

# A Reflection of Jesus

## Introduction

**T**hroughout the eons God has not changed from His purpose—His plan for life! For He is LIFE!

He is the Creator of the breath, blood, and spirit of every living creature. Creation itself reflects the awesome nature and handiwork of God, and it is magnificent!

However, when sin entered into the world the effects were immediately seen—and it was a grim picture.

Adam and Eve had to leave the garden, and their special fellowship with God. They were separated from everything God had provided for them. Pain, suffering, and death, were going to be a merciless part of human life. *Sin is deadly*, and it is the opposite of EVERYTHING GOD IS! But, thanks to God, even Satan's wicked influence couldn't destroy God's plan.

In His great mercy He made A WAY for us to not be separated from Him, and to have life. We know the "way," and that way is Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father EXCEPT through me" (John 14:6).

Deliverance from the deadly results of sin can be found in Jesus Christ; and only through Him.

### The Long Road

After delivering His people from their slavery in Egypt, God had to educate them,

for the effects of long living within a society that served many gods had to be corrected. Teaching them who He was and how to worship Him—and Him alone, had to be done.

While overall, as a people, they had retained a knowledge of their beginnings and history, they were still strongly influenced by their long sojourn in this strange country. They needed to know the true God.

But, if God were to dwell among them there needed to be a way for the imperfect man to approach the perfect God.

In its original state the Tabernacle provided tangible reminders to man of a most holy God, and the results of sin. It's very purpose also reveals the redemptive nature of God, for it isn't the death and blood of bulls and goats that God really desired.

Samuel said it well: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams" (1 Samuel 15:22).

We can see the steps a Christian takes at becoming one with God reflected in the Tabernacle worship.

At Sinai, God gave Moses specific instructions concerning the nature, construction, and furnishings of the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:40). These instructions were not the imaginative decorating schemes of

Moses, but the definitive directions of God and showing a lack of respect and faith in God's instructions always bring serious consequences to the one who neglects to listen to God's wisdom. For who is wiser than God—man?

It seems that from the beginning mankind had a nature that says: "I'll do it my way. Why should it matter?" Or, as Cain probably thought, "Why should God not accept what I am willing to give? Am I my brother's keeper? What's the harm?"

It's a tragic fact: Man, without God, does not see the deadly nature of sin.

### **Look Back, Look Forward**

Our study about the Tabernacle will teach us about many things: Our Savior, our Deliverer, and God's ultimate plan of deliverance and salvation.

God led Israel out of slavery in Egypt with mighty miracles. He delivered them from the slaughter of the pursuing Egyptians with walls of water. He provided a light by night and shade during the day. He fed them; and led them to a place to reestablish His

Way of life among His people.

In this awesome tableau, we see a reflection of the plan God predestined for ALL people—who come out of the slavery of sin; pass through the waters of baptism, are fed, sheltered, illuminated, and led by His *Firstborn* Son.

Jesus, the Firstborn, the King of kings, Lord of lords, will lead many other brothers and sisters, changed from mortal to immortal (truly *born again*), into the Kingdom of God. And ultimately God the Father will come down from heaven to live with His children.

We hope that learning about the Tabernacle will give you a sense of wonder because it shows that the nature of God truly is the same yesterday, today, and forever—just like His great plan!

He wants us to LIVE with Him forever, not to die! Oh, what a glorious plan!

Now, let's learn more about Jesus as we look at the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, and the Temple; allow God to teach you more about Him. □