

Tents and Camping in the Bible

1. How many times is the word tent used in the Bible?

- 330 — incredible number of times — which shows how important tents were in the Bible

2. How many times is the word camp used in the Bible?

- 218 — used usually of primitive villages, traveling, nomads, military

TENTS

3. What is a tent in biblical terms?

- The difference is — we use tents for recreational camping.
- The biblical people used tents as a way of life — many nomadic
- Moveable shelter made of fabric, leather or goat wool stretched over poles and fastened to the ground with ropes and pegs

4. You've been in many Bedouin tents, explain what it is like

- Rough living, flies, animals living with the people
- Some are moving camps; some live in caves

5. What are examples of tents in the early Bible?

- Noah said to live in a tent, in which he got drunk
- Abraham following his flocks

Hebrews 11:9 “By faith Abraham went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in **tents** with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.

- The Lord visited Abraham in his tent to announce birth of Isaac — Sarah eavesdropped from the door of the tent
- Jacob lived in tents with his 4 wives and 11 children — imagine!!
- The military stayed in tents

6. When did God live in a tent?

- As the Israelites traveled from Egypt to Canaan for 40 years, God lived in a tent called Tabernacle
- Centuries later David decided to build a temple (House) for the Ark of the Covenant — built eventually by Solomon

7. When did Jesus live in a tent? Or when did he WEAR a tent?

- John 1:14 “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

- Formally to pitch a tent; dwell in a tabernacle
- Amazing illusion to the tent of God's dwelling in the wilderness

8. What biblical character was a "tentmaker"?

- Paul was a tentmaker; made of Cilician goat wool
- Acts 18:2, 3 "Paul found a Jew named Aquila ... and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade."
- Cilician wool to make tents for military or probably for the Ithsmasian Games
- I have stayed in these goat-haired tents many times

9. What does the phrase "pulling up tent stakes" represent in the Bible?

- It shows the temporariness of life; we are pilgrims here
- Contrasted with with permanence of altars

10. How are tents used to explain death?

- Death is compared to packing up the tent in Job 4:21: "[With the mortal], is not their tent-cord plucked up within them, do they not die, and that without wisdom?"

- 2 Cor. 5:1 “For we know that if the **tent** that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

CAMPING

11. What kind of camping is mentioned in the Bible?

- Abraham spent the last 50 years of his life camping in tents
- Military one of the main kind of camps
- In OT usually referring to rough living as with the patriarchs; when the Israelites took the land camps mainly referred to military encampments.

12. Are camps just for people or military?

- Jacob saw angels and called it “The Camp of God”
- Genesis 32:1 “Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.
- And when Jacob saw them he said, “This is God’s camp!” So he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

13. Was camping common in biblical times?

- Camp was as common then then as neighborhoods today — tents as common as homes.

14. Who camped rough — with a stone for a pillow?

- Gen 28:11 “Jacob ... stayed there that night ... and taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep.”
- This took place in a place Abraham and Jacob called Bethel — the house (or tent) of God

15. Did Mary even go camping?

- Yes, every time she traveled!

16. Biblical use of camping?

- Hebrews 13:11-13
 “For the bodies of those animals ... as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the **camp**.
 So Jesus also suffered **outside the gate** in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.
 Therefore let us go to him outside the **camp** and bear the reproach he endured.”

17. How is the Church referred to as a camp at the end of the Bible?

- Rev 20:9 “[Satan and God’s enemies] marched over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the **camp** of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,
- The reference to “the camp of the saints” symbolizes the triumphant church at the end of time before Satan is cast into hell.