

## God's Desire to Dwell Among Us

### Exodus 25:8-9

8 And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. 9 According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.

God visited Adam in the garden. He visited Noah with the message of grace. He visited Abraham several times with words of promise. But He did not dwell with them. That concept was not yet revealed to mankind.

It would not be until the nation of Israel came into existence that God would begin to talk of dwelling with mankind.

And so in this passage where God introduces the tabernacle that we find God saying that He will dwell among them.

It is not here Israel seeking to provide a dwelling-place for God, as in David's case (Psalm 132:1-5), but God desiring a dwelling-place for Himself amongst them. Man naturally desires not the presence of God with him here on earth, but God in the riches of His grace seeks to dwell with men. *Types of the Tabernacle*; Thomas Newberry

It is in the heart of man God desires His dwelling-place, hence it was from those who offered "willingly with the heart" His offering was to be taken. Where there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath. The widow's two mites given out of her penury, were more acceptable to God than the offerings of the rich out of their abundance. *Types of the Tabernacle*.

I. God would have them build a tabernacle for Him to dwell in.

A.

1. Exodus 25:8-9; 8 And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. 9 According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.
2. Exodus 25:21-22 (NKJV) 21 You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. 22 And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.
3. Ex 29:45 "I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God.
4. Ex 33:14 And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."
5. Le 26:11 I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor

you. 12 I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.

- B. But it was only a temporary place, a tent, not meant to serve for ever.
- II. So David desired to build a permanent structure for the same purpose as the tabernacle.
  - A. David planned it.
  - B. But Solomon built it.
    - 1. 1Ki 8:27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!
    - 2. 2Ch 6:18 "But will God indeed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!
- III. After Solomon's temple was destroyed the prophets promised that God would again dwell in the midst of Israel.
  - A. Zec 2:10 ¶ "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the LORD.
  - B. Zec 8:3 "Thus says the LORD: 'I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain.'
- IV. When Jesus came, He was God in flesh and was the temple of God.
  - A. John 1: 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. NKJV
  - B. John 1: 14 And the Word became flesh, and did tabernacle among us, and we beheld his glory, glory as of an only begotten of a father, full of grace and truth. YLT
    - 1. The word means "to fix one's tabernacle, have one's tabernacle, abide (or live) in a tabernacle (or tent), tabernacle"
    - 2. For Jesus was God who did tabernacle among us.
- V. But God desires to dwell in us.
  - A. Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.
  - B. 2Co 6:16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

C. But He also dwells in the churches as they meet.

1. Mt 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

VI. But the greatest fulfilment of this is yet future.

A. Re 7:15 "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

B. Revelation 21:3 (NKJV) 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.