

God's Dwelling Places

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. (Eph. ii. 20-22)

A very interesting study is that of comparing God's dwelling places throughout the Bible. The first is *the Tabernacle*, of which He said, "Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them." This was the first time that God had dwelt amongst them. He came down to visit Adam and Eden, when He walked in the garden in the cool of the day. Enoch and Noah walked with God, and He called Abraham His friend; but He had never before come down to dwell. In Gen. ix. 27, where it is prophesied, "He shall dwell in the tents of Shem," there may be an allusion to the Tabernacle. For more than five years it was His dwelling place on earth. He went "from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another," until He gave directions for Solomon to build Him a house, and *the Temple* became His sanctuary, a "palace, ...not for man, but for the Lord God" (I Chron. xxix. 1).

These two, the Tabernacle and the Temple, were successively His dwelling place in Old Testament times. But after many years had elapsed *the Lord Jesus Christ* came; and in Him, on earth as now in heaven, "dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." We read that "the Word was made flesh and tabernacled among us." He was Emmanuel, God with us, the Antitype of the Tabernacle and also of the Temple; for He was "greater than the temple" (Matt. xii. 6). and compares Himself to it more than once. "Destroy this temple," He said, "and in three days I will raise it up; ...but He spake of the temple of His body." For thirty-three years He walked this earth, and when He ascended, God came to dwell in another temple. He now dwells in *the Church*, not merely in the bodies of individual believers, which are the temples of the Holy Ghost, but in "the Church, which is His body."

(The Study of the Types: Priests and Levites - A Type of the Church by Ada R. Habershon, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications, 1977 [1957], 53-54)