



05 | God's Dwelling

HANDOUT

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Continuing our series, today's lesson considers God who chooses to dwell among His creation.

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God." (Rev. 21:3)

God Walked Among His Creation

"Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden." (Genesis 3:8)

God was present in the Garden.

Human rebellion led to fracture.

Every covenant, every promise, every act of redemption, every command, is because God desire to be with His creation.

notes:

God Dwells With Israel

*"Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and **I will dwell among them**. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you." (Exodus 25:8–9)*

God's covenant relationship is not just about laws to obey. He does not remain distant, speaking only from the mountain. He desires to live among His people.

*"**But will God really dwell on earth?** The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!" (1 Kings 8:27)*

The temple was never meant to suggest that God lived only within its walls. Instead, it served as a visible reminder that the God who rules over all creation had graciously chosen to make His presence known among His covenant people.

The Person of Jesus

*"**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." (John 1:14)*

When John says that Jesus **"made his dwelling among us,"** he uses language that calls to mind the tabernacle. The Son of God did not merely come to visit humanity. He came to dwell among His creation.

*"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for **he lives with you and will be in you**." (John 14:16–17)*

As God's story moves forward, Jesus promises God's presence will soon dwell with His people through the Holy Spirit.

God Dwells in His Church

*"**Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?**" (1 Corinthians 3:16)*

God is building something far greater than a physical structure. He is forming a community.

notes:

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Built together. The church is not merely a collection of individuals who happen to believe the same things. It is a community being formed by the Holy Spirit.

Continuing the Journey

“Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.’” (Revelation 21:1–3)

One day, God's work of restoration will be complete. Heaven and earth will be united, and God's presence will fill His renewed creation. What began in a garden will find its fulfillment in the New Jerusalem.

From the very beginning, God's purpose has never been simply to create a world for people to inhabit. His purpose has always been to create a people with whom He would dwell.

Scripture Acknowledgement

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For Additional Study

[Empowered By The Spirit](#): God's Gift to Strengthen His People and Transform the World, Wes McAdams

[Who Is the Holy Spirit](#): BibleProject Guide

[What Role Does the Holy Spirit Play in Christian Life?](#), N.T. Wright Online (video)

notes: