

## YOUR HOMELAND SECURITY

**W**ith the spread of home grown terror, churches once considered a haven and safe place could prove to be open targets to terrorists. We know from terrorist attacks we are seeing in Western countries, Americans will not be protected solely through elaborate security systems, soldiers standing at the door, or arming ourselves with lethal weapons. We need a power greater than man to intercede for us.

Maybe you walked away from God, or maybe you never followed God and now want to reconcile with Him. Perhaps you have lost confidence in government such that you now fear the loss of your rights and security in your home. Whatever the reason, there is one hope that binds all believers together, and one place where we will find renewal, restoration and salvation, and that place is at the cross. You will see that the cross is central to God's plan for homeland security.

From the foundation of the world, the Creator saw the abuse of rights between one another that would strangle natural liberty. From the very first sin, God had a plan to break the chains of the tyrant (Satan) and restore liberty. He would send a Savior, and without the Savior and His cross, there would be no end to a tyrant's abuse of authority. But through the cross, we have the victory, and this was the capstone that created the possibility of political freedom, which the Pilgrims sought.

Though the cross is long recognized as a symbol of death, it also is a symbol of strength and victory over oppression. Perhaps you may remember the tornado that devastated Joplin, Missouri, in 2011. It leveled a Catholic church, but out of the ashes emerged a symbol of hope. Standing defiantly erect and unscathed in the midst of the rubble was a cross.<sup>1</sup> God was telling America that it was not too late to return to its spiritual roots. As a nation, the cross was our beginning. On April 29, 1607, upon landing at Cape Henry on the shores of Virginia, the English colonists laid the foundation for what would become the greatest civilization on earth. It was on that day, under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Robert Hunt, the English settlers planted a large oak cross and dedicated the land to Jesus Christ.

You may not realize it, but our spiritual roots go farther back than Calvary. Go back to the Old Testament and you will read about the Tabernacle Plan. I want to point out two very important points to you about the Tabernacle Plan. It is not as archaic as you think. You will see its relevance to the foundation of Christianity.

First, the courtyard leading to the Tabernacle as well as the Tabernacle itself, contained fixtures that were arranged in the form of a cross! Each fixture had spiritual significance in that they represented aspects of God's plan to reconcile man with his Creator.

Second, the term "Tabernacle" (or "Tent of Meeting" as it was also called) was significant in itself because God chose to dwell there. This was huge in that it was the first

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pinterest.com/aliciacreates/joplin-stuff/>

time God dwelled with man since the Garden of Eden (Dt. 4:32-36). God came down to earth to dwell with man! This tent went wherever the people went. Because of this, the Jews were victorious over their enemies. God went with them into battle and fought their battles.

What is so amazing is that the Tabernacle Plan that hid Christ in the Old Testament is now seen clearly in the New Testament. What delivered the Hebrews in the Old Testament will deliver us today through the revelation of the cross, but the cross is more than a place of death; it becomes your launching pad to victory. You will see how it lays the foundation for your "homeland security" today.

If you want to reconcile with God, this is the message; if you want to overcome addictions, or if you want to break through fear or oppression, this is the plan. Everything in the Tabernacle Plan is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

I will now take you to the steps in the Outer Court that foreshadowed the Good News of the Gospel before it was written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and passed down to us.

- First, there was the Brazen Altar. Before people were reconciled with God, they had to repent and offer a sacrifice to God to atone for their sins. The sinner would offer an animal to be sacrificed in his place upon the altar; his sins would then be transferred to the blood of the animal to make atonement for his sins. Like the Old Testament, the first step in reconciling with God has not changed, only now the cross replaces the Brazen Altar. So the first thing you do is to come to the cross. The cross is anywhere you bow your knees and humble yourself before your God. At the cross, repent and confess your sins and ask God to forgive you (Lk. 24:47). There has to be some awareness and admission on your part that you need to be forgiven. In repentance, therefore, you recognize that you have sinned against God. You repent of hatred and other lifestyles that separated you from Him. As you repent, forgive those who trespassed against you.

This is what happens in repentance. Jesus took the place of the animal and died in your place to take away your sins and the sins of the world (Jn. 1:29). The sins that brought guilt to you are transferred to the sinless blood of Jesus to make atonement. After death, there always is a burial. So the next step is to wash the sins away (Mk. 16:16). This takes us to the next fixture in the Outer Court.

- At the Laver of Water, the priest washed himself following the bloody sacrifice at the Brazen Altar. Washing was a commandment before he could enter the presence of God (Ex. 30:18-20). Today that cleansing represents baptism, and baptism also is a commandment. (See Ex. 30:21; Matt. 3:16; Mk. 16:16.) The Bible teaches us that baptism is for the remission of sins (Matt. 26:28; Acts 2:38). It is in the waters of baptism where our sins are remitted and buried in the name

of Jesus (Matt. 26:28, 28:18-19; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:4), and all generational curses are broken.

With baptism we are spiritually cleansed, but dead in the water. So there is one more baptism we need, and you will see how it ties in with your homeland security. Before we get there, we must go back to the Outer Court.

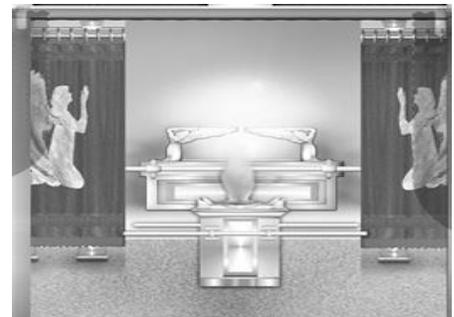
- In the Outer Court, the people could not enter the Tabernacle to commune with God directly; they had to go through the priest who would intercede for them at the Altar of Incense in the Holy Place. Before intercession could take place, the priest was anointed with oil (Ex. 30:30). The oil represents the Holy Spirit. Note that this oil was not to be poured out upon man's flesh (Ex. 30:32). This all changed in the New Testament.

In water baptism, we are spiritually cleansed, but the final, important step we need in order to have newness of life is a resurrection from the dead. Jesus had a resurrection from the dead after three days. So after our sins are remitted and buried, we can expect a resurrection to take place. *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life"* (Rom. 6:4).

Some detail is warranted here so that you might understand what Jesus accomplished for you on the cross and how it lays the groundwork for your homeland security today. Remember, there was no access to God until Jesus broke the partition by shedding His blood; this gives us access to God through the blood, the reason why repentance is so vital (Heb. 10:19).

When Jesus died, the partition (or veil in the Tabernacle Plan) that separated man from God was broken. 

Fifty days later the unthinkable occurred: God began to pour out His Spirit upon human flesh. Thus, the second baptism is the pouring out of God's Spirit in you.



Note the outpouring was accompanied with cloven tongues of fire, signifying that the initial sign of being filled with God's Spirit is that we will speak in another language (Acts 2:4). What was God trying to convey to us with the fire? Perhaps it is this: in the Old Testament, sacrifices often were consumed with fire as a sign that God had accepted them (1 Kings 18:30-38). Was not God confirming in this great sign and wonder that He had accepted the sacrifice of His Son? In a demonstration that all boundaries between Himself and man had

now been broken, 3,000 people were filled with the Spirit of God in that one day (Acts 2:41).

Jesus affirmed these two baptisms in His conversation with Nicodemus, saying, *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”* (Jn. 3:5). The baptism of the Holy Spirit completes the sacrifice. With the remission of sins (in baptism) and the infilling of God’s Spirit, you have direct access to your Heavenly Father through prayer. Before you needed a priest to intercede for you, but now you can go directly to the throne of God and God will speak to you.

With the Spirit baptism, you are resurrected to a new life that is qualitatively superior to the life you had known. You will want to leap and shout for joy. That is the Spirit of the Father in you rejoicing because the child that had been lost has come home.

You experience new life on two counts: First, communion is restored with your Heavenly Father, because the Spirit baptism locks you into a personal relationship with Him. His Spirit and your spirit are joined together. He becomes your constant personal companion/savior/deliverer/healer/provider.

And second, you receive supernatural power to overcome evil. *“The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore”* (Psa. 121:7-8). Thus, you will see that the presence of God in your “tabernacle” is the key to your homeland security, because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world (1 Jn.4:4).

You have now heard the Gospel that Jesus entrusted to His Apostles. This is the Gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus said would be preached unto the whole world as a witness to the nations, and it was foreshadowed in the Tabernacle Plan.

When you are baptized with the Spirit, that same presence that filled that Tent of Meeting in the Old Testament comes into your tent (Ex. 40:34). Your tent is your body, which is your fleshly house or temple or tabernacle. Now this house becomes God’s house because He dwells in it with you, and His house travels with you, wherever your feet take you.

You now have POWER IN YOUR “HOUSE” – not just the home in which you physically live, but in your physical body, which houses the Spirit of God! So how does the Tabernacle Plan lay the foundation for your “homeland security”? Go back to the Old Testament and read 2 Samuel 6:12. You will see in this account that the house of Obed-Edom was blessed specifically because the Ark of the Covenant was housed there. With the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you have the Ark of the Covenant living

within you. With it, you have access to the miraculous power of God to deliver you out of every situation, because the blood of Jesus applied in your baptism broke every curse that will come against you.

Carole J. Keller, Apostolic Author  
Attends Parkway Apostolic Church, Oak Creek, Wis.

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