were lifted up. This was the living creature I saw by the River Chebar.

Ezek 10:16-18

When the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them; and when the cherubim lifted their wings to mount up from the earth, the same wheels also did not turn from beside them. When the cherubim stood still, the wheels stood still, and when one was lifted up, the other lifted itself up, for the spirit of the living creature was in them. Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim.

Ezek 10:19-22

And the cherubim lifted their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight. When they went out, the wheels were beside them; and they stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD'S house, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them. This is the living creature I saw under the God of Israel by the River Chebar, and I knew they were cherubim. Each one had four faces and each one four wings, and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings. And the likeness of their faces was the same as the faces which I had seen by the River Chebar, their appearance and their persons. They each went straight forward.

Isa 6:2-7

Above it stood seraphim; each one had **six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.** And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" . . . Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a **live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar.** And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged."

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Rev 4:6-11

Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures **full of eyes in front and in back**. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. **The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"** Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

What is the significance of these creatures?

They are responsible for an atmosphere of worship, continually, around the throne of God. They are associated with the manifestation of His glory and are charged with providing a "covering" or "carpet" of agreement. The imagery of cherubim as "covering" or "overshadowing" indicates that even in the position on the mercy seat and within the Holy of Holies, worship is a mandatory requirement for the glory of God to manifest and rest.

Section Two: Worship As Covering

Descriptions of the Living Creatures/Cherubim/Seraphim

Description/Appearance Office	Ezek 1:4- 25	Ezek 10:1- 18	Rev 4:6- 9	Isa 6:1- 7
Likeness of a man	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Four creatures present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Each had four faces: man, lion, ox/calf, eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Each had four wings: 2(?)for covering, 2 for flying	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Each had six wings: 2 for the face, 2 for covering, 2 for flying			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Legs were straight: soles w/ appearance of calves feet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Wings of each cherub touched each other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
The noise of their wings was like many waters, a tumult like the noise of an army	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sparkled as of burnished bronze	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Hands of a man were under the wings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
They went straight in one direction in unison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
The living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
A wheel was on the earth beside each living creature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
The spirit of the living creature controlled the wheels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Do not rest day or night saying: "Holy, holy, holy lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Cried to each other: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Linked with the Glory of God	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Linked with the throne/ throne room of God	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wings full of eyes around and within		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Full of eyes (the rims) front and in back	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
They give glory, honor, and thanks to God: Others respond as a result. . .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Coals of fire are amongst or near them [in the wheels]/ appearance of burning coals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Engaged in purifying work (taking coals and giving/applying them to a man)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Involved in judgment		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

What can we learn from these created order of beings? God prizes worship. He created beings whose sole activity in created order is to lead and promote the atmosphere of worship, praise, and adoration. These beings are the worship leaders of heaven: they show us that a "canopy" of praise is the accepted "tent" by which God will meet and reveal Himself.

Section Two: Worship As Covering

Lucifer: The Covering Cherub

In understanding the fact that cherubim provide covering for the presence of God, let us now consider who the Bible calls the "anointed cherub":

Ezek 28:1-3 The word of the LORD came to me again, saying, Son of man, say to the **prince of Tyre**, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because **your heart is lifted up**, and you say, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, in the midst of the seas,' **yet you are a man**, and not a god, though you set your heart as the heart of a god (Behold, you are wiser than Daniel! There is no secret that can be hidden from you!)

Ezek 28:6-10 'Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Because you have set your heart as the heart of a god, Behold, therefore, **I will bring strangers against you, the most terrible of the nations; and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom, and defile your splendor.** They shall throw you down into the Pit, and you shall die the death of the slain in the midst of the seas. "Will you still say before him who slays you, 'I am a god'? But you shall be a man, and not a god, in the hand of him who slays you. You shall die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of aliens; for I have spoken," says the Lord GOD.' "

Ezekiel begins a word against the prince of Tyre. Tyre was the center of the Phoenician trading empire of that day. The prince of Tyre was probably Ittobaal II, whom Josephus said was king during the siege of Nebuchadnezzar. Tyre, because of its prominence in trade, had attained great splendor and wealth. His wisdom and his wealth have also brought pride, a deadly and destructive force in the face of an Almighty God who transcends human wisdom and man's wealth. He was in his own mind exalted as a "god". He trusted and relied on strength and wealth and position. God was now going to bring judgment on his kingdom, just as He has done throughout history when men ignore Him and are infected with pride.

Ezek 28:12-13 Son of man, take up a lamentation for **the king of Tyre**, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your **timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.**"

Here Ezekiel transitions to a lamentation against the "king" of Tyre. We already know that behind earthly political institutions that there are power and principalities in the heavenly realms that are actually at work behind the scenes:

Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Although this passage could be referring to Adam or the actual king of Tyre (a man), we can certainly draw general conclusions concerning the fall of any proud person, especially a ruler, from a high position. We may also interpret this passage, as many of the early church fathers in the second half of the fourth century A.D. did, that this passage describes the fall of satan himself. Satan personifies best what happens when we are beset by pride. (Pride goeth before the fall).

We understand that at a minimum this person (possibly the King of Tyre or Adam) or being (Lucifer):

Was the seal of perfection (perfect in creation)

Destined to carry out God's plan and is placed in Eden in the presence of God

Section Two: Worship As Covering

- ◆ It is unlikely the king of Tyre would be talked about in context of the garden of Eden, or in the context of being perfect in creation.
- ◆ Adam, as well, was not naked. This being was "covered with every precious stone" to denote his beauties and glories.
- ◆ This being or person was created with timbrels and pipes as part of their being.

Ezek 28:14-16 "You were the **anointed cherub who covers**; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, **O covering cherub**, from the midst of the fiery stones.

- ◆ The strongest evidence that this points to Lucifer and his fall to satan is found in v.14: the anointed cherub who covers indicates HIGH office with authority and responsibility to protect and defend (cover) the holy mountain of God, an allusion to God's throne.
- ◆ The high order and specific placement of Lucifer prior to his fall afforded unique opportunity to bring glory to God.
- ◆ The actual Hebrew reveals that built into his person was the capacity to make and create music. He would have been the ideal leader of all heavenly worship directed at the Almighty Creator.

Why was Lucifer cast down and why did he fall?

Isa 14:12-21 How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. "Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, Who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?' All the kings of the nations, all of them, sleep in glory, everyone in his own house; But you are cast out of your grave like an abominable branch, like the garment of those who are slain, thrust through with a sword, who go down to the stones of the pit, like a corpse trodden underfoot. You will not be joined with them in burial, because you have destroyed your land and slain your people. The brood of evildoers shall never be named. Prepare slaughter for his children because of the iniquity of their fathers, lest they rise up and possess the land, and fill the face of the world with cities."

I will: **ascend into the heaven**
I will: **exalt my throne above the stars of God**
I will: **sit on the mount of the congregation**
I will: **ascend above the heights of the clouds**
I will: **be like the Most High**

Of what we know of Lucifer who became satan:

- ◆ He is the father of lies and he has come to steal, kill, and destroy/ He blinds the minds of men so they cannot see God
- ◆ He is full of pride [he is probably the MOST beautiful of all God's creations]

Section Two: Worship As Covering

- ◆ He wanted to receive worship that was due only to God /He wanted to ascend above the rule and power of God
- ◆ He has the capacity to manifest as an angel of light / His ministers may appear righteous
- ◆ He is the head ruler of the principalities and powers of this dark world / He schemes and plots and creates devices
- ◆ He is author of temptation, sin, and disobedience; he has nothing original except sin

Satan is expert in drawing people AWAY from worshipping God: he understands the power of the presence of God and that is why he continually discourages people from worshipping God openly!

Section Two: Worship As Covering

Establishing God's Covering through Worship

One very profound statement that God made to Asa is found when the King was seeking God. The prophet told Asa a very powerful principle which is reinforced with other Scripture. God dwells with those who dwell with Him. **God is found by those who look for Him. God is ready to be respond to those who are ready to draw near.**

2 Chr 15:2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.

We must learn to make the abiding presence of God a priority in our life. We will never see the true release of God's abiding in us corporately until we seek His abiding in us individually.

John 15:4 **Abide in Me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

Psalms 61:4 **I will abide in Your tabernacle forever;** I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. Selah

Psalms 91:1-2 He who **dwells** in the secret place of the Most High **shall abide** under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust."

I John 2:24 Therefore let that **abide in you** which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning **abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.**

I John 4:13 By this we know that **we abide in Him, and He in us, because** He has **given us of His Spirit.**

II John 1:9-11 Whoever transgresses and does not **abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.** He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

God says that He will dwell in the midst of several things (and in the hearts of certain kinds of people):

- Agreement, Praise, adoration, and worship**
- Hunger and thirst for Him (Ask, knock, seek...)**
- Holiness and righteousness**

In fact, it is in the midst of us where God desire to live and move:

Num 35:34 Therefore do not defile the land which you inhabit, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel.

Psalms 48:9 We have thought, O God, on Your lovingkindness, **in the midst of Your temple.**

Psalms 46:4-5 There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. **God is in the midst of her,** she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.

John 7:37-39 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Rev 21:1-6 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New

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Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful. And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

Covering concerns OUR approach to God that is provided by God.

In this context, we can now understand the true power and nature of worship:

- Praise and worship involves getting people to agree with God: affirm, pronounce, announce,
- and declare what God already says about Himself and, once they are in agreement, for them to adore, awe, reverence, love, and hunger for Him in response.

It is in the covering of *agreement* that God wants to come "buddy" with us.

True Worship is the path to having the same mind and judgment with others in the Body:

1 Cor 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

The word *covering* invokes images of several things:

- Clothing (a place of provision)
- Shelter (a place of refuge and concealment)
- Dwelling place/tent (a place of meeting or fellowship)
- Shadow or overshadowing (a place of power)
- Shield (a place of strength and protection)

Section Two: Worship As Covering

Clothing: (A garment to be worn)

God's covering is meant to "clothe" us in order. His clothing covers us. Salvation is the work of God: it is His from beginning to end. From the very beginning of His revelation (Genesis 3), we can see that God wants and desires to clothe us. He wants to:

- ◆ Cover our sin
- ◆ Cover our shame

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and **made themselves coverings**.

Gen 3:21 Also for Adam and his wife **the LORD God made tunics of skin**, and **clothed** them.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on Christ**.

If God has covered it, you don't need to be ashamed of it. God is pleased when we brag on what God has done for us. My past is gone, redeemed; my future is secure; my present makes sense.

1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God-- and righteousness and sanctification and redemption--

Religion will always attempt to make its own clothing:

When you make religion your god, God will not be in your religion.

God clothes us with things we can't clothe ourselves with. We are IN Christ Jesus: It speaks of who we are in Christ and not of who we are in ourselves. We are a DIFFERENT person IN Him. We are 2 faced: we have the choice to either show our face or His face.

We must renounce and turn away from:

- ◆ What we feel
- ◆ What we think
- ◆ What I believe about myself

Instead we must change our thinking:

- ◆ In CHRIST
- ◆ In WHOM
- ◆ In HIM

He became for us.. We must realize that we are clothed IN HIM; just as a baby is covered in the womb. We are in no worry of supply, protection, or sustainment.

Wisdom	- knowing and understanding God's plan and purposes
Right Standing	- free from guilt
Sanctification	- being made holy
Redemption	- being purchased back

There is a distinct difference in:

Living FOR Him
vs.
Living IN Him

God made covering for you. . . salvation was done by God . . That means that when I fail God is for me!

God is not AGAINST us for our sins . . . God is FOR us against our sins.

Section Two: Worship As Covering

We do not look for God to cover us because we are already in God's covering. A baby does not say "I sure hope my momma will be all around me!"

We must PUT OFF in order to PUT ON. . . Many of us put on OURSELVES. We must look at Him who called us from darkness into light. We must look at Him who was perfect. We must look at the one who never said, "Lord help my faith".

Rom 13:14 **But put on** the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision** for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

You are covered, BUT PUT ON.. God says that He is the one who will clothe us. Redemption is God's clothing. He made it and provided it. Now, as an act of faith, believing that I can not cover my self, never could be able to and never will be able to, now PUT TO DEATH, PUT OFF, CAST AWAY, RECKON, TOSS OUT, UTTERLY DESTROY, CRUCIFY, all that is not pleasing to God:

Rom 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us **cast off** the works of darkness, and let us **put on** the armor of light.

Eph 4:20-24 But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that **you put off**, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that **you put on** the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Eph 6:11 **Put on** the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Col 3:5-8 Therefore **put to death** your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Col 3:9-11 Do not lie to one another, since you have **put off** the old man with his deeds, and have **put on the new man** who is **renewed** in knowledge **according to the image of Him who created him**, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, **but Christ is all and in all.**

Col 3:12-14 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on** tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things **put on** love, which is the bond of perfection.

Get rid of it! It profits you nothing and will only lead to your destruction. Don't play with it. Don't even have the association with it. WE have to put certain things to death. Whatever you sell for God, you can't keep anyway. You must PUT OFF and you must PUT ON. God has provided it, from end to end. We must appropriate it: He can and not do that for us. That is an act of faith on our part.

Utterly destroy (What is this bleating of sheep in my ear ?) any kind of:

**uncleanness, sexual impurity, passion, evil desire, pride, boasting, disobedience
lust, coveting, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language
deceit, unrighteousness, envy, murder, strife, backbiting, hatred, violence**

Section Two: Worship As Covering

Don't be:

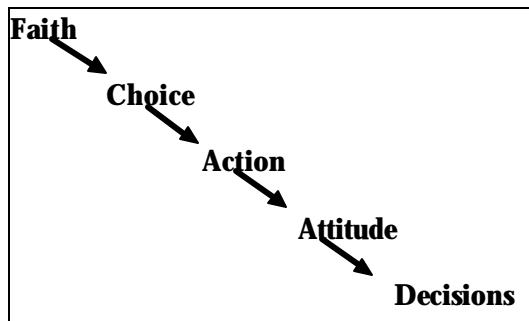
undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful

Instead of these things, put on:

**kindness, tenderness, lowliness, gentleness, patience, love, peacableness, humility
forgiveness, mercy, goodness, faithfulness, loyalty, encouragement, trust,
truthfulness**

How do you do it?

In the dailies of LIFE, **by faith you say NO.**



What else does God want us to PUT ON?

Ps 30:11

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; **you have put off my sackcloth** and clothed me with gladness,

Isa 61:10

I will greatly **rejoice** in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for **He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness**, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Isa 61:3

To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, **the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness**; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

- ◆ Praise is a garment that must be worn . . . we must put it on and it can be taken off.
- ◆ This garment is worn in PLACE OF the spirit of heaviness: depression, anxiety, doubt, fear, panic, terror, uncertainty, nervousness, despondency, hopelessness, worry, apathy, weariness, etc. These all go along with HEAVINESS . . . Jesus promises us a LIGHT yoke.
- ◆ Sometimes only the anointing of God is strong enough to LIFT the yoke and take off our sackcloth. That is why we are to seek and thirst for His presence.

Zech 3:1-7

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD {Jesus}, and **Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him**. And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, **"Take away the filthy garments from him."** And to him He said, "See, **I have removed** your iniquity from you, and **I will clothe** you **with rich robes**." And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a **clean turban on his head**, and they put the **clothes on him**. And the Angel of the LORD {Jesus} stood by. Then the Angel of the LORD [Jesus] admonished Joshua, saying, "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'If you will walk

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in My ways, and if you will keep My command, then you shall also judge My house, and likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk among these who stand here.

- ◆ The one who opposes the brethren, our accuser, stands ready to accuse and condemn us: even before God.
- ◆ God TAKES AWAY one garment and PUTS ON another one: one is condemnation, filthiness and unrighteousness. The other is rich robes, praise, forgiveness, cleanliness and righteousness. Praise is the vehicle of agreement where we put on the new garments that are provided for us.
- ◆ We hear God speak to us in HIS GARMENTS.

Ps 132:16 I will also clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

Matt 22:11 But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.

- ◆ God clothes us with salvation. We must receive HIS GARMENT provided for us.
- ◆ Our covering is HIS provision. Salvation appropriates what has been provided. Praise brings us into agreement with all that God has provided through Jesus Christ. We must accept God's covering; we must walk in the clothing that He provides for us.

Matt 9:16 No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse.

- ◆ We must seek a newness in our life and worship of God. We cannot rest on the OLD way of doing it.

Matt 14:35-36 And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.

- ◆ There can be a release of God's healing power in the covering of worship...as we put on His garment of praise. **Praise and worship is a vehicle of release...**

Section Two: Worship As Covering

A dwelling place or tent [place of meeting]

We have already looked at the fact that God dwells and takes up residence in the midst of His people. As part of redemption's plan, God's dwelling has moved from FAR AWAY to IN.

- Exod 25:18-22** And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. "And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. "**And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.**
- Num 7:89** Now when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to **speak** with Him, he **heard** the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the Testimony, **from between the two cherubim**; thus He spoke to him.
- Isa 37:16** O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, the One **who dwells between the cherubim**, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.
- Heb 9:5** and above it were the cherubim of glory **overshadowing the mercy seat**. . .
- Matt 18:19-20** Again I say to you that if two of you agree [agree = Gr. sumphoneo = symphony, harmonize] on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, **I am there** in the **midst** of them.

We are the dwelling place of God! A habitation of God individually and corporately in the Body of Christ.

**Worship uniquely allows our focus to be on God:
in that environment, He can talk to us best.**

Section Two: Worship As Covering

A shadow (or overshadowing)

God's covering brings his "overshadowing" presence. A shadow is created when something or someone "blocks" or "covers" light or heat from reaching the object being covered. Shadows normally connote the sun beating down hard on someone or something.

I King 8:6-11 Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread their two wings over the place of the ark, and **the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles**. . .

Heb 9:5 and above it were the cherubim of glory **overshadowing** the mercy seat. . .
Psalms 91:1-2 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under **the shadow of the Almighty**. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust."

Psalms 17:8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; **hide me under the shadow of Your wings**, How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under **the shadow of Your wings**.

Psalms 57:1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; and **in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge**, until these calamities have passed by.

Psalms 63:7 Because You have been my help, therefore **in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice**.

Isa 49:2-3 **And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me**, and made Me a polished shaft; in His quiver He has hidden Me. "And He said to me, 'You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'

We are the people of God; we must reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive to God; we must reckon our old life gone and only our new life as the focus of our attention.

Isa 51:16 And I have put My words in your mouth; **I have covered you with the shadow of My hand, that I may plant the heavens**, lay the foundations of the earth, and say to Zion, 'You are My people.'"

Col 3:3 For you died, and your life is **hidden with Christ** in God.

The shadow of the almighty is also associated with God "overshadowing" us in His power:

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will **overshadow** you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

Acts 5:15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might **fall on** some of them.

In The Greek

Overshadow/fall on = **1982** episkiazo- **to throw a shadow upon, to envelop in a shadow, to overshadow**. From a vaporous cloud that casts a shadow the word is transferred to a shining cloud surrounding and enveloping persons with brightness. Used of the Holy Spirit exerting creative energy upon the womb of the virgin Mary and impregnating it (a use of the word which seems to have been drawn from the familiar Old Testament idea of a cloud as symbolizing the immediate presence and power of God)

Section Two: Worship As Covering

Worship can be a vehicle in which the overshadowing power of God is released to His people.

Section Two: Worship As Covering

A shield (a covering of protection)

Covering as a shield is also closely related to the protection and favor of God. A shield is a common symbol used to show that God is intimately concerned and involved in protecting our life.

Worship can be a vehicle of release in which God's protection over us is reaffirmed and revealed.

Gen 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.**"

Psalms 3:3 But You, O LORD, are a **shield for me**, my glory and the One who lifts up my head.

Psalms 5:12 For You, O LORD, **will bless the righteous**; with favor **You will surround him as with a shield.**

Psalms 18:2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; **my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

Psalms 18:30 As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is proven; he is a shield to all who trust in Him.

Psalms 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.

Psalms 33:20-21 Our soul waits for the LORD; **he is our help and our shield.** For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name.

Psalms 119:14 You are my hiding place and **my shield**; I hope in Your word.

We must take up the shield of faith: faith is based on the truth of God's word. We must cling to His word and realize that we cannot live by bread (physical food) alone!

Eph 6:16 above all, **taking the shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Psalms 91:4 He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; **his truth shall be your shield and buckler.**

Section Two: Worship As Covering

A shelter (hiding place, strong tower, refuge)

God is pictured as our refuge, PRESENT help in time of trouble.

Psalms 61:3-4 For You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower from the enemy. **I will abide in Your tabernacle forever;** I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. Selah

Psalms 143:9 Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies; **in You I take shelter.**

Isa 4:4-6 When the Lord has **washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion**, and **purged** the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning, **then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night.** For over all the glory there will be a covering. **And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain.**

God's tabernacle of provision is for a shelter and refuge from the storms and rains of life. The heat of the daytime will suck the life and energy out of a man. We must be renewed by the living water. In the struggles of life, we can trust God to be a place where we can run and find a peace that passes all understanding.

Joel 3:16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but **the LORD will be a shelter for His people**, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Phil 4:6 -7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Section Two: Worship As Covering