

# Deuteronomy 12:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

## Analysis

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The command restated: 'Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you.' The phrase 'to cause his name to dwell there' (לְשָׁכַן שְׁמוֹ שָׁמָּה, leshaken shemo sham) uses Tabernacle language—God's Name/Presence dwells at the chosen sanctuary. The comprehensive 'all that I command you' (repeated from v.6) emphasizes total obedience. Worship isn't à la carte; all prescribed elements must be brought. This creates accountability—the central sanctuary makes worship public, not private or hidden, preventing illicit practices.

## Historical Context

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The theology of God's Name dwelling at the sanctuary pervades Deuteronomy (12:11, 21; 14:23-24; 16:2, 6, 11; 26:2). This balances transcendence (God doesn't literally dwell in buildings) with immanence (God meets His people at the sanctuary). Solomon's dedication prayer acknowledges God dwells in heaven, yet 'his eyes and heart' are toward the temple (1 Kings 8:27-29; 9:3). Jesus later declares Himself the ultimate temple where God meets humanity (John 2:19-21).

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does God causing 'his name to dwell' at a chosen place teach about divine presence and authorized worship?
2. How does New Testament teaching about believers as God's temple (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19) transform this concept?
3. Why does God regulate worship practices rather than allowing spontaneous human expression?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהָיָה הַ	הַמָּקוֹם וְ	אֲשֶׁר	יִבְחָר	לַיהוָה:
H1961	Then there shall be a place	H834	shall choose	unto the LORD
	H4725		H977	H3068
אֱלֹהֶיךָ	בּוֹ	לִשְׁכֹּן	שְׁמוֹ	שָׁמָּה שָׁ
your God	H0	to dwell	to cause his name	H8033 H8033
H430		H7931	H8034	
תָּבִיא	אֵת	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	אֶנֶכִּי
there thither shall ye bring	H853	H3605	H834	H595
H935				all that I command
				H6680
אֶתְּךָ	עוֹלֹתֶיךָ	וְזִבְחֶיךָ	מַעֲשֵׂרֵיכֶם	
H853	you your burnt offerings	and your sacrifices	your tithes	
	H5930	H2077	H4643	
וְתִרְמֶת	יָדְךָ	וְכָל	מִבְּחַר	נִדְרֶיךָ
and the heave offering	of your hand	H3605	and all your choice	vows
H8641	H3027		H4005	H5088
אֲשֶׁר	תִּדְרֹו	לַיהוָה:		
H834	which ye vow	unto the LORD		
	H5087	H3068		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 15:20** (References God): Thou shalt eat it before the LORD thy God year by year in the place which the LORD shall choose, thou and thy household.

**Deuteronomy 12:5** (References God): But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:

**Deuteronomy 18:6** (References Lord): And if a Levite come from any of thy gates out of all Israel, where he sojourned, and come with all the desire of his mind unto the place which the LORD shall choose;

**Deuteronomy 17:8** (References God): If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the LORD thy God shall choose;

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