

God Dwells with Man (adapted from Shadows of the Messiah)

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According to Jewish tradition, Adam was created on Tishrei one. From Adam's creation until his fall, God dwelt with man.

“And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.” (Genesis 3:8)

Before sin it was a matter of routine for God to walk in the garden with his creation.

At the time of Moses, God began a type of new creation which He promised to Abraham.

“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: (2) And I will make of thee **a great nation**, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: (3) And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” (Genesis 12:1-3)

In other words, God would once again dwell with man, this time with the nation of Israel. In preparation for this event, God told Moses that Nisan one would now be the first month.

“And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, (2) This month *shall be* unto you the **beginning of months**: it *shall be* the first month of the year to you.” (Exodus 12:1-2)

This calendar starting with Nisan 1 is called the religious calendar. It is the redemption calendar. The civil calendar still begins with the month of Tishrei. The year numbers change according to the civil calendar.

In that month, God would redeem the offspring of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and make of them a holy nation. He would dwell with them. God's presence was with them as a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night right after they were brought out of Egypt.

“And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:” (Exodus 13:21)

God promised to dwell with them and gave instructions for the Israelites to build a tabernacle for him. The building of the tabernacle began at the Feast of Tabernacles which occurs in the seventh month of the religious calendar. The word tabernacle means temporary dwelling. After the tabernacle was built, the glory of God entered the tabernacle on Nisan one.

“And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.” (Exodus 25:8)

“And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first *day* of the month, *that* the tabernacle was reared up.” (Exodus 40:17)

“Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. (35) And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.” (Exodus 40:34-35)

But this was only a temporary dwelling place. When Judah went into exile, the Glory of God departed from the temple. Ezekiel’s vision of this event is recorded in Ezekiel 9 and 10. His vision specifically mentions the departure in chapter 10 verses 18 and 19. His vision was during Elul, the fifth month of the religious calendar. The first of Elul begins a 40 day period of repentance and mourning for one’s wrong actions.

“Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims. (19) And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also *were* beside them, and *every one* stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD’S house; and the glory of the God of Israel *was* over them above.” (Ezekiel 10:18-19)

The Feast of Tabernacles, the seventh and last feast on the religious calendar, was instituted to remember when God had Israel live in tents and God’s presence dwelt with them guiding them every day.

God again took up temporary dwelling with man when Jesus took up the temporary tabernacle of human flesh to dwell (tabernacle) with man.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

Jesus’ specific purpose was to make atonement for man so that man would no longer be separated from God. By shedding of His blood, we who believe in Him will have eternal life.

“For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.” (Matthew 18:11)

Jesus will return again for the 1000 year reign of Christ most likely during the month of Tishrei, specifically, at the Feast of Tabernacles when once again work on the temple will begin!

“And David my servant *shall be* king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. (25) And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, *even* they, and their children, and their

children's children for ever: and my servant David *shall be* their prince for ever. (26) Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. (27) My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (28) And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.” (Ezekiel 37:24-28)

This temple will be rebuilt by Jesus. The prophet Zechariah refers to Jesus as the Branch. Jeremiah refers to him as the Branch of David in chapters 23 and 31.

“And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name *is* The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: (13) Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.” (Zechariah 6:12-13)

Ezekiel records the vision of the Glory of God entering the new temple in a vision on Tishrei 10, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. The 40 days of repentance culminate here on the day of Atonement. The Feast of Tabernacles begins on Tishre 15 just 5 days later.

“In the five and twentieth year of our captivity, in the beginning of the year, in the tenth *day* of the month, in the fourteenth year after that the city was smitten, in the selfsame day the hand of the LORD was upon me, and brought me thither.” (Ezekiel 40:1)

The phrase “... at the beginning of the year ...”, in Hebrew reads Rosh Hashanah. This phrase is only used at this one place in the Bible. The usual convention is to state the number of the month for example Haggai 1:1 reads, “In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,” A similar phrase is used when describing the Feast of Ingathering. Exodus 23:16b uses the phrase “... at the end of the year ...” referring to the month of Tishrei.

Tishrei is the first month of the civil calendar when the year number changes. The feasts in the month of Tishrei, the seventh month of the religious calendar, end the feast cycle for the year. The observances of these feasts extend from the 1st to the 22nd of the month. This period of time is regarded as ending one year and beginning the next. It is a sort of twenty-two day New Year’s celebration!

“Afterward he brought me to the gate, *even* the gate that looketh toward the east: (2) And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice *was* like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory. (3) And *it was* according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, *even* according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions *were* like the vision that I saw by

the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. (4) And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect *is* toward the east. (5) So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house. (6) And I heard *him* speaking unto me out of the house; and the man stood by me. (7) And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, *neither* they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places.” (Ezekiel 43:1-7)

At the end of the 1000 year reign of Jesus, the earth will be made new and God will dwell with man forever. (Revelation 21:1-3)

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. (2) And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) 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.” (Revelation 21:1-3)