

## **A Little Sanctuary**

Therefore say, Thus says the Lord God: Whereas I have removed [Israel] far off among the nations, and whereas I have scattered them among the countries, yet I have been to them a sanctuary for a little while in the countries to which they have come. (Ezek. 11:16 AMP) Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come. (Ezek. 11:16 KJV)

Though judgment and sin had separated God's people from His house, He wanted them to know that not all hope was lost. "You may be far from my temple, but I am not far from you," is the message God was sending the captives of Israel. His perfect plan was for them to be in their promised land, visiting His temple, offering the sacrifices of the law, and fulfilling the instituted feasts He had given them. But that just couldn't be, now that they were in captivity.

It is here that God reaches to remind them, "I am still here, I will be with you." You cannot attend my intended sanctuary; therefore, I will be a little sanctuary to you here in a strange land. You can't be there so I will be here, I will see you through. It is God's perfect plan that His people attend His house of worship. Consistent and faithful attendance to church is God's will. However, there are some, due to odd circumstances of life, who cannot be in God's house. We are not speaking of the lazy and able-bodied absentee, but of those whose heart is in the house of God though their body be elsewhere. We refer to the sick, the infirm, the shut-in, the soldier in foreign lands, and the saved prisoner. These are those who cannot do God's perfect will and attend worship service; and it is these that God reminds: "I can be a little sanctuary for you where you are, I can bring refreshing to you, I will sustain you."