



Dwelling Place

My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.

Ezekiel 37:27

As I was studying the feature verse I followed the trail of cross references in the margin of my Bible. I found it to be immensely beautiful and hopeful.

This verse comes at the end of a chapter of prophecy given to Ezekiel, one that stands out from the rest of his prophecies because it is so hopeful and restorative. Jehovah God knew that His chosen people were sinful, flawed, and failures in following Him. The relationship was strained, pock-marked by their disobedience and disdain for His statutes. Throughout their disobedience, Yahweh remained faithful, to them and to Himself. He loved them with an everlasting love, and was ever willing to restore them to Himself.

The first verse I went to through the cross reference on the Hebrew word “tabernacle” was John 1:14. “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” This, then, was God’s plan for the final restoration. This was the only way that His wayward, sinful people would be able to enter into relationship with Him, the only way by which He would be able to dwell among them. The Son of God, Jesus the Christ, stepped away from the throne room in Heaven and walked the earth among us, “tabernacling” with us, dwelling with us, so that we could look to Him and understand the Father. He laid down His life for ours, once and for all paying the debt of sin that we could not pay.

The last verse I went to was Revelation 21:3. “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them.” This, then, is the fulfillment of the promises made, those promises recorded so that we can read them and have hope in them. This is a day for which I have no basis of comparison, no way to know what it will be like, other than the faint glimpses I catch when I am utterly consumed by worship of my Creator. He *is* everlasting love, and has always longed to dwell among us, to be in our midst, to share His love with us.

He has not changed, in the eons and centuries since the creation of man. He is still faithful, still willing to restore us to fellowship with Himself. He is still willing to revive our dead hearts, and place within us a heart of flesh. He is still willing to cleanse us of our sins and dress us in His own robes of righteousness. He *will* accomplish these things for those who choose to place their faith in His Son. He dwells in us by His Spirit from the moment we take that step of faith. But one day, He will dwell among us in reality, and we will see Him face to face, and know Him as we are known. Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus.

Father, we thank You for Your redemptive plan. We thank You that You made a way for us to be with You, to dwell with You as You dwell among us. We are amazed by Your love for us. May we worship You in spirit and in truth, and eagerly look for the day of Your returning.