

**Rhema Christian Center
Journey Through the Bible
August 24, 2021
Psalm 15**

**A Psalm of David
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A. Outline of Psalm 15

(Slide [S] 1)

The outline is simple; two major areas, 2 questions and a response.
The heading attributes this psalm to David.

1. The questions posed: (15:1)

- a. Who may abide in the LORD's Tabernacle ? (1a)
- b. Who may dwell in His Holy Hill? (1b)

2. The answer provided in general terms: (15:2-5)

- a. He who walks uprightly.
- b. He who works righteousness.

**(S 2) B. Why was Psalm 15 written? A possible explanation
(2 Samuel 6:1-19)**

It was about 1000 BC. Once David became King, the Ark of the Covenant, which was a golden seat that was placed in the Tabernacle, in the area of the Holy of Holies. It was destined to be in God's holy city, Jerusalem, the place where God had chosen to put His name. The City of David had been established, and now they just needed to bring the Ark back to its rightful place. It was time.

It was loaded on a new cart and they started the journey to the holy city. Of course this was not God's plan for transporting the Ark. It was not to be carried by oxen. Moses was instructed by God to make the Ark with golden

rings attached to its corners, so it could be carried on poles, by Levites, the priests.

Page 2

As the cart became unbalanced, and the Ark started to slide, a man named Uzzah stuck out his hand to offer support. God struck him dead for touching the Holy Ark. What made it holy? The presence of God rested upon it. An unholy person touching the Holy Ark, caused immediate death to Uzzah. It was carelessly placed on a cart pulled by oxen. Uzzah's death could have been prevented. He should have exercised utmost care in remembering the LORD'S instructions through Moses. Uzzah should have actually let the Ark fall to the ground, rather than touch it and defile it.

14 “So the priests and the Levites consecrated themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel. “And the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles, as Moses had commanded according to the Word of the LORD.” I Chronicles 15:14

David realized his negligence and disobedience – and it frightened him. He was afraid to move the Ark any further, so He placed it in the house of Obed-Edom, an Israeli priest.

David learned a lesson, God's work should always be done using His plan, only. After the aborted mission, David left the Ark with Obed-Edom for three months, before he eventually transported it to Jerusalem, the specific way described. It was probably during those 3 months that David wrote Psalm 15.

(S3)

C. Reading of Psalm 15

D. The Tabernacle - What is so important about the Tabernacle ?

Moses received from God on Mount Sinai a specific and detailed architectural design for the Tabernacle. ([Exodus 25:8-9, 40](#))

This blueprint was for a portable tent in where God would dwell.

- The Tabernacle was a place where God's glory would be revealed.
- The plan was simple, functional, yet filled with prophetic promises.
- It was a replica of heavenly and spiritual realities.
- The Tabernacle was a foreshadow of Jesus Christ.
- God even instructed Moses to anoint it with oil.
- It is significant that the name "Christ" means "the anointed One."
- God was making a profound promise, "I will provide redemption through my anointed one."

(S 5). 1. Picture of Tabernacle- Who May dwell in Your sacred tent?

(S 6) 2. Who May Live in Your Holy Hill?

God's holy mountain, Mount Zion ([Psalm 48:1-3](#)), is where God's presence is among His people. Since the mountain figures prominently in the last days ([Isaiah 11:6-9](#)), I believe this refers to heaven. To dwell on God's mountain

Psalm 15:1-2. "Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent?

Who may live on your holy mountain?

He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks the truth in his heart;"

(S 7) E. A Checklist of a True Worshipper

- 1. The answer provided begins with a general description of a true worshiper as one who walks uprightly and works righteousness. Blameless, who is that?**
- 2. What kind of people can get close to God?**
- 3. How would you respond to the statement, “But no one’s perfect!”**

(S 8) 4. When we look at Psalm 15, it is like reading a checklist. “He who does not backbite with his tongue...(to talk maliciously behind a person’s back)” Notice, God refuses to fellowship with one who gossips. And there’s two ways to gossip, invent it or entertain it. The listener is as guilty as the one who talks. Beware! “Those who gossip with you - will gossip about you.”

David continues to describe the righteous, “**nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend...**”(rebuke, berate, or gives someone a piece of one’s mind). The righteous person refuses to add fuel to a fire. He seeks peace with his neighbor.

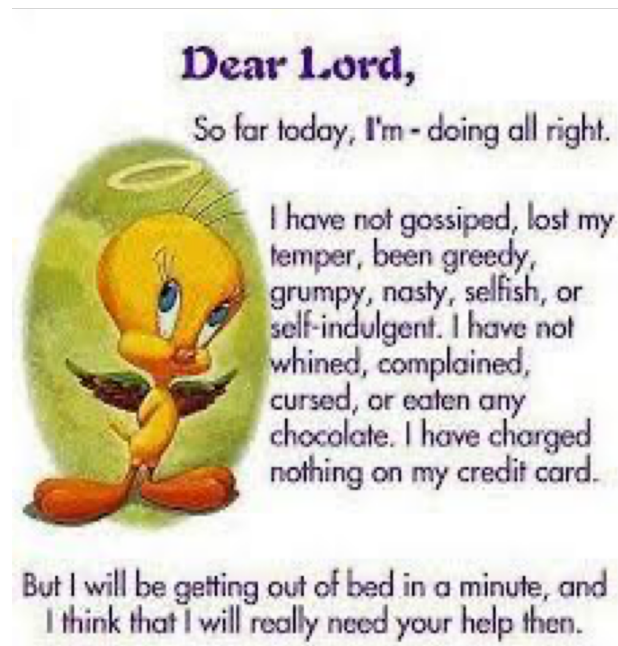
“In whose eyes a vile person is despised (foul, nasty, wicked), but, in contrast, he honors those who fear the LORD; he who swears to his own hurt and does not change...” He keeps his word even if it costs him materially or financially to do so. God likes to hang out with people who put conviction above convenience.

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Were you able to check off all areas on the list in verses 2 through 5? Do you see yourself as one who is righteous? So, we stop to wonder, “ who qualifies, does anyone?

(S 9)

5. Some of us have to pray like Tweety Bird.



(S10) F. In the Time of David, Who Qualified?

The high priest – the Lord's holy one



- So, in answer to our questions
 - *Psalms 15:1 NIV*
LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary?
Who may live on your holy hill?
- The answer is: only the holy one, the high priest

After the priest had offered a blood sacrifice and was cleansed, he then entered the Holy Place. Once a year, the high priest would come into the Holy of Holies to sprinkle blood from the Bronze Altar onto the Ark of the Covenant. But, what about today! There is no Temple, no high priest, no sacrifice of animals.

(S 11) G. The Tabernacle - A Foreshadow of Jesus Christ

Yes! One is qualified: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, the incarnate Son of God. He fulfilled every bit of the description in Psalm 15:2-5. He has every right to dwell in the Tabernacle and live on God's Holy Mount. But, what about us?

The Tabernacle was a foreshadow of Jesus Christ.

There are definite conclusions to be drawn in the layout of the Tent.

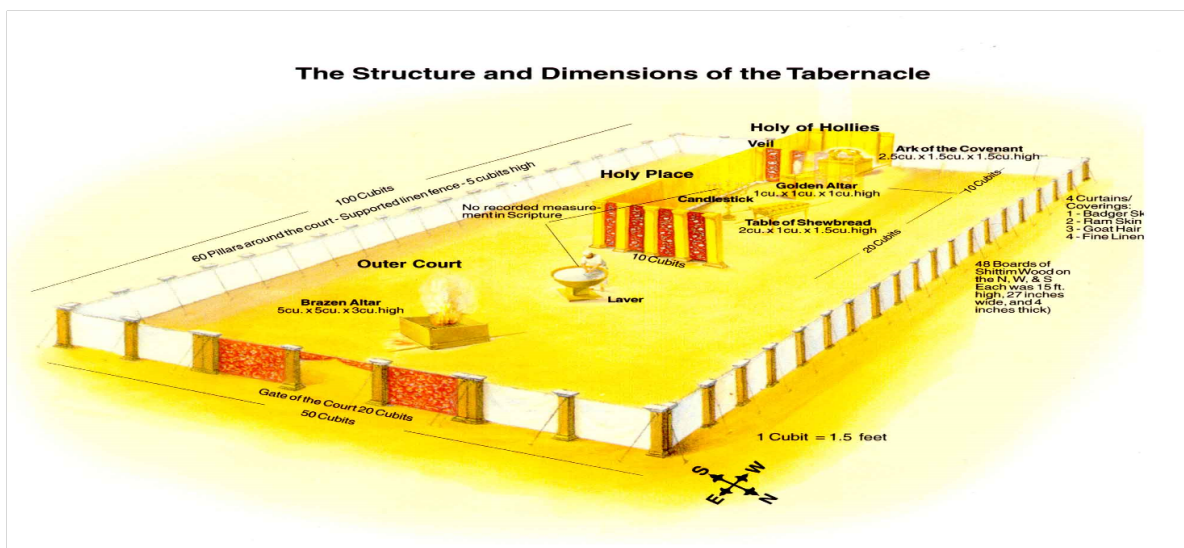
- We cannot help but see that man must come to God on His terms.
- We also see that there is only one entrance into this Tabernacle.
- Remember the words of Jesus, in [John 14:6](#), "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

[Hebrews 9:11-12](#) makes a direct correlation between Jesus Christ and the Tabernacle.

- Jesus Christ was the greater and more perfect Tabernacle than the one made in the days of Moses.
- Jesus would be the One to enter into the Holy of Holies once and for all to offer His own blood for our eternal salvation.
- The Tabernacle points to Jesus and His work on the cross.

Let's take a closer view of the layout of the Tabernacle.

(S 12)



1.The outer court represents the Earth.

- This area represents the Earth and God's redemptive plan for it.

2.The Bronze Altar stands as the place of sacrifice:

- It is placed before anything else to remind worshippers that, "Without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sin."
- The lamb slain on the bronze altar foreshadowed the death of the Lamb of God on the cross.

(Exodus 27:1-8)

1.Bronze Water Laver reminds worshippers they must be cleansed before they approach a Holy God. (Exodus 30:18-21; 1 Corinthians 10:1-2)

- After the shedding of blood it was necessary that one be ceremonially cleansed, so they could serve as priests.
- The Bronze water basin foreshadowed our cleansing from sin through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.
- Water baptism is a symbol of cleansing and represents our identity with

- In Titus 3:4-7 it says,
"But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior."

(S 14)



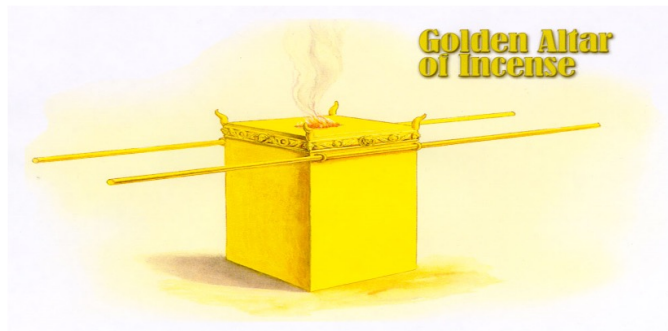
1.The table of Showbread is a resemblance to the Lord's Table that also has bread. It remind us of Christ's bodily presence.

- God graciously provides for His people.
- Jesus spoke of Himself as the "Bread of Life".

2.The golden altar of incense is positioned directly before the veil in front of the Ark of the Covenant.

(Exodus 30:1-10; Hebrews 5:7; 7:25)

- The altar is not for burning sacrifices, but rather for burning incense.
- The incense is a sweet fragrance that drifts into the Holy of Holies.
- Incense is also a symbol of intercessory prayer that ascends up to God.
- Christ is our High Priest, Who always lives to make intercession for us.



(S15)



The Holy of Holies represents the Throne of Heaven.
([Exodus 25:8](#))

- There is only one article of furnishing in the Holy of Holies, the Golden Ark of the Covenant. ([Exodus 25:10, 18-20](#))
- It was designed like a throne or a king's footstool.
- It represents God's heavenly throne, from which all of creation is ruled.
- The Ark contains the Tablets of the Law, Aaron's budding rod, and a jar of manna.
- The Law reminds us that man falls short of God's glory and standard.
- The rod is a symbol of God's power to make lifeless things become His instruments of deliverance.
- The manna is a symbol of God's great provision for His people.
- Jesus identified Himself as the manna that came from heaven.

(S 16)



The veil that hides the Ark of the Covenant represents God's glory hidden in heaven. ([Exodus 26:31-33](#); [Matthew 27:51](#))

- The veil is blue with a multitude of cherubim symbols woven on it.
- Once a year, the high priest would come into the Holy of Holies to sprinkle blood from the Bronze Altar onto the Ark of the Covenant.
- The moment Christ's body was torn on the cross, so was the veil in the Jerusalem Temple torn.
- It was a sign that the sacrificial system was finished.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. Mt 27:51

(S 17)

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

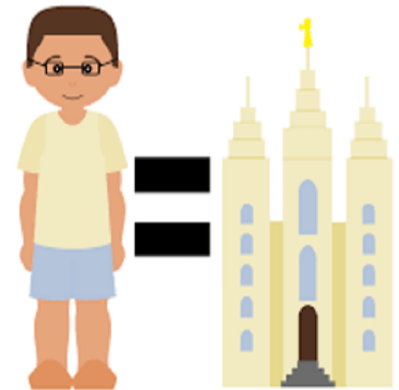
New International Version

¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Hebrews 10:19-20

New International Version

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body,



**Know ye not that ye
are the temple of God,
and that the Spirit of
God delleth in you?
(1 Cor. 3:16)**

Jesus' body is the curtain ripped in two that brings us to the Holy presence of God. God does not change and His desire for a face to face relationship with His people does not change.

Hebrews 10:19-21, The Message

19-21 "So, friends, we can now—without hesitation—walk right up to God, into "the Holy Place." Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of His sacrifice, acting as our Priest before God. The "curtain" into God's presence is His body."

Yahweh's original design for mankind was a face to face relationship and with His glory filling our lives. That is still His great desire. He wants to dwell in the heart of a person and have a face to face relationship.

The psalm ends with a declaration that one who does these things shall never be moved. This is because he is privileged to draw near to God.

Lesson References:

Christ in the Tabernacle-Exodus 25, 40; Don Smith

For What Saith the Scriptures? Arc Ministries' Bible Questions Answered
From the Dispensational-Delivered Scripture;
"Was God Unfair in Striking Uzzah Dead?", by Shawn Brasseaux

The Nelson Study Bible, NKJV

The Message Bible

Here are some famous American lies:

The check is in the mail.
I'll start my diet tomorrow.
We service what we sell.
Give me your number and the doctor will call you right back. Money
cheerfully refunded.
One size fits all.
This offer limited to the first 100 people who call in.
Your luggage isn't lost, it's only misplaced
Leave your resume and we'll keep it on file.
This hurt me more than it hurts you.
I just need five minutes of your time.
Your table will be ready in a few minutes.
Open wide, it won't hurt a bit.
Let's have lunch sometime.
It's not the money, it's the principle.

Bits & Pieces, December 9, 1993, pp. 12-13.

13 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,
14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD. Ezekiel 37:13-14

The most famous story of Aaron's rod begins with a few of the Levites becoming disgruntled about the extra authority given to Moses and Aaron. In [Numbers 16](#), Korah, who was also a Levite, joined with two others, [Dathan](#) and Abiram, to incite a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. In verse 3 [Korah](#) says to Moses, "You have gone too far! The whole community of Israel has been set apart by the Lord, and he is with all of us. What right do you have to act as though you are greater than the rest of the Lord's people?" Because of this defiance of the Lord's authority, God caused the earth to open up and swallow these three men and their families (verses 28–33).

However, rather than submit to the Lord, the other tribal leaders joined the revolt. [Numbers 16:41](#) says, "But the very next morning the whole community of Israel began muttering again against Moses and Aaron, saying, 'You have killed the Lord's people!'" The Lord desired to wipe out the whole company, but Moses and Aaron fell on their faces and pleaded with Him not to destroy them. God relented and, instead, sent a plague throughout the company of rebellious Israel; the plague killed 14,700 of them (verse 49).

To put an end to the unrest, God once again used Aaron's rod for a miracle. God commanded Moses to have the leader of each tribe of Israel bring his rod or staff to the tent of meeting, with Aaron's rod representing the tribe of Levi. Each of the twelve leaders was to have his name inscribed on his rod. The Lord told Moses, "Buds will sprout on the staff belonging to the man I choose. Then I will finally put an end to the people's murmuring and complaining against you" ([Numbers 17:5](#)). They left their rods before the Lord, and in the morning "Aaron's staff, representing the tribe of Levi, had sprouted, budded, blossomed, and produced ripe almonds" (verse 8). Aaron's rod didn't just sprout buds; it brought forth flowers and fruit, a clear demonstration of the power of the One who gives life. Verse 10 says, "And the Lord said to Moses: 'Place Aaron's staff permanently before the Ark of the Covenant to serve as a warning to rebels. This should put an end to their complaints against me and prevent any further deaths.'"

[Hebrews 9:4](#) tells us that Aaron's rod remained in the [Ark of the Covenant](#) as a testimony of God's choice of Aaron and Moses to lead His people. Aaron's rod was also a reminder that God does not put up with rebellion against Himself or His chosen representatives on earth ([1 Corinthians 10:10](#)). Those who murmur, complain, and cause division within the Body of Christ are to be rebuked ([James 5:9](#); [1 Timothy 5:20](#); [2 Timothy 2:23](#)). God's plans on this earth are far beyond any single human being. He desires that we work together, in one accord, to obey Him and reflect His glory.