

Part 1 - Who Shall Abide in God's Tabernacle?

In chapter fourteen we learned that only a fool (someone stupid) believes there is no God. And, this lack of belief that there is a Supreme and Sovereign God over all the universe is what causes people to be spiritually corrupt and do wicked things. Yet, our Heavenly Father (who has created the earth, heaven and all that is therein – including us) *truly does exist*. And He abides in heaven, in His Temple and on His mighty throne, despite what the fools think. He is also watching very closely at what happens on earth. He sees all the horrible things going on and is watching even what goes on in the heart (desires, emotions, intentions) and mind (thought process) of *all* His children – both the fool and those who love and revere Him. And truly, all of us sin and come short of God's glory. But those who truly please our Heavenly Father are those who accept His only means of salvation, Jesus Christ. These people will repent for their sins (when they see them), study His Word and strive to obey it from the heart. That's why God gives His Holy Spirit to them; and it's the Holy Spirit that not only protects us from the lies, deception and other evils the wicked try to do to us, but also teaches us how to see our own sins and *stop doing them* by cleaning our heart and putting His Word in our 'inward parts'. Truly, ***the only 'good thing' in us is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit***. But *that is what makes the difference* between a 'fool' and those who God considers 'righteous'. We are made righteous by the atoning blood of Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit that helps us create a 'new man' inside our soul. This is a new mindset (learning to think like Jesus Christ) and a new heart that wants to do what's right.

So, even though the wicked, and those who work iniquity, strive hard to 'eat up' the innocent, and those who serve Jesus Christ, they are being watched by our Heavenly father and all their wickedness is being written down in His 'books'. This means they won't get away with anything. Unless they repent sincerely, they will receive just payment (punishments) for their wickedness when Jesus Christ returns and very likely, they'll be punished even before then. So, even though the wicked and workers of iniquity work to shame those who cleave to Jesus Christ, they will be the ones shamed when the 'salvation of Israel' (i.e. Jesus Christ) returns to take over the earth as He will make God's righteous laws the 'law of the land' (i.e. the world). Therefore, the wicked devices that the fools use to ensnare the innocent and the righteous will actually ensnare *them*.

We now move on to a new Psalm and it is another Psalm that David wrote. It will have a much different topic than the last Psalm. Instead of speaking about the wicked and the 'workers of iniquity' (the 'fool's'), David will now ask God who will (is able to) abide with Him in His Holy Tabernacle... which is a very good question! Let's find out what God says about it...

Psalm 15

1 A Psalm of David

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

So, David begins this Psalm (setting out the subject for us) by asking a very important question: who will 'abide' in God's tabernacle? But... just what is God's tabernacle? The Hebrew word is '*ohel*' (#168), which simply means: *a tent*. So, ***it's where God Almighty resides***. In the book of

Exodus [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus] we're told *exactly* how the first tabernacle (where God resided *in the fleshly realm*) was made and put together. It was actually 'patterned' (made like) after the Tabernacle of God *that is in heaven* (Ex 25:9, Heb 8:5). But, it has great meaning to us *spiritually*, because it shows us what we must do in our heart (desires, emotions, and intentions) and mind (thought process) **for God's Holy Spirit to dwell in our soul.** After all, 1 Cor 3:16-18, 1 Cor 6:15-20, 2 Cor 6:14-18 all tell us that ***we are the Temple of God*** when the Holy Spirit dwells in our soul. This is why (as the *Companion Bible* points out) this chapter forms the foundation for Jesus' sermon on the mount, in chapters 5-7 of the Gospel Matthew [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/397>]. In those chapters, Jesus also explained the spiritual qualities, or characteristics, of those who will 'dwell' with God in His Holy Tabernacle, which means *those who will reign with Jesus Christ when He returns* (Rev 20:4-6). So, this Psalm (as well as Mth 5-7) is *very* important for us to understand, and remember. For, if we want to be an 'overcomer' (and make the 'first resurrection' – i.e. obtain eternal life when Jesus Christ returns so we can rule on earth with Him) then we'd better make sure we know what we are to be like. ***We should strive to become the kind of person these Scriptures tell us to.*** And thankfully, this is possible to do because of the Holy Spirit that God gives all who believe in Jesus Christ. We're also very blessed in this generation because we have the Bible translated into our own language (English for much of the world) and other study tools, such as the *Strong's Concordance* [<https://t.me/BestStudyBible/46>] that helps us 'dissect' God's Word, by allowing us to take the English words *back to the original word* so we can see the *full* meaning of the word, and understand what's really being said (as we do often in our studies).

Now, the term 'dwell in thy holy hill' is in reference to Zion, where David ruled from in Jerusalem. It is therefore where Jesus Christ will rule from when He returns to this earth. But, recall how, back in Psalm 2:6, God promised to set HIS King (Jesus Christ) upon His 'holy hill'. That, again, is Zion in Jerusalem. It's the same place Satan will defile, with his evil presence (spirit), when he's on earth (after being kicked out of heaven, as 2 Thess 2 and Rev 12 say) pretending to be the 'Savior' of the world. That's why Jesus will destroy Jerusalem when He returns. *Jesus will clean the entire area before He will set foot on His Holy Hill.* After all, Satan makes God's holy hill an 'abomination' when he sits there (because Satan IS the 'abomination that maketh desolate' - Dan 9:26-27, Mth 24:15, Mk 13:14) so Jesus Christ *has* to destroy it to make it 'holy' again (as 2 Pt 3:8-13 also explains).

So, this first verse essentially asks what kind of a person will be able to reign with Jesus Christ when He returns. And, as such, this also means it will explain what we must do in our heart (desires, emotions, intentions) and mind (thought process) so we can be 'spiritual virgins' worthy to spiritually 'marry' Jesus Christ (1 Cor 6:17, Eph 2:18, 4:4, Phil 1:27) and rule with Him in His righteous (eternal and un-corruptible) government, when He returns to earth to take full control of it, *forever*. So, again, these are very, *very* important verses to understand, *and* remember. They will basically tell us what the 'perfect man' (spiritually mature) is like. And, although Jesus Christ is the only 'perfect' man (without sin) who has walked the earth, His Holy Spirit in us creates a 'new man' inside our soul, so that we too can be of the same mindset (and heart) and thus, able to govern righteously with Him. That's why Paul urges us to put off our 'old man'

which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts (Eph 2:22), and not serve sin any longer (Rom 6:6). And we do this by *renewing in the spirit of your mind* (Eph 4:23) through God's Word (Col 3:10) so we can put on the 'new man', which *is created in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24).

Psalm 15

2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

This verse gives us three qualifiers: walking 'uprightly', working 'righteousness' and 'speaking truth in one's heart'. The word '**uprightly**' is *tamiym* (#8549) and means: **entire** (literally, figuratively or morally); also (as noun) **integrity, truth**. It's also been translated as: without blemish, **complete**, full, **perfect**, **sincerely** (-ity), sound, without spot, **undefiled**, upright (-ly), whole. And it comes from the Hebrew word *tamam* (#8552), a primitive root that means: **to complete**, in a good or a bad sense, literal, or figurative, transitive or intransitive (as follows). It's the same word translated as 'perfect' in the following Scriptures...

*These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and **perfect** in his generations, and Noah walked with God.*

Gen 6:9

*1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou **perfect**.*

2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

Gen 17:1-2

9 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.

10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

*13 Thou shalt be **perfect** with the LORD thy God.*

Deut 18:9-13

32 For who is God, save the LORD? and who is a rock, save our God?

*33 God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way **perfect**.*

2 Sam 22:32-33

Of course, there's many more Scriptures that speak of being 'perfect' (or 'upright') in God's Word (both in the Old and New Testaments) but from these Scriptures we can see that being 'perfect' in God's eyes doesn't mean we'll ever be totally without sin, like Jesus Christ was. What God wants from us is to have an 'upright heart' – one that is not crooked like the wicked

people and ‘workers of iniquity’ (fools of the earth). It means we seek God (YHVH) with *all* our heart, mind, soul and strength (Deut 4:29, Deut 10:12-13, Matt 22:35-40, Mark 12:28-31, Luke 10:25-28). And we do this by studying His Word and sincerely trying to obey it, *from the heart*.

Now, the word ‘**righteousness**’ in the Hebrew is *tsedeq* (#6664), which means: **the right** (natural, moral or legal); also (abstractly) **equity** or (figuratively) **prosperity**. It’s even been translated as *justice* and it comes from the Hebrew word *tsadaq* (#6663), a primitive root that means: **to be** (causatively, make) **right** (*in a moral or forensic sense*). It’s been translated as: cleanse, clearself, (be, do) just (-ice, -ify, -ifyself), (be turn to) righteous (-ness). So, it simply means to do the right thing, even inside your own soul. However, the ‘right thing’ does not rely upon what flesh man thinks is ‘right’ but rather, what our Heavenly Father says is right, which is written *in His Word*. Thus, ‘doing what’s right’ is defined by God’s Word, *not* by ‘man’s word’. And that’s a critical point to understand because, if we don’t seek out God’s righteousness, we end up becoming *self-righteous hypocrites*...

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.
2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.
*3 For they **being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.***
 Rom 10:1-3

Paul continues on in the chapter to explain that, the only way to salvation (being found righteous by God) is through belief in Jesus Christ. Trying to obey God’s righteous laws is truly the duty of all Christians but we must recognize that it’s *only* by Jesus’ atoning blood that we are forgiven and then considered ‘righteous’ to our Heavenly Father. And further, it’s only with the help of the Holy Spirit that we’re able to understand His Word when we study His Word because the Holy Spirit helps us learn to apply His Words to our ‘inward man’, so that we change who we are from the inside out, to conform to God’s Word *sincerely*, from the heart. But, those who don’t submit to God’s righteousness (through Jesus Christ) end up being self-righteous hypocrites because they are working to create their own righteousness (i.e. the ‘self-image’ of a righteous person) instead of putting on the righteousness that comes from faith in Jesus Christ (i.e. a change of heart – putting off the ‘old man’ and putting on the ‘new man’).

We can’t fool our Heavenly Father. He knows when we’re sincere or not. No matter how much we talk about ‘loving Jesus’ or ‘being saved’, none of it matters if we don’t truly believe in His Word. And, we cannot possibly believe His Word if we don’t *study it for ourself to see what it actually says*. Further, we cannot possibly obey His Word if we don’t *study it for ourself to see what it actually says we are to do*. And further to that, without the Word of God as our standard of right and wrong, we will not be able to distinguish when the Holy Spirit speaks to us verses when evil spirits, or our carnal mind, is speaking to us (1 John 4:1, Mth 7:15-20). God’s Word is *everything* to us. It’s what teaches us right from wrong and helps us to clean our heart and mind so we can become the person our Heavenly Father wants us to be: righteous servants, through the blood (Holy Spirit) of Jesus Christ. So, seeking to do what’s right (being righteous) is good but

we must remember that, without the blood of Jesus Christ, we are filthy rags (Isa 64:6). And therefore, ***the only good thing in us is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit***. And only with Jesus Christ *in us* are we able to be ‘righteous’ (learn to do what’s right, sincerely) - we are *nothing* without our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (John 15).

Now the word ‘speaketh’ is *dabar* (#1696), a primitive root that means: ***to arrange***; but used figuratively (of words), ***to speak***; rarely (in a destructive sense) ***to subdue***. It’s been translated as: answer, appoint, bid, command, commune, declare, destroy, give, name, promise, pronounce, rehearse, say, speak, be spokesman, subdue, talk, teach, tell, think, use [entreaties], utter, well, work. The word ‘truth’ is *’emeth* (#571), which means: ***stability***; (figuratively) ***certainty, truth, trustworthiness***. It’s been translated as: assured (-ly), establishment, faithful, right, sure, true (-ly, -th), verity. It comes from *’aman* (#539), a primitive root that means: ***to build up or support***; to foster as a parent or nurse; figuratively ***to render*** (or be) ***firm or faithful***, to ***trust*** or ***believe***, to be ***permanent*** or ***quiet***; morally ***to be true or certain***. And the word ‘heart’ is *lebab* (#3824), which means (not surprisingly): ***the heart*** (as the most interior organ). It comes from *labab* (#3823), a primitive root that means: ***to be enclosed*** (as if with fat); by implication (as denominative from OT:3824) ***to unheart***, i.e. (in a good sense) ***transport (with love)***, or (in a bad sense) ***stultify***; also (as denominative from OT:3834) ***to make cakes***.

Now, Prov 16:23 tells us that, *the heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips*. So, it means that those who are wise will ‘speaketh’ righteousness in their heart (their desires, emotions and intentions) because they will try to clean their heart and use their lips (mouth) in ways that are in accordance to God’s Word (profitable to Him and His children). Thus, they will strive *not* to be deceitful in their words or misleading. Rather, they’ll try to help other people come to Jesus Christ by using wisdom and understanding (common sense) in their conversation. Paul tells us...

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Eph 4:22-24

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Phil 1:27

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Phil 3:21

This doesn't mean we always have to speak about Jesus but rather, learn to use your words wisely and refrain from filthy conversation. In other words, once you have a change of heart (repent for your sins and strive to obey God's word sincerely) your words and actions will also change. And you truly will learn to 'speak truth' in your heart (your inner man) because you stop desiring the fleshly desires that you once did. You also learn how to control your emotions so they don't control you. As Paul advised Timothy: *be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity* (1 Tim 4:12). James also says...

*13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him **shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.***

14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.
James 3:13-14

Those who are wise (study God's Word and strive to obey it sincerely, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit's help) will be wise and endued with wisdom. Therefore, their good conversations will show the character traits of our Heavenly Father, because we'll learn to become like our heavenly Father - *not like those who are controlled by their carnal mind* (heart, fleshly desires). But those who have not put off the 'old man' (they still have *bitter envying and strife* in their heart because they have not yet 'subdued' it) are not able to have a 'good' conversation. That's why their conversations are about worthless things (vanity) and even evil things, as Psalms 12 spoke about. Carnal minded people (who have not yet put off the 'old man') love to talk about their favorite idols as well as themselves. But we who have truly accepted Jesus Christ will learn to control our inner man and speak about reality (God's Word) and not empty things that don't profit anyone. Now this doesn't mean we should go around quoting Scriptures constantly, nor that we can't go around sinners (we are sent to earth to help them); what it means is that we won't get wrapped up in their silly conversations. Part of learning to be salty (as Jesus told us to be in Mth 5:13) is **learning to add truth** (which is what salt is symbolic of) **to the conversation**. In other words, you can share truth (the Word of God) without actually quoting it. They don't have to know you're trying to plant seeds of truth. Simply adding good advice or common sense in a conversation is adding truth to it as is refraining from speaking in the same foolish, silly and vain ways the spiritual 'heathen' do (those who don't know Jesus Christ). This redirects people's minds away from vanity and causes them (if only for a moment) to think about what they are really saying and who they really are. As Paul says...

5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

*6 **Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.***

Col 4:5-6

And he also says...

*Let your conversation **be without covetousness**; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

Heb 13:5

Many conversations are full of covetousness; again, because people love to talk about their idols (things they want, especially money) *and* themselves. But, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can learn how to add ‘salt’ (truth) to the conversation without being a self-righteous hypocrite or a ‘religious fanatic’. A simple word of wisdom (small seed of truth) can go a long way in changing the ‘flavor’ of a conversation, and the Holy Spirit will help us learn how to do this if we ask Him to. Interestingly, the book of Isaiah asks the same question that David does here in Psalm 15:1-2 and gives a very similar response. Check it out...

*14 The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. **Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?***

15 He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;

*16 **He shall dwell on high:** his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.*

17 Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.
Isa 33:14-17

So, those who dwell with God are those who *will* reign with Jesus Christ when He returns. However, they are also those who God dwells with *even now*, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. As Jesus said...

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

*4 **Abide in me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

*7 **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,** ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

John 15:3-7

Paul explains that we ‘abide’ in Jesus Christ when His Holy Spirit *dwells within us*, in Rom 8:9 when He says: *But ye are not in the flesh, but **in the Spirit**, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.* Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. So, when the Holy Spirit is in us, we ‘abide in Him’ because He ‘abides’ in us. And we also ‘abide’ in Jesus when we study His Word and keep His Words in our heart (desires, emotions, intentions) and mind (thought process) – and this is also *why* God gives us His Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18,26). And so, even though Jesus Christ has not yet returned to earth, we can still ‘dwell’ with God in His Holy Temple by studying His Words and allowing (and asking) the Holy Spirit to dwell in us.

And *that's* how we'll be able to put on these characteristics that this beautiful Psalms speaks of: walking uprightly, working righteousness and speaking truth in our heart. But there is more to learn. What else does David say? Find out in part 2...

AMEN.