

Introduction to the Early Church – Addendum 1

Jesus Christ ... in ... the church in the wilderness ... (Acts 7:38)

Readings: Psalm 68:7,10 Hebrews 1:8 Acts 7:45

Psalm 68:7 **O God**, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the **wilderness**; Selah:

Reading this verse, and seeing the word “Selah” at the end, it would behoove us to “Selah” (pause and meditate upon what was just written; what we just read) – to go back and read it again, and to muse (think) upon it, and to consider what other passages of scripture might come to mind as the Lord Jesus Christ brings them to our remembrance...

- **O God:**

Psalm 45:6

Thy throne, **O God**, is for ever and ever:

Hebrews 1:8 But unto **the Son** he saith, **Thy** throne, **O God**, is for ever and ever:

By comparing spiritual things with spiritual (1 Corinthians 2:13), we can see from Hebrews that **O God** refers to **the Son** (Jesus Christ) in the Psalms; and therefore in Psalm 68 we can see that it is **Jesus** that went forth before his people and marched through the wilderness with them.

- **wilderness:**

Acts 7:38 This is he, that was in the church in the **wilderness with the angel** which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

Reading carefully [as we always should when reading God’s word, seeing that “by every word of God doth man live” (Deut 8:3)] ... we should be able to see that **the angel** refers to the LORD (of whom Jesus said, “I am he”), which spake to Moses from the burning bush. Thus we should be able to see that **Jesus (the angel)** was in the church in the **wilderness with** them. (Moses was in the church with the angel: therefore **the angel** was in the church with Moses.)

Adding Psalm 68:10 (from the same context as Psalm 68:7) to other mentions of the congregation/church...

Psalm 22:22 I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

Hebrews 2:12 I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

Psalm 68:7 ...when thou didst march through the **wilderness**; Selah:

Psalm 68:10 Thy congregation hath dwelt **therein**:

Acts 7:38 ...in the church in the **wilderness**

With the above passages in view, seeing that “**thou**” refers to **O God**, and **O God** refers to **the Son, Jesus Christ**, let us look finally at one more verse, which is in the same context of “the church in the **wilderness**” mentioned in Acts 7:38...

Acts 7: 44 Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the **wilderness**...

45 Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles...

God – the Son – Jesus was in the church in the wilderness with our fathers (those in the church in the wilderness, and those that came after); and our fathers, with Jesus, brought the tabernacle of witness out of the wilderness into the promised land which, at the time, was the possession of the Gentiles.

The above passages give us a clear picture of **Jesus** being in the church in the wilderness [his church (thy congregation, Psalm 68:10)], with Moses and with our fathers. It shows us **Jesus** marching through the wilderness before his people, *leading* them as a shepherd leads his flock (**O God**, when thou wentest *before* thy people, Psalm 68:7). And **Acts 7:45** in particular gives us a *direct, explicit* reference to **Jesus** being with yet our fathers as they brought the tabernacle of witness out of the wilderness and into the promised land.
