

GOD'S PASSION TO DWELL AMONG HIS PEOPLE

Houses of Light Church • Febrero 3-4, 2024 • Pastor Netz Gómez

Éx. 25:8

"And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. When we look at history throughout all of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, we can clearly see that the passion of God's heart has always been to dwell among His own. From the beginning of creation in the Garden of Eden to the end of the Millennium when the new creation is established; the Father will be living among us.

Gen. 3:8 "And they heard the sound of the **Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...**"

Rev. 21:3 "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "**Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.**"

- B. When God ordered Moses to make a sanctuary for Him to dwell among them (**Ex. 25-31**), His tenderness and emotion can be seen very clearly so that they would build a place worthy of His presence. **The heavenly Father wanted to accompany them throughout their journey through the desert.** Each specification is a sign of his passion for being with them; In fact, God told them that it would be the same as the sanctuary that is in heaven so that He would be with them on earth.

Heb. 8:5 "**They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."**

- C. Each of the elements of the sanctuary had to be worthy of the glorious God who was going to dwell among them; the offerings, the ark of the testimony, the table for bread, the golden lampstand, the tabernacle itself with its curtains, boards, bases, crossbars; the altar, the atrium, the oil; the vestments of the priests with their due consecration, the altar of incense, the offerings, the anointing oil and the incense, an entire environment worthy of Him.
- D. **It is as if the Father told them: 'I am excited to live among you, make me a suitable house in which I can live and interact with you.'** In the description of the details alone the word "**precious**" appears nine times, implying that everything had to be precious for the place where he lived.
- E. **What is surprising is that while God is indicating all this to Moses they were rebelling against Him;** In fact, in the next chapter (**Ex. 32**) we see how they despair over the absence of Moses and made a golden calf to go before

them, provoking the wrath of God and yet, He did not give up on His desire and After executing His judgments, He continued with His plan to dwell among them.

II. DAVID EMBRACED GOD'S DESIRE

- A. Later in the history of Israel, it is impressive that David, having only the first 5 books of the Bible (the Pentateuch), set up a tent in Jerusalem where he placed the ark of the covenant (**1 Chron. 15**) and subsequently planned build a glorious temple to house the presence of God (**1 Chron. 22**). After Moses, God had not given them the order to build anything, however David knew the heart of God.

2 Sam. 7:2-7 *"Now when the king [David] lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ² the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.... ⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, ⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?...""*

- B. I believe that as David read the descriptions of Moses' tabernacle the Holy Spirit revealed to him the deep desire of God's heart and he made hosting the presence of the Lord the priority of his life.

Sal. 132:1-5 *"Remember, O Lord, in David's favor, all the hardships he endured, ² how he swore to the Lord and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob, ³ "I will not enter my house or get into my bed, ⁴ I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, ⁵ until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."*

- C. David devoted logistical time, human resources, and enormous amounts of his personal treasure to make the tabernacle function as a place of continuous worship (**1 Chron. 25**) and also planned and provided everything necessary for the temple that housed the presence of God was built by his son Solomon (**1 Chron. 22-26**)
- D. God promised that this tabernacle was going to be rebuilt before the Lord's return so that everyone would seek the Lord because this is still the desire of God's heart.

Acts. 15:16-17 *"After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, ¹⁷ that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things." (Cfr. Am. 9:11).*

III. CALLED TO BE A CHURCH CENTERED IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

- A. This same purpose is still valid in the church age. We are called to be a family that hosts His presence.

Eph. 2:20-22 "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

- B. All members of the church connect with Christ and each other and together we become that place where God dwells. Church life consists of connecting with Jesus through our communion and obedience to Him (John 15: 1-16) and also with each other to be an assembly that hosts the presence of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that follows his leadership.
- C. The question would be what does this look like in practice? An excellent example of welcoming God's presence and following his leadership is the church of Antioch in the book of Acts; There we see an assembly that ministers to the Lord and the results that occurred.

Hech. 13:1-3 "Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers...² While they were worshiping [serving Him in prayer] the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off"

- D. The initiative that came from going on a mission trip was not simply the desire for growth or reaching out to the lost but it came from the Holy Spirit as they served Him in prayer and fasting and when we observe the fruit that this divine initiative produced, we can recognize how the church should function. The world in which they lived was not simple, there was perversion, persecution, few financial resources, strange philosophies, everyone was new, however they reached the cities of Cyprus, Iconium, Lystra and many others with the power of the gospel..

Acts. 14:27 "And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles."

- E. This is how each ministry of the church should be, hosting the presence of God connected and directed by Him so that the fruit is abundant because God will support what is His.

IV. THE HOUSES OF LIGHT APPROACH

Mar. 11:17a "And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'?..."

- A. Since the beginning of our church, we have seen how the Lord has led and matured the culture of prayer among us; and in these last four years, we have felt the invitation to unite the prayer room with the church more than

ever before. We believe this is where the Lord continues to lead us and we are very excited to announce that it has now become a reality. Last month, the prayer room was moved to the main sanctuary.

- B. We believe that our commitment to prayer and worship will impact our families, communities and nations as we agree with the Lord in intercession that his will be done.**
- C. Throughout the day, we hold extended worship and prayer sessions (sets) that create space for everyone to connect with Jesus and serve Him with their talents and creativity. By doing this, we establish and live the rhythm of ministering to Him as He ministers to us (**Ps. 27:4**).
- D. Our team is made up of parents, workers, students and more, who function as kings and priests before the Lord (**Rev. 1:5-6**). **As part of the church, the prayer room houses the presence of the Lord, imparting life to the rest of the Body serving the purpose of building His church and extending His kingdom on earth.**

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How does it make you feel to know that God has always had a passion to dwell among His people, that is, us?
2. Do you consider yourself part of the calling to host his presence as a church? Explain
3. How are you participating in the culture of prayer at Houses of Light?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Inner Healing Retreat for Women: February 9 and 10 • Men's Retreat: February 23 and 24. Please register at the bookstore or at housesoflight.org
2. Romantic Gala Dinner for Couples: Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. It will be an event for couples to fuel their romance with a candlelight dinner, live music, souvenir photos and precious ministry time. It will be an unforgettable night for both of you. Space is limited, you can register at housesoflight.org or purchase your ticket at the bookstore.