

The People and Presence of God

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“I will be with you even to the end of the age.” (Jesus Christ)

God desires to be with His people. In the Old Testament God was with His people, but now, in Christ, God is in His people, and because of Christ, one day soon, God’s people will for evermore be with Him.

The Types and Shadows of the Tabernacle.

Numbers 9:15–22 ¹⁵Now on the day that the tabernacle was erected the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony, and in the evening it was like the appearance of fire over the tabernacle, until morning.

¹⁶So it was continuously; the cloud would cover it by day, and the appearance of fire by night.

¹⁷Whenever the cloud was lifted from over the tent, afterward the sons of Israel would then set out; and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the sons of Israel would camp.

¹⁸At the command of the LORD the sons of Israel would set out, and at the command of the LORD they would camp; as long as the cloud settled over the tabernacle, they remained camped.

¹⁹Even when the cloud lingered over the tabernacle for many days, the sons of Israel would keep the LORD’S charge and not set out.

²²Whether it was two days or a month or a year that the cloud lingered over the tabernacle, staying above it, the sons of Israel remained camped and did not set out; but when it was lifted, they did set out.

Joshua.

Joshua 5:13–14 ¹³Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

¹⁴“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”

The Ministry of Jesus Christ

Matthew 4:18–22

¹⁸Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

¹⁹And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

²¹Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.

²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

John 14:16–18

¹⁶“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

¹⁷that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

John 16:13

¹³“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

Biblical illustrations.

Paul and those with him wanted to take the gospel into Asia but were, “forbidden by the Holy Spirit” Acts 16:6–7

Paul, bidding farewell to the elders at Ephesus, said that he was “bound by the Holy Spirit” to go to Jerusalem, and that he didn’t know what was going to happen there, “except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.” Acts 20:22–23

Assurance

Isaiah 43:1–3 (NASB)

¹But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!

²“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you.

³“For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

- Crossing the red sea
- Crossing the Jordan
- Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego