



How God Dwells with Us

October 22, 2017

2 Samuel 7:1-17

“I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling”
(2 Samuel 7:6).

God seeks to dwell with His people wherever they live. When Moses was on Mount Sinai, the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with Moses and spoke with him there. Later, when Moses was in the tabernacle or tent of meeting, the LORD spoke with him from the mercy seat above the ark. Through Nathan the prophet, the LORD told King David that He did not need and had never commanded any of the rulers or shepherds of His people to build Him a house of cedar. However, the LORD respected King David's honest intentions to honor Him with a house, and He told David that He would allow one of his sons to build a temple for Him. After David died, King Solomon completed the temple in Jerusalem, and the LORD descended and filled the temple as He promised. Many years later, rather than obey the commands of the LORD, the kings, priests, and people of the Kingdom of Judah trusted in their temple as the LORD's house for their salvation. Rather than repent of their sins, they trusted the LORD would never allow His temple to be destroyed so they were safe. But as the prophets warned, the temple was burned to the ground by the Babylonians in 587 BC, and God would not dwell among His people in a temple again until the Son of God came in the temple that was His body (John 2:21). Today, the Spirit of God indwells and is with all who trust in Jesus.

Thinking Further

1. Why do you think Nathan immediately told David to do all that he had in mind?

2. What made Nathan change his mind? What did Nathan do then?

3. Did God ever want a house of cedar? What reason did God give for His answer to Nathan and King David?

4. What are some of the things God said He had done for David? What are some of the things God said He would do for David?

5. Who eventually built a house for God? Describe what God said He would do for him?

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