

**OUR
PLACE
TO MEET
WITH
GOD**

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09/09/2007 F.S.; 02/21/2010 Belleville; 07/13/2013 DeVon

Objective: To encourage us to have a fuller understanding of the importance of the House of God in our lives.

Scriptures: Ex 25:8; 2 Chron. 6:12,14-20; 1 Chron. 22:5-6; 1 Chron. 29:1-9

Points to make: Where people live is very important to them. We instinctively understand, sympathize with and try to help those who are homeless. Many of us have taken friends, relatives and even strangers into our homes to make sure they have a place to stay. Our houses indicate we've put our roots down in a community. We've made an investment.

Homes have such a high symbolic value that we even assign the term 'home' to places where non-material things or inanimate objects are stored. The phone book lists the House of Bamboo, House of Banners, House of Blues, House of Cool, House of Fashion, House of Knives, House of Metals, House of Music, Autohaus, House of Stamps, House of Tea, House of Spice, House of Drapery and House of Travel. Thank God, here we are today in a House of Prayer (Is. 56:7)!

As God met with Moses on Mount Sinai, shortly after they had left Egypt, He told him: "... let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them" (Ex 25:8). In other words, God wanted to move into the neighbourhood!

Wherever the children of Israel traveled, the house of God went with them. When they set up camp, as described in Numbers 2, the tribes were given specific places to go, all around the Tabernacle. It was the central focal point of

their communal life. The tribe of Levi was charged with taking care of the Tabernacle, and had no other responsibility.

When Israel finally entered the 'promised land' and were prospering under David's leadership, he decided it was time to build a proper house for God. God would not allow him to do it because of his bloody military history, so he commissioned his son Solomon to do it. Here's what he said: "... the house to be built for the Lord must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries" (1 Ch 22:5).

God told David that Solomon was to "build a house for My name" (v 10). In other words, this house would be built in honor of the glory, majesty, character, power, reputation, knowledge and presence of God. That's what His name represents.

David said: "I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the Lord" (v 14). **To build God's house, sacrifices are required.** Much effort and expense is required to build the kind of house God will be pleased with. **It must be the best we have to offer!** David said: "... **because the temple is not for man but for the Lord God ... I have prepared with all my might ... because I have set my affection on the house of my God**" (1 Ch 29:1-3).

The construction of the temple consumed over 7million lbs. of gold, over 67million lbs. of silver, over 1million lbs. of bronze and almost 6 million lbs. of iron. Besides that were countless quantities of wood, limestone and marble. The cost was stupendous.

- 7,128,000 lbs of gold @ \$1,280/oz =
\$146 Billion

- 67,122,000 lbs of silver @ \$19.20/oz=
\$20.6 Billion
- 1,188,000 lbs of bronze @ \$4/lb=
\$4.8 Billion
- 6,600,000 lbs of iron @ \$120/tonne= \$360K
 - o Cost of metals only: \$ 171.4 Billion
 - o Total estimated cost of construction: over \$300 Billion!!

With all the time, effort and expense involved in the building of the Tabernacle, what was it really for? What happened in the Tabernacle? Why was it so important to God, David, Solomon and the children of Israel? Quite simply, **it was their place to meet with God!**

Obviously, God is everywhere because of His omnipresence. Heaven and earth cannot contain Him. He fills all space in our universe and whatever exists outside of our universe. He *does* however want us to designate a special place of meeting. *Our* special place. The place *we* come to worship. The place *we* meet as the Body of Christ. The place where His word is taught and preached. The place where those living without hope can come and meet our Savior. The place *we* come to have our needs met for salvation, healing, comfort, forgiveness, companionship and encouragement. The place where *we* make vows and commitments to God and each other. The place where *we* bring our 'living sacrifices' to lay upon the altar.

This new building we are dedicating today is truly "OUR PLACE TO MEET WITH GOD".