

# GOD'S DWELLING PLACE

Exodus 25:1-40

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The LORD's desire and ultimate goal is to dwell with His people.

- I. To dwell with the LORD, requires His mercy and atonement.
- II. The LORD dwells with His people to remind us that He is the provider and sustainer of life.
- III. The LORD dwells with His people by the light of His son Jesus.

Today, the LORD dwells in His people by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

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# FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

I. Consider the Westminster Confession's shorter catechism:

Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

Compare this with the Latin phrase "*Soli Deo Gloria!*" and the purpose statement of Temecula Hills, "Bringing glory to God by making maturing disciples of Jesus." How do these help you understand God's ultimate goals of dwelling with His people? Read Exodus 25:1-9, Isaiah 66:1, John 1:14.

2. God commanded Moses to request an offering from the people; He asked them to give from the heart. How do you think this reflects God's desire for our giving? Consider where the wealth of the Israelites came from. Psalm 96:8, Ephesians 1:7-8, 2 Corinthians 9:6-9, Exodus 12:35-36.

3. Read Exodus 25:10-22. The Ark of the Covenant contained the tablets but the focal point was the Mercy Seat. Discuss how the sanctity of the Ark with the cherubim displays God's holiness. 2 Samuel 6:6-7, Genesis 3:24, Ezekiel 1:4-13, Psalm 99:1, Psalm 80:1, Psalm 132:7-8.

4. The top of the Ark contained the Mercy Seat and was also called the cover of atonement. How does this point to Jesus' sacrifice for our sins? Leviticus 16:15-16, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Hebrews 9:11-15, Romans 3:22-25, 1 John 4:10.

5. Read Revelation 11:19, how does this point to a future glory?

6. Read Exodus 25:23-30. Discuss the significance of bread and the symbolism for God as the source and sustainer of life. Acts 17:24-25, Psalm 104:14-15, John 6:35.

7. Read Exodus 25:31-40. Discuss how the Golden Lampstand's design points to the tree of life and Jesus. Discuss the significance of light and how that relates to God. Genesis 2:9, Psalm 36:9, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, John 1:4-5, Psalm 27:1, Psalm 43:3, Isaiah 49:6, John 6:40, John 9:5, John 8:12, 1 Peter 2:9.

8. Where does God dwell today? Hint: look in the mirror! Ephesians 2:22, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Ephesians 3:14-21, John 15:4-5, Hebrews 8:5.

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle