

Sermon: "We are Living Tabernacles"

Introduction:

The concept of being “living tabernacles” reflects the idea that our bodies are spiritual dwellings for Elohim. The Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), celebrated in ancient Israel, commemorates the time when the Israelites lived in tents (tabernacles) in the wilderness. This same theme carries a spiritual meaning for believers today—our lives, bodies, and communities become temporary shelters where Elohim's Spirit dwells until the ultimate restoration in His kingdom.

I. What is a Tabernacle?

- A tabernacle is a temporary dwelling place. In the Old Testament, the Tabernacle was a portable tent where Elohim's presence manifested among His people during their wilderness journey (Exodus 25:8-9).

- In the New Testament, the concept shifts: we no longer need a physical tabernacle. Elohim now dwells within us by His Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16).

II. We are the Temples and Tabernacles of Elohim

Scripture Support:

- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (KJV):

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of Elohim, and ye are not your own?”

This verse teaches that our bodies are now the temples of Elohim's Spirit. Just as the tabernacle was once the dwelling place for Elohim's presence, we are now living tabernacles—housing the presence of the Holy Spirit.

- 2 Corinthians 5:1 (KJV):

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of Elohim, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

Paul reminds us that our earthly bodies are temporary tabernacles. These "tents" will one day be replaced by an eternal dwelling in Elohim's kingdom.

III. Living in Temporary Tabernacles: A Call to Obedience and Holiness

The Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) serves as a reminder that life here on earth is temporary. We live as pilgrims and sojourners, awaiting our permanent home in the kingdom of Elohim (Hebrews 11:13-16). Just as ancient Israel had to obey Elohim while journeying in the wilderness, we too are called to walk in obedience while we dwell in these temporary bodies.

Scripture Support:

- Leviticus 23:42-43 (KJV):

“Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your Elohim.”

The physical booths symbolized reliance on Elohim. Likewise, our lives as living tabernacles should reflect a dependence on Elohim, trusting Him for provision and guidance.

IV. Jesus: The Tabernacle in Flesh

- John 1:14 (KJV):

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..."

The Greek word for “dwelt” in this verse is “tabernacled”—Jesus, the Word, took on human form and lived among us. His presence was a temporary dwelling in human flesh, much like the tabernacle in the wilderness, but through His Spirit, He now dwells within us permanently.

V. Walking as Living Tabernacles Today

Being living tabernacles means that our lives should reflect the glory and presence of Elohim. We carry His Spirit within us, and our actions, words, and relationships must be marked by holiness, love, and obedience.

Practical Applications:

- 1. Daily Surrender:** Offer yourself as a living sacrifice to Elohim, as Paul says in Romans 12:1.
- 2. Obey Elohim's Laws:** Just as the Israelites obeyed Elohim during the wilderness journey, we should keep Elohim's commandments and walk according to His Word.
- 3. Reflect Elohim's Presence:** Just as the tabernacle revealed Elohim's glory, our lives should reveal Elohim's character to others.

VI. Conclusion: Anticipating Our Eternal Dwelling

While we live in temporary bodies and tabernacles now, we look forward to the day when we will dwell with Elohim forever in His eternal kingdom. Our time on earth is a spiritual pilgrimage, and we are called to live with purpose, carrying Elohim's presence within us until we are clothed in our heavenly bodies.

- Revelation 21:3 (KJV):

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of Elohim is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and Elohim himself shall be with them, and be their Elohim.”

This verse reminds us that the temporary tabernacle of our bodies will one day give way to a permanent dwelling with Elohim.

Final Prayer:

“Father, thank You for making us living tabernacles through Your Holy Spirit. Help us to live in obedience and holiness, reflecting Your glory in everything we do. We long for the day when we will dwell with You forever in Your eternal kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

This message emphasizes that our lives are tabernacles where Elohim's presence dwells, and we are pilgrims on a journey toward eternal communion with Him.