

Exodus 25:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Analysis

The purpose statement: 'Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.' The Hebrew **שְׁלֵגָה** (miqdash, sanctuary) means 'holy place,' emphasizing separation unto God. The goal is not merely a building but God's dwelling presence —'I may dwell (**שָׁכַן**, shakan) among them.' This prefigures the incarnation: 'The Word became flesh and dwelt (**ἐσκήνωσεν**, 'tabernacled') among us' (John 1:14).

Historical Context

Unlike pagan temples that served as divine residences, Israel's tabernacle facilitated God's presence among His people during their wilderness journey. It was portable, traveling with them, demonstrating God's commitment to be with His people wherever they went.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that God desires to 'dwell among' His people rather than simply rule over them?

2. How has Christ's incarnation ('tabernacling among us') transformed your understanding of God's accessibility?

Interlinear Text

בְּתוּךְם֙ יִשְׁכַּת־
מִלְאָקֶת־שׁוֹלֵךְ
לִשְׁבָּתְךָ
וְאֶתְּנָאָמֵן
And let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among
H6213 H4720 H7931 H8432

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 6:16 (Temple): And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

1 Kings 6:13 (Parallel theme): And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.

Revelation 21:3 (Temple): And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Exodus 29:45 (Parallel theme): And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God.

Zechariah 2:10 (Parallel theme): Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD.

Hebrews 3:6 (Parallel theme): But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Zechariah 8:3 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

Isaiah 12:6 (Parallel theme): Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

Numbers 5:3 (Parallel theme): Both male and female shall ye put out, without the camp shall ye put them; that they defile not their camps, in the midst whereof I dwell.

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