



CHAPTER 8

Present Day Truth

Rebuilding David's Tabernacle

When spiritual leaders met in Jerusalem to discuss a divisive Jew-Gentile controversy, James emphasized God's ambition to connect all people with Himself. He stressed God's resolve to return, to rebuild, and to establish a New Testament rendition of David's Tabernacle. Paraphrasing Amos 9:11-12, James asserts God's will:

*'After this I **will return** And **will rebuild** the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I **will rebuild** its ruins, And I **will set it up**; So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the Lord who does all these things.'* (Acts 15:16-17 NKJ)

David groomed Mount Zion, constructed a tent, and placed the Ark of the Covenant beneath its fabric. He appointed skilled singers and musicians consecrated to celebrate with thanksgiving and praise. The word celebrate means to remember, recall, or call to mind.¹ In a climate of continuous gratitude and effusive praise, residents gathered to connect with the truth about God.

This ancient venue offered a unique opportunity to experience God's manifest presence radiating from His Mercy Seat. Unlike the Tabernacle of Moses, which sheltered the Ark from public exposure, David's Tabernacle accommodated all comers with mercy. Exalting the truth about God changed the spiritual atmosphere. Faith replaced fear and joy replaced grief. Articulate praise and expressive music inspired authentic peace, hope, and love.

Today, Jesus offers open access to our Heavenly Father in the spirit of David's Tabernacle. Whosoever believes in Him will be saved. God does not restrict Himself to a special ethnic group or select religious organization. He did not send Jesus to institute an exclusive order of elite priests or eccentric monks. Jesus veri-

¹ 1 Chronicles 16:4 NAS, <https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/nas/zakar.html>

fied the truth about God’s love and the truth about our relationship with Him. In Christ, God offers salvation with universal access to the Holy Spirit.

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter quoted the prophet Joel who declared, with the same range of passion as Amos, God’s will for “everyone” to be saved:

*‘In the last days, God says, **I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ...And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.***’ (Acts 2:17-21 NIV from Joel 2:28-32)

Around the globe, various renditions of David’s prayer-and-praise Tabernacle accommodate everyone that calls on the name of the Lord. Before Jesus returns, we may or may not experience the type of connection that we desire on earth. Along with billions of others, we may live and die without having seen, heard, or touched Jesus. Nonetheless, God rewards those who faithfully seek the relational connection that He offers. Maintaining the integrity of our faith and sustaining the fidelity of our relationship are His priority—a divine imperative.

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that **he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*** (Hebrews 11:6 NIV)

Jeremiah also prophesied a reward for seeking with complete devotion; God stressed, “*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*”² Across the nations today, physical and virtual venues facilitate this seeking and finding process. Skilled and devoted singers and musicians articulate the truth about God with continuous prayer and praise—24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

God typically generates faith with indirect encounters, and then He strengthens that faith with progressive revelation. Jesus assured Doubting Thomas that faith activates an exceptional blessing; He said, “*blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*”³ Nonetheless, individuals and groups have reported stunning sensory encounters with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Conscious of His presence, they have heard audible words convey inspired knowledge, wisdom, comfort, encouragement, guidance, direction, and correction. They have seen visions, dreamt dreams, felt life transforming emotions, experienced heav-

² Jeremiah 29:13 NIV

³ John 20:29 NIV

only dimensions, and smelt evocative aromas. Sensory connections with God are rare but they remain a life transforming reality when He chooses to initiate them.

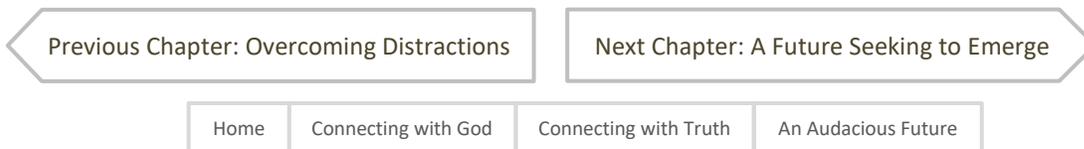
Contrition, Humility, and Reverence—Indispensable Credentials

After failing to bring the Ark to Jerusalem, David received mercy to forgive his sin, comfort his grief, and revive his vision. He resumed his mission with contrition and implemented it with humble reverence. The word contrition literally means crushed, broken, or shattered.⁴ A contrite person knows the truth about their faults, flaws, and failures in contrast to God’s infallible love, power, and perception. God crushed David’s heart, transforming it from irreverent pride to humble homage.

Collaborating with God as He restores David’s Tabernacle requires accurately informed faith and true humility. James wrote, “*God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble*”.⁵ The Council of Trent defined contrition as “sorrow of soul and a hatred of sin committed, with a firm purpose of not sinning in the future”.⁶ Facilitating an authentic connection with God for all humanity requires deliverance from religious pride and dogmatic judgement—especially toward those that seem undeserving of the privilege. Isaiah prophesied,

*For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a **contrite and humble spirit**, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. (Isaiah 57:15 NKJ)*

Poised for eternity, our future seeks to emerge with stunning satisfaction. As God intercepts the present He will yank history as usual from its finite projection. Contrition and humility will propel us with reverence toward a perfect ending.



⁴ <http://bible.crosswalk.com/Lexicons> (accessed 1-21-21).

⁵ James 4:6 NIV

⁶ The Council of Trent Session XIV, Ch. IV de Contritione; <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contrition> (accessed 7-29-06)