

"Dwelling: The Story of God's Presence with His People"

Consider the implication: The presence of God is associated with peace.

1 Chronicles 22:9–10

"But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest... He is the one who will build a house for my Name."

Exodus 40:34–35

"Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle."

1 Kings 8:10–11

"When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord... for the glory of the Lord filled his temple."

This is the purpose for which humanity was created: to live in unbroken fellowship with God.

"What am I here for? What is the purpose of my life?"

You were created to love the Lord your God and to live in communion with Him for eternity.

"He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever" (Genesis 3:22).

1. Wide shoreline
2. Underwater land bridge
3. Proximity to Mount Sinai

Exodus 33:3

"Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way."

Three geographic references that triangulate the location of the Shiloh Tabernacle:

1. Near Lebonah (Judges 21:19),
2. North of Bethel,
3. East of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem.

Judges 21:19

But look, there is the annual festival of the Lord in Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, east of the road that goes from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.

2 Samuel 7:2

"Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

2 Chronicles 8:11

"My wife must not live in the palace of David king of Israel, because the places the ark of the Lord has entered are holy."

1 Kings 8:10–11

"When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled his temple."

1 Kings 8:12–13

"The Lord has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud. I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever."

2 Chronicles 36:18–19

“He [Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king] carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the Lord’s temple and the treasures of the king and his officials. They set fire to God’s temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there.”

The presence of God has never been dependent on a physical space or structure.

The temple was an act of grace—a tangible way for God to illustrate both the power of His presence and the holiness required to dwell in fellowship with Him. It was a concrete, visible expression of a spiritual reality, given to help finite people grasp an infinite God.

In a broken and sinful world, God could never fully dwell with His people until He dwelled in them—and made them holy.

That’s why Jesus came—God in the flesh.

Tonight, we’ve traced the presence of God through the Scriptures:

- **God walking in the garden with Adam and Eve,**
- **God in the burning bush with Moses,**
- **God in a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night,**
- **God enthroned above the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle and Temple,**
- **God appearing in a vision by the river in Babylon...**

But in Jesus, we meet God in human form—Immanuel, God with us.

The apostle John puts it this way in the opening of his Gospel:

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Revelation 21:22–23

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

God doesn’t just want to be near you. He wants to dwell with you. And in you.

That’s the heart of the gospel.

The temple was never the goal—God’s presence with His people was.

And now, through Christ, you are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19

19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

